

THE REVIEW  
OF  
THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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CONTENTS

Officers, Nominating Committee and Appointments	13
From the President's Desk	14
Excerpts From My Diary, W. A. Payne	15
In Appreciation, A. H. Hazzard	21
Japanese Iris "Blight"	22
Kingwood Center	23
Packaging and Shipment of Japanese Irises	24
Meiji Shrine Inner Garden	25
Publications	25
Japanese Irises in Kyoto, Osaka, A. Horinaka	26
1967 Symposium	28
Membership List	31

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This was the year of the Japanese iris in New England. After six long years of drought, the rains finally came. Little old clumps with sprigs of leaves came to life and grew like Jack's beanstalk--and the blossoms were the finest I have ever seen East of Terre Haute! The Connecticut Iris Society renewed their Japanese iris tour and visitors and judges flocked here. It was a most rewarding season. Now the seed pods are fat and ripe and growth on new plants promises more exciting varieties in bloom next spring.

Several reports have reached me about reblooming Japanese irises. I think we should begin to keep a record of these to determine whether or not this is a characteristic that can be developed further or whether it is caused by a freak season. Here in Stamford, Vain Victor had one blossom, down in the foliage, in September. In the past, Fashion Model has also sent up a late bloom. Bob Swearingen and Currier McEwen also had reblooming plants this year.

We are grieved at the loss of two special friends of our Society. Harry Randall expressed great interest in Japanese irises and had hoped to include some of the newest varieties in his garden in England. Elwood Molseed joined the first Japanese iris robin many years ago and generously shared his experiences in growing Japanese irises in California with us. His use of a seaweed mulch was most interesting and noteworthy.

The Species Study Group has called on us for help in getting a seed exchange started. Mrs. Ruth Hardy, 296 Hunsaker Lane, Eugene, Oregon, 97402 is in charge of the exchange. Complete directions for ordering and donating seed may be found in the July AIS Bulletin.

The announcement of the formation of The Japan Iris Society puzzled many of us--because there already was a Japan Iris Society. Now there are two groups in Japan with the same name. The original Japan Iris Society was organized in 1931 on the occasion of the visit of Dr. G. M. Reed of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and was devoted to work with the Japanese iris. The new Japan Iris Society will promote all types of irises--especially tall bearded irises in Japan.

The National Test Garden at Berkeley, California now boasts an extensive planting of the W. A. Payne Japanese irises and introductions of other hybridizers. This is the only public garden west of Kingwood Center that grows such an extensive collection of new varieties and is certain to attract many visitors. Wouldn't this be an ideal place to have an historical collection of Japanese irises? Let's all support this project. The Berkeley Test planting could well become our most important exhibition garden.

With this issue, our Editor, Bill Ouweneel takes over complete charge of THE REVIEW, including the duplication and mailing. We wish you well, Bill.

Our thanks again to Bee Warburton for all of the love, time and energy she has contributed to get this Society started. We could not have become such a successful group without her devotion to us.

Eleanor Westmeyer

## EXCERPTS FROM MY DIARY

W. A. Payne

Having departed Honolulu June 15th at 12:30 P.M. our plane alighted at the Tokyo airport seven and a half hours later about 3:30 P.M., June 16th local time. Soon after boarding plane my seat companions, a native Hawaiian and wife, graciously presented me with a lei of orchids which his wife placed about my neck. On arrival at Tokyo, after a short delay for customs inspection, carrying my belongings and still wearing the orchid garland, I strode toward the waiting room only soon to have my attention attracted to some persons holding high a bouquet of Japanese iris and waving their arms at me. It was, of course, my good friend Dr. Shu -- Shuichi Hirao, who was accompanied by his garden assistant, Miss N. Takei, a charming young lady who, later before I left Japan, was my guide on a tour of Tokyo art museums and an escort to a Kabuki performance, and Mr. Maryoshi Saito, one of the directors of the Japan Iris Society, a dedicated iris enthusiast. After a warm welcome, such as only the Japanese can express so effectively, and having been kindly relieved of my heavy burden of luggage, we at once boarded the monorail, later transferring to an elevated train, for a forty minute trip downtown to my hotel.

I had chosen the Imperial Hotel as my place of residence while in Tokyo for sentimental reasons inasmuch as in the first decade of the century, I had personally known Frank Lloyd Wright the architect of the old historically famous hotel building. It was the only large structure in Tokyo to survive the disastrous earthquake of 1923. It also is one of the world's most beautiful buildings and is generally considered one of Mr. Wright's finest works. Nevertheless it appears destined to become a victim of commercialism and will be razed next year to make way for a more modern multi-storied skyscraper hotel building. There is a movement in progress by public spirited persons of Tokyo for the city to acquire it for use as a public library, but such appears to have a slim chance of success.

Shortly after I had settled in my hotel room Dr. Shu made the suggestion that if I were not too tired we had time to visit the iris planting at the Meiji Shrine. This famous garden was one of the things in Japan I most wanted to see. A taxi ride of perhaps twenty minutes landed us at the entrance of Meiji Park. From there a broad, rather long and winding footpath through a grove of thousands of native trees which the people throughout Japan many years ago had donated for planting about the shrine, leads to the extensive Japanese iris planting. Here thousands of plants consisting of one hundred fifty of the old Ede varieties are massed along a small meandering stream where the plants are flooded at blooming time. The garden had possibly passed peak bloom by a day or so, however, the effect of the planting, which extends possibly a quarter of a mile, as it came into view was most striking. Twelve days later when I again visited the planting the bloom was pretty well over. In Japan the blooming period appears to be shorter than ours here in America, though this may have been due to the warm, dry weather during the pre-blooming period. In the planting of varieties evidently there was no particular arrangement for season of bloom or for color, yet there were sufficient masses of the darker colors for effective contrast and a pleasing over-all color effect. Plants are spaced approximately two feet apart and the garden is replanted every three years. From the midst of this tremendous planting two varieties, Warei-hotei and Shinso-kagin, attracted my attention though I had not especially looked for them. I saw nothing I thought more beautiful. These

old varieties still hold their own among the finest of the newer originations.

