

*The*  
*Golden Anniversary*  
*Issue*

BULLETIN OF THE  
*American Iris Society*

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TIMONIUM, MARYLAND)

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# ***AIS***

# ***Anniversary***

# ***BULLETIN***

## INTRODUCTION

William T. Bledsoe  
*President, 1970*

When the fateful "70" met at the New York Botanical Garden on January 29, 1920, and organized the American Iris Society, I wonder if any of them even dreamed that it would grow in numbers and effectiveness to the position it now occupies fifty years later.

As I study the history of our Society and trace its impact on the horticultural world, I am impressed most of all with the unswerving dedication of its leaders and its members down through the years. Small wonder that our membership has risen steadily, with few reverses, until now we are one of the larger plant societies in America.

This dedication of which I am so proud is perhaps best exemplified in the person who has edited this Anniversary *Bulletin*. Mr. Jesse E. Wills, who is a fellow-Tennessean, was president of the Society from 1943 to 1946. And now here he is twenty-five years later helping, along with Kay Negus and J. Arthur Nelson, to give us the Fiftieth Anniversary *Bulletin*—a publication that will be a treasured possession for each of us for years to come. His is a real devotion to the principles of AIS!

I hope that each of you will keep this Anniversary *Bulletin*, will read it, and reread it! It will become a valuable historical reference. As succeeding years go by, it will be, more and more, a mark of prestige, a badge of distinction for having been a part of AIS at the beginning of the "scintillating seventies!"

William T. Bledsoe, President  
The American Iris Society



## LOS ANGELES

The Los Angeles convention, 1956. First bus unloading at Tom Craig's garden. The first two people are Lulu Newman of Michigan and Thornton Abell of California. Behind them are Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Brownell of New York.



# THE BULLETIN

## of the

# AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

No. 196

January 1970

Guest Editor: Jesse Wills

Assistant Editor: Kay N. Negus

Editor: J. Arthur Nelson

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The cover picture is of ROYAL GOLD (Hamblen '66). The Golden Anniversary calls for a rich full yellow, and ROYAL GOLD, the highest ranking Award of Merit winner in this color class, met the requirements of the formula set up two years ago for the selection of the cover for this issue.

## PREFACE

*to the history of the  
American Iris Society*

John Wister  
*President 1920-34*



America is a land of many horticultural societies. The oldest, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, dates back to 1827, but national "special plant" societies are much younger. Only a few, like the Rose Society, Dahlia Society and Peony Society, were active before 1920, when the American Iris Society was organized.

Now, during the celebration of its Fiftieth Anniversary, it is fitting to look back. New members, and particularly new officers, need to know: Why the Society was started; how it was started; who started it and what kind of people they were; what they tried to, and what they were able to accomplish; what, in the early years, particularly, they were not able to undertake or to carry out successfully.

I am, I think, the only Charter and Founding Member still active in the Society. Because of this, and because I was the first President, I have been asked to write the first part of this Half Century History.

Many of those who worked hardest for the Society during those formative years were so modest that they hid their lights under a bushel. I shall call attention to some of these who made possible what was accomplished in the early years. What I am about to write is my tribute to them.



Dr. W. L. Ayres, Mrs. W. H. Peckham, Clarence Connell, Mrs. J. Edgar Hires, President Wister, Mrs. Thomas Nesmith.

*The Founding of*  
**THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY**  
*and the First Fifteen Years*

1920-1934

John C. Wister  
First President

Let us trace the events leading to the formation of the Society and the organization meeting.

As early as 1823 William Prince, a pioneer Long Island nurseryman, listed over twenty kinds of irises in his catalog. During the century, irises were popular in gardens under the name of "flags." There were other evidences from time to time of iris interest.

The real beginning of iris popularity, however, did not develop until the early 1900's. Then Bertrand H. Farr, owner of a music store in Reading, Pa., imported a hundred or so varieties from England. They excited him so much that he started a nursery in nearby Wyomissing and sent out a catalog with glowing descriptions. American gardeners have been excited, and have either written or read glowing descriptions ever since!

Mr. Farr soon collected seeds from the varieties he liked the best, and named some of the seedlings. In 1915 he exhibited GLORY OF READING, JUNIATA, MOUNT PENN, POCAHONTAS and QUAKER LADY at the San Francisco World's Fair. The publicity of the Gold Medal he received set off an explosion which, coupled with the importation of the large-flowered LORD OF JUNE and ALCAZAR, resulted in the organization of the American Iris Society.

I well remember the groundwork for the meeting. I had grown Mr. Farr's irises for ten years. I had met him when as president of the Peony Society he was straightening out the confusion of peony nomenclature. I also had visited iris breeders and nurseries in this country and in England and France.

In 1919 letters from B. Y. Morrison of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to Leonard Barron, editor of *The Garden Magazine*, really started the ball rolling. Mr. Barton showed them to Dr. H. A. Gleason, then assistant director of the New York Botanical Garden. Dr. Gleason told me that the best man to undertake starting an iris society was Frank H. Presby of nearby Montclair. He introduced me to Mr. Presby over the telephone. The next day, in a three-hour meeting, he agreed to help and sketched out the first detailed outline of what such a society ought to be. Dr. Gleason discussed this outline with Dr. N. L. Britton, director of the Garden, who at once suggested that the Garden would be an appropriate place to hold the organization meeting.

Dr. Gleason then wrote the invitation "TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN IRIS" to attend a meeting at the New York Botanical Garden at 11:00 a.m., January 29, 1920, to form an iris society.

The invitation stated that the following topics would be discussed:

1. Compilation of lists of varieties.
2. Classification.
3. Publication of the history of iris cultivation and of prominent growers.
4. Compilation of cultural directions for different climates.
5. Research on pests and diseases.
6. Establishment of test and exhibition gardens.
7. Promotion of shows.

8. Methods of commending varieties of merit. 9. Promotion of popular interest through published articles, bulletins, photographs, lantern slides and lectures.

The invitation was signed by Lee R. Bonnewitz, president of the American Peony Society; James Boyd, president of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and past president of the Peony Society; W. F. Christman, secretary of the Northwestern Peony and Iris Society; Mrs. Francis King, prominent member of the Garden Club of America and author of garden books; B. Y. Morrison; Miss Grace Sturtevant, an iris breeder who had received iris seedling awards from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society; and John C. Wister.



Bertrand Farr



Frank Presby



James Boyd

The signers mailed copies of the invitation to their gardening friends. They privately, tremblingly and piously hoped that enough people (at least two dozen) would turn up to form the desired society.

#### THE ORGANIZATION MEETING—JANUARY 29, 1920

The signers were astonished and gratified to find over five dozen men and women from many sections of the horticultural world on hand for the meeting. Among those who took the most active part, in addition to the signers of the invitation, were T. A. Havemeyer, president of the Horticultural Society of New York; Robert Sturtevant and Winthrop Thurlow, representing the Massachusetts Horticultural Society; Prof. A. P. Saunders, secretary, and Bertrand H. Farr, former president of the American Peony Society; Martin C. Ebel, secretary of the National Association of Gardeners and editor of the *Gardeners Chronicle of America*; Leonard Barron, editor of *The Garden Magazine* and horticultural editor of *Country Life of America*; Madison Cooper, editor of *The Flower Grower* (which for the first few years was to carry the official news bulletins of the Society); N. S. Hendrickson of John Lewis Childs Company, successor to Hallock and Thorpe, largest growers of Japanese irises in the world; and Dr. A. C. Beal, head of the Cornell Department of Horticulture.

From the garden club world came Mrs. Frances E. Cleveland, specialist in Siberian and Japanese irises; Mrs. Edward Harding, author of *The Book of the Peony*; Mrs. Charles H. Stout, author of the most authoritative

dahlia book of the time; Mrs. Louise Beebe Wilder, author of many garden books; and Mrs. J. Edgar Hires, Mrs. Horatio Gates Lloyd, and Mrs. Wheeler B. Peckham, who later became directors.

The South was represented by Floyd Brailor, head of the Madison, Tennessee, Normal and Agricultural Institute. Harry A. Norton, amateur gardener from Ayres Cliff, Quebec, made the meeting international.

Dr. Britton welcomed the meeting. He offered the Society every possible help, including the establishment of a test garden. In closing, he said, "You have chosen a wonderfully and entrancingly beautiful genus of plants."

Mr. Boyd acted as chairman of the meeting and Prof. Saunders as secretary. The subjects mentioned in the invitation were discussed at length. Many speakers stressed the confusion of iris names and need of authoritative check lists and descriptions. Dr. Beal read the proposed constitution. After discussion, it was turned over to Prof. Saunders and Mr. Sturtevant to redraft. They later presented the revised version, which was adopted.

Mr. Bonnewitz, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the names of temporary officers to serve until the annual meeting in June.

President .....	John C. Wister, Philadelphia
Vice President .....	William A. Peterson, Chicago
Secretary .....	R. S. Sturtevant, Wellesley Farms, Mass.
Treasurer .....	Frank H. Presby, Montclair, N. J.
Directors	

James Boyd, Philadelphia, Pa.	I. S. Hendrickson, Flowerfield, N. J.
B. H. Farr, Wyomissing, Pa.	H. A. Norton, Ayres Cliff, Quebec
H. A. Gleason, New York, N. Y.	E. S. Shaw, Akron, Ohio

In the beginning, there were six Regions with six Regional Vice Presidents.

## WHO WERE THE ORGANIZERS AND EARLY LEADERS

First, it may be well to give a glimpse at what manner of persons these enthusiasts, these organizers and early dealers, were.

The president, John Wister, the secretary, Robert Sturtevant, and the eastern RVP, Benjamin Morrison, had never met until the day of the meeting. Yet they had seven important things in common that so helped them to work well together that they became lifelong friends. They were of the same generation, about thirty years of age. They had been trained in the Harvard School of Landscape Architecture. They were interested in the horticultural, rather than in the purely design, side of the profession. They were interested in a wide range of trees, shrubs and perennial and annual flowers, which they already were growing in their own gardens. They had sizeable and continually growing collections of irises. They already were writing about irises, publishing articles in magazines and lecturing on irises. They had worked in the offices of prominent landscape architects before the war, and had then served in the army.

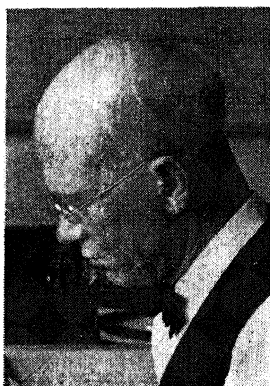
The president and the secretary had, after the war, opened their own professional offices. At first they did not have enough clients to keep busy, so had time to devote to the Society. Morrison had joined the U. S. Department of Agriculture. By his brilliance, he rose rapidly to finally head the Office of Foreign Plant Introduction, to breed the famous Glen Dale azaleas, and to plan and head the National Arboretum in Washington.

Sturtevant was to become the director of the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture. Later, when he moved to Nashville, he did professional work from North Carolina to New Orleans and north to Indianapolis.

Wister served as secretary of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society from 1928 to 1953. From 1930 to 1969 he was director of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation at Swarthmore College; and from 1946 to 1968 he also was director of the John J. Tyler Arboretum at Lima, Pa.

To balance these young, inexperienced men, there were older persons of long years of experience who were brought together because they loved plants in general and irises in particular. Vice President William A. Peterson was well over fifty, and the owner of a Chicago nursery which in the early 1900's pioneered in moving large specimen trees. Later he circulated "Master Lists" of peonies and irises, with the guarantee to replace with two plants any that did not prove true to name.

After four years, he was followed by Franklin B. Mead, actuary and later vice president of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. He was then fifty years of age, and had an international reputation as an amateur grower of fine irises, peonies, hemerocallis, daffodils, tulips, lilacs and rock garden plants. He was a member of many horticultural societies, including the Royal Horticultural Society. He is remembered for his hemerocallis "Hyperion", and for iris seedlings outstanding in their day. He apparently was the first American to import the daffodil "Fortune" when it was \$125.00 a bulb.



E. B. Williamson



Arthur H. Scott



Harry Norton

He was followed (1926-1932) by E. B. Williamson of Bluffton, Ind., who also was about fifty and who had helped plan the organization meeting. He was, in many ways, the most extraordinary man I ever have known. He was an old-fashioned naturalist who seemed to be equally at home in geology, biology, pathology, entomology, zoology, ornithology and botany. Interested in insect life in general, he had become one of the world's greatest authorities on dragonflies. Until 1905 he was Curator of Insects at the Carnegie Institute, and at Vanderbilt University. Then he succeeded his father as president of the Bluffton National Bank. When,

about 1930, this bank failed in the depression, he returned to his work in zoology at the University of Michigan.

He became interested in irises in the early 1900's and began raising seedlings in 1906. His first unusual seedling, a hybrid between *Iris fulva* and *foliosa*, was named for his mother, DOROTHEA K. WILLIAMSON. His first outstanding bearded seedling, a descendant of AMAS, was named for his father, LENT A. WILLIAMSON. The scale of his breeding operations was enormous. There is a record that in 1932 he planted over 70,000 seeds, in seventy rows eighty feet long.

Treasurer Frank H. Presby was over sixty. He had been, for many years, general manager for the Clark Estates, one of the largest property owners in New York City. He was an officer and director of the Bank of Montclair, and vice president of the Chester J. Hunt Company of nearby Little Falls, then the leading American distributor of the finest daffodils and tulips. In his garden, in addition to irises, there were many other plants superbly grown.

He raised many iris seedlings and named the best one HARRIET PRESBY for his wife. Not wishing to name the second-best ones for his daughters, of whom he was so proud, he persuaded Mr. Farr to name his best 1923 introduction MILDRED PRESBY, and Mr. Fryer to name his best dwarf bearded seedling BETSY PRESBY.

Until his sudden and untimely death in 1924, he attended every meeting of the Society and of the Board of Directors. On his visits to gardens and nurseries, he made countless friends. Best of all, he always kept a steadying hand on the reins and held back the president and the secretary when they seemed to be too impetuous. Present-day members know his name because of the magnificent Presby Memorial Iris Garden established by his friends.



Presby Memorial Iris Gardens

In 1920, James Boyd also was over sixty. He served as Director until his death in 1929. He was a retired manufacturer who was devoting his time to horticulture. In addition to offices already mentioned, he was a member of the board of directors of both the Peony Society and the Rose Society. Later he conducted a small nursery of the very finest irises and peonies.

He brought both broad business advice and technical iris knowledge to the Board.

Bertrand H. Farr was nearly sixty. Born in Windham, Vt., he had lived as a young man in the Midwest and became interested in peonies and irises. After moving to Reading, about 1900, he imported peonies and irises and started the nursery which became the headquarters for the newest irises, peonies, other herbaceous plants and lilacs, mock oranges and other shrubs. His long experience in the Peony Society and in its Cornell Test Garden guided us in starting iris test gardens and in preparing check lists, descriptions and bulletins. He was faithful in his attendance at all meetings, and with Mr. Presby and Mr. Boyd formed the mature board of strategy.

Harry A. Norton was younger than the other directors but, being over forty, seemed an old man to the young officers. He was a manufacturer of pumping machinery, and a most enthusiastic amateur gardener. He always seemed to be able to take the time to attend an almost endless number of horticultural meetings. He never missed an iris meeting in his six years on the Board, but was so modest and retiring that he would not take any other office. I think that he attended every annual meeting as long as he lived.

Prof. A. P. Saunders was, at the time of the organization meeting, just fifty years old. He refused to accept any office until 1926, when he became the Eastern RVP. However, he was from the very beginning active in his work for the Society. He brought valuable judgment from his years as secretary and editor of the Peony Society. He was one of the most delightful human beings I have ever met. He was universally beloved at Hamilton College, where from 1900 to 1939, when he retired, he was professor of chemistry.

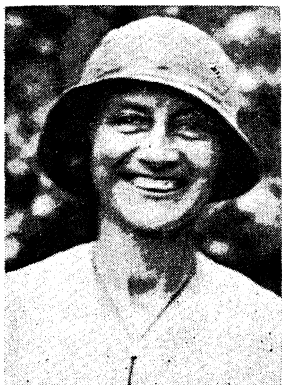
Curiously enough, he never seemed to talk about chemistry to his friends. His conversation with gardeners was first about peonies and irises, then about a broad scattering of other garden plants, and always about plant breeding and genetics. But then he continued into music and art and literature and apparently every other subject under the sun. In 1920 he had already assembled his collection of rare peony species and was using them in his hybridizing, which was to make him famous. By the time he became RVP, he had begun to receive recognition for the first seedlings he had exhibited. Medals and other awards followed. His first iris seedling, WHITE KNIGHT, had been introduced by the Farr Nursery in 1916. It had almost been forgotten in this country when in 1927 it received the coveted Award of Merit of the Royal Horticultural Society, the first American variety to be so honored.

No report of the organization meeting would be complete without tribute to that gracious lady, Miss Grace Sturtevant, who wasn't there, and who hardly ever attended a meeting. Nearly a quarter century older than her brother Robert, she had practically brought him up, as he later so eloquently wrote in his tribute to her in the *Bulletin*. She had taught him about irises. He, in turn, had helped her carry her iris seedlings, AFTERGLOW, B. Y. MORRISON, QUEEN CATERINA and SHEKINAH in to the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. There they had won medals and awards which produced the publicity that had been one of the chief factors leading up to, and making possible, the organization of the



Society. She long had corresponded with Mrs. Jennett Dean of California, with the Sass brothers of Nebraska, and with A. J. Bliss in England. Her lovely garden had, as early as 1915, become a place to be visited by many fine gardeners each spring.

Miss Sturtevant steadfastly refused to accept nomination for any office and even hesitated to have her name published on any committee. However, she actively worked on many committees, and worked almost daily with her brother during his term as secretary and editor. In a real sense she helped guide the destiny of the Society.



Mrs. W. H. Peckham



Mrs. Ella McKinney



Thura Hires

Four ladies, who later did so much for the Society, had no official positions in 1920. From 1921 on, Mrs. Ella McKinney and Mrs. H. G. Lloyd graced the meeting of Directors. Mrs. McKinney, later the author of *Iris in the Little Garden*, had a delightful small garden in Madison, N.J. I think she was the first to burn over her irises to destroy eggs of iris borers or spores of leaf spot diseases. Mrs. Lloyd was famous for her "Iris Bowl" in Haverford, Pa. There she graciously received hundreds of garden visitors each year. She was long an active officer of the Garden Club of America and of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Two other ladies who worked for the Society from the beginning and who headed committees, but who were not elected to the Board of Directors until 1924 and 1927, were Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham of New Rochelle, N.Y., and Mrs. J. Edgar Hires of Ardmore, Pa. Except for secretary Sturtevant, I think they were the hardest working "work horses" the Society ever had. Mrs. Peckham took over the early check lists that I had prepared in 1919 and 1920, and used them in assembling the plants for the test garden at the New York Botanical Garden. She planted 1500 so-called varieties the first year and was able to eliminate the names of many of these as synonyms. She then went on to gather more iris names of the past and of the new varieties being registered by the Society. She edited the 1929 *Check List* with 12,000 names, and then the 1939 edition with 19,000 names, with standardized code descriptions and original citations, catalog references and synonyms.

The careful planning and hard work of these men and women guided the Society through the first fifteen years. Some of them carried on for many years afterwards.

### THE EARLY YEARS 1920-1928

Work on many projects started immediately after the organization meeting. Secretary and editor Sturtevant supplied monthly notes of the different activities to *The Flower Grower*, which was sent to all members from 1920 through 1923. Plans were made for test gardens, first for the one at the New York Botanical Garden, later at Cornell University, and still later for Japanese irises at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. The first independent *Bulletin* was dated June 1920, and gave cultural directions for iris growing in many different climates.

The first annual meeting and the first iris show were held June 1, 1920. The secretary had been so active in publicizing the new society, and had received so much cooperation from the gardening press and the nursery industry, that he was able to report a membership of nearly four hundred.

At the first annual meeting the temporary officers were reelected. At the first iris show in Philadelphia, William Peterson, Robert Sturtevant and Prof. Robert T. Jackson were the judges. Mr. Farr exhibited the little-grown species *I. susiana*. Among the tall bearded varieties that created a mild sensation were Sir Michael Foster's CRUSADER from England, Miss Sturtevant's AFTERGLOW and Mr. Williamson's LENT A. WILLIAMSON. Other iris shows were held that first year on Long Island, and in Washington, Boston, Cincinnati, Minneapolis and Berkeley.

The discussions at the first annual meeting and at the Directors' meetings in the first few years repeatedly centered on the need of check lists and test gardens to straighten out nomenclature, particularly the confusing number of synonyms. Many members mentioned the need for recommending the better varieties as they came in.



Test Garden, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

There was a continued attempt to present a better system of horticultural classification than the one, based on so-called species, which had been published by Peter Barr in England about 1900. The early catalogs of Mr. Farr and of other nurseries followed this, but it clearly was not satisfactory. Discussions about this went on for over eight years until finally F. X. Schreiner prepared the one used by Mrs. Peckham in the *Check List*.

The Society had not been operating long before it became evident that the load of work was very heavy for any volunteer, or groups of volunteers, to carry properly. The early Directors placed in the minutes the resolve that there should be a paid executive secretary. It was many years, however, before funds became available for this.

In 1921 the system of registration of new names was started. It is interesting to note that the first two registered were *Iris missouriensis* from D. M. Andrews of Boulder, Colo. The code of nomenclature, when published in the *Bulletin*, was followed pretty faithfully. It prevented much future confusion.

At the end of the first year there were twenty-six life members, 422 annual members in the United States and a scattering of members in Canada, England, France, Holland and New Zealand. The year ended with a bank balance of just over \$200.00, which gave the Society a feeling of success.

Editor Sturtevant's first *Bulletin* in 1920 had been so impressive that the directors authorized an edition of 1,500 copies of *Bulletin No. 2*. Looking back, this seems pretty brave, in view of the membership.

The second annual meeting was held in Columbus, May 20, 1921. Long and lively discussions on iris varieties were entered into by Mr. Farr, Mr. Bonnewitz, Clarence Connell, Franklin Mead, E. C. Shaw and Mr. Presby. The show attracted visitors from as far away as Quebec and Ontario, and west and south through Indiana and Tennessee. The membership had grown to 635 by the end of the year.

The Directors' meeting in New York in January 1922 was the only one in the fifteen years at which all officers and directors were present. It has been a lasting regret that a photograph of the board was not made at the time. The first amendment to the constitution raised the life membership dues from \$25.00 to \$50.00. The president was authorized to appoint a committee of three to represent the Society at the International Conference in Paris in May, and to offer the Society's Silver Medal to shows in Paris and London. When the president signified his intention to attend the conference, the directors thought that the Society ought to pay part of his expenses. They formally debated the amount, and then by solemn motion authorized payment for the postage stamp for the letter to Paris accepting the invitation!

Early in 1922 the Directors announced that annual meetings would be held one year in the East and the next in the West. It was one of the many proposals that proved impractical or impossible to carry out.

All the Directors' meetings from 1920 to 1925 were held in New York City. In 1926, there also were meetings in Lexington, Ky., and Media, Pa. In 1927 the meetings were in Philadelphia and New Rochelle; in 1928 in Philadelphia and Freeport; from 1929 to 1934 only in New York City with the exception of 1932 in Chicago.

At nearly all the early meetings, as in many since that time, there was

criticism that the Society was devoting itself too much to bearded irises. But try as the editor did in his writings to point out the importance of beardless and bulbous irises and regelias and oncocyclus, it was apparent that about eighty percent of the members were interested in tall bearded irises only.

The editor wrote further that we should "consider the Iris, not as an object in itself," but rather as "a delightful gateway leading to the wider enjoyment of gardening." His remarks were not listened to seriously until many years later when affiliated societies dealing with median irises, with Siberians, spurias, Japanese and others, were organized.

The December 1923 *Flower Grower* was the last to carry the official Iris Society page. The cancellation was made with regret and considerable hesitation, as it had been so beneficial. However, it was felt that the Society with over 700 members was now large enough to concentrate its efforts on its own bulletins.

In 1924 there was a statement that we had outdistanced all similar societies except the rose. Whether this was true or not, it certainly was very creditable to have passed the 700 mark in 1924, the 800 mark in 1925 and the 900 mark in 1926.

*Bulletin No. 10* reiterated the stated purpose of the Society that had been voiced at the organization meeting. It gave a resume of the projects planned and of the achievements of the years 1920-1923. This general information seemed so important that, after the *Bulletin* had been mailed to the members, the Directors ordered an extra 2,000 copies, a copy to be mailed to each new member as he enrolled. This supply lasted eight years.

By the end of the 1924 flowering season, the Society had sponsored forty iris shows in widely scattered locations across our great continent. These gave many gardeners an opportunity to see some of the newer and finer iris varieties. Many of these iris shows had been the first flower shows staged in these communities, and thus the Society helped horticulture in general.

In 1924 the Society suffered its first two serious losses by the deaths of its treasurer, Frank H. Presby, and its director, Bertrand H. Farr. As has already been stated, these two had helped to start the Society and had been its mainstay in many ways.

We were fortunate in persuading one of the founding members, Arthur H. Scott, to take on the duties of treasurer. He carried on well, but unfortunately only for three years, when death took him from us. In Mr. Farr's place, Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham was elected to the Board, and she was an absolutely indefatigable worker.

At the 1925 annual meeting a membership chart was presented. It showed that the bulk of our 889 members lived in the geographical rectangle between Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati and Washington.

The directors voted an appropriation of \$100 to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden to start serious research in Japanese irises. They also voted \$200 to the New York Botanical Garden to use for scholarships to assistants for Dr. A. B. Stout's study of *Iris Sterilities and Incompatibilities*. When the results were published in *Bulletin No. 16* a few members protested that it was too technical to be of value to most iris growers. However, others felt that it was important that the Society should publish scientific articles.

In 1926 there was a criticism that the officers were not properly distributed geographically. A tabulation prepared for the meeting showed that the Board of Directors at that time consisted of sixteen members. Six of these were RVPs specifically representing their geographic areas. Of the remaining ten, four were from Pennsylvania and one each from New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Indiana, Illinois and Canada. This seemed as wide a geographic distribution as was practical, in view of the difficulty of holding meetings. It was pointed out that new blood always was desired and that the Society had in fact elected a fair share of new officers each year. Of the 1926 Board of sixteen, only six had held office since 1920, and of these two had dropped out by the end of the year. Members who wanted wider geographic distribution were urged to send in nominations, but were reminded that distance made frequent meetings practically impossible.

Bulletins often (if not always) came out long after the supposed publication dates. The editor was sorry; but what could he do if members failed to send him their promised articles, or when money was not on hand for printing? The criticisms, after a while, evidently rankled, for the editor quite testily wrote that "Officers and Directors are busy people who voluntarily give their time for the work of the Society, The Society cannot be expected to function with the efficiency of a well-run business."

### INCORPORATION, THE NEW CHARTER, GROWTH AND EXPANSION 1927-1930

The Society now was no longer a novelty or a seven-day wonder. It was a firmly established equal of the many horticultural societies of the country. In 1927 it was legally incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania.

As if to celebrate the incorporation and the increased number of Directors and RVPs, these years reflect much increased activity and much less friction.

On account of the unreasonable amount of work loaded on the dual position of secretary and editor, Mr. Sturtevant had, as early as 1923, asked that he be relieved of the first office. In 1927, with the new charter, we were able to persuade John B. Wallace to take over the duties of the position. He then was about forty years of age and was very active as the New Haven General Agent of the Connecticut Life Insurance Company. He had a small city garden with the finest irises of the day, and had taken active part in iris shows in the New England area. Even before becoming secretary, he had been interesting friends in iris growing and had brought in new members. His business experience enabled him to handle the secretary's work load most efficiently. He carried on for seven years with distinction.

The death of Arthur H. Scott, our second treasurer, in 1927 was a dreadful blow to the Society for which he had done so much since early autumn of 1919, and to the officers and Directors, most of whom had for years been his close friends.

Richardson Wright, already famous editor of *House and Garden* and author of many garden books, was persuaded to become treasurer. He served the Society for over ten years, keeping it on the sound financial basis

established by Mr. Presby and Mr. Scott. The offices he long held in the Horticultural Society of New York, in the New York Flower Show, in the American Rose Society and other organizations, made him widely known. His garden in Silvermine, Conn., became a mecca for horticulturists near and far. He wrote often about irises.

The international character which the Society had already achieved is attested again and again in the 1927 *Bulletins*. There were reports from Countess Senni about iris growing in Rome and other parts of Italy, and the awarding of the Italian, or Roman "Prix."

The Iris Society of England was particularly active in 1927. After long discussion, its officers decided on a suitable memorial medal to W. R. Dykes, the author of *The Genus Iris*, who shortly after becoming secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society, had been killed in an automobile accident, or as the British express it, "by a lorry." Our Society sent ten guineas to the endowment fund for the Medal and many of our members sent individual gifts. There was some debate as to how, and to whom, and for what, the medal should be given. It finally was decided to offer three medals a year, one in Great Britain, one in France and one in America, in each country for the finest new iris as decided by the British Iris Society, by the Societe Nationale d'Horticulture de France, and the American Iris Society, respectively.

The British Iris Society also in 1927 established a plaque in honor of Sir Michael Foster, who was so remembered for his work in the 1890's and early 1900's. This plaque was to be given from time to time, not to an iris, but to persons who had done much for irises. The first one was awarded to George Yeld, the breeder of LORD OF JUNE, who at the age of eighty-four was perhaps the only one left who actually knew Sir Michael. In his acceptance he said it was an excellent portrait in silver of the man he had always looked up to as a master, and of whom he was a humble disciple, and that "None of us would have done anything had not Sir Michael shown us the way."

The second plaque was awarded to Monsieur Seraphin, head of the nursery of Vilmorin, Andrieux and Cie, where the famous AMBASSADEUR and other notable varieties had been raised.

The third plaque was awarded to John C. Wister, as a mark of esteem to the American Iris Society.

1927 is still further an important year because a group of Montclair citizens established the iris garden as a memorial to Frank H. Presby. They were aided by many of our members and by the Montclair Garden Club. Mrs. F. P. Walther was appointed by the mayor of Montclair the first chairman of the committee in charge. She carried on valiantly in that position for over forty years. From a small beginning, the garden grew larger and larger and finer, as a great many of our members who have been there well know.

In an attempt to learn more about the members and their opinions and desires, a questionnaire was sent out. Two hundred forty-five members sent answers. They brought in some interesting guidelines for the future. For instance, 155 answered that they would like more advanced technical articles; 170 reported buying new iris varieties from advertisers in the *Bulletin*; 107 reported that the descriptions of new varieties were par-

ticularly important to help them in their gardening decisions, and after this they enjoyed most the reports of visits to gardens of members. One hundred eighty-three members reported trouble with iris rot; in contrast only eighty-one reported trouble with borers.

The Directors had for three years tried to decide what would be the most suitable memorial to Mr. Farr, and decided finally on a Memorial Library. When they asked members for contributions to establish this, so much money came in that they were able to buy three identical sets of books, *Bulletins* and reports, one to be kept in a permanent place, and the other two to be sent out as traveling libraries.

The annual meeting at Freeport, Ill., was the first held west of Chicago. It brought together members from more widely separated states than any previous meeting. The quality of the show was superb, largely due to the foreign novelties of Mrs. Douglas Pattison. The members reveled in her garden, which from then on became a yearly goal for iris growers all over the country.

As far as I can remember, the January 1929 *Bulletin* was the first to use the term "table iris" for the smaller group of plants that turned up among Mr. Williamson's seedlings. These had at first attracted very little attention, but have since become very popular.

This also was the year that PLUIE d'OR was first shown to our members at Freeport. With it bloomed W. R. DYKES, the big yellow that was so famous at first, but when its pure yellow began to be so spotted, turned out to be a great disappointment.

The annual meeting at Cornell was a great success. The attendance was large and the discussion lively. Particular attention was given to Howard Weed because he had come all the way from the Pacific Coast to attend the meeting. There were visits to the iris collections of Colonel Nicholls and L. F. Randolph (who was to become a future president).

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Society, there was on January 29, 1930 a subscription lunch in New York. It was held particularly to honor Dr. George M. Reed of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, who already had done so much work in Japanese irises and now was about to embark on a seven-month trip to Japan. The Society already had made appropriations to help Dr. Reed's work, and on this occasion handed Dr. C. S. Gager, the director of the Garden, a check for \$250.00. This was a large sum for the Society to contribute, but small when compared to the cost of the trip.

The Tenth Anniversary was further celebrated by the presentation of the Gold Medal to the president for his long years of service.

The 1930 *Bulletins* contain articles about members' travels which show how very widely interest in irises had grown. Both Prof. S. B. Mitchell of Berkeley and Dr. Wylie Ayres of Cincinnati wrote about the London show and about gardens visited. Geoffrey Pilkington, early president of the British Iris Society, contributed an article about his visit to France to see the seedlings of the great Ferdinand Cayeux. R. M. Cooley described the first part of a 7,000-mile journey to the annual meeting to visit iris gardens. He first went to Carl Salbach in Berkeley, then to the Sass brothers in Omaha, and then to St. Joseph, Kansas City and Independence, all in Missouri, and to Cincinnati and Lexington. Miss Sturtevant wrote

of her visit to Southern California and the irises seen there; Prof. Essig sent reports of the new California varieties. J. D. Long reported on Colorado and F. X. Schreiner on Minnesota. The Central West and Central South are covered by both Mrs. Hires and Sherman Duffy. At the Lexington meeting, talks by Chancellor Kirkland, Clarence Cornell, E. B. Williamson, Paul Cook and Dr. A. E. Wallace, chairman of the new scientific committee, were features.

The 1930 membership reached the then all time high of 1,233, and was to drop off in the depression years which followed.

### THE DEPRESSION YEARS 1931-1934

Prosperity had smiled on the Society from the beginning, but with the tightening of the depression, so disastrous to everyone, our membership declined rapidly from over 1,200 to slightly over 800. Despite this loss in numbers, and in dues, the Society continued to print its four *Bulletins* a year and to continue its activities in various directions, its curtailments being remarkably slight. There were deficits, of course, but with savings from prosperous years to fall back on, they did not seem serious. All agreed that the work should continue, and it did, although the belt was drawn somewhat tighter.

The geographical range of reports in the *Bulletin* was somewhat widened by articles by Franklin B. Mead on varieties seen in England and in France, and by the report by Mrs. Lena M. Lothrop of iris bloom in her California garden from February 14 to June 22. There were articles on intermediates by Hans and Jacob Sass and Sherman Duffy. Miss Sturtevant told of irises in Nashville and Cincinnati. Mr. Cooley continued his account of the 1930 trip and of the irises he saw in Cincinnati, Columbus, Fort Wayne, Bluffton, Van Wert, Napoleon, Elkhart, Freeport, Rockford, Topeka, Dubuque and St. Paul. This must have been the most complete cross-country iris itinerary that anyone has ever undertaken.

Then there came the forty-six page article on Dr. Reed's trip to Japan from the complete official report of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. This probably is the most valuable document on Japanese irises ever written.

There was great disappointment that we were not able to hold the annual meeting in Canada as had been planned. An April warm spell had so suddenly brought the season so much ahead of the normal date that at the last minute the meeting had to be abandoned. However, this gave us an opportunity that we long had wanted, to meet at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in Japanese iris time to see the results of Dr. Reed's tests with different sorts of soils, irrigation and fertilizers.

The New York Botanical Iris Test Garden, which unfortunately later was given up, had already deteriorated. One of the Directors who visited it was accosted by a stranger who remarked that it was curious that a great society did not keep it up to date and in better condition. He was astonished when told that the Society was not rich enough to buy all the new varieties as they were introduced, or to supply and pay the skilled gardeners needed.

Nineteen thirty-two seems to have been the first year in which Dr. H. H. Everett and William J. McKee, who soon were to become president and vice president, took an active part. From then on they both took more and



more responsibility in guiding the Society.

The July *Bulletin* was given over to a translation by Dr. Reed and Bunkio Matsuki of the explanatory text of Dr. Manaby Miyoshi's *Illustrated Album of Japanese Iris*. Except for the Society, this book never would have been translated into English.

Mrs. Peckham wrote of Dr. John Small's trips to Louisiana, and of finding and bringing to the New York Botanical Garden many beautiful new irises assumed to be a new species. Later study brought the conclusion that most of them were natural hybrids between *I. fulva* and *I. foliosa* and a few other species. Dr. Small's introduction paved the way for the popularity of these fine plants, later resulting in a special society devoted to their planting and breeding. Although it was not realized at the time, Dr. Small may have rescued these fine plants from oblivion, for future draining of swamps for factories and housing developments wiped out many of the best wild stands.

The January 1933 *Bulletin* contains variety notes from England and from still farther off Australia. The April *Bulletin* was devoted to the South from Washington to Florida, and west to Texas and Oklahoma. It was one of a planned series dealing with irises in various parts of the country.

This and the *Bulletins* following seem to be the first with any extensive reports on fall blooming irises which Clint McDade was assembling and publicizing. Perhaps this *Bulletin* was also the first to mention combinations of irises and hemerocallis in garden planting.

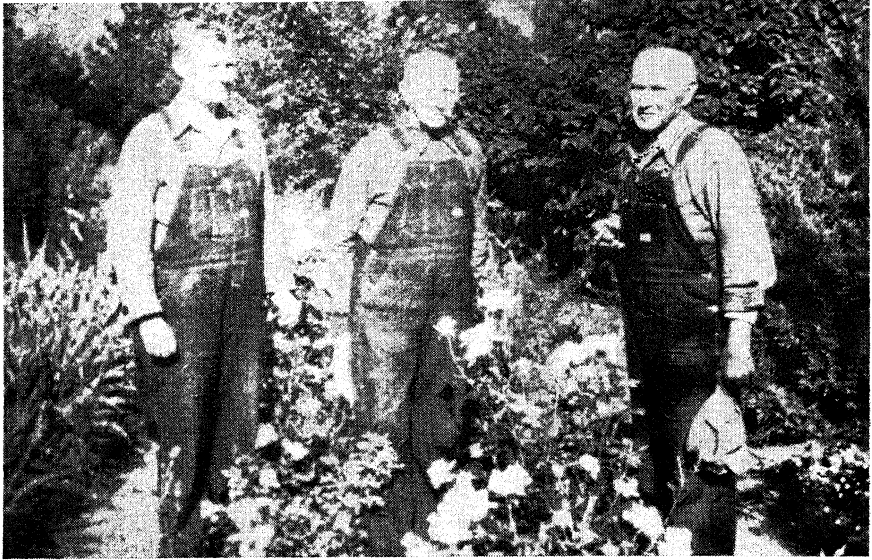
The annual meeting again was in Freeport, the scene of the great success in 1928. Once again Mrs. Pattison's garden and her cut flowers at the show were outstanding. Even in this depression year, there were members from eighteen states, including Mrs. Walter Tobie from Maine and Mrs. E. O. Essig from California.

In 1934 John Wallace resigned and B. Y. Morrison became secretary. The January *Bulletin* continued the policy of featuring a special area and covered the mid-Atlantic gardens, beginning in Wilmington, Del., and continuing to the Philadelphia area. In the president's garden, varieties had been planted to conform with the recently adopted color classification.

The April and July *Bulletins* continue garden descriptions and particularly information about irises in California. They also went into technical details of scientific matters concerning chromosomes and the behavior of pollen.

The annual meeting was held in Lincoln, Nebraska, in boiling hot weather. This however did not dampen the enthusiasm of the members who came mostly from the nearby states, with one representative from Georgia and one from Pennsylvania. In spite of the heat, the show, staged in a fine exhibition hall, was magnificent. On the second day of the meeting, there was a torrid automobile cavalcade across country to see the astonishing new iris seedlings in the gardens of Hans and Jacob Sass.

