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THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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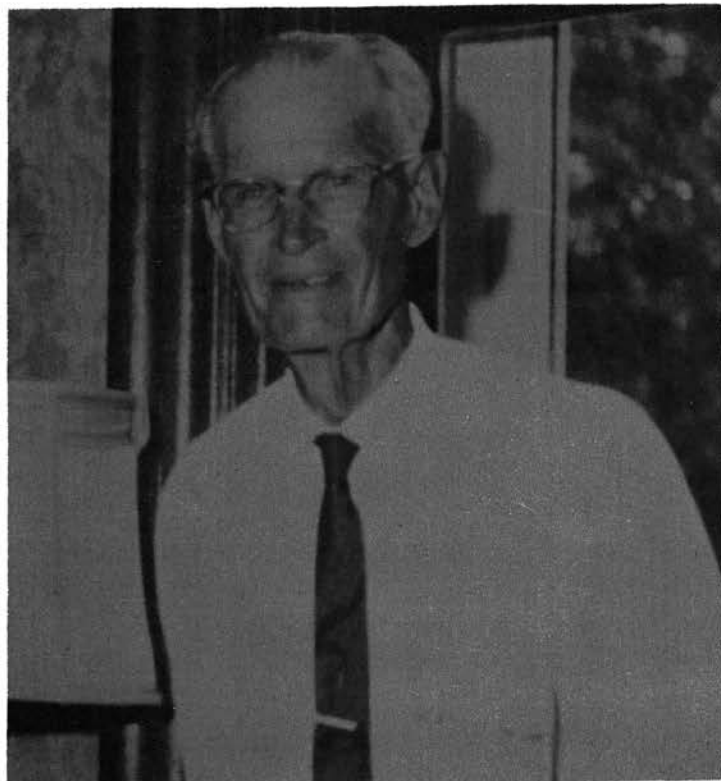
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ARLIE PAYNE

Photo by W. E. Vrooman



DEDICATION

This issue of THE REVIEW is dedicated to a man who has devoted himself for 34 years to the improvement of the Japanese iris. Starting with a collection of nine varieties from a nursery in Yokahama, he has patiently line-bred seedlings and meticulously recorded his program to develop an original strain with sturdy stalks, excellent substance, a wide range of colors and new patterns and blooming habits suitable for American gardens. To date, he has introduced 110 varieties and has registered 37 more.

A critical judge, he keeps seedlings he likes on trial for years before naming them. His first introductions were not made until 18 years after he began his breeding program. Among his achievements in breeding are the introduction of several new forms, such as the saucer-shape of Silver Surf and the windblown silhouette of Winged Sprite, candelabra branching, the distinctive white wire edging of Immaculate Glitter and color breaks such as the rich hue of Blue Nocturne, the brown tone of Fondest Expectation and the yellow cast of seedling #1090.

It was his work, while serving as a Director of this Society for Japanese Irises, that resulted in the adoption of our Judging Schedules and the instigation of a medal award for recognition of the finest variety each year.

Only recently have his achievements been officially recognized with the IGA gold, silver and bronze medals, HMs and the highly prized hybridizer's medal of the American Iris Society.

He has donated collections of his varieties to gardens in Florence, Italy, Hamburg, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, France, Japan as well as to the Presby Memorial Gardens in Montclair, New Jersey, Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio and to the University Arboretum near the AIS Test Garden in Berkeley, California, and to many hybridizers around the world. Certainly his irises will continue to be admired everywhere they are grown and his work will be continued in many countries.

Now as he retires to a warmer climate and plans for a trip to Japan next year, we salute Arlie Payne for his devotion to our beloved flower and his generosity in sharing the beauties he has originated.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

After a season that was a week late and much too dry, we are able to look at the year's results. In most areas in the central part of the nation the rainfall was less than average. In the Terre Haute area we are short some 5 1/2 inches to date. Rain, when it came, was heavy and of short duration. Fortunately, I have a well to water from so restrictions do not affect me (when there is water in the well). The natural water table in Indiana has fallen more than 14 feet in 16 years. I certainly hope that the same condition does not exist in the rest of the country.

Patches varied as to season of peak bloom by four to eight days within a few miles of each other due to the fact that some had adequate water and some did not.

We are on the approach to some of our goals. Branching is decidedly better in a matter of four years due in part to an intensive effort on the part of some hybridizers to increase it. Due to consistent effort to select only the best plants for parents, form is better. We are all learning the effect that the various blood lines have on progeny and are better able to select for improvement, both in form and branching, and, to a degree, color.

The season was too short here, partly due to show preparations and activities, to do anything on paper chromatography. Ivory Glow was "fumed" for yellow and intensification took place to the apparent extent of about 100%. No colorimeter was readily available to check the exact amount. It might have been more. This is of interest to those who are working for yellow as it may well be the pod parent of our hoped for yellow iris.

Fragrance is yet an illusive thing. I had two seedlings that attracted butterflies and had a very faint fragrance. Selfed, crossed and some of the selfs crossed failed to increase it. One line died out. It was not a vigorous line and that is another thing that we must have if progeny is to improve. Sometimes an outcross will effect this without loss of other characteristics if it is to a plant that is known to be on the recessive side.

It takes several years to learn the effect of the various parents in one's line and no good breeder should be discarded until one is sure that it has transmitted all of the available good qualities to the breeder's line.

Rebloomers are not as yet being reported but they will come. Steiger reported some at the Florence Symposium and I have one that has had a large well-developed bud at division time. It is being selfed and a small stock grown in case it should decide to "work overtime."

As a society we have progressed more rapidly than even I, a bit of an optimist, had dared hope for. Our membership is continuing its increase, our financial condition is excellent and we have been able to present a fair amount of instructive material for our members in THE REVIEW. We need more active participation by the membership in committee affairs and more members doing some hybridizing and making reports on the results, both good and bad, so that time and effort will not be needlessly spent in working with unsatisfactory parents or those that continue to breed any fault.

We need more young people working with Japanese Irises as it is a bit longer, this road to drastic improvement, and travel is not often fast. We need their vigor and enthusiasm, their energy and pride, the memory that they possess and their ability to "shrug off" an occasional failure. Try, each of you, to get one new young member plus as many others as possible.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find reports of the show at Terre Haute. At two of the gardens the peak was three days past but many good specimens were available and we presented an interesting show. Public attendance was excellent and a check of the "guest book" showed 14 states represented and 17 out-of-town AIS judges present which gave the seedling class a good chance to present its new things to those who will, as time goes on, have the opportunity to vote as to whether they are qualified for greater honors. It is always an honor to have so many judges present and they in turn, have a chance to view the better things and to learn more about what a good iris should look like. I have always felt that a large part of the value received at a convention was the privilege of seeing the iris show that is generally held at that time. In the various patches that you are privileged to visit are the good, the poor and the plain "dogs." In the show one finds few that are not good and the time is better spent in seeing the good points of the good iris as it helps one when next he approaches the show bench or garden. My thanks to all of you who attended our show.

My personal thanks to our show judges, Eleanor Westmeyer and Bee Warburton, to Art Hazzard, and to Andy Hayes as clerks and registrars, and to the ladies, members of the four Federated Garden Clubs, who served as hostesses. Without the devotion of these people the show would not have been the success that it was. In fact, it could not have been held.

It is with deep regret that we bid Mr. Payne goodbye as a hybridizer. He will grow a few at his new home in California in future years. It is to be hoped that, with retirement, he will find time to write for THE REVIEW a series of articles on the analysis of parents so that the beginner will be better able to select good breeders, on the cultural side of mature plants as well as the fertilization of seed flats and seedlings, on rotation of beds and soiling crops, on inbreeding as to how far it can be carried without endangering vigor, on the selection and testing of plants for introduction, and the many other things that he knows so well.

In four more months I shall move away from this desk to make room for my able successor. It has, in the main, been a pleasant duty, although I often wish that I could have "moved a few mountains" and left more to show for the time spent here. However, we are an accepted section that has, for three years, registered and introduced through our members, the next to the largest number of plants of all sectional groups.

I do not have the complete report for this year but am certain from unofficial reports received that this year will equal the last two. We now have medal award status and cup status is not far away.

I ask each of you to do all that you can in the coming years in the support of the Society and its officers, that what we have gained shall not be lost but added to, a little here and a little there, until at last we shall be known in all the countries in the civilized world as a group truly devoted to beautifying the earth.

For your support and assistance, I thank you.

And now adieu,

C. A. Swearingen

THE SHOW AT TERRE HAUTE

A. E. Hayes, Jr.

Due to the late season, the Japanese Iris Show was postponed for eight days and was held on June 26th from 2 to 6 P. M. at the Woman's Department club Building, 507 South 6th Street in Terre Haute, Indiana. W. E. Ouweneel was Chairman of the Show and was assisted by C. A. Swearingen, A. H. Hazzard and A. E. Hayes. Bee Warburton and Eleanor Westmeyer served as judges. Mrs. J. B. Fuquay was in charge of hostesses and staging. Mrs. Paul Henderson, Newcomers' Garden Group; Mrs. Harold Johnston, Fair Gardens Garden Club; Mrs. Charles Hayes and Mrs. Estil Roth, Nature Study Garden Club and Mrs. Harold Nattkemper, Honey Creek Garden Club served as hostesses. Staging assistants were Mrs. Floyd Creasey, Newcomers' Garden Group and Mrs. Glen Andrew, Home and Garden Section of the Woman's Department Club.