The following day, Saturday, Dr. Shu and I boarded the train for a visit to Mr. Mototeru Kamo's garden. He is a member of our S.J.I. and lives near Kakegawa about four hours by rail from Tokyo in the Shizuoko prefecture near the Pacific coast of Japan and not far from Mt. Fuji. This area is sometimes referred to as the California of Japan since the winter temperatures there are seldom below freezing. Mr. Kamo and his charming wife and family live in a three hundred year old feudal mansion which before World War II was the property of a large land owner. The estate has since been broken up. During our visit with them we were graciously entertained in the customary Japanese manner. Mr. Kamo has about four acres planted to iris besides greenhouses used for propagating purposes. He is essentially a commercial grower on a rather large scale and has ten people in his employ. He grows many of the older Edo varieties and also the newer originations as they become available. He does no hybridizing himself. During the blooming season visitors to the garden come in droves to see the bloom as well as to purchase plants. He had three thousand visitors the Sunday we were there and sold eight hundred plants at prices from 100 yen (27 cts.) to 200 yen each for the older varieties. Newer originations are considerably higher. Plants are dug on the spot for purchasers. He also has pot plants for out of season sales. He charges admission, 50 yen, to the garden and maintains a refreshment and food stand for the accomodation of visitors. He has supplied as many as fifty thousand plants to a single customer. Single divisions are started in pots in the greenhouse early in season and later transplanted to nursery rows where they are grown for sales and increase. The nursery blocks are equipped so that the tracts can be flooded but the plants are grown in the usual manner and irrigated only as needed for normal growth. The plants all have a thrifty appearance and afford an abundance of bloom.

Monday afternoon found us back in Tokyo where a few days later in Hibiya Park, which is a large city recreation center opposite the Imperial Hotel in the downtown section of the city, a fairly large and quite attractive display of Japanese iris in which cut blooms and also plants grown in pots was staged. The flowers were displayed in a shed-like park structure extending alongside a park foot-way and which was especially designed for flower shows and other displays with sliding doors that can be entirely closed for protection of the exhibits from the elements. Visitors view the exhibits from alongside the path. Quite to my surprise a few of my varieties including a specimen bloom of Memorial Tribute, the largest I had seen of this variety, Danseuse, though the bloom was not superior to those I have grown, and also Cobra Dancer and Confetti Shower, both of which were rather inferior in color, were in the exhibit. I noted that flower color in Japan appears to be somewhat weaker than the same varieties grown here show. Many of the flowers on display there were originations of Mr. Mitsuda, one of the leading hybridizers in Japan who is working with the Higo strain. Two of his varieties which I thought especially noteworthy were Mateu-ro a pure white and Koushin a large white with quite red markings. Many of the Edo strain were in the display. Two old varieties noted were Kosui-no-iro and Izuma-gawa. Both are small flowered but rather worthwhile. There was a nice bloom of Dr. Shu's Mai-ohgi, which is one of the very finest varieties in existence.

The Mitsuko-shi department store, which is the finest in Tokyo, simultaneously held an iris show in their lawn and garden department which occupies an entire floor of the building. Besides offering plants of various kinds, garden tools and



implements, it also features fine garden ornaments such as stone lanterns and sculptures of high artistic quality and even natural stone suitable for construction of Japanese gardens. The blooms on display were mostly cut flowers. Single fan plants of most varieties shown were packaged and offered for sale at prices of 100 yen and upward with an average price of 300 yen, about 80 cts. There were large mixed bouquets of iris which were contributed by the Tokyo Botanical Garden, Tokyo Park Department, Meiji Shrine, Ise Shrine and Mie University. All the exhibits were attractively displayed, many in combination with other plants. The variety Fuso-tsukasa, a large six petal white with a decided green tint at the center appeared the nearest to a true green flowered variety I have seen. This show and also that at Hibya Park was well attended.

The evening of the following day the Japan Iris Society gave a party at the Meiji Jingu which was attended by forty or more members. Lunch was served and speeches were made by the society officials. It was a most enjoyable get together which afforded an opportunity of making the acquaintance of many fine persons.

Mr. Z. Tera-minami is an iris enthusiast who operates a lock and key shop beside his home in a congested residence district of Tokyo. With only a few square yards of space available for growing iris he occupies every inch of the area and has a sizeable collection of the later originations, all of which he grows in pots. Such a limited garden area as he has would discourage anyone but a dedicated iris fan, he however is planning to occupy the roof of his dwelling for growing iris. I was pleased to see a few of my varieties among his collection blooming to perfection.

A visit to my friend Dr. Shu's home atop a rather high, steep hill at Zushi, a seaside resort city on the shore of Sagami Bay about one hundred miles south of Tokyo, was an occasion which I had been looking forward to. Meeting his fine family of wife and four daughters ranging in age from four to nineteen years and a son, age nine, together with the warm reception accorded me, will long remain a most pleasant memory. The lawn and garden area about Dr. Shu's house, as everywhere in the Tokyo area, is restricted and little space can be spared for growing plants in the open ground. They say the dogs in Tokyo wag their tails up and down. Anyway I noted a few iris clumps along the path as we ascended the hill to the house, but most everything is grown in pots. The lawn and garden area is also occupied by an unheated greenhouse which is shared with his brother who is a cacti enthusiast and grows many rare and interesting specimens. Dr. Shu and Miss Takei conducted me about the garden, Miss Takei sheltering me from the light rainfall with her umbrella. Dr. Shu grows a considerable variety of plants of foreign countries including several bearded iris, which are still rare in Japan. Few of his seedlings are grown at his home garden, he however has one thousand seedlings blooming for the first time this year that are being grown in rice fields by a farmer friend who lives some distance away. One of the nicest varieties I saw anywhere in Japan was Pink Triumph, one of Mr. Marx's varieties. It is a very lovely orchid pink which Dr. Shu had blooming. My Wabash Enchantress, Sky and Water and a couple of other varieties which were in good bloom had been brought inside for room decoration. Dr. Shu promptly propagates the varieties he gets from America, as well as his own originations, as soon as possible and distributes the increase among members of the Japan Iris Society for further testing. In general it seems that varieties perform best in the environment in which they originated. In Japan Dr. Shu's originations are much superior to the same varieties I have seen in bloom here. It also was evident that my varieties in Japan were not equal to those grown in this country. In Japan Dr. Shu's

originations certainly rank with the best. His variety Mai-ohgi, which I saw blooming in several gardens, was outstanding everywhere and in my experience it is a good parent.