The *Bulletin* of these first fifteen years, from which I have so freely quoted or paraphrased, stands as a monument to our first editor, Robert Sturtevant. I think it appropriate to quote from the editorial (or sermon if you wish!) in the last *Bulletin* of the fifteen-year period. "Among us are commercial growers, originators, and customers, and we are fortunate that the great majority of the commercial growers were customers first and salesmen second. Few have won much profit, but our interest has led many into growing of *Iris* as at least a partial means of livelihood. The originator (or

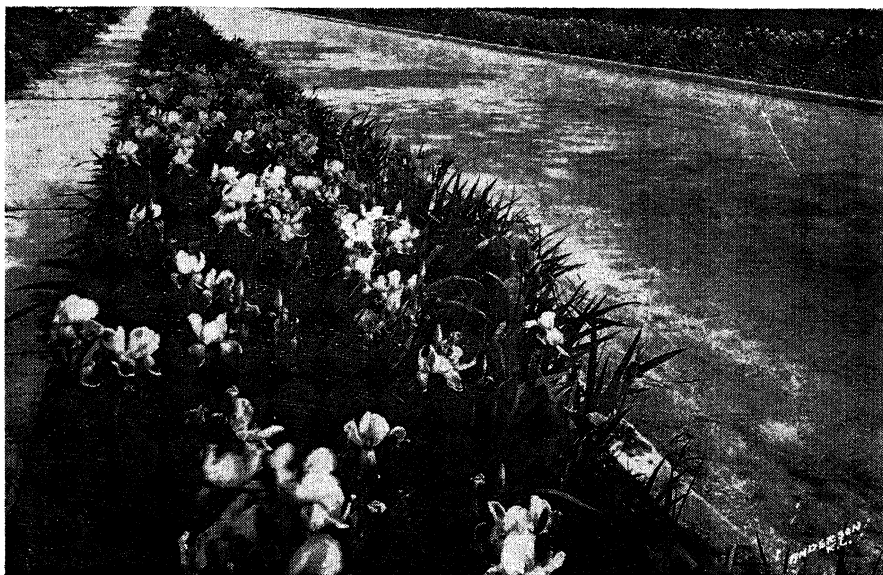


Henry, Hans P. and Jacob Sass

introducer) shares with us the beauty of horticulture. He deserves such profit as there may be. He should be protected from untimely and undue reduction in price by the more worldly minded.

"He owes his buying public his best judgment in the selection of varieties and a reasonable charge based on supply and probable demand. He should not introduce an 'improvement' shortly after, nor drop his price unmeasurably and thus sacrifice the commercial purchaser. The commercial grower has equal responsibility. The listing of varieties at cut-rate followed by 'We regret we cannot supply.' is all too common. There is a place for fair changes in price from year to year among the novelties and for a fair minimum price for old varieties. The actual value of a novelty is only a matter of a few years. Its purchase may be an extravagance, or an investment, but it should not become a bad risk. The customer owes loyalty to the reputable grower. When he gives, it should be to those who cannot afford to buy. When he exchanges, he should at least not undercut the originator, and when he accepts he should be able to say honestly, 'I never could have bought that!'"

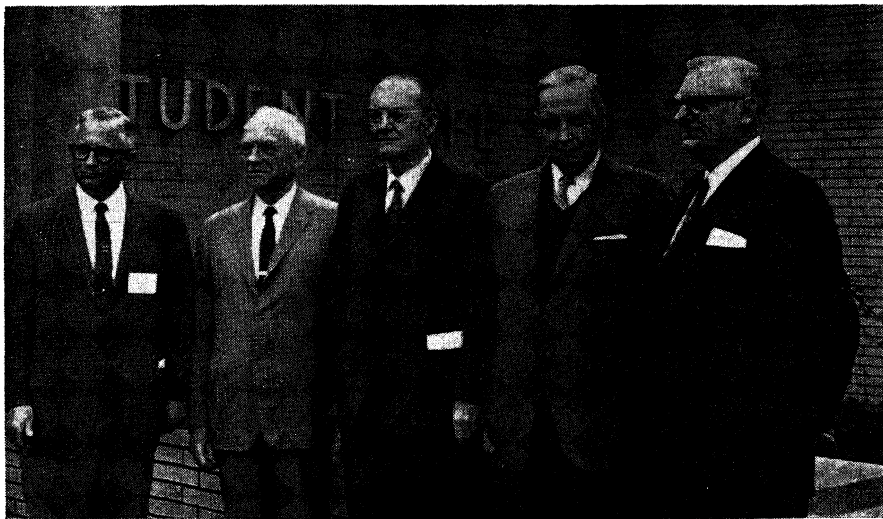
In 1935 new officers took over the management of the Society, guided it through the remaining years of the depression and the still more difficult war years. I had come to know Dr. Everett and Mr. McKee only a few years before, but it was soon evident that they were the right persons to carry on the work that had been started and carried by the men and women about whom I have written. I salute them and their successors whom I had opportunity of meeting only after they took office. Their story will be told in succeeding chapters in this history. All our present members know how well they helped carry the Society from the small fifteen-year beginning to its present size and strength.



Iris Border on 77th St., Kansas City, Mo., 1929

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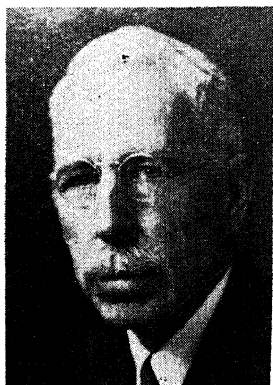
#### FIVE PRESIDENTS OF AIS



Marion Walker, Harold Knowlton, Dr. John Wister, Jesse Wills, Guy Rogers

## Reminiscences 1938-46

Jesse E. Wills



Dr. Harry H. Everett  
*President, 1935-39*



W. J. McKee  
*President, 1940-42*



Jesse E. Wills  
*President 1943-46*

While these are reminiscences, they are also intended to be an informal account of the American Iris Society from the beginning of Dr. Everett's administration through the close of mine.

In January, 1933, Mrs. Wills and I moved into the house where we still live, and as a part of the landscaping the following summer, some irises were planted, old things such as LORD OF JUNE and AMBASSADEUR. The land previously had belonged to Chancellor Kirkland of Vanderbilt, and I discovered on it some of his old seedlings. I had already formed the habit of visiting his garden during bloom season, and my iris interest gradually grew. In 1935, dissatisfied with what I had, I ordered a number of the cheaper irises included among the One Hundred Best, which Schreiners then featured.

Sometime before this, when I knew very little about irises, a friend, Mr. Will Manier, induced me to join the Nashville Iris Association. He was an able, energetic man with all sorts of projects, and as president of the Chamber of Commerce, he had conceived the idea of making Nashville "The Iris City" and celebrating Iris Week every May, building on the fact that we had three noted hybridizers, Chancellor Kirkland, Clarence Connell and T. A. Washington. Discarded seedlings were collected and planted in mass in vacant lots and along roadsides, and an iris garden was started as a WPA project in one of the city parks. Through this association, I became better acquainted with such iris enthusiasts as Geddes Douglas and Tom Williams.

In 1935 the AIS held its annual meeting in Nashville. I was not a member at this time, but the following year I joined the Society.

In 1938 a particularly ambitious program was planned for Iris Week by the Nashville Iris Association. There was to be a pageant in Centennial Park by the replica of the Parthenon. Unfortunately, it was not a very

good iris year. We had practically no winter, and irises were in full bloom three weeks ahead of time. When they were at their height in April, a freeze hit and ruined practically all the bloom. This more or less wrecked Iris Week, but it launched me into greater iris activity. In disgust with the season and unable to face the pageant, Mrs. Wills and I decided to attend the AIS meeting in Cincinnati, with a preliminary day in Dr. Grant's garden in Louisville.

We enjoyed a routine we have followed so many times since, riding busses, making new friends, and visiting gardens, those of Dr. Wylie Ayres, John Dee Wareham, both noted breeders, that of Mrs. Silas Waters, and others.

Ellen and I were walking up a rather long driveway to one garden when a couple about our age stopped their car and offered us a ride. It was Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Cook of Chicago, and this began a long and cherished friendship. At the same meeting I met Dr. Everett, Mr. William J. McKee, Mr. Dave Hall, Mr. Junius Fishburn, Mrs. Louise Blake, and others who became close friends. I thought that Mr. McKee looked like an English squire, but he turned out to be a New England manufacturer. I remember Dr. Everett, a beret perched jauntily on his white hair and his blue eyes twinkling as he met and assisted the lady members struggling up a steep path in Mrs. Waters' garden, which was built on a series of terraces overlooking the Ohio River.

We were very impressed with the Iris Society, but I was somewhat surprised later to receive a letter from Dr. Everett asking me to permit my name to be put up as director. I demurred, but he was persuasive and I was elected—I don't know why because I certainly was an unknown. On the Board with me were Dr. Everett, the president; Mr. McKee, vice president; Howard Watkins, secretary; Junius Fishburn, treasurer; and David Hall, Henry Grant, Franklin Cook and Kenneth Smith. As the end of the first year, Dr. Kirkland, J. B. Wallace, and Richardson Wright went off the Board, and I never met the last two. Dr. Essig, Dr. Graves and Fred Cassebeer came on. I tended to consider those already on the Board as old-timers, but I later discovered that Junius Fishburn and David Hall were relatively new themselves.

Dr. Everett had considered himself a sort of bridge between the long administration of John Wister and the future, and he was very interested in building a stable Board that could carry on. For various reasons, unexpected deaths, illnesses and retirements, there had been a heavy turnover for several years previous. Ten of the twelve Board members in 1935 were gone, and some of those who substituted for them had been lost. Dr. Everett knew what sort of Board he wanted and got it. At least he got a conscientious, functioning Board, which on the average was rather young.

Though many of us were young and new, this Board remained deliberately conservative. The Society was engaged in rebuilding after a period of declining membership during the great depression, which we must remember did not end entirely until the advent of World War II. The Society had over 1,200 members in 1929, and this had dropped to 900 in 1932. In May of 1938 it was only 784. After this low point, membership started a slow climb, and by 1940 it was a little over 1,000.

Other flower societies had experienced very severe financial difficulties, and our president and treasurer annually congratulated themselves on our

fiscal soundness. The main Society project at the time I became active was the 1939 Check List. This was a monumental task carried out excellently by Mrs. Anson Peckham with the assistance of the registrar, Charles Gersdorff. The book finally was published in 1941, and used up a good part of the Society's resources.

In 1939 the annual meeting was in California, and there was an organized trek up the West Coast, ending in Oregon. Dr. Everett described this meeting as the Quest for the Golden Fleece, referring to the big new yellows produced by Dr. Mitchell. I did not go west, but there were a number of iris visitors in Nashville in the spring of 1939. Our new friends, the Franklin Cooks, came to see us and my first seedlings bloom. Also, this was the season I made the cross which produced CHIVALRY. President Pilkington of the English Society also came to Nashville as part of a long visit to the United States.



In Paul Cook's Garden

Frances Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nesmith, Walter Welch, Charles E. F. Gersdorff, Ed Bretschneider, Mrs. Paul Cook, Paul Cook, Geddes Douglas, Dr. W. E. Tobie, Guy Rogers, Mrs. Tobie, Mary Williamson.

During these years, besides the annual meetings, there was a good deal of visiting around by officers and prominent irisarians during the iris season. Junius Fishburn usually covered the eastern half of the country and prepared lengthy notes on what he saw, which first were circulated among his friends and later published in the *Bulletin*. His garden in Roanoke, Virginia, that of Mrs. Blake's in South Carolina, and Nashville were southern stops in these pilgrimages, which moved then up to New York and to New England, and out to Bluffton, Indiana, for the Paul Cook and Williamson gardens, and then to Chicago. Travel was by train, and the West Coast was too remote to be visited except on special occasions as the annual meeting. Mrs. Blake's garden was so unique that it deserves some special comment. There was an element of fantasy, characteristic of her, in its arrangement. There were snowdrifts of white irises, a rainbow trail, and other special



E. G. Lapham



Kenneth Smith and Louise Blake

groupings with special names. The most important feature, however, was the Hall of Fame, where each hybridizer had a special niche containing three irises of his own choice. This garden, and that of Junius Fishburn, were really unofficial test gardens where new and promising seedlings were sent for display, and it was natural that many judges would visit them.

At the end of 1939, after five years of very useful service, Dr. Everett retired as president, being succeeded by Mr. McKee. In 1940 Fred Cassebeer succeeded B. Y. Morrison as editor of the *Bulletin*. At the December meeting of the Directors in 1940, the Gold Medal of the Society was awarded



Fred Cassebeer, William J. McKee, Dr. L. F. Randolph, Geddes Douglas, Junius Fishburn, Jesse Wills, Robert Sturtevant.

to Mrs. Peckham for her work on the 1939 Check List. This medal had been given only twice before, to Miss Grace Sturtevant and to John Wister. At the same meeting two new medals were authorized, one for distinguished service to the Society and the other for excellence in hybridizing.

In June 1940 the annual meeting was in Chicago, but there was a mid-western trek before. This started at Dr. Everett's garden in Lincoln, Nebraska, and visits to the iris plantations of Hans and Jacob Sass, and then to Sioux City, Iowa, before the long drive to Chicago. I participated in this, and have very pleasant memories of Dr. Everett's beautiful place. There was a formal garden with beds in front of the house and other irises in niches against a tall green hedge. This was in great contrast to the Sass plantings. There were not gardens, but typical Nebraska farms with great fields where corn was grown. Besides being typical farmers, both Hans and Jacob Sass had a love for flowers, and as a sideline had successfully hybridized not only irises but peonies and daylilies. I recall that at one place the irises were grown like corn across a vast swell with the land open seemingly for miles. Here and there were little shades or coverings which protected some especially choice iris from the sun and the wind. The other iris plantings were scattered among the red cedars. I remember admiring one bright blend when Junius Fishburn, who was standing nearby, remarked, "That is PRAIRIE SUNSET you are looking at." I was even more impressed, for I think that I had heard then that this had been sold for \$100 a root.

I also have much less pleasant memories in connection with this trek as we drove across Iowa and Illinois. I read the details, which became more and more grim, of the fall of France under the German blitz.

In 1940 Kenneth Smith conducted his first unofficial iris symposium. He repeated it in 1941 on a better basis, with all of the accredited judges having the opportunity to vote on the fifty best varieties which had received either the HM or the AM award. The symposium was continued in later years and proved a valuable contribution by Kenneth. It finally developed into our present ballots.

The officers and directors were preoccupied in their meetings with awards, ratings and also registrations. In the beginning the Dykes Medal was awarded to irises just introduced, and sometimes there were mistakes when a beautiful iris turned out to be a poor grower. In 1939 the rules in this regard were changed to that to be eligible for the Dykes Medal, an iris must have received an HM and must have been in commerce four years. In 1943 this rule was changed again so that the eligible irises were those which had received an Award of Merit during the three previous years, meaning that a variety had more than one chance to win. A somewhat similar change was made in the Award of Merit rules during the same period.

Members joining the Society in recent years have no knowledge of the numerical ratings we then were using. Irises that had been introduced were supposed to be rated by accredited judges according to an elaborate point system that was restudied and changed from time to time. Most ratings tended to average out somewhere near the 80's, so that 82 might be a poor rating and 89 a good one. Very few got 90 or more. At one time the Society experimented with a system of grading by letters, but this



was quickly abandoned. The growers who did not worry about an 84 rating did complain bitterly about a B grade. The ratings never proved much, but they were a headache to the chairman of awards, as I learned from personal experience. I wonder now why they were considered so important.

Even then there were a lot of irises to be rated. Almost every year in their annual reports as president, Dr. Everett and Mr. McKee would say something about too many introductions. However, there was no real way of limiting them.

Registrations were a problem for several reasons. Some growers went ahead and named irises without bothering to register them. Also Charles Gersdorff was rather strict in applying the rules, and sometimes would not approve names that he thought were too much like ones already in use, or were otherwise unsuitable. There were complaints about this, and there were also complaints that too many good names were tied up for irises which were registered but never introduced.

In December 1941 a meeting of Directors was held which was important in several respects. We awarded the first of the new medals which had been authorized the year before. The Distinguished Service Medal went to Harry H. Everett, Ben Y. Morrison and Robert Sturtevant. The Hybridizing Medal was given to Dr. Wylie Ayres, Dr. Sydney Mitchell, Col. James C. Nichols, Mr. Henry Sass and Mr. Jacob Sass. We did not want to give too many medals the first year, but we felt these were essential to catch us up on awards that had been long overdue for lack of a suitable medium.

This one-day meeting was held the day before Pearl Harbor. With the United States at war, President McKee, with the consent of the directors, indefinitely postponed the annual meeting, which was to be held in New England, and the one for Iowa the following year. The problem was to adjust to the war in a sensible, practical way. We did not feel that it was necessary to dig up iris gardens and replace them with vegetables as was done to some extent in England. We did try to cut down on travel, and as a further effort in this direction, we did not have a meeting of Directors in December 1943. Instead, a nominating committee was appointed to select officers.

I still remember coming into my office one morning to be greeted indignantly by my secretary saying, "Mr. Wills, they can't do this to you." She handed me a letter asking me to take the presidency. I was completely surprised. I knew Mr. McKee was retiring, but had assumed that either David Hall or Junius Fishburn, both my seniors on the Board, would succeed him. David Hall begged off on the ground that he had just retired from the telephone company and would have no secretarial help. Junius Fishburn convinced the nominating committee that he was too heavily loaded with responsibilities already. He really was overworked and stayed that way until his premature death.

I felt very inexperienced, but I had a secretary and seemed to have the time, so with much doubt and uncertainty, I accepted.

Fortunately, I had a strong Board of Directors to assist me. Dr. Franklin Cook soon entered the navy as a flight surgeon, but there also were Junius Fishburn, vice president; Greig Lapham, treasurer; Howard Watkins, secretary; and Dr. Everett, Mr. McKee, Carl Milliken, Dr. Graves, Dave

Hall, Geddes Douglas and Fred Cassebeer. Since there were no meetings and travel was restricted, correspondence was very heavy. We had to rely on this to hold the Society together and allay the little misunderstandings and disagreements inevitable in a very widespread organization. At that time the Society was very strong in the East, particularly in New England, strong in the South and in the Middle West, with scattered spots of strength in the Mountain States, and strong again on the Pacific Coast. While other officers and I did some traveling during the iris season, unfortunately we could not get to California or to Oregon. Checking back on it, I managed to get around quite a bit. In 1943, for instance, I went to Louisville, Kentucky, on a night train to visit Dr. Grant's garden, where I found Mr. Hall, and went with him to Cincinnati where we looked over the gardens of Dr. Ayres, Mr. Wareham and Mrs. Waters, and then went on to Chicago. There I got to see the first of Dave Hall's *flamingo pinks*, which had appeared among his seedlings the year before; and I wrote these up in detail for an article in the *Bulletin*.

The *Bulletin* was most important as a means of sustaining the interest of members and keeping them informed of new developments. Mr. Cassebeer put out very excellent *Bulletins*, under considerable difficulties, though sometimes there was an unavoidable delay, and very occasionally two *Bulletins* would come out close together after a long dry spell.

Despite our curtailed program and the difficulties incident to the war, membership started to increase steadily after a period of several years when it stayed around 1,000. In December 1942, when I became president, it was 1,075. It went up to 1,234 by the end of 1944, and to 1,366 by the end of 1945, and then to 1,964 by the end of 1946. This was entirely a natural growth arising out of increased prosperity and a steadily growing interest in irises. Organized membership campaigns were not started until later.

In December 1944, despite the fact that the war was still on, we managed to have the business meeting of the Directors in Cincinnati, and nine of the twelve members attended. One of these was Dr. Franklin Cook, whom we were glad to welcome back from naval service. He had received a medical discharge because of injuries received in action while serving on an aircraft carrier the previous summer. At this meeting the Directors decided to make official the symposium which Kenneth Smith had been running on an unofficial basis for several years. 1945 was also marked by the fact that Dr. Randolph became chairman of the scientific committee and immediately instituted new activities. The next year Mr. Cassebeer felt obliged to give up the editorship of the *Bulletin*, and this was moved to Nashville, with Mr. Robert Sturtevant, who had been our first editor, taking it over again with Mr. Geddes Douglas as assistant editor. At the end of a year, however, Mr. Sturtevant felt that he could not carry this heavy responsibility, so he and Mr. Douglas swapped, Mr. Douglas becoming editor and Mr. Sturtevant assistant editor.

With the war over, we were able to resume our annual meetings in 1946, with a very fine meeting being held in New England. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this meeting because of a very serious illness in the family. I was the only president who never attended an annual meeting during the term of office. I enjoyed my years as president, but I felt that I had served long enough. I had occupied a sort of caretaker's role, keeping things going

until circumstances permitted resumption of full activities, and it was with a feeling of relief at the end of 1946 that I turned the presidency over to Dr. Franklin Cook.

## The American Iris Society --- 1947-52

Guy Rogers



Dr. Franklin Cook  
President, 1947-48



Guy Rogers  
President 1949-52

Some three score and ten years ago, my mother grew both the white and the purple flags. The whites predominated under our illusionary belief that the purple ones changed color to white from time to time. Only the bees hybridized. The soil received no additives. Its pH reading was never made. The chromosomes of the flowers, if any, were never counted. Their genes, if any, were unknown. It was of no concern whether they were diploids or tetraploids. They never had rot. Nor leaf blight. Nor scorch. Nematodes did not knot their roots. Borers drilled elsewhere. Who ever heard of the bacterium *Erwinia carotovora*, now said to cause soft rot? Or the fungus *Didymellina macrospora*, now thought to cause leaf spot? Or the specifics to control such maladies?

Years later, with World War I behind and with a family on the threshold, our present home was built with TRUE CHARM and HONORABILIS prominent in the landscaping. My, what an improvement over the whites and the purples! They were tended with the utmost care.

After a while, I began to wonder: Surely there were better irises in the world somewhere. I began to investigate and to accumulate. Later still, I began discarding upon acquiring superior varieties. My enthusiasm was greatly increased by annual visits to the gardens of Dave Hall and Orville Fay and Brother Charles during the four years our children were in school at Northwestern (1937-41).

It was from such a visit on a train from Chicago to New York that I met Junius Fishburn, a highly skilled and competent irisarian and a delightful gentleman. After an hour or so of rapid-fire conversation, he asked me to be an Accredited Judge. I professed my own incompetence, but he insisted.

So, by his own *ipse dicit* as Awards Chairman, he dubbed me an Accredited Judge of the American Iris Society. My credentials awaited me upon my return to Wichita Falls. Such was the then informality of becoming an Accredited Judge. And such informality permeated the entire affairs of the Society. I would have been much better prepared to fulfill the duties of an Accredited Judge had I had the benefit of instruction in the schools of today; but who then could have taught such a school?

Thereafter, contact with the Society became increasingly constant. Its inner workings were made known, what made it tick, why an increasing number became enthusiasts, why members addressed each other by their given names, and why they effervesced when in each other's presence. Such was the permeating spirit that brought the Society through the World War I period under the able leadership of Jesse Wills, that matchless executive who had never lost the common touch. His stabilizing influence during the war years formed the groundwork upon which succeeding administrations could and did build.

With the war over and transportation restored, the Society took on a new life and broader perspective. Fortuitously, early in 1947, there came Franklin Cook as the fifth president of the Society. If the previous administration had been one of conservation, that of Dr Franklin Cook could be characterized as one of innovation and progress. The war was over, the Society was growing rapidly, its needs and problems were changing, and he had many ideas for improvement. This was in line with Franklin's nature. He was a positive character, with an intense, earnest look, lightened by a ready smile. He was firm in his convictions, and a dynamic individual with vast leadership qualities who, by the sheer magnetism of his personality, inspired the Society to greater accomplishments in broader fields.

Prior to Dr. Cook's administration, the offices and committees had been filled with volunteers without compensation. With the rapid increase in membership and the manifold details arising in the conduct of the enlarged Society, it was thought a staff should be employed to answer correspondence and do the ministerial duties that arose. Accordingly, a central office at Nashville was established, and most of the correspondence was funneled through that office. Sam Y. Caldwell headed the staff and took care of the duties of both secretary and *Bulletin* editor. He was ably assisted by Geddes Douglas, Robert Sturtevant and Jesse Wills.

It was during Dr. Cook's administration that a membership campaign with prizes was begun and has continued through succeeding administrations. An anthology on irises was master-minded by the energetic doctor, entitled *The Iris, An Ideal Hardy Perennial*, painstakingly edited by Geddes Douglas, with the assistance of Robert Sturtevant and Sam Caldwell. The Scientific Committee, with Dr. L. F. Randolph its chairman, was very active, and its new iris classification was adopted by the Board, resulting in renewed interest in dwarf and intermediate irises. The President's Cup was instituted by Dr. Cook and still is coveted at each annual meeting.

As energetic as he was, as competent as he proved himself to be, as gifted in many arts as he revealed himself, as personable as a leader of men always is, nevertheless Dr. Cook was mortal; and his years as flight surgeon in World War I brought to him an incurable malady from which he suffered during his administration and which caused him to resign at the January meeting

of the Board in 1949 and which resulted in his death in 1952. Dr. Cook shared his views with his fellow Board members so that the succeeding administration moved forward smoothly, implementing the plans carefully outlined by his administration.

With the making of Texas a separate Region in 1947, the writer resigned as Regional Vice President upon being appointed to the Board of Directors. And what a Board it was! Foremost among its members was its charismatic president, Dr. Franklin Cook. Among its members were Fred W. Cassebeer of New York, Geddes Douglas of Tennessee, Junius Fishburn of Virginia, David Hall of Illinois, E. G. Lapham of Indiana, W. J. McKee of Massachusetts, W. J. Moffat of Ontario, Jesse E. Wills of Tennessee, Dr. H. H. Everett of Nebraska and Dr. Robert J. Graves of New Hampshire. The next year Dr. Mathew C. Riddle of Washington, Carl Schirmer of Missouri and Harold W. Knowlton of Massachusetts came on the Board. And in 1950 the Board was further strengthened by the addition of Joe House of Arkansas and Marion Walker of California.

Thus the Board was composed of men from various sections of the United States and Canada and from various segments of business and professional life. Notwithstanding growing pains of the Society, it never operated at a loss but always put aside earnings for further expansion. Such a board was competent to operate even a General Motors corporation. Six of its members had been or later were presidents of the Society.

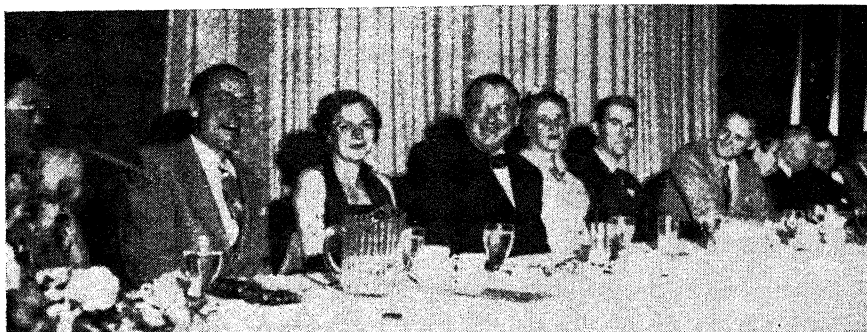
The writer succeeded Dr. Cook as president at the January, 1949, meeting of the Board in New York. Sam Caldwell had gone to Columbia Broadcasting, and Geddes Douglas was then appointed editor of the *Bulletin* and secretary of the Society. He performed all the duties of such offices in the most skillful manner and endeared himself to the Society in a manner few have obtained.

A budget for the central office was set up for 1949, and has been continued through subsequent years. Annual dues of \$3.50 and sustaining dues of \$5.00 were set. New Regions were created to accommodate the members. A 2000-copy edition of *The Iris, An Ideal Hardy Perennial* was published in 1949, as was the supplemental *Check List* of registrations, the result of much time and effort in its preparation. A fee was set for registration and the number of registrations for each year by a member was limited. The Mary Swords Debaillon Award was established. The iris symposium was extended to include all members to vote rather than only Accredited Judges as theretofore.

Having attended every Board meeting of the Society since 1947 except one or two, I can say without cavil that all of the Directors have been outstanding in business, successful in their avocations, intensely interested in advancing the cause of better irises and thoroughly devoted to the objectives of the Society. There was unanimity of purpose among and actions by all during the six-year period covered by this report.

No less devoted to the Society were the Regional Vice Presidents, who acted as liaisons between the Board and the members. All committees and their chairmen functioned perfectly. And the members themselves cooperated in every way.

Among those to whom eternal gratitude of the Society is due for time and effort spent as well as accomplishments achieved are Geddes Douglas, who



Seated at speakers' table of annual meeting of Society, 1952: (left to right) Mrs. Franklin Cook, Secretary Geddes Douglas, Mrs. W. F. Scott, President Guy Rogers, Mrs. Rogers, speaker of the evening Dr. Gustav A. L. Mehlquist, Toastmaster Sam Caldwell, Mrs. Harold Knowlton, Vice President Knowlton, Mrs. Carl Schirmer, Treasurer Schirmer. (photo by McClure)

spent more time than perhaps anyone else in furthering the interest of the Society and for a longer period of time. During two administrations and longer, Dr. Randolph was chairman of the Scientific Committee and did yeoman's work in that regard. So did Harold W. Knowlton as chairman of the Awards Committee. W. F. Scott, Jr., spent much time and effort in successfully conducting membership drives. Others are equally deserving, but space forbids their enumeration.

All in all, the six-year period, 1947-52, was one of growth, progress and accomplishments. There was no appreciable break in continuity between the two administrations. It is hoped that these administrations were such as that there was no break between them and the succeeding administration.

It was indeed a privilege and personal pleasure to each and all in working in any capacity for the Society during such period of time. We are pleased by the progress that has been made since our time of active participation.

## Reminiscences 1953-1959

Marion R. Walker

Harold W. Knowlton was elected the seventh president of The American Iris Society on October 26, 1952. He perhaps was the most traveled of the presidents of the Society. Each year he and his wife Louise would spend the iris season visiting friends from coast to coast. This New England gentleman and his good wife always were most welcome guests in all parts of the country, indeed over the world, wherever iris fanciers lived.

Mr. Knowlton took office right at the beginning of a period of rapid growth of the Society. During the war years travel was difficult and time for hobbies was scarce. Consequently, the Society had some difficult years, but the strong leadership of the early presidents made it possible for the organization to survive the difficult time, and Mr. Knowlton found himself on the scene as this period in our history passed.

Before becoming president, he was chairman of the awards committee for a number of years. He had special interest and talent in this field. The



Harold W. Knowlton  
President 1953-55



Marion R. Walker  
President 1956-59

systematic mind of a Harvard lawyer led him to make many constructive suggestions relative to the awards system of our Society. He may well be called the father of that system, since many of the practices we now follow originated in his mind. Under his presidency awards for dwarfs, Siberians, Louisianas and spurias were instituted.

Under his leadership Oklahoma and Arkansas formed Region 22. At about this time the Regional Vice Presidents were first organized into a Board of Counselors, and they began to take a larger part in the policy making of the Society.

During this period members became more and more interested in judging and in awards, and more and more ballots were being cast. New members were interested in becoming judges; they wanted to learn how to become judges. As a result, the first *Handbook for Garden Judges* was prepared in 1953 under the leadership of Mr. Knowlton and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Franklin Cook. This first production, the cumulative thoughts of the Board of Directors at that time, has been the basis for subsequent handbooks.

A question always being raised before the Board of Directors during this period was "What about the new members? Are we doing enough for them? Do they get enough out of the *Bulletin* to hold them in membership?" As a result of this concern *What Every Iris Grower Should Know* was born. It was prepared by the Board of Directors under Mr. Knowlton's direction, and sent to every new member. He felt that this was a means of informing the new member and the inexperienced grower about the fundamentals of growing our favorite flower and this small publication has been most helpful to beginning members through the years.

In a time of rapid growth there is bound to be a broadening of interest in a subject. This was true about our membership at that time. In the past, most of the interest among the members had been centered on the tall bearded varieties of irises. The awards, the *Bulletin*, the shows and other activities emphasized the tall bearded class, with little interest in the development of other cultivars. Now attitudes were beginning to change. Members were reaching out into new fields of challenge. A Spuria Club was formed in Houston, Texas, in late 1952. An invitation appeared in the

April 1953 *Bulletin* to form an Intermediate Club. This invitation culminated in the formation of the Median Iris Society in 1954. A species test garden was started by Dr. Lee Lenz at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens, and led to his fine book, *Pacific Coast Natives*. All of these new interests started to develop in the Society during Mr. Knowlton's administration.

Finally, studies were started in the areas of cytological and color classification of the genus *Iris*. These studies carried on into several succeeding administrations, and in some areas still continue, for we never cease to learn new things about our favorite plant.

At the end of his third year in office, Mr. Knowlton felt that he had served the Society long enough and that the leadership should pass on to other hands. As a result, he retired as president on November 13, 1955. His service to the Society did not end at this point. He became the editor of the 1959 *Check, List* and did yeoman work in compiling this document. He also served as past-president-member of the Board for the remainder of his life.

It was in this background that I became the eighth president of The American Iris Society. An abiding interest in plants and plant breeding had developed out of a life spent on a California ranch and a degree in biological and basic medical sciences from Stanford University, and on graduation this interest turned specifically to the genus *Iris*. In 1938 Mrs. Walker and I sought fellowship with others interested in irises, and thus began thirty years of association with a wonderful group of people.

The 1939 annual meeting was held in Southern California, and here I met Dr. Everett and Junius Fishburn, whose knowledge and attitude so greatly impressed me that I became completely sold on The American Iris Society and the people in it.

Interest grew from the local level to the national level, and in 1949 I was offered a position on the Board of Directors, and the association with the Society at the national level has been most rewarding. One of the most amazing facts about this hobby is that it attracts such fine people. The roster of leadership of the Society through the years includes eminent doctors, corporation lawyers, judges, insurance executives, telephone executives, school administrators, certified public accountants, corporation managers, engineers, college professors, pharmacists, jewelers, agriculturalists and many other prominent people who have given of their time and means to the Society. This alone is worth participation in the affairs of the Society, and in addition we have the bonus of a beautiful flower.

The Walker era was very closely related to the period just preceding it. Many of the ideas born during the Knowlton administration were implemented during the next four years. Since this was a period of rapid growth, many new ideas were suggested and tried. Some of them had a lasting effect on the Society; others were cast aside for better procedures. This is as it should be, because a society such as ours must move with the times and remain current to stay vibrant.

At the annual meeting in Los Angeles in 1956 the first discussions were held relative to the division of the offices of secretary and editor. It appeared that the task of the combined offices was too great for one person to handle on a part time basis. Therefore, the Board, after many hours of discussion, decided to employ a full time executive secretary, and separate



this work from the task of editor of the *Bulletin*. Geddes Douglas was willing to remain as *Bulletin* editor as long as it was possible for him to continue with his business in Nashville. For this we were very grateful.

After searching the membership of the Society, we chose a young man, Clifford W. Benson, as the new secretary. Mr. Benson accepted the position with the understanding that the office would be moved to St. Louis. Through the efforts of Mr. W. F. Scott, Jr., we were able to negotiate an office in the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and this has been our headquarters since January 1, 1957.

At the Los Angeles meeting the RVPs met for the first time with the Board of Directors in the discussion of basic policies of the Society. They brought a fresh point of view to the Board and served as a bridge between the Board and the membership, making for closer communication than had been apparent before. This probably was the first organized meeting of what now is the Board of Counselors.

During this time the Board took official action on accepting the invitation to assume the responsibility of acting as the International Registration Authority for all irises, except bulbous, throughout the world. This was done at the request of the American Horticultural Council, and it certainly broadened our horizons in the areas of registrations and classification. The acceptance of the responsibility immediately drew out attention to the problems of classification and the necessity of expanding the work of the registrar-recorder. Fortunately, we had fine people at work in these areas. Minnie Colquitt, through many years of experience in the Society, was able to set up a splendid system of registration for us. Many hours of her time were taken in accumulating and recording the information needed to fulfill our responsibility to the horticultural world.

Dr. Randolph and George Lawrence, along with Walter Welch, Bee Warburton, Lee Lenz and others, went to work on classification. The results of their labors, after many hours of debate during several annual meetings and through the mails, is the system of classification that we have today; and it stands as a monument to these people who, with differing views, struggled to establish a standard by which all horticultural societies could be guided.

With the establishment of the system of classification, an expansion of the awards system naturally followed. Members became more and more interested in other than tall bearded irises, and many started breeding programs which developed new and interesting things. This made it necessary to establish awards for these new types of irises. A top award for each classification was approved by the Board, subject to implementation when needed. During this period the Eric Nies Award, the C. G. White Memorial Award and the Cook-Douglas Award were activated.

The activity related to classification and awards brought a growing need for special interest groups related to the various classes of irises. Some clubs already had been formed, as the Society for Louisiana Irises, the Dwarf Iris Society, The Median Iris Society, and the Aril Society. The Board of Directors set about discussing ways and means of encouraging these special interest societies, and yet maintaining a way in which all iris interests could be contained in one organization. The result of this study was the development of the sectional relationship to the Society which we



#### CLASSIFICATION GROUP AT MEMPHIS 1957

Left to right: Jay Ackerman, Irene van der Water, Norlan Henderson, Mrs. Ackerman, Walter Welch, Geddes Douglas, Marion Walker, Bee Warburton, Jack Durrance, Adelaide Peterson, Polly Anderson, Joe Hoage, Ed Long. Not pictured: Dorothy Dennis, Kay Heinig, L. F. Randolph.

have today. We feel that this is one of the greatest accomplishments of our administration. Although our interests are different, we are one American Iris Society today. It could have been otherwise.

For many years *The Genus Iris* by W. R. Dykes has been considered the "bible" of all irisarians. Many of the membership felt that a real effort should be made to produce a book which was current so far as techniques and materials were concerned, but which would be authentic. Your Board of Directors decided to attempt the publication of such a book, and thus was born *Garden Irises*. The material was prepared by the best qualified of our membership, carefully edited by Dr. L. F. Randolph, and published by the Society. We are proud of the fact that the book paid for itself in a few years, and actually added to the Society's financial reserve.

The Society had a very fine treasurer at that time. Mr. Carl Schirmer of St. Joseph, Missouri, set up the books in business form, had them audited annually by a CPA, and established the practice of publishing the annual financial report in the *Bulletin*.

During these years the Scientific Committee of the Society was most active. Dr. Randolph moved on to other activities in the Society, and Dr. Lee Lenz of Claremont College and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden became

chairman of the committee. The detail of the program is too great to relate here, but the Board made money available to Dr. Bald of UCLA and Dr. Dimock for research on iris pathology with particular emphasis on scorch. Dr. Lenz obtained a \$7,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for the study of the cytology of spurias. Dr. Lenz and Dr. Homer Metcalf did work on *I. missouriensis*, and Dr. Randolph and Ira Nelson did work on Louisianas. This work was supplemented by the help of many Society members in answering questionnaires, supplying specimens and making suggestions.

This period of expanding activity also stimulated a desire of the membership to write letters. This gradually took the form of Robins, and thus developed: "Flight Lines" and the national Robin program, organized and directed by John Bartholomew. This program was officially established by the Board of Directors in 1956, and has been the "greatest grass roots" part of our organization. No one has an excuse for being lonely as long as the Robins fly.

The membership made the suggestion to the Board that we should have an official seal for the Society. A number of people worked on the project, but the credit for finalizing the plans and bringing them to fruition belongs to Hubert Fischer. The seal that appears on *Garden Irises* and our other publications of today was officially adopted by your Board during this administration.



1958 BOARD MEETING

Left to right, standing: Robert Carney, Dr. Mathew Riddle, Geddes Douglas, Guy Rogers, Dr. G. M. H. Lawrence, Dr. J. R. Durrance, Jay Ackerman, Nathan Rudolph, RVP Region 9; seated, Al Lauck, Harold Knowlton, Clifford Benson, President Marion Walker, Carl Schirmer, J. Arthur Nelson, Hubert Fischer.

During these four years the Society continued to grow. The membership nearly doubled. Two new Regions were formed, Region 23 with New Mexico and Region 24 with Alabama and Mississippi.

The conventions during these years were memorable ones. They began with the trek to Southern California, with Jean Stevens of New Zealand as

our guest speaker. The Memphis meeting in 1957 broke all attendance records. Then came the great meeting of 1958, held in Syracuse and hosted by the Empire State Iris Society. Finally in 1959, Oklahoma City broke all records with more than 800 in attendance. These were fantastic years and ones long to be remembered.

A debt of gratitude is due those wonderful people, men of high business and professional responsibility, who were willing to give so freely of their time and their ability to serve as Directors and to help make this hobby of ours a pleasure and something really worth while. My thanks go to all of you who served during this four-year period. I cherish your friendship, and I like to think of you as a team that made AIS a little better. The direction now had been set, and we left to those who follow a sound base on which to build.