Art Hazzard brought a supply of official rose bottles for the specimens which greatly enhanced the appearance of the exhibits. The vases were No. 1071 made by Anchor Hocking Corporation of Lancaster, Ohio and may be purchased from the J. Dykstra Company, 88 W. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

There were 8 exhibitors and a total of 134 entries in the show. 105 of these were named varieties, 29 seedlings, 76 specimens of 68 varieties with only 8 duplications. Entries were divided into 6 sections: A — Singles (3 petals), B — Doubles (6 petals), C — Peony (9 or more petals), D — Potted Plants, E — Arrangements and F — Unregistered Seedlings. Specimen Sections were subdivided by colors and had the following entries:

Section A, singles

1. White Self: Chosen, Miss Simplicity, Ivory Mantle
3. White with Conspicuous Markings: Royal Tiger, Winged Chariot
7. Red with C. M.: Pillar of Fire
11. Blue with C. M.: Smiling Beauty
13. Purple Self (dark): Purple Peacock, Debonair Prince
14. Purple with C. M.: Glitter and Gayety, Dazzling Debutante, Lady Gay
16. Red Purple: The Great Mogul
19. Violet with C. M.: Rose Cavalier, Iro-No-Ury
24. Bluish Violet (dark): Debonair Prince
25. Bitones: Princess Aurora, Enchanted Lake
26. Bicolors: Danseur Noble, Popular Acclaim, Joyous Troubadour, Hinso Kajin

There were no entries in class 2 (Ivory White self), 4 (Pink Self), 5 (Pink with C. M.), 6 (Red), 8 (Light Blue), 9 (Medium Blue), 10 (Dark Blue), 12 (Purple Self), 15 (Purple Blends), 17 (Violet Self — light), 18 (Violet Self — dark), 20 (Violet Blends), 21 (Purple-Violet comb. lavenders), 22 (Purple-Violet comb. browns), 23 (Bluish Violet — light) and 27 (Others).

Section B, doubles

1. White Self: Mighty White, Ivory Glow
3. White with C. M.: Seafury, Nippon Miss, Snow Glitter, Silver Surf
4. Pink Self: Lilac Fairy, Queen's Chalice
5. Pink with C. M.: Reigning Beauty
7. Red with C. M.: Reigning Beauty
8. Light Blue: Garden Enchantress, Sky and Water
9. Medium Blue: My Fancy
10. Dark Blue: Blue Honey
11. Blue with C. M.: Silvercrest, Winter Festival
13. Purple Self (dark): Imperial Robe, Come Look, Kongo San
14. Purple with C. M.: Rose Fantasy, Vintage Festival
15. Purple Blends: Imperial Robe, Confetti Shower
16. Red Purple: Magic Ruby, Fashion Model, Venetian Velvet
17. Violet Self (light): Windswept Beauty, Distant Echo
18. Violet Self (dark): Cobra Dancer, Night Festival, Sakura no Haru

19. Violet with C.M.: Mulberry Pie, Swirling Waves, Fashion Fete, Mai-Ohgi, Scheherezade
20. Violet Blends: Strut and Flourish, Fashion Fete
23. Bluish Violet (light): Silver Frills
24. Bluish Violet (dark): I Go Kum, Gay Temptress
25. Bitones: Fashion Classic, Gayety, Flying Tiger, Whiff O'Smoke, Sky and Water, Danseuse, Oriental Elegance
26. Bicolors: Imperial Venus
27. Others: Wounded Dragon, Night Blizzard

There were no entries in class 2 (Ivory Self), 6 (Red), 12 (Purple Self — light), 21 (Purple-violet comb. lavenders); 22 (Purple-Violet comb. browns).

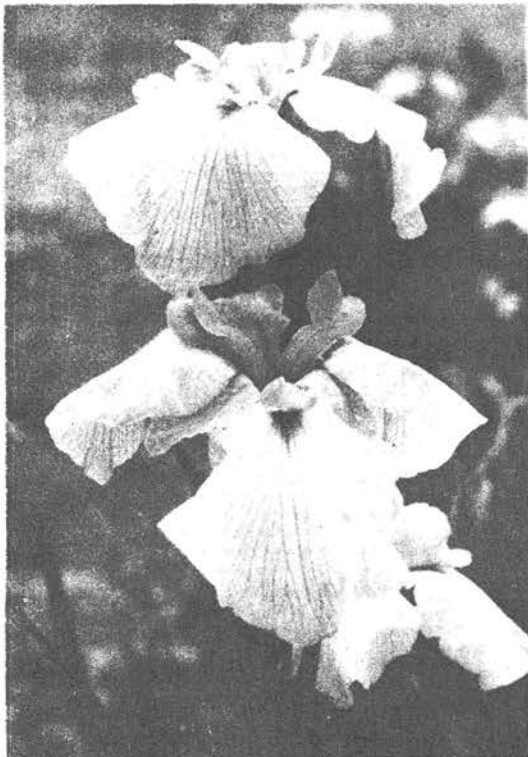
Section C, 9 or more petals — Peony Type, Monstrosa

3. White with C.M.: Shin Arah no Yuki
25. Bitone: Orchid Majesty
26. Bicolors: Ninety Nine
18. Violet Self (dark): Fashion and Fancy

Bill Ouwenel won the silver medal with a total of 10 blue ribbons, while Bob Swearengen was the bronze medal winner with 6 blue ribbons. Queen of the Show was Strut and Flourish (Payne) grown by Bill Ouwenel.

The arrangements were of good quality, though few in number, due to hesitancy on the part of arrangers to work with Japanese irises which were new to them. Those who entered arrangements succeeded in conveying the oriental feeling by natural placement of blossoms and curved branches. Mrs. R. L. Winklepleck won a first and a third on her arrangements. Mrs. Glen Andrew won a first, second and the purple rosette. Her arrangement of ivy and a small-flowered blue Japanese iris, beautifully placed in a large abalone shell, was judged the best in the show.

The local people did a marvelous job on publicity with articles in the Indianapolis and local papers. There were 236 registered visitors at the show, representing 14 states. An astonishing number of AIS judges attended. There were seven from Indianapolis, alone, including Earl Roberts, Bonnie Dunbar, Harold van Treese. The Varnums were there — Ed is AIS Director and Chairman for the Special Sections. Also present were the Cantrells from Missouri, Ray Smith of reblooming iris fame, from Michigan, Cloyd Sensenbach from Pennsylvania, Virginia McClintock from Ohio and Art Hazzard, SJI Treasurer, and Bill Vrooman (Arlie's nephew) and his wife Catharine, from Michigan. 17 judges voted for seedlings and 10 exhibition certificates were awarded after the show as follows: W. A. Payne, 6 certificates; C. A. Swearengen, 3; W. E. Ouwenel, 1.



In the seedling class at the show, Bob Swearengen won the Purple Rosette for #166, a white single with purple veining three dark petals which lay flat on top of the falls, creating a new silhouette effect.

It was truly a superb show!

Andy Hayes and Art Hazzard did a fine job as entry and placement clerks for the Show. The committee learned that it is imperative to determine in which class each variety belongs. One variety ended up with stalks in three different classes, and a good argument could be made for each placement.

BEST SEEDLING IN THE SHOW

Swearengen #166

Photo by Swearengen

A VISIT WITH ARLIE PAYNE

Bee Warburton

Arlie's garden is a joy to visit, with its shady spot for parking, and its beautiful rare trees and shrubs. An impressive American Pillar Rose covers the end of the house, which is almost hidden in evergreens, formerly stock plants for the nursery business. Among the trees is a European weeping beech of supreme elegance; a Moraine Locust, and a collection of Swiss stone pines of which Arlie had donated the most perfect specimen to Kingwood Center, where we saw in on our way home, settled in and looking contented.

Arlie demonstrated how to collect pollen, which is very scarce in some of the doubled types. He takes it early in the day, as soon as the flower has opened, and lets it mature before he uses it. We were informed that he sometimes wraps it in a plantain leaf to keep it just moist enough. He doesn't pollinate his flowers the first day, but wraps them as soon as they are emasculated, and pollinates the next day.

When asked which of his irises he was proudest of, Arlie answered "Wounded Dragon." He pronounces it to rhyme with all the other "ound" words in the English language — bounded, founded, hounded, rounded, sounded, wounded, as he learned it in poetry in his school days.

While we were looking at the garden and trying to take pictures, the heat was atrocious. We were told that it had reached 99 degrees on the day of the show, and the heat in the sun was terrific, but we stuck it. 236 people came to see the show — 236 iris nuts, in the hottest part of the day, in the hottest spot they could find — and it was worth it, how it was worth it!

Inside the cool stone house we were glad to sit and listen to Arlie's remarks about his irises. He thinks that the Japanese prefer shorter flowers because they are a smaller race — and perhaps that's why I like them small! — but that taller Americans can use taller flowers; but that the taller varieties should have more drooping petals, and the shorter ones should be more flat; to show a proportionate amount of flower surface and color.

He also thought that some varieties of Japanese iris should be developed for potted plants, or for cutting, as the Japanese do. Americans develop their plants for a longer period of bloom; the Japanese disbud so that all development will go into one perfect flower. For our garden purposes, we need a longer bloom period, but Arlie believes that it is a mistake to establish a standard of excellence calling for more than one flower open at a time. In this, the show judges agreed with him; indeed there was only one stalk in the entire show with more than a single flower open, and it looked crowded and unbalanced because of the flat rather than rounded form of the flowers.

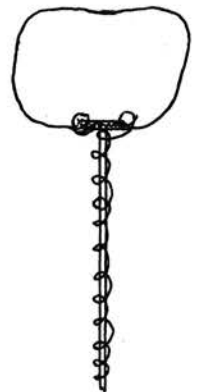
Arlie showed us his latest slides. He always takes three shots, bracketing his hopes of perfection, but to us all three of each subject looked excellent. He is actually a professional photographer, and has fine equipment. He told us that to intensify the red of the Japanese irises he takes pictures in overcast, or uses two skylight filters. Nearly all of his slides have individual flowers carefully arranged to make an artistic composition against a background of solid foliage, without the weedy clutter that's so conspicuous in a slide. In this set there was just one picture of a full clump, of Joyous Troubadour with three stalks, a handsome picture.

Other slides were of 1258, a purple single; 1333, a 6 petal resembling Swearengen's Mulberry Pie with color unevenly applied in an artistic fashion; Midwest Idyll, a single with pale falls and dark small stands; Popular Acclaim, with pale falls and deeper stands.

Arlie prefers to use a natural background of foliage and natural lighting. He separates out the single stalks he wants to photograph and positions them with stakes. He spends as much as an hour of preparation for each picture. Composition is carefully planned for the type of iris flower — single double, horizontal, drooping, etc. He uses a clever gadget to hold up a dropped fall for his pictures, a banker's (T-shaped) large pin, with florists' wire wound and looped as in the sketch. He slips the pin into a bud or spathe, and arranges the loop to hold the fall the way he wants it to look. Since we had found arrangement of the rather wilful individual flowers to be quite a problem at times, we were glad to have Arlie's tip.