After leaving Tokyo July 4th by the bullet express train, which is the next thing to jet travel, I was greeted at the Osaka station by Mr. Ryochi Katsu-ura whom I had personally met at Mr. Kamo's place. It also was my great pleasure to make the personal acquaintance of my friend Mr. Akira Horinaka who is one of our valued S.J.I. members from Japan with whom I had corresponded many times and his secretary Miss Hiroko Takano. I was soon to learn I had made a greivous mistake in the timing of my itinerary. I had mistakenly presumed, without checking on the matter, that the blooming season about Osaka, Kyoto and Nagoya followed that of the Tokyo area, as a consequence when I arrived there the blooming season was over. We left at once for the office of the Shirokita Park, there to meet Mr. Tanaka, the director, who, after a brief viewing of color photos of the park, accompanied us to the iris planting nearby. This garden which was completed in May 1964 and consists of 8,000 plants of 350 varieties is one of the largest and probably the best of its kind since it has a large number of varieties and many of the latest originations. One could scarcely imagine a more attractive setting. A beautiful stream, which is crossed by occasional foot-bridges, winds its way through a broad expanse of massed iris plantings and park pavilions overlook the area. The whole arrangement forms a most lovely picture. The location of the garden is such that it can be flooded at blooming time. During the blooming season as many as 7,000 visitors a day come to view the display. All three types of the Japanese iris are well represented and Murasaki-shikibu, Nemuri-Jishi and Manyayu of the Tokyo or Edo type, Shakkyo and Kagura-Jishi of the Kumamoto or Higo and Shiratae of the Ise types are said to be the most generally admired varieties.

Although the disappointment of missing the bloom in Osaka was most discouraging, it was more than compensated for by the friendly attitude of the fine persons there with whom it had been my good fortune to associate. A visit to Mr. Horinaka's lovely home and meeting his fine wife and charming little daughter was one of real enjoyment. During the all too brief time there we viewed color slides and inspected his interesting garden in which he grows many of the latest bearded varieties, Siberian, Japanese and species, most of which are grown in pots. Since Mr. Katsu-ura was to show me to the hotel in Kyoto, where they had made my reservation and return to his home in Osaka, Miss Takano drove us to the railway station in late afternoon.

The following day Mr. Horinaka, his family and Miss Takano came to the hotel in Kyoto. He previously had arranged there for a tourist guide and we embarked for a day of sightseeing about the fabulous, historically famous city of Kyoto, which is said to have a thousand shrines and temples, fantastically beautiful gardens and countless objects of art, all of which represent eleven centuries of heritage. On the way to the Kyoto arboretum many interesting places were pointed out to us. At the arboretum the planting of Japanese iris is relatively small and was out of bloom. The major attraction of the day was the Heian Shrine. A very striking large torii of vermilion red marks the entrance to the grounds and most of the elaborately detailed buildings are of the same brilliant color. A considerable portion of the landscape is occupied by lovely ponds which are ornamented by occasional water-lily pads and stepping stones lead through the water to enchanting little islands. Arched bridges of beautiful design from which visitors feed the numerous gold-fish span the narrow sections of the water. Rather long stretches

in various places along the water's edge are given over to generous plantings of laevigata and Japanese iris. In such settings the plants themselves, without bloom, are most decorative and are delightful landscape subjects.

I enjoyed another day of sightseeing in Kyoto on my own before I was scheduled to leave for Nagoya with Miss Takano as my guide and interpreter. There we were to meet Dr. Kozi Tomino who is the foremost hybridizer of the Ise type of Japanese iris and whose research and published work on the iris species of Japan and the breeding of Japanese iris is well and favorably known in his country.

After a brief but delightful visit to the home of Dr. Tomino with its lovely garden in the Japanese style and there enjoying the friendly hospitality of his kindly wife and her grandmother, we departed for the Higashiyama Botanic Garden and Tsurumai Park which is notable for its extensive iris plantings. At the conservatory of the former is a display of California native plants which a placard informs visitors was donated by "the Honorable Sam Yorty, mayor of Los Angeles." This was much like meeting someone from your home town. A series of snapshots taken at Higashiyama with the formal garden and lily pool as a background will often call to mind the enjoyable occasion. The iris garden at Tsurumai is reputed to be one of the finest in Japan. It consists of some 10,000 plants of 100 varieties of which 50% are Edo, 40% Higo and 10% Ise. Only a few blooms remained but color photos of the garden at bloom time reveal a magnificent display. A large bridge offers a vantage point for viewing much of the planting. Late that afternoon Miss Takano left for her home in Osaka.

The next day Dr. Tomino and I on our way to Toba, the center of the cultured pearl industry, took a train to Ise there changing to taxi for a drive through the Ise Shima National Park. Before leaving Ise, however, we had a look at the large iris planting at the Ise Grand Shrine. The bloom there also had passed. We remained in Toba over night and returned to Nagoya by train the following day. While awaiting the train there for my return to Tokyo, Dr. Tomino called Mr. Mitsuda by telephone, who then came to the station where we enjoyed a visit of an hour or so.