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## Reminiscences 1960-1968

Hubert A. Fischer



Dr. and Mrs. L. F. Randolph



Hubert Fischer and Robert Carney

It was at the Board meeting in New Orleans in November 1959 that Dr. L. F. Randolph was elected the ninth president of the American Iris Society. An eminent botanist, he was well known for his work in cytogenetics and as an authority on irises dating back to the early thirties. He traveled extensively collecting wild irises in Europe and other foreign countries. He had been chairman of the Scientific Committee for many years, had served as chairman of the Awards Committee, and was the editor of *Garden Irises*.

The Society was in good financial condition, and the membership showed a gradual increase each year. Dr. J. Arthur Nelson, chairman of Exhibitions, reported an increasing interest in shows—eighty-five for the year. The

number of members participating in the Robin Program had reached three thousand, under the guidance of John Bartholomew, and a forceful membership drive brought in twelve hundred new members, but non-renewals were high, making the net gain only three hundred.

I had been appointed chairman of Affiliates and Sections, the object of which was to bring the local societies closer to AIS, and more of the special interest societies in as Sections. The first to affiliate were the Northern Illinois and the Southern Illinois societies, followed by Empire State.

Geddes Douglas, editor of the *Bulletin* for fourteen years, expressed a desire to resign, and Thomas E. Jacoby was appointed as the new editor. I had suggested the use of color for the *Bulletin*, and the first color cover featured FIRE BRIGADE in the January 1960 issue. While the use of color received favorable comment, it also was questioned as to desirability of establishing such a precedent. A color classification booklet was published and a new *Check List* was being compiled.

At the Board meeting in Portland an amendment was proposed limiting the tenure of president to three years, with honorary membership on the Board for all past presidents. It also was proposed to limit election to the Board to four consecutive three-year terms.

The need for adequate performance ratings for newly introduced irises resulted in the appointment of Dr. J. R. Durrance as chairman of the test garden program, and he was charged with setting up five national test gardens in different sections of the country. The object was not only to get performance ratings for all newly introduced varieties, but to afford the opportunity for unknown breeders an opportunity to have their seedlings recognized.

The financial report at the Board meeting in Omaha showed the Society still in sound condition, but it was becoming increasingly apparent that the mounting costs of operation were becoming a threat. A campaign was started to increase advertising in the *Bulletin*, to bring in more revenue. Larry Gaultier was appointed chairman of the Judges Training Program. Tabulation of ballots showed that many of the judges voted only for tall bearded varieties, and it was hoped that the Test Garden Program and the Judges Training Program would result in including the scope to all kinds of irises.

In April 1961, Dr. Randolph left for a plant hunting trip abroad, and Vice President Carney carried on in his absence. Show activities had increased, and the *Regional Vice Presidents Handbook* was under revision.

The 1961 annual meeting was held in Newark, and the celebration of the forty-first anniversary of the Society was at the New York Botanical Garden, where the Society had come into being. Dr. John Wister and Mrs. Ethel Peckham participated in the ceremonies, and all living past presidents attended. The visit to the world famous Presby Memorial Gardens was my first, and it was interesting to see and recognize many of the old irises that had passed through our garden in the past forty years.

The fall Board meeting was held in Chicago. Dr. Randolph was back from his plant hunting trip. National test gardens had been established in five geographically located districts. Additional activities included the public relations program, the scientific committee, the national robin program and the revision of the *Bulletin* to provide broader coverage to subjects related

to irises. Additional awards were established equivalent to the Award of Merit for irises other than tall bearded.

The 1962 annual meeting was held in Kansas City, with four hundred in attendance. Our membership had reached 6,500, and we had twenty-four affiliates. The 1959 *Check List* was published. I was appointed the head of a committee to design an official seal for the Society. This seemed a simple assignment until sketches and suggestions were received. It should be a tall bearded; it should be a beardless; it should be . . .; one sketch included a half dozen types. I realized that the design must be kept in simple form, so I asked my brother, a newspaper artist, to design a seal to represent an iris but of no definite type. The result was a design of modernistic form but not too far out. Of the number submitted for final selection, it was chosen with a few minor changes.

At the fall Board meeting in Denver, Dr. Randolph reported that most of the Regions had been organized and were financially self-sufficient. The *Handbook for Regional Vice Presidents* had been compiled by the committee and edited by Bob Carney. The 1962 membership list was published and there were now more than five hundred accredited garden judges. Dr. Randolph again stressed the importance of national test gardens and the plan to expand the program to all kinds of irises.

Mr. Robert S. Carney was elected president. He was a native Tennessean and a certified public accountant. He had joined the Society in 1940, was elected to the Board in 1959, and had served as chairman of the membership and the awards committees. During his term as president he traveled widely, visiting many Regions and attending their meetings. During his business travels he managed to see many gardens. He continued to carry on the National Test Garden Program, and it was hoped that tying in the Regional Test Garden Program would result in a successful venture. A set of regulations was being prepared for the standardizing of the Regional Test Gardens.

With the increase in the number of accredited judges and the additional awards, for the various classes, it was evident that the burden of tabulation was becoming too great to be handled by the chairman of Awards, and the transfer to the central office was recommended, with additional help to be employed as needed.

The 1963 convention in Denver was the first that I was unable to attend since coming on the Board. I was at the International Symposium on Irises in Florence, Italy, and was a judge at the Iris Competition there. At the Denver meeting, one evening was devoted to a judges training program. Our membership had reached 6,700, and the members were asked to cooperate in achieving the year's goal of 7,000. A committee was appointed to revise the *Handbook for Judges* and the need for a junior program was discussed.

The fall meeting was held in St. Louis. The new Regional Vice Presidents were to be elected by the membership of the Region, instead of being appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the outgoing RVP, as had been done in the past. A committee was appointed to work up a program designed to attract young people to the Society.

With the 1964 convention coming to Chicago, and with being co-chairman with Ed Varnum, it was a busy spring giving final touches to the garden and attending to the many details necessary in preparing for such

an event. Well remembering the first Chicago convention, which went down in iris history as the bud convention, we set the dates for June 4-6, hoping for weather cooperation. We were having an early season and by the first of June irises were in full bloom, with the temperatures day after day being in the high eighties. On June 1 a cold front moved in, and we had perfect weather for the balance of the convention. Harry Randall attended, and was the speaker at the banquet.

The fall Board meeting again was in Chicago. Two new directors came to the Board, Mr. John Bartholomew, member since 1947 and chairman of the Robin Program, and Mr. William T. Bledsoe, who had been conducting judges training schools.

The rules for the test gardens were in the process of being completed and awards being set up. It also was suggested that a well-balanced research program be undertaken, but financing of such a program was a problem. The subject of soliciting guest irises for convention gardens and responsibility of the grower were discussed and resulted in a code of ethics.

The convention at Memphis was well attended, with over six hundred fifty reservations. Dr. Raymond C. Allen had taken over the chairmanship of the National Test Gardens, and the Regional Test Garden Program was approved. The rules for their awards had been set up, and we hoped that members would respond. The Judges Training Program was started, and the *Judges Handbook* had been revised.

Bob Carney had served as president for three years, and he had brought about some important changes in the Society. They were busy years, and to quote his words, he was "glad to get back to hybridizing and enjoying his iris friends." I was elected to take over as president at this New Orleans meeting. I had joined the Society in 1925 and became a member of the Board in 1956. I have had the pleasure of acquaintance of all of the past presidents. I had a few irises in my garden before World War I, including FLORENTINA, FLAVESCENS, FAIRY and a few nameless ones gathered from neighboring gardens. While I was away in the armed services, a certain girl took care of my garden, and after I got back, we teamed up and started growing irises in the suburbs. After joining the Society, we added more of the newer varieties from Bertrand Farr, the Schreiner Gardens and Cooley Gardens. The real interest was sparked after we began visiting the Pattison Quality Gardens in Freeport, where we met many iris growers. We attended the shows in Freeport each year, and it was there that we went to our first convention, where Dr. Wister and Mrs. Peckham were speakers. Illinois was rapidly becoming an important iris center.

One day I received a letter from Dr. Everett appointing me an accredited judge of AIS. Later President William McKee called me at my office while he was in Chicago, and at dinner that evening, he asked me to tabulate the awards ballots. When Dr. Cook was president, he appointed me RVP for Region IX. Since joining the Board, I have been chairman of Awards and of Affiliates and Sections.

There had been many changes in the Society through the years and there still was much unfinished business ahead. When the constitution was written, it stated "the object of the Society shall be to promote culture and improvement of iris . . ." This meant not only the flowers but resistance to disease, so research is as important as awards.

To make awards more meaningful, the judges training to include all types of irises was started. Changes were planned and made in the structure of the Society. The awards function was moved into the offices of Kay Negus and J. Arthur Nelson, where registration records are on file, thus speeding up the tabulation of ballots and providing for check against registration files to provide more adequate accuracy of ballots. A new exhibition award, known as the Nelson Award, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur Nelson, and the Payne Award for Japanese irises, in honor of Mr. W. A. Payne, were activated. The Median Iris Society completed its award structure by introducing the Award of Merit step, and above that medals in honor of Paul Cook and Geddes Douglas, Hans and Jacob Sass, and Harold Knowlton.

The Youth Program, which had failed to materialize, needed attention, as did the Scientific Committee and the Public Relations Committee.

The convention was at Newark again, and there now were two cups to be voted for, the President's Cup and the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup, one for a local iris and the other for an iris out of the Region.

As guests of the American Iris Society, Rev. Dudley Benbow, president of the British Iris Society, and Signora Flaminia Specht of Italy, were present as speakers at the Newark convention. New York had been selected as the site of the Fiftieth Anniversary convention and the International Iris Symposium.

At the fall meeting in Denver, we received the report of the new chairman of the Scientific committee, and formed the Species committee, headed by Roy Davidson. With the growing interest in the various species, this committee should be of real value. It works within the framework of the Scientific committee. The number of affiliated societies had increased to fifty-six.

The spring meeting was held in Denver. All *Garden Irises* copies had been sold, and the decision with respect to reprinting or revision was deferred. The International Symposium, which we had hoped to hold in conjunction with the Fiftieth Anniversary convention, very likely would interfere with Anniversary plans, so alternates had to be explored. The decision was reached to have a *Golden Anniversary Bulletin*, with Jesse Wills as guest editor. This issue will review the history of the Society. The Re-blooming Iris Society was organized, and plans for its award structure were discussed.

At the fall meeting in Dallas, we welcomed two new directors, Dr. Hugo Wall and Dr. Clarke Cosgrove. A number of shifts in standing committee assignments were made. The Board voted to reactivate the position of National Convention Chairman to act as liaison and advisory representative between the Board and convention committees. All of the foreign iris societies who had been invited to participate in the proposed International Iris Symposium were notified that due to unsettled world conditions all plans had to be postponed for future consideration.

At the Berkeley meeting a new award was activated, the Fred and Barbara Walther Cup, for the iris receiving the most votes on the Judges Choice ballot. Work on the *Fiftieth Anniversary Bulletin* was progressing satisfactorily, under the direction of Jesse Wills and his committee. The Scientific Committee was granted the authority to use \$2,000 for research on



scorch and \$1,000 for research on botyrtis. New directors nominated were Mr. Earl Browder, Mr. Thomas E. Jacoby and Mrs. C. E. McCaughey. The matters of rising costs of printing and methods of economizing were discussed.

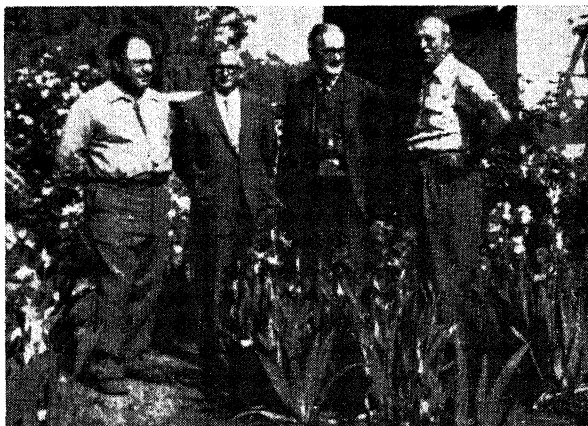
In reviewing the past years, there has been some satisfaction in the accomplishments. The Society had again become one for all classes of irises. Members who are interested in other than tall bearded irises had started their special interest societies. A course was charted to be an all inclusive society, and to give local societies a closer tie to the national with affiliate status. We have over seventy affiliated local clubs and five specialty societies as Sections, with representation on the editorial staff. The Sections have more space and articles in the *Bulletin*; their awards have been increased and their hybridizers honored.

The Judges Training Program has overcome the early opposition, and has been accepted with enthusiasm. Eventually there will be only one class of judges for both gardens and shows. The Robin Program has been expanding and gaining momentum under a new and dynamic chairman. We have closer relationship with the RVPs with breakfast meetings, at which committee chairmen report the activities of the year; and an RVP representative sits in on the Board meetings. The use of color in the *Bulletin*, which at first was questioned, has become very popular, and will undoubtedly continue to be a regular feature. The *Bulletin*, which is the important main contact with the membership, is being praised for its broader coverage.

There also have been disappointments, as some of our plans failed to materialize. The National Test Garden Program, which had been carefully planned, with much thought and time devoted to it, met with some opposition from the start. The purpose had been to test new introductions for performance as well as other factors in all parts of the country. Unfavorable weather conditions and the location of some gardens, and reluctance of some breeders to cooperate caused the number of entries to drop after the first years; and ultimately the program had to be dropped.



Marvin Olson, Al Lauck,  
Dorothy Palmer



Jim Gibson, Marion Walker, Harold Fletcher, Bill  
Schortman

On the other hand, the Regional Test Garden Program now shows some evidence that it will be successful.

The drop in membership, which caused some concern, fortunately has been reversed. While I never have been in favor of high powered membership drives because they usually are followed by a great number of drop-outs the following year, it is vitally necessary to increase the effort for new members, due to the constantly rising costs of printing and other organization expenses. Costs have been exceeding our income, and even with a substantial increase in membership, it seems inevitable that dues will need to be raised.

The American Iris Society has meant a great deal to us, for we have been associated with it the greater part of our lives. While we never could be happy with an all-iris garden, for we are too much interested in horticulture in general, yet irises are top of the list. We have made many friends in all parts of the country and the world, through our iris activities. The visits to Europe resulted in friendships which have continued through correspondence and brought guests to our home and garden from overseas.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve the Society for so many years, and as I mentioned in my last "President's Message"—"The Rainbow Trail has been long and pleasant."

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## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE AIS

Clifford W. Benson

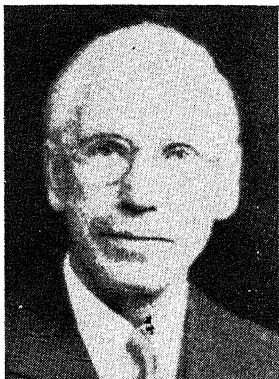
### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The basic policies of the Society are established by a Board of Directors consisting of not more than fifteen members of the Society, twelve of whom are elected by the membership for three-year terms. The immediate past president of the Society is a member of the Board, with full voting powers; and the secretary and the editor are *ex officio* members with full voting power.

The functions of the Board are understandably quite numerous, and encompass a wide range of various activities. The success of the Society today is the result of painstaking effort of Board members who served without compensation and who devoted considerable of their time and money to the work of the Society. The only individuals who receive compensation for their work are those of the secretarial, the editorial and the registration staffs.

Each year the Board nominates four candidates for election to its body. These candidates are chosen after careful consideration of the ability to serve. Nominations for these annual vacancies on the Board are transmitted to the entire membership via a letter in each July *Bulletin*. Additional nominations can be made by any twenty-five members, of whom not more than twelve may be located in any one Region. If additional nominations are made, an election is required so the membership may select the four persons they wish to serve them during the following three-year term.

There are two meetings of the Board of Directors each year. The first (general) is held during the time and at the place of the annual meeting



Howard R. Watkins  
(Secretary 1938-46)



Clifford W. Benson  
(Secretary 1957—)



J. B. Wallace  
(Secretary 1927-33)

Others holding position of secretary pictured elsewhere in this issue: Robert Sturtevant (1920-1926), Sam Caldwell (1947-48), Geddes Douglas (1949-56). Pictures not available for John Ferguson (1934) and B. Y. Morrison (1935-37).

of the Society, and is attended also by Past Presidents, Regional Vice Presidents, Section Presidents, Committee Chairmen and invited guests. At this meeting all officers and committees report to the Board. Regional Vice Presidents, the link between the membership of the Society and the Board, present their suggestions for the operation of the Society. Many policies also are inaugurated from original ideas suggested by individual members. Through these channels, the membership has contact with the Board at all times.

The second meeting (business) concerns the financial and administrative affairs of the Society, is usually of two-day duration, and is held in late fall. At this meeting, the Board elects for one year or until successors are named and qualified, a President, two Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, a *Bulletin* Editor, a Registrar and a Secretary, with the following duties:

**President:** Presides at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Directors, and has general superintendence over the affairs of the Society.

**First Vice President:** Performs the duties of the President in his absence.

**Second Vice President:** Performs the duties of the First Vice President in his absence.

**Treasurer:** Prepares the budget, and receives and accounts for all moneys and securities of the Society.

**Editor:** Has charge of editing the *Bulletin* and other publications of the Society.

**Registrar:** Has charge of recording registrations and introductions, maintaining these files and preparing the annual *Registrations and Introductions*.

**Secretary:** Maintains the membership files, records the proceedings of the Society, and carries on the business of the Society under the direction of the President and the Board.

## REGIONS

There are twenty-four Regions or geographic areas in the American Iris Society. Originally, there were only six, but as membership increased it became necessary to create others. Additional Regions will be created as the need arises. The affairs of each Region are administered by a Regional Vice President, selected by the members of the Region.

In establishing boundaries of Regions, the aim is two-fold: first, to include a sufficient number of members to maintain a well-organized iris activities; and second, to establish boundaries within which are similar cultural and climatic conditions for growing irises. The membership of the individual Regions range from approximately fifty in the smallest to 575 in the largest.

In addition to the twenty-four Regions, the Society has a current foreign membership of approximately 180 persons residing in Arabia, Australia, Canary Islands, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, South America and Switzerland.

To be of service to the RVP offices, the Board of Directors has appointed from among its number an RVP Counselor.

The majority of the Regions not only publish their own newsletters and bulletins, but also conduct meetings several times a year. Each Region may be described as a miniature American Iris Society, for most of them conduct their activities in much the same manner as does the parent Society.

## REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

The Regional Vice President is the chief administrative officer of the Region. It is his responsibility to supervise and administer the functions of the Society in his Region, to coordinate the activities of the Region with the national and local iris societies, and to encourage local activities and their coordination with regional activities.

The Regional Vice President is selected by vote of the members of the Region, and approved by the Board of Directors for one-year periods, usually with two subsequent yearly appointments if the RVP functions properly. No RVP may serve more than three years consecutively, but he may be reelected after being out of office a year.

## AFFILIATES

It is the policy of the AIS to maintain cordial, cooperative relationships with all other iris societies, wherever located. In order that the needs of members of state and local iris societies may be attended to intelligently and thoughtfully and membership becomes as much a pleasure as is humanly possible, the AIS has created the status of affiliation. Benefits of affiliation include membership in the AIS and the receipt of all its publications, free color slide programs and free silver and bronze medals for AIS-sponsored shows. Affiliation may be gained under these conditions: 1. The officers and directors of the affiliated society must be members of the AIS. 2. Participation in the AIS registration and awards systems is required. 3. Societies having less than fifty per cent of their members belonging to AIS will be required to pay an annual fee of \$25.00. 4. Affiliated societies must have no less than ten AIS members in their group.

## SECTIONS

Sectional status is provided for special-interest societies under the following conditions. 1. The American members of the Society must be members of the AIS. 2. Its bylaws must be approved by the AIS. 3. Participation in the AIS registration and award systems is required. 4. Provision for publication of articles of general interest, exclusive of newsletters, may be arranged.

Present Section members are The Median Iris Society, The Society for Siberian Irises, The Spuria Iris Society, The Society for Japanese Irises and The Reblooming Iris Society.

## COMMITTEES

The activities of the Society are various and numerous. Most of them are headed by committees whose chairmen often also serve as members of the Board of Directors.

**Awards:** The Awards Committee, acting for the Board of Directors, administers the awards system for the Society. It establishes eligibility for awards, prepares the official and symposium ballots, receives and tabulates all ballots, publishes the results and issues the award certificates.

**Convention Liaison:** This committee maintains a close relationship with and offers assistance to convention officers who have the Herculean task of planning for and directing the AIS national conventions. The chairman reports periodically to the Board of Directors.

**Exhibitions.** This committee is the service unit for the iris societies that stage iris shows. The chairman corresponds with show chairmen, receives and tabulates show reports, and authorizes the certificates and medals won by participants in the shows.

**Garden Judges.** This committee has final approval of judges, and maintains a complete card file of all AIS judges, including the date of original appointment. This committee, combined with the Judges Training Committee, works in close relationship with the RVPs and Awards Committee.

**Honorary Medals.** The Immediate Past President of the AIS is the chairman of this committee, and with him are two other past presidents. This committee diligently searches AIS records and receives recommendations from other officers and from members, and compiles a list of candidates to be considered for the high honor of Distinguished Service or Hybridizer medals. Individuals who have distinguished themselves by outstanding service to the Society or by developing superior irises make up the nomination lists which are presented to the Board of Directors.

**Judges Training.** The honor of being an AIS judge carries with it considerable prestige in horticultural circles. The Judges Training Committee is one of the most important of committees in the AIS, and strives to improve the quality of judging for all kinds of irises by indoctrinating present judges of their duties and responsibilities and by offering instruction to all persons aspiring to become judges.

**Membership.** This committee also is one of the most important of all AIS committees, and has the continuing objective of a minimum net yearly increase of 1,000 members, the active participation of all Regions and a drastic reduction in non-renewals. The committee works closely with the Regions and membership chairmen over the country. This program is

absolutely essential if a dynamic program of iris activities is to be maintained.

**Publications.** This committee has jurisdiction over the preparation, editing and publishing of all AIS publications, and is made up of the current *Bulletin* editor and the past *Bulletin* editor.

**Public Relations.** This is an extremely important activity in any organization. The committee promotes AIS activities and objectives, and tries to gain wider recognition of irises as an ideal garden flower. It creates and distributes articles and photographs to magazines, newspapers, wire services, syndicated columns and radio and TV stations.

**Registrations.** The American Iris Society is the International Registration Authority for all irises except bulbous. The AIS Registrar is a member of the committee, and has general oversight of the rules and regulations governing the registration and introduction of irises other than bulbous. This office maintains a voluminous file of registrations and introductions.

**Robins.** The Round Robin Program was adopted to facilitate a more widespread acquaintanceship among Society members and to provide an avenue through which irises can be freely and widely discussed. This program is divided into a number of divisions, each concerned with some special phase of iris interest.

**Scientific.** To meet the requirements of the iris-growing public, a Scientific Committee came into being many years ago. It emphasizes the promotion of improved cultural practices; more adequate disease and pest control; breeding for winter hardiness, vigor and disease-resistance; and cytotoxic and cytogenetic research. Included on this committee are cytologists, geneticists, taxonomists and plant pathologists.

**Slides.** This committee maintains a large collection of 35mm iris slide sets for rental. The sets range from species and historical irises to the newest of the very modern irises.

**Species.** This committee grew out of a fervent desire to know more about the various irises of nature. It functions as an educational means to provide some knowledge of all iris species, aids in their identification, gives clues to their cultivation and means of exchange of experience, and provides seeds from which to grow these plants.

**Regional Test Garden.** This committee has for its program the encouragement of regional test gardens, the formulation of a useful program, and the aid to the Regions in establishing these test gardens. The program is of particular value to the amateur hybridizer in out-of-way areas who has difficulty in getting his creations appraised by AIS judges. At the regional level, a competent test garden committee is assigned the responsibility of conducting the test garden program under the supervision of the RVP.

**Youth.** One of the "youngest" of AIS committees, it is engaged in an energetic program geared to intensify the interest of younger people in growing irises and becoming interested in the American Iris Society and its activities.

**Board of Counsellors.** The Second Vice President of the AIS is the officer primarily responsible for the administration of Regional affairs. He is the chairman of the Board of Counsellors, which consists of the twenty-four Regional Vice Presidents. He meets regularly with the Board of

Counsellors at each annual AIS meeting for a discussion of problems of Society interest.

### TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

When a new membership is received at the Society's central office, it is placed in one of two groups—"A" Group (January 1 through December 31) or "C" Group (July 1 through June 30). A member has the following types of membership to choose from:

Annual	Sustaining
Triennial	Research
Family Annual	Life
Family Triennial	Family Life

The membership rates are under Announcements in each Bulletin.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING

A meeting of the entire Society is held each year at iris-blooming time. The selection of the meeting site is made with the aim of making it as convenient as possible for some large segment of the membership to attend.

## REGISTRATION AND INTRODUCTION

Kay N. Negus

Perhaps the most compelling motive for the formation of The American Iris Society was the desire to have a registration and recording system so that irisarians and gardeners could buy irises under name, and be reasonably confident that the varieties were true to name. The letter of call for organization dated January 10, 1920, lists as the first objective "Compilation of a list of horticultural varieties, with their parentage, synonyms, originators and dates of introduction."

In the organization meeting on January 29, 1920, it was noted that "The confusion of names in nursery catalogs was mentioned, as was the lack of proper classification or description. To remedy these conditions it was proposed that the Society publish a catalog of all varieties in commerce."<sup>1</sup>

Work on Check Lists had been started in 1919 by Mr. R. S. Sturtevant, Mr. E. H. Krelage and Dr. John C. Wister. By March 1920 the Check List already had more than one thousand names, and by May of that year this had grown to 2,300 names. The early work of registration and classification was left with the Society officers and a committee of ten. "Mr. R. S. Sturtevant conducted a wide correspondence with Mr. A. J. Bliss, Mr. B. Y. Morrison, Mr. C. H. Hall and Dr. John C. Wister, in reference to a data card on which standardized descriptions could be readily entered."<sup>2</sup>

"In May 1920 the registration of new names was started . . . As early as September there were notations of names which had been changed at the request of the Committee of Nomenclature because the names conflicted with those of other irises in commerce, and in November a code of nomenclature was published."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dr. John C. Wister, unpublished paper, *"The First Fifteen Years of The American Iris Society."*



Charles E. F. Gersdorff  
(Registrar 1923-49)



Robert E. Allen  
(Registrar 1950-51)



Mrs. George D. Robinson  
(Registrar 1952-56)



Mrs. Walter Colquitt  
(Registrar 1957-65)



Kay N. Negus  
(Ass't. Registrar 1965 —)

In 1921 the Check List had come through six revisions, and authoritative descriptions of over five hundred varieties were ready for publication. The Check List and detailed variety descriptions were published in later *Bulletins*.

In 1924 the name of Mr. Charles E. F. Gersdorff appears as Chairman of the Registration Committee. In 1929 the *Alphabetical Iris Check List*, a volume of three hundred pages, was published, as a result of years of painstaking work, including the checking and rechecking of mimeographed check lists and catalogs and hundreds of letters to obtain accurate information. This volume, with Mr. Gersdorff as Registrar, and Mrs. Wheeler (Ethel Anson S.) Peckham as Editor, stands as a monumental achievement.



Every ten years thereafter the Society has published an alphabetical check list of irises registered and introduced during the ten-year period, and annual booklets of registrations and introductions. The 1939 *Alphabetical Iris Check List* again was the work of Mr. Gersdorff as Registrar and Mrs. Peckham as Editor. This 1939 Check List stands out as an even more monumental achievement, for it not only clarified and corrected, and duplicated all meaningful material, of the 1929 Check List, but added the data on varieties that had been registered and introduced. Both represent a prodigious amount of work by dedicated people.

The 1949 *Alphabetical Iris Check List* was prepared from the files of Mr. Gersdorff as Registrar and with Mr. Geddes Douglas as Editor. The 1959 *Iris Check List* was prepared by Mr. Harold Knowlton, assisted by Mr. Thomas E. Jacoby, from the files of three Registrars. Plans are being made for the 1969 *Iris Check List* to be published in 1970.

The Society has had five Registrars: Mr. Charles E. F. Gersdorff, who served until 1950; Mr. Robert E. Allen, 1950-51; Mrs. George D. Robinson, 1952-56; Mrs. Walter Colquitt, 1957-64; and Dr. J. Arthur Nelson, 1965—.

Originally registrations were free, but now a registration fee of three dollars is charged to cover part of the costs of record keeping and publishing the annual *Registrations and Introductions*. Introductions are recorded without charge.

In 1955 The American Iris Society was designated by the International Horticultural Council as the International Registration Authority for Irises (other than bulbous), and registrations and introductions from all over the world are recorded with the AIS Registrar.

A complete alphabetical file of registrations and introductions has been completed now, and is in the AIS Registrar's office. No effort has been made to count the number of name cards in these files, but it seems safe to estimate that they exceed 30,000.

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## FIFTY GLORIOUS YEARS OF IRIS HYBRIDIZING

Robert Schreiner

Just last year, 1969, man walked on the moon. How impossible such a venture seemed forty, thirty or even twenty years ago. As we review iris evolution from the founding of our Society to the present day, we experience a similar amazement. How wondrous are the achievements! How inspiring! Today the iris is one of the most glorious members of the floral world—glorious in its wide range of color, its beauty, its grace, its sculptured, ethereal form. Such intrinsic appeal does this magnificent flower possess that its admirers are legion.

### PRE-1920 IRIS HYBRIDIZERS

When our Society was founded in 1920, a considerable number of iris varieties were already growing in American gardens. The first hybridizing of magnitude occurred in two European locales, France and England. About the same time came the dawn of iris hybridizing in America. Additionally, the work of the German firm, Goos & Koeneman, contributed. France's

offerings came from Mons. Vilmorin, and the contemporary contributions from England were derived from the skilled hands of Messrs. Foster, Perry and Bliss. Their achievements were imported, and became valuable source material for the burgeoning interest in this fascinating work in this country. Since bearded irises are not native in this country, all foundation stock was brought over from Europe.

One of the unique occurrences in iris hybridizing has been the shifting of the scene of activity and production, and the emergence of master breeders in various sections of the country. As time passes, the contributions of one breeder diminishes, and there appears, in another place, other hybridizers to "carry the torch." The pattern likens itself to a flashing billboard—now one message or picture, then flash! another is depicted. So have the centers of iris creativity waxed and waned.

Without question, B. H. Farr of Wyomissing, Pa., was the outstanding early American iris hybridist. In his magnificent 1920 catalog, he listed over 250 tall bearded varieties, as well as intermediates, dwarfs and irises of other sections. His collection was the prize fount for new irises in the United States. Of interest, too, was his catalog with two full colored pages showing twenty-three irises of his own raising. Today, for sentimental reasons, we still grow his BRANDYWINE and QUAKER LADY, and we can appreciate how far the iris has progressed since 1915-20.

Another pioneer American hybridizer was W. J. Fryer of Mantorville, Minn. An indefatigable plantsman, isolated from close contact with other nurserymen, his plantings were an oasis of beauty in the central Midwest, and he produced numerous irises of his own creation, several of which figured in the important work of later breeders, such as Dr. Loomis.

To keep a balanced perspective of sources of iris materials in the years preceding, and closely following, 1920, it is important to visualize the vehicle that acquainted the gardening public with these fine new plants hybridizers had created. So, enter the iris specialist. The Wing Seed Co., of Mechanicsburg, Ohio, published a comprehensive listing of over 200 varieties in 1920. Theirs was a compendium of irises of both American and European sources. This catalog, along with Farr's book, was the "open sesame" to the wonderful and irresistible works of iris beauty for the searching irisarians of the day. In subsequent years, the publications of Lee R. Bonnewitz of Van Wert, Ohio, and the indispensable publications of Mrs. Douglas Pattison of Freeport, Ill., in the late 20's and 30's, provided the focal points for new iris lore and information. In England, the catalogs of R. W. Wallace of Tunbridge Wells served a like function, as through them the epochal work of A. J. Bliss was offered.

Grace Sturtevant of Wellesley Farms, Mass., issued a catalog, which in 1924 mentions that ten years prior she had exhibited iris seedlings at the Massachusetts Horticultural Exhibition, and by 1917 had progressed to the point of having named fifty new irises! The name Sturtevant looms large and importantly in early iris affairs; Miss Sturtevant in the creation of new irises, and her brother, Robert, as a long-serving, loyal and hard-working secretary and editor in the American Iris Society. Notable among Miss Sturtevant's many achievements was her creation of the white irises. TAJ MAHAL and SNOW WHITE. She perfected, as well, several fine lavender-orchids such as DREAM and WILD ROSE. Even more important were

her studies and experiments in the creation of pure yellow varieties. Through her careful analysis of seedling yields and a study of genetics, her patient and painstaking work brought forth the renowned SHEKINAH and the deeper GOLD IMPERIAL. Through Miss Sturtevant's work in comparison and study of breeding records, joined with the knowledge of Mr. Bliss, which she gleaned from correspondence with him, the authentic information concerning the genetic behavior of plicatas acting as Mendelian recessives was published. This was a concept of immeasurable value to future breeders and a giant gain of time. Iris lovers are sharers, and iris information, whether it be on culture or breeding, has been generously exchanged. International sharing and good will has been characteristic in iris progress. Today iris culture is world wide, because of this generosity.

It is difficult to mention every worker and contributor to the development of our favorite flower without writing an exhaustive time. Omission will be made of many workers, but such lack is not to be construed as an oversight. Rather, it is because all we can hope to survey in this review is some of the highlights.

A hybridizer whose foundation breeding was being laid during this period was the venerable E. B. Williamson of Bluffton, Ind. His variety LENT A. WILLIAMSON will enter in the lists as one of the very prominent contributors to many fine irises in the years ahead.

Now across the sea to England. Here we find some of the charter workers for irises in the modern pattern. Sir Michael Foster as early as 1905 gave us the popular CRUSADER and the iris which was to prove to be an epochal white, KASHMIR WHITE. These were true cornerstones in the development of modern day irises. George Yeld and Sir Arthur Hort made particular use of some of the new Asiatic species that were finding their way into western gardens and produced ASIA (Yeld) and ANN PAGE and THESEUS (Hort).

It was for A. J. Bliss that the highest accolades are reserved, however. His careful genetic appraisal and research of irises extant at his time was published in the 1917 volume of the Royal Horticulture Society, and this study was a beacon light to many a questioning potential iris hybridist. The pinnacle of his many varied achievements was the production of the iris DOMINION, and the seedlings it produced, known as the Dominion race. A new characteristic was added to the iris picture with its advent. Varieties such as SWAZI, BRUNO, GRACE STURTEVANT, MRS. VALERIE WEST, were among the famous irises from this lineage. These, in turn, offered new foundations to iris breeders with their invaluable assemblage of new characters.

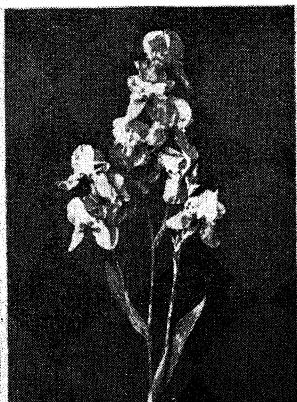
### THE RISING CHORUS

The years 1920 to 1925 perhaps can be likened to a pink-enshrouded dawn foretelling a fine day. The interleaving of contributions from several areas of activity joined in a rising chorus. Many new breeders came to the fore. Iris history was being made. The founding of the American Iris Society in 1920 became the pivotal point for information. A gardener in Maine or California, Georgia or Washington State, could hear or read about the experiences of other iris personalities and learn of new varieties. Without the invaluable function of the iris society in handling registrations of iris names, chaos would have become the rule. Even in 1923 there already were two

irises named **MAGNIFICA**—one in America and one in England. Which was the *true* variety? One of the first and most vital functions was to clarify nomenclature. Without it, present-day iris information would be a shambles. Likewise, the importance of rating an iris to establish norms of excellence was realized. From the very outset, score cards offered a standard of perfection to which a breeder could aspire as well as to offer a critique of what an iris could be judged by. F. X. Schreiner missed being a charter member of the American Iris Society by a few months. His first knowledge that a society had been formed was found in a notice in one of the gardening magazines. So, on the occasion of a business trip to New York in 1921, he arranged a visit with John Wister, our first president, at which time not only a life-long friendship began, but the very first efforts for a more workable color classification. An outgrowth of this was the eventual yearly Symposium sponsored by the Society to ascertain which irises enjoyed the greatest favor with the members. Some iris folks enjoy exhibiting their prize blooms and the first showing of **KASHMIR WHITE**, entered in the St. Paul, Minn., Iris Society show in 1925, lit the fuse for iris enthusiasm in that area.



**MOA** (Bliss '19)



**MORWELL** (Bliss '19)



**MARSH MARIGOLD**  
(Bliss '19)

This seems the logical place to comment on an additional important phase of the iris picture and the development of the iris flower. Prior to 1920, with the exception of less than a half dozen known varieties, all the irises being grown were the smaller flowered diploids. The range of color and blendings and shadings were beautiful. But by 1925 the great influence of the *large* tetraploid species from the Near East was being seen. Since these were, in the main, tones of lavender-blue and lavender-purple, the resultant hybrids were, understandably, tones of lavender-blue to dark violet. The tetraploids were large flowered, many budded, and had branched stems. For a span of time these hybrids dominated the scene, and we got improved, larger varieties in the more commonly occurring hues of blue, lavender, velvety purple, mahogany plum and brownish shades. Other colors, such as white, pure yellow and pastel tints were non-existent in comparable quality and size to their more sombre colored brethren. Some of the intriguing history from 1925 to 1930 is the story of the emergence of the first large white irises to equal their blue-colored garden partners.

## THE ADVANCE

With quality seemingly stabilized in the blues and darker colors which boasted large size, the yellow, white and more delicate tints were found only in the smaller diploids. But they too now moved forward. An outstanding key to the big forward advance in white irises was the variety KASHMIR WHITE (Foster, Eng.). Because of the inherent tenderness of the near eastern irises, coming, as they did, from a mild country which grew olive trees, the hybrids of these irises grew better in the more favorable climes. In France MICHELINE CHARRIER (Millet) was one of the most promising new large whites. Yet it was right here in America that the great iris breeder, William Mohr, raised a new hybrid, a large flowered white named ARGENTINA. It did not prove robust in the majority of the United States, but it offered the way. Using it, Mr. Mohr produced the peerless white PURISSIMA. While still a bit tender or miffy as a grower in sections where winter means cold, PURISSIMA was such a great achievement that had Mr. Mohr not produced another iris we would have been forever in his debt. PURISSIMA produced, in turn, that keystone of irises, SNOW FLURRY, which no doubt was one of the most influential breeders of fine irises for thirty years.

We will defer the story of the Sass brothers and their outstanding work, but at this time we want to mention that it was at this time that Jake Sass made a memorable trip to California and brought back with him many of the Mohr mesopotamian hybrids. And the same cross that produced PURISSIMA for Mr. Mohr produced the white iris WAMBLISKA for Mr. Sass. It was a white that proved hardier in most parts than PURISSIMA. So with PURISSIMA and WAMBLISKA, along with the huge white iris GUDRUN (Mrs. Dykes, Eng.), we have the stem source of a great majority of the present-day high caliber white irises. And since white and blue are closely related, some of the quality light blues stem from these famous varieties. An interesting example of the transplanting of breeding stock comes from Concord, N. H., where first Dr. Robert Graves, and then Ed Watkins, produced fine whites and light blues, like LADY BOSCAWEN, HELEN McKENZIE and HELEN McGREGOR, a Dykes medalist. Here was an adaptation to the rugged New England location by selectivity for hardiness in the white hybrids that originally came from PURISSIMA. Today the white irises enjoy fully the same degree of excellence as do the finely bred blue irises, for example. In fact, perusal of the Dykes Medal winners for the last fifteen years reveals great popularity of blue and of white varieties. The most recent white iris to be honored with this award is the splendid white from Mrs. Tom (Opal) Brown, WINTER OLYMPICS.

Let us now return to Mt. Eden, Calif., for another chapter in iris creativity. For a number of years William Mohr had been following the program of combining the finer colors and patterns of the older diploids with some of the mesopotamian species. The work with white irises was but one facet. He started innumerable probes into many areas. Since we can examine only one at a time, let us pursue next his triumphant work with plicatas. There is no telling what summit Mr. Mohr might have reached had not his life been taken suddenly in a tragic auto accident. Prof. Sidney B. Mitchell, a close friend and associate of Mr. Mohr, took up the torch



Carl S. Milliken



William Mohr

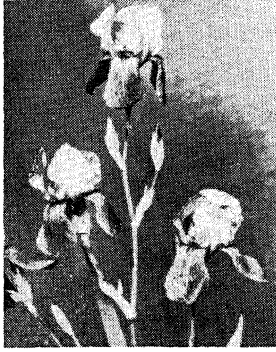


Sydney B. Mitchell

upon Mr. Mohr's death, and it is through his eyes and his records that we see the fruition of the crosses they planned together. Mr. Mohr and Mr. Mitchell had set out to produce finer plicatas. Just as planned, after a study of the records of earlier breeders, including Bliss and Sturtevant, the efforts bore fruit and the new plicatas arrived. They were named SAN FRANCISCO (the first Dykes Medal) and LOS ANGELES. In Nebraska Jake Sass likewise availed himself of the promising amalgam of the Mohr-Mitchell hybrids, and his use of CONQUISTADOR (Mohr), a plicata carrier, gave the Sass brothers the beginning of a new line of plicatas. Mr. Mitchell continued his work, and since good news travels fast, many breeders availed themselves of this important amalgam which yielded superior plicatas. Today, Jim Gibson of Porterville, Calif., is the fine example of the indefatigable hybridizer who has specialized in a particular color class, and his plicata productions in the revolute, ruffly buff, copper, tan and brown shades are wonderful elaborations on those first Mohr-Mitchell plicatas.

Sharing the seeming lack of advancement in quality with the whites were the pure yellow irises. Perhaps the breakthrough in whites may be one-half step ahead, but closely following, and to a degree interrelated, has been the improvement in yellow irises. W. R. Dykes of England, author of that monumental book, *The Genus Iris*, had planted some seeds of a cross that was to produce an iris that had the entire iris world agog. It was the yellow iris posthumously named W. R. DYKES. Appearing as an emblazoned yellow comet, this iris was huge, marred with some surface venation, true, but until this time no yellow iris had this monumental size. And it was a tetraploid and thus could produce other large flowered yellow irises. Here was a breeder's iris. It was, in fact, offered for sale at \$100 per rhizome, and to import it into the United States there was the added cost of customs duty, which at that time was \$33.00—so the total investment of \$133.00 was centered on one rhizome!

But there was more than one road to the big golden iris. It was known that some of the darker irises that had influences of brown in their makeup had in reality a combination of yellow and purple pigmentation. So the question was . . . what would happen if one of the new tetraploid white irises was crossed with one of these brown tinted irises? The answer: some



ALCAZAR  
(Vilmorin '10)



LENT A. WILLIAMSON  
(Williamson '18)



POWHATAN  
(above: Farr '13)

RED CLOUD  
(below: Farr '13)



Clara Rees



Carl Salback



Stafford Jory



BRUNO  
(Bliss '22)



COPPER LUSTRE  
(Kirkland '34)



SNOW FLURRY  
(Rees '39)

yellow irises would occur. So we have this method of extraction of yellow exemplified by the development of the Mohr-Mitchell ALTA CALIFORNIA, which was the product of the test cross, and refined examples such as CALIFORNIA GOLD. Mohr-Mitchell hybrids involving the use of W. R. DYKES included the sensational HAPPY DAYS. In the Midwest, Schrein-ers used it to combine with the diploid yellow, PLUIE D'OR, to produce GOLDEN TREASURE. Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge in Oregon, using the technique of crossing a white with a brown, produced GOLDBEATER. The Sass brothers in their own particular hybridizing program extracted OLA KALA; and the prize winning Dykes Medal yellow of 1948, SPUN GOLD, (Glutzbeck) struck the vein of gold within the iris spectrum. Greater prizes were yet to come in this magnificent color class.

The years 1925 to 1935, enriched by the great steps forward in the emergence of the new, large flowered white and yellow irises, brought forth a great expansion in iris hybridizing. Fine white irises that were hardy and pure appeared. Sensational large flowered yellow irises were introduced. Adjacent to Mr. Mitchell's garden in Berkeley, Calif., the firm of Carl Salbach took over the dissemination of the Mohr-Mitchell hybrids to the gardening public. Mr. Salbach, too, developed some very fine irises, including the incomparable LADY MOHR. It was the Salbach Gardens that introduced the famous SNOW FLURRY and the Gardens continued as a center in iris culture until the 1950's. Two other professors from the University also contributed to iris advancement, Prof. Stafford Jory, whose special interest was the hybrids from the rare oncocyclis iris WILLIAM MOHR, and the perfecter of blue irises, Prof. E. O. Essig, known especially for his excellent creation, SIERRA BLUE.

With the perfecting of the new white and blue irises, the stage was set for the next big break in the iris kingdom. Let us first review iris developments elsewhere while California work was coming to public attention. It is one of the interesting aspects of iris development that parallel creativity occurred in various, separated areas of the country while the work in California was proceeding, yet their results were not dependent, or built, on California originations. However, before we explore the work in these other areas, there is one additional area in California which should be mentioned. In Pasadena, in the very early 20's, Mrs. J. J. Dean originated an iris and named it SAN GABRIEL. It was a unique iris, especially for California. It was very tall, large and even inclined to repeat bloom. Unfortunately, it was tender and did not thrive in the north. Iris interest in the area attracted Carl Milliken, of Sunkist orange fame, and on his retirement he purchased Mrs. Dean's garden and subsequently hybridized many fine irises, his CHINA MAID perhaps being the best known of his introductions. He likewise introduced the irises of Prof. Essig and several other breeders through his catalog. In Redlands S. S. Berry had an exceptional collection, admired and sought out by collectors. And it was in the same city that the famed C. G. White had his fine collection. His superb work in developing a specialized strain of oncocyclis irises, known presently as the aril hybrids, remains without peer to this day.

Concurrently contributing new iris developments were locales in Nebraska, Tennessee and Illinois. At Freeport, Ill., was the garden of Mrs. Douglas Pattison, called Quality Gardens. Though not a hybridizer's garden, this



probably was the most famous garden in America at this time. Through the aegis of her exceptionally fine catalog, the newest irises from Europe were offered to gardeners throughout America, and along with new importations she offered the productions of Dr. Wylie Ayres and John D. Wareham of Cincinnati, Ohio. Both of these gentlemen had a specialty, that of developing progeny of the famous DOMINION race. INDIAN CHIEF and MELODORIC were two of Dr. Ayres' sterling creations, while TIGER TIGER became one of the most popular of Mr. Wareham's many fine offerings. Mrs. Pattison's catalog listed many fine new irises and it was eagerly looked forward to each year. Her magnificent color plates did much to popularize the iris in America, particularly in areas where people had no opportunity to see the flowering iris.

This seems an appropriate place to interject another important observation. We have talked about the important landmark qualities that the new tetraploid species of the East exerted on iris breeding, particularly in relation to size of flowers. It would be remiss if we did not mention as well the impact of the Asiatic species with their contributions of equal, if not exceeding, importance. The branched, candelabra stem with many buds originated from this source. Until this important feature was brought into our garden hybrids, the earlier varieties simply lacked it entirely. And another aspect loomed importantly in new irises that were being developed; selections were being made where a lesser amount of veining appeared in the hafts. The species variegata had a strong haft pattern, veined in some cases over nearly fifty percent of the falls. Many, many irises in the diploid hybrids carried this heavy haft venation, or marking, in their inheritance. Slowly, but with persistent and careful selection, the haft pattern was gradually refined and "quieted down", until now, after a period of almost fifty years, it is practically non-existent. This factor was immensely important in the development of the beauty of the iris flower, purity of color, without venation, being of supreme appeal. We can mention this accomplishment in a few lines, but what years of diligence and patience were exercised by our early breeders to attain this goal. How much we owe to these early visionaries!

So keeping in mind that Freeport was the constant beacon to prominent iris breeders and fanciers, let us move on now to Indiana, where three people immediately come to mind. E. B. Williamson, whose LENT A. WILLIAMSON we mentioned earlier, produced many extremely fine varieties. Regrettably, space does not permit a more detailed account of Mr. Williamson's accomplishments, but we must mention two of his irises that were truly outstanding in the iris story. DOLLY MADISON was a superb blend, a derivative of LENT A. WILLIAMSON; and his red E. B. WILLIAMSON (named posthumously) was the fruition of years of work in this difficult color class. His contributions embraced another hard-to-develop color class, the amoenas. His WABASH, introduced in 1936, is treasured to this very day. A junior partner, who eventually soared to great heights in hybridizing, was Paul Cook. More of Mr. Cook anon. Also in Indiana was a unique iris personality, E. G. Lapham. He served our Society as treasurer for many years and in addition carved a unique niche for himself in original iris breeding thought. The colors that presented the most challenge to create were pink and red. And in his breeding work it was to these colors, and these alone that he addressed himself. It was a formidable challenge.

His friendship with Franklin B. Meade, of Fort Wayne, Ind., who produced the iris KING MIDAS, and his close contact, first with E. B. Williamson, and then with Paul Cook, represents a chapter of iris specialization that is a story in itself (AIS Bul., Oct. 1968, pp 10 ff.). Among his more famous red iris introductions were RED GLEAM and PACEMAKER.

### DOWN IN DIXIE

A unique center of iris culture, where iris lore was being written, was the South, particularly Nashville, Tenn. Reports began to be heard of three gentlemen of that city who were doing great things with irises, Clarence Connell, Dr. J. H. Kirkland and T. A. Washington. Nashville, known as the Athens of the South, was the home of these three idealists whose contributions were large. Mr. Connell produced the red DAUNTLESS, Dykes Medal winner in 1929, the second iris in America to win the Dykes Medal. His special contribution in this iris was that through it future aspiring hybridizers had the gateway to greater things. We admire and compare the new with kinds we already know and enjoy, but some few irises, more than others, prove to be such invaluable keystones to the future that they must be rated as great. Such an iris was DAUNTLESS.

Dr. J. H. Kirkland, a man revered in education circles, found great pleasure in creative gardening, and iris hybridizing was enticing to one so interested. His greatest contributions probably were COPPER LUSTRE, a new color that startled irisdom, and VIOLET CROWN. This latter iris, while a combination of mesopotamian and hardier garden irises, like many others, was a unique iris breeder. Were it not for VIOLET CROWN, the entire family of orchid irises, capped, at a later date, by the production of AMETHYST FLAME, would not have been possible.

Mr. Washington's taste in iris varied. In the bearded, one of his most renowned was that surprising blend which came from KING MIDAS, named MARY GEDDES. It achieved that pinnacle of acclaim, the Dykes Medal, in 1936. Yet this section of the iris family was not his only interest. He developed several fine beardless irises, both in the American native and in the spuria section.

These three pioneer breeders in Nashville brought the inspiration. Younger men came along in Washville and carried on. Jesse Wills, to whom the Society owes such a debt of gratitude for his long, loyal and loving service to the Society, began to hybridize in many and varied color classes. His CHIVALRY won the Dykes Medal in 1947. Others of great value were RUSSET WINGS, STARSHINE, BELLE MEADE, to name but a few. His interest continues to the present day, centering particularly in the rose-red shades and the yellow amoenas, two classes most difficult to advance. It is a tribute to Mr. Will's persistence and dedication that he tackled color patterns which do not yield easily. Another Nashville grower, with especially close contacts with Mr. Washington, was Geddes Douglas. As an iris breeder, he took on the challenge of working in the difficult amoena class. His more renowned advances would include first EXTRAVAGANZA, then continue to GAYLORD and on to BRIGHT HOUR. It is to Mr. Douglas, too, that we owe thanks for the editorship of the *Bulletin* for many years. How an iris breeder found time to help in this time-consuming job, we shall never know. In addition, he served as secretary of the Society.

From Nashville, iris culture expanded into the Carolinas, down to Georgia

and Mississippi and over into western Tennessee, where the gardens of John Pierce, our late president Robert Carney, and the beloved Serlena Reynolds drew irisarians.

### ON THE PLAINS

The third exciting center of iris interest in these early days was out on the wheat and corn growing plains of Nebraska. There, on separate but nearby farms, lived the two Sass brothers, Hans and Jake. As early as 1910 these flower loving farmers were growing and enjoying ornamentals of many kinds. Practically isolated from all contact with other contemporary iris hybridizers, these two men walked a path similar to the other breeders, first working with diploids, of which their efforts in sanded plicatas like KING KARL and JUBILEE have not been replicated to this day. Their early use of the new tetraploid species, coupled with the successful crossing with their own attainments in diploid irises, laid a foundation stock for a hardy race of weather-resistant irises admirably suited to the varying climes of America. Theirs were the gardens which originated such startling irises as KING TUT, BALDWIN, THE RED DOUGLAS, RAMESES, MIDGARD, NOWETA, the eagerly sought after PINK SATIN, and later PRAIRIE SUNSET. There is no question but that a most profound influence on present-day irises stemmed from the Sass gardens. Their contributions were stamina and hardiness and such a diversity of coloring. A true fountain of inspiration was here for the many visitors who came from far and near to see their creations. Theirs was some of the most sagacious iris breeding being performed.



Serlena Reynolds



Edward Watkins

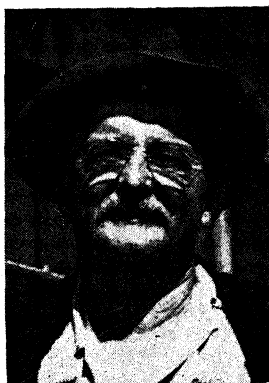


Elizabeth Nesmith

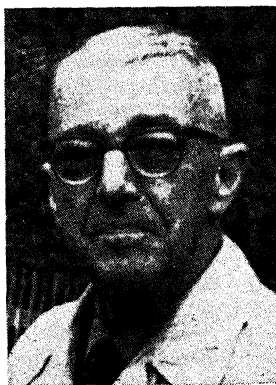
Following closely on the emergence of these early pioneers in iris work, several centers in the eastern United States came into prominence. In New England we find several breeders of note, as well as commercial growers who distributed these new beauties to the gardening public. Mrs. Thomas Nesmith of Lowell, Mass., and Mrs. W. M. Kellogg of Hartford, Conn., did some valuable hybridizing, and, of equal value, had fine iris catalogs. Close by, in Worcester, Mass., was the charming garden of that discerning hybridist, W. J. McKee. He served as president of our Society, and offered

a judicious selection of his seedlings as well. His most important contribution probably was TRIM, which was the first extremely branched red iris. It passed this very rare trait on to its progeny. Close by our nation's capital, the gardens of J. M. Shull, offering his attainments in a small price list, hit the jackpot with several exceedingly fine irises for their day. MORNING SPLENDOR was perhaps the most famous. The particular feature, again, was that finely branched stem, a product of the development of those ever important new tetraploid irises from the Near East.

We vault now to another source of iris inspiration, to far off Colorado. Here Dr. P. A. Loomis developed some monumental irises. He too trod the same inquiring path of other breeders, such as the Sasses and Mohr-Mitchell, and made use of the finer irises extant with eastern tetraploids, coupling them with some of the more bright colored diploids, such as Mr. Fryer's. While his contributions were not numerous, their importance was great. When the need for a good yellow became apparent, he developed CHROMYLLA. Then his MOROCCO ROSE brought forth bravos, a real leap forward in the deeper pink to rose colored iris that previously had been so limited in progress. ELMOHR, a seedling from WILLIAM MOHR, proved to be his most outstanding achievement, combining the uniqueness of the oncocyclis with the easier growing qualities of our garden irises. In close association with Mrs. Pattison, his fine irises were able to get great distribution and recognition through her fine catalog. They justly deserved it!



Fred DeForest



Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge



"Chet" Tompkins

Our next visit is even further west, to the gardens of Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge of Silverton, Ore. The irises from his garden fill quite a unique niche in American iris history. It is interesting to note how many of our early architects in iris splendor all became aware of the uniqueness of irises around the late 1920's, and how each, individually, collected what irises he could, and added as soon as possible the newer tetraploids; and yet each garden, or area, developed its own unique results, a reflection of the hybridizer himself, no doubt. The gardens of Dr. Kleinsorge were hybridizing gardens. His irises were offered to the gardeners of America through the garden of Rholin Cooley, whose splendid catalogs over a span of time almost as long

as the Society itself, introduced many a potential iris fancier to the beauty and pleasure of iris growing. The first challenge Dr. Kleinsorge met and surmounted was the production of the big yellow, TREASURE ISLAND. An interest in the color brown yielded some exceptional irises as Dr. Kleinsorge developed this hue. His FAR WEST, a sunset colored iris, and then his famous, though not easy to grow, TOBACCO ROAD, sired a race of brown irises that included BRYCE CANYON and CASCADE SPLENDOR. The latter was surely one of the finest irises for many, many years. I always have wondered why it was never awarded the Dykes Medal.

In surveying the iris panorama, our spectra have become so expansive that it is no longer possible now to go down the list, one, two, three, in color, any more than it is to consider the rainbow and say here is the red, here is orange, here is the yellow. There is an infinite gradation in coloring. The breeders we have discussed were the founding fathers. Their irises were used by the next generation of breeders to make the next forward step. In some ways the period from 1930 to 1940 could be considered a polishing, or finishing period. Many breeders, taking some of the very first important cross combinations, such as the DOMINION children, or the breaks to new whites and yellows, developed superior refinements in these types. An important feature has been building up with the germ plasma of the iris during "the perfecting period." Through two or more generations of recombinations of genetic inheritances, coupling the color genes of iris variegata and the early mutant color patterns with the new Asiatic tetraploids, an entirely new genetic color balance could be possible. It appeared!

### THE FLAMINGOS

Ideas are germinated through stimulation. Two iris gardens in the Midwest, Mrs. Pattison's at Freeport, Ill., and the Sass' at Omaha, Nebr., sort of twin stars, were the gathering points where many an iris fancier first viewed the new iris wonders. In Chicago an attorney heard of a garden to the west that had sensational irises, so a visit was made to Freeport. Word also trickled in about the unique irises in Omaha, so a trip there was in order. Such was the baptism of irisis for David F. Hall, of Wilmette, Ill. This revelation was repeated in many, many instances. Sometimes the locale changed. The impact of the Nebraska gardens spread into contiguous areas of Kansas and Missouri, and up north to Minnesota and the Dakotas, and iris collections began to appear there. But with Omaha and Freeport relatively close, these two centers, while individually distinct, were together the greatest source of new irises, and from them the parade of beauty for many gardens and for many breeders began.

It is singular that the appearance of the new kind of pink iris, popularly known as flamingo pink, should occur in several sectors simultaneously. Until the flamingo pinks appeared, iris folks had to be satisfied with lavender or orchid pinks. The three origins most widely known and used were the sources in Wilmette, Omaha and Colorado Springs. It was at Wilmette that the full impact of this new race of color was felt. Mr. Hall, for example, made use of RAMESES (Sass), DOLLY MADISON (Williamson), DAUNTLESS (Connell), W. R. DYKES (Dykes) and MOROCCO ROSE (Loomis). From these came his famous flamingo pinks. Early on the scene DREAM GIRL appeared, followed by CHERIE, the Dykes Medalist for 1951. Ever searching for a finer iris, many superior pinks came



David Hall



Agnes Whiting



Orville Fay

from the hand of Mr. Hall. HAPPY BIRTHDAY was the one most widely grown and admired.

Close by Mr. Hall, almost a next door neighbor, was another great iris grower, an intense, studious iris personality, Orville Fay. He was a keen iris judge whose first offering in pinks was named PINK CAMEO. Widely distributed, it quickly shot up in the popularity lists. The flamingo pink story has another headlight in occurrence in the seedlings of Dr. Loomis. He introduced SEA SHELL and the deeper SPINDRIFT. A new interest appeared and a quickened tempo came to the iris world with the arrival of these new pinks.

Though Mr. Hall's fame is coupled with the flamingo pinks, his interest covered a wide range of color. His pursuits embraced seedling work in as expansive an area as plicata, deep fuchsia rose, yellow, many interesting blends—truly an astonishing range. When we think of Wilmette, we also think of Orville Fay. His irises were extremely discerning selections, and included that most famous and lovely white, NEW SNOW, light blues, and darker hues like GULF STREAM, and of extreme importance, his grand and wonderful MARY RANDALL, a new key breeder. Just as a golden age is probably appreciated and enjoyed more in retrospect, so too do we recognize the irises which were the kingpins only years after their original appearance. Mr. Fay, the proud possessor of three Dykes Medals for his TRULY YOURS, MARY RANDALL and RIPPLING WATERS, can survey his contributions to the iris picture with justifiable pride.

There were several isolated hybridizers farther east who carried on an extremely vital program of iris improvement. Col. J. C. Nicholls of Ithaca, N. Y., in particular, coupled an intensive study of iris breeding with an expanded pollinating program. He was the first to make use of the DOMINION progeny in his work. And the progress he effected in the white and the yellow factors produced some extremely fine, high ranking hybrids. His two most famous irises were VALOR, a velvety violet-blue, and MARY E. NICHOLLS, a magnolia finished cream-white. Another eastern grower, L. Merton Gage, of Natick Mass., produced GLORIOLE, a wisteria blue, and ROSY WINGS, a rosy copper which eventually won the Dykes Medal.

Another who worked alone was Dr. Harry L. Grant of Louisville, Ky. His irises represented a sort of happy blending of Nashville irises crossed with varieties from several sources. His red **DISPLAY** was the most widely grown of his creations.

Earlier we mentioned E. B. Williamson and his association with Paul Cook. Mr. Cook eventually worked independently and unquestionably became one of the most distinguished iris breeders America ever had. A leading exponent of line breeding and ultra refinement, his prolific hand produced a series of irises that read like a litany of greats. Some of his earlier irises included **SABLE**, and red irises like **COPPER ROSE**, **RED-WARD**, **RELENTLESS**. There were those important orchid-lavender irises, **DREAMCASTLE** and **HARRIET THOREAU**, too. And light blue **DISTANCE**. Mr. Cook's forte was care in selection, intense study, and a breeding program that has been admired throughout the flower world. His dark iris productions were outstanding. His later development of **WHOLE CLOTH**, with its myriad possibilities for new two-tone and amoena color patterns, has not been fully explored or utilized to this day. It is difficult to list all of his outstanding creations, but a few would include **ALLEGIANCE**, **WHOLE CLOTH**, **SABLE NIGHT**, **EMMA COOK**. Five pages, ten pages, could be written about Mr. Cook, yet one would have to stop with the knowledge that only a small portion of his work had been reported. His interest was wide, with the little dwarf as well as the tall bearded. Mr. E. G. Lapham, who was interested in red irises, found it a difficult task to improve this color class. Advancements came slowly. Mr. Cook and Mr. Lapham lived close to each other, and had a great friendship and common interest in the development of the red class. So today, the memorial cup, called the Cook-Lapham Cup, is awarded to the red iris voted upon each year by the Society members.

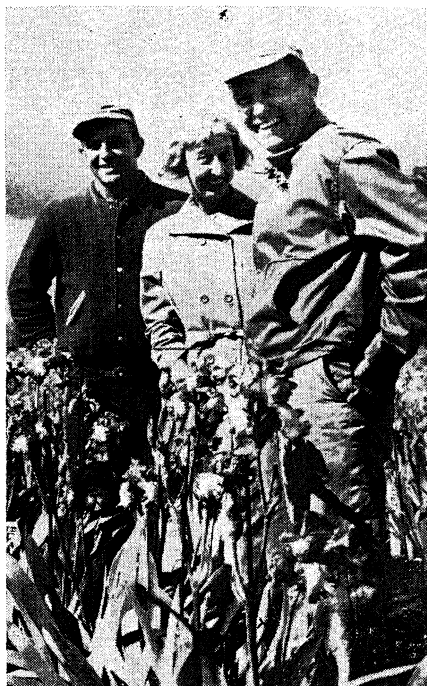
As we travel north and west, another iris center is reached in Minnesota, where F. X. Schreiner of St. Paul had been cataloguing and distributing irises since 1925. Mr. Schreiner's concentration embodied two ideas, to bring order to the confusion of multitudinous varieties and to publish a list of the 100 Best Irises. To this end his color classification was evolved, and from it one could make comparisons of irises of like color. It became a source of information, since it embraced a most extensive collection of irises gathered from all America and from European sources as well. His interest and absorption in rating irises as to quality soon led to the publishing of the selection of the 100 Best Iris in his *Iris Lover's Catalog*. His three children, Robert, Constance and Bernard, continued the commercial enterprise of their father, first in Minnesota and later in Oregon, moving there in 1947.

Seedling raising has been carried on by the Schreiners since 1927. The first irises considered worthwhile and offered for introduction were the yellow hybrids from W. R. Dykes. The most widely admired was **GOLDEN TREASURE**. It was in a class in genetics at the University of Minnesota, and the study of chromosomes in the botany lab, that fired the imagination for iris breeding. Then came the translations of Marc Simonet's articles from the French . . . **Comptes Rendues**. Simonet's research signaled the epochal phase iris breeding was going through; that is, the emergence of the tetraploids with all of their superiority. And the surprising fact

emerged that in certain rare instances a fertile tetraploid plant *could* be obtained from a mating of a diploid with a tetraploid, rather than the expected sterile triploid plant, as happens with far greater frequency in the plant kingdom. GOLDEN TREASURE is such an example, a cross of the diploid PLUIE D'OR with the tetraploid W. R. DYKES. The beginnings of the famous Dykes Medalist, AMETHYST FLAME, began way back with the cross of Dr. Kirkland's VIOLET CROWN, a tetraploid, with a Sass diploid, NOWETA. It was to lay the foundation genes for the orchid strain that still is being amplified, for example the newer DREAM TIME. Having taken a course in genetics under the renowned geneticist, Dr. H. Hayes, of hybrid corn fame, a conscious effort has been made to bring together the best from various breeders, selecting and combining them to induce great hybridity and to couple the good features from each breeder's developments. A second goal was the effort to raise a large number of seedlings from a given cross, in the expectation that the chances for more perfected recombination of good qualities could be expressed. BLUE SAPPHIRE, the Schreiners' first Dykes Medal iris, represents the theory of taking a superb breeder, SNOW FLURRY, and combining it with a vigorous, hardy blue, CHIVALRY. It is common knowledge that blue and white irises can be crossed to produce superior whites and blues, and it remains a procedural rule for anyone working in these color classes. One of the breeding breaks to appear in the Schreiner gardens was BLACK FOREST. Here the principle of combining the best available dark iris with an infusion of another species, *I. aphylla*, via DYMIA, produced a variety that became a keystone for many breeders. A series of dark irises were developed, of which TUXEDO is perhaps the best in a long line of this color. The plicata STEPPING OUT, in turn, again follows the same path, use of an early diploid, the dark French variety, HELAINE, raised to the tetraploid status, and then mated with others of the plicata strain. The family interest included all colors, but red irises have been a special favorite, with a continuing stream of candidates reflected, for example, WAR LORD. In brown irises, again an intensive program yielded some fortunate turns, such as BRASS ACCENTS, bright OLYMPIC TORCH, and the very brown, highly regarded, GINGERSNAP. It is difficult to write about one's own experiences, but working with irises has been the most rewarding part of our lives, and is constantly relived with pleasure.

In Iowa two gardens brought forth a steady flow of fine irises. Agnes Whiting of Mapleton lived close to the Sass gardens, and full appreciation of Sass foundation stock liberally laced her work. Her famous BLUE RHYTHM, Dykes Medal winner of 1950, probably was her most outstanding creation, yet numerous other fine irises came from her gifted hand, including TECHNICOLOR, an important red breeder. Fine yellows, such as CLOTH OF GOLD, were developed, and another important red, GARDEN GLORY. An orchid-lavender, PATHFINDER, opened the way for finer lavenders. Schreiners, in particular, found this an invaluable breeder. MAYTIME, a striking bitone, is a great favorite, and a series of blends, stemming from the Sass MATULA, laid the foundation for the later laced irises. Just a short distance from the Whittings lived Chet Tompkins. He too enjoyed close proximity to the Sass brothers. Mr. Tompkins himself mentions that his early iris interest was the result of the influence of an





The Schreiners: Bernard, Connie and Robert.



Mr. and Mrs. Robin Cooley

early visit to Mrs. Pattison, plus visits to the Sass fields. These influences were shown in the products of his garden. Were Mr. Tompkins to have achieved only one iris, **DEFIANCE**, his name would be forever remembered in iris history. This iris, while not such a good garden plant, had that extra in red gene inheritance which offered Mr. Lapham, the Schreiners, as well as his own breeding, the most important advance in red since the evolution of the tetraploid stage. His **ALLAGLOW**, a light blend, the very fine bi-tone **CAMELOT ROSE**, the silky **STARBURST** and **TINSEL TOWN** represent a quartet of recent contributions from Mr. Tompkins, who continues the association with the flowers he so dearly loves at Canby, Ore.

Let us look back to Staten Island, N. Y., where from the garden of Kenneth B. Smith came a series of yellow, blue, white, blended and amoena irises, starting in 1939. It was in blues that Mr. Smith excelled. His **SOUTH PACIFIC** was a particularly excellent production. Mention should be made of his own particular specialty, the creation of new varieties in that hard-to-develop line, amoenas. The earlier **LOUISE BLAKE**, and later **HELEN COLLINGWOOD** and **ELIZABETH NOBLE**, remain even today most worthwhile in the conventional amoena pattern.

There comes to mind two breeders in the central Midwest who created only a limited number of irises, but whose developments had extremely important impact on future developments. Mr. Suber of Clinton, Ia., raised seedlings from only one cross, **CRUSADER X BLUE BOY**, and produced

DYMIA and NARAIN, which Mrs. Pattison catalogued. J. H. Grinter, of Independence, Mo., produced less than a score, but two were of the utmost importance in the evolution of irises. One was MISSOURI, a Dykes Medal winner; the other was GARDEN MAGIC, a big step forward in red development.

During this time an interesting phase of iris form was simmering in Utah. Colorado boasted the well-known gardens of J. D. Long, of Boulder, and the hybridizing gardens of Dr. Loomis. David Hall had sent some of his new flamingo pinks to Spanish Fork, Utah. Thus the fuse of iris interest was set in Utah. Tell Muhlestein, of Provo, of boundless enthusiasm and in the favored dry desert country, brought together, and skillfully combined, the breeding lines of some of the less hardy California irises with the new word in iris colors from Colorado gardens, especially the new pinks. His PINK FORMAL was the start of a series of excellent pink irises, continuing on to JUNE MEREDITH, admired to this day for its purity of color. Nor did he excel in pink alone. His was a prolific dabber's hand, and his irises run the gamut from darks to reds to blends to yellows. And it was from the garden of Mr. Muhlestein that an entirely new characteristic in iris form appeared, the ruffled, or specifically, the heavily laced iris. His sharp eye had noted this break in form, and he worked and popularized it. While GOLD RUFFLES was the start, one of the first homes of the laced iris was Tell Muhlestein's iris patch.

Another Utah luminary in the iris world is Melba Hamblen of Roy. With the expanding of the iris rainbow, particularly the influence of flamingo pink breeding, this garden, with the original concept of reaching out and broadening the pink color range, developed, through a series of blending crosses, PRETTY CAROL, a sort of raspberry rose-pink. Two years earlier the appearance of GLITTERING AMBER, an apricot amber, gave a prophetic insight that from this garden some fine irises were destined to come. Following this came the introduction of ORANGE PARADE, and here we have the next important color break since the flamingo pinks dawned on the iris horizon.

One of the memorable events of the annual meeting of the American Iris Society in Salt Lake City was the address by iris breeder, Tom Craig, of Escondido, Calif. Flowering in the convention gardens was one of his creations, BANG. And it literally did just that to the iris scene. Mr. Craig, a most gifted artist, had that innate love for irises that carried his production to multitudinous varieties. His close association with Prof. S. B. Mitchell inevitably sparked the continuing interest in the development of plicata irises. JOSEPH'S MANTLE was widely grown. Close by Escondido was Pasadena and the garden of Mr. Milliken. Tom Craig recognized the intrinsic value of CHINA MAID and used it widely in his crossing work, and coupled with many irises of his own breeding, a new race of rich blended flowers developed, which in turn gave the family from which his widely appreciated SAVAGE came. So divergent was Mr. Craig's work, it is difficult to categorize it. His contributions to irises, not alone in the tall bearded field, were legion. His work in the field of crossing oncocyclus and other aril types produced some striking novelties, of which FRANCES CRAIG and ENGRAVED proved to be the most universally grown because of their greater cultural adaptability. And speaking of sources from

Sydney Mitchell's garden, Lloyd Austin of Placerville received what one might call not only the seed stock in breeding material, but shared his intimate knowledge of breeding potential. Mr. Austin developed an entire strain of mutant irises known as the horned and flounced types, an extension of the beard as it protruded and amplified the petalage.

Let us visit another garden where the seeds of interest likewise were set in the inspirational contact with Prof. Mitchell. Fred DeForest carried on an extensive, fine honed and refined breeding program. One of his first irises, NARANJA, was but an introduction to the outstanding and fruitful gleanings of many, many floral gems. A perfectionist, he always considered the broadening of the petalage of the iris. In fact, one of his favorites in this regard was his AL BORAK. His interest and notable success embraced the fine ARGUS PHEASANT, Dykes Medal winner in 1952, his plicatas, which included the ever lovely CAROLINE JANE, and pinks. The very first large flamingo pink was his CLOUD CAP. In reds TALL CHIEF was tranquilly harmonious, while DAWN CREST gave us an iris in the supremely lovely yellow-apricot hues.

We notice that with the passage of time there is a growing complexity of origins in our irises. It seems impossible in this paper to mention the many contributors of new iris varieties scattered through the length and breadth of our country. The development of the iris is unique in that its achievements are not accomplished necessarily through commercial enterprise alone, but often through the many amateur hybridizers scattered throughout the United States. We must make mention of the Watkins brothers of New Hampshire, whose ELEANOR'S PRIDE went on to win a Dykes Medal. Georgia Hinkle's blues, including MELISSA, and Eva Faught's CAHOKIA and PIERRE MENARD, were treasured over the land. Roy Brizendine, in Topeka, Kansas, developed blends, especially MILLIONAIRE, which are memorable; and the important blend iris, INCA CHIEF, the contribution of Grant Mitsch of Canby, Ore., must be noted. A void would have been left in our garden if they had not unlocked the genetic combinations for these two irises. Too, we must mention one of the most modest, most gracious, of hybridizers, Don Waters of Elmore, Ohio. His MUSIC MAKER glorifies the creator of that supremely beautiful iris garden. Bro. Charles Reckamp must be remembered for his TECH-NY CHIMES and CELESTIAL GLORY. Cliff Benson has enjoyed remarkable repute for his developments, and his SKYWATCH, that lovely silvered lavender-blue, revels in the glory of acclaim. And another Californian, genial Jim Gibson, whose honey colored plicatas are such a pleasure, shows with WILD GINGER and the golden RADIANT APOGÉE as high water marks in achievements in their color classes. Neva Sexton, with her Dykes Medal winner, PACIFIC PANORAMA, and an array of new irises, must be remembered.

We have not yet visited the State of Washington. Here in the Inland Empire of that state, in the dry desert country of western Washington, in the cities of Walla Walla, Yakima and nearby Wenatchee we find a most enthusiastic group of iris devotees. And the hybridizers here are top quality. The roll call is impressive. Opal Brown of Walla Walla, of WINTER OLYMPICS fame (Dykes Medal 1967), has exercised great discernment in the production of fine irises. Her new series of flamingo amoenas, such

as LIGHTNING RIDGE, are most original and highly distinct. In the same town lives Hazel Schmelzer, whose production of CAPTAIN GAL-LANT was a great achievement in red irises. She has given us many irises of quality. An extremely varied and multi-hued palette is the impression one carries from the garden of Gordon Plough, of Wenatchee. It was in his garden also that the laced edged irises were further developed. His BUTTERSCOTCH KISS was one of the more successful in this different petal form. His garden has originated a series of smoky sorts, of which deep red-maroon EDENITE is the most widely disseminated. His blue-purple GRAND ALLIANCE, smooth lilac LILAC FESTIVAL, contrasting MILESTONE, soft amoena JAVA DOVE, give an idea of the variety of offerings from Mr. Plough. In the same city, Luella Noyd, the originator of the sparkling yellow ULTRAPOISE and unusual STRIPED BUTTER-FLY, produces worthy members of the iris family.

A complete account of iris hybridizing, unless it is extremely long, is best limited to one area, as this report is limited to the tall bearded. But during those fifty years of the Society's existence, there have been many worthy achievements in other sections of the iris family.

It has been observed that it is impossible to chronicle history that is hap-pening at the present time. There is a plethora of enterprising new hy-bridizers whose contemporary work no doubt will add new luster; yes, even outshine many of the earlier workers. To satisfy many variable tastes surely is a real achievement. As we look over the iris scene, names of hybridizers like Keppel, Gaulter, Luihn, Knopf, Babson, Corlew, Bennett Jones, Shoop, Larsen, Tolman, Julander, Peterson, Moldovan, Rudolph, Marsh, Palmer, Nelson, Sexton, Terrell, Warburton, Alta Brown, Blocher, Tucker, Nis-wonger, Mayberry, Olson, Buckles, Gaskill, Pickard, Knocke, Varner, Ghio, Hager, DuBose, Schortman . . . come to mind, each introducing into today's iris gardens the fruits of their efforts, each trying for that epitome of prizes, the Dykes Medal. My apologies for not mentioning many more iris breeders who have appeared on the iris stage as our favorite flower has evolved. At best, it is a short summary. I look forward to the day when a more gifted author, whose limitations on space perhaps can be expanded, will write a fuller history of the fascinating history of the evolution of this exceptional flower, the IRIS.

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## HIGHROAD TO A FAR HORIZON

Peggy Burke Grey

Here we stand, on the brink of a whole new universe. We can see, looking back, the trails of a rainbow, fading softly, growing dimmer as they recede into the time of yesterday. Here and there behind us a bright glow reflects a landmark which led us along the way.

In the beginning there were the little wild things. Stories of their dis-covery, and their adoption by man, and of their development into some-thing useful and beautiful for our gardens, have been told by many observers along the way. And so they were a part of our 20th century gardens, brought from Old Worlds, found native in the New. And lately, when Americans who loved them joined together to give them a formal sponsor the guideposts were in place.

The broad path became a highway, traveled by the many. It led from the bearded species to the tall bearded irises of our modern gardens. But our adventure route had many byways, full of other favorite irises, and legions of wayfarers have worked with them to develop different dimensions in our garden picture.

Our whole history of iris knowledge and achievement has been a cooperative sharing between scientists and professional horticulturists, amateur breeders and collectors, all of them devoted gardeners. In briefly reflecting on treasures acquired in our 50 years, our glance will miss many who should be remembered here, and we feel regret.

### The Native Americans

Edgar Anderson's interest in the evolution of native American irises brought much to our lore. Plant explorer, author, botany professor at St. Louis' Washington University, he worked with virginica and versicolor, among many others. But the blue flags of America east of the Rockies didn't quite capture the devotion enjoyed by the Pacific Coast irises which are of considerable horticultural importance in their native west.

In California Carl Purdy, for whom one species was named, was an important early contributor. Professor Sydney Mitchell popularized them, distributing seeds to Australia, New Zealand and England. So did Dr. Matthew Riddle in Oregon. Fred DeForest named many forms. Carl Starker and Walter Marx did also and distributed them widely. Eric Nies gave us named varieties like Orchid Sprite and Amaguita. Roswell Johnson named numerous forms of douglasiana.

The great landmark of progress in Pacific Coast native irises was made by Dr. Lee Lenz of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. He devoted ten years to collecting them and to their classification and study. His generous sharing of knowledge and of plants and seeds helped speed the way for all who work with them. His glorious hybrids such as Claremont Indian, Memoria Allen Chickering, Grubstake and Ripple Rock declare their value as stars of any garden setting.

Along the way we find the name of Alice White prominent in species study circles. We find Edith Cleaves and Jean Witt, Hattie Hubbard and Rudy Hardy, Leo Brewer, Ben Hager and Sidney DuBose, William Wylam and George Stambach, Jack Craig and Elwood Molseed. There were uncounted others but no name seems more noteworthy than that of Roy Davidson. Via round robins and field trips, lectures and articles, his efforts in large measure account for the increasing popularity not only of the western natives, but of all strange and little known species.

Professor Homer Metcalf in Montana has made intensive studies of another group, the missouriensis, and gives valuable help so others can know and understand them better.

The crested irises have received some attention from our irisarians. Samuel Stillman Berry, so talented in so many fields, introduced *I. wattii* into commerce in California from China. James Giridlian worked with this group. Dr. Elwood Molseed had commenced important work hybridizing the various evansia species, and recently there has been an upsurge of interest in the little American native member of the tribe, *cristata*.

Today the Species Study Group with its excellent publications and seed exchange, evolved from the round robins, promises an ever increasing

wealth of knowledge and a kaleidoscope of fine new treasures.

### The Louisiana Irises

The species of a group far more broadly ranging than their name implies have been our most finely developed American natives, and most widely grown. In 1918 E. B. Williamson introduced a variety named Dorothea K. Williamson which still is quite commonly cultivated. In California E. O. Essig used it with *I. fulva* to get a seedling he registered as Tulsa. Samuel Stillman Berry produced Cacique in the late 20's. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Nicholls, Jr. collected many forms and introduced them in Pennsylvania. Thomas Washington of Nashville bred a good number, including Manitou and Sewanee, which were very popular in the east.

Mary Swords Debaillon's dedicated efforts to collect and preserve the irises of Louisiana, and the talents of Caroline Dorman in painting them and writing about them, shine out for all who follow to remember. Important among the many glorious contributions to our gardens from Caroline Dorman are Saucy Minx, The Kahn, Wheelhorse, Violet Ray and Wood Violet.

Dr. John K. Small of the New York Botanical Garden made extensive collections and studies of the wild irises of the south and east and his early work was of much importance to the conservationists and breeders. Percy Viosca was another naturalist who collected and marketed many varieties.

We see the name of W. B. MacMillan, who gave us Bayou Sunset, Haile Selassie, Peggy Mac, Mistis and Black Widow. Mrs. Alex Smith gave us Blue Chip, and there is the beautiful white Barbara Elaine Taylor collected by Fred Taylor. Claude Davis brought us the beauty of Beau Geste, the warm red Madcap, New Offering and many other lovely ones.

Important contributions to understanding of the irises, and some very beautiful varieties, were given us by Dr. Ira Nelson, who introduced L.S.U. Beauty and Cherry Bounce. Further studies into the species relationships were made by Dr. L. F. Randolph and the famous Abbeyville Reds were given the specific name of *I. nelsonii*. Much earlier Fitz Randolph had exhibited an award winning variety in the famous Louisiana show, named John K. Small.

Sidney Conger hybridized and collected these irises. He brought us Lockett's Luck and Sylvan Duet and Woodland Charm. Lillian Trichel is a name we will remember for her love of the pink ones, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Richards come to mind when we see their handsome Midshipman and little Baby Sis Pink. Along the way Sidney DuBose, who moved from the deltas of Louisiana to those of California, brought us Amethyst Star. Ben Hager has given us Delta King, to honor a beloved California riverboat. And we see the name of G. W. Holleyman appreciated for such gifts as the lovely yellow which wears his name, and for Storm Signal and Brandywine.

Foremost breeder of the Louisiana irises today is Charles Army. From his hand has come a magnificent array of creations like Chuck, Joyce, Dora Dey, Louise Army, Charjoy, Puttytat and most recently Ila Nunn. Marvin Granger's patient work to develop doubled flowers continues as we enjoy his flouncy Creole Can-Can and the new Contraband Days.

Many are those who have given time and effort to the sponsoring Society for the Louisiana Irises. We note the names of Arline Arceneau, Minnie

Colquitt, Ila Nunn, Barbara Nelson, Nolan Sahuc, and Dr. Bernard McSparrin among them. Renewed interest throughout the country, generated by those who were enthralled by the unforgettable sight of the deep velvet Black Widow during the Berkeley convention in 1968, bears the promise that these most stately American irises will soon gain their rightful place in all our gardens.



T. A. Washington



Ira Nelson

### The Siberian Irises

Siberian irises were loved in early day American gardens. They came mostly from Amos Perry in England, bred from central European species, and were mostly variations on the same blue shades.

Frances Cleveland's name shines out as the most important early breeder. She began in 1913, continuing through the 1930's, and our gardens still count Turquoise Cup, Summer Sky, Blue Ridge, Tycoon, Snowy Egret, and Silvertip among the best. Grace Sturtevant gave us Red Emperor and Zest. Merton Gage gave us Snowcrest.

In Canada, Isabella Preston produced Gatineau and Matane, and Cleveland Morgan gave us Tropic Night. Hans Sass was the breeder of Blue Charm; Marjorie Jennings contributed the delicate Moonsprite. From a long list of varieties registered by Charles Gersdorff's important work, only Mountain Lake today is a prominent feature in today's collection of Siberian irises. These notable varieties still with us from the 1930's were joined by Fred Whitney's Helen Astor and Eric the Red, and W. M. Kellogg's Cool Spring. Elizabeth Sheffy contributed a number of important varieties including Towanda Redflare, My Love, Tunkhannock and Blue Moon. Elizabeth Nesmith presented a few of Thomas Washington's varieties, most of which we know no longer. H. R. Hall gave us the elegant Royal Ensign.

Peggy Edwards has given us her lovely Velvet Night, but the truly great landmark in Siberian iris development was the arrival of Fred Cassebeer's magnificent White Swirl. Now we had an entirely new compact and flaring flower form, truly a perfect white iris, and White Swirl went on to contribute the equally charming blue Pirouette. Fred Cassebeer also gave us Blue Brilliant, and from Dorothy Spofford came Mandy Morse and Salem

Witch. The careful work of William McGarvey led to the debut of his trio of Ego, Super Ego and Id, with their superlative large flowers, and Dewful whose cupshaped blossoms ushered in yet another plane of progress.

Ben Hager brought us new rosy colors with Ruby Wine and Sparkling Rose. Jonnye Rich has given us illuminated golden-hearted white flowers in Lights of Paris. True royal purple was contributed by Steve Varner's Tealwood. And our hopes soar ahead to the prospect of further great strides as the yellow varieties of Maurice Kitton in England reach our gardens.

Formation of the Society for the Siberian Irises, with devoted work by Peggy Edwards, Charlotte Withers, Sarah and Wesley Tiffney, Jean Witt, Mildred Johnson, Currier McEwen and Francis Brenner, Katherine and William Chambers, and many others, will further the efforts to increase the popularity of these graceful garden subjects as we start the climb to greater achievement, which truly has scarcely started.

### A Flight Of Butterflies

The butterflies of iridom, spurias came to the west with Spanish settlers and in California and the southwest they thrive. Their main center of development today is in California. But most of our earliest garden varieties came from England. Sir Michael Foster's deep purple Premier and delicately veined Cambridge Blue are still in our gardens.

Jamina Brannin in California was an early breeder but her creations have faded from our sight. Henry Sass gave us Sunny Day. Carl Milliken gave us first Mt. Whitney, then later the great golden Wadi Zem Zem. In Nashville, Thomas Washington worked with them and Elizabeth Nesmith in Massachusetts introduced them. Bathsheba, Lumiere and Blue Acres remain among those we grow today. She also presented a large number for Phillip Corliss.

Bright shines the name of Eric Nies, for the 40's was a decade of development for a whole new concept of spurias and it was from him that we acquired Saugatuck, Bronzspur, Dutch Defiance, Lark Song, Pastoral and Azure Dawn. He also gave us Michigan State, Color Guard and Russet Flame. Tom Craig gave us the golden Investment, Big Cloud, Blue Valentine and Blue Pinafore. Marion Walker worked with Eric Nies and has given us the sultry Black Point (Nies-Walker), beautiful softly tinted Morningtide, Driftwood, Canary Island and today we have his supremely large flowered Lydia Jane and dusky toned Chumasch Chief. We see the name of Herman Thorup who brought us Fairy Light. And Tell Muhlestein was responsible for Fluted Buttercup and the exciting Red Step. Frances Combs produced a lovely Golden Lady.

The work of Walker Ferguson has given him the role of undisputed dean of modern day spuria breeders. Wake Robin was a triumph. He gave us Good Nature, the vibrant Banners of Blue, deep brown Baritone and Dark and Handsome, but a brief accounting of the beauty he has sent forth for our gardens.

The Spuria Iris Society was formed in the early 1950's in Houston, largely through the efforts of Mrs. Willis Slaughter. It was then a local group and it built and maintained a wonderful display garden, and sponsored an important research job by Dr. Henry Hadley. Guided by Ila Nunn, the organization expanded to one of national significance. We find the names



of Mary Redford, Clarke Cosgrove, Edith Cleaves, Ralph Johnson, William Jones, Ila Crawford, Marilyn Holloway, Archie Owen, Oren Campbell, William Gunther among the travelers on this exciting road.

And again we find the talents of Dr. Lee Lenz contributing to the understanding and advancement of an important garden iris. His trips into their wild European habitats, his studies in the great botanical libraries and herbaria abroad, the painstaking laboratory and field work in California, gave the keys to many a puzzle and this work still continues.

Ben Hager was among the first to put the knowledge of the new genetic studies to work. Some notable additions from his hand include Port of Call, Elixir, Suspense, the beautifully blended Connoisseur, and his work has scarcely begun. From Eleanor McCown come the lilting Imperial Song and Imperial Burgundy. Here and there new breeders are trying out their skills. The future before us seems to wear a come hither smile.



Walker Ferguson



Eric Nies



Tell Muhlestein

### From Far Japan

Japanese irises by the hundreds, imported from England, France and Japan, were in 19th century American gardens. American specialists had bred them and distributed them in abundance through the 1900's early decades. Some of those early ones are with us even now—Mahogany, Light in the Opal. John Lewis Childs of Flowerfield, the successor to V. H. Hallock Son & Thorpe on Long Island in New York, had over 20 acres devoted to them. Dr. George Reed of Brooklyn Botanical Garden did important work on their diseases and developed an early color classification for them. They were beautiful irises, deserving of more attention than they received.

We find the names of J. A. Kemp, Charles Barber in Oregon, U. G. Smith and Elizabeth Nesmith among those who helped to distribute them along the way.

In Indiana, W. A. Payne started some 34 years of hybridizing in 1932 with six Edo varieties as his principal sources and some 26 other varieties used to lesser degree. He grew around 100,000 seedlings from carefully controlled crosses, attempting to secure hardy, well-branched, well-proportioned plants giving bountiful bloom. Among the finest of the 175 varieties he registered are The Great Mogul, Red Titan, Strut and Flourish,

Violet Splendour, Immaculate Glitter and Wounded Dragon. Arlie Payne's quiet quest and warm encouragement found a corps of appreciators who formed the Society for Japanese Irises and continued the progress. Eleanor Westmeyer, Bee Warburton, William Ouweneel and Eugene Wagner are names that figure prominently in the world of Japanese irises. C. A. (Bob) Swaengen gave enormously of his time and talent to the organization's success and for our gardens he produced such outstanding varieties as Vestal Trident, Mighty White and Purple Peacock. Art Hazzard in Michigan first presented White Chiffon and continues efforts to increase the excellence of modern varieties.

In Oregon, Walter Marx began importing the finest Higo strains from Japan after World War II. He worked with the best of them to produce his own Marhigo registered strains from which all his introductions have been chosen. Among his most notable are Driven Snow and Frosted Pyramid, Galatea and Acclaim, Lady In Waiting, Blue Pom Pom which brought little frilled centers to the flower form, Kings Court, Beauty on Parade, and the list of fine new color developments goes on. The inklings of yellow may be ahead in some creamy white seedling.

Californian Jack Craig, living in Japan, makes noteworthy contributions to our knowledge. Fred Maddocks, in California, has given us Leave Me Sighing, and the efforts of Jean and Joe Witt in Seattle, and Ben Hager, and of Lee Eberhardt in Ohio, who regularly visits Japan, show us some very bright visions of things to come.



W. A. Payne



Samuel Burchfield



Walter Welch

### The Delightful Dwarfs

Dwarf irises, mostly golden, or purple, sometimes blue, occasionally creamy white, were in our gardens 50 years ago. Sam Burchfield bred them; he gave us Harbor Lights and Buzzer. Frances Horton named one Burchfield and introduced us to many others, mostly yellow. Jacob Sass gave us Sound Money. Grace Sturtevant contributed Ylo and Yellow Tom Tit. E. L. Hodson gave us Path of Gold. From Walter Marx we got Moon-gleam and Wee Admiral. These were mainly variations of the species *chamaeiris*, which also was used extensively by the Sass brothers, who crossed them with tall bearded varieties to produce important early day

intermediates, many of which, with great hybrid vigor, would rebloom. They included Ultra, Sangreal, Southland and King Junior. Colonel Jesse Niccolls gave us a few like Surefire. They were almost entirely sterile, dead ends for further development. Other small species, primarily arenaria, were used by early dwarf breeders. Horace Hill and his son Robert brought out Cream Tart, Mist O' Pink, Mauvemist and Tiny Treasure. Paul Cook had bred Keepsake, Alinda and Promise.

The whole course of small bearded iris breeding changed abruptly with the discovery of what tiny little *I. pumila* could do. Bob Schreiner, then living in Minnesota, was among the first to have it. He gave some to Paul Cook in Indiana, who used it to add Blue Band, Blue Lilt, Remnant and Stint to his other introductions. He gave starts of *pumila* and other species to his neighbor Walter Welch during the early 1940's, who thus began over three decades of devotion to their development and the guidance of others who loved them. Walter Welch founded the Dwarf Iris Society, started round robins, shared seeds from which other major hybridizers like Bee Warburton, Fern Robinson, Leona Mahood, Alta Brown and many others got their starts. In early spring our gardens sparkle with gay little jewels which Walter Welch named April Morn, Gay Lassie, Sparkling Eyes, Crispy, Hullabalu, Dream Child, White Mite, Fashion Lady, Heart's Content and Cherry Spot. They come in such abundance that we are rich almost beyond counting. The *Portfolios* he compiled and published gave us another wealth, in knowledge of other dwarf species too, but it was his work with *pumila* which stands as his most important.

We see names too many to count, contributions still coming such wonderful array, and almost all of the people who worked extensively with the dwarf species also were involved in what was to follow. We see Bee Warburton bringing forth Busy Child, Blue Doll and Sky Caper; Leona Mahood added Grandma's Hat and Orchid Flair; Ruth Stephenson gave a Curtsy; Hazel and Vivian Grapes put out a Rosy Carpet; Helen Doriot found Blue Frost; from Alta Brown came Cradle Days and Bee Wings. Bennett Jones ushered in Chicken Little, Polka Dot and Angel Eyes, and from Donna Simonson we got Turquoise Gem and Burgundy Velvet. We saw important work by Alexia Gerberg, Polly Anderson, Orpha Salsman, Irene van de Water, Ronald Beattie, Hattie Hubbard, Adda Ayres, Lucille Kavan—contributions toward making these small ones popular as well as developing them.

Then Paul Cook started something else. He put pollen of *pumila* on tall bearded and got taller, later blooming things that he dubbed Baria and Fairy Flax, Brite and Green Spot, and you knew that green you saw was real. He got Geddes Douglas started and forth paraded a troupe of lilliputs with names like Merry Maker, Little Shadow, Tinkerbelle and Jack O' Hearts, Pogo and Small Wonder, Helen's Child and Little Rosy Wings. Intercrossed among each other, back-crossed to tall bearded, some wild high jinx began in people's iris patches. That riotous display of new color combinations appeared down in the earliest and tiniest, and up into an entire new race of intermediates!

Along another by-way people were rediscovering some old table irises and border irises. So rapidly was a fascinated interest in the whole gamut of little irises expanding that Geddes Douglas sounded the call to form a



Bee Warburton



LeRoy Davidson

Median Iris Club to sponsor them. In the late 1950's it blossomed into the Median Iris Society. Like the Dwarf Iris Society before it, and the devotees of species and natives and the table irises, the new organization was centered around round robin correspondence groups to keep people informed on the speedy developments in seedling patches across the country.

Bee Warburton's role in organizing and directing the Median robins stands as an inestimable contribution to the advancement of smaller irises. It was she who helped to disseminate the vitally important scientific findings from another quarter so that the amateur hybridizers could use them to full advantage.

Irises have been blessed indeed to have the love and attention of one of the world's most distinguished geneticists. Fitz Randolph's contributions to our understanding of their ancestry and relationships, and their breeding behavior, can scarcely be weighed. Fannie and Fitz Randolph made several trips through Europe, the Middle East and Asia, observing and collecting in their wild habitats, consulting with European scientists and specialists, bringing their treasures home to study and to share. Supplemented by the work of Dr. Katherine Heinig and Jyotirmay Mitra, the Randolph studies have been the brightly shining beacons which have guided hybridizers in their rapid progress. No classes of irises have benefitted more than the smaller bearded kinds.

With the new hybrids segregating out into all these new types, it was imperative to do something about the old dwarf, intermediate, border, and tall classification based on botanical standards. They just weren't geared to accommodate the whole parade of new garden varieties or the potential future once the breeders really got going. To give each class proper recognition for registration and awards, Fitz Randolph and Dr. George M. H. Lawrence devised our present classification which provides for miniature and standard dwarfs, intermediates, borders and the miniature tall bearded.

The first standard dwarfs, popularly called lilliputs to honor those of their original sponsor, passed us in colorful crowds. Exclamations of delight greeted Helen Doriot's green-flushed blue Allah. Bee Warburton's throbbing yellow Brassie and glowing Golden Fair, and her Blue Denim have made iris history. Jack Goett turned out the first of the brown ones, Knotty Pine, and has continued to produce ever more lovely new ones, and

is working with important mellita species hybrids. Dorothy Dennis came up with the first little plicata, named Dale Dennis for her daughter; they'd said it couldn't be done in dwarfs just like that! Helen Stevens was working with aphylla and gave us her white Tomorrow. Mollie Price introduced us to Brown-Eyed Katie. Adelaide Peterson took over her brother's lilliput tribe and presented delights like Baby Snowflake, Moonblaze, and Red Spot. She also worked for pinks and gave us some of the first important ones like Sweet Allegro, and the miniature dwarf Pink Midget. Alta Brown came forth with many a star performer like Sky Baby, Snow Elf and Royal Contrast. Ruth Stephenson, Mattie Reinhardt, Earl Roberts, Mildred Brizendine who came in with a Zing, Gerry Keefe, Wilma Greenlee, Al Motsch, Eva Smith, Ben Hager (who sent Regards), Harry Kuesel, Edwin Rundlett who gave us Coreop, William Peck, Peggy Edwards, Nona B Mott, who edited the original MIS publications when Molly Price took leave to write *The Iris Book* . . . only a few of the merry adventurers we meet along this road.

### **The Season In Between**

Wilma Greenlee is perhaps most noted for her work with the intermediates, though she also has given us many fine dwarfs. Her Cloud Fluff, Blue Asterisk and First Lilac were among the standard setters for this class. Bluekeeta and Forest Night are fine new additions. Paul Cook's Progenitor breeding which produced Whole Cloth, sent forth a froth of cream trimmed up with blue ribbons which he named Kiss Me Kate. The iris world was thoroughly enchanted. Earl Roberts, working with Progenitor lines, has introduced us to his lovely little Elfin series. Alta Brown is making delightful additions; some of her first were Lime Ripples and Dark Eden. From Bee Warburton there have been Maroon Capers and Annikins; Bennett Jones sent out Light Cavalry, while Bob Schreiner, who probably is responsible for this whole affair, gave us Cutie and Drummer Boy, and what other marvels he performs in his private seedling patch with species like balkana and aphylla make a promenade up Schreiner's Walk in peak TB season seem like a second class trip. From the Douglas garden came the first tangerine bearded little one, Lillipinkput. He's sometimes undecided about which class he likes and is more apricot than pink. Adelaide Peterson sent us Royal Event, and Margaret Burnett's royally purple Arabi Pasha is a dream iris. Gordon Plough has charmed us with his Ric Rac, Le Sabre and Kontiki, while a snowy Small Ripple is but one from Melba Hamblen's talented hand.

The whole class of intermediate irises is one which, like the earlier flowering, smaller cousins, is evolving so quickly that we find many new little characters crowding all around us, too close together to single out those which will stand as the most important from the distance of another decade.

### **And Our Borders Are Boundless**

Yesterday's border irises were commonly considered runts; not many breeders saved them. Some were so charming they couldn't be overlooked. Kenneth Smith gave us Pink Ruffles. Geddes Douglas sent a pale blue Billet Doux. From Agnes Whiting we knew the spicy Pepperpot and prim white Priscilla. Harold Knowlton loved them and he gave us Pearl Cup and Cricket. Bob Schreiner had Black Forest, an important asset in his

black breeding program. Dainty small segregants showed up in rows of seedlings from pink and brown lines. In Utah Fisher Harris found Little Gem, then Another Gem; Margaret Albright brought us Yum Yum and Yellow Dresden, which has proved an impressive parent for the class. Tell Muhlestein gave us many along the way, and Saucy Pink and Bit O' Paradise quite recently. Crescent Deru's Chocoleto was an important early one, a classic of the group. Melba Hamblen's bright bearded yellow Tulare and gilt trimmed Fairy Jewels enjoy widespread popularity. From Bennett Jones came Frenchi, satin and velvet in orchid and deep violet-rose, which helped set standards of excellence and gained immediate favor for this smaller type of border iris. Among his other notable contributions to the class in which he is a major breeder, are Botany Bay, Crystal Bay, Glacier Bay and Carnival Glass. His work shows the value of blending the new intermediates with small segregants from tall bearded background.

Among the classics of this group are Mildred Brizendine's sultry Little Reb, Ben Hager's Pagoda and Folderol, Ben Benson's Little Dude and Little Kiowa and his reblooming *plicata* Spring's Return. MayBelle Wright's Miss Ruffles, Mrs. Wolff's Timmie Too and Debbie Ann, and Hilda Fail's Tule Spice. Suddenly the border bearded gained real recognition. We saw them coming from many a garden which before had been concerned only with tall bearded breeding. Opal and Tom Brown brought out Bayadere and Blue Miller. From Larry Gaulter there was a Brownie Scout; Luella Noyd gave us several including knee High; Frank Hutchings got Hob Knob from his *amoena* breeding; Joe Ghio had the greenish hued Wizard and frilly Baby Shower; from Wilma Vallette we had Orchids and Snow; Carl Quadros put out a Little Mark. As with the other small classes so many breeders across the country have selected such an overwhelming array that we can cite only the few as we pass along.

#### Smaller Than Tall

Miniature tall bearded irises were first called the table irises. They were discovered by Ethel Anson Peckham and Mary Williamson among the seedling rows in E. B. Williamson's Indiana garden. Their Dresden figurine-like quality was enchanting and for table bouquets and flower arrangements they were perfection. And so we got Siskin, Pewee, Warbler, Titmouse, Daystar, Chewink, Widget, Kinglet and Nambe.

Alice White in California gathered together a band of their admirers to work for further additions and to draw notice to the older ones. She gave us Angelita, Sandyson and Smarty Pants. From Edwin Rundlett there was the dainty blue and white Little Helen. Walter Welch gave us Topsy Turvy and Brown Crown. Earl Roberts has done noteworthy work with them and added Mockingbird, Parakeet and Desert Quail.

Jean Witt has devoted years to checking out their probable ancestry, for nobody really knew how they happened, and her efforts to help us understand their breeding behavior have borne fruit. They have not been easy to work with and new ones came slowly. Her own Ice Fairy and Pale Wings are important new contributions to the class. Alta Brown has given us Dainty Dancer and Dainty Damsel. From Ben Hager we have gotten one of the first tetraploids in Shrinking Violet and he's added En Route and Scale Model. Dorothy Guild and Mary Louise Dunderman are developing exquisite new varieties to enlarge the group. Just ahead the path

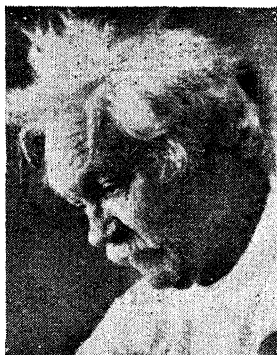
broadens and the way seems clear for these special diminutives of modern tall bearded irises to become increasingly more demanded for our modern miniature gardens.

### The White Collar Irises

The seed coats of aril species wear little white collars from whence comes the name of aril. They well may be the most ancient of irises. They certainly are our most exotic. Species of the oncocylus group are demanding in their cultural needs. Their regelia relations fare better in many more garden situations. The challenges, past and present, that these gorgeous ones provide, particularly in the development of hybrid garden varieties, would take a volume to relate.



Clarence White



Tom Craig

William Mohr worked with them in California. He crossed the oncocylus gatesii with tall bearded and after his death Sidney Mitchell named a resulting seedling to honor him. Frank Reinelt used William Mohr to produce Capitola, named for the town where he grew some famous begonias and delphiniums. The whole tribe of "Mohr" hybrids, or "oncobreds", descends from this beginning. Most famous perhaps is Carl Salbach's Lady Mohr. Dr. Phillip Loomis gave us Elmoehr. Tom Craig's Frances Craig, Peg Dabagh, American Modern, Engraved are but a few which captivated all irisdom in their day. Stafford Jory gave us Gaza, Grace Mohr and Morning Blue. Tell Muhlestein's Green Mohr, Jack Linse's Slick Chick, Bethel and Trophy, Gordon Plough's Blue Gate, Walt Luhn's Mohrning Haze—it is an impressive list, impossible to tally fairly here.

Crosses involving the regelia species with bearded irises were many but few attained the universal popularity of Tom Craig's Moonchild, which wins more honors as an intermediate than among its real relations. A. A. Samuelson worked with them extensively in Washington. Thornton Abell gave us Saffron Jewel and from Tell we have Little Lake.

Lloyd Austin's name looms large in the world of aril irises. He imported huge stocks of species from their Holy Land habitats. He developed cultural techniques and published a colorful catalog which fired the imagination and guided the ambitions of amateurs. Among his own breathtakingly beautiful hybrids were Persian Pansy and the Judean series of oncocylus.

Herbert Kerr in northern California worked with the oncocyclis and made important contributions. His work was continued by Leo Clark who has added fine new achievements of his own.

Most important name along the arilbred trail is that of Clarence G. White, who commenced efforts to turn the aril irises into better behaving garden subjects very early in our time. His first hybrids, bearing names like Oyez, Some Love, Nelson of Hilly, Sheriffa, were charming garden flowers but not fertile. He finally found the clues and upon his work our present arilbreds are based. Tom Craig introduced them and we see an unbelievable medley of color patterns in Asoka of Nepal, Kalifa Gulnare, Kalifa Fatima, Jallah Effendi, Chenik Aga. Today the breeders adding ever improving varieties are gaining in numbers as methods of working around their difficulties are becoming better known.

The Aril Society International was started to sponsor them. The publications are tremendous contributions to the iris literature. Prominent among the contributors to the success of the Society in popularizing these irises have been Valmar Slamova, Frances Combs, Florence and David Flesh, Adam Fikso, Alexia Gerberg, Charlotte Adams, Howard Shockey, Herbert McKusick, John Tearington, Marguerite and William Hawkinson, Marguerite Evans and scores of devoted collectors and students in this fascinating field.

The dedicated work of Wiloh and Thomas Wilkes, both with the Society and the irises, could never be measured. Imaret is one of their gifts to our gardens. John Holden's work with species, and that of Jonnye and Rex Rich are significant contributions. Gene Sundt, Roy Brizendine, Henry Danielson who gave us Big Black Bumblebee, Gene Hunt, Leda Christlieb and Esther Terrill are among those who work with them in the Midwest. Mary Jane and Frank Bushey, Gordon Blomquist, Ruth Blomquist, and Virginia Foster are names to remember for important help to progress in the field.

Doris Foster has produced new varieties of outstanding beauty like Persian Market and Bethlehem Star. Fred Gadd has given us Silver Web and his work with them in the East indicates the widely spreading interest. Jonnye Rich has presented us with the mysterious Dark Eyes here in California.

Arilbred medians are not a new thing. Geddes Douglas gave us Brownie and Walter Marx bred several popular ones. This field is capturing the attention of many breeders. From Dr. John Durrance there is Easter Holiday, and Sam Street in the Midwest has given us Wee Scot. Tim Craig has brought us a glorious array of hybrids which we welcome here, and throughout the range of bearded irises, for they promise us unique new beauty for tomorrow as our hearts hold dear that which we have known before.

Genetic studies have been of vast importance in aril irisdom. Here we see the names of Dr. Marc Simonet in France, Dr. Peter Werckmeister in Germany, Dr. G. I. Rodionenko in the U. S. S. R., and Dr. Fitz Randolph and Dr. Katherine Heinig in America. Embryo culture techniques have helped to overcome the problems of difficult or delayed germination, and to the laboratory techniques developed by Dr. Randolph and Dr. Lenz and others we have added some easier methods from skilled amateurs such as



Dr. Benton Dawson, Bruce Farrington and Andrew Houck.

And so the echoes of the pioneers of our first 50 years shall follow us. They gave us loveliness to cherish. They built this highroad to our bright horizon. Before us we shall seek a star, capture it, and love it while it shines.

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## AWARDS AND HONORS OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Carol Ramsey

The responsibility for administering the Garden Awards of the American Iris Society falls under the jurisdiction of the Society's Awards Committee. The Awards Committee, acting for the Board of Directors, conducts all national competitions for Garden Awards, following the policies and procedures set forth by the Board. The Awards and Honors involving Exhibitions are administered by the Exhibiting Committee.

The various awards of the American Iris Society fall into three groupings. The first two groups, the Garden Awards and Honors, and the Exhibition Awards and Honors are voted upon by AIS judges. The third group is comprised of those awards, also Garden Awards, which are voted on by American Iris Society members.

### GARDEN AWARDS AND HONORS VOTED BY AIS JUDGES

During these first fifty years of the American Iris Society, the membership has witnessed many changes in the structure of the Garden Awards system. At first the HM Award was one given to seedlings displayed at shows, and Dykes Medals were voted for introductions of the year. Rating systems were the vogue, and test gardens were widely scattered throughout the country. The hybridizing advancements in the different classes, the development of new classes of irises, and the increasing numbers of iris registrations have necessitated a change in the awards structure and the addition of new awards, and the tightening of eligibility and award requirements for the established awards. Today we find awards available in almost every iris classification, tall bearded, border bearded, miniature tall bearded, intermediate bearded, standard dwarf bearded, miniature dwarf bearded, aril, arilbred, California, Japanese, Louisiana, Siberian, spuria, and reblooming irises. Additionally, outstanding red and white varieties are eligible for special awards.

The Society's Garden Awards listed below are the awards voted upon each year by the Society's accredited judges. Prior to each bloom season, judges receive an official ballot which they must file with the Awards Committee within a prescribed time. Because these awards are Garden Awards, a judge may only cast a vote for varieties which he has seen in bloom, growing in a garden.

### HIGH COMMENDATION AWARD REGIONAL TEST GARDEN AWARD

The High Commendation Award and the Regional Test Garden Award are awards made to irises which have not been introduced into commerce. Judges may vote the High Commendation Award (HC) to any seedling

or to any named variety which has been registered but not introduced which they deem worthy of introduction. A vote for a Regional Test Garden Award (RTG) may be cast only for seedlings grown under code number in the Society's Regional Test Gardens. The HC or the RTG is awarded to any iris which receives a minimum of five votes. Each judge may vote for no more than 8 tall bearded irises, and no more than three irises each in all other classifications. Each judge may cast five votes for the RTG award, divided among the classes as he chooses.

#### THE HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

To be eligible for the Honorable Mention Award, an iris must have been officially registered and introduced, and have been in commerce for at least one year. The Honorable Mention Award (HM) is a requirement for higher awards and its importance, therefore, should be stressed. The Society awarded its first HM in its founding year of 1920; however, the award was not made a prerequisite for other awards until the 1940s.

Each judge may cast his ballot for a maximum of 12 bearded irises and 3 each in the other classes. To receive the award, a tall bearded iris must receive 25 votes, a border bearded, intermediate bearded or standard dwarf bearded iris must receive 15 votes, and an iris in any other class must receive 10 votes.

#### THE AWARD OF MERIT

The Award of Merit is one of the American Iris Society's most distinguished awards. The Award of Merit (AM) is made annually to tall bearded, border bearded, intermediate bearded, and standard dwarf bearded irises. Irises in classes other than the four listed, while not eligible for the AM as yet, have awards which are equivalent to the Award of Merit. In order for an iris to be eligible for the Award of Merit, it must first have received the Honorable Mention Award. The second year after being awarded its HM, an iris becomes eligible and remains so for three years.

The first Award of Merit was awarded by the Society in 1925. While only a small number of irises received the award during the first ten years of the Society's existence, as early as 1936, 14 irises received the AM. Today, the number of Awards of Merit available each year is restricted to 12 for tall bearded irises, and 3 each for border bearded, intermediate bearded, and standard dwarf bearded irises. Occasionally a tie for 12th place will occur and in this event, the varieties involved in the tie all receive the award.

Each judge may enter on his ballot no more than 12 tall bearded varieties, and no more than 3 each of border bearded, intermediate bearded, and standard dwarf bearded varieties. To receive the award, a tall bearded iris must receive at least 65 votes, and border bearded, intermediate bearded, and standard dwarf bearded irises must receive at least 25 votes.

#### AWARDS EQUIVALENT TO THE AWARD OF MERIT

##### The Clarence G. White Memorial Award

The Clarence G. White Memorial Award is made annually by the Aril Society International in cooperation with the American Iris Society. To be eligible for the Clarence G. White Memorial Award, an iris must have at least fifty per cent aril blood and clearly exhibit at least two of the acceptable aril characteristics for form and pattern. The iris must be registered with the Aril Society International and must have previously received the

Honorable Mention Award. A judge may vote for only one variety, and the award is given to the variety receiving the largest number of votes, but the variety must receive at least 15 votes.

The first Clarence G. White Memorial Award was made in 1959. The award honors the dean of aril and arilbred hybridizers. Mr. White's pioneering work in this field, covering a span of twenty-five years, sparked interest and enthusiasm which led to the founding of the Aril Society International.

When the White Award was activated in 1959, there was no specific requirement concerning aril content or characteristics. In 1969, the award requirements were redefined so that only those plants whose flowers approached what was felt to be Mr. White's goal would be eligible.

#### The William Mohr Memorial Award

With the revision in requirements for the White Award, a second award was activated in 1969 for those arilbreds not eligible for the Clarence G. White Memorial Award. This is the William Mohr Memorial Award. To be eligible for the Mohr Award, an iris must have at least one-quarter aril blood, be registered with the Aril Society International, and have previously received the Honorable Mention Award. This award is made annually by the Aril Society International in cooperation with the American Iris Society. Each judge votes for one variety only, and the variety receiving the largest number of votes, but at least 15 votes, receives the award.

The Mohr Award honors William Mohr, who is recognized as one of America's greatest hybridizers, and the originator of the iris WILLIAM MOHR. The iris was named for him after his untimely death in 1923. Many of the irises eligible for the William Mohr Award are descendants of the iris WILLIAM MOHR, and are popularly known as the "Mohrs."

#### The Caparne Award

Miniature dwarf bearded irises which have received the Honorable Mention Award are eligible for the Caparne Award. A judge may cast a ballot for one variety only and the award is given to the variety receiving the largest number of votes, providing it received at least 15 votes. The first Caparne Award was made in 1950.

The award is named for the English hybridizer and collector, W. J. Caparne. Known as the father of the dwarf iris race, Mr. Caparne was responsible for the introduction of more than 100 dwarf and intermediate bearded irises. Through his early catalogs, stocks were made available which contributed immeasurably to the development of the modern irises we know today.

#### The W. A. Payne Award

The W. A. Payne Award is presented annually to a Japanese iris variety. Irises eligible for the award must have previously received the Honorable Mention Award. Judges may vote for one variety only and the award goes to the variety with the largest vote total, providing it received at least 10 votes.

The award is named for W. A. Payne, one of the foremost hybridizers of the American strains of Japanese irises. Mr. Payne's many originations are the results of a career spanning several decades, and it was fitting indeed that at the age of 89, Mr. Payne himself was the recipient of the first W. A. Payne Award, presented in 1966.

### The Mary Swords Debaillon Award

The Mary Swords Debaillon Award is given to Louisiana irises or hybrids thereof, and to be eligible an iris must have received the Honorable Mention Award. Judges vote for just one variety and the variety which receives the largest vote total, providing it received at least 10 votes, receives the award. The award was originated by the Society for Louisiana Irises and was made an official AIS award in 1948.

The award is in memory of Mary Swords Debaillon, the beloved collector of Louisiana native irises. Mrs. Debaillon acquired a large and most varied collection of Louisiana irises, much of which is preserved in private gardens to this time. The first iris to receive the Mary Swords Debaillon Award bears her name.

### The Williamson-White Award

The Williamson-White Award is made annually to a miniature tall bearded iris. A miniature tall bearded iris becomes eligible for the Williamson-White Award the second year after winning the Honorable Mention Award. The judge votes for only one variety, and the award is given to the variety receiving the greatest number of votes, but at least 15 votes.

The award, first made in 1968, honors E. B. Williamson and Alice White. It was from Mr. Williamson's seedling beds that his daughter, Mary, selected the first miniature tall bearded, or Table irises as they are commonly called. The Williamson Table irises are to this day widely grown. Mrs. White pioneered in the further development of the class, and is known not only for her originations, but also for her untiring efforts promoting the class.

### The Morgan Award

Siberian irises which have received the Honorable Mention Award are eligible for the Morgan Award. A judge may cast his ballot for one variety only. The variety receiving the most votes, but a minimum of 10 votes, receives the award.

The award, which was first made in 1951, honors the Canadian hybridizer, F. Cleveland Morgan. Mr. Morgan was one of the most important breeders of Siberian irises and the originator of several named varieties.

### The Eric Nies Award

The award for spuria irises is the Eric Nies Award. Eligible varieties must have received the Honorable Mention Award. A judge may cast his ballot for only one variety and the variety receiving the largest number of votes, but at least 10 votes, receives the award. The Spuria Iris Society, through the American Iris Society, presents the Mabel F. Johnson Memorial Medal to the award winner.

The award, first presented in 1956, honors Eric Nies, one of the early hybridizers of spuria irises. He introduced many spurias, among them the first brown-toned. Eric Nies is among those credited with developing the modern race of spuria irises.

### THE COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL

The Cook-Douglas Medal is awarded annually to a standard dwarf bearded iris. The Medal is awarded by the Median Iris Society through the American Iris Society. To be eligible for the Cook-Douglas Medal, an iris must have first received the Award of Merit. The following year, the iris becomes eligible for the Cook-Douglas Medal, and remains so for a

total of four years. A judge may vote for one variety only. The medal is awarded to the variety receiving the greatest number of votes, providing that the iris receives at least 15 per cent of the judges' votes. Provision is made by the American Iris Society for supplementary balloting if no variety receives the required votes, or in the event of a tie. However, the Directors may, at their discretion, elect to withhold the award in any year.

The Cook-Douglas Medal was first awarded in 1966. At that time, Awards of Merit were instituted for the standard dwarf bearded class and the AM-equivalent award known as the Cook-Douglas Award was raised to Medal status. The Cook-Douglas Award, which was given from 1959 through 1965, and now the Medal, are named for Paul Cook and Geddes Douglas. Mr. Cook and Mr. Douglas, two of the Society's most renowned hybridizers, were the first to introduce hybrids in the class which became known as the standard dwarf bearded irises.

#### THE KNOWLTON MEDAL

The Medal for border bearded irises is the Knowlton Medal. The medal is awarded annually by the Median Iris Society through the American Iris Society. A border bearded iris is eligible for the Knowlton Medal the first through fourth year after receiving an Award of Merit. Judges may vote for one variety only, and the winner is the variety receiving the greatest number of votes, but at least 15 per cent of the votes cast. Provision for supplementary balloting is the same as for the Cook-Douglas Medal.

