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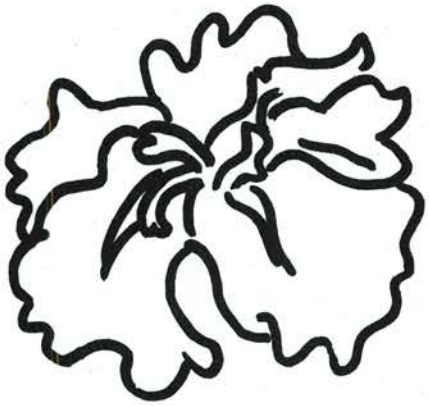

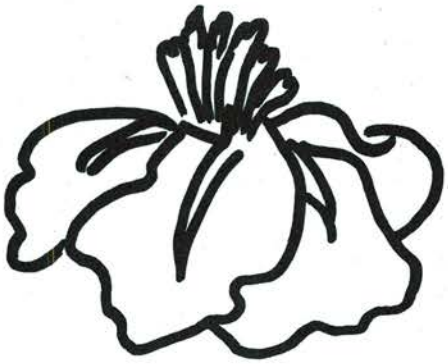

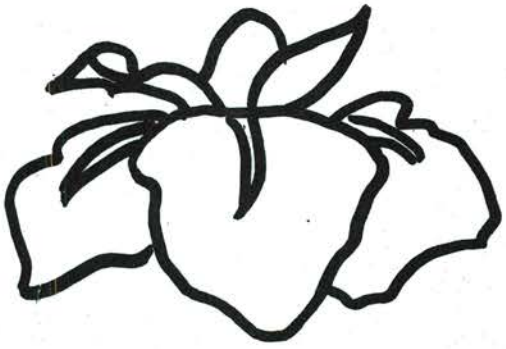

THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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OF

THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

Vol. 5, No. 2 October, 1968

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Due to another wet spring, followed by mild weather, gardens here on the East coast enjoyed exceptionally fine bloom this summer. Since the season was about two weeks early, members of the Connecticut Iris Society, who toured my garden on July 9th, were able to see peak bloom as well as the first blossoms of many late varieties. The unusual number of bumble-bees this summer no doubt accounts for the many seed pods that developed. As G.I.Rodinenko pointed out at the Florence Symposium, the honey bee cannot lift the heavy, feathered, keel-shaped styles which close the entrance to the kaempferi flower; but the bumble-bee, with the necessary weight and strength, can easily perform this feat.

The big news of the bloom season came from Terre Haute, where Russell Isle has sensational bloom on his pot-grown Japanese irises. The article on this subject should be an inspiration to all of us. If you have had problems in raising these plants, this may be the way for you to succeed.

The New England Regional Iris Society meeting in April was devoted to Iris Judging. There was a great deal of interest in the judging of Japanese irises. Theschedule of points adopted by the Society for Japanese irises was explained by the use of slides by your President.

We are indebted to Arlie Payne for representing our Society at the A.I.S. meeting in Berkeley and graciously accepting the responsibility of chairing our meeting on short notice. The showing of his personal collection of slides was a great treat for all who were present. Jack Craig also delighted everyone with a very interesting talk on Japanese irises.

Already we are looking forward to next year's convention in Milwaukee. Gene Wagner, our capable Vice-president, is planning a fine educational andart exhibit. An impressive number of new varieties of Japanese irises is being grown under controlled conditions and will be forced into bloom for the convention--the first time this has been attempted here. Bob Swearengen expects to be on hand to direct a session on Judging and our Editor also plans to attend. Do begin planning now so you can be there also.

The acquisition of a beautifully engraved silver cup to be given as the Payne Award is an important achievement for our Society. This will make our highest award a truly coveted one. Our thanks to Arlie Payne for making it all possible and to Bob Swearengen and Hubert Fischer for making all of the arrangements.

Several new display gardens are in the making around the country. This is a project that I commend to all of you. We desperately need to acquaint the public with these lovely flowers and to provide more convenient locations for the observation of new varieties by our judges.

