

Exhibition Committee Report, 1964

As THIS COPY is being prepared for publication, there are 127 show reports for the year in the files. This again sets a new high for the Society.

VIOLET HARMONY and STARSHINE vied for the leadership among the Queens of the Show, and finally ended with a tie of five votes each. BANG followed closely with four votes, and OLYMPIC TORCH and VALIMAR were three time winners. Double winners were BLUE SAPPHIRE, BY LINE, CHIVARLY, FIRST VIOLET, GALILEE, INDIGLOW, LAVISH LADY, MAJORETTE, MARY McCLELLAN, RIPPLING WATERS, ROCOCO, SABLE NIGHT and VIOLET HILLS.

Many of the shows were large. Twenty of the shows had four hundred or more exhibits each, with Sacramento leading with 780 exhibits, Birmingham with 683, Minneapolis with 644, Dallas with 625, Jackson with 621 and Hutchinson with 600. At the same time there were a number of smaller shows of exceptionally high quality.

Another statistic which indicates the popularity of our flower is that twenty-nine shows had fifty or more exhibitors each. Fort Worth with 164 exhibitors led in this department, followed by Wichita with 157, Odessa with 102, Portland with 95, Jerome with 86, and Atlanta with 84. 5,554 iris growers exhibited at iris shows in 1964, or an average of more than forty-two per show.

One is impressed with the crowds some of the iris shows draw. Arcadia had a turnstile count of 8,573 visitors, and Las Vegas drew 4,500. Oakland, Modesto, Sacramento, St. Louis, Albuquerque and Dayton drew in excess of 2,000 visitors.

Texas with sixteen shows led the field, with California and Region 18 tied for second place with fourteen each.

Three trends are evident from the reports. The first is an increasing number of displays of species and native iris, indicating a growing interest in these irises.

The second is the increasing number of shows with more than one section. In a number of shows it has taken winning in more than one iris section to gain the award of the silver medal certificate.

The third is the increasing tendency to display seedlings before judges and the public at shows. We have no statistics as to the number of seedlings exhibited, but 109 seedlings won the Exhibition Certificate.

A considerable amount of time this year has been spent in reading carefully your suggestions for the revision of the show rules, and more than one hundred of you participated in making suggestions. This is good, for so far as we can, these rules should be the result of democratic participation in their formulation. As you well can imagine, we received every variety of opinion, from urgent pleas to keep the rules simple to requests for covering with rules every kind of contingency. In the rewriting of the rules, we tried to take into account majority opinions, and to codify these opinions into a systematic and organized body of rules. These rules will appear in the new Judges' Handbook and in the new Color Classification Study.

J. ARTHUR NELSON, *Chairman*