Arlie's irises were not developed from the Higo, as were the Marx varieties. They are actually an original American strain, except for two instances where he outcrossed to a Higo in the latter years of his breeding. His records are beautiful. From them he has made charts in which line breeding is indicated in red ink; since this reproduces black, he has underlined all such work in red in the copies he has had made for his friends. We were delighted to be brought up to date with the latest, for we all treasure our copies dearly. A few have been reproduced in a previous issue of The Review of the SJI, and we are happy to add more with this issue.

The complete records have lists of all the crosses he has ever made, and all the seedlings he has ever numbered, with cross-reference; these fine records he intends



to present to the SJI, and they will probably go to the AIS Museum Archives where they belong and will be treasured. Now that he has sold his place, and will be moving to California permanently, he plans to distribute collections of his plants abroad and to various gardens in America.

All of Arlie's introductions are color read by the plates in a first edition of Ridgway (1912) who, we were interested to note, was at that time Curator of Birds for the Smithsonian Institute. The plates in this book are unbelievably beautiful, with hand-colored mounted chips, and are much more complete than any other color system we have seen, but the arbitrary names assigned to the colors would be a handicap in translating to Wilson or Munsell.

After the show, Arlie held his stack of show ribbons and remarked that he had never seen all his varieties gathered together like that before. He was pleased that Bill Ouwenel, who took the silver medal, had been able to grow some of them so excellently, since his own season was not as good as usual.

Arlie will need a trophy room in his trailer for his collection of ribbons and medals. In addition to his show honors, he has the AIS Hybridizers Medal, and beautiful gold, silver and bronze medals from Hamburg and Vienna competitions.

Payne Introductions Noted During the Garden Tour

BLUE TONE: blended blue-violet, evenly marked all over.

CONFETTI SHOWER: fine sanded violet, bluer and darker around blaze.

DANSEUR NOBLE: a single with broad, overlapping falls. White ground, veined in purple. Standards purple with white edging.

FASHION FETE: orchid in effect. Serrated style crests on lovely bunched styles. Double with violet veining.

FLUSH OF VIOLET: nearly white double with flush on falls, probably fades out nearly white.

GAYETY: heavy substance. Light ground with darker veining. Petaloids, wire-edged white.

GAY ENCHANTRESS: lovely sanded violet double with narrow white edging. Arlie held this 24 years before naming it. He had others in the meantime, which he thought better, but they didn't stand up. He says this one fades, but it is attractive even so for it is a blend of several shades.

GARDEN ENCHANTRESS: lovely sanded violet double with deeper color at edges of falls and tips of styles.

IMMACULATE GLITTER: unique, velvety deep red-purple double with fine white edging on both falls and styles, which Arlie says he worked years perfecting. Stands out across the garden.

LILAC PAGEANT: light ground double with draped falls, veined and shaded violet. Dark purple styles.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE: named in honor of Clara, his wife. White with violet sanding. 6 wide petals. Fades beautifully to near white.

MIDWEST IDYLL: broad white single with violet veining and stippling. Deep purple standards edged white. Beautifully striated styles.

MIDWEST SPLENDOR: deep, rich purple double. One of a very few Payne introductions resulting from outcrossing with a Higo. This one is from Shadow Play X Hisakata.

POPULAR ACCLAIM: dark purple single with deeper veining. Narrow white edging on both standards and falls.

PREMIER DANSEUR: Beautifully formed, broad red-violet single with cupped purple stands. Dark veining. White edging on standards and falls.

ROSE CAVALIER: broad petaled single. Light ground with darker red-purple veining and standards. Narrow white edging on falls and standards.

SILVER FILAGREE: single with deeper center, broader light edging. Not as dramatic as the Immaculate Glitter type of edging — but lovely in its own way.

SILVER SURF: "tops" in a ruffled white double with purple veining and beautiful clustered petaloids and styles that resemble a bunch of sweetpeas.

TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP: broad plush rosy-violet single with lighter edge. Named in honor of Nancy Crist.

VINTAGE FESTIVAL: rosy red-violet double with prominent white edging. Solid purple styles.

WABASH ENCHANTRESS: purple double with lighter ground at center, deeper veining and styles. White edging on falls.

WHIFF O'SMOKE: smoky light violet double with darker shading and veining. Solid purple styles.

WHOOPIING CRANE: white single with broad petals, orchid standards ribbed with reddish brush marks. Lovely.

WINGED SPRITE: a short one (30 inches high) with unusual new silhouette. Widely flaring blue double with coarse white veining. Blue edged styles and standards.

Possible Future Payne Introductions

741: neatly sanded white single with lovely rosy-orchid edging on standards. A blue-ribbon winner.

837: Heavy red border on white, standards edged darker.

- 887: faintly brownish red-violet single, splashed with white. Round and ruffled. Self standards.
 892: marbled brownish. Fondest Expectations came from sibs, 892 X 887.
 986: rich violet double plus extra styles.
 997: (?) deep violet veining on white. From 153 X 991. Best 9-petaled seen.
 1023: royal purple self.
 1090: double ivory self with yellow overtones. A definite advance toward yellow. A blue ribbon winner in the show.
 1100: a single, wide and round, blue veining on white, bright violet styles.
 1107: very ruffled deep orchid with darker border. Stippled pattern. Very distinctive. ** by Ellie.
 1117: velvety red-purple double. Darker shading around signals and in styles. Tiny white edging on falls. From Cobra Dancer X Confetti Shower (sibs).
 1122: very nice single with broad, overlapping petals. Light ground with violet veining and darker shading at tip of falls. Cupped deep purple standards and styles.
 1124: VERY wide, with cupped dark purple standards and styles, deep purple veining.
 1210: wee single done in white with red-purple standards and veining. In perfect proportion — 12 inches high with 4-inch flowers; tiny standards and rounded falls. A profuse bloomer and perfect for flower arranging. A winner in the seedling class at the show.
 1212: another winner. Small, white single with violet shading around signals and violet veining. A miniature Gay Firefly.
 1217: bluest deep blue, a complete self, one shade darker than Blue Nocturne. Roslyn Blue in Ridgway.
 1281: a blue-violet double with solid border and coarse white veining. From Sky and Water X Mai Ohgi. A blue ribbon winner in the show.
 1285: blue ground double with purple marbling, white veining. Round and wide. 953 X Mai Ohgi.
 1298: white single, darkly veined. Purple styles and standards held cupped.
 1308: red-violet double with solid violet border, coarse white veining. Upright white styles, tipped violet. Attractive, flaring, horizontal form. From 799 X Mai-Ohgi.
 1313: white single with purple standards. Distinctive.
 1325: double purple, light wire edge.

THE SWEARENGEN GARDEN

Bee Warburton

It was evident that Bob had done a good deal of watering for he had excellent bloom in his long beds of Japanese irises in spite of the hot, dry spell in Terre Haute. He grows laevigata in his "swamp" — a defunct refrigerator reclining with its drainholes stopped up and tarpaper lining. He turns the hose on this and it has come through the winter with ice on the water and the plants still look fine. Bob grows a variety of species — he is growing seed from England. He has a representative collection of Dr. Hirao's introductions and through the courtesy of Milton Blanton, he is also growing a collection of Ito varieties, complete except for two. These are showing good growth but are not yet blooming. Other imported varieties in his garden include Appare, Iso-no-nami, Iyo No Ure, Kohro Peak, Kongo San, Nishiki-Gi and Yamato Nishiki. There is a large selection of Mr. Payne's introductions and a bed of guests from others, including Cloyd Sensenbach's Lehigh Waves and a charming small orchid double.

Besides the Japanese irises and propagating beds for the Payne varieties, Bob also grows many dwarf bearded irises and species and works in rebloomers. Bob's daughter, who is home taking care of her invalid mother, is an artist and works with red poppies and Aztec lilies — all of which makes it a most interesting garden to visit.

In addition, Bob has a well equipped laboratory — he calls it "Hernando's Hideaway" — in a garage at the rear of his house, with microscopes equipped for making pictures of chromosomes and materials for colchicine treatment and embryo culture. Quite an ambitious program, even for a retired Union Negotiator!

Swearengen Introductions

- BLUE HONEY: rich deep blue around signals, shading to violet at edge of petals. A handsome double.
 FRANCES HORTON: velvety red-purple double with bright yellow signals. Styles slightly lighter in color. Nicely ruffled.
 I GO KUM: dark double with large deep yellow signals surrounded by blue, shading into violet at edge of petals.
 MIDNIGHT VIOLET: a ruffled double that is a complete self of dark red-violet. Wide, overlapping falls. Well branched.
 MIGHTY WHITE: very clean ruffled white double of semi-flaring form. Signals are chartreuse.
 ORIENTAL HARMONY: a beautiful blend of blue violet (halo around signals) deepening to royal purple in outer portion of falls. White styles with royal purple tips, a few short white veins.
 RIGHT WHITE: a sib of Mighty White with heavier substance and not quite as much ruffling.

Outstanding Seedlings

- 63-2: blue-violet double with darker veining and pretty violet petaloid center. A honey. Blue ribbon winner in the seedling class at the show.
107: miniature red-violet double that measures 4 1/2 inches across and grows 28 inches high. Clean tailored form. Lighter styles.
150: blue-violet double with darker veins and styles. Lovely broad ruffled falls, a show winner.
166: best in the seedling class in the show. White single with red-purple standards and veins. A "break" in form as the standards tend to lie flat as the flower ages.
400: broad, velvety dark red-purple single with darker veining. Lighter shading around signals.
404: ruffled red-purple single self. A blue ribbon winner in the show.

Imported Varieties

ISO-NO-NAMI: single with broad, rounded falls. Coarse white veining on violet with violet edging on styles and standards.
IYO NO URE: light red-violet ground with darker veining and styles and darker flush around signals. Very profuse bloomer.
KOHRO PEAK: broad, ruffled white double with upright styles. Lovely in silhouette.
KONGO SAN: double, ruffled violet self with attractive upright styles.
YAMATO NISHIKI: white double with orchid veining, tips of styles and petaloids. Shaded darker around signals.
CHOSEN (Hirao): ruffled broad petaled white single.
MAI OHGI (Hirao): violet double with distinctive coarse white veining and solid violet border. White styles tipped violet.
SAKURO-NO-MARU (Hirao): very ruffled violet with a few white veins. White styles tipped violet.
SHINARAHINO YUKI (Hirao): white double, very ruffled. Violet brushing at center of petals around pure white styles creates a whirlpool effect. Very unusual.



