NAMED IN HONOUR of Jean Kingdon Ward (née Macklin) in 1949, *Lilium mackliniae* was discovered on Mount Sirhoi in Manipur, northeast India. Frank Kingdon Ward and his wife Jean first sighted it flowering in the wild in 1948, although they had collected bulbs and seed on previous expeditions in 1946 and earlier in 1948. At first it was regarded as a *Nomocharis*, although the possibility of it being a new lily was recognised from the beginning.

It soon became established in a number of gardens but some gardeners reported it as being susceptible to basal rot. The curator of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh said that it was not long-lived there and rapidly deteriorated with virus diseases. However, I have found it to be a healthy plant and it does not succumb like *Nomocharis* sometimes do. Nurseryman Will Ingwersen had considerable success in Sussex, while both the Knox Finlays at Keillour Castle, Perthshire, and the Sherriffs at 300m at Ascreavie, Angus, found it hardy and long-lived. I have had great success at Glendoick, Perthshire, both in growing it from seed and naturalising it among dwarf rhododendrons, pushing up through their foliage and flowering above it.

It even became established in Australia with a record number of 19 flowers on one stem; I did not see more than eight flowers on mine last year. One disadvantage is that it does appear rather early in the spring and can very occasionally be frosted. It has, though, never quite reached the popularity that Kingdon Ward visualised. Two variations of the Kingdon Ward introduction have come to my notice. Somebody told me about a white selection seen at Chelsea Flower Show but I know no other details. A dwarfer strain has been raised by selection which does not grow more than 30cm high.

**Recent introductions**

Two New Zealanders, Sashel Dayal and Jeremy Thomson, collected a new form from Japvo peak in...
Nagaland, northeast India, in 1995 under the number L003. As far as I know I was the only recipient of this seed in the UK. This has proved to be very different from the Kingdon Ward plant. For one thing, it does not appear through the soil until May, thus escaping the frost, here at Glendoick at least. But it catches up on the Kingdon Ward introduction and flowers at the same time in June. Self-sown seedlings are establishing alongside my main planting. The inflorescence is slightly more erect than Kingdon Ward’s collection and the flowers are a much richer uniform pink and more funnel-shaped. My record for last year with second generation seedlings was 18 flowers on a stem. This is an outstanding introduction which should become popular. It will be important to keep the two collections apart to avoid cross pollinating, although Henry and Margaret Taylor of Invergowrie, Dundee, have deliberately crossed the two. I have not seen these seedlings in flower yet.

A third collection has proved to be more distinct than the other two. This was introduced in autumn 2003 under NAPE 049 from an area previously unexplored by Westerners, Mount Saramati on the Nagaland-Burma border. Again, as far as I know I was the only recipient in the UK. I moved the bulbs from a frame in which they flowered in 2008 to the open ground and possibly they are much shorter than the other two introductions due to the move, the tallest only reaching 50cm. The maximum number of flowers last year was six. This plant flowers much earlier than the other two introductions, being in full flower on the 10th of May. The corolla is also a different shape, being tubular-campanulate. The colour I observed in 2008 was mostly white with a pink tinge but last year there seemed to be more pink. This may be sufficiently different from the other two to be given at least varietal status.

Mount Sirhoi is about 2,700m, Mount Saramati is over 3,700m, and Japvo is about 3,000m. These three peaks are approximately 100km apart with Sirhoi being to the south of the other two locations.

Conclusion
All three introductions are well worth growing and in my experience much easier to keep going than all Nomocharis and the smaller lilies such as L. nanum and L. oxypetalum.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY