



PRESENTING THE WISTER MEDAL DESIGN AND ITS DESIGNER

Lynn Markham

Pictured above is the beautiful and distinctive design which will be cast in bold relief on the face of the John C. Wister Memorial Medal. The medal will be cast in bronze and will be 3-1/2 inches in diameter. The talented designer, Nancy S. Harkins of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has most graciously agreed to design the reverse of the medal as well, and this work is already in progress. The medal will be presented for the first time at the AIS National Convention in Portland, Oregon, and the recipient will be Schreiners for their tall bearded iris, SILVERADO.

Introductions are in order, of course. Meet our designer:

Nancy Harkins has loved drawing and painting since she was a small child. Her work received recognition throughout her school years, and at seventeen, she was accepting commissions for portraits from classmates and teachers. Having received little formal training, she continued to study and work on her own and in short-term classes and workshops. In 1984, she quit her office job to make watercolor painting her vocation.

The old "flag" irises of Nancy's childhood memories had never been much of a favorite, but when she attended the Tulsa Area Iris Society show in 1982, she was

totally captivated by the form and color of the newer varieties she encountered. She began her small iris garden that year with eight rhizomes purchased from the club. Never having had a great interest in floral painting, she was surprised when in Spring, 1985, she felt the need to experience the beauty of her irises in a deeper way by doing drawings and watercolor paintings of them from life. Her first efforts concentrated on the basic shape and color, but by her third season, her joy was to capture every dramatic curve and nuance of color, still without photographic reference.

Since that time, she has produced countless drawings and over forty-five richly-colored watercolor paintings from most of the irises in her garden. Many of these works are in private collections locally and around the country. Her work may be seen at the Scissortail Gallery in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, or at her home.

Nancy is active in her church, a local arts group, and the Tulsa Area Iris Society. She resides in Tulsa with her husband (and best friend), Ed.

Congratulations, Nancy!



Nancy Harkins