

# Exhibition Committee Report, 1973

CLARKE COSGROVE, *Chairman*

The reports for accredited iris shows that were received by the August 1 deadline totaled 118, which is down one from 1972. Eleven Regions reported fewer shows this year than last, seven maintained the same number, while it was the increases in six Regions that brought up the total number. Region 17 (Texas) led the Regions for increased number, reporting twelve shows (up from five last year) to produce a three-way tie for second place with Region 14 (Northern California and Nevada) and Region 18 (Kansas and Missouri). Region 22 (Arkansas and Oklahoma) again was in first place for the greatest number of shows, with seventeen reported. The number of shows reported by Regions:

<i>Region</i>	<i>Shows</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Shows</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Shows</i>
1	3	9	3	17	12
2	1	10	1	18	12
3	2	11	3	19	1
4	1	12	3	20	0
5	2	13	2	21	3
6	10	14	12	22	17
7	5	15	11	23	3
8	6	16	0	24	5
Total					118

There was a tie for the Nelson Award for being judged Queen of Show the greatest number of times between the many-time winner STEPPING OUT and MILESTONE. Both were judged Best Specimen in five shows and were closely followed by this year's Dykes medalist NEW MOON that reigned in four shows. Species irises were crowned as Queens in three shows.

There were several reports of specimen stalks traveling without their growers to be entered in shows and judged award winners, but the greatest traveler this year was a stalk of ETERNAL FLAME that left the home garden of Jean Collins in New Zealand to enter the November Iris Show in San Diego and to be judged Queen of Show. Such long journeys are not unknown for specimen stalks of non-bearded, but have not been reported for tall bearded irises.

The number of of Exhibition Certificates awarded also increased. There were 139 such certificates awarded. Where the same seedling received an award in more than one show, it is listed only once in this report.

Due to the increased number of shows being staged in the malls of shopping centers rather than in confined areas, the attendance at shows is difficult to estimate, but the number of people viewing irises, even casually, has grown markedly. This shift to shopping malls has been accompanied by a decline in the number of commercial and educational exhibits.