At 4:30 P.M. I found my Tokyo friends waiting my arrival at the station. We retired to my room at the Tokyo Station Hotel to enjoy a pleasant round of conversation during which I was informed that at a meeting of the Japan Iris Society that afternoon I had been awarded an honorary membership. Also I was handed an airplane ticket to Sapporo, for a trip Dr. Shu had arranged for us on the following Wednesday, July 12th.

Sapporo is on the island of Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan. This prefecture is not as densely populated as the other sections of Japan. Its climate is more like that of our north central states and the farms remind one to some extent of Indiana. It is a new country developed during the last century and few foreign tourists visit this region. Sapporo is more like a Western city, with broad main thoroughfares and streets intersecting at right angles.

The Tsuki-sappu Gakuin agricultural school, which is located at the edge of the city, utilizes some 3,000 acres for the growing of standard farm crops, fruits, vegetables and live stock, also it is the location of a fabulous Jap iris nursery consisting of some 50,000 blooming size plants of about 300 varieties of the newer originations besides the best of the older varieties. In general the plantings pretty much follow a water course through the grounds. The gardens, however, are



not flooded during blooming season as are most iris gardens in Japan. The ground in which they are grown is virgin soil and has the appearance of composted peat. Plants are lined out in rows approximately three feet apart and plants are spaced about two feet in row. Winter mulching is not necessary since a deep covering of snow remains on the ground all winter. Cultivating and weed control does not appear much of a problem. During the early season and blooming period light rains almost every day supplies sufficient moisture, yet generally not enough to injure the bloom. The natural conditions here are perfect, making this locality a Japanese iris paradise where practically every flower is a specimen bloom.

Varieties here are planted in large groups often of a hundred or more which makes for easy and accurate evaluation to the extent no other garden affords, thus every characteristic of a variety can be readily and definitely judged. After combing through the plantings thoroughly in search of varieties of potential value for use in improving our American strains, it was more or less disappointing that in general the newer types and originations, magnificent the they are, do not give promise of great improvement. In fact the opposite may result from indiscriminate crossing by incorporating their undesired qualities into our breeding lines. This is not speaking disparagingly of the Japanese originations. Their creations are well adapted to their particular conditions and requirements, which differ from those in America. The American race of Japanese iris should be a distinctive type and differ in some respects from the three Japanese types. Neither the Higo nor the Ise strains are as well branched as is required to improve branching in our varieties nor do they have sufficient substance to withstand our hot and dry summers. The Edo varieties are superior in both branching and substance but in general the bloom is not as distinctive. It appears we have a greater variety of flower forms, which is all to the good, our color patterns, however, are not as effective as are those of the Higos which apparently have resulted from merging with the Ise strain. The pink coloring in some of the Ise varieties is greatly superior to that in either of the other two types and closely approaches a true salmon pink. The size of flower of both kinds it seems, often appears too large for height of stem for the best effect.

After seven wonderful days at Sapporo, Dr. Shu and I, together with Mr. Kamo who had come to Sapporo somewhat later, returned to Tokyo. We were, however, later to visit an excellent planting of Japs of considerable size, consisting mostly of the older standard varieties, at Sankei Valley, located high in the mountains near Kyoto and overlooking beautiful Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan. Due to the high altitude the blooming season there comes late. At blooming time July 23rd and 24th the management of this mountain resort hosted about fifty members of the Japan Iris Society. The car-later there carries visitors to the top of the mountain and ski-lifts take persons to various points of interest. The scenery is wonderful. Accomodations were provided for us at the mountain lodge. At this meeting it was my pleasure to again meet several old friends and also to make acquaintance of many new iris people.

With the conclusion of the iris season which ended at Sankei Valley and since I had seen quite a little of Japan, though one could not see everything of interest there in a lifetime, and also the fact that I had been away for some time, I was rather desirous to return home. My departure from Japan, however, was not without considerable regret for leaving the many fine persons with whom it had been my good fortune to come in contact. Everyone it seemed had been so very kind and anxious to be of service, it was a most heartwarming experience one could not easily forget. With a deep feeling of regret I bid my wonderful friends in Japan sayonara.



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Editor's note: In a letter Mr. Payne reports the following: "You will be interested to hear that the Japan Iris Society is getting out a volume similar to the Meiji Shrine work. It will be larger and much superior. The Agricultural College at Sapporo is financing its publication. The week we were there Dr. Shu and a professional photographer from Tokyo photographed three hundred varieties and Dr. Shu has asked me to send thirty of my best slides. They also want to include the varieties of other growers who have good pictures for reproduction. The reproductions in this book should be far superior to those in the Meiji volume which are far from satisfactory, inasmuch as they are reproduced from paintings and do not show the character of the variety pictured. They hope to have the book ready next year".

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#### IN APPRECIATION

A.H. Hazzard

Those of us who have assisted with Japanese Iris shows will particularly welcome the Check List of Japanese Irises which was distributed with Volume 4, Number 1 of The Review. It was compiled by our President, Eleanor (Mrs. Troy R.) Westmeyer and represents an immense of time and painstaking effort. Likewise we are thankful to Bee (Mrs. Frank W.) Warburton who double-checked everything and took care of the publication. They merit, and I am sure they have, the sincere thanks and appreciation of all of us.

It is regrettable that proper acknowledgement does not appear in the title page but I assume that modesty was allowed to govern. I suggest that we write it in-"Compiled by Eleanor (Mrs. Troy R.) Westmeyer, President, assisted by Bee (Mrs. Frank W.) Warburton, Publications Chairman".

The Classification Committees for subsequent Japanese Iris shows will save much time and avoid many differences of opinion by the use of this Check List for many Japanese Iris varieties can well be placed in more than one class, especially if color is the deciding factor. This is well illustrated by the paragraph on splashing, sanding, veining, blending, stippling, dappling and marbling by Mr. W. A. Payne which appears in Volume 1, Number 2 of the Review under the title "Judging the Japanese Iris".

Thanks again Eleanor and Bee for a task well done!

## JAPANESE IRIS "BLIGHT"

In the April, 1967, issue of The Review Bob Swearingen told us in Robin Gleanings (page 6) how he treats plants affected with "blight". This article is an elaboration of his report and also includes additional information.

As we use the term "blight" in the Terre Haute area we mean the condition in which plant foliage is runty and straw-colored and finally dies and in which the roots are being reduced to hollow tubes with a strong fiber left in the center of each as in scorch in bearded irises. The rotting of the roots extends barely into the rhizomes which do not seem to be affected.

Whether the above conditions represent a disease or are only symptoms, they describe what is meant in this article by "blight".

The condition is not critical in the gardens your Editor knows of but, at least the above-ground condition, is common enough to make him feel that it is the most serious cultural problem that growers have. This season it was reported in four other gardens in two other states. In addition The Pictorial Album of Iris (*Iris Kaempferi*) of the Meiji Inner Garden says that the Garden, which is in Tokyo, "lies in a narrow dale entirely surrounded by tall woods which, naturally, obstruct the sun and wind" and that plants are consequently "susceptible to blight and insect damages". No details are given as to what constitutes "blight" there but it would not be surprising to find them similar to, if not the same, as that described above.

Blight appears in established plants as well as new ones. In older plants it frequently follows a heavy bloom and has been explained as "blooming itself to death". Another similar outward condition, locally called the "twist" has severely twisted foliage and seems slower in its effects. It seems to be of a different nature than blight as described here.

When Bob decided to try something, he happened to have mercuric chloride (mercury bichloride or corrosive sublimate), Terramycin and Agrimycin on his shelves. The first two gave no favorable results but the Agrimycin did.

As reported earlier Bob removes all dead material from a rhizome, soaks it for 48 hours in Agrimycin solution (50 ppm) and then places it on wet gravel until roots have grown sufficiently to permit planting. He says that drenching the ground around a plant has not been effective.

The manufacturer of Agrimycin describes it as an "antibiotic spray powder for the control of certain plant diseases". The active ingredients are Streptomycin (15%) and Terramycin (1.5%). Since Bob found no beneficial effects from Terramycin, it would seem that the results he has observed are due to Streptomycin. The manufacturer states that Agrimycin works by "systemic absorption of the antibiotics, Terramycin and Streptomycin" and gives instructions for its use in foliar sprays, soaking of cuttings, and watering and soaking of transplants. Specific instructions are given for fifteen plant diseases (wilts, blights, spots, rots, etc).

Agrimycin can probably be purchased in most horticultural supply houses. The smallest package is a 2.4 ounce jar which will make 56 gallons of solution with a

strength of 50 parts per million which is what Bob uses. In Indianapolis it costs \$1.25 plus shipping charges and sales tax.

The surprising thing about Bob's results is that the treated rhizomes, after developing sufficient roots, are planted in the garden, even in the same spot where the diseased plants were removed, without sterilization of the soil. He has twelve two-year old plants, five one-year old plants and five treated this year. He says his treated plants are the most vigorous plants in his garden.

It would seem that, because of Bob's report and the manufacturer's general instructions, experience should be gathered wherever blight symptoms appear and reported through The Review.

Accordingly, your Editor has soaked thirty-seven rhizomes in various stages of health according to Bob's recommendations but with Rootone added. Instead of laying them on wet gravel he has potted them and followed the procedure outlined by Jack Craig in his article in the April, 1967, issue of The Review. Results will be reported later. New and recent plantings are being sprayed with Agrimycin solution as a preventive measure. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to measure the results of spraying but it will be done in the hope that results may be gross enough to support some conclusions.

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#### KINGWOOD CENTER

Any flower lover getting within driving distance of Mansfield, Ohio, should take time out to see this beautiful estate with flowers in bloom the year round. Mansfield is located about fifty miles southwest of Cleveland. Iris growers will be attracted by almost 1,000 varieties of Japanese, Spuria, Siberian, bulbous, dwarf, Louisiana and tall bearded irises. The Japanese irises are planted conspicuously in front of the parking area and are well labeled. In Mansfield they bloom about the last week in June. About 75,000 tulips are planted annually. There are several hundred varieties of roses and over 400 varieties of herbaceous peonies. Other kinds of flowers are grown in abundance.

The grounds cover forty seven acres, most of which is landscaped. The former home of Charles Kelley King, the donor, is now used as an office and library and houses two members of the staff. Other buildings have been converted to the Exhibit Hall, Work Shop and Service Building. Greenhouses were added after the Center was established. The Center is maintained for civic cultural purposes although its principal uses center around horticultural and nature study interests. The gardens are open from April through November, the greenhouses the year round.

Kingwood Center has official test gardens for the American Daffodil Society, the American Iris Society, the American Peony Society and the American Hemerocallis Society. Roses are also grown in a test garden.

Dr. Raymond C. Allen, who is in charge of Kingwood Center, is a Director of the AIS and is Chairman of the AIS National Test Gardens Committee.



## PACKAGING AND SHIPMENT OF JAPANESE IRISES

On a recent flight of Robin No. 4 its members were asked to report their experiences in packaging and shipping Japanese irises. This summary is based largely on their comments.

It is a general requirement of states and countries that plants be free of soil when shipped. Japanese regulations also specify that packing material must contain no soil. The USDA Plant Pest Control Division requires that plants shipped out of quarantined areas (Japanese beetle, for instance) be free of soil. All dead foliage should be removed.

Foliage is usually cut to three or four inches and roots left at full length. One shipper reports that to save shipping costs he has cut foliage and roots to about one and one-half inches. He "made a duplicate planting, left them exposed for three days, the usual transit time, and they have done very well".

All reported that roots are covered with plastic which is tied just above the rhizome. Some use moistened packing material around the roots but one reports that such packing "often causes mold or rot in warm weather". Numerous plants have been exported successfully without root packing. Foliage should not be covered with plastic for fear of rotting. One shipper allows his plants to dry long enough to remove surface moisture. Another slings the plants until no more water can be removed that way. All free water should be removed to avoid soaking the carton and thereby weakening it.

The carton should be of such a size that, when the plants and packing are placed in it and the carton closed, the contents cannot shift easily. Packing material, such as excelsior, should be coarse enough to permit ventilation. Holes should be cut in the carton for that purpose.

Shipment by Parcel Post seems to be preferred for domestic and foreign shipments for packages within Parcel Post limits. Larger packages may be shipped by Air Express.

Domestic shipping regulations are determined by State authorities and, in some cases, by the USDA Plant Pest Control Division. State inspectors can probably inform shippers of USDA regulations applying in his area. Generally, state regulations require annual inspection of stock, a permit to ship and a certificate of inspection on each shipment.

Export shipments must comply with foreign as well as domestic regulations. Information on such foreign regulations may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Division, Federal Center Building, Hyattsville, Md., 20782. Shipments to Japan require only that they be covered by a state nursery certificate and be free from soil. Rhizomes may be carefully inspected in Japan, however, and, as one shipper learned, destroyed even after careful preparation. Shipments to Japan, in order to avoid duty, should be marked "Botanical Specimens - No Commercial Value - A gift". If disposition is indicated in the event of non-delivery it should be destruction so as not to affect the statement of no value. It would seem that such marking would be advisable on shipments to all countries.

Import shipments are controlled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Division, 209 River St., Hoboken, N.J., 07030. Importers must obtain

a permit from that office and may also obtain special mail address labels to be used on imported packages. Upon application to the above office, an importer will be given a permit and regulations to be observed by him.

Because of climatic differences at shipping and receiving points, both parties should have a clear understanding regarding shipping dates.

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#### MEIJI SHRINE INNER GARDEN

Several years ago the Meiji Shrine Office, Togawa-machi, Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo-to, published the Pictorial Album of Iris (Iris Kaempferi) Flowers of the Meiji Inner Shrine Garden. The following paragraph is taken from page 4.

"To begin with, there are three main types of irises - the Edo, Ise and Kumamoto (Higo). While the Kumamoto varieties are most valued for show purpose culture, the Edo varieties are most appropriate for collective culture. No Kumamoto variety has ever been planted at the Shrine Iris Field since establishment, thus the garden might be considered as the representative of Edo iris garden. Since the Shrine undertook to administer the Garden, a number of varieties have been received as gifts. However, to have the Edo varieties predominate in the iris field was no more than deference to the taste of the enshrined personages. Likewise, creation of new varieties by cross-fertilization was refrained from to preserve the old tradition. However, those varieties, such as the Kumamoto and other new kinds which were donated, these have been cultivated in separate beds or pots to serve as specimens."

A list of Edo and Ise varieties at the Shrine follows. The following paragraphs are taken from page 7.

"However, on the cultivation side the caretakers are faced with a number of adverse conditions. In the first place there is a lack of sunshine; secondly, the ventilation is poor. The field lies in a narrow dale entirely surrounded by tall woods which, naturally, obstruct the sun and wind. This is the cause of the third reason, e.e., susceptible to blight and insect damages. Fourthly, irrigation water is from the spring which is too cold and too clear, lacking fertilizing properties. Fifthly, due to the sanctity of the Garden, offensive odors and impure materials are scrupulously avoided. Sixthly, work schedules are hindered owing to the precincts being open all the year round so that work has to be meted out so as not to inconvenience visitors.

Strictly speaking, the cultivation of iris requires intensive manuring."

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#### PUBLICATIONS

Back numbers of The Review, as long as available, may be obtained from Secretary Arthur E. Rowe, RFD No. 2, Mason City, Ia., 50401, at 50 cents per copy. As this is written he is in a hospital suffering from two broken heels which has prevented him from giving us his inventory. We plan on having it in the next issue.

Check lists are also available from Mr. Rowe at \$1.00 per copy.

## JAPANESE IRISES IN KYOTO, OSAKA

Akira Horinaka

The Japanese iris season of 1967 differed from that of the past three years. Temperatures were high and we had little rain from early May until the end of the flowering season. Our season was earlier than ever before.

I shall describe my impression of what I observed during the past three years in Osaka and Kyoto. Now, when I was a student about fifteen years ago, I visited Tokyo and called on the late Mr. Ichikawa's who devoted himself to Japanese irises. Although it was just out of season, in his garden, Japanese irises were planted in good order. Also I called on the late Mr. Ito's who was interested in Japanese irises, gladiolas, dahlias, daffodils and others. He was a pioneer in the improvement of these flowers. He showed me a drawing of Japanese irises and told me about it eagerly. So far his Shusho is one of the most beautiful flowers that I have ever seen.

As for myself I have been particularly interested in the Tokyo type with three petals without neglecting other types. Although the six petals of the Kumamoto type are certainly magnificent, their shape is too much affected by fertilizer management. Frankly speaking these give an odd feeling. In my opinion, people would appreciate Japanese irises more than ever, only if a constant quality and excellent flowers existed. Growers in this country tend to concentrate on the Kumamoto type and, to my regret, the improvement in the Tokyo type is very little. So far as I know, Mr. Payne in the U.S.A. raised fine Tokyo types (almost all of his flowers are called so in this country) from a few of our varieties, which I am sure are outstanding. Many specialists in this country tend to be prepossessed by the conventional form. The Great Mogul, produced by Mr. Payne, is clearly better than the conventional and popular among our people. When I observed many of his flowers I discovered several lines of improvement which I had longed for. For example, uniformity and strength of the standards (many famous varieties are irregular and tend to fall in rain and wind).

The following Japanese irises with which I was impressed were beautiful. 3 indicates three petals and 6 six petals.

Tokyo Type Shusho, 6, a white bordered with clear blue violet. Azumafune, 3, a lovely rare, grayish blue, standards are not uniform. Karigoromo, 3, a white, bordered with clear red.

Ise Type Agehibari, 3, a clear pink.

Kumamoto Type Shakkyo, 6, a deep red. Sokai, 6, a blue violet with white veins. Hekito, 6, a nearest deep blue. Yuki no Matsushima, 6, a lovely pure white, although not a constant variety. Aishu no Sono, 6, a white bordered red. Basho no Iori, 6, a near brown, not the true brown in TBs, the color is similar to Mr. Payne's Chocolate Maid. Gekko, 6, a white with pale red veins. Maogi, 6, a lavender violet with white veins, one of the most favorite varieties of Kumamoto type lovers in this country.



U.S.A. varieties Oriental Ballerina, 3, a lavender with dark violet halo. Premier Danseur, 3, a dark violet, petals broad. Dazzling Debutante, 3, a white with red radiating veins. It was one of the first to catch our eyes. Pillar of Fire, 3, similar to Niji no Tomoe, but more brilliant in color. The Great Mogul, 3, a dark red purple, one of the most favorite varieties in this country at present. Token of Friendship, 3, a purple with reddish purple veins. Immaculate Glitter, 6, a deep violet, bordered white. It will draw one's attention by its clear-cut contrast of the trim and branching. Numazu, I failed to have flowers last year. Growing well but had no flower this year. Looking forward to blooming next year. Perhaps one of the best in this class.

About 400 varieties of Tokyo, Kumamoto and Ise types are planted in Shirokita Park. Although I could not find new varieties, faded flowers are picked out and we can always find fresh flowers in the park. At the first entrance, whoever goes there will be attracted by the famous Banri no Hibiki of the Tokyo type. The clump of pink-colored Naniwazu and a blue six-petaled variety bloomed close to each other, making the harmony in color very beautiful. Particularly outstanding in the other varieties was the famous Shakkyo of Kumamoto type.

About twenty varieties are planted at the Heian Shrine almost all of which are dainty white with three petals of the Tokyo type, and were beautiful both as individual flowers and in a group. Originally, I had preferred *I. laevigata* to Japanese irises but when I saw these dainty flowers I was interested in three-petaled Japanese irises.

The Kyoto Botanical Gardens have many varieties of Kumamoto and Tokyo types. Ise types of pastel colors have been collected recently. Tokyo types are planted among large Kumamoto types, which gives an impression of disorderliness. Though many large varieties of Kumamoto type attracted attention of many people, I was deeply impressed by the famous varieties of blue shaded Azumafune and deep violet colored Kansei, both of Tokyo type.

At the entrance of Umenomiya garden there are large pots containing one variety of Japanese iris each. There is a ditch near by a pond, where the largest Japanese iris bloomed. About three years ago when I visited there I observed a collection of Japanese irises in the backyard. Perhaps people coming into Kyoto will find the newest varieties of Kumamoto type and some fine varieties of the Ise type by Dr. Tomina, one of our famous hybridizers. I was impressed by Sokai, Aishu no Sono, Hao, and others. When I compared Hao with Yuki-doro, the former was certainly more magnificent, as Mr. Hashimoto had told me and he also said he had about 600 varieties of Kumamoto type.

Last year the Japanese iris show was held at Shirokita Park under the auspices of the Osaka Japanese Irises Society. Some flowers were withering and not in good shape. A few years ago when Dr. Tomino's lecture and exhibition of Japanese irises was held in the Kyoto Botanical Garden under the auspices of the Kyoto Garden Club, the exhibition of cut flowers was by The Faculty of Education of Mie University (managed by Dr. Tomino) and Umenomiya (managed by Mr. Hashimoto). On the tenth of June this year I went to Tennoji Park to see the show of the Osaka Japanese Irises Society. Many potted plants were exhibited. Reiho no Yuki produced by Dr. Yoshiya and one variety by Mr. Terrakawa were both of six petals, which impressed me. The latter was quite like Mr. Payne's Oriental Ballerina in color. Three years ago when the Osaka Japanese Irises Society had a celebration

at the Shirakita Park in Osaka, Dr. Yoshiya brought many potted plants. Sakura no Haru grown by him was most beautiful. (Originally this variety was not of constant quality). He must be one of the best pot culturists in Osaka.

Although varieties of Kumamoto type are gorgeous, I want a constant quality in them. I believe a slow but steady appearance of truly fine varieties is necessary for the improvement of Japanese irises which will take a long time. I dared to write this article in spite of the fact that I am interested not only in Japanese irises but also rhizomatous irises in general. I also report that a student who majors in plant breeding is making efforts to produce the tetraploid and yellow color in Japanese irises. I wish all Japanese iris lovers will have a good season every year.

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#### 1967 SYMPOSIUM

The symposium produced twenty ballots listing 148 varieties. Six of the ballots did not cover twenty varieties. As the following table shows this resulted in what may be more of an inventory than a popularity contest.

In order to get some objective results from the figures, however, the average points voted for each variety are listed. These are presumed to be an indication of the degree of approval of those possessing the respective varieties. A high average plus a comparatively high number of votes should, it would seem, be of some significance. This should not be taken to reflect unfavorably on varieties that have low vote counts with high averages because the low vote counts may be due to low numbers of those varieties in our gardens.

It was apparent to your editor that Western ballots listed Western introductions almost entirely. Central and Eastern ballots listed introductions from those areas largely but included a considerable number of Western introductions. This apparent lack of wide distribution of varieties must be kept in mind in studying the results.

## 1967 JAPANESE IRIS SYMPOSIUM

	Points	Votes	Average
Strut and Flourish	165	12	13.7
The Great Mogul	160	12	13.3
Immaculate Glitter	131	8	16.4
Confetti Shower	99	8	12.4
Veined Artistry	96	7	13.7
Numazu	79	6	13.2
Frances Horton	74	4	18.5
Miss Simplicity	70	6	11.7
Cobra Dancer	68	4	17.0
Memorial Tribute	61	5	12.2
Sky and Water	60	7	8.6
Prima Ballerina	58	6	9.7
Mauve Majesty	58	3	19.3
Leave Me Sighing	56	4	14.0
Wounded Dragon	52	4	13.0
Silver Surf	51	4	12.8
Vestal Trident	51	4	12.8
Windswept Beauty	50	6	8.3
Azure Ruffles	47	3	15.7
Gayety	47	4	11.8
Winged Chariot	47	3	15.7
Purple Peacock	44	3	14.7
Come Look	41	3	13.7
Hisakata	40	4	10.0
Ivory Glow	40	4	10.0
Sea Fury	40	4	10.0
Friendly Victor	39	3	13.0
Dancing Waves	37	3	12.3
Star at Midnight	37	2	18.5
Dazzling Debutante	36	3	12.0
Powder and Paint	36	2	18.0
Banners on Parade	35	2	17.5
Happy Awakening	35	2	17.5
Shinso Kaji	34	2	17.0
Enchanted Lake	33	3	11.0
Fashion Model	33	2	16.5

	Points	Votes	Average
Pillar of Fire	33	4	8.3
Cresting Waves	32	2	16.0
Enchanting Melody	32	2	16.0
Spirit Lake	32	3	10.7
Minuet in Blue	31	3	10.3
Veinette	31	4	7.8
Ruffled Swan	30	2	15.0
Ocean Mist	29	2	14.5
Swirling Waves	27	2	13.5
Midnight Violet	26	2	13.0
Orchid Majesty	26	3	8.7
Snowy Hills	25	2	12.5
Summer Storm	24	3	8.0
Magic Ruby	23	3	7.7
Right White	23	3	7.7
Pleasant Journey	22	2	11.0
Violet and Silver	22	2	11.0
Better yet	21	2	10.5
Danseur Noble	21	2	10.5
Geisha Sleeve	21	2	10.5
Naturodati	21	2	10.5
Blue Nocturne	20	1	20.0
Pin Stripe	19	11	19.0
Reign of Glory	19	1	19.0
Royal Sapphire	19	2	9.5
Temple Maiden	19	1	19.0
Venetian Velvet	19	2	9.5
Western Symphony	19	2	9.5
Fashion Fete	18	2	9.0
Fringed Cloud	18	2	9.0
Mighty White	18	1	18.0
Center of Interest	17	2	8.5
Geisha Gown	17	1	17.0
Oriental Tracery	17	1	17.0
Pastel Princess	17	1	17.0
Silver Cascade	17	1	17.0



	Points	Votes	Average
Yamato Nishiki	17	2	8.5
Magic Opal	16	1	16.0
Pink Frost	16	1	16.0
Fall and Frost	15	1	15.0
Fashion Classic	15	2	7.5
Japanese Islands	15	1	15.0
Joyous Troubadour	15	2	7.5
Magic Spark	15	1	15.0
Plumed Beauty	15	1	15.0
Rokko Arashi	15	2	7.5
Snow Lantern	15	1	15.0
Whooping Crane	15	2	15.0
Evening Episode	14	2	7.0
Miyuki Guruma	14	1	14.0
Snow Glitter	14	1	14.0
Tender Trap	14	2	7.0
Whippoorwill	14	1	14.0
Dame Fortune	13	2	6.5
Danseuse	13	1	13.0
Mist O'Morn	13	1	13.0
Mulberry Pie	13	2	6.5
Vintage Festival	13	1	13.0
Worley Pink	13	2	6.5
Imperial Velvet	12	1	12.0
My Heavenly Dream	12	1	12.0
Night Blizzard	12	1	12.0
Purely Ornamental	12	1	12.0
Red Titan	12	1	12.0
Wind and Sea	12	2	6.0
Diamond Night	11	1	11.0
Gay Firefly	11	1	11.0
Popular Acclaim	11	1	11.0
Scherzo	11	2	5.5
Sunshine After Rain	11	2	5.5
Violet Lustre	11	2	5.5
Blue Honey	10	1	10.0
Calico Print	10	2	5.5
Gay Gallant	10	1	10.0

	Points	Votes	Average
Joyful Greeting	10	1	10.0
Royal Tiger	10	1	10.0
Sorcerer's Triumph	10	1	10.0
Ivory Mantle	9	1	9.0
Painted Princess	9	1	9.0
Princess Aurora	9	1	9.0
Silver Filigree	9	1	9.0
Token of Friendship	9	2	4.5
Tomo Tsuru	9	1	9.0
Veined and Beautiful	9	1	9.0
Fashion and Fancy	8	1	8.0
Le Cordon Bleu	8	1	8.0
Love Goddess	8	2	4.0
Mystic Buddha	8	1	8.0
Silver Frills	8	1	8.0
Tagasode	8	1	8.0
Blue Lagoon	7	1	7.0
Rose Prelude	7	2	3.5
Dark Drapery	6	1	6.0
I Go Kum	6	1	6.0
Ninety-nine	6	1	6.0
Imperial Ballerina	5	1	5.0
Island Paradise	5	1	5.0
Maroon Giant	5	1	5.0
Midwest Splendor	4	1	4.0
Oriental Harmony	4	1	4.0
Royal Crown	4	1	4.0
Veiled Vanity	4	1	4.0
Aio No Uye	3	1	3.0
Eleanor's Choice	3	1	3.0
My Fancy	3	1	3.0
Oxblood Ruby	3	1	3.0
Rubytone	2	1	2.0
Dappled Dragon	1	1	1.0
Butterfly Prince	1	1	1.0
Enchanted Swan	1	1	1.0
Over The Waves	1	1	1.0
Whiff O'Smoke	1	1	1.0

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Members desiring to be listed as suppliers of  
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