THE OUWENEEL GARDEN

A. H. Hazzard

Mr. and Mrs. Ouweneel, Bill and Bea, are a most delightful couple and a truly charming host and hostess as we learned at the evening meal on the night of the show. Both of them are talented and experienced and have a delightful sense of humor, yet can be profoundly serious when the occasion demands. You can be sure of an interesting conversation with them on any subject you care to introduce.

It was HOT when Bea arrived home late in the day, after the show. As she stepped from her car, she remarked, "Is this where Bill Ouweneel lives and how do you spell it?" You can well imagine the appreciative response this provoked.

If you like seclusion, Bill and Bea have it and nearly everything about their place appeals to you. Situated about four miles east of town, just off Route 42, on land with considerable up and down scenery, it has an interesting assortment of woodchuck and gopher holes, chipmunks, chiggers, poison ivy, woodbine, wildflowers and twelve or more kinds of native trees with hickory predominating. Bill keeps the place in fine condition.

Crossing a gully on a sturdy footbridge, you follow a winding path to the bottom of the next ravine and arrive at a beautiful spot. Members of JI Robin #6 will recognize it as Bill's "cow-pond." Around the pond are "eight-foot" (I'll never live that down) Japanese irises — mostly Payne varieties, of unusual height and perfection. About two-thirds of them were putting on a great show. The water and partial shade had retarded them just enough to put them in prime condition for the Show while the hot weather had taken its toll of other plantings in more open locations.

At least 46 named varieties were in bloom, for that number of specimens appear on the show records. The quality is indicated by the number of ribbons awarded to Bill's entries — 10 firsts, 11 seconds and 3 thirds. I saw the planting after the show and you could not easily determine where the blooms had been cut. Planted about halfway around the pond, about a foot above the water level, the plants have been undisturbed for several years and the clumps are large and free-blooming. As to height, many are shoulder-high to me and I am 5 feet 5 inches tall.

In addition, there is a planting on a lower level, below the earthen dam to the pond, consisting of imported stock from Japan and an interesting blue Louisiana iris. Growth was not as phenomenal as in the main planting but it was good and numerous bloom stalks were in evidence.

Some of the trees have been cleared from the south side of the ravine overlooking the pond and a picnic table is installed under a spreading hickory of venerable age, at the brow of the hill affording a beautiful view of much of the Japanese iris planting. The plants are numbered and a list of the varieties is at the table and also at the north end of the dam. If Bill is around, his memory is as good as the list and you are allowed one guess as to which is most used.

Even now you haven't seen it all! On higher ground where the vegetable garden is located you will find some surplus stock with plenty of bloom and more customary height. To reach this planting, the easy way is to follow the driveway toward the road and long it there is an attractive border of roses, peonies and shrubs. Don't worry about the chiggers for Bill has cut the tall grass.

This report would not be complete without listing some of the varieties which Bill grows so well and so I shall list the ones which placed in the show: Smiling Beauty, Shinso Kagin, Ivory Glow, Silver Surf, Winter Festival, Vintage Festival, Fashion Model, Scherezade, Strut and Flourish, Gayety, Miss Simplicity, Winged Chariot, Pillar of Fire, Glitter and Gayety, The Great Mogul, Rose Cavalier, Danseur Noble, Reigning Beauty, Kongo San, Nishiki-Gi and Hekito.

If you are ever within 50 miles of Terre Haute, be sure to go the rest of the way, in the hope that you will find the Ouwenneels at home. If they are, you will be rewarded with a visit which you will remember with pleasure and appreciation.



W. E. Ouwenneel (Silver Medal Winner)
C. A. Swearngen (President, the Society for
Japanese Irises), W. A. Payne (Director,
The Society for Japanese Irises), Bee
Warburton and Eleanor Westmeyer,
(Show Judges). Photo by W. E. Vrooman



Silver Medal Winner, Bill
Ouwenneel with the Queen of the
Show, Strut and Flourish, and
Arlie Payne. Photo by Andy Hayes.

THE ISLE GARDEN

A. H. Hazzard

The Russel Isle garden is located on Route 150, a short distance north of West Terre Haute. After you go through the underpass, watch for a cluster of mail boxes. Russel's mailbox is the second one that you see.

Russel is a very friendly person who is modest to a fault. I met him when he brought in the Payne show entries and I asked him how many of his were in the lot. When he replied "None," I asked why and he said that his planting was not in good condition. Another person told me that Russel had reported "nitrogen burn" from commercial fertilizer and Andy Hayes, of Troy, Tennessee, and I decided to visit the garden to see the "burn." I told Russel that I would look him up and he told me to make myself at home if no one was around, so we did.

Our directions were not too explicit and after a few inquiries by Andy, we found the place and parked in the driveway. Nobody was at home. We located Russel's planting of Japanese irises at the foot of some more of Terre Haute's up and down scenery, which we approached by the most direct route. The soil looked like river-bottom land and you've guessed it — there was so much excellent bloom on hand that neither of us saw or thought of "nitrogen burn"! I believe it was a "red herring." You will be interested in what we found, I'm sure.

Many of the blooms were worthy of blue ribbons and the show would have been richer if Russel had entered them. A lot of hybridizing had been done and the seedlings looked very promising. In all, we counted 25 crosses and I surmise we missed some. Worthy of special mention

were three tags on Kuom No Yuki X Danseuse, Pillar of Fire and The Great Mogul, and two on Yamato Nishiki X Kimi No Yuki and a Y. N. seedling. It appeared that he was employing Mr. Payne's methods and I hope he will let us know how they come out.

The rest of the Isle garden is equally interesting. Following the line of least resistance, we found an easier way out of the Japanese Iris planting and it was graced with honeysuckle, roses and peonies. The trees — apple, blue spruce, birch, redbud and a beautiful pin oak added to the homey atmosphere and fostered a desire to be better acquainted with the people responsible for this garden. No, we didn't meet Mrs. Isle, much to our regret, but judging from Russel's friendly and cooperative attitude, she must be well worth knowing and I shall hope to correct this failure another time.

This garden is well worth the effort to locate. It demonstrates what can be accomplished with a limited area and should be a source of encouragement and appreciation to all who visit it. Thanks, Russel, for the permit!

Editor's Note: Also worth mentioning is Russel's row of potted Japanese irises set in a shallow wood trough lined with plastic. He had only about an inch of water around the pots; it could be deeper. Growth was excellent, however. This would be a good way to "save" any plants affected by disease or drought or to get new varieties off to a good start.

GROWING JAPANESE IRISES

W. E. Ouweneel

The bed around my cow pond provides almost ideal conditions for growing Japanese irises, consequently, the principal part of my planting is located there. It was the source of the specimens I exhibited in our show. Lest it discourage anyone with less favorable conditions, let me emphasize, as I did for numerous visitors this spring, that my surplus bed is probably a more typical garden, high and dry, with clay loam and it is doing well today in spite of the driest summer in 22 years with no water supply except rainfall. Therefore, please consider the garden and practices described below as the result of one person's good fortune combined with an interest in growing Japanese irises.

I started growing them in the early forties. At that time we were living on a small sandy lot in the city. It was no place to grow anything well. Exactly ten years ago we moved to our present country location, as part of a family plan, pursuant to our sons' leaving home and my imminent retirement. At the time, I did not realize the opportunity we had prepared because I did not know what the pond contained. I moved the Japanese irises from the city to the edge of the pond just to give them the benefit of the water supply. During one of the dry spells, which happen every year or two, I learned that the bottom of the pond was covered with black muck. I dug several holes just above the water line, each almost as large as a bushel basket, filled them with muck and planted several plants there. They grew so well that I knew I had something. In subsequent years I extended my bed 20 or 30 feet each year by digging a trench just above the water line about two feet wide and a foot deep and filling it with muck. Today my bed is long enough to hold 110 plants, spaced about 2 feet apart. That is about its limit.

The pond is in a ravine about 10 feet deep. It runs about 60 feet east of a dam where it is about 30 feet wide. Originally the pond was about 3 feet deep at the dam. The south bank is partly wooded, the dam is partly shaded by overhanging trees and the north bank is open. The bed, which holds a single row of plants, starts on the south side near the dam and follows the water line across the dam and then east on the north side about 40 feet beyond the pond. An overflow in the dam keeps the water level about six inches below the bed level. I set one plant too far out, however, perhaps when the level was low, and for two winters the plant was frozen in the ice. It survived although it did not increase.

Purdue reports that the muck is high in both phosphorus and potash (about 300 pounds per acre each of P_2O_5 and K_2O). They reported the pH to be 4.0 which surprises me because I judge the pond to have a pH of 6 to 7 using test paper. The muck at the dam end of the pond is as black as coal dust while at the shallow end it is brownish with partly decomposed vegetable matter clearly evident.

Plants have been placed in the fall and mulched heavily the first winter with pampas grass which was cut the previous spring. I have not burned off the bed for fear of starting a grass fire; consequently, the foliage provides the mulch after the first year. Until this year, I did not spray regularly because I observed no pests except thrips and an occasional borer. This year, however, I found a few borers in the buds of the early flowers and, in view of the show, sprayed with an all-purpose "rose dust." Each spring I fertilize lightly with an all-purpose chemical fertilizer. Many of my plants are about six years old. I think it would have been better for the more vigorous growers to have been reduced a year or two ago.

"I use 245T weed killer on calamus around my plants. I try to squirt it on rather than spray it to confine it to the weeds. On the whole this apparently did a good job, but I lost two Japanese irises in that area and I suspect it was due to the 245T. In recent years the pond has been covered with duckweed, a small leafed floating weed. I have hesitated applying herbicide to it for fear of damaging the Japanese irises." *

Except for four imported varieties, three from Art Hazzard, one from Bob Swearengen, two of Arlie Payne's seedlings and two species, all of the varieties around the pond are Payne introductions. I have about 17 imported varieties just below the dam. "These include: Yuki Doro, Kongo San, Hisakata, Warei Hotei, Shinso Kajin, Kuon No Yuki, Genkai, Choshin, Mai Ohgi, Shin Arai No Yuki, Hekitoh, Sakura No Haru, Kamakara Beni, Shimei No Adi, Zuisho, Tama Tsumima, Hatsu Goromo Mo, Akasuko No Sono, Totinko, Hizuhone Kuni, Nishiki Gi and Yamato Nishiki." *

"My '65 pollinations were the most fruitful I have had. I cover each flower used (both parents) with a plastic bag, until done with it. Last year I also staked each pod parent while the flower was covered to prevent the stem from bending in a rain and collecting rain in the bag. I planted my seeds in flats after leaving each pod in a closed vial in a coldframe over the winter. After germination has occurred and warm weather has arrived I use fertilizer solution once each week. Last year I did not fertilize and Mr. Payne's seedlings looked a year ahead of mine. He fertilizes each week." *

Even though the water has almost disappeared from the pond during a few dry spells, the muck has always remained too soft to walk on. With practically unfailing water supply, fertile soil and good stock, it is not surprising that I have been able to produce good blooms. The partial shade over the dam helps in prolonging the quality and life of the flowers.

* Excerpts from Robin 6.

Editor's Note: As winner of the silver medal for the most blue ribbons in the Show, Bill Ouweeneel may be justly proud of his bloom. Further proof of his ability to grow Japanese irises exceptionally well, is the fact that each year for several years when Arlie Payne has viewed Bill's bloom, he has stopped at one or more flowers and remarked, "I never saw such a flower on this one of my varieties before."

CONVENTION MEETING

Eleanor Westmeyer

One evening at the AIS Convention in Newark in June, was set aside for Sectional meetings, in order to permit members to attend more than one group meeting, programs were limited to one hour and were then repeated. A small, but very interested group gathered to view slides presented by The Society for Japanese Irises. The slides included a fine set from Mr. Payne, including many of his most recent introductions, a large collection from Mrs. Rich showing all of the Melrose Garden introductions and future introductions of Maddocks, Rich and Worley, along with some of Dr. Hirao's varieties. Cloyd Sensenbach attended both sessions and showed slides of his own lovely seedlings and named varieties. There was also a short discussion period.

It is regretted that meetings of the smaller sections are usually scheduled to meet at the same time as the Median Section for many of our members are active in that group also and are not free to attend both meetings, even with a rotation plan. It is hoped that those who plan future convention programs will keep this in mind. Perhaps a general meeting with a presentation by each of the Sections would interest more people.

REPORT OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON IRIS *

W. E. Ouweeneel

The report of the first International Symposium on Iris which was held in Florence, Italy, in 1963 is now available in book form from The American Iris Society. The proceedings cover over 648 pages, approximately 180 of which are required for parallel translations. All papers are printed in English. Thirty-four contributors wrote 37 papers on subjects ranging from flower arrangement and "The Iris in Etruscan and Primitive Christian Art," through photography and the evolution of the iris to the chemistry of iris colors and pigments.

In a paper on photography, Mr. Cole of England and some of the audience say the problem of photographing iris blues is best handled by the use of filters.

Professor Rodionenko of the USSR gave an interesting paper on the evolution of iris in which he compared characteristics of all of the flower parts of several species and used them to illustrate his concept of an evolutionary series. He said, "Radical changes took place during the progress of evolution which can be traced back many millions of years." It would seem a bit presumptuous to make such a statement without some evidence besides comparative anatomy

of present-day species. On the subject of multiple pollenization of a flower, he reported that another Soviet botanist, Troiskij, believed that originally the iris flower was three separate flowers. Rodionenko says this would be true only "if the pollen tube of each stigma was attached to its respective ovary. Up to now experiments made with I. siberica have not confirmed Troiskij's theory concerning the anatomy of each partition of the flower."

Dr. Werckmeister of Germany read a highly technical paper on iris colors and pigments. His most interesting statement to breeders, it seemed to me, was that "brown (in the falls of TBs) is nothing else than interaction of yellow plastids and violet sap pigments." Mr. Payne's Fondest Expectations (1965 introduction) has a distinct brown cast. Is this a break toward a yellow Japanese iris?

Papers by Dr. Hirao and Mr. Payne were more down to earth. Their discussions were much like the articles they have contributed to THE REVIEW.

Mr. Steiger of Germany presented a paper on "Lime and Drought Resistant Tetraploid I. Kaempferi." In developing lime-tolerant plants he reports little but some progress. His colchicine-treated plants showed thickening of the petals, slight reduction of the flower, prolonged blooming, friable petals, reduced fertility, stronger and darker leaves, and increased waving and fluting of the petals. He also described his "sterile seed culture" method which he recommends as a substitute for the embryo culture method.

* Excerpts from Robin 6.

Also of interest to breeders of Japanese irises is Dr. Rodionenko's discussion of the evolution of the Iris kaempferi flower. Since it grows in regions where rain is very frequent, it has adjusted itself completely to these circumstances. Due to diversification of the styles, not a drop of rain can penetrate into the flower and reach the anthers. . . . Since a weight of 20 grms is necessary to detach the keel-shaped styles, it is implied that only the bumblebee can pollenate the Iris kaempferi. In certain districts where the bumble bee does not exist, though honey bees are prevalent, these flowers remain unfertilized and the seedpods undeveloped.

HONOR ROLL ADDITIONS

The International Jury of the International Horticultural Exhibition at Hamburg, Germany, awarded the following prizes to Walter Marx Originations:

Bronze Medal for the variety Calico Maid, marbled blue and white, Marhigo Japanese iris, 1963.
Bronze Medal for the variety Rose Tower, a near rose-red Marhigo iris, 1965.
Prize of Honor for the variety Blue Pompon, 1963.
Prize of Honor for the variety, Sorcerer's Triumph, 1963.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Herbert Patzelt of Niedernahl, Germany

Dr. Patzelt was a dedicated Japanese iris enthusiast and his passing will be a set-back to the culture of the Japanese Iris in Germany.

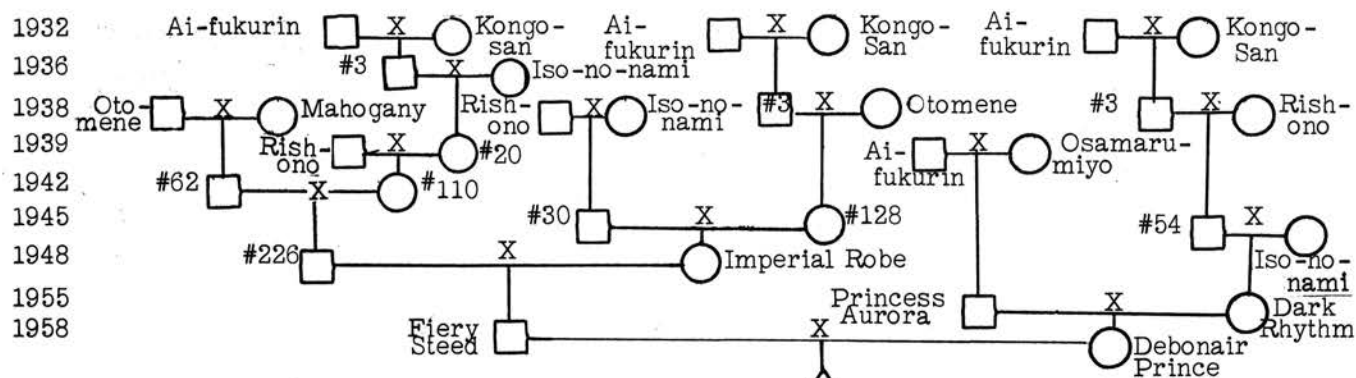
CHECKLIST REPORT

Because of the difficulty in classifying Japanese iris specimens under artificial light, a need was expressed at the show for a checklist indicating color classes. Such a list is now being prepared and will be ready for use at future shows. It is hoped that a descriptive list of varieties under cultivation in Japan will also be available. This would be a great help in preventing duplication of names and in correcting names of imported varieties.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

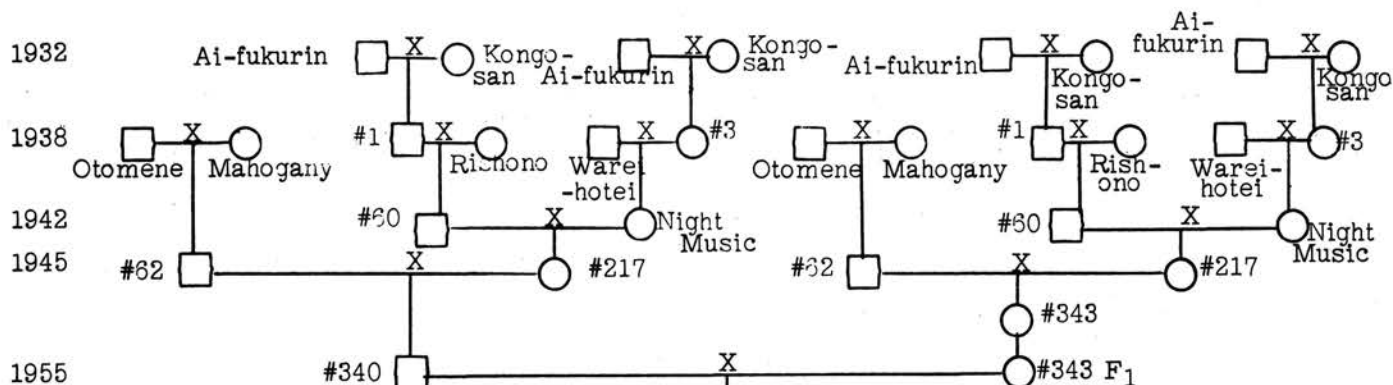
Brantley, Wm. F., RR#3, Box 281-B, Muncie, Ind. 47302
Calderara, Carlton B., Box 535, Greenville, R. I. 02828
Everhart, Mrs. Madeline, 2477 Lincoln Ave., Easton, Pa. 18042
Jugle, Leonard, 261 W. Grantley Ave., Elmhurst, Ill. 60126
Latch, Mrs. Emma D., 412 W. Dutton Mill Rd., Chester, Pa. 19014
McGinnis, James T., Rt. #1, Suwanee, Ga. 30174
Smith, Miss Lucile, 1001 Brandshaw Pl., Monterey Park, Calif. 91754
Tudor, Mrs. James W., 3304 Clemens Dr., St. Charles, Mo. 63301

WINDSWEPT BEAUTY



3/16 Otomene, 1/16 Mahogany, 3/16 Rishono, 13/64 Ai-fukurin, 5/64 Kongo-San, 5/32 Iso-no-nami, 1/8 Osamaru-miyo

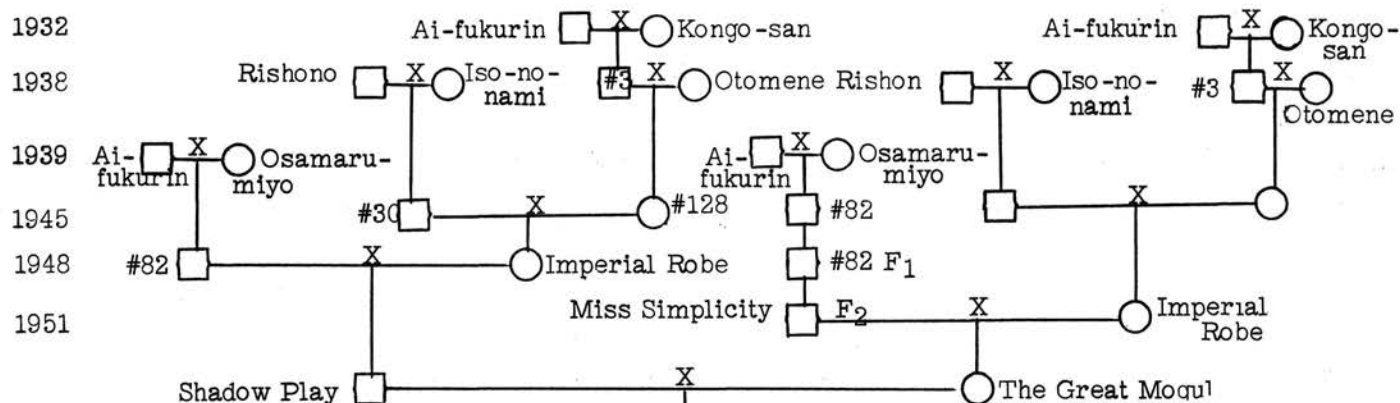
WOUNDED DRAGON



1958 Seedling numbered; registered 1963. #782 WOUNDED DRAGON

1/4 Otomene, 1/4 Mahogany, 1/8 Ai-fukurin, 1/8 Kongo-san, 1/8 Rishono, 1/8 Warei-hotei.

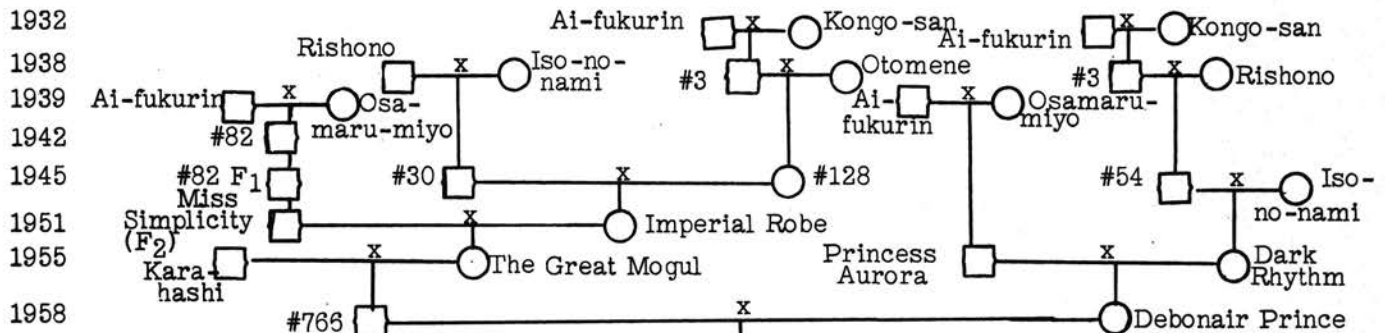
VELVET MAJESTY



1960 Seedling numbered #846 sib VELVET MAJESTY Registered 1964

5/16 Ai-fukurin, 1/4 Osamaru-miyo, 1/8 Rishono, 1/8 Iso-no-nami, 1/16 Kongo-san, 1/8 Otomene

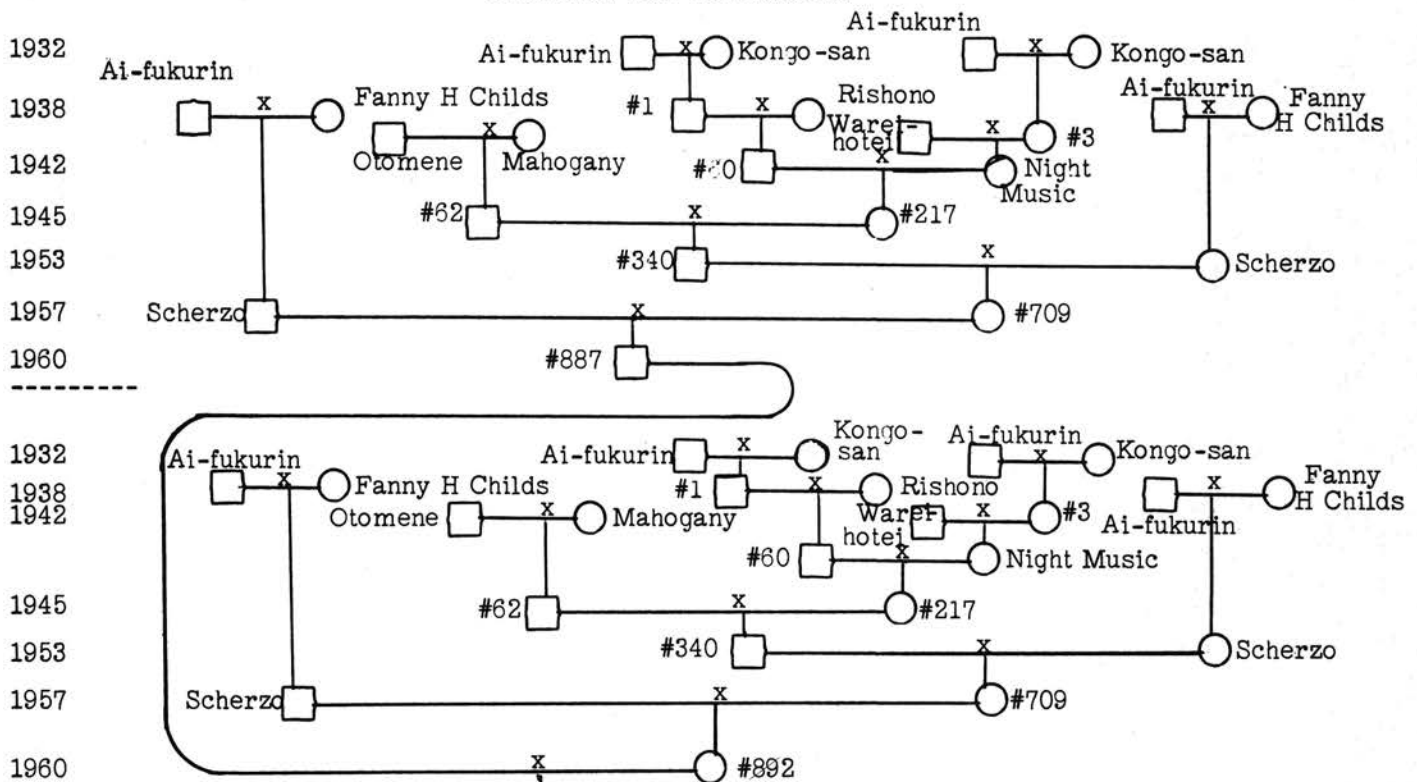
BEJEWELLED MOGUL



1961 Seedling numbered #988 BEJEWELLED MOGUL Registered 1965

Karahashi, 15/64 Ai-fukurin, 3/16 Osamaru-miyo, 3/32 Rishono, 5/32 Iso-no-nami, 3/64 Kongo-san, 1/32 Otomene.

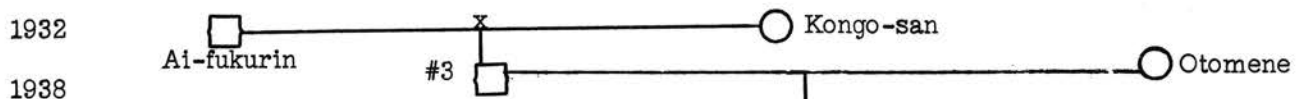
FONDEST EXPECTATIONS



1963 Seedling numbered #1245 FONDEST EXPECTATIONS Registered 1965

13/32 Ai-fukurin, 3/8 Fanny Hamlet Childs, 1/16 Otomene, 1/16 Mahogany, 1/32 Kongo-san, 1/32 Rishono, 1/32 Warei-hotel.

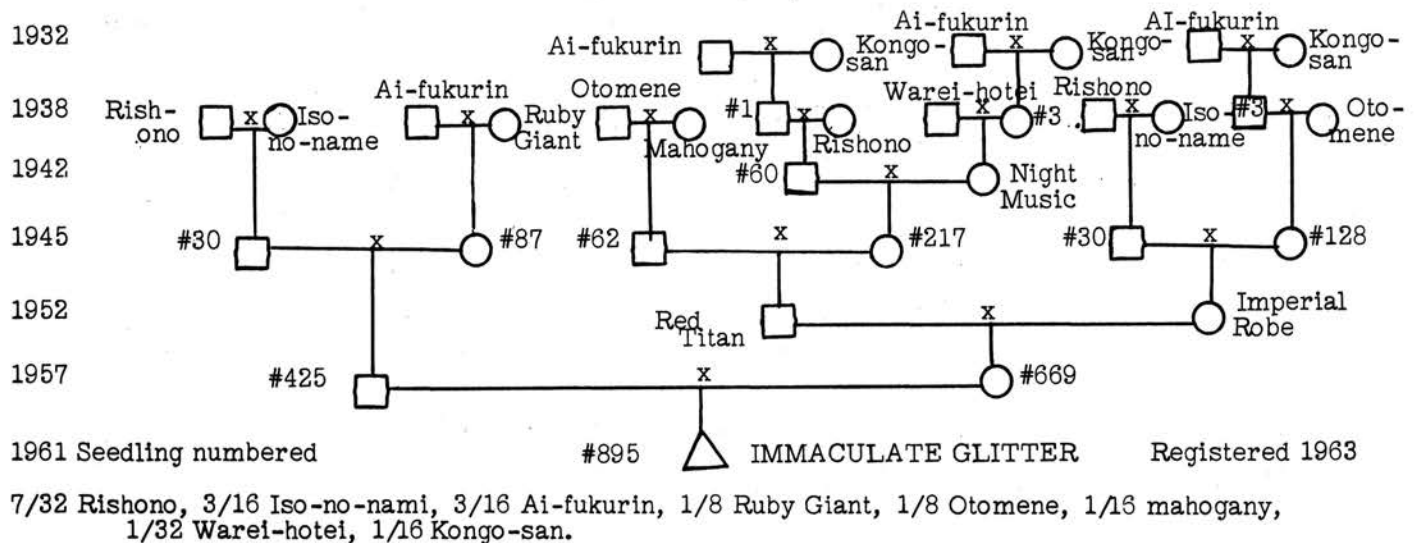
GAY ENCHANTRESS



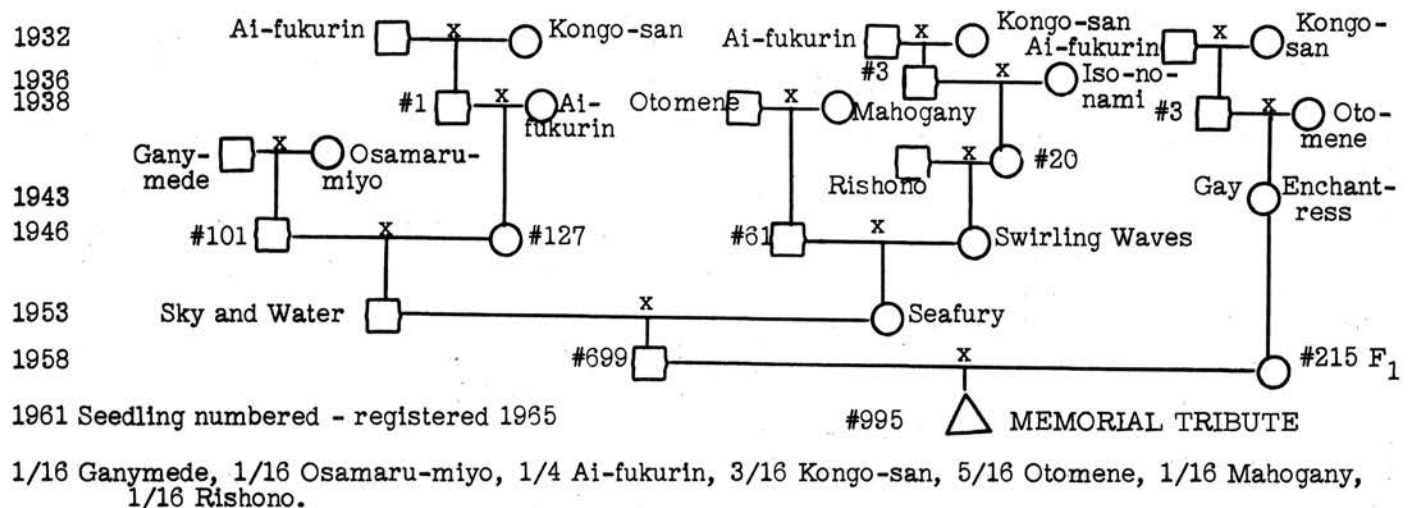
1941 Seedling numbered #39 GAY ENCHANTRESS Registered 1965

1/4 Ai-fukurin, 1/4 Kongo-san, 1/2 Otomene

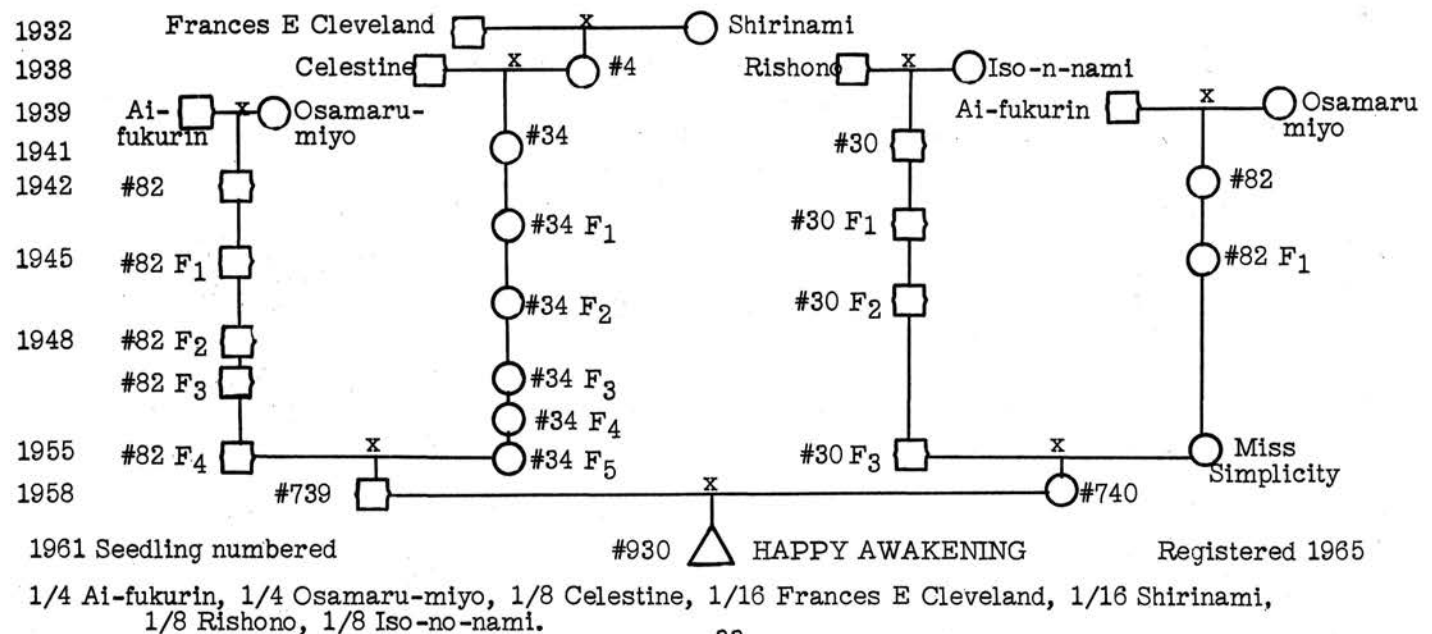
IMMACULATE GLITTER



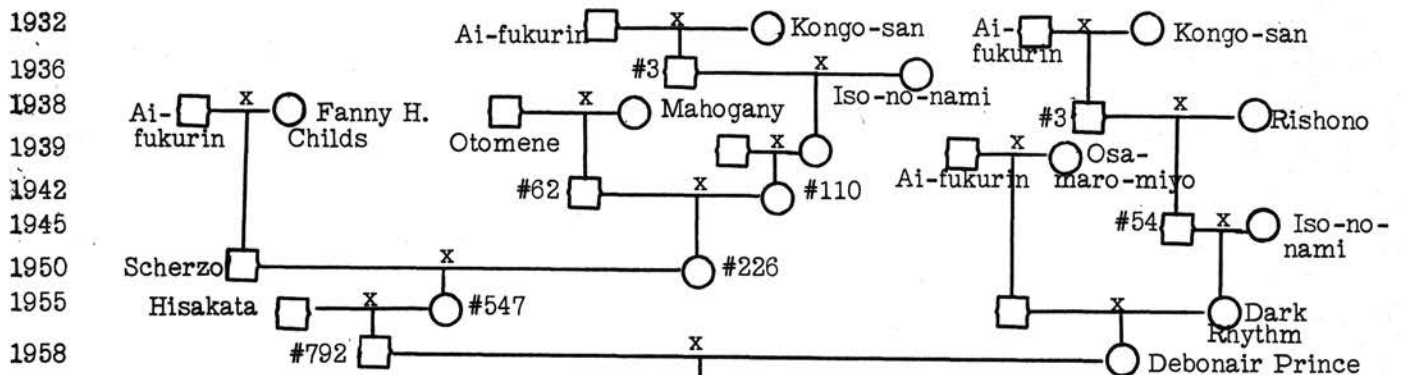
MEMORIAL TRIBUTE



HAPPY AWAKENING



NIGHT BLIZZARD



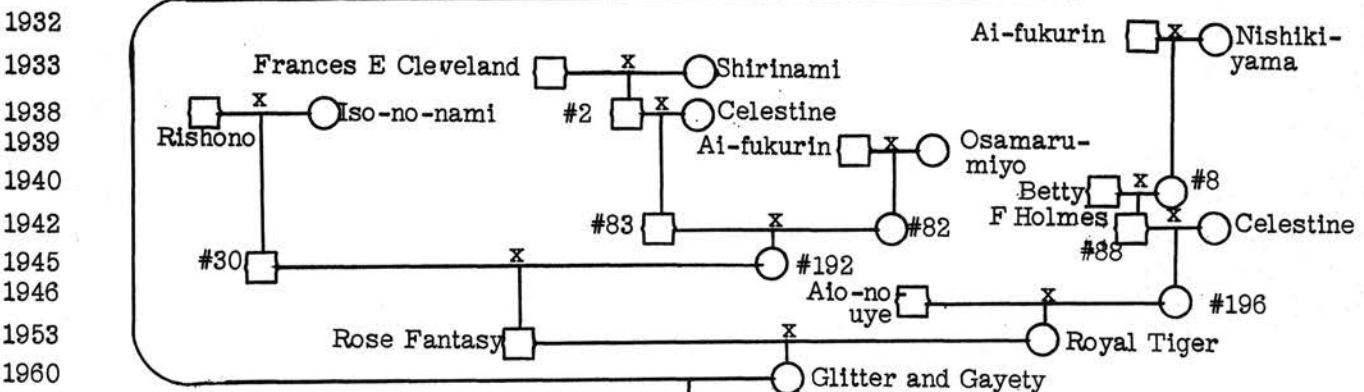
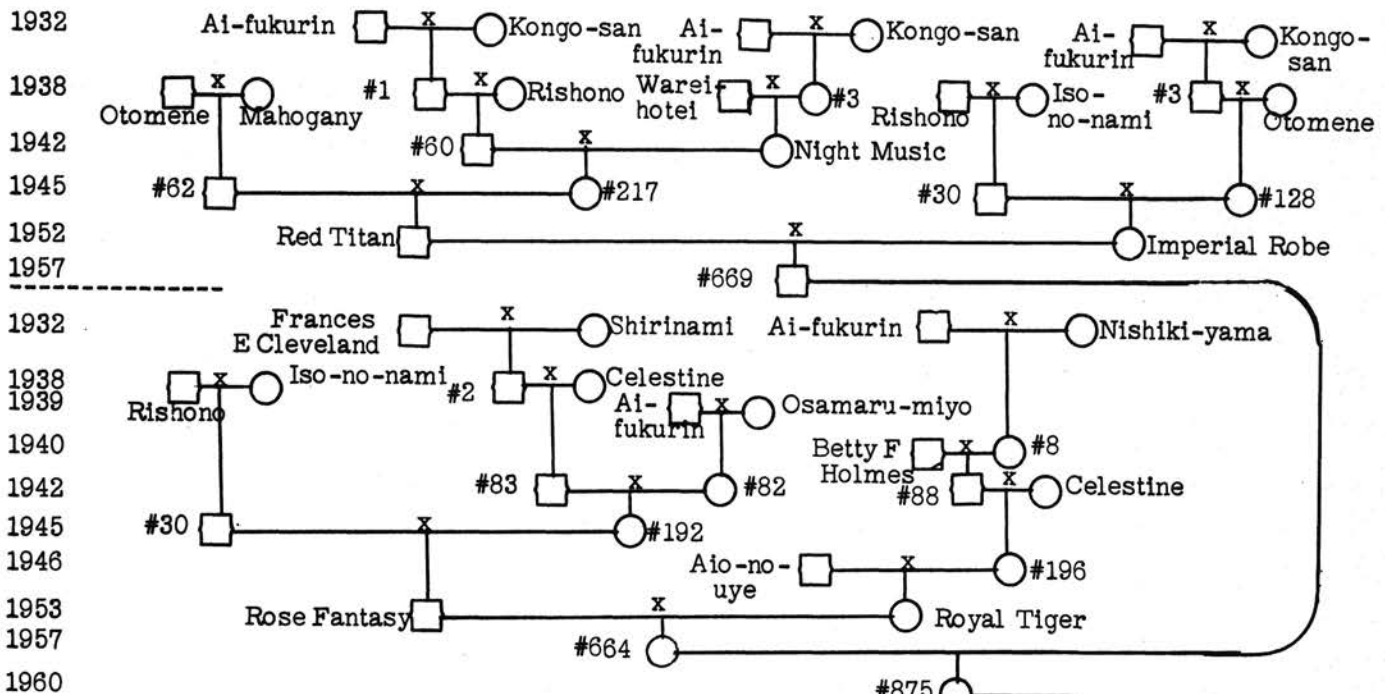
1961 Seedling numbered

#992 NIGHT BLIZZARD

Registered 1963

1/4 Hisakata, 29/128 Ai-fukurin, 1/16 Fanny Hamlet Childs, 1/32 Otomene, 1/32 Mahogany, 3/32 Rishono, 5/128 Kongo San, 9/64 Iso-no-nami, 1/8 Osamaru-miyo.

SILVER FILIGREE



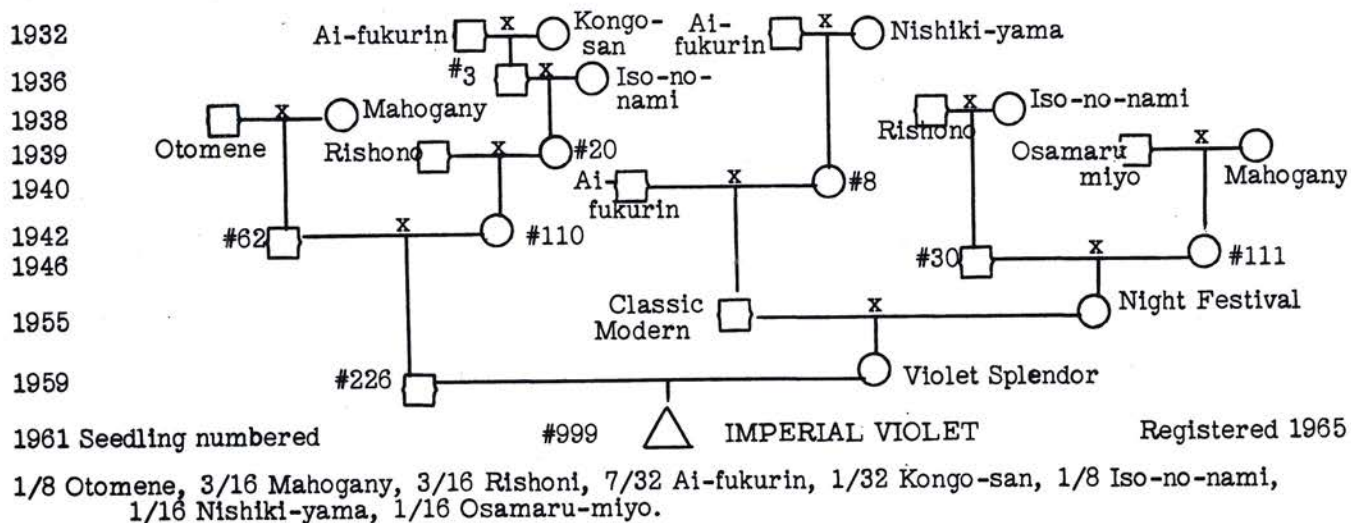
1963 Seedling numbered

#1181 SILVER FILIGREE

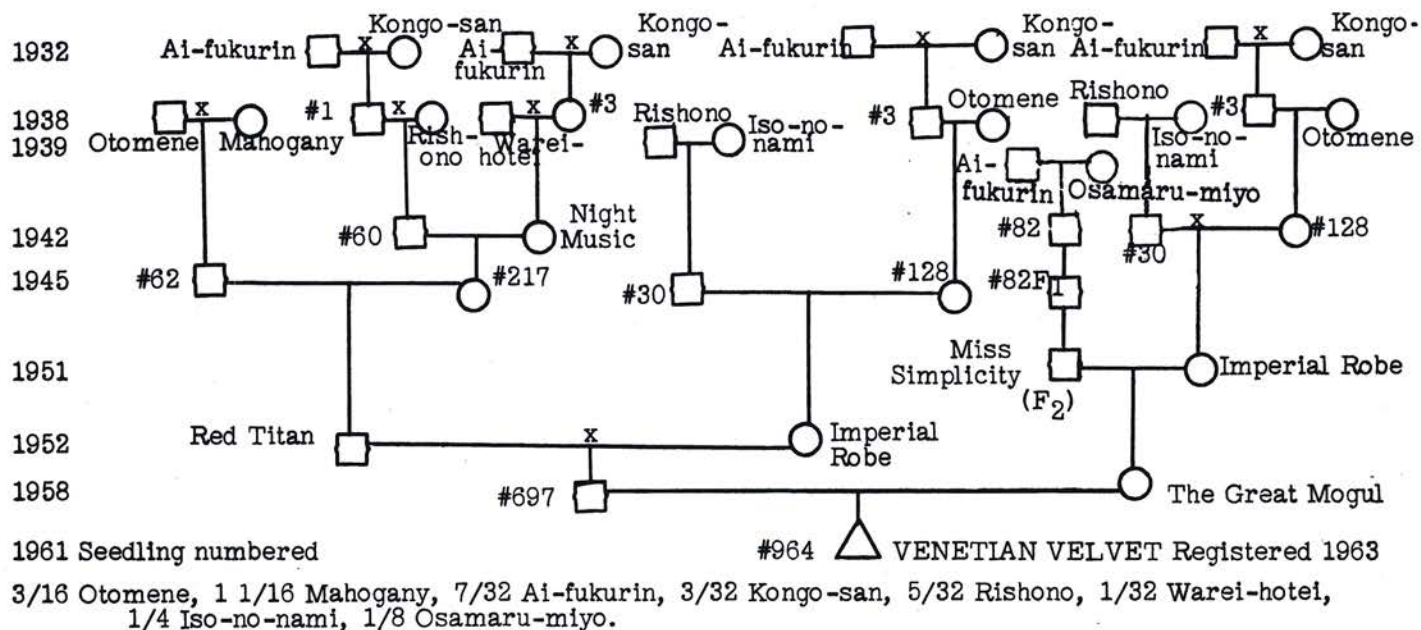
Registered 1965

1/16 Otomene, 1/32 Mahogany, 13/128 Ai-fukurin, 9/64 Rishono, 1/64 Warei-hotel, 1/32 Kongo-san, 1/8 Iso-no-nami, 3/128 Frances E Cleveland, 5/64 Celestine, 3/64 Osamaru-miyo, 3/16 Aio-no-uye, 3/32 Betty F Holmes, 5/128 Shirinami, 3/128 Nishiki-yama.

IMPERIAL VIOLET



VENETIAN VELVET



It was really hard to select so few of these charts to reproduce. Your Editor, Ellie Westmeyer, chose a few varieties that had seemed to us outstanding in Arlie's garden, and the others I have added for various reasons. Gay Enchantress because it waited so many years to be named; Silver Filagree because it illustrates the many years of patience that go into the naming of a fine new iris; Happy Awakening because of those inbred lines; Memorial Tribute because it was named in memory of Arlie's wife, Clara. These weren't easy to do, for a non-draftsman; if I were to start over again I could do them much better and faster. I do regret that we couldn't re-reproduce Arlie's copies. In typing in the names, I had to settle for making as clear as possible which name went with which square or circle, and I hope you can figure them out.

Your Publications Chairman, Bee Warburton