We are delighted to welcome a number of new members to our ranks and hope to hear from more of you as to how we can serve you. There are many helpful articles on culture, judging and hybridizing available in the back issues of The Review, obtainable from our Secretary for 50¢ per copy. The Check List of all Japanese iris varieties introduced between 1950 and 1966 is also available for $1.00.

(Concluded on Page 40)

JAPANESE IRISES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

by

THELMA CARRINGTON, SAN DIEGO

Because of long association with the popular bearded irises, most gardeners tend to think of every iris flower as having three petals which bend upward to form a dome and three alternate petals which droop downward to form a base for that dome. However, the Japanese irises do not fit that pattern. With their many forms and colors these oriental beauties provide an exotic and beautiful display. Each expansive blossom is interwoven with intricate and delightful designs in pseudo-textures such as satin, organdy and velvet. Hues may range from white and pink through orchids, violets and blues. Combinations include blends, bicolors and even tricolors for variety. Petals are even frilled and ruffled.

Strange to say, Japs are not yet widely grown in America. This exotic, richly-colored iris is not the prima donna that some people believe it to be. Granted, it takes more tender loving care than do the tall bearded irises, but its cultural requirements are really not too difficult. Any extra time and effort that is given to them will be compensated by the discovery that these flowers extend the blooming season many months. The lovely blossoms of this iris are unparalleled as the basis of summer floral arrangements. They are in great demand precisely for that reason.

Southern California enjoys what may be a unique climate for Japanese irises. As a result their blooming season extends throughout most of the year. This enables us to participate in fall, winter, spring, and summer shows. This year the Japanese iris grower could have exhibited in the Spring Iris Show in early May, the Mission Valley Center Men's Garden Club Flower Show in late May and the Southern California Exposition at Del Mar June 26 to July 5. He could look forward to two more- the Imperial Counties Fall Iris Show in November and one planned for Arcadia in January.

In this year's August-September issue of California Garden Bill Gunther makes the following comments on our climate:

> "Today is the 19th of July and the iris season here in Southern California is supposed to be over. But in my garden there are bearded irises in bloom, also Pa cific coast hybrids, also Japanese hybrids, also a Louisiana hybrid (Holley Blu), also a Siberian hybrid (Ceasar's Brother). Also today I have six iris species in bloom. They are laevigata, douglasiana, tectorum, ensata, kaempferi and dichotoma.
>
> "The reason why these irises still are blooming here, but not in most other iris gardens in the Southland, is not due to any superior gardening ability on my part. Rather it is due to the fact that my iris garden is closer to the ocean than other gardens in the area. It is on a hillside which overlooks the ocean. The ocean breezes stabilize the temperature here so that it rarely reaches 80 F and has dropped to the freezing point only once during the past six years. Because of this stable temperature many of the iris plants seem to get confused to the point that they really don't know what season it is, and they bloom irregularly off and on for a good part of the year instead of blooming in the springtime when irises are supposed to bloom".

The relative humidity in the San Diego area is comparatively high, especially during the summer. Periods of low humidity, however, also occur with hot, dry, easterly winds especially in September and October. In 1967 the total rainfall was just over eleven inches.

Plant specialists know that each type of plant thrives best under special treatment and conditions which suit the plant's needs. The special requirements for Japanese irises can be provided without undue effort. Initial preparation of the Japanese iris bed consists of digging in liberal amounts of leaf mold, peat moss, pine needles or any other form of humus at least two weeks before actual planting. In areas where alkaline conditions prevail, a few pounds of soil sulphur should be dug into the bed. This will insure the acid conditions which are necessary for healthy plants.

The rhizomes are planted promptly upon receipt to minimize damage due to dehydration. They are set under about two inches of rich, moist soil. The roots should be evenly spread out and the surrounding soil firmly pressed down and wetted. The plants should be watered frequently and fed liberally with camellia food(5-14-5) at monthly intervals until flower buds are visible, then discontinued until the last bloom has faded. During the fall months the plants may be neglected and allowed to go dormant if desired.

