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There has been a record rainfall on the high veld this summer and whereas the average is usually about 860mm, many places have doubled that amount. The clivia have thrived in the humidity. Our friend the Lily Borer has also had a good time. We are now receiving the first icy blasts of winter, whereas those of you in the northern hemisphere are enjoying warmer weather and will have clivias flowering. We wish you luck with all your spring blooms, and may some of them be very special varieties or hybrids which will be the breeding stock of many future generations.

In this issue there are letters from the United States of America, Australia, The Netherlands and all corners of South Africa, with interesting questions and contributions on growing clivias. We learn about the varieties grown in the U.S.A. with most exciting cultivar names. Readers share with us their experiences in growing clivia and describe the types of environment in which they are cultivated and the obvious enjoyment they have from their efforts. There is feedback about the first meeting of the Clivia Interest Group in the Western Province and accounts of successes with cultivation of clivia seeds - yellows and others. Bill Morris gives an explanation of the properties of wide short leaved clivias and why these are more prone to disease.

The letters and articles sent by Kees Sahin illustrate the wealth of information that is available from historical sources, some of it from the last century as illustrated in the 1899 extracts (translated from the Dutch). Krelage was a famous Dutch nursery which operated from the beginning of the 19th century until about 1920. It is interesting to see the attention given to the genus in the last century. Regrettably,
the named clones are now unlikely to be identifiable. The feasibility of bi-generic hybrids has been somewhat refuted so this topic will no doubt be resurrected.

Meetings have been well attended at the Clivia Club and its branches and many activities are planned for this year. Selling space is at a premium for the Clivia Club Show in Pretoria and sellers must apply for space in advance. To prevent overcrowding of show plants, each exhibitor will be limited to two specimens per category. There will also be a benching fee for show plants. Details of next year's Clivia Conference, Shows and Tours are included in this newsletter and a booking form is enclosed.

Our personality for this issue is Geoff Meyer who is no stranger to those who have attended meetings and shows in Pretoria. Geoff has generously donated the flyers for our shows and has made himself available for demonstrations in caring, potting and treatment of clivia. He also gives gardening advice on radio programmes.

The Farmer's Weekly of October 11, 1996 has an article about a clivia business run by one of our members, Pat Lang, in the Northern Province. Of interest is the fact that she finds that seed planted directly into bags is more vigorous than that sown into a seed bed and then transplanted into bags at a later stage. Please send us any articles about clivia you may come across. Some of them may be worthwhile publishing in the newsletter. We will list what we already have in the archives in our next newsletter.

How many readers noted that when the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping died in February the space immediately surrounding his coffin where he lay in state was massed with clivias? Is there any cultural significance in this for the Chinese?

If it is at all possible, will members submitting articles for publication who have e-mail facilities please send them via e-mail as it saves much time in typing.

A final reminder for those of you who received a renewal notice and have not yet reacted - this will be your last newsletter!

Editor

CORRESPONDENCE

Is there a white clivia?

From Maris Andersons 4115 Cresta Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93110, U.S.A.

Dear Mr Geldenhuys

Thank you for sending me the application for the Clivia Club. I have completed the form and am returning it herewith.

Though a long time enthusiast of Clivia, I am a hobbyist and do not engage in breeding at this time. Maybe sometime in the future.

My most cherished plants are *C. miniata* 'Lemon Chiffon' and *C. miniata* 'Megan', both exceptional yellows bred by David Conway of Santa Barbara. I also have a number of exciting reds. I grow my prize plants in containers, otherwise under evergreen oak trees where they get very little water from April till November. Coastal fog is common throughout this period. In general Clivias do very well in Santa Barbara.
My objective is to add interesting species or cultivars. I have heard rumours that a pure white Clivia has been bred in South Africa? Can you enlighten me? I also have heard that such a colour may exist in Japan and secondly, that breeders in Japan have succeeded in meristem propagation of Clivias, are you aware of this?

Again many thanks for your response.

Best regards,

Maris Andersons

The question as to whether there is a white Clivia is often asked. There certainly are rumours, but these have never been substantiated.

Meristem propagation for certain families such as orchids is very successful allowing the rapid multiplication of specific forms. However, we are not aware of any substantial success with laboratory propagation techniques with clivia. Can any members throw more light on this? (Ed.)

Queries about seeds dropping off

From Debbie Schlosser  
44 Athalie Ave., Linksfield North, Johannesburg 2192
19 October 1996

Dear Mr Geldenhuys

Thank you for your letter of welcome. I have been growing *Clivia miniata* (orange) in my garden for 10 years. Now that my children are growing a little, I hope to be able to spend more time in the garden. My husband and I are much interested in clivias, but class ourselves as beginners. Most of our plants grow in "forest" conditions under very large duranta shrubs (trees). They seem happy and give a lovely show each year. I've recently added *C. nobilis*, *C. gardenii* and a yellow to our collection and never having seen *nobilis* and *gardenii* in flower in real life - I wish they would hurry up! I'm now going to plant our next "forest" under a wonderfully huge pine tree and see how the plants do. I would be most excited to get hold of seeds or plants of other colours.

After the flowers have dropped off our *Clivia miniata* plants, we are left with what looks like a potentially good head of seeds. When the seeds are \( \frac{1}{1} \) cm long, they mostly drop off, leaving only 0 - 2 seeds per plant to develop to full maturity. How can I produce a head of seeds similar to those we saw at the Clivia Show in Pretoria? If one succeeds in producing a good seed head does this influence the plant's "vegetative reproduction"? I've probably used all the wrong botanical terms. Excuse me!

Yours sincerely

(Mrs) Debbie Schlosser

You raise some interesting points in your letter. Firstly, I hope you are not disappointed when your *C. nobilis* and *C. gardenii* flower as the flower heads are not as spectacular as those of *C. miniata*. However, as they flower at different times of the year they do provide colour and interest.
Secondly, the seeds which drop off the umbel have probably not been fertilised. Try to do some artificial pollinating next season and see if this does not improve the number and size of the seed pods. Also feed your plants with fertilizer as recommended and mulch with compost.

Finally, good seed heads do not appear to influence the plant's vegetative reproduction. As long as the plants are fed adequately they will produce good flower heads and offsets (Ed.).

* * *

"Weskapers" Clivianuus

Van Theo & Judy Beukes

Beste Koos

Baie dankie vir die nuusbriewe, ledelys en ander nuttige en interessante literatuur. Ek het jou groete aan Gert Wiese oorgedra en hy sê ook dankie.

Ons "Weskaapers" (29 van ons) het Saterdag 5 Oktober 1996 'n baie interessante en insiggewende inligtings werkswinkel onder leiding van die kurator van Kirstenbosch Botaniese Tuine mnr. John Winter gehad. Dit was uiers leersaam en boeiend. Hy het die volgende punte breedvoerig behandeld en wat so lekker was, ons kon saam praat en boeiend: Hy het die volgende punte breedvoerig behandeld en wat so lekker was, ons kon saam praat en boeiend.

A. Wanneer en hoe om plante te verdeel
B. Beste potplantmedium
C. Water behoeftes van die plant
D. Siektes, insekte en swam probleme
E. Verskillende soorte voedings

Baie persoonlike ervaring van die ouer klublede is onder ons uitgeruil en meegedeel. Vir 'n hele paar van ons beginners was dit brandstof vir ons entoesiasme.

Gedurende die pouse is verversings geniet en gesellig verkeer. Ons was baie bevoorreg om die eerste besoekers aan die nog onvoltooi de reuse glashuis te wees - 'n belewenis op sy eie.

By die groepbesprekings het Gert genoem dat 'n egpaar as 'n eenheid vir lidmaatskap doeleindes beskou word teen die R20 fooi per jaar (volgende jaar R40). Sal jy so gaaf wees om my ewe Clivia entoesiastiese vrou, Judy, se naam by myne te voeg vir volledigheid van die rekord en die poslys.

Judy en ek is nou so vier jaar besig met Clivia miniata plante - sommer rond en bont in die tuin geplant - toe nog in die Paarl. Ons is nou vir sewe maande ernstig met die stokperdjie en het tans 11 oranje, 2 geles, 2 saailinge en 3 houers met saad, 9 geles en 24 oranje sade in die ontkieming stadium. In die kop loop ons ook met 'n "kweekhuis" plan rond. Man maar dis lekker om so met die plante en saad te speel.

Die beloning vir ons pogings sal kom wanneer hul geheime uiteindelik aan ons geopenbaar word.

Clivia Groet

Theo & Judy

- O -

The following is a translation of the above letter:
Western Cape clivia news

From Theo & Judy Beukes PO Box 282, Gordons Bay 7151

21 October 1996

Dear Koos

Thank you very much for the newsletters, list of members and other relevant and interesting literature. I have conveyed your greetings to Gert Wiese and he also thanks you.

We "Western Caper's" (29 of us) had a very interesting and enlightening workshop on Saturday 5 October 1996 under the guidance of the curator of the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Mr John Winter. It was extremely instructive and captivating. He dealt with the following points in detail and what was so nice, we could talk and ask questions.

A. When and how to separate plants
B. Best pot plant medium
C. Water needs of the plant
D. Diseases, insects and fungal problems
E. Different types of feeds

Many personal experiences of older club members were exchanged and communicated. It fuelled the enthusiasm for many of us beginners.

During the break we enjoyed refreshments and mixed socially. We were very privileged to be the first visitors to the as yet uncompleted giant glasshouse - an experience on its own.

During the group discussions Gert mentioned that a couple can be accepted as a unit for membership purposes at a fee of R20 per annum (next year R40). Please be so kind as to add the name of my equally enthusiastic wife, Judy, to mine for completeness of the record and the postal list.

Judy and I have now been busy for ∀ four years with Clivia miniata plants - just planted here and there in the garden - when still at Paarl. We have been serious about the hobby for about seven months and at present have 11 orange, 2 yellows, 2 seedlings and 3 containers with seed, 9 yellows and 24 orange seeds in the germinating stage. In our minds we also are planning a "greenhouse". Gee whiz but its nice to play like this with plants and seeds.

The reward of our labours will come when their secrets are eventually revealed to us.

Clivia Greetings
Theo & Judy

We are delighted to hear that Clivia enthusiasts in the Western Cape are gathering to share their love of Clivia. May your group thrive and attract many others (Ed).

* *

Success with yellow clivias from seed

From Mrs Claerwen Howie 7 Ripple Close, Newlands 7700

3 November 1996

Dear Mrs Jennings
Just a short note to mention how even a novice Clivia grower can have success with yellow plants. Perhaps my experience will encourage other beginners.

I obtained ten yellow seeds from Bill Morris in Australia which I planted in early October 1992. Several of my friends were sceptical about my ever seeing yellow flowers. But the seeds all germinated and the plants grew well. This year, to my great delight, four of the larger plants flowered. All were yellow!

If it is of interest to any readers, I grow them in pots and use the potting mixture suggested in the Club’s newsletter (Vol 1 no. 2, Sept 1992). They are outside in my garden which is shaded by very large trees, so they receive dappled sunlight. I feed them once or twice a year with a product like Seagrow and mulch with the leaves that fall from the deciduous trees in my garden in autumn.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs) Claerwen Howie

Congratulations on your efforts to grow yellow clivia from seed and to get them to flower after four years. The flowers should be even better in subsequent years. I am sure your success will encourage other members to persevere with propagating clivia from seed, especially as yellow seeds are relatively inexpensive compared to the prices asked for mature plants in flower (Ed).

*. *

An account of clivias seen in California

From Kyle Herbold 126 Adair Street, Decatur, GA 30030, U.S.A.
November 4, 1996

Dear Koos,

Thanks so much for the back issues back in May! I've moved to Atlanta since then, and have been INCREDIBLY slow in replying. I must say that the Olympics were loads of fun, and I've been enjoying the somewhat warmer climate of Atlanta.

About the back issues, I read through them all with MUCH excitement and learned much. Unfortunately, in the move I'm still not clear as to which - I'll let you know when (and if!) I find out.

Back in April, I had the privilege of visiting Dave Conway in Santa Barbara, California to see his Clivias. He is actually the only person I know of in the U.S. who is growing divisions of selected varieties of Clivia. Being divisions, they are certainly not cheap, but the diversity and quality of his work is amazing. It seems that with the current obsession with Yellow Clivias, many are inferior seed grown plants with narrow foliage and much "window space" between the petals. Many of the varieties Mr. Conway offers are incredibly attractive with many having fragrant flowers as well.

I've included copies of the photos I took during that visit. The timing was somewhat early for his yellows, but the reds and late oranges were still wonderful.

I hope this will let you and the club know some of what is going on in the American Clivia scene. It is quite difficult to find out about, but surprisingly active. Again, I appreciate your time and look forward to more Clivia News!

Truly,
Kyle Herbold
We are pleased that you have enjoyed reading the back copies of the new-letter. Thank you for the information about Dave Conway's clivias and for the photographs which will be displayed at our shows. There are many sizes and shapes of yellows, and buyers of yellow clivia seedlings are certainly taking a chance as they do not know how they will turn out. The only sure way of knowing that you are buying a particular cultivar or hybrid is to buy an offshoot or division or to buy it in flower. We have seen many inferior yellows at nurseries which fetch extraordinary prices, but simply because they are yellow, some members of the public will buy them. How about getting Dave Conway to become a member of the Clivia Club! (Ed.)

..*..

Report back on clivia seedlings

From Stella van Gass Blomdal, P.O. Box 144, Kwelera 5259
16 December 1996

Dear Toy,

I think it is time for a first report back on the Clivia seeds we are growing.

We found that the seeds - just flat on the top of the growing medium - took off within 4 weeks of planting. We had to lift our shade cloth frames after another 3 weeks to enable the leaves to grow up straight.

There are still seeds that are sprouting and some are even now after 3 months still dormant but still firm.

It seems that the seeds of Clivia are the same as any of our indigenous plants. After a lifetime of growing succulents we know that nature does not put all its eggs in one basket. For a better survival rate, seeds in nature are inclined to stagger their germination to ensure the survival of the species.

The seeds sent - 2 months after yours - by Dr D Strydom of Klerksdorp, started germinating in the same medium but without the shade cloth frames over them. These seeds were smaller than the collected club seeds. Norman Weitz says it depends how full the capsule is; i.e. whether adequate pollination took place or not. Our own seeds are big fat ones but not many to a capsule.

Of the striped variety seeds you kindly gave me, the germination rate has not been too bad:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number of Germination</th>
<th>Number of Capsules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apricot</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark orange</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark red broad leaf</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How's that for beginner's luck!

I wonder if the other members have the same "problem" with seed growing? I find that I have to check ours every day for root rot penetrating the growing medium. The medium is very loose and also damp enough. Instead of going down, the root pushes the cotyledons up in the air like little mushrooms! I have the sneaking suspicion they just want a little T.L.C.! After been shown the right direction to go they carry on merrily to produce leaves. Some leaves are \( \sqrt{\text{10cm}} \) high now.

We have had a very small percentage of seeds that rotted. Maybe 2:1000. In the New Year I have been thinking of getting the East Cape members together for a swapping session of plants and information. We'll see how things develop, but I am sure it would be of benefit to all of us. Maybe - if it materialises - someone from the committee would like to attend to get us started. In any case, that is a thought for the New Year.
Let us hope and believe that our precious S.A. heritage plants and animals - large and small - will survive the uncertain times ahead. As long as each one does their small bit, I am sure it will be OK.

Clivia regards
Stella van Gass

Thank you for keeping us informed about the progress of your clivia seedlings. With regard to your seed growing problems, clivia seedlings often start growing with their roots in the air, pushing up the seed. It is a case of taking the line of least resistance. Your growing medium is probably not as porous as forest mulch. Once firmly planted, they usually remain underground. Fungal infections can usually be prevented by not overwatering and having adequate ventilation in the seed or plant area. Spraying with a fungicide also helps (Ed.).

..*..

Comments on wide, short leaved clivias

From Bill Morris PO Box 17, Medowie, NSW 2318, Australia
1 January 1997
Dear Meg,

I have just received the Newsletter for December 96. I am interested in Allan Tait's article dealing with the wide, short leaved clivias which he calls Belgian Hybrids. These plants are not called Belgian Hybrids in Australia, simply sold as clivias. Near identical plants received from Japan were labelled as Daruma strain. Similar but dwarf plants were called Hime and from Europe "Twins".

I believe that these strains have been produced simply by selection over many generations for these characteristics. I don't know what the author meant by chemical induction, but I don't think any chemical treatment is necessary.

I have observed these plants to be more difficult to grow than either common clivias, widely grown in Australia, or the large flowered improved strains (often called hybrid clivias), also well known, and grown here.

As observed by Allan Tait, the short broad leaf plants and the dwarf strains, as well as the variegated strains are much more susceptible to disease (not just powdery mildew), easily rot off in cold, wet weather and are obviously less cold tolerant.

Before commenting further I think it is worthwhile to point out the big difference between growing conditions in the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

In Australia, and apparently in South Africa, clivias are usually grown outdoors in garden beds or in pots. For protection, sometimes shade houses are used but usually only natural shade from trees etc. is necessary. Clivias are almost never grown in glasshouses (except as seedlings being raised commercially) or as indoor plants.

However, in the Northern hemisphere where much colder winters are experienced, most clivias are raised in heated glasshouses and after sale are kept indoors as flowering plants. Particularly in Europe most plants sold are as flowering pot plants and expected to be discarded in a few months. Clivias cannot survive the winter temperatures in northern U.S.A. the U.K., most of Europe and Japan, China and Korea. Thus they are not planted outside in gardens exposed to the vagaries of the weather.
In the glasshouses, temperature, humidity and watering are stringently controlled and regular fertilising and spraying to control disease is practised.

The temperature is usually kept around 20EC because at this temperature the plants grow continuously and can reach maturity in 24 months or a little longer.

Thus selection has favoured plants which grow fast and continuously at this temperature, while natural resistance to disease has been lost by the regular use of chemical spraying to control disease.

This selection has not been planned. It is just a consequence of raising numerous generations under the conditions described and selecting the fastest growers and best looking plants while discarding the unwanted ones.

Now when we take plants from these controlled conditions, particularly an almost unvarying 20EC (min) and expose them to varying lower temperatures and plenty of overhead watering (particularly in winter) without regular spraying, they suffer from all kinds of diseases and straight out cold damage and rot.

I believe it is silly to expect these plants to do as well as garden plants, as the wild type of clivias or the improved strains that have been selected for garden conditions in South Africa or Australia.

What I am trying to do, as I appreciate the short broad leaves and smaller stature etc., is to experiment along two lines. From amongst the plants I raise myself or buy commercially, I am trying to select the few that show some resistance to cold, water and disease and use these as parents to hopefully breed back some hardiness. It involves drastic culling of the seedlings obtained to try to make rapid progress as at the lower temperatures they will not grow as fast and so each generation takes 4 - 5 years instead of 2.

The other approach is to cross the difficult types with the hardy improved Australian strains and select the vigorous seedlings back towards the characteristics one desires. This is probably slower than the first approach but doesn't require such drastic culling as many (or most) of the seedlings will be usable plants.

I would like to say finally that I am not criticising the Northern hemisphere strains. They have been selected and grown for their own (artificial) conditions. We should not expect them to be suitable for our outdoor conditions. I admire and appreciate their appearance and I hope I can transfer the characteristics that I like, to plants which will grow outdoors here without problems.

Regards
Bill Morris

Thank you for your reply to Allan Tait's queries about short broad leaved varieties of clivia. A big problem is that we do call them by different names in different countries and in different areas. You have also described most succinctly why these strains are so prone to problems (Ed).

..*..

Give in haste, regret forever

From Tino Ferero

PO Box 36558, Menlo Park, Pretoria 0102
2 January 1997

Dear Mrs Hart,
Excuse the paper and handwritten letter, but I am on holiday in the Free State and have the time to write a few lines.

I joined the Clivia Club in September 1996 and purchased all the newsletters from the start of the Club. I have just read through them for a second time and what hours of pleasure and enjoyment they gave me! One of my greatest regrets is that I did not join the Club sooner, especially when several members almost pleaded with me to join. I have learnt a tremendous lot since reading the newsletter and have met wonderful new friends and obtained beautiful quality plants.

My interest in clivias started many years ago when Cynthia Giddy brought me a bakkie load of miniatas removed from her garden when a tree was removed. Unbeknown to her or me there was a yellow amongst them. My sister-in-law requested a plant and landed up with the only yellow which she refused to dispose of. I had to wait years for an off-shoot and this flowered for the first time in 1996. I pollinated it with a Pat Bennet Yellow and 13 seeds have set. I am now anxiously awaiting the results.

In September 1994 I was one of the thousands of visitors who went to the Clivia Show to buy a yellow, but who came away disappointed, without even a seed. A friend then told me that Wessel Lötter was selling yellow seedlings. I knew Wessel well from the days I had an aloe/succulent nursery, and like me, Wessel was also a keen cycad collector and grower. Wessel let me have 60 plants and these I promptly planted in my front garden under shade between my Encephalartos villosus. To boost their growth I worked in much leaf compost and when they had taken well, I gave them a healthy helping of 2:3:2 fertiliser, even in the crowns of the plants. I lost 22 of these plants, but managed to save 38. A friend twisted my arm for 2 which I let her have. One of hers and three of mine bloomed in 1996 - all yellow, but the friend's one turned out to be the most beautiful deep yellow flowers I have ever seen with very broad petals. She is not prepared to let me have this plant back, but I used the pollen on a yellow I got from Anna Meyer. Seed has also set on this plant.

Wessel Lötter has been a plant collector and grower for most of his life and has a vast collection and knowledge of plants. He tells me that in all his experience, no other plant has presented him with so much pleasure and such a challenge as the clivia. When visiting him the other day he said to me that his interest and enthusiasm for clivias is only really starting to take off now. We look forward to seeing many beautiful specimens coming from him and Rudo.

Regards
Tino

The moral of the story is that you do not give any clivia plants away until they have flowered. Many of us have been coerced into giving or selling plants only to regret it when we see them flowering elsewhere. Connie Abel is waiting to get an offshoot from her red Belgian Hybrid back from Adri Haxton as she has no mother plant left (Ed.).

Queries with crosses

From Pat Gore
669 Killack Ave., Les Marais, Pretoria 0084
25 February 1997

Dear Members,

In 1995 I crossed broad-leaved Clivia miniata varieties with my good true yellow (the one I call Pat Gore) and planted the seeds. The seeds germinated well and produced strong seedlings. None of the seedlings appear to be yellow, but there are a few variegated varieties.
I would be interested to hear whether anyone else has had a similar experience. None of the broad-leaved varieties or the yellow are variegated.

Regards,
Pat Gore

* *

Discovery of early articles about clivia

From Kees Sahin
Postbus 227, Alphen an den Rijn, 2400-AE,
The Netherlands
February 19, 1997

My dear friends

When visiting my mother yesterday, who lives in our 300 year old family home at Aalsmeer, I started reading through some old gardening magazines in her library, that are from my grandfather's days.

In "Krelage's Bloemhof" for 1899 I found two articles on Clivia, that I herewith enclose.

The one from the December 1899 issue is of more than usual interest with regard to the description of named, vegetatively propagated clones, with distinctly coloured flowers of fine quality for its days.

The Hamburg specialist Reimers is a new name to me. Undoubtedly in old German magazines of its time one can find details on his person, skills and activities.

In this same article I spotted, what I thought to be a mis-spelling of Imantophyllum an old generic synonym for Clivia still sometimes used in France, printed as Imatophyllum. As in those old days text was usually correct, I checked to be certain on the 8th edition of Willis' Flowering Plants and Ferns and to my surprise I found:


Can you imagine?

On the Cliveia as found in the article from April 1899 of Krelage's Bloemhof I could not find reference in Willis when checking upon this.

But this checking put me on to what I once knew but forgot about: x Cliveucharis Rodigas. The elusive bi-generic hybrid between a Clivia and Eucharis amazonica raised by Louis van Houtte of Ghent, a century or so ago.

We need to do research on this I think. To start with we need to screen the Van Houtte magazines for more detailed information.

Originally I thought this whole story was a joke. After all how could one produce by conventional means a bi-generic hybrid of two parents, SO diverse and from two SO different origins: Southern most Africa and Amazon America.

The last discussion I had on the subject was with the late Dr. Shuichi Hirao some 35 years ago and he said that this was a highly unlikely story.
But guess what has happened since:

My dear old friend Stanley Smee has made a hybrid of *Lycoris sprengerii* and *Nerine bowdenii*, that clearly shows the characteristics of both parents. On top of this it is fertile.

Others have made crosses between *Lycoris aurea* and *Nerine* (some hybrid) one of these is my young friend Aad Koen. I have seen the hybrid plants, that also clearly show hybrid characteristics but unfortunately his hybrid has not flowered yet.

Besides, the late Dr. John Cage made a hybrid between *Sprekelia formosissima* and *Habranthus robustus*, that I think was named by Dr Hamilton Traub x *Sprekanthus cagei*. Dr Cage kindly gave me some bulbs when visiting him in Palo Alto, California in the early 1970's. The plant took very kindly to cultivation. It grew rapidly and propagated in a vegetative fashion most profusely, but it was completely sterile. Moreover it looked exactly the same as *Sprekelia formosissima*, one of its parents.

A year or two later I gave a plant in flower to Dr Peter Brandham of the Jodrell Laboratory of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He did like the plant, but did not believe that it was a bi-generic hybrid. Upon a chromosome count, that he performed soon afterwards, he had to confirm to his great surprise, that the plant actually WAS a bi-generic hybrid. It was just in-between with 66 chromosomes (*Sprekelia formosissima* 2n = 120 and *Habranthus robustus* 2n = 12).

A similar story is the hybrid between a modern *Hippaeastrum* hybrid and *Sprekelia* that was made by Udai Chandra Pradhan of Kalimpong, India. When I last met with him, about this time last year, I failed to touch this subject. We spent a night talking *Rhododendron* instead. I will try to remember at the next occasion.

Also we must remember the many bi-generic hybrids of *Brunsvigia (=x Amarygia Ciferri & Giacom.)* and *Crinum (=x Amarcrinum Hort.)* with *Amaryllis belladonna* made by good old Les Hannibal of Fair Oaks, California. And then the bi-generic hybrids between *Amaryllis belladonna and Nerine bowdenii* made by C.G. Van Tubergen of Haarlem, Holland and named x *Amarine tubergenii Sealy.*

And there is more.

I do mention all these stories, because they indicate what is to be expected in the - perhaps not too distant - future: masses of bi-generic *Clivia* hybrids with such diverse fleshy seeded Amarillidaceous genera as for example: *Amaryllis*, *Brunsvigia*, *Eucharis*, *Eurycles*, *Lycoris*, *Nerine* and *Pancratium*. If not, by conventional means, then perhaps by somatic hybridisation, or by embryo-rescue.

You should consider sending a copy of this letter to your editor, as some of the contents may give rise to desirable action and if not, perhaps to some lively discussions at least.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely

Kees Sahin

- O -

March 4, 1997

After sending you the letter of the 19th of February on the potential bi-generic hybridization of *Clivia*, I have been giving all this rhetoric a further thought and also I have been digging a bit deeper into facts. The result is confirming my earlier philosophies and expectations in a very promising fashion.
It turns out, that checking upon the facts of fleshy seeded Amarylladaceous plants, their chromosome base is more often than not at par with the chromosomes of *Clivia miniata*, whilst further desirable candidates of future inclusion into such complex hybrids without fleshy seeds, share that same chromosome base.

Herewith an alphabetical sequence of the various genera and species 2n being:

\[
\begin{align*}
2n & = 22 & \text{in } \text{AMARYLLIS belladonna} & \text{from S Africa} \\
22 & \text{in AMMOCHARIS coranica} & \text{Africa} \\
22 & \text{in BOOPHONE disticha} & \text{S Africa} \\
22 & \text{in BOOPHONE guttata} & \text{S Africa} \\
22 & \text{in BRUNSVIGIA rosea} & \text{S Africa} \\
22 & \text{in CLIVIA caulescens} & \text{S Africa} \\
22 & \text{in CLIVIA miniata} & \text{S Africa} \\
22 & \text{in CLIVIA nobilis} & \text{S Africa} \\
22 & \text{in CRINUM most species} & \text{World wide} \\
22 & \text{in CYBISTETES logifolia} & \text{S Africa} \\
44 & \text{in EUCHARIS amazonica} & \text{S America} \\
22 & \text{in HIPPEASTRUM most species} & \text{S America} \\
22 & \text{in LAPIEDRA martinezii} & \text{Spain} \\
22 & \text{in LYCORIS radiata} & \text{East Asia} \\
22 & \text{in LYCORIS sanguinea} & \text{East Asia} \\
22 & \text{in LYCORIS sprengerii} & \text{East Asia} \\
22 & \text{in NARCISSUS tazetta} & \text{Mediterranean} \\
22 & \text{in NERINE most species} & \text{S Africa} \\
22 & \text{in PANCRATIUM most species} & \text{The Old World} \\
22 & \text{in STRUMARIA truncata} & \text{S Africa} \\
22 & \text{in UNGERNIA most species} & \text{Central Asia} \\
22 & \text{in VAGARIA ollivieri} & \text{Morocco}
\end{align*}
\]

The above is a most promising range of potential candidates for hybridising with each other, of which a number of intergeneric combinations - some of them most unlikely - already firmly exist.

All existing ones have been made by the conventional method of straightforward hybridisation, without any further technique.

Thinking of more modern ways, such as embryo-rescue or somatic hybridisation, many further combinations and re-combinations should shortly be commonplace.

Imagine the combinations of, the, most hardy, easy to please, long lived and aristocratic of all house plants the *Clivia miniata* with such genera like:

1) *Amaryllis* for spicy sweet fragrance and an enhanced colour range.
2) *Brunsvigia* for an increased range of colours, shapes and forms.
3) *Crinum* for an increased range of forms and colours.
4) *Eucharis* for heavenly fragrance and an enhanced range of colours.
5) *Hemerocallis* for winter hardness, new flower sizes and colours.
6) *Hippeastrum* for large flowers and many new colours.
7) &c., &c.
It is just by chance, that I started to develop the above pattern of thinking; but the more I research the basics and potentials, the more I find proof for these possibilities. So much so, that I already started to bring together the collection of ingredients, required to work this exciting project myself.

I think that you should consider, to send this text to your editor for inclusion in a future newsletter, as members may well contribute further towards the realisation of this revolutionary project. In the meantime, I hope to be favoured with your firm criticism.

With warmest regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely
Kees Sahin

Your stimulating letters have given much food for thought and are certain to attract much debate about the question of bigeneric hybridization (Ed.).

..*..

THE CLIVEIA as room plant (in answer to question 2)

From Krelage's Bloemhof, April 1899, page 18.

An interested subscriber has asked us for information on the cultivation of Clivias. From the expression *cultivation* we will assume that it especially implies information on handling them as room plants: indeed of *cultivation* in the true sense one can talk only of a single species and above all as a room plant Clivia is particularly valued.

Clivias are preferably potted in a mixture of half-rotted leaves, decayed sod soil and old cow manure, to which sand has been added, resulting in a good nutritious soil, which the thick fleshy roots appear to need.

The plant is not fussy regarding temperature, and can prosper in a mild room temperature. To advance the flowering time, so that much pleasure may be given in the winter months, a higher temperature is desirable (15°). During summer the plant may be kept in a protected outside place. The plant's demands will manifest themselves. Regular watering is necessary.

After flowering re-potting may be recommended, the young plants may be separated from the mother plant and potted separately. If seed is desired, then naturally the flower is left on the plant, otherwise it is removed immediately after flowering. To maintain the leaves in good condition, they should be sponged carefully with lukewarm rainwater. A healthy plant, well looked after, will be reward enough, but if all plants are not healthy, and one plant is sick or deteriorating, then special steps must be taken to recover, such as keeping the plant at a higher temperature, so encouraging the growth of new healthy leaves, while the old sickly ones may be removed, or through ventilated and cooler conditions so that thrips and aphids, which prefer warm rather than fresh air, are discouraged from establishing themselves on the plant. Only the result can show whether correct steps have been taken.

Also with healthy specimens old leaves that are yellowing or are dying may be removed.

..*..

CLIVIAS

From Krelage's Bloemhof, December 1899, page 76
Further to an earlier (page 18 of this year's volume) article regarding the cultivation of Clivias, we wish to focus attention particularly on the different forms of the plant.

Superficially one can presume that the variety is not very large; where Clivias are seen in flower they are virtually always the well known plants with orange coloured flowers, with little or no variation between them. Still this impression is only partially correct, and judgement is made more further complicated due to the circumstance that usually only isolated specimens are seen and the possibility of comparison is denied.

One comes to another conclusion when one sees a well arranged selection in full flower, such as the one at Bloemhof. It is then apparent that there is a substantial difference and variation among Clivias and that the colour range is from light sulphur yellow to deep red.

The oldest known Clivia is C. nobilis, imported in 1827 from South Africa to England, where it first flowered on the estate of Lady Clive. The generic name should therefore more correctly be written as Clivia. On the other hand the plant was named almost simultaneously Imatophyllum Aitoni, with the genetic name "Riemblad", after the characteristic leathery leaves. This variety is seldom seen nowadays. In 1854 a second Clivia was imported from Natal, superior by far to the earlier one. While with Clivia nobilis the flowers are small and hanging and tinted with green, those of C. miniata, as the second import was named, are bigger, wider open and much redder in colour, and the leaves, although leathery, are not as hard as with C. nobilis.

Shortly after the importation of C. miniata a hybrid between C. nobilis and C. miniata was brought into the trade, with characteristics between the two parents. This hybrid is still present, has been given the name Clivia cyrtanthiflora, and is a very popular variety. It is actually preferred over many newer types, where not one can match its resistance against diseases, pests and otherwise, to which house plants are so susceptible. Therefore we deemed it necessary to draw once more the special attention to this old, but useful, house plant by illustrating it.

With its flowers, although hanging, attractive, cheerfully coloured and numerous, the whole plant is well developed and makes a good impression with its broad dark green leaves, from which the firm flower stalk appears with a heavy umbel of orange yellow flowers on top.

To also ensure that the newer varieties are correctly distinguished, a flower scape of each one of these is herewith presented. The enormous difference is evident, the blooms all erect, "looking at you", flowers standing close together and forming a fully round ball, equally nicely developed on all sides. Although in many nurseries one sees only seedling Clivias without names, there are nevertheless a number of hybrids, each with its own characteristics, so that it is worth while to examine them more closely. They are grown under specific names, and must, to remain true, be propagated vegetatively and not from seed. The speed of reproduction is thereby severely restricted and one seldom finds many of these sorts together.

Here follows a selection of a good range of older and newer vegetatively propagated named varieties.

C. miniata hybrida has small hanging flowers of a single even flesh colour.

With intermedia the light salmon coloured hanging flowers are grouped to one side.

intermedia splendens has small dark orange-salmon coloured flowers.

With maxima the flowers are held firmly upright, and are orange-salmon coloured with white centres.

maxima Vanhouttei forms a beautiful bunch of large orange salmon coloured flowers.
Juliana is small flowered, soft salmon coloured with a light sulphur yellow centre.

Lindeni is a cultivar that became very popular soon after its introduction and was used on a large scale for breeding. It is now surpassed by its offspring.

Madame Louis van Houtte is a classic type bred by Hamburg Chief Gardener Reimers, who has achieved fame through his Clivia seedlings. The beautiful big flowers stand upright, are dark orange in colour with a nearly pure white centre.

Mademoiselle Marie van Houtte, also bred by Reimers, has hanging flowers, more elongated than round in form, much clear white in the centre and bright orange salmon tips to the petals.

Madame Peeters (Reimers) makes a large umbel of big round flowers, salmon coloured with white centres, spectacular.

C. H. Donner (Reimers) has not round but rather long extended flowers and is distinguished by especially white centres, with only a little orange on the very top of the petals.

After Reimers it is especially the Belgian growers who have brought the best Clivia seedlings into the trade. The collection and planting of seed is easy, and was increasingly practised as Clivias became more widely spread. Still remarkably few named improved forms are seen in the trade. We name the following:

Roi Leopold II (1883) large widely open flowers with three broad and three smaller petals, large pure white centre, petals clear orange salmon colour.

Madame Rodigas, differs from all the others through the particularly light colour, centre sulphur yellow, petals soft salmon colour. This selection can be recognised in one show group at a distance. The same applies to

Chevalier Heynderickx, which has a sharp contrast between the dark petals and the large clear white centre. It is a lovely plant with deep dark green leaves.

The Dutch have gained by having the following crowned with a 1st Class Certificates:

Natura Artis Magistra (Krelage 1891) with large round upright flowers, orange salmon colour with light yellow centre.

Speciosa has beautiful full blooms with big flowers, soft rose salmon colour, big clear white centre with soft yellow mid stripe.

The above summary - one group out of many - may give an impression of the wealth of variety of our contemporary Clivias.

Thank you Kees for sending us these two articles (Ed.).

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WESTERN PROVINCE CLIVIA INTEREST GROUP MEETING (22 JANUARY 1997)
Nine members were present at this meeting held at Kirstenbosch chaired by John Winter. Dates were set for future meetings and a show. Toy Jennings and Jim Holmes were co-opted on to the committee.

* *

GAUTENG CLIVIA CLUB MEETING (15 FEBRUARY 1997)

This was the first meeting that was held at the home of Connie and James Abel since their return from Zimbabwe. Thirty two members attended the general meeting which was chaired by James Abel.

With the development of the branches (Australia, KwaZulu/Natal, Western Province) and their organisation and finances, the following was suggested:

a. Club subscription fees be set to cover only the production of the newsletter
b. Branch expenses should be covered by their own fund-raising activities (shows, sales, commissions, etc.)
c. Any branch with surplus funds is encouraged to commit them to a central fund for the promotion of research and any other matters devoted to the development of the Clivia Club and of the knowledge about the genus.
d. Separate accounts be kept.

Plans for the 1997 Clivia Club show in Gauteng were discussed briefly. Any members wanting to help should contact Frikkie Potgieter well beforehand.

There was much discussion amongst members about various aspects of clivia culture: natural pollinators (bees, ants, other insects?, wind), vegetative propagation, pests and diseases.

Several Clivia were on display: an F2 hybrid cross, a broad leafed clivia ex Coromandel (not flowering), a flowering C. caulescens and a C. nobilis with a magnificent head of seeds - at least six per pod.

Wessel spoke about the Clivia which he has been breeding for 25 years. He showed us his F2 hybrid cross (F1 was C. miniata x C. nobilis) which was flowering in February. It had a long stem, good umbel and upright orange flowers. Wessel also showed his photographs of the magnificent clivia taken at the Natal Show.

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WESTERN PROVINCE CLIVIA INTEREST GROUP MEETING (1 MARCH 1997)

An open meeting was held at Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden. Kirstenbosch donated two Clivia miniata var citrina plants (with Kirstenbosch Yellow x) and Gert Wiese donated a 'Howick Yellow'. All three were raffled and Gerhard van Wyk from Parow drew both 1st and 2nd prizes (the two Kirstenbosch plants). Toy Jennings drew the 3rd prize. The branch is now solvent.

Jim Holmes gave a demonstration on repotting and talked about compost mixes.

Toy Jennings

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GAUTENG
Sat 24 May 1997 Member's meeting (C. gardenii and general)
Venue The Nestlè Centre, Witwatersrand Botanical Gardens
(Malcolm Road, Poortview, Roodepoort.
Tel. (011) 959-1750/1

Entrance fees
Nestlé Centre - free, Gardens - R5 adults, R2 students (Botanical Society members free)

Time
14:30 Club meeting
16:00 Guided tour for 1 hour past the C. gardenii and up to the waterfall

Sat 26 July 1997 Member’s meeting (show planning & general)
Venue Pretoria National Botanical Garden
Time 14:30

Sat 6th September Gauteng show and annual general meeting

KWAZULU/NATAL

Sat 21 June 1997 Clivia gardenii display
Venue Pietermaritzburg Botanical Gardens
Time 12:00

Sun 22 June 1997 Clivia cultivation workshop - contact Sean Chubb for details (Tel. (0325) 81978)

Sat 13 September KwaZulu Natal show.

WESTERN PROVINCE

Sat 14 June 1997 Preparation for showing, pest control
Venue Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden
Time 09:00

Sat 13 September Plant breeding, producing seed crop
Venue Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden
Time 09:00

Sat & Sun 4 & 5 Oct. Western Province Clivia Club Show
Venue Sanlam Hall, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden

Sat 15 November 1997 Annual general meeting

Other dates and details to follow.

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1998 CLIVIA CONFERENCE, SHOWS AND TOURS

Building on the success of the Newsletter, founded and run initially single-handed by Nick Primich, the Clivia Club grew to be able to hold its first show and talks in 1994. It was then decided that this should be repeated every four years, and early planning for September 1998 is essential - please respond.
1998 will offer members an opportunity for two weeks of being part of presentations and intense discussions on clivias, of seeing the best plants that the Gauteng and Kwazulu/Natal branches have to offer at their shows and of touring the habitats of all four species (understandably, only C. miniata in peak flower in September). Since clivias grow in the mountainous and high-rainfall eastern seaboard areas of South Africa, participants will also travel through some of the finest scenic regions that the country has to offer.

Plans include the following:

**3rd & 4th Sept:** a two day conference where papers and posters will be presented on technical aspects as well as on developments with clivia around the world. Members are requested please to consider offering papers. Even if unable to attend the conference personally, papers can be read on your behalf, so please send us a short summary.

**5th Sept:** a show of the best plants available from the Gauteng (Johannesburg/Pretoria) Branch.

**6th to 11th Sept:** a bus (air-conditioned) trip from Louis Trichardt in the North through KwaZulu/Natal to Pietermaritzburg, visiting a number of *caulescens*, *miniata* and *gardenii* habitats.

**12th Sept:** a show of the best plants available from the KwaZulu/Natal Branch.

**13th to 16th Sept:** continue the tour to *nobilis* country in the Eastern Cape, and then return to Johannesburg.

Travel agents will be selected to offer members pre- or post- conference tours to other Southern African attractions such as game parks and the Victoria Falls.

Accommodation on the tour will be limited, and priority will be given to early responders. Members are earnestly requested to complete and return the questionnaire enclosed with this letter, without commitment at this stage, so that planning can be undertaken effectively. Provisional costs are given (1997 rates). Hotel accommodation for the conference and the tour will be of good "3 star" (not luxury) quality. The tour is budgeted on a bed & breakfast basis, and other meals and costs will be for the delegates own account.

James Abel

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**PERSONALITY PARADE**

**Geoff Meyer**

Geoff was born in Pretoria on 15 December 1960. His schooling was at Sunnyside Primary and Pretoria Boys High School. He enjoyed high school and had five happy years there. After matriculating, being unsure of what he wanted to do, he joined the South African Navy on the understanding that if he completed four years in the permanent force he would not be called up for any naval camps later. However, this was not to be and he still had to do camps, but only two instead of the customary ten! During his term in the navy he was stationed at Saldanha, Simonstown, Durban and Pretoria. His navy years gave him his first exposure to the marvels of the Cape and the richness of its flora.

After leaving the navy, he enrolled at the Technikon in Pretoria in January 1983 for the National Diploma in Horticulture. At weekends he worked at Keith Kirsten's Waterkloof Garden Centre in Pretoria. This
was very convenient because it was 900 metres from his parent's home. He completed his studies and continued to work at Keith Kirsten's as the manager. In April 1990 he and a friend bought the business as Keith Kirsten was concentrating on his Johannesburg operations and wanted to dispose of the one in Pretoria. It is now called Geoff's Garden Pavilion and is one of Pretoria's best nurseries. Geoff gives gardening advice on Radio Jacaranda on the first Wednesday of every month at 10:00 and is a regular on the Radio 702 garden talk show on Saturdays from 14:00 to 14:30.

In March 1990 he married Sue Russell and in December 1995 they were blessed with a little girl, Jennifer Anne, who now takes up a great deal of their time and is tremendous fun, and is the best thing that has happened to them since they were married.

Since childhood Geoff has taken a keen interest in plants and nature. He still has a few aviaries with birds as well as tanks of tropical fish.

Toy Jennings stimulated his interest in clivias and Joe Pretorius introduced him to the Clivia Club some years ago. He belongs to numerous clubs and societies and at present is chairman of the South African Garden Centre Association and chairman of the management committee of the Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary in Pretoria East. The little free time he has is spent attending to his plants, birds, fish and family, and he loves slipping off to the Kruger National Park or game reserves in KwaZulu/Natal (Mkuzi is his favourite) with the family.

He says "I am fortunate enough to be one of the few people whose hobby has become his profession and if I had my time again I would do exactly the same."

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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

AUSTRALIA
George Hellen, 8 Currawang Street, The Gap, Q 4061
John & Dorothy Miller, 161 Loch Street, Toowoomba, Q 4350
Bruce & Cathy Newton, 35 Juniper Crescent, Toowoomba, Q 4350
Norman Wake, 10 Coronation Street, Mona Vale, NSW 2103

SOUTH AFRICA
Jakkie Boucher, Posbus 1663, Vanderbijlpark 1900
Div de Villiers, PO Box 37318, Faerie Glen 0043
Barbara Dippenaar, 16 Irvingweg, Bonnie Doone, East London 5201
Giles Garlick, PO Box 426, Munster 4278
Lynette Lotz, Tarentaalweg 22, Stellenbosch 7600
Gerhard van Wyk, Sarel Cilliersstraat 25, Parow 7500

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Kyle Herbold's new address is 126 Adair Street, Decatur, GA 30030,
Tel. (404) 370 -1839

Toy Jennings' new address is 33 12th Avenue, Fish Hoek 7975,
Toy says that she is sorry that she wasn't able to say goodbye to everybody before she left for Cape Town. She is now feeling more settled. She now has a shade house for her clivias to protect them from the notorious South Easters. She has joined the Western Province Clivia Club and attended their last two meetings (Ed.).

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES

The following clivia club members have e-mail addresses:

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Connie & James Abel  
jabel@omnia.co.za
Elda de Witt  
kedewitt@smartnet.co.za
Meg Hart  
hartmh@alpha.unisa.ac.za
James & Adri Haxton  
jameshax@global.co.za
Louisa Liebenberg  
ejll@nbipre.ac.za
Piet Vorster  
pjvor@maties.sun.ac.za

**THE NETHERLANDS**

Kees Sahin  
sahin@euronet.nl

**U.S.A.**

Kyle Herbold  
kherbol@emory.edu
Colman Rutkin  
colsage@interport.net

* * *

BEGINNER'S LUCK

Sometimes an umbel of a very special clivia breaks off before it is mature enough to produce viable seed. Try to encourage it to mature by placing the stem in water or a weak solution of Nitrosol. If the lower end starts to rot, cut it off and re-immers the stem. It should be possible to extend the maturation period for as long as two months. Once out of the water the pods should change colour and when they have dried out a little, but while they are still fresh, they can be peeled and the seeds planted.

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FOR SALE

**Membership lists.** Full membership lists are available from the club for R20 ($10 US dollars or equivalent).

**Seeds.** Please remember to send R50 seed deposit to Koos Geldenhuys if you wish to purchase seed from the Clivia Club. Yoshikazu Nakamura's special seed from Japan has not arrived yet!

**C. miniata and C. gardenii plants** for sale at all ages - R12,00 and down. Phone Sean Chubb at (0325) 81978

**C. nobilis seed** for sale @ 50c/seed. Phone Charl Malan at (0461) 311086 after 18:00
**Fertilizer.** For the convenience of Gauteng members, a supply of 1:0:1 and 4:3:4 fertilizer (recommended by Gerhard Reyneke) has been obtained and is available at cost - contact Connie Abel on (012) 476406.

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**ON THE COMPOST HEAP**

I was wondering whether any of my ancestors were around in 1899? I would love to have tried all those varieties with their fancy names. Please let me know whether anyone has seen a white clivia.

You will not be hearing from me again unless you've paid your 1997 subscriptions!

Yours

Lily Borer.