The Knowlton Medal was first awarded in 1966 when Awards of Merit were first given in the border bearded class. From 1959 through 1966, the award was an AM-equivalent award and was known as the Knowlton Award. The Knowlton Award and Medal honor Harold Knowlton, a past president of the American Iris Society, and hybridizer of border bearded irises. Although border irises had been appearing in seedling beds for a number of years, Mr. Knowlton had the vision to appreciate their possibilities, and his border bearded introductions were among the first.

#### THE HANS AND JACOB SASS MEDAL

The Hans and Jacob Sass Medal is awarded to intermediate bearded irises. The medal is awarded annually by the Median Iris Society through the American Iris Society. An intermediate bearded iris becomes eligible for the Hans and Jacob Sass Medal the year after winning an Award of Merit and remains eligible through a four year period. A judge casts his ballot for just one variety. The variety receiving the largest vote total, providing it receives at least 15 per cent of the votes cast, receives the medal. Provision for supplementary balloting is the same as for the Cook-Douglas and Knowlton Medals.

In 1966, the first Hans and Jacob Sass Medal was awarded. At that time, the Award of Merit was activated for intermediate bearded irises. The Hans and Jacob Sass Award, which had been given from 1960 through 1965, was the AM-equivalent Award. The Award and Medal honor two of the most important breeders of intermediate irises, Hans and Jacob Sass. Working with dwarf species and tall bearded irises, they produced a line of hardy intermediate bearded irises, many of which are still popular varieties.

#### THE DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

The highest award an iris can win is the Dykes Memorial Award. The Medal commemorates the name of W. R. Dykes, the distinguished author

of the great monograph *The Genus Iris*. The medal for an American variety is awarded annually by the British Iris Society through the American Iris Society, and the winner must be an iris of American or Canadian origin. To be eligible for consideration for the Dykes Medal, an iris must first have achieved a high status by winning one of the following awards: The Award of Merit for tall bearded irises, the Knowlton Medal, the Hans and Jacob Sass Medal, the Cook-Douglas Medal, the Clarence G. White Memorial Award, the William Mohr Memorial Award, the Caparne Award, the W. A. Payne Award, the Mary Swords Debaillon Award, the Williamson-White Award, The Morgan Award, or the Eric Nies Award. The year following receipt of one of the listed awards, an iris becomes eligible for the Dykes Medal and remains eligible during a period of four years.

A judge may make only one selection for this award. The winner is the variety receiving the greatest number of votes, providing that it receives at least 15 per cent of the judges' votes. Should the variety receiving the most votes have less than 15 per cent of the total votes, or should there be a first place tie, the Directors may order a supplementary ballot sent to the judges. The medal may be awarded to the variety receiving the most votes in the supplementary balloting; however, the Directors may withhold the award in any year regardless of whether or not supplementary balloting was done.

The Dykes Medal



#### THE COOK-LAPHAM CUP

The Cook-Lapham Cup is awarded annually to an outstanding red iris. The cup, which was first given in 1963, honors Paul Cook and Greig Lapham, two of our most outstanding hybridizers of red irises. Any red iris, regardless of class, which has been officially registered and introduced, is eligible for the award, but no iris may win the award more than once. Judges vote for one variety and the award is given to the variety receiving the greatest number of votes.

#### THE CLARA B. REES PERPETUAL TROPHY

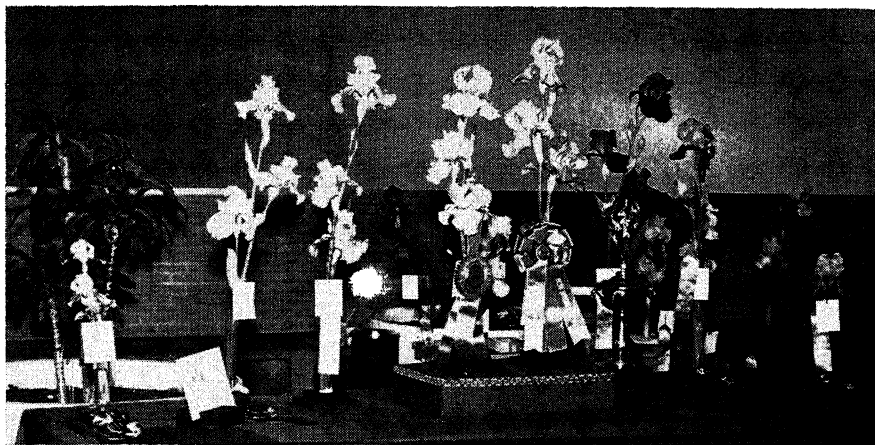
The Clara B. Rees Perpetual Trophy is awarded annually to an outstanding tall bearded white iris. The award, which was first given in 1965, is

named for Clara B. Rees, the originator of the iris SNOW FLURRY. Only tall bearded white irises which have been officially registered and introduced are eligible for the award, and a variety may win the award only one time. The judge votes for only one variety and the award is given to the iris receiving the largest vote total.

#### JUDGES' CHOICE OF NEWLY INTRODUCED VARIETIES

Each year, the Society's judges choose their favorite varieties from among newly introduced irises. Popularly known as the "Judges' Choice List," the only varieties eligible are those irises which have received the Honorable Mention award and are not yet eligible for the Award of Merit. Each judge may vote for no more than 12 tall bearded varieties and no more than 3 varieties each in all other classes. The variety receiving the largest number of votes receives the Fred and Barbara Walther Trophy.

#### EXHIBITION AWARDS AND HONORS



Court of Honor. 1967 Southern Michigan Show

#### THE EXHIBITION CERTIFICATE

All seedlings entered in competition in the Seedling Division of AIS-accredited exhibitions are eligible to receive the Exhibition Certificate (EC) of the American Iris Society. To receive the certificate, a seedling must receive the vote of five AIS judges. However, the one seedling judged to be the "best seedling of the show" by the official judges of the show will also receive the Exhibition Certificate, regardless of the number of official judges assigned to the show.

Every accredited AIS judge, either visiting the show or acting in the capacity of official show judge, considers every seedling entered for this award, and there are no limits on the number of Exhibition Certificates which may be awarded to worthy seedlings.

#### THE SHOW AWARDS

The wide range of highly prized show awards, among them the Silver Medal Certificate and the Bronze Medal Certificate of the American Iris Society, are awarded by AIS judges acting as official judges at AIS-ac-

credited shows. Only AIS-accredited shows which conform to the Exhibitions Rules of the Society are eligible for the American Iris Society Awards.

#### THE NELSON AWARD

The Nelson Award is given annually to the variety selected as **BEST SPECIMEN OF THE SHOW** the greatest number of times during the year. The award, first given in 1966, honors J. Arthur and Irene S. Nelson for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Society in the field of exhibitions. Mr. Nelson served as Chairman of the Exhibitions Committee, and together, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson wrote the AIS publication *Color Classification*.

#### AWARDS AND HONORS VOTED BY AIS MEMBERS

##### THE FRANKLIN COOK MEMORIAL CUP

The Franklin Cook Memorial Cup is awarded annually during the American Iris Society's national meeting. All irises seen on the official garden tours of the meeting are eligible for consideration for the Cook Memorial Cup, with the exception of irises originated within the host region for that year's national meeting. Each AIS member attending the meeting may vote for one variety only, and the cup is awarded to the originator of the iris receiving the greatest number of votes.

The award was established by Dr. Franklin Cook during his tenure as AIS president, and it was originally known as the President's Cup. In 1952, it was renamed the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup. From 1947 through 1965, there was no restriction concerning the geographical origination of irises eligible for the Cook Cup, with the awarding of the 1966 cup, the present restrictions were added.

##### THE PRESIDENT'S CUP

The President's Cup is awarded annually during the American Iris Society's national meeting. Eligibility is restricted to irises originated within the host region of that year's meeting, and seen on the meeting's official garden tours. Each AIS member attending the meeting may vote for just one variety and the President's Cup is awarded to the originator of the iris receiving the largest vote total. The cup was first awarded in 1966.

##### FAVORITE GUEST IRISES

During the annual spring meeting of the Society, AIS members attending the meeting vote on their favorite guest irises. Eligibility is restricted to official guest irises which have been registered but have not yet won the Honorable Mention Award. Each attending AIS member may vote for as many as 15 irises which he considers outstanding and results of the poll are published in the AIS Bulletin.

##### THE SYMPOSIUM OF 100 FAVORITE IRISES

The Symposium of 100 Favorite Irises, and often referred to as the "Popularity Poll," has existed as we know it today since 1952 when every American Iris Society member began participating in the balloting. Ever in the very early days of AIS, some form of a rating system was being used in order to focus attention on the outstanding and popular varieties. At that time, only accredited judges were permitted to participate in the Ratings. During the 1930's, the numerical system of ratings then being used became increasingly cumbersome and valueless, and a better method was being sought.

In 1940, Kenneth Smith, then a Director of the American Iris Society, instituted the first unofficial Iris Symposium, with only a selected 50 AIS



judges balloting. The results were compiled and the "Popularity Poll" was born. In 1941, all accredited judges participated and the symposium became an annual event. Not until 1944, however, did the Directors vote to make the Symposium official. Through the 1951 poll, the voting was still restricted to accredited judges only, but in 1952, Harold Knowlton, then serving as AIS president, had the Symposium opened to all members. With only minor changes, the rules have remained essentially the same.

Balloting for the Symposium is restricted to tall bearded irises. Those varieties eligible for consideration are the following: The top 100 varieties of the previous year's symposium, the Dykes Medal eligibility list for the current year, the Award of Merit eligibility list for the current year, and the Honorable Mention winners of the previous year. Each member may vote for no more than 25 varieties on the list. Additional write-in votes, not to exceed five, may be added for varieties not listed. Members must have seen an iris in bloom in a garden in order to vote for it. The ballot must be mailed by the prescribed deadline to the member's Regional Vice President.

While the Symposium is restricted to tall bearded irises, the different Sections of the American Iris Society each conducts a symposium for the classes in which it specializes. Section members participate in selecting the favorite irises for those classes.



### QUEEN'S COURT, MIO, MICHIGAN, 1969

Left to Right: Mrs. M. Nash, ALLEGIANCE; Ken Adams, DEEP DAWN; Leo Vanaker, with Queen of Show WINTER OLYMPICS, Mrs. and Dr. W. E. Bontrager, BLUE SAPPHIRE, Mrs. Cecelia Neff, PRINCESS ANNE, and Mrs. Opal Fullerton, VIOLET HARMONY.

## JUDGES AND EXHIBITIONS

William T. Bledsoe and Clarke Cosgrove

From its inception, the American Iris Society has recognized the fact that a systematized method of judging irises is one of the vital requirements for the Society's very existence. A study of the history of iris judging in the Society has been made, largely through examination of early AIS publications, including especially the three in the particular field of judging:

*HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES* — 1953

*HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND EXHIBITIONS* — 1960

*HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND EXHIBITIONS* — 1965

### GARDEN JUDGING

The first attempt at organized judging in AIS was initiated in December 1921 when the President, together with several Directors, selected a "Jury" of twenty-five competent members, with Mr. Clarence Connell of Nashville as Chairman. Two declined to serve, and the resulting panel of twenty-three was actually the first roster of Judges of the Society. They used a "score card," which featured a point scale as shown below:

<i>The Plant</i>		<i>The Flower</i>	
Growth	10%	Color	15%
Garden Effect	10%	Form	10%
Poise of Stalk	10%	Size	10%
Height (in its class)	10%	Substance	10%
		<i>Outstanding Qualities</i>	15%
		<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

By May 1922 the original twenty-three judges had compiled the results of the first official garden judging of the Society, and these were published in AIS *Bulletin* No. 5.

In 1925, the Society published an official "White List" of recommended varieties and an official "Black List" of "varieties markedly inferior, not worthy of further propagation and dissemination." The resulting furor can well be imagined! It took three years for that storm to subside! And such lists have not since been published.

In the meantime, the "Score Card" and rating systems were having their troubles. Newer and better varieties were being introduced and the scores were tending to standardize near the top of the scale. Changes in the score card did not seem to remedy the deficiencies, and the numerical rating system for garden judging finally faded out of the picture (apparently in the late 1940's). The Symposium gradually had taken its place.

In 1927 the British Iris Society, then The Iris Society (England), offered to AIS a Dykes Memorial Medal each year "to be given only by vote of the Board of Directors from among the irises on the recommended list of the previous year." In this same year it was decided that accredited judges in the various regions would be selected by the Board of Directors and the list would be published yearly. Thus at this early date the Society seemed to have passed the groping stage and to have had clearly in mind the approximate system of awards that has continued until today.

## JUDGES HANDBOOKS

It was not until 1953 that an official *Handbook for Judges* was first published. It is interesting to note that many of the concepts of judging expressed in that early Handbook are, in general, still considered valid today. In 1960, the *Handbook for Judges and Exhibitions* was published, updating judging concepts, both for the garden and for the show table. Both Handbooks, 1953 and 1960, included chapters on judging types of irises other than tall bearded.

The 1965 *Handbook for Judges and Exhibitions* undertook to provide detailed instructions to judges in applying accepted principles. It addressed itself primarily to the beginning judge by breaking down into component parts the evaluating processes by which a judge would determine that "This iris is worthy of an award!" It emphasized for the first time that there are real differences between garden judging and show judging, both in goals and in techniques. It included updated chapters on judging irises other than tall bearded, written by authors selected for this task by each of the specialty iris groups.

In 1969 a revision of the 1965 *Handbook* was published. Except for updating changes in the awards system and in the system for accreditation of judges, it is substantially the same as the 1965 edition.

## THE JUDGES TRAINING PROGRAM

In November 1966 the Board of Directors adopted Guidelines for Training AIS Judges, based on the 1965 *Handbook*, with an effective date of November 1, 1968. These *Guidelines* set up a training program of combined classroom instruction and actual judging experience, under supervision, both in the garden and at the show table. Full details of the requirements can be found in Chapter 2 of the 1969 *Handbook*.

The training program has been well received, and the Regions have implemented the *Guidelines* enthusiastically. Now AIS can be certain that its judges are adequately trained instead of having to say, as in 1953, to them: "It is presumed that you know more about irises than the average member of the Society, else you would not be a judge." (*Handbook for Judges*, 1953).

Judges training sessions have become quite popular with the non-judges among AIS members, and even with the general iris-growing public. Stress has been placed on "iris appreciation" (which actually is attained through evaluation of an iris, another term for judging). Many authorities claim that the effects of this program are already becoming noticeable in gardens throughout the country. Gardeners are simply becoming more discriminating in the choice of irises they want to grow!

## EXHIBITIONS OR SHOWS

The organizers of AIS in 1920 recognized the importance of exhibitions in promoting the culture and improvement of the iris. Twice in the statement of the Society's purposes the exhibiting of irises is emphasized.

At first, successful iris shows were staged on a non-competitive basis. But in 1926, twenty-five accredited judges evaluated the same number of shows from New Haven, Connecticut, to Redlands, California. This was the year that the Board of Directors suggested that local societies sponsoring shows should reimburse the judges for traveling expenses. By 1927 more than seventy-five competitive shows had been held in all sections of

the country, and a revision of the 1922 regulations on *Exhibition Policy and Management* was published. A condition of cooperation was that all judging should be by accredited judges in accord with AIS standards of excellence. These standards included point scales for individual varieties, collections, artistic arrangements and seedlings. It is interesting to note they also carried a suggested schedule for shows which included provisions for a junior division.

The early rules permitted any accredited show to award a Bronze Medal, but only the largest shows qualified for the Silver Medal. As it was the policy of the society to distribute a limited number of silver medals, usually six, each year in as many different sections of the country as possible, they were normally not authorized two years in succession for the same place. Silver and bronze medals were made available, however, for all accredited shows by 1930.

At the outset, the Honorable Mention was for seedlings exhibited at shows. In 1931 this AIS Certificate of Honorable Mention was authorized for seedlings rated above 80 points in an exhibition, but the number of Honorable Mentions so recommended could not exceed five. Later the award to seedlings at exhibitions was changed to that of Highly Commended, the same as that given to an unIntroduced iris judged in the garden, and the Honorable Mention was reserved for introduced irises judged on two year plants in the garden. Still later, the Exhibition Certificate was adopted for seedlings judged as cut specimens in a show, and Highly Commended was made solely a garden award.

The early standards were maintained for over twenty years with the first minor modifications being made in 1941. It is interesting to note that the latest revision of rules for collections at shows brings the regulation in close accord with those originally formulated in the 1920's.

The 1953 *Handbook for Judges* had show rules, instructions to exhibition judges, and point-scales for show judging. These were updated in the 1960 *Handbook*. And again, as with garden judging, the 1965 *Handbook* included more detailed instructions for the judges' use in interpreting the values on the scales of points. One chapter was taken up entirely with the organization of an iris show and the mechanics for putting it on.

Normally, approximately 110 AIS-approved shows are now held each year throughout the 24 Regions. Local societies have found that the iris exhibition is an excellent "show window" for luring potential members close enough for the iris fever to infect them. Shows have thus become an important part of iris activity each year.

### THE MODERN JUDGE

The modern AIS Judge is now well qualified in both areas in which he must function: Garden and Exhibition. He makes his appraisals with assurance, because he has confidence in the adequacy of the training he has received; and he knows that he will be kept fully apprised of current judging trends and logic through the refresher training he will receive.

The regional quota of judges cannot exceed 15 percent of the AIS membership. Many Regions have fewer judges than their quotas allow, because conscientious RVPs have the wise policy of keeping a few vacancies for "emergency." The emergency usually is a new candidate for judgeship who demonstrates outstanding capability and enthusiasm; and it is

good management to have a judgeship open for such a potential great, once the required training is completed.

The AIS Judge is the work-horse of the Society, the right hand of the RVP, and the potential RVP, Director, or national committee chairman. The "fathers" of our Society planned wisely when they built the entire awards structure around the sturdy framework of the AIS Judges.

## Research and the Work of The Scientific Committee

Thomas E. Jacoby

The Society during the half century has been diligently engaged in "promoting the culture and improvement of the iris." This included scientific study and research, but lack of means, manpower and time made such effort sporadic and desultory. In some areas, reliance had to be placed on reports of individual growers who, though conscientious, usually lacked the scientific requirement of proper controls.

The very first issue of the *Bulletin* was largely the product of a five-man Committee on Culture, under the chairmanship of William A. Peterson. The group provided articles on the selection and culture of irises suitable for each of several sections of the country. Work was begun to cut through the confusion of variety names; an iris check list appeared in Bulletin No. 4. A symposium of iris ratings made by 23 "jurors" was published in *Bulletin* No. 5. The next issue contained the first installment of several hundred descriptions written by the secretary and editor, R. S. Sturtevant.

The first instances of financial contribution to research occurred in 1925. AIS made a grant of \$100 to assist in establishing a study collection of Japanese irises, under the direction of Dr. George M. Reed, at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Beginning in 1925, the Society for four years supported two summer scholarships at the New York Botanical Garden to assist Dr. A. B. Stout in a program of breeding experiments ("sterility studies") among species and cultivars in the extensive iris planting in this garden.

The establishment of a Scientific Committee in 1927, with Dr. Adolph E. Waller of the Department of Botany at Ohio State University, as chairman, was a commitment to iris research, and excellent material was published during Dr. Waller's incumbency, which terminated in 1945. A *Bulletin* article (Apr. '27:13-17) was entitled, "Is Scientific Research Necessary to the American Iris Society?" In his closing paragraph he states: "It will be seen that without investigations sooner or later, the society will be failing to develop along the lines by which our advancement in civilization has become available, namely, by scientific research and its application."

An obvious deterrent to engaging in research programs for finding forth-with remedies for all the diseases found in irises, for example, is the prohibitive cost. Witness the fabulously expensive research establishments in industry.

As the membership grew, there were more and more people possessing interest and talent for inquiry into matters concerning culture of irises, and more and more informative unsolicited articles have appeared and continue to appear in the *Bulletin*.

The appointment of Dr. L. F. Randolph as chairman of the Scientific Committee in 1945 inaugurated a new era of research. He not only organized a number of research activities, but wrote numerous articles on the function of chromosomes that have proved vital in increasing knowledge of, for example, the genetics of hybrids; he popularized embryo culture, and he made three trips abroad to collect species irises that have stimulated breeding, especially in the small irises.

In 1956, Dr. Lee W. Lenz, director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, succeeded Dr. Randolph. Dr. Lenz, among other notable contributions, explored the possibilities of cooperative research and developed some lines. In 1966, Mr. Herbert M. Parker, became the fourth chairman. He resigned in 1969, and Dr. Raymond C. Allen, director of Kingwood Center, was appointed.

The following review of AIS-funded research shows three projects were participated in during the first decade; all others occurred in this, the fifth decade.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden (Dr. Reed), toward establishment of a study collection of Japanese irises (1925), \$100.

New York Botanical Garden (Dr. Stout), in support of studies of fertility of irises—cultivars and species of garden irises of all kinds (1925-28), \$800.

Donald Reis, at Cornell University, for research on the control of iris pests—the borer and the verberna bud moth (1928), \$100.

Prof. H. S. MacWhitey, Montana State College, in a study of botrytis (1961), \$1450; (1964), \$1000.

Prof. Carl Jorgensen, Colorado State University, engaged in studies of inhibitory effects of seed germination (1965), \$250; (1966), \$250.

Mississippi State University, contribution to the B. Y. Morrison Iris Research Fund (1966), \$1350.

Set aside in 1968 for the study of scorch, \$2000, and for research in botrytis, \$1000.

Dr. Raabe, University of California, for study of rust in irises (1969), \$500.

Next follow topical lists of technical articles published in the *Bulletin*. In many instances the lists include only selected articles. Some titles were rewritten for this listing.

#### CLASSIFICATION

Dr. Randolph's articles, listed below, were of great interest and value, not only from a scientific standpoint, but also to breeders, growers and judges who work with irises.

Chromosome Number and Classification of Bearded Irises. Discusses importance of chromosome numbers in working out classification of some dwarfs and intermediates. Oct. '47:68-78.

Revised Classification of the Bearded Irises. Subgenus *Eupogoniris*: Tall bearded section; dwarf bearded section; intermediate bearded. Subgenus *Pogoniris*: *Oncocyclus* section; *regelia* section; *regeliocyclus* hybrids. Apr. '48:3-8.

Botanical Classification of Iris Species. Jan. '54:3-4.

Horticultural Classification of Bearded Irises. Jan. '55:1-9.

In addition, these articles are noteworthy.

Major Groups Within the Genus *Iris*, by G. H. M. Lawrence. Jan. 54:3-4.

Classification of *Eupogon* Irises, by L. F. Randolph and G. H. M. Lawrence. Establishes height and other characteristics of MDB, SDB, IB, MTB, BB and TB classes. Jan. '58:9-17.

A Russian work on the Genus *Iris*, by T. I. Rodionenko, published in Leningrad, is reviewed by William J. Dress of the L. H. Bailey Hortorium, Cornell Uni. July '62:79-82.

A Key Character for Separating *Sibericae* and *Californicae*, by Lee W. Lenz. Oct. '62:79-82.

## GENETICS

A number of significant studies in genetics and chromosomes have been done. Some of the more important are listed below.

Iris Genetics, by A. H. Sturtevant and L. F. Randolph. Subheads: inheritance in diploids; inheritance in tetraploids; recovery of recessives; linkage; character analysis in tetraploids. Nov. '45:52-66.

Summary report of 969 crosses made by cooperators in 1946 to obtain information of value in genetic studies of flower color, by Scientific Committee. Apr. '47:39-42.

Chromosome Behavior in Trinkedor (Randolph, R. '49), a Hybrid of Diploid Tall Bearded and Dwarf Bearded Parentage, by Katherine Heinig and L. F. Randolph. Oct. '48:77-81.

Results from 1947 (Apr. '47:39-42) crosses designed to test out various problems of inheritance in irises, by L. F. Randolph. Oct. '50:56-69.

Cytological and breeding behavior of dwarf and tall bearded iris hybrids, by L. F. Randolph and Katherine Heinig. Oct. '51:90-98.

Cytogenetics of Median Bearded Irises, by L. F. Randolph. Chromosome number and breeding behavior; genetic analysis; genetics; genetics of white irises. Apr. '57:3-11.

Relationship of Genetics to Iris Hybridization, by Norland C. Henderson. Oct. '58:11-14.

## CHROMOSOMES

Study of Chromosomes, by A. E. Longley. "The collection and study of chromosomes in pollen-mother cells of iris was started . . . (about 1921) in the laboratory of Plant Morphology, Harvard University, under the direction of Professor Jeffrey." Mr. Longley's survey of the science includes chromosome numbers of 36 irises and numerous photomicrographs of cells. Oct. '28:43-55.

Chromosome numbers of native American and introduced species and cultivated varieties of irises, over a hundred; discussion of the factor of inheritance and uncertain results that may be obtained from crosses involving different chromosome numbers. By L. F. Randolph. July '34:61-66.

Chromosome numbers of 420 tall bearded irises, with commentary on breeding, by L. F. Randolph. Nov. 44:37-45.

Chromosome numbers of 20 species and collected forms, 20 dwarf bearded, 6 intermediate, and 10 tall bearded, by L. F. and Fannie R. Randolph. "Our studies of iris chromosomes were undertaken in the early 1930s to find out to what extent polyploidy and differences in chromosome number might account for unexplained and often negative results of crossing various garden varieties and species being reported by hybridizers." Apr. '54:15-18.

Refinement in techniques available. From Randolph report as chairman of Scientific Committee for 1955. Jan. '56:27-29.

Chromosome numbers of iris species. "As a result of the combined efforts of an international group of cytologists, we now know the chromosome number of nearly 200 species of iris and several times this many garden varieties." By L. F. Randolph and Jyotirmay Mitra. Jan. '56:50-60.

Chromosome numbers of 19 garden varieties and 26 species. Six photomicrographs of somatic chromosomes of rhizomatous and bulbous irises. By L. F. Randolph and Jyotirmay Mitra. Jan. '59:5-9.

Chromosome numbers in the spuria irises, by Lee W. Lenz. Apr. '63:53-69.

Chromosome pairing in tetraploid bearded irises, by Katherine Heinig and L. F. Randolph. July '63:51-64.

Chromosomes Without Aspirin, by W. F. Scott, Jr., Informative "chalk-talk." July '54:16-22.

## BREEDING

In his article "Twelve Years of Iris Breeding in California—Methods and Records," in the July 1934 Bulletin, Edward O. Essig includes considerable information from his breeding records, such as pollination and germination records, 1923-33; germination of seeds planted before drying, including some "fresh" seeds, and germination of seeds left undisturbed in seedbeds until the fourth year.

Diploid Characters Transmitted to Tetraploid Iris, by Robert Schreiner. May '45:25-31.

Breeding for Hardiness, by Wilma L. Vallette. Apr. '62:23-25.

Knowledge and Imagination in Breeding, by Peter Werckmeister. Jan. '63:29-32.

The Recessive Character, by Orville W. Fay. Apr. '65:9-11.

In 1925, a series of studies of sterility in irises was started at the New York Botanical Garden under the direction of Dr. A. B. Stout. During the period of these studies, which continued through 1928, AIS supported two summer scholarships awarded for this program. The scope of the project is suggested by the statement that in the first year 184 varieties were used as seed parents and more than 1500 flowers were hand-pollinated; that two years later approximately 2000 crosses were made, and that the reports of the program in seven *Bulletins* from July 1925 to April 1929 filled nearly a hundred pages. Subjects for the experiments were bearded irises, Siberians, Louisianas, and Japanese, and scores of species irises. The varieties used have long been obsolete. The tall bearded probably were diploids, and the results are probably obsolete. This is probably more true of the bearded studies than of the species. Quoted from the first report is a paragraph (July '25:6) which contains information which may not be generally known: "Irregularities in the character of stamens and pollen are to be found among the flowers of certain varieties and even for different flowers of the same stalk. Thus *Amabilis* had very little pollen in flowers that opened on May 20, but viable pollen was collected from flowers open on May 29." Similar irregularities were noted in *Golden Plume* and *Queen of May*. "Such variations are apparently characteristic of certain varieties and may, in part at least, be due to external influences such as unfavorable weather conditions."

### GERMINATION — EMBRYO CULTURE

Through the years germination has been a problem to breeders, particularly in difficult or interspecies crosses, and every grower would like to have a higher rate of germination of everything. The work of Dr. Randolph on embryo culture of iris seed was a landmark that resulted in the production of fine new irises, for instance, new *amoenas* that otherwise we might not have had.

Studies to improve seed germination, by John Weiler. July '69:58-62. "Results of this experiment demonstrate that prolonged soaking in water will stimulate germination of bearded iris seeds."

Review of factors in iris seed germination, by Kenneth K. Kidd. Apr. '66:14-22.

Inhibitory effects of iris seed extracts on germination, by Carl J. C. Jorgensen. Oct. '65:27-31.

Germination of two specific iris crosses under varying time, temperature, and seed treatment, by Carl J. C. Jorgensen. Oct. '66:60-67.

Embryo culture of iris seed, by L. F. Randolph. May '45:33-45.—L. F. and Fannie Randolph. Oct. '55:7-17; Lloyd Paul. July 57:69-70; Jack Goett. Jan. '59:43-47; Bruce B. Farrington. Jan. '61:43-45, Apr. '61:43-47; Oct. '69:45-50; Doris Foster. July '65:56-60; and Leonard P. Stoltz. Oct. '67:90-98.

### SPECIES

Dwarf beardless species, by Stephen F. Hamblin. Apr. '50:36-40. There are many of these, and in addition to furnishing descriptions and cultural suggestions, Mr. Hamblin notes the vernacular names of species that are commonly referred to in literature by their scientific names only, as Arctic iris (*setosa*) and Pilgrim iris (*ruthenica*).

Southern United States Iris Species and Hybrids, by George M. Reed. July



'47:52-81.

Two new and unusual hybrids, by Lee W. Lenz. *Iris Ariel* x *I. tectorum* and *I. douglasiana* x *I. siberica* Caesar's Brother. Jan. '57:43-46.

Collecting irises abroad, in course of travel to India, with return via USSR. Oct. '59:5-11.—in Europe by L. F. and Fannie R. Randolph. July '61:37-39.

#### THE PLANT

"In earlier contributions to the *Bulletin*," wrote J. Marion Shull, "I have shown how the iris may persist when buried deeply in the soil even in an inverted position; how it will thrust up an attenuated slender growth until the surface is reached, where it again assumes its horizontal, half aerial, habit of growth and again thickens up and acquires the necessary strength for flowering (Jan. '29:12-14); also that repeated taking up and resetting after pruning the roots is not necessarily such a discouragement as to prevent the formation of blossom buds for the ensuing season." (Oct. '28:56-59). Now he relates another demonstration of the hardiness of the rhizome. A plant of LENT A. WILLIAMSON was left on a little used garden seat and not again noticed until in the spring when Mr. Shull decided to junk the seat. He put the rhizome in the fork of a privet bush until the coming planting season, when he put it into the ground. Forty-six days later, on July 25, he lifted the plant, and a photograph of it shows some new fans and root development. Apr. '30:40-42.

Bud development, by Marion Shull. One of three accompanying line drawings shows, considerably enlarged, inflorescence as developed at end of growing season. Jan. '23:17-18.

Stem elongation studies, undertaken at Ohio State University, to determine factors operating on growth of stem, which in most TB varieties is about 24" in 30-day period. Among the conclusions: There is a distinct lag between weather changes and growth rate, the effect expected occurring 24 to 96 hours after the causal factor, as increased precipitation. In all irises studied there was a similarity in the behavior pattern of growth. The period of maximum elongation falls into an inherited behavior pattern. The actual height of stem attained depends on both inherited traits and environment to which the plants are responding. By Dr. A. E. Weller and Robert H. McCormick. Oct. '33:87-89.

#### ENVIRONMENT

Effect of shortage of water. Described is function of water in physiology of a plant. Insufficient water may cause asymmetry of floral parts (as, half of a fall may be narrower than the other) or may noticeably modify expression of color (in a plicata marking may vary). By Dr. A. E. Waller. Jan. '31:79-83.

Effects of light and temperature on irises of known heredity. "Four clonal types of bearded irises, two dwarf, one intermediate and one tall, were used for comparative behavior under controlled length of day and temperature . . . The conclusion is that for all groups indicated the behavior with respect to seasonal changes is dependent upon both hereditary and environmental factors." Eight photographs; 12 references to related research. By Dr. Adolph E. Waller. Oct. '35:6-12.

Soil fertility for irises, by Ferris D. Gaskill. July '64:77-83.

#### DISEASES AND PESTS

From the beginning of the Society and before, all growers have been plagued by various rots, leaf blights and scorch, and have suffered the devastation of the iris borer. There have been many studies, but no perfect answers. There have been complaints from time to time that the Scientific Committee devoted too much effort to classification and genetics, and not enough to diseases and pests. It is heartening that more research, including some that is funded, is being done on these recently. Another subject that is of great interest to growers will be the chemical control of weeds without harming the iris.

Controlling leaf spot, soft rot, and sclerotium rot, by A. W. Dimock. Apr. '59:16-18.

Protective treatments for control of winter rhizome rot caused by *Botrytis convoluta*, by H. S. MacWhitey, Montana State Uni. "Semesan and Ceresan rhizome soak treatments significantly reduced losses from botrytis rot disease in iris planted in soil infested with *Botrytis convoluta*. These set fungicides were not effective in eradicating suberized botrytis infections in planting stock or in reducing infection of new divisions by *Botrytis*. They were active, however, in preventing infection of wound tissue on the parent rhizome and the spread of inoculation from suberized lesions in contact with the soil." July '67:84-88.

Scorch, by Judge Guy Rogers. April, '54:38-40; July '55:53-62; Apr. '57:30, Checked with methyl bromide, one lb. per 100 sq. ft.

Nematodes and scorch (a general background exposition), by L. F. Randolph; from report as chairman, Scientific Committee for 1955. Jan. '56:24-27.

Verbena bud moth, by Donald T. Ries. Life history; suggested spray. July 29:39.

Scorch Disease of Rhizomatous Iris, by J. G. Bald. Discusses cause, symptoms, disease cycle and control. Oct. '69:26-30.

Iris Borer and Its Control, by John C. Schread, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Updated material on life cycle and habits, and control. Oct. '69:57-31.

The *Bulletin's* short-lived Science Series was inaugurated in 1928 with three articles on the iris borer. One by Henry F. Dietz deals primarily with status of knowledge of the pest; the second, by J. Marion Shull, related to detection and control; the third writer was Donald T. Ries, at Cornell University, who was engaged in study of iris pests (the other being the verbena bud moth). Mr. Ries had an AIS allotment of \$100 to further his work. Jan. '28:20-29. A year later, Mr. Ries discussed at length life histories of the borer and bud moth and methods of control. His article is recommended to readers who wish to improve their acquaintance with the pest entomologists named *Macronoctua onusta*.

#### POLLEN

Storage of iris pollen, by Lee W. Lenz. Jan. '54:18-21.

Pollen tube behavior, by Willis E. Chase. Under the direction of Dr. A. E. Waller, at Ohio State University; made studies of pollen tube germination and rapidity of pollen tube growth. Laboratory procedure described in detail. Ten hours after pollination about 90 percent of pollen had germinated and grown down to varying distances in perianth tube. Mr. estimated that with conditions favorable the rate of growth of the pollen tube permits pollen to reach the ovary in about 20 hours. Apr. '34:17-20.

Pollination to Fertilization Time Interval, by Sally B. D. Dalahoussaye. In case of a hybrid Louisiana iris the interval was 74 hours and 20 minutes. Jan. '66:48-49.

#### COLORS AND PIGMENTS

Iris Colors and Pigments, by Peter Werckmeister. July '60:25-33.

#### RADIATION

Possibilities of induced mutation by radiation, by L. F. Randolph. July '56:68-73.

Experimental Radiation of Seeds, by Melba Hamblen. Oct. '59:51-54.

#### REGIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS

Canvassed by Scientific Committee, L. F. Randolph, Chairman.

For 1947, Part I, Oct. '47:80-89; Part II, Jan. '48:54-60. Performance ratings of number of commonly grown irises in regions of rather like growing conditions. For 1948: (a) Ratings for 17 varieties in Regions 1, 9, 15, 17, and 18, with five-region average rating for each. Jan. '49:94-95. (b) Ratings of 70 (historical, as regarded from 1969) varieties in Regions 1, 6, 9, 15, 17 and 18, without six-region average. Apr. '49:45-47.

For 1949: The ratings are for Regions 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17 and 18, and are accompanied by considerable commentary. Jan. '50:38-45.

This represents only a part of the research and scientific inquiry, and one is struck with the quality of most of the research that has been done through the years. The work which Dr. L. F. Randolph has done is particularly noteworthy, and he well deserves the plaudits of the Society, both for the wide scope of his inquiry and for his workmanlike research. It can be said that his studies have affected profoundly the status of the modern iris.

On the whole, a study of the research of the half-century is a real lesson to those who will take the time to study it. We regret that space prevents us from reporting many more worthy studies. It seems abundantly clear that with the limited funds available AIS and its members have produced a worthy list of research projects, and as we go into the second half-century of the Society, we look forward to a stepped-up pace of research into the problems of iris growing of today.

Of particular promise is the work that the Species Committee, headed by B. LeRoy Davidson, is doing. This work, coupled with the present funded research, the recent breakthrough on scorch, the updated material on the borer, and experiments going on in iris gardens over the country, give a hopeful inauguration to the second half century of the Society's and its members' search toward the unlocking of the secrets of better iris culture.

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## AIS BULLETINS AND BOOKS

Geddes Douglas

In 1601 Charles de l'Ecluse (Carolus Clusius) published his *Rariorum Plantarum Historia*, and after having described therein not less than twenty-eight iris species, including *I. sustiana*, he remarks, "A long experience has taught me that irises grown from seed vary in a wonderful way." If ever the American Iris Society needed a reason for being, it may be found in those few words from the renowned Clusius.

Again, if one should try to trace the founding of the Society and to credit it to any one person in a large manner, one would be led inevitably to the name of Grace Sturtevant. Miss Sturtevant was the daughter of the first director of the New York Experiment Station in Geneva, New York. She was a botanist in her own right, and being an artist as well, she helped her father by illustrating his various botanical studies.

In 1901, Miss Sturtevant moved to Wellesley Farms, Massachusetts, and began a famous iris garden. First she collected most of the then available tall bearded hybrids and species, and then she added her own seedlings after she began hybridizing in 1909. She was a prodigious letter writer, and kept up a correspondence with botanists and iris breeders all over the world. Chief among these was Sir Arthur Bliss, an amateur breeder of Devon, England, famous as the producer of DOMINION, an iris which, in the opinion of many early breeders, had more influence in the realm of tall bearded breeding than any other one variety. Bliss kept strict and accurate records and impressed the necessity of this upon his American correspondent who, in turn, promoted the idea of accurate records, and the free exchange of breeding information between the various American breeders of the early 1900s. Thus breeders of today are bequeathed a wealth of information unparalleled in the history of any other plant. Miss



Robert Sturtevant  
(Editor 1920-34; 1946)

B. Y. Morrison  
(Editor 1935-39)

No  
picture  
available



Fred Cassebeer  
(Editor 1940-1945)



Geddes Douglas  
(Editor 1946-47; 1950-59)



Thomas E. Jacoby  
(Editor 1960-64)



J. Arthur Nelson  
(Editor 1964 —)

Sam Caldwell (Editor 1948-49) picture on p. 32

Sturtevant was assisted in her early efforts by her younger brother, Robert S. Sturtevant. One of his responsibilities was keeping the records of her crosses. Working with his sister, he became familiar with the early efforts toward forming an iris society. He came to know such personalities as John Wister, Anson Peckham, Thura Hires, Sydney Mitchell, Franklin Meade, Charles E. F. Gersdorff, and others in America.

In 1917 he went to Europe as an American soldier, and after the Armistice traveled extensively. In 1918 he attended the International Horticultural Congress held in Paris, and thus he became acquainted with many of the English and continental iris breeders. Returning to America after the war, he brought with him news of efforts in England concerning the formation of a society dedicated solely to the promotion and betterment of the iris. This served to intensify efforts in this country and upon the successful culmination of these efforts, what more natural thing could have occurred than that Robert Sturtevant should have been made secretary of

the Society and editor of its journal. As secretary of the Society, it was his responsibility to see to the growth of the young Society and to attend to its financial needs. As editor, it was his responsibility to get into the printed page all available information possible concerning the iris and those interested in it, particularly as this applied to his American constituency. This he proceeded to do.

A study of the early AIS Bulletins reveals that an effort was made to straighten out a confusion of varieties. Frequently a variety was sold and distributed under several names. The *Bulletin* printed several *Check Lists* in an effort to clear iris nomenclature.

Much space in the early Sturtevant issues was devoted to reprinting available authoritative information concerning the species. Much of this was from the writings of W. R. Dykes. Since the importation of species was being accelerated, a good deal of attention was devoted to their culture. Soon after the formation of the AIS, the country was divided into regions. It soon became evident that growing conditions were different in these several regions, and articles appeared dealing with these differences, particularly as to its relation to the tall bearded varieties.

Also in the early issues, Bob Sturtevant devoted much time and effort into a meticulous description of varieties. For instance, DESCRIPTIONS—PART VI appeared in *Bulletin* No. 53 for October, 1934. Previous descriptions had appeared starting in *Bulletin* No. 6, with the last in *Bulletin* No. 29. So it would seem there had been a considerable gap before the last were printed. The following is typical:

DAUNTLESS

(Cardinal x Rose Madder)

Bicolor R9D

Connell 1927-1929

Brief. S light perilla purple flushed magenta; F. velvety amaranth purple to Bordeaux with conspicuous white to cream haft and orange tipt beard; 3 feet. Details. Foliage and spathes tinged; S. with tips adpressed, revolute; F. flaring, ruffled; haft reticulations widely spaced, morocco red; Styles color of S.

The task was getting more and more difficult each year with the increasing number of introductions and finally it had to be given up.

Lastly, there were a number of deaths of prominent iris personalities during the time that Mr. Sturtevant served as editor. Complete issues of the *Bulletin* were devoted to such growers as William Mohr, Frank Presby, Arthur Bliss, and W. R. Dykes.

Varietal comments were different from the descriptions before referred to. These have been popular from the very beginning and are still in demand. They are comments, or impressions, regarding irises from different judges or observers, usually brief, mostly favorable, but sometimes not. They have taken various forms. They may comprise long lists of irises such as Junius Fishburn produced in his travels during the 1930s and 1940s. They may be assemblages of comments from many sources arranged according to varieties, or they may be reports by individuals on New England gardens, or California gardens, or Chicago gardens. AIS members who found it impossible to see all the new irises introduced have found such comments a help to temper catalogue descriptions.

The *Bulletin* under Robert S. Sturtevant was never hesitant about drawing in competent help as the occasion arose. In 1928 there were two associate editors, Ella Porter McKinney and Mary J. Averett. In 1931, the associates were Mrs. McKinney and Mrs. J. Edgar Hires. In 1933, an

editorial board was appointed consisting of S. R. Duffy, Mrs. Hires, Mrs. McKinney, Miss Lena Lothrop, and B. Y. Morrison.

In 1934, Mr. Morrison served as Secretary of the Society, soon to be succeeded by Mr. John Ferguson, in order that he could devote his efforts to the *Bulletin*. Beginning with *Bulletin* No. 55 issued in February 1935, Ben Morrison was listed as chairman of the Editorial Board. He did not list himself as editor until in *Bulletin* No. 66, September 1937.

Perhaps it might be well to list the several subsequent editors in chronological order. In April 1940, *Bulletin* No. 77, Mr. Morrison was succeeded by Fred W. Cassebeer, who kept the editorship for twenty-three issues, through *Bulletin* No. 99, November 1945.

Mr. R. S. Sturtevant again took over the reins for three issues, Numbers 100, 101, and 102, with this writer listed as associate editor. Due to health reasons, Mr. Sturtevant was forced to retire and his associate carried on for five issues, to be succeeded by Sam Y. Caldwell. Mr. Caldwell became both secretary and editor. In 1950 Mr. Caldwell became associated with the Columbia Broadcasting System, succeeding Mr. Tom Williams, known to the gardening public as the "Old Dirt Dobber." Beginning with *Bulletin* No. 117, Sam was succeeded in turn by Geddes Douglas again, who became both secretary and editor, with Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Sturtevant, and Mr. J. E. Wills as associate editors. Later Mrs. Ernest (Nancy) Hardison became associate editor and this arrangement remained in effect through *Bulletin* Number 156.

In April 1960 Mr. Thomas E. Jacoby became editor and remained so until he was succeeded by the present editor, Mr. J. Arthur Nelson, whose first *Bulletin* was No. 175, October 1964. Mr. Nelson's able assistant is his daughter, Mrs. Kay N. Negus.

The various swaps and shifts in the early 1950s are utterly confusing unless one realizes the underlying reasons. The office of the secretary was in Washington, D. C., and was run by part-time employees. The membership of the Society was just under a thousand members. Suddenly the membership almost doubled and the office found itself unable to handle the increase with its inadequate staff. Fred Cassebeer had to give up the editorship for financial reasons and the idea was to combine both offices under one man, Robert S. Sturtevant, and move from Washington to Nashville. Shortly after this was done, Mr. Sturtevant became ill and it was necessary for this writer to take over for three issues until Mr. Caldwell could be persuaded to accept the responsibility. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Caldwell left for a job with CBS, and again Geddes Douglas became editor for the longest single stretch of any other incumbent since the founding of the publication.

The several editors varied greatly in their approach, style, temperament and objectives in general. Mr. Morrison, a research scientist, was responsible for excellent *Bulletins*. The articles were well chosen, authoritative and well edited. He abhorred the personal comment, the garden club approach as you might call it, the gentle art of the members patting each other on the back. And his issues rarely came out anywhere near the theoretical publishing date. Mr. Morrison approached the matter from the unhurried standpoint of the scientist.

Mr. Cassebeer's efforts were equally as good. The tone of the publication

was somewhat lighter and brighter. Members were encouraged to participate. And more important, Fred was himself a photographer with a feeling for his subject. He added a greater percentage of photographs of flowers and people which greatly increased reader interest. Truly an artist at heart, he approached the problem from that viewpoint.

The fourteen year period between the summer of 1945 and the spring of 1960 should be considered as an entity, although three persons were involved in the editorship. The Board of Directors had decided to move the Society's headquarters from Washington to Nashville, and the decision was made to employ the *Bulletin* as a means of increasing the membership of the Society. This meant changing the appearance of the publication and making it more attractive to the eye. Necessarily this took it out of the class of a pseudo-scientific journal and placed it somewhere between that category and that of a gardening magazine.

These changes were made over a period of time. Mr. Sturtevant introduced the first change, that of eliminating the use of caps, boldface and other special types except in recognized scientific articles where the style was set by the author. Thus DAUNTLESS became Dauntless, and ONCO-CYCLUS became onco-cyclus, etc. This made the pages easier to read and more attractive to look at. Mr. Caldwell introduced the idea of more full page pictures, bled to the edges of the page. The change of the traditional front cover from a listing of the table of contents to an illustration, first in black and white and later in color, was a Douglas innovation. The small type used in earlier years was changed to a larger size in deference to the senior members of the Society whose eyesight was somewhat less than 20-20, and to the delight of all, the *Bulletin* was mailed out on time.

Besides the *Bulletin*, the Society from time to time has brought out other publications. There have been four *Check Lists*—in 1929, 1939, 1949, and 1959. There have also been pamphlets on *What Every Iris Grower Should Know* which were revised from time to time, and likewise the *Judges Handbook*. A more ambitious effort was a book entitled *THE IRIS An Ideal Hardy Perennial*, which was published in Nashville in 1947. This was written by various members of the Iris Society, and it was assembled and edited by the editorial staff of the *Bulletin*. It was economically produced and cheap in price and was so well received that a second edition was necessary. It promoted more iris growing, by more people, which in turn meant more members for the Society. This was followed up twelve years later by a much more ambitious volume edited by Dr. L. F. Randolph, the title of which was *Garden Irises*. It was handsomely bound and printed, and illustrated with many color plates, as well as pictures in black and white. Where the first little book had two hundred pages, this had nearly six hundred. It also was written by many authors, experts in their field, and it covered all types of irises, their culture and classification. It is the most thorough and comprehensive book on irises yet produced, and it has been very popular, so much so that the edition has now been exhausted.

Another project was a series of scientific experiments on a mass scale. Dr. L. F. Randolph was induced to supervise the project with literally hundreds of members participating. Again there was the matter of the

Round Robin. In the early days of the Society, before the *Bulletin* was started, news about irises was published in a magazine called "The Flower Grower." The editor of this on the side ran a letter swapping project and called it "The Round Robin." The *Bulletin* picked this up years later. John Bartholomew was named director and assisted by Peggy Grey. The project was immediately successful and still is.

Of great importance was the promotion of other than tall bearded irises. There were many people in the Society interested in iris species, and the many kinds of beardless and small bearded hybrids, but their individual efforts were rarely recognized. The *Bulletin* focused attention to these people and their irises by devoting special issues to them. This eventually led to the formation of several special plant societies within (and without!) the structure of the parent AIS. All that was necessary to do was to find a way to get these people together and their natural enthusiasm took care of the rest.

In the early issues of the *Bulletin* much interest was attached to the publication of the family trees of certain popular iris varieties. During the late 1940s and the early 1950s, the *Bulletin* published many such varietal derivations, particularly as they related to the origin of the tangerine-bearded pinks.

At the beginning of the fourteen year period referred to above, the membership of the Society was less than fifteen hundred, and at the end, slightly less than five thousand. The *Bulletin* can point with pride to its part in making the AIS a going concern.

Tom Jacoby took over the helm in 1960. The quality of his publications is extremely high and much credit should be given him for his excellent work. The decision was made to change from the magazine approach to one more suitable to the periodical of one of the world's largest plant societies. Mr. Jacoby accomplished this with dispatch and the results are most gratifying. His successor, Art Nelson, has followed in his path.

Current issues show the material to be well organized. Typographical errors are at a minimum, and the color work adds to the attractiveness of the finished product. This writer is constantly amazed by the wealth of fine material which always seems to be at Mr. Nelson's disposal. The current issue (No. 195) is a case in question. In this one issue are three fine scientific articles. One is on SCORCH by Dr. J. G. Bald. A second is entitled "Laboratory Culture of Iris Seeds" by Bruce B. Farrington, and the third is "Iris Borer and Its Control" by John C. Schread. In the old days we would have been lucky to have gotten three such articles in the course of a year, and Mr. Nelson has these for one issue.

In closing, and speaking for all the other AIS members, I would like to salute the present staff of our *Bulletin*, J. Arthur Nelson, Editor; Kay N. Negus, Assistant Editor, and Mrs. Peggy Burke Grey, Associate Editor. Peg had previously served in an associate capacity, her name first appearing on the masthead of the *Bulletin* in 1957. These people have inherited a great tradition dating back over the past half century. And to it, they measure up with great merit and distinction.



# Of Historical Interest

Helen McCaughey

## PRESIDENTS OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Dr. John C. Wister	1920-34	Mr. H. W. Knowlton	1953-55
Dr. H. H. Everett	1935-39	Mr. Marion Walker	1956-59
Mr. W. J. McKee	1940-42	Dr. L. F. Randolph	1960-62
Mr. Jeesse E. Wills	1943-46	Mr. Robert Carney	1963-65
Dr. Franklin Cook	1947-48	Mr. Hubert Fischer	1966-68
Mr. Guy Rogers	1949-52	Mr. W. T. Bledsoe	1969-

## AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY GOLD MEDALS

1930	Dr. John C. Wister	1940	Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham
1935	Miss Grace Sturtevant		

## FOSTER MEMORIAL PLAQUE

(England's High Award for Distinguished Service)

1927	Dr. John C. Wister	1957	Mr. Paul Cook
1938	Miss Grace Sturtevant	1959	Mr. Orville Fay
1943	Prof. Sidney B. Mitchell	1960	Mr. Fred DeForest
1947	Mr. Hans P. Sass	1961	Mr. Jesse E. Wills
1948	Mr. Carl Salbach	1963	Mr. Robert Schreiner
1949	Mr. David Hall	1964	Mr. Walter Welch
1950	Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge	1967	Mrs. F. P. Walther
1955	Dr. L. F. Randolph	1969	Dr. Lee W. Lenz

## ANNUAL MEETING BY YEARS

The organization meeting of The American Iris Society was held in the Old Mansion House of the New York Botanical Gardens on January 29, 1920. Seventy persons attended. Thereafter, in the early years, the annual meetings were held in the Museum Building of the New York Botanical Gardens.

1926	Cincinnati, Ohio	1950	Sioux City, Iowa
1927	Brooklyn Botanical Gardens	1951	Shreveport, Louisiana
1928	Freeport, Illinois	1952	St. Louis, Missouri
1929	Ithaca, New York	1953	Boston, Massachusetts
1930	Lexington, Kentucky	1954	Salt Lake City, Utah
1931	Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, New York	1955	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
1932	Boston, Massachusetts	1956	Los Angeles, California
1933	Freeport, Illinois	1957	Memphis, Tennessee
1934	Lincoln, Nebraska	1958	Syracuse, New York
1935	Nashville, Tennessee	1959	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
1936	Hartford, Connecticut	1960	Portland, Oregon
1937	Wilmington, Delaware	1961	Newark, New Jersey
1938	Cincinnati, Ohio	1962	Kansas City, Missouri
1939	Oakland, California	1963	Denver, Colorado
1940	Chicago, Illinois	1964	Chicago, Illinois
1941	Nashville, Tennessee	1965	Memphis, Tennessee
1946	Boston, Massachusetts	1966	Newark, New Jersey
1947	Chicago, Illinois	1967	Denver, Colorado
1948	Nashville, Tennessee	1968	Berkeley, California
1949	Portland, Oregon	1969	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
		1970	New York City, New York

Because of World War II, no meetings were held in 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945.

## DYKES MEDAL WINNERS



WABASH  
(Williamson '40)



GREAT LAKES  
(Cousins '42)



PRAIRIE SUNSET  
(H. Sass '43)



ELMOHR  
(Loomis '45)



CHIVALRY  
(Wills '47)



OLA KALA  
(J. Sass)



BLUE RHYTHM  
(Whiting '50)



ARGUS PHEASANT  
(DeForest '52)



VIOLET HARMONY  
(Lowry '57)

### DYKES MEDAL AWARDS

1927 SAN FRANCISCO (Mohr)	1952 ARGUS PHEASANT (DeForest)
1929 DAUNTLESS (Connell)	1953 TRULY YOURS (Fay)
1932 RAMESES (H. P. Sass)	1954 MARY RANDALL (Fay)
1933 CORALIE (Ayres)	1955 SABLE NIGHT (P. Cook)
1935 SIERRA BLUE (Essig)	1956 FIRST VIOLET (DeForest)
1936 MARY GEDDES (Washington)	1957 VIOLET HARMONY (Lowry)
1937 MISSOURI (Grinter)	1958 BLUE SAPPHIRE (Schreiners)
1938 COPPER LUSTRE (Kirkland)	1959 SWAN BALLET (Muhlestein)
1939 ROSY WINGS (Gage)	1961 ELEANOR'S PRIDE (E. Watkins)
1940 WABASH (Williamson)	1962 WHOLE CLOTH (P. Cook)
1941 THE RED DOUGLAS (J. Sass)	1963 AMETHYST FLAME (Schreiners)
1942 GREAT LAKES (Cousins)	1964 ALLEGIANCE (P. Cook)
1943 PRAIRIE SUNSET (H. P. Sass)	1965 PACIFIC PANORAMA (N. Nexton)
1944 SPUN GOLD (Glutzbeck)	1966 RIPPLING WATERS (Fay)
1945 ELMOHR (Loomis)	1967 WINTER OLYMPICS (O. Brown)
1947 CHIVALRY (Wills)	1968 STEPPING OUT (Schreiners)
1948 OLA KALA (J. Sass)	
1949 HELEN MCGREGOR (Graves)	
1950 BLUE RHYTHM (Whiting)	
1951 CHERIE (Hall)	

*(No Dykes Medal awarded for years missing from list.)*



Charter Members AIS. 1. Mrs. Elizabeth Nesmith, 2. Richardson Wright, 3. unidentified, 4. Mrs. Ethel Peckham, 5, 6, 7. Unidentified, 8. John Wister, 9, 10, 11. Unidentified, 12. J. B. Wallace.

## BIOGRAPHICAL

(Data of current Directors limited to office held. Data includes DSM (Distinguished Service Medal) and Hyd M (Hybridizers Medal).

ACKERMAN JAY C. Born in Michigan. B.S. in Civil Engineering at Michigan State University. Director AIS 1954-64. Chairman of Awards 1958-59. Elected treasurer 1960; because of his efficiency continued in that office even after he ceased being a director. Developed some unusual dwarf irises. DSM 1964.

ALLEN, DR. RAYMOND C. Director 1964. Scientific 1970—. Test Garden 1963-69.

ALLEN, ROBERT E. Director 1949-51. VP 1949. Awards 1949. Registrar 1950-51.

ARNY, CHARLES W., JR. Associate Professor of Economics Southwestern Louisiana Institute. Master of Science from Louisiana State University. Prominent hybridizer of Louisiana irises, with 15 awards since 1960. Hyb M 1967.

AYRES, DR. WYLIE McLAIN (d. 1946). A native of Cincinnati; ill health forced him to give up his profession as an eye specialist, but this allowed him to develop his garden and his irises; originated some noted early reds. Director 1927-32. Hyb M 1941. Won Dykes Medal with CORALIE in 1933.

BARTHOLOMEW, JOHN A. Director 1965-67. Robin Director 1956-66. DSM for outstanding work with Round Robin Program; awarded in 1963. Accomplished photographer.

BENSON, CLIFFORD W. Secretary 1957—.

BLAKE, LOUISE (d. 1954). Mrs. Blake occupied a unique place in AIS. Three Oaks, her lovely Spartanburg, S.C., garden, was a mecca for visitors because of the quality of her irises, the fine way in which they were grown, and the whimsical fantasy of her plantings. Hers was really an unofficial test garden, where her hospitality was equally famous. She traveled much and aided younger members. DSM 1945.

BLEDSE, WILLIAM T. Director 1965—. Exhibitions 1966-68. Judges Training 1968. 2 VP 1966-68. President 1969—.

BOYD, JAMES (d. 1929). Charter member AIS. Director 1920-29. After retirement from business in 1917, devoted his attention to horticulture. Presided over organization meeting of AIS. President Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; president American Peony Society.

BREWSTER, MRS. WALTER S. Director 1923-27. Charter member.

BROWDER, EARL T. Director 1969—. Membership 1959—.

BROWN, MRS. TOM M. (OPAL). Hyb M 1968. Won the Dykes Medal in 1967 with WINTER OLYMPICS.

BUTTRICK, STEDMAN. (d. 1968). Director 1952-56. His home now is part of the Lexington Concord national shrine.

BUXTON, MRS. WALTER S. (ADA). Director 1963-68. Awards 1963-65. Garden judges 1966-68.

CALDWELL, SAM. Secretary 1947-1948. Editor 1948-'49.

CARNEY, ROBERT S. (d. 1969). Director 1959-65. Membership 1958-60. Awards 61-62. 1 VP 1960-62. Tenth president of AIS 1963-65. As president not only efficient, but most popular because of outstanding personality. Not only built up National Society, but largely responsible for iris interest in Memphis, host to two conventions. DSM 1965.

CASSEBEER, FREDERICK W. Graduate Dartmouth College, and pharmacy degree from Columbia. Fifth generation pharmacist. Director 1940-51. Editor 1940-45. Distinguished photographer whose work has appeared in many magazines. Author of many articles on irises. Is especially noted for Siberians he has produced, including four Morgan Awards. DSM 1952. Hyb M 1968.

COLQUITT, MRS. WALTER (MINNIE). Joined AIS in 1938; Minnie Colquitt started serving early. Assistant Registrar and Recorder 1945-56. Registrar 1957-64. Accredited instructor for National Council of State Garden Clubs; life member British and American Iris Societies. Sass iris MINNIE COLQUITT named for her. DSM 1962.

CONNELL, CLARENCE P. (d. 1959). Charter member AIS. Compiled first symposium in 1924. Outstanding early hybridizer. His red, DAUNTLESS, was second American iris to win Dykes Medal. Constructed his own home on Dauntless

Hill, equipped with furniture he made himself. Noted lecturer and judge. At one time superintendent of Nashville city parks; later superintendent of Vanderbilt Hospital. In later years grew fine daffodils as well as irises. DSM 1944.

COOK, DR. FRANKLIN (d. 1952). Fifth president of AIS. Lt. Commander Navy Air Corp World War II. Prominent pediatrician. Capable, dynamic, his career was cut short by a creeping illness which forced retirement from the presidency after two years. Initiated the President's Cup. A fine judge. Interested in garden arrangements by color. Wrote many articles on irises. Director 1939-52. President 1947-48. DSM 1949.

COOK, PAUL (d. 1963). Distinguished iris breeder. Interest in irises stimulated by friendship with an early breeder, E. B. Williamson. Carefully thought out objectives and procedures in planning crosses. One of his greatest achievements, PROGENITOR, from a species, produced WHOLE CLOTH and a series of light blue amoenas. Also successful with dwarfs and intermediates. Won three Dykes Medals with SABLE NIGHT (1955), WHOLE CLOTH (1962), and ALLEGIANCE (1964). Hyb M 1945. Foster Memorial Plaque 1957.

COSGROVE, DR. CLARKE. Director 68—. Exhibition 1968—. 2 VP 1970.

CRAIG, TOM (d. 1969). A distinguished artist and teacher of art. Worked with a wide variety of irises and color patterns, as evidenced by his BANG and FRANCES CRAIG, his White Award winner MARY MCCLELLAN his Sass Medal winner MOONCHILD, and the aribred ENGRAVED. He was an enthusiast among iris enthusiasts. Hyb M 1962.

DeFOREST, FRED (d. 1960). While living in California, he visited iris gardens of Mitchell and Salbach. Moving to Oregon in the 20's, he started iris breeding on his own and later began the Irissnoll Garden. Produced many fine varieties, including two Dykes Medal winners, ARGUS PHEASANT (1952) and FIRST VIOLET (1956). Mrs. DeForest is carrying on his work. Hyb M 1952. Foster Memorial Plaque 1960.

DORMAN, MISS CAROLINE. Well known throughout the horticultural world for her writing, and for her extremely accurate drawings of plants. Especially interested in Louisiana irises, to which she made notable contributions. DSM 1950.

DOUGLAS, GEDDES. Became member of AIS in 1934. Early breeding started under influence of T. A. Washington. Many fine introductions brought out by Fairmount Gardens, including the Sass Medal winner LILLIPINKPUT. Exchanged pollen with Paul Cook, crossing TB and dwarfs. Started the "Lilliputs" among medians. Editor 1946-48; 1950-59. Secretary 1949-56. Director 1943-48. Hyb M 1949; DSM 1956.

DUFFY, SHERMAN. Author of many horticultural articles. Director 1933-35. Associate editor 1932-33.

DURRANCE, DR. J. R. Famous surgeon and lung specialist. Also widely known mountain climber. Hybridizer of AZURE APOGEE and Cook-Douglas Award winner EASTER HOLIDAY. Had great part in two national conventions at Denver. Board 1958-68. Test Gardens 1958-68. DSM 1968.

ESSIG, E. O. (d. 1964). A careful hybridizer, he originated fine whites, fine blues, then yellows. Was an interesting contributor to the *Bulletin* on breeding. Developed SHINING WATERS and the 1935 Dykes Medal winner SIERRA BLUE. Director 1940-42. DSM 1944.

EVERETT, DR. HARRY E. (d. 1949). Second president of AIS. A distinguished surgeon; chief surgeon at Lincoln General Hospital. Started growing irises in 1920 in Lincoln, Nebr. Picked by John Wister to take over on his retirement; carried Society successfully through transition period. Director 1932-48. VP 1933-34. President 1935-39. DSM 1941.

FARR, BERTRAND H. (d. 1924). Charter member of AIS. First in America to take up seriously breeding of irises, first introductions being in 1909. Director 1920-24.

FAY, ORVILLE W. An iris hybridizer for many years. One of the first to appreciate the potential of SNOW FLURRY, and produced a fine line of whites, including whites with red beards. Has done fine work in many color classes. Won the Dykes Medal three times, TRULY YOURS (1953), MARY RANDALL (1954), and RIPPLING WATERS (1966). Also has worked with peonies, daffodils and hemerocallis; produced particularly fine hemerocallis tetraploids. Hyb M 1952. Foster Memorial Plaque 1959.

FERGUSON, JOHN H. Secretary 1934.

FERGUSON, WALKER. Started hybridizing irises in 1942. By 1950, he was working with spurias, and is recognized as the dean of spuria hybridizers. Has won the Eric Nies Award three times with HERMIT THRUISH (1964), WAKEROBIN (1966) and DAWN CANDLE (1968). Hyb M 1966.

FISCHER, HUBERT A. Eleventh president of AIS. Lifelong interest in horticulture. His Meadow Garden in Hinsdale, Ill., is a horticultural paradise. Professionally a dealer in precious gems and stones. Member of board of many horticultural societies, including being past president of the American Hemerocallis Society. Cited by American Horticultural Society for distinguished achievement. Director 1957-68. Chairman Awards and Affiliates. DSM 1968.

FISHBURN, JUNIUS P. (d. 1954). Very influential in middle years of AIS; judgment as officer highly valued. Traveled widely each spring to see new irises, and compiled an annual report on these. His was an unofficial trial garden, growing many fine irises in advance of introduction. Life work radio and newspaper. Director 1937-48. Treasurer 1937-42. VP 1943-46. DSM 1949.

GAGE, L. MERTON (d. 1948). An outstanding New England hybridizer during the middle years of the Society. Produced fine tall bearded, among which were the Dykes Medal ROSY WINGS (1930) and GLORIOLE, and fine Siberians, among which were SNOWCREST. Hyb M 1943.

GAULTER, LARRY A. Started growing irises in Kansas. By profession a painting and decorating contractor. From his Castro Valley, Calif., garden come some of today's best irises. Served in Navy during World War. Is a fine photographer. Director 1961-67. Judges Training 1961-67. DSM 1967.

GERSDORFF, CHARLES E. F. (d. 1968). The first Registrar of AIS, holding that office almost from the beginning of the Society until 1950. He set an example of firmness and thoroughness in the early days when it was hard to get all growers to comply with the rules. Was of invaluable assistance in preparing 1929 and 1939 *Check Lists*. His was a truly dedicated service, and AIS owes to him a deep debt of gratitude. DSM 1944.

GIBSON, J. M. Graduated from Oregon State University; graduate work at University of California and General Motors Technical Institute. Instructor auto mechanics at Porterville, Calif., High School for 37 years; lapidary instructor Porterville Evening College until retirement in 1963. Has developed an outstanding race of plicatas. Hyb M 1965.

GLEASON, DR. H. A. Assistant director New York Botanical Garden. Charter member AIS. Director 1920-23.

GRAHAM, SAM L. (d. 1938). Clerk in Georgia courts. Amateur iris grower and breeder. Director 1936-38.

GRANT, DR. HARRY LEE (d. 1946). Dentist in Kentucky. A careful, methodical breeder, working in many colors. Director 1936-40. Hyb M 1944.

GRAVES, DR. ROBERT J. (d. 1950). Distinguished New Hampshire physician. Graduate Harvard. Army Medical Corp World War I. Began hybridizing 1931. Won Dykes Medal with HELEN MCGREGOR (1949). Specialized in whites and blues. Director 1940-48. VP 1947-48. Chairman Awards. Hyb M 1949.

GREY, PEGGY BURKE. Radio journalism. First became interested in irises in 1935, when she visited Carl Salbach's garden. Interested in all kinds of irises. Has been associated with Round Robin program since the beginning; Director of Round Robins 1968—. Talented Flight Lines Editor and Associate Editor of *Bulletin* 1957—. DSM 1968.

HALL, DAVID F. (d. 1968). Developer of new line of pinks with tangerine beards; also orchid-pinks and apricots, red bearded. Canadian by birth, came to United States early in life, and employed all of his business life by American Telephone and Telegraph. In later years he was an attorney in Chicago offices of this company. Bloomed first seedlings in 1926, but his best work began in the late 30's, after his retirement. Won Dykes Medal with his flamingo pink CHERIE (1951). Director 1937-39. VP 1940-42. Hyb M 1944. Foster Memorial Plaque 1949.

HAMBLIN, MRS. J. R. (MELBA). Director 1962—. Registrations 1962—. Has done signal work with awards structure. Hyb M. 1961.

HENDRICKSEN, I. S. For many years in charge of John Lewis Childs Nurseries of Flowerfield; later operated his own nursery. Director 1920-21.

HINKLE, MRS. W. J. (Georgia). Creator of outstanding irises, setting pace with whites and blues. Creamy SOUTHERN COMFORT has gained wide popularity. Organized Southern Illinois Iris Society. Honorary Judge. Hyb M 1966.

HIRES, MRS. J. EDGAR (Thura). (d. 1955). Charter member AIS. One of early indefatigable workers in AIS. Member many horticultural societies. Did monumental work in developing shows. Exhibitions 1925-31. Director 1928-35. Associate editor 1931-33.

HOUSE, JOSEPH. Distinguished lawyer. Director 1950-53.

IRVING, FERN. Exhibition Chairman 1950-56.

JACOBY, THOMAS E. Sixth editor of the Bulletin, 1960-64. Formerly administrative official in Fish and Wild Life Service of U. S. Department of Interior. Many innovations to *Bulletin* under his editorship, including color and increased use of photos. Instrumental in compiling 1959 *Check List*. Director 1969—. DSM 1964.

KIRKLAND, J. H. (d. 1939). Former chancellor of Vanderbilt University, and noted early iris grower and hybridizer. Originator Dykes Medal COPPER LUSTRE (1938). Director 1934-39.

KLEINSORGE, DR. RUDOLPH E. Born and educated in Iowa; became practicing physician in Silverton, Ore. in 1910. Became interested in breeding irises in 1922. From the smallest seed patch in iris history, he produced a long line of notable irises by careful planning, selecting and ruthless discarding, mainly blends and browns, but also yellows and reds, and the purple ORMOHR. Hyb M 1944. Foster Memorial Plaque 1950.

KNOWLTON, HAROLD W. (d. 1968). Seventh president of AIS. While he originated many fine varieties, his chief services were as a leader, planner and organizer. Traveled widely as president. Chairman of Awards, and during that duty he laid down the foundation of the present awards system. Inspired the first *Handbook for Judges*, and the handbook for new members, *What Every Iris Grower Should Know*. After leaving the presidency, he compiled and edited the 1959 *Check List*. Awards 1950-52. VP 1950-52. President 1953-55. Exhibitions 1958. Registrations 1959-1961. DSM 1955.

KRASTING, BILL. Director Round Robin 1967-68.

LAPHAM, E. GREIG (d. 1964). Noted breeder of pink and particularly red irises, in which he specialized for many years. First cross 1923; last cross 1964. Produced numerous outstanding reds, many of which proved to be fine parents for other breeders. The COOK-Lapham Bowl for reds was instituted in his honor and that of his friend, Paul Cook. Director 1941-49. Treasurer 1943-49. DSM 1950. Hyb M 1945.

LAUCK, AL G. (d. 1960). Enthusiastic iris grower and superb photographer. Set up the slides program on a going basis. Slides 1959-60. Director 1958-60.

LENZ, DR. LEE W. An internationally recognized scientist. Has done fine work with spurias and California natives. Director 1963-65. Scientific 1963-65. Associate Editor 1960-64. Foster Memorial Plaque 1969.

LLOYD, MRS. HORATIO G. (d. 1934). Director 1921-30. Famous for her early Pennsylvania "Iris Bowl." Active in garden clubs and Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

LOOMIS, DR. P. A. Distinguished physician; long time resident of Colorado Springs, Colo. Long time very successful breeder. Had one of the breaks which led to the shell pink iris. Also worked with Mohr seedlings, culminating in the Dykes Medal ELMOHR (1945). Hyb M 1944. DSM 1966.

LOWRY, MRS. FRANKLIN P. (d. 1962). One of a group of gifted amateurs who helped make New England an outstanding iris region in the 40s and 50s. She combined a beautiful garden with thoughtful work in hybridizing on a small scale, which won her the Dykes Medal with VIOLET HARMONY (1957). Hyb M 1959.

MARRIAGE, MRS. G. R. Director 1936-38.

McCAUGHEY, MRS. C. E. (HELEN). Historian 1963—. Director 1969—. Affiliates and Sections 1969—.

McDADE, CLINT. Early breeder of reblooming irises. Magazine dealer; interested in music. Director 1936-38.

McKEE, WILLIAM J. (d. 1957). Third president of AIS. Traveled extensively as president. A careful breeder over a long period of years, with a number of outstanding creations, among which were PONDER and TRIM. Co-authored the book

*Half Century of Iris*. Director 1935-52. Awards 1935-39. Membership 1940-42. President 1940-42. DSM 1943. Hyb M 1953.

McKINNEY, MRS. ELLA PORTER. Director 1921-27. Charter member AIS. Author of *Iris in the Little Garden*. A specialist in irises and an iris breeder.

MEAD, FRANKLIN B. (d. 1933). Specialist in irises, daffodils and peonies. Author of many horticultural articles. His garden was given to Fort Wayne, Ind., for a park. Director 1927-33. VP 1924-25.

MILLIKEN, CHARLES SPENCER. (d. 1958). Teacher of biology Throop Institute and Uni. of Calif. Began growing irises in 1923. Started hybridizing in 1926. Founded Milliken Iris Gardens; put out a catalog. CHINA MAID, an outstanding parent, and Wadi Zem Zem, first Eric Nies Award winner, were among his originations. Director 1942-47. Hyb M 1953.

MITCHELL, DR. SYDNEY B. (d. 1952). Native of Montreal, Canada. M. A. from McGill Uni., D. Lit. Occidental College. Dean School of Library, Uni. of Calif. Hybridizing work embraced wide field, but gained greatest successes in large plicatas and large tetraploid yellows. Took over William Mohr's work. Charter member of AIS. Hyb. M 1941. Foster Memorial Plaque 1943.

MOFFAT, WILLIAM J. Resident of Ontario, Canada. Director 1948-57; resigned because of illness in family. DSM 1958. One of managers of 1955 convention in Canada.

MOHR, WILLIAM A. (d. 1923). A distinguished hybridizer, whose genius was cut short by premature death. Originator of first Dykes Medal winner, SAN FRANCISCO, and of WILLIAM MOHR, named for him posthumously, The William A. Mohr Award for arilbreds is in his honor.

MORGAN, DR. F. CLEVELAND. (d. 1962). Educated in England and Switzerland. LL.D. McGill Uni. Associated with Montreal Museum of Fine Arts for 45 years. Originator of CEASAR'S BROTHER. Morgan Award for Siberian irises in his honor. Hyb M 1950.

MORRISON, BENJAMIN Y. (d. 1966). A man of many talents; distinguished in many aspects of horticulture. Started with U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1920; for several years in charge of Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction. Director U. S. National Arboretum. Editor National Horticultural Magazine 1926-42. Charter member AIS. Outstanding horticultural achievement development of Glen Dale strain of azaleas. Director 1933-38. Secretary 1934-38. Editor 1935-39. DSM 1941.

MUHLESTEIN, TELL. Moved from Colorado to Utah in 1935. Gradually began acquiring irises from simple beginnings, adding better and better ones. Learned how to make crosses in 1942 and had 10,000 seedlings by 1944. His introductions have won many awards, including the Dykes Medal SWAN BALLETT (1959). The material from his catalogs was of great help through the years for aspiring hybridizers. Hyb M 1956.

NELSON, DR. J. ARTHUR. Director 1958—. Exhibitions 1958-64. Awards 1966—. Registrar 1965—. Editor 1964—.

NESMITH, MRS. THOMAS (ELIZABETH NOBLE). Charter member AIS and long-time friend of Miss Grace Sturtevant. Started Fairmount Gardens in 1920. Introduced many varieties of her own and fine contributions of other breeders, including three Dykes Medal winners. Outstanding iris catalogs. Her garden also featured hostas, oriental poppies and daylilies; she was a very successful breeder of these last. She did much to build and maintain iris interest in New England. Hyb M 1951.

NICHOLLS, COL. J. C. (D. 1961). Graduate of United States Military Academy at West Point. Served in World War I and as military instructor at Cornell Uni. Distinguished iris breeder; introduced fifty or more varieties; won three AMs. Also hybridized peonies successfully. Hyb M 1941.

NIES, ERIC (d. 1952). B.S. Michigan State College. Teacher of botany and agriculture; landscape architect. Produced strains of large-petalled spurias. Pioneered in development of brown spurias, best known of which are BRONZSPUR and TWO OPALS. The Eric Nies Award for spuria irises is named in his honor. Hyb M 1951.

NORTON, HARRY A. Manufacturer. Interested in numerous phases of horticulture, and belonged to many horticultural and flower societies. Director 1920-26.

O'BRIEN, CLAUDE C. Pharmacist. Became member of AIS in 1945, and soon became the most avid of iris growers. Very successful RVP. Director 1961-64. Membership 1961-64. Very successful membership chairman. DSM 1964.



PARKER, HERBERT. Scientific 1966-69.

PAYNE, W. A. Graduate of Central Normal College, Danville, Ind.; attended Chicago Art Institute. An apprentice in wood pattern making; later worked in lumber mills above San Francisco. On returning to Indiana, was employed in general photography; later in Chicago in photographic portraiture. On returning to Terre Haute, he entered real estate. In 1951 started a commercial nursery business. Began working to develop a distinctive, original strain of Japanese irises. The W. A. Payne Award for Japanese irises is named in his honor, and the first winner, STRUT AND FLOURISH, was his origination. Hyb M 1964.

PECKHAM, ETHEL ANSON (d. 1965). One of the very greats of the iris world. Charter member of AIS. Director 1924-34. For years Recorder of Introductions. Chairman of early test gardens, where she did monumental work in straightening out iris nomenclature. Editor of the monumental 1929 and 1939 *Check Lists*. Gold Medal 1940. Gold Medal from British Iris Society for her paintings of beardless species.

PETERSON, WILLIAM A. Nurseryman, specializing in irises and peonies. VP 1920-24.

PLOUGH, GORDON W. Noted present-day hybridizer. Graduate of Washington State Uni., with degree in architectural engineering. Past secretary Washington State Nurseryman's Association. First introduction in 1949; since then his irises have won numerous awards. Hyb M 1965.

PRESBY, FRANK H. (d. 1924). One of the greats in the formative years of the Society. Director of numerous large companies, hospitals and clubs. First treasurer of AIS; served in this capacity until his death in 1924. Presby Memorial Garden named in his honor.

PRESTON, MISS ISABELLA. Specialist in ornamental gardening, hybridizer of irises, especially beardless varieties. Maintained the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada. Her most famous origination is GATINEAU (1939). (Hyb M 1950.

RANDALL, HARRY J. (d. 1967). Visiting United States after World War II, he made many friends among American breeders he visited. Made seven subsequent trips to the United States, and attended several national conventions. Took fine American varieties back to England, where they became known and won prizes at English flower shows. Fine breeder himself, winning two English Dykes Medals. Held many offices in British Iris Society, including the presidency. Excellent speaker and writer. His last publication, *Irises*, was published in 1969. DSM 1955. Only person from abroad to win this award.

RANDOLPH, DR. L. F. Ninth president of AIS. Graduate of Alfred Uni. Ph.D. Cornell. In 1939 became professor of botany at Cornell; concurrently held position of cytologist in the U. S. Department of Agriculture until 1947; then devoted full time to teaching and research at Cornell. His major lifetime interest has been in the origin and development of corn. His interest in irises is scientific, as chairman of the Scientific Committee (1945-56) he developed a monumental research program. His work included chromosome counts, embryo seed culture and the classification of irises. He made several trips abroad to collect iris species, with which he experimented in breeding. Author of *Garden Irises*, AIS publication of 1959. Membership 1956-59. 2 VP 1956-59. President 1960-62. DSM 1951. Foster Memorial Plaque 1955.

RECKAMP, BRO. CHARLES. Order of the Society of the Divine Word, at Techny, Ill. Orville Fay and David Hall interested Brother Charles in growing modern varieties of irises in the order's Mission Gardens, and he soon became one of the nation's better hybridizers. Perhaps the most vivid iris to come from his work is TECHNYS CHIMES. Hyb M 1963.

REES, MISS CLARA. Native of Ohio; moved to California in 1924. One doesn't think of Clara Rees without thinking of SNOW FLURRY, the iris which profoundly changed the character and quality of American irises. The story of SNOW FLURRY coming from a cross producing a single viable seed, the trip of sister Ruth to show SNOW FLURRY to Carl Salbach, and the subsequent history is a chapter in iris romantics. In her mid-eighties, Miss Clara still hybridizes. Hyb M 1967.

RICKER, MRS. RALPH (Ethel). Early member of AIS. Exhibitions 1938-49. Managed 1950 national convention at Sioux City. Has served as RVP of Region 21; now is historian of the Region. DSM 1969.

RIDDLE, DR. MATHEW C. (d. 1965). Busy and distinguished physician of Portland, Ore. Professor of medicine Oregon State Medical School. Spent all possible time collecting woodland plants, especially species irises, and he did notable work with these species, including *I. temax*, *I. douglasiana* and *I. innominata*. Remembered for the scope of his accomplishments. Director 1949-60. DSM 1960.

ROBINSON, MRS. GEORGE. Registrar 1951-56. DSM 1957.

ROGERS, GUY. Sixth president of AIS. Distinguished lawyer; legal counsel has been invaluable to the Society. First RVP Region 17. Through the years he and Mrs. Rogers have maintained a showplace for irises. Guided the Society as president through a period of growth and consolidation. Director 1948-1962. President 1949-52. DSM 1952.

RUNDLETT, EDWIN E. Dedicated to the cause of reblooming irises, and the dean of this group. His contributions in this field are notable. DSM 1969.

SALBACH, CARL. (d. 1962). Working with gladiolus and dahlias, Mr. Salbach very early added irises to his garden. In 1924, his catalog listed 89 varieties of irises. By 1925, he had bought land and stock from Sydney Mitchell. Through the years, he introduced many fine irises. Perhaps his best remembered origination is LADY MOHR. Introduced SNOW FLURRY. Hyb. M 1944. Foster Memorial Plaque 1948.

SASS, HANS P. (d. 1949). Oldest of two brothers who came from Germany as boys to settle on Nebraska farm. A botanist; early became interested in growing flowers from seed. Charter member AIS. Crossed pumila with TB to produce intermediates. Produced fall bloomers. In nearly forty years of iris breeding, produced fine blues, plicatas, blends and many other colors. Won two Dykes Medals, RAM-ESSES (1932) and PRAIRIE SUNSET (1943). Hyb M 1941. Foster Memorial Plaque 1947.

SASS, HENRY E. Grew up in world famous iris Sass Gardens of his father and uncle, and after they were gone, continued the gardens for several years. Still one of the world's leading authorities on irises, and still does some hybridizing. Hyb M 1958.

SASS, JACOB (d. 1945). A true dirt farmer of Nebraska. Interested in flowers from youth. Charter member AIS. Worked for clean color, hardiness and weather resistances. Produced intermediates and fall bloomers, as well as TB. These last started with yellow plicatas, blues, then went to fine reds, pinks, yellows, whites, and then the blends. Issued a joint price list yearly with Hans, with brief descriptions. The brothers worked together closely, in friendly rivalry. Won two Dykes Medals, THE RED DOUGLAS (1941) and OLA KALA (1948). Director 1931-33. Hyb M 1941.

SAUNDERS, A. P. Professor of Chemistry at Hamilton College. Always had been interested in botany, gardening and experimenting with plants. Director 1928-34.

SCHIRMER, CARL O. Highly successful RVP Region 18. Very efficient treasurer of AIS; installed modernized accounting system in main office; budgeted expenditures with allocations of specific amounts to various activities. Maintained a sound financial position with only modest increase in dues. Pharmacist. Director 1949-60. Treasurer 1950-59. DSM 1959.

SCHORTMAN, W. B. His Porterville, Calif., garden is a horticultural paradise. A severe selector of his seedlings, his introductions have a quality all their own. Among the better known of his irises are SIERRA SKIES, PATIENCE, INDIGLOW and POLKA TIME. Hyb M 1961.

SCHREINER, F. X. (d. 1931). One of earliest middlewestern iris commercial growers; issued a unique catalog from his St. Paul gardens. Interested in early foundation workings of the Society; inaugurated a color system and was instrumental in developing quality and performance ratings. His children carry on the business he established. Director 1931.

SCHREINER, ROBERT. Director 1935-36; 1961—. Photography and slides 1961—. Hyb M 1954 (to Connie, Bernard and Robert). Foster Memorial Plaque 1963. The Schreiner family has three Dykes Medal winners, BLUE SAPPHIRE (1958), AMETHYST FLAME (1963) and STEPPING OUT (1968).

SCOTT, ARTHUR H. (d. 1927). Charter member of AIS; helped in its organization. President of a paper company. Treasurer 1925-27.

SCOTT, W. F. Dynamic membership chairman and author of many articles on irises. Membership 1953-55. Awards 1955-58. Director 1953-58. 2 VP 1953-55. 1 VP 1956-58.

SHAW, EDWIN C. Charter member AIS. Director 1920-21.

SHULL, J. MARION. (d. 1948). Charter member AIS. Botanist-illustrator in U. S. Department of Agriculture. Started iris breeding in 1914. Frequent contributor to *Bulletin*. Author and illustrator of *Rainbow Fragments*, one of the first special books on irises. DSM 1944.

SMITH, KENNETH D. (d. 1966). Graduated from Dartmouth College; LL.B. degree from Columbia. Made his first crosses in 1923; first introduction LORD DONGAN. Outstanding amateur photographer. In 1940 conducted first unofficial symposium, and this now has become a feature of the present-day awards system. Director 1939-42. Hyb M 1947. DSM 1965.

SNOW, EUCLID (d. 1935). Hinsdale, Ill. Director 1935.

STEVENS, JEAN. (d. 1967). Internationally known iris hybridizer from New Zealand. Honored by many countries for her achievements. Author of book *Iris and Iris Culture*. Hyb M 1955.

STURTEVANT, MISS GRACE (d. 1947). Distinguished iris hybridizer in the early years. Sister of Robert Sturtevant, with whom she owned Wellesley Farms. Charter member AIS. Her deep horticultural interest centered on irises in 1914. Would accept no office, but helped her brother greatly as secretary and *Bulletin* editor. Received three honorary awards for her achievements. Published Glen Road Iris Gardens catalog 1917-32. Gold Medal 1935.

STURTEVANT, ROBERT S. (d. 1955). One of the greats in the early history of the Society. Charter member AIS. Landscape architect. Director Lawthorpe School of Landscape Architecture. In later years divided time between Nashville, Tenn. and Massachusetts. Did much in beginning to straighten out iris names and descriptions; his variety comments in early Bulletins are classics. Director 1928-37. Secretary 1920-26. Editor 1920-34; 1946. DSM 1941.

TOMPKINS, CHET W. A noted breeder who moved his garden from Iowa to Oregon and there expanded it. The Fleur de Lis Gardens have received 29 Honorable Mentions and 2 Awards of Merit. In the International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy, in 1960, his ALLAGLOW was awarded the Premio Firenze (highest award). Hyb M 1962.

VARNUM, E. E. The sparkplug of many horticultural activities around Chicago. An engineer whose services are in overwhelming demand. Affiliates and Sections 1965-69. Director 1966-69.

WALKER, MARION R. Eighth president of AIS. Had progressive administration marked by increases in membership and services, an improved classification of irises, and designation of AIS as the international registration authority for all irises except bulbous. Established central office in St. Louis with full-time executive secretary. Took over spurias of Eric Nies, after latter's death, and became a successful spuria hybridizer. Director 1950-61. Awards 1953-55. 1 VP 1953-55. President 1956-59. DSM 1959.

WALL, DR. HUGO A. Director 68—. 2 VP 1969. 1 VP 1970—. Judges Training and Judges 1969. Membership 1968. Authored study of organization and finances of the Society.

WALLACE, J. B., JR. Connecticut Life Insurance Company. Amateur iris grower. Director 1927-39. Secretary 1927-33. Treasurer 1927.

WALLER, E. A. Pathologist University of Ohio. Scientific 1928-44.

WALTHER, MRS. F. P. (BARBARA). The distinguished and dedicated director of the Presby Memorial Gardens, where there are not only the modern irises but collections of historical irises of great interest. Under her direction the Garden has become an iris institution. DSM 1953. Foster Memorial Plaque 1967.

WATERS, DONALD G. From 1939 to 1946 was Director of Conservation for State of Ohio. Noted lecturer. From his beautiful garden in Elmore, Ohio, have come a select number of fine introductions. Director 1951-57; 61-2. DSM 1962.

WARBURTON, MRS. FRANK W. (BEE). Interest in median irises has been in great part from the efforts of Bee Warburton in bringing them to the attention of iris lovers everywhere. Organizer of the Median Iris Society, served as president, serves as editor of the Medianite and of considerable in the way of technical and research in which the Median Society is involved. *Bulletin* representative for Median Society. Her originations include the Cook-Douglas medal winners BLUE DENIM (1966) BLUEBERRY MUFFINS (1967) and BRASSIE (1969) and the Caparne Award winner SKY CAPER (1968). Hyb M 1966.

WATKINS, EDWARD. (d. 1963). A crippled railroad employee, he helped Dr. Graves in his New Hampshire garden, and afterwards, in association with his brother, Arthur, continued as a fine breeder on his own, specializing in whites and blues. Won the Dykes Medal with ELEANOR'S PRIDE (1961). Hyb M 1957.

WATKINS, HOWARD R. (d. 1960). Government Service in Washington, D.C., but lived in Maryland. Enthusiastic amateur iris gardener. Director 1939-47. Secretary 1938-47. DSM 1947.

WELCH, WALTER. Noted breeder of dwarf irises. Organizer Dwarf Iris Society. Artist and interior decorator. He became interested in dwarfs and got specimens of pumila from Paul Cook. Soon was producing outstanding seedlings of his own, including Caparne Award winners AROMIC BLUE (1965), CHERRY SPOT (1960) and FASHION LADY (1966). Built up an extensive collection of dwarfs, in Middlebury, Ind., garden, and it became the official dwarf test garden. Hyb M 1957. Foster Memorial Plaque 1964.

WHITE, CLARENCE G. (d. 1957). Turned to hybridizing irises to relieve tensions of his profession. Best known for his work with arilbreds, including such varieties as OYEZ, SOME LOVE and NELSON OF HILLY. The Clarence G. White Award for arilbreds is named in his honor. Hyb M 1943.

WHITING, MRS. CHARLES (AGNES). (d. 1966). Highland Park College; taught school for several years before she married. Produced a large number of notable irises, many of which appear as parents of today's best irises. First introduction GOLDEN SPIKE. Won Dykes Medal with BLUE RHYTHM (1950). Hyb M 1947; second woman to achieve this honor.

WILLIAMSON, E. B. (d. 1933). A scientist of wide and distinguished accomplishments. One of world's leading authorities on dragonflies. (See Wister chapter on diversified talents). Originator of Dykes Medal WABASH (1940) and "table" irises. Director 1926-33. VP 1928-33.

WILLS, JESSE E. Fourth president of AIS. President during war years when there were no annual meetings. Graduate of Vanderbilt Uni.; lived in Nashville, Tenn. all his life. Served forty-five years with The National Life and Accident Insurance Company, retiring as Chairman of the Board. Has had a number of introductions, including Dykes Medal winner CHIVALRY (1947) and almost equally famous STARSHINE. Director 1939-50; 52-58. Awards 1940-45. Membership 1948-50. President 1943-46. DSM 1947. Hyb M 1954. Foster Memorial Plaque 1961.

WISTER, JOHN C. First president of AIS. (See Wister chapter, which gives more than we can in a few lines.) Director 1928-35. President 1920-34. Foster Memorial Plaque 1927. Gold Medal 1950. DSM 1968.

WOOD, IRA E. Director 1966—. Anniversary Bulletin 1966-69. RVP and Membership Handbook 1970—.

WRIGHT, RICHARDSON (d. 1961). International authority on horticulture; wrote more than thirty books on gardening. Editor of *House and Garden*. Lay preacher Protestant Episcopal Church. Director 1928-39. Treasurer 1927-37.



Mrs. C. E. McCaughey



Earl T. Browder



Ben Hager and Sid DuBose (Photo by Long)

# Wanderings Among Old Catalogs

Jesse E. Wills

Out of the fifty years of the American Iris Society, I have been a member for thirty-five. There are many reminders and mementos of those years. In the closet of my library there are big green or grey notebooks, one for each year, or sometimes every two years, in which my crosses are recorded with their results. A few of these pages deal with successes, but they are scattered and mixed in with many exercises in futility.

I do not wish to treat of these, however; I am thinking of a big pile of old iris catalogs on another shelf which, for one reason or another, I have saved through the years.

The oldest ones are very interesting and bring back memories. When I started buying irises, the Society was small and times were difficult as we were still struggling up out of the depression. Nevertheless, there were a great many commercial iris gardens on Long Island, in New England, in the Midwest, in the Mountain States, in the Northwest and California, a few in the South, gardens with big catalogs and others with small ones. My assortment is by no means complete as I did not deliberately collect catalogs. I wrote for a number in the 1930s, but soon got the habit of ordering from the same ones. Some were lists put out by breeders of their own introductions. This was as common in the early days as it is now. The Sass lists, for instance, were simple and very brief in their descriptions. Other larger gardens that became more and more commercial might list their own introductions along with irises from other people. A few dealers refrained from breeding irises themselves. The Society needed the big commercial gardens with lavish illustrated catalogs to publicize the iris, and to distribute new irises. I have always felt we owed a big debt to our dealers.

Let us go back to the beginning. Robert Waymen of Long Island had one of the most prominent early gardens, but for some reason I never ordered from him. I am looking at the Schreiner's catalog for 1935 from which I ordered my first irises. The garden was then in Minnesota. The catalog was rather narrow and vertical, bound in orange, and had no illustrations. I liked it, however, because there was a list of the "100 best" irises grouped by color. All the irises were grouped by color classes for listing the price, season of bloom, height, and originator. Those that were recommended as best were set off in caps. After each color grouping, there were comments on the irises listed. These were honest, tenderness was noted, or a tendency toward flecking or slow growth. There were inexpensive as well as expensive ones among the "100 best".

This method of presenting irises was continued for some years but was gradually phased out. The 1939 Schreiner Catalog, for instance, has the "100 best" and also color groupings, but in addition, it has an alphabetical list. The catalog was much larger and contained numerous excellent black and white photographs. I liked the "100 best" list and the color groupings and was sorry when they were finally discontinued. Symposium lists have not served exactly the same function because they may be overbalanced with certain popular colors—whites, blues, or yellows. The Schreiner list let me know what they considered best of such weaker classes as blue blends or variegatas.

Another small catalog I have treasured and enjoy looking at from time to time was that of "Over the Garden Wall", from Mrs. Kellogg. She was frank also but her approach was lighthearted. I still have her 1937 catalog. In this she might describe an iris in figures of speech, or even in verse, for instance—

"SPRINGMAID (Loom. '32)    A maiden fair, all clothed in pink  
                                      With just a touch of honey.  
                                      She's very charming, don't you think  
                                      And doesn't take but a little money!"

She also did not mind saying that she did not care for a particular iris, or that it did not grow well for her, though it might be very popular elsewhere. She made such comments about one early Dykes Medal winner. This, of course, was not very businesslike and no modern catalog would do this. The catalogs of Fairmount Gardens from Mrs. Thomas Nesmith were more conventional. Through the years they followed the same pattern; a black and white photograph of an iris, or a garden on the cover, then a preface telling about her new introductions, and then an alphabetical listing. The Longfield Iris Garden at Bluffton, Ind., kept the same catalog for many years, quiet, dignified and factual, with the same sort of geometric design on the cover. Mary Williamson's catalogs were outstanding because of her introductions, not only Williamson irises, WABASH, for instance, but also those of Paul Cook and Greig Lapham.

There were larger catalogs at the same time. I have the 1937 catalog of Carl Salbach from which I ordered a great deal, always with pleasing results. His irises grown in Central California were usually hardy, which was not always true of those from Southern California. His catalog had color, not particularly good, on the front and back, also black and white pictures inside. His lists of irises were outstanding. He was fortunate to have the gardens of Professor Mitchell and Dr. Essig close by. The 1937 catalog contained three introductions from Salbach, two from Mitchell, and three from Essig. One of the last was a fine yellow for its time with flare and substance, SONG OF GOLD, which was a parent of my STARSHINE. Salbach's MONADNOCK was a parent of TOURNAMENT, one of the first of my rose-reds. I liked very much and grew for years his MISS CALIFORNIA, and LIGHTHOUSE introduced the year before. He later introduced the most unusual Mohr iris, LADY MOHR, which was unique in color and fine in performance.

The Quality Gardens of Mrs. Douglas Pattison in Freeport, Ill., were an institution. There has been no garden serving exactly the same function since. She was a strong-minded person who was an excellent judge of irises. She challenged the American Iris Society when it injudiciously substituted alphabetical ratings A B C, etc., for a year or so, in place of numerical ones. People who did not mind an 86 rating objected strongly to a "B" one, and Mrs. Pattison was one of the most vocal of these. Her garden grew the best and newest iris, and was a mecca every spring for iris judges from all over the country. It was a successful trial garden when the official ones had failed.

Her catalog was also an institution. I still have those of 1935 and 1936. There were three pages of foreword in which she set forth her views and

gave discerning comments on new irises. There were color plates, some small but also a few full page pictures. Those of JEAN CAYEUX and PRESIDENT PILKINGTON were amazingly true, and are good by standards today. There is a color plate of W. R. DYKES, the first big yellow which mercilessly reveals its floppiness of form, and the purple streaks which disfigured its falls. Some of the black and white pictures are startling now because of the narrow hafts and heavy reticulations which they reveal. MARY GEDDES, for instance, has venations that come more than half the way down the falls, but these furnished part of its unique color. Other black and white pictures set forth beautifully the classic grace of iris form and branching.

I still have Cooley's catalog for 1936. The remarkable thing is that it is very much like the present one. It is not quite as thick and does not list as many irises, but gives more space to their descriptions. There are some black and white photographs, but also a great deal of color, some full page. Many more are sizes characteristic of modern catalogs showing one blossom. Some of these pictures are surprisingly good, particularly a magnificent full-page picture of FAR WEST.

This was the pattern the larger gardens were increasingly to follow. For some reason I have not saved any catalogs from the 1940s, though I have some from the 1950s which are very much like those of today. I have not mentioned other catalogs which started in the 1930s and continued for a long while, notably the Millikin Garden in Southern California, and the Maple Valley Iris Garden of Agnes Whiting in Iowa. Old names disappeared and new ones appeared. Tell Mulhstein was a comet that flashed into our ken in the 1940s. His catalog featured long lists of introductions (others had lists nearly as long) and a very lengthy preface which was a sort of textbook for hybridizers. I wondered sometimes how he could be so sure that such and such a new iris would be a fine parent for such and such colors. I found, however, that his catalog was a reference for iris parentages that was much more convenient to use than the Check List.

Tom Craig, who was an artist as well as an iris breeder, produced a catalog that was unique in that it was illustrated with his own drawings.

It is very interesting how the new colors featured in catalog introductions have gradually changed through the decades. Of course, these have not been exclusive. Reds and blues, for instance, have continued all along. In the 1930s, however, the catalogs featured new big yellows and whites. In the late 1940s, and in the 1950s, the Mohr irises waxed and waned, and there was a great promotion of flamingo pinks. In recent years the pinks have been less prominent and the new irises tend to be bitones or bicolors, children and grandchildren of WHOLE CLOTH and MELODRAMA, Paul Cook's breakthrough to dominance in the amoena pattern.

In the late 1940s the Schreiners moved from St. Paul to Oregon, and somewhat later Chet Tompkins took his Fleur de Lis Gardens from Sioux City to the same State. There has been a growing concentration of commercial gardens in the Pacific Northwest, where they get faster increase of big fat rhizomes far superior to those grown in the East. Mary Williamson used to furnish double divisions from her Indiana Garden in an effort to offset this.

The black and white photographs disappeared and color became universal in the big catalogs. Apparently there had to be a color picture of every iris if it was going to sell. Much of the color is excellent; some of this is reproduced on or in the Bulletins; some of it, however, is still not too good. It used to worry me that the flamingos were so much pinker in the catalogs than in the flesh tones that they exhibited in gardens. The pink cuts have improved but they still tend to be either too pink, or else flat and lifeless. Many of the blue pictures are still much too blue. This is a weakness in color film that is not always overcome by filters. Reds are still difficult, but creams, yellows, browns, blends, and plicatas are often both lovely and entirely true to the flower.

I feel apologetic toward the many gardens and growers whose catalogs I have not mentioned. Many of these are gone, however. This is what concerns me, the increasingly rapid attrition in iris gardens. Death and old age has played their inevitable role. It is not easy for a new person to take over an established garden and keep up its momentum. One reason for this is the rapid obsolescence of irises. Another is that the newcomer may be only interested in a quick buck. One needs to love irises and live with them for some years to grow them successfully and perhaps to sell them.

The major and really worrisome cause lies in the steadily increasing costs involved, coming from inflation, the constant increases in minimum wage laws, and the changing work habits of people. The lands where irises have been grown often become very valuable as subdivisions, or for commercial purposes, and it is not easy to move. Catalogs, and particularly color plates, cost more and more. Jan de Graaf, who has had practical experience in bulb farming in Oregon, made a sobering talk about all this. This was at a daffodil meeting, but the same situation is applicable to irises. For reasons such as these, many small commercial gardens in California, where growing conditions were ideal, have disappeared. The larger growers have survived through mechanization, with machines to plant and dig irises, and with chemicals to control weeds. Small growers cannot afford such mechanization.

My thanks go out to the present-day commercial growers, and to all growers of the past, for what they have done to improve and promote the iris. I am left with a nagging thought, however. Where will the iris grower of 1990 obtain his rhizomes?



Louise Blake and her HALL OF FAME





Nashville, May 2, 1935

Seated: Dr. Kirkland, Mr. Cheek, Mrs. Cheek, Mrs. Pattison, Mrs. Kirkland, Dr. Everett.

Standing: Mrs. Hires, Unidentified, Mrs. Everett, Mr. Connell.



In Garden of Geddes Douglas, May 1946: Frances Douglas, Robert Sturtevant, William McKee, Jesse Wills.



Ethel Ricker  
(Exhibitions 1938-49)



Peggy Burke Grey  
(Associate Editor  
and Robins)



John Bartholomew  
(Robins 1956-66)

## THE IRIS LEGEND

Dora Wall

If there existed somewhere in the world a tapestry into which were woven all the stories, legends, beliefs, symbols and facts concerning the Iris—it would be a very long tapestry indeed; and the end of it would not be visible, for the weavers are still at work.

Surely, somewhere near the beginning of this tapestry there would be a rainbow; somewhere also a lovely Goddess clad in multi-colored robes, wearing a nimbus and displaying golden wings, would appear; Then there would be depicted Knights, Kings, Pyramids, mountains, streams, meadows, rooftops, and all manner of people. The colors of the tapestry would range from somber to gaudy; and the shapes of the flower embossed throughout would vary greatly—though always one would see three petals reaching up and three arching down.

We owe the name of our flower to the Greeks. Among their deities, who dwelt on Mt. Olympus, was one called Iris. She was the special messenger of Hera, the Queen Goddess. When Iris carried special messages from Heaven to Earth, she used the rainbows as her pathway.

There are many stories about how the flower came to bear the name of the Goddess. It is certain that the Ancients believed the flower to be especially loved and endowed by the Gods.

One story has it that the Gods held a party for all the flowers. They all came bedecked in their finest colors. But one poor little flower—the Cinderella of the Flower Kingdom—appeared wearing only the dull, tattered dress of a cinder girl. And the heart of Iris was touched. She told the poor little flower: "You shall be clad even as I!" At the next party that little flower appeared in the most dazzling dress of all, a dress that contained all the colors of the rainbow. Ever since, this flower has been known as Iris, the rainbow flower. Another version of basically the same story says: One day the flowers all assembled at the invitation of Juno (Roman equivalent of Hera), to celebrate the birthday of Iris. They all

came in their prettiest dresses and were having a fine time when three new sister flowers were seen approaching, dressed in gowns of red, yellow, and purple, and wearing gorgeous jewels, but no one knew who they were. As they were without names, they were christened Iris, because they wore the colors of the rainbow, and thus it is that they bear the name of the messenger of the Gods.

Still another story in point runs as follows: "Apollo was casting a quoit, and as it whizzed through the air, the West Wind (who was filled with jealous anger that Hyanthus preferred Apollo to him) seized the quoit in his invisible grasp, changed its course and sent it with deadly force to Hyanthus . . . . . Taking the boy's lifeless body in his arms, Apollo gave him promise of immortal life: "You die," he exclaimed to the boy, "but from your blood shall spring a flower that ALL SHALL LOVE!" As he spoke, a delicate blossom, in shape like a lily, but of a delicate purple hue sprang from the ground. This flower the Greeks called the hyacinth, but today it is called the Iris, in honor of the Goddess of the Rainbow.

Below the Gods were the Kings and rulers who also loved the Iris and who attributed some God-like powers to it. In the ancient and medieval world the Iris was widely used as a symbol of Power.

Four thousand years ago, on a fresco of the wall of the palace of Minos at Knossos, a conventionalized iris appears. The Egyptians introduced it into their architecture as a symbol of Eloquence and Power. It was placed upon the brow of the Sphinx and upon the sceptre of their rulers. In Ancient Babylonia it was recognized as one of the symbols of royalty. In the Amber Palace near Jaipur in India there is a bas relief of an iris.

Clovis, reported to be the first Christian King of France, was by many people supposed to be the first to carry the Fleur-de-Lys insignia. According to one story, Clovis, in 507, when fighting with the West Goths, came upon a river too deep to cross. The clatter of his troops startled a deer, which ran to a spot from which it crossed safely, indicating to Clovis the safe place to cross. At this point, the water-iris were growing. He picked one and then crossed safely and later won a victory. Believing his victory due to the influence of the iris, he henceforth regarded it as a symbol of victory. We know that the iris is the national flower of France, where it was first called Fleur-de-Lys. There are several legends in regard to its adoption. One of these also concerns Clovis. His wife, who was a Christian, endeavored by prayers and good deeds to bring about the conversion of her war-like husband. For a long time he resisted, but finally, when he was in danger of defeat by the Huns, he called for assistance from the God his wife worshipped. The tide of battle turned; he won a complete victory, and upon his return was baptized in the Christian Faith. The following night an angel appeared to a holy hermit who dwelt near the castle and gave him a beautiful shield emblazoned with three golden Fleur-de-Lys, which he bade the Queen to give to Clovis.

A later tradition ascribes the Fleur-de-Lys to Louis VII of France. About to start on his Crusades to the Holy Land, the white Banner of the French Crusaders was found one morning to be covered with purple Fleur-de-Lys. Louis regarded it as evidence of Divine approval, and adopted it as the emblem of France, and had it engraved upon his signet ring. The soldiers called it Fleur-de-Louis, which later was contracted

to Fleur-de-Luce, and finally to Fleur-de-Lys. It was incorporated into the Arms of France and used in the decoration of the Crown itself. Charles VI reduced the number of flowers to three—supposedly in recognition of the Holy Trinity. The Fleur-de-Lys was banned in France during the Revolution; since then the tri-color has been the National Emblem.

For some time, after the conquests of France, by Edward III, England added it to its Coat of Arms. Only in 1801 did it disappear from the English shield.

In 1272, the City-State of Florence, Italy, had the iris as its official flower—and does, even today. At one time its gold coins, the "Florins," had the Fleur-de-Lys on one side of them.

Not only Royalty, but Religions and semi-religious organizations have found the Iris suitable for symbolic use.

The Mohammedans brought the white iris, Albicans, to Spain, and the Spaniards took it to Mexico. The Mohammedans planted it on the graves of their dead. Many of our early pioneers planted iris on graves as well. Perhaps it was because they were hardy, and the rhizomes survived long months of being out of the ground; but I like to think there was another reason. One task ascribed to the Goddess Iris was the final severing of the cord between body and soul of the dying. Could this account for the use of Iris on graves?

Katherine M. Beals in "Flower Lore and Legend" says: "As a religious symbol the iris is sacred to the Virgin Mary. There was once a knight who was not learned, but who was most devout. He never could remember more than two words of the Latin prayer to the Holy Mother. These words were Ave Maria, and he repeated them over and over, night and day, until at last he died and was buried in the chapel-yard of a convent near which he lived. After a while a strange flower grew on his grave, a Fleur-de-Lys, which bore on every blossom in golden letters the words Ave Maria. The monks, who had held him in contempt during his life, because of his ignorance, opened the grave and were surprised to find the root of the plant resting on the lips of the holy knight, whose body lay in the grave."

In the Bible Jesus compares the colors of the "Lilies of the Fields" (probably native iris) favorably to the garments worn by Solomon, a very rich ruler who flaunted his wealth. Does this not suggest they were favored by God?

Marguerite Dutch, in "White Shrine of Jerusalem", presents the iris standards as representing spiritual things (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; heart, mind and soul, etc.) and the falls to her symbolize human and earthly things (Faith, Hope, and Charity; father, mother and child, etc.).

The Japanese, though not as a religious symbol, feature the iris at their June Flower Festival. Purple, yellow, white and some shades of blue are the principal colors. At Horo Kiri, near Tokio, the plants are arranged to produce a wonderful color affect. On June 5, they hang bunches of wild iris under the eaves of their homes to ward off evil spirits and to guard their homes from misfortune. Public conveyances are decorated with garlands of iris. The hot water in the public baths is perfumed with iris roots. In some places in Japan irises are planted on the roofs of houses. This is a custom which originated long ago when there was a famine in Japan and no one was allowed to plant any thing in the ground that

could not be used for food. The Japanese use the iris to send when congratulations are in order, except for weddings, when purple is not used.

The iris is also mentioned in literature. It was once believed to be a member of the Lily family, so possibly some references to the lily actually applied to some form of iris. A passage from Virgil's Aeneid was translated by Harry Randall to say: "So beloved iris, adorned by the sun across the heavens with a thousand varied hues, speeds down through the sky on saffron wings". The French poets have made their national flower a frequent theme for verse. Chaucer and Ben Johnson both seem to have been familiar with it. Milton numbers it with the flowers of Paradise: "Iris all hues . . ." Shakespeare often refers to the iris in his historical plays. And Shelley must have referred to the swamp-iris in these two lines:

"And nearer to the river's trembling edge

There grew broad flag flowers, purple pranked with white"

Finally, the iris had a practical use. Orris root, used medically, was made from it. Katherine M. Beals says: "The roots, which had many of the properties of honey, were used in the preparation of forty-one different remedies." They were used as cures for everything from teething troubles of infants to bites of serpents and scorpions.

An exquisite perfume was made from some varieties of iris.

The Japanese women used face powder made from the roots of the plant.

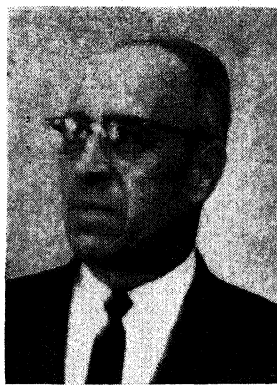
If you have read the above chronical with a cynical smile, take a good look at yourself. Iris fans have come to their hobby by various roads. Many of you may recall the exact experience that committed you to it. All of you bring "Burnt Offerings" in the form of money, back-breaking labor, and sweat. You arrange your vacations to accord with iris seasons. In the winter you spend happy hours reading the "Iris Begats", stories about great irisarians, and accounts of Important Iris (such as DOMINION, RAMESES, SNOW FLURRY, and PROGENITOR) which have helped in the evolution of Our Flower. Sometimes they even invade your dreams. And which one of you has not stood in awed silence before a clump of iris—feeling something akin to worship? Let's face it!!! WE ARE IRIS CULTISTS?



Richardson Wright  
(Treasurer 1927-37)



Carl Schirmer  
(Treasurer 1950-59)



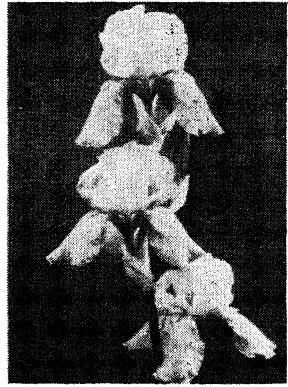
Jay Ackerman  
(Treasurer 1960—)



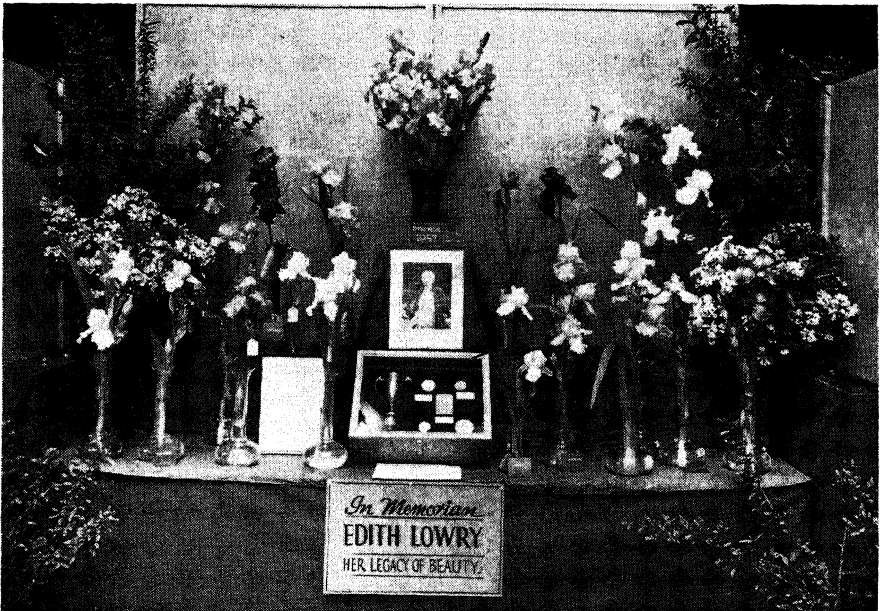
SUSAN BLISS  
(Bliss '22)



CARDINAL  
(Bliss '19)



MRS. VALERIE WEST  
(Bliss '25)



# Golden Jubilee

## 1970 Convention of the American Iris Society

### REGISTRATIONS

*Registration Fee:* Before May 1, 1970 \$52.50  
May 1, 1970 and after \$57.50

*Mail Registrations to:*

Mrs. Thomas R. Higgins, Wynn Court, Syosset, N.Y. 11791

*Make Check payable to:* Empire State Iris Society

Please help us plan for your enjoyment by registering as early as possible. Certain bus and meal commitments must be made in advance. To guarantee you against disappointments we urge you to have registrations in our hands no later than May 28th.

### STATLER HILTON HOTEL RATES PER DAY (Plus Tax)

Singles	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$19.00	\$21.00	\$23.00
Doubles	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$27.00	\$29.00
Twins	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$27.00	\$29.00

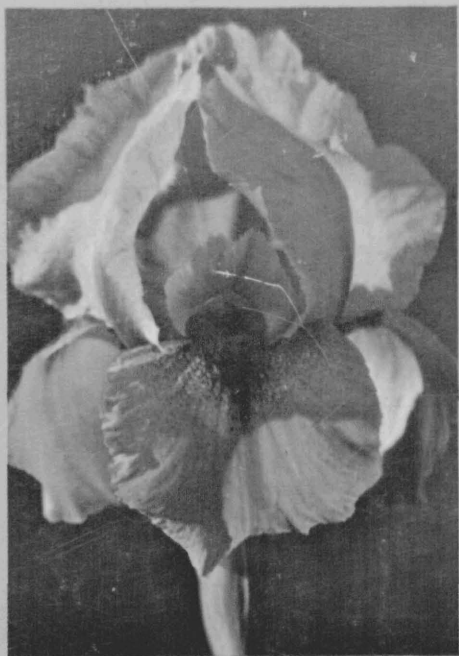
To obtain these rates state that you are attending the AIS Convention.

Reservations should be in no later than May 15 and should be addressed to  
Front Office Manager, The Statler Hilton, 7th Ave. & 33 St.  
New York, N.Y. 10001

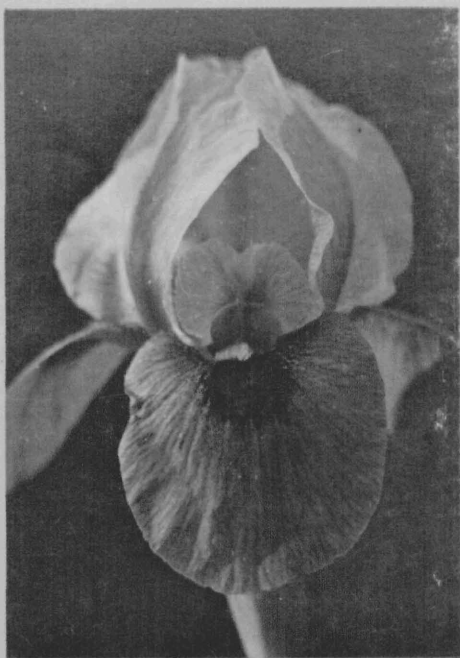
Should there be any trouble in obtaining rooms at the Convention hotel, there are numerous other reasonably accessible hotels and motels.

### FEATURES

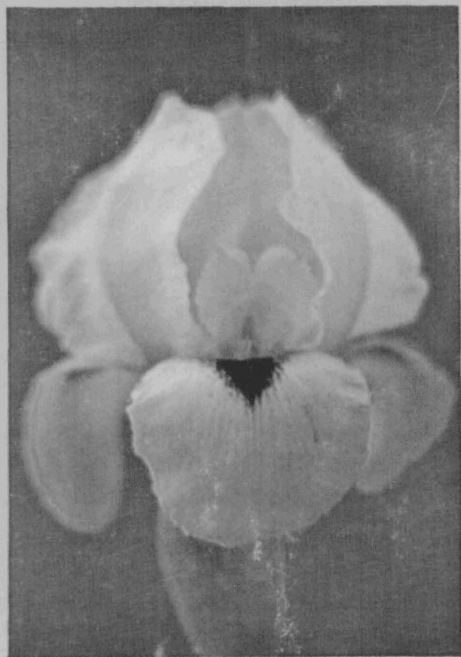
- Saturday, May 30* Registration. Afternoon bus tour to Staten Island—Catherine Smith Garden. Sightseeing en route including harbor crossing by S.I. Ferry. Late afternoon welcome meeting and social hour.
- Sunday, May 31* Bus Tour to New Jersey—Knocke Garden in morning and Presby Memorial Garden in afternoon. Lunch at Far Hills Inn (Somerville).
- Monday, June 1* Bus Tour to Long Island—visits to Planting Fields Arboretum and Kuesel, Peck and Viette gardens. Lunch at Swan Club in Glenwood Landing.
- Tuesday, June 2* Bus Tour to northern suburbs—Watts Garden in Armonk, N.Y. Thomson and Stretcher gardens in Stamford, Conn. Lunch at White Plains Hotel. Evening Jubilee Banquet. Old Timers.



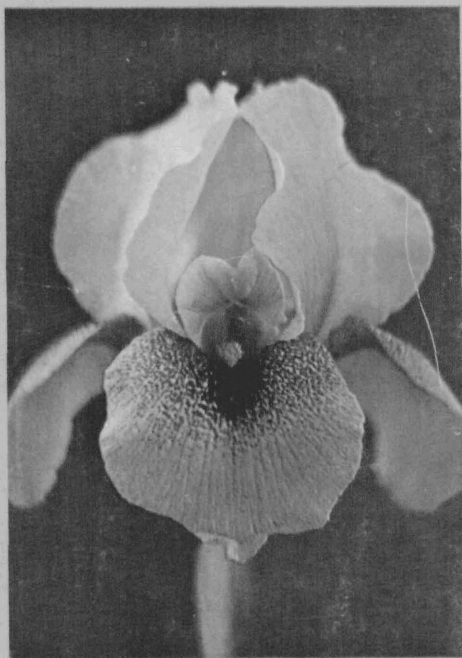
Danielson 66-1



**BIG BLACK BUMBLEBEE**  
(Danielson '66)



Danielson 69-1



Danielson 69-2