

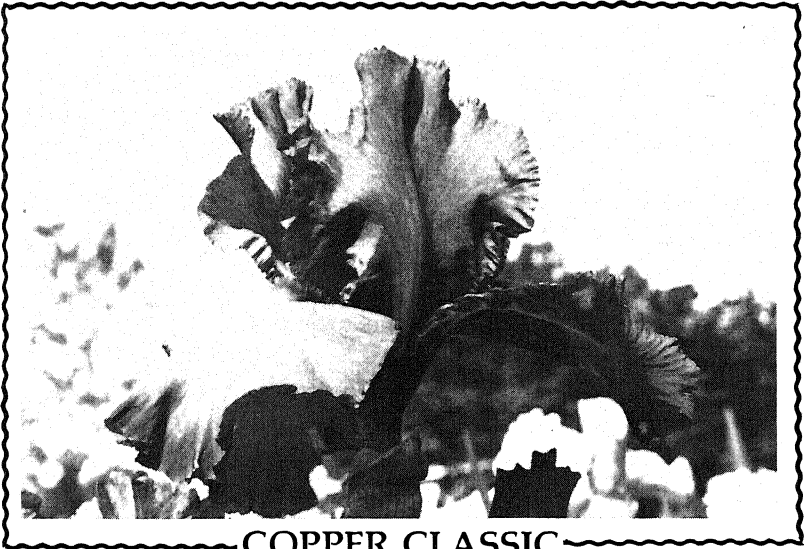
1981 CONVENTION POPULAR VOTE WINNERS

Each year, those attending the AIS national convention vote to select the most outstanding varieties seen on the garden tours. Ballots are submitted at the end of the last day's tours and the results announced as an exciting climax to the grand banquet's award ceremonies.

Earlier unseasonably warm weather had hastened the bloom season in Missouri and Illinois, but several weeks of cool weather followed to slow progress, so that conventioners were greeted by near peak bloom in tall bearded irises. Weather changes may have been responsible for some tendencies for varieties to branch higher than usual, but others showed the lusty mettle that garnered votes for trophy competition regardless of conditions. Such quality is an excellent indication of floriferous strength.

The President's Cup is awarded to an iris introduced from within the region(s) hosting convention tour gardens; irises created by hybridizers outside this area are eligible for the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup, which honors a former AIS president.

The winners listed below, and others that drew attention from conventioners and garden reviewers at a floriferous convention may be on their ways to iris stardom.

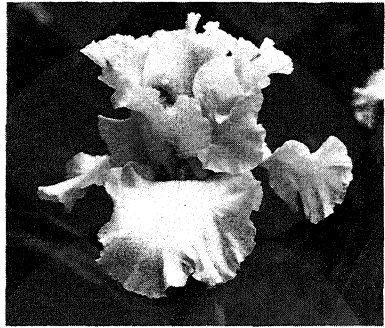


COPPER CLASSIC

PRESIDENT'S CUP

WINNER: COPPER CLASSIC (Elvan Roderick), a well-named metallic brown of stalwart growth habits 180 votes

RUNNERS-UP: SHEER POETRY (Dorothy Palmer) 115 votes
AN—JAN (Louise Bellagamba) 31 votes
PLEATED GOWN (Roderick) 15 votes
MIRRORED SKY (Palmer) 12 votes



SHEER POETRY, left, and AN-JAN; below, Elvan Roderick with PLEATED GOWN



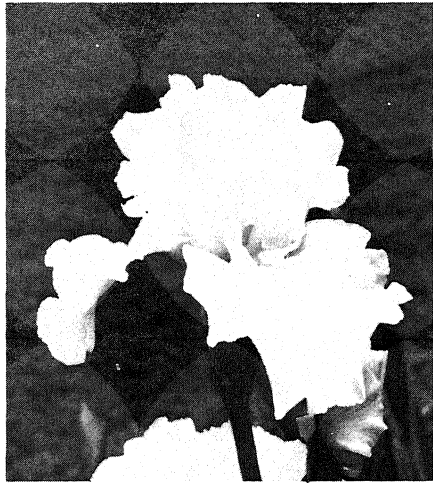
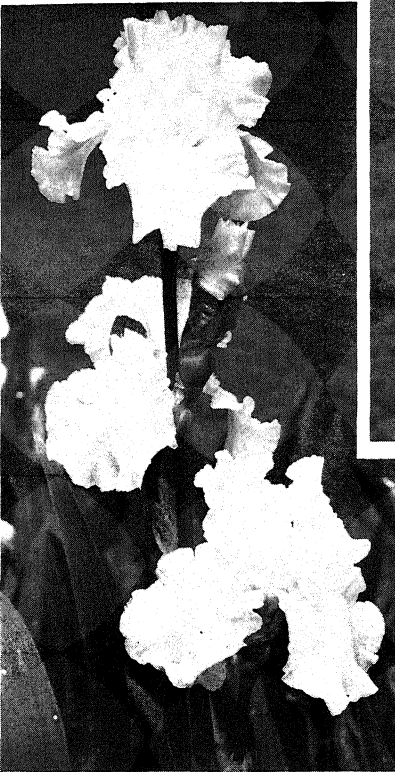
and a stalk of MIRRORED SKY



FRANKLIN COOK MEMORIAL CUP

WINNER: LEDA'S LOVER (Ben Hager, '80), a full, ruffled warm white of elegant poise 84 votes

RUNNERS-UP: **ST. LOUIS BLUES** (Schreiners) 51 votes
STEVE VARNER (Briscoe) Siberian 30 votes
LOVELY KAY (Hamblen) 23 votes
PINK PALACE (Paquet) 16 votes



Above, LEDA'S LOVER, stalk and closeup; right, Jim Morris, Convention Chairman presented trophies