Japanese irises should be watered almost continously. If they are allowed to become dry one may expect heavy losses. Plants seem to thrive in a balanced planter mix with a mulch of peat moss. Brick pots are best. Keeping pots submerged in a basin of water keeps them constantly moist. Partial shade, until established, helps maintain moist roots.

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THEY BLOOM IN THE SUMMER
by
ART DAY, CHULA VISTA, CALIF.

In the summer of 1966 I saw my first Japanese iris bloom. I was quite surprised to see it growing in San Diego as I had convinced myself they would grow only where winters were cold, the soil acid and there was plenty of non-Colorado River water. None of these conditions exist in Chula Vista.

At the 1967 Southern California Exposition at Del Mar I saw a large number of Japanese irises on display from the gardens of Thelma Carrington and Bill Gunther. I talked to both of them and they assured me that Japaneses irises weren't too difficult. Before I knew it I had decided to give them a try, ordered some and made an acid bed as described in the catalogue.

The only site I had available was probably the worst possible. The soil was adobe and in mid-winter it received no sun. The rest of the year a large Chinese elm would filter the sun.

On September 1st ten varieties including WORLEY PINK, LEAVE ME SIGHING, PLEASANT JOURNEY, GEISHA GOWN and BANNERS ON PARADE were planted. I crossed my fingers.

Shortly after planting, our fall Santa Ana winds started and everything began to dry out. The "acid bed" was flooded frequently and the leaves remained green until October when they started to die off-all except WORLEY PINK.

November

In early/indications of a flower stalk were noticed. Mid-November was very hot and there'd been only a few sprinkles of rain since planting. The rains came in the last two weeks of November and continued off and on through the first of the year- a total of some six and one-half inches fell. Mid-December brought a very cold (for us) snap. It snowed for the first time in our recorded history. Temperatures hovered between freezing and 50°F for a week. It dropped to 30°F one night. Through all this the stalk continued to grow.

By mid-January hot, dry weather returned and WORLEY PINK lost its leaves. The stalk remained green and the bud enlarged to a length of three and one-quarter inches. Total height was 26 inches.

On February 1st WORLEY PINK bloomed- color and substance were very good. The diameter was five and three quarters inches. I can assure you that a Japanese iris amongst narcissus and snowdrops is a sight to see. The bloom lasted two days. There was only one bud. It is interesting to note that at the time of bloom the other Japanese irises, as well as WORLEY PINK, were beginning to send up little green shoots.

Whether this was a freak or not will take another year to determine, but I do know that one Japanese iris did bloom in the winter- now will it bloom next summer? My fingers are still crossed.

(Editor's note: The above was written in February, 1968. The following in August, 1968.)

Wish I could tell you of some new experiences with my Japanese irises but I am afraid they all acted normal this summer. WORLEY PINK did not bloom in the summer, however, it showed good increase.

All have increased well and the color is good (a problem in our area). I have continued to give them a good flooding through the summer and have applied camellia food (5-14-5) lightly every other month.

Bloom in my area was from mid-May to mid-June.

-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, PLANTING

Through the efforts of Lerton W. Hooker, Region 9 Past RVP, and Leonard Jugle, Past President of the Northern Illinois Society and the co-operation of C.A.Swearengen, 130 Japanese iris plants were moved from W.A.Payne's former property to Washington Park in Springfield, Illinois. They have been planted along a lagoon south of the carillon. The Japanese irises were part of a larger planting of irises sponsored by Region 9.

BEGINNER'S LUCK WITH JAPANESE IRISES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

by

MRS. R.A.RICH, CITRUS HEIGHTS

I first became aware of Japanese irises through those beautiful advertisements in the garden magazines. There and then I determined to see these "largest of all iris" but alack, and alas, no one seemed to grow them. I was shown many so-called "Japanese iris" but they did not look like the pictures in the magazine and they certainly could not be considered to be "dinner plate" size. After I learned a bit more about iris I knew these were Dutch, Siberian and Spuria. At the time I only knew they were NOT Japanese irises so my search continued. Came the day when I opened my magazine and there was an offering of "twelve field run clumps of Japanese Iris for $2.00". Even better you could buy fifty for $5.00! I threw caution to the winds and ordered fifty. This was in complete disregard for the motto I had been raised by: "Waste not, want not".

I received a prompt acknowledgement of my LARGE order stating the irises would be shipped in October. Alas, in October I received a card saying they had a severe freeze in Oregon, so my irises would notbe shipped until the following March. I had to content myself with reading all about them for the next few months. We prepared a special bed for these according to the best instructions we could find. Add lots of fertilizer the book said; we did! That part was simple as we had chickens. The instructions expressly said NO LIME, so we did not add any of that! Now we were ready for the plants.

March finally arrived and about mid-March, so did the irises. We carefully planted them according to instructions and they began to grow almost immediately. They must have been all of a foot high when they bloomed in mid-May! Those "dinner plate" sized blooms would have fitted nicely in a teacup! Now the catalog stated not to expect typical blooms the first year, but this was ridiculous! The book said it would be hard to use too much fertilizer as they were heavy feeders. It was quite easy for us! Did it first try.

Problems seldom arrive singly. The plants turned a lovely shade of yellow, much to our horror. The book said this would happen when lime was present but we had been very careful not to get any of that in the bed! We sinally solved the mystery by remembering we had LIMED the chicken litter regularly. What could we have done to save the plants? We searched until we found a remedy. It consisted of mixing one part tannic acid powder in fifty parts of water and drenching the plants. The remedy worked and the plants turned green in less than two weeks. The following spring our Japanese irises were beautiful and we were on our way to becoming addicted to Iris kaempferi.

The following spring we met Mr. Maddocks and saw his hundreds of beautiful seedlings. We were fortunate enough to acquire quite a number of these, some of which have been introduced by Melrose Gardens in recent years. It has been our privilege and pleasure to help with selecting these introductions. Needless to say, our own seedlings contain Maddock's blood lines in almost all cases. Our planting of Japanese irises continues to expand, especially the seedling planting.

In selecting seedlings for introduction, we believe the flower should have good substance, pleasing form and interesting color. Our preference is starchy substance, wide overlapping petals with fluting

or ruffling for personality. The petals should be held almost horizontal, not drooping, unless the stalk is exceptionally tall. Personally, we do not like them over forty inches tall. We look for good increase, lots of bloomstalks and good foliage. Branching is desirable if well placed but poorly placed branching tends to detract. Some varieties carry as many as four buds in the terminal so you can have a long blooming season without branching. This feature is desirable but the third and fourth blooms are seldom as well formed as the first and second. To put it simply, anything which adds to the overall picture is good, anything which detracts from the overall picture is bad. We do not expect any iris to be perfect on all counts but these are the ideals we strive for.

We often hear people say "Japanese irises are beautiful, but they are too hard to grow". This simply is not true in our experience. True they do require more water than some types, but the reward for this extra bit of attention is more than ample. The most common mistake is planting too shallow. The crowns of these irises must be below ground level. In our area it is best if they are an inch below as we have intense heat. We find flooding twice weekly from the time they start to grow until bloom is finished to be best. After blooming we flood the beds every week or ten days depending on the weather. Our soil is heavy adobe type, pH 6, and Japanese irises thrive in this with little care other than flooding as mentioned above. We prepare the beds by incorporating natural manures and a small amount of sulphur for acidity. We do not find them as demanding of acidity as commonly thought as ours quite often are growing well with a pH of 6.5 to 6.7.

Japanese irises do need dividing every two or three years, depending on growth, as overcrowded clumps produce poor bloomstalks and inferior flowers. They are best divided and replanted immediately after blooming here. If one cannot replant immediately they may be held indefinitely if the roots are kept covered with water in a shaded location. They may not be dried out as bearded irises may be, their roots must be kept wet at all times. We water a new planting heavily until new growth is well started. We surround the bed with a dyke so it can be easily flooded. We never cultivate, only pull or hoe the weeds.

This does not seem"hard to grow"to us. In fact, of the many types of irises we grow, they are the least demanding other than preparing the beds. They appear to have only one disease, a sort of rust, and we seldom lose a Japanese iris.

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DR. HIRAO'S NEW BOOK

Jack Craig writes: "Presently Dr. Hirao is busy at work on a new book on Japanese irises. It will include at least 350 colored plates of Japanese irises featuring U.S. varieties as well as varieties bred here (in Japan, Ed.). The text will be in both Japanese and English. For anyone interested in these irises the book promises to be a real dream come true.

RUSSEL ISLE'S POT CULTURE PROJECT

Russel Isle of West Terre Haute, Indiana, has been growing Japanese irises for many years under difficult conditions. Except for one small area, his ground is steeply sloping and the soil in the level spot is not ideal. When he read Jack Craig's article on pot culture in the April, 1967, issue of The Review, he decided to try the method as a solution to his problems.

It works. And, as Gene Wagner said when he saw Isle's 120 potted plants this spring: "It's very impressive". The following is a description of Isle's method and some of his remarks and suggestions.

Immediately after the 1967 blooming season single-fan rhizomes which carried no bloomstalks were planted in seven-inch porous clay pots. A few were planted in four-inch pots to check results. They were successful but seven-inch pots are preferred because of greater stability when standing alone. A few cut-off gallon plastic bleach jugs with punctured bottoms were used also. They have the advantage of holding more soil and being free from freezing damage but they are not as easily emptied at repotting time. The soil was muck from a nearby pond. Pots were filled to about a half-inch from the top. When planted the foliage was cut to about five inches.

A level, sunny spot about four feet by eighteen feet was prepared and covered with sand so that a smoother base could be provided. To forestall puncturing of the polyethylene sheet by crawfish (as was learned by experience), he laid black (tar) paper over the sand and then placed a rectangular frame of two by fours on edge on it. Polyethylene sheet was laid inside the frame and draped over the edges. An inch or slightly more of water was maintained in the pool at all times except during the winter. Pots were then placed in the pool.

No fertilizing was done until new growth was about eight inches high. At that time a handful of cottonseed meal was spread over each pot and fertilizing begun.

The solution used was made by diluting two tablespoonfuls of a liquid 12-6-6 fertilizer in a gallon of water. The diluted material was used to fill the empty space at the top of each pot twice each week. The fertilizer is made by a well known manufacturer of agricultural chemicals. It contains iron and zinc salts plus a chelating agent. The label states that the nitrogen is obtained from urea and fish. This program was followed throughout the life of the plants except during the winter. For 120 pots, one gallon of concentrate carried them through the fall and another gallon through the spring.

During the winter pots were taken out of the pool, placed on the ground and covered with leaves. It is believed that less freezing breakage occurs this way than when buried flush with the ground surface.

In the spring the pool was refilled, pots returned and the fertilizing program resumed. Fertilizing was discontinued when the bloomstalks were half as high as the foliage but a few soft buds suggest that perhaps Jack Craig's advice should have been followed, namely, to discontinue "as soon as the buds break from the leaf fan".

The use of a high nitrogen ratio in the liquid fertilizer may be questioned because it is higher than that recommended by Craig. However, the growth and color of the plants indicate that it was not the least bit injurious. It seems likely that, when used in conjunction with the

muck, the resulting ratio is more nearly that recommended. Without the liquid fertilizer a single rhizome planted in the muck resulted in two or three fans and one bloomstalk the following year. With it as many as eight fans and five bloomstalks were obtained. Obviously the method is ideal for rapid increase and perhaps offers some advantage in treating diseased plants. With such rapid increase it is necessary to repot single rhizomes annually

Malathion spray was used for stem and bud borers. The polythylene sheet must be replaced annually because of the effects of sunlight and wear.

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DISEASES AND PESTS

One grower of Japanese irises in the Indianapolis area reports that Terrechlor (pentachloronitrobenzene) helped her in the treatment of "blight". She writes:

> "I had used Terrechlor with much success on lily seeds and affected bulbs, also on some badly troubled hems. It always seemed to work. So, beginning with a program of dusting and digging it into and around the crowns of the worst cases of my ailing Japs, they,too, seemed to respond. As a matter of routine, also began dusting it over the entire planting. This spring I see none of the old trouble".

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In theoