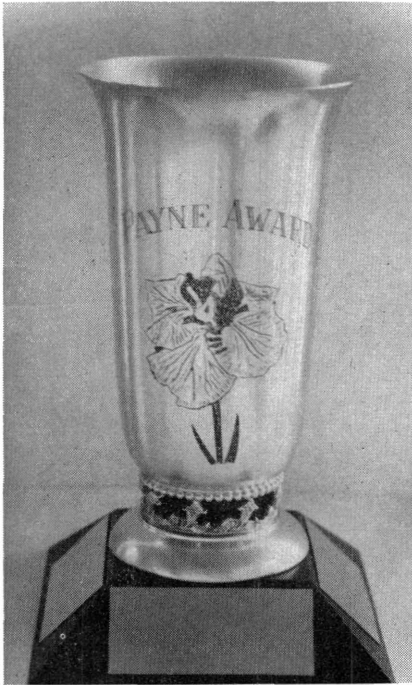


The Payne Award for Kaempferi Irises

C. A. SWEARENGEN



The Society For Japanese Irises, recognizing that an award above that of Honorable Mention was needed, requested the AIS to establish such an award, to be called the Payne Award in honor of Mr. W. A. Payne, the oldest and most prolific hybridizer of kaempferi irises in the United States. They felt that this was appropriate, as his work with kaempferi irises had resulted in the winning of three medals, a gold, a silver and a bronze one, at the International Flower and Plant Show at Hamburg, and the AIS Hybridizers Medal at home. Along with this was a reputation of international renown. The AIS Board of Directors were in accord with this and established the award three years ago.

Mr. Payne, recognizing the signal honor so conveyed, decided that he would endow the award with a suitable cup. As his health did not permit an active participation, he commissioned me to look to the pro-

curement. After consulting Dr. J. Arthur Nelson and Mr. Hubert Fischer, it was decided that, as he was in contact with sources and willing to do so, Mr. Fischer would secure the cup and arrange for the decorative engraving. This was done and the result was more than satisfactory to all concerned.

The cup is actually a Prince Erk Vase of silver, ten and one-half inches tall and five and three-fourths inches across the top. It is mounted on a mahogany base that carries four silver escutcheon plates on which will be engraved the names of the successive winners. The cup is engraved with the likeness of a kaempferi iris.

This award has the same status as the Award of Merit and is awarded yearly to the hybridizer of the kaempferi iris which, having previously won HM, receives the largest number of votes cast by the AIS judges for this award. This is a rotational award and would look lovely on your mantel for a year. Grow a few.

We of the Society For Japanese Irises hereby thank the donor of this lovely cup and the AIS officials who assisted in its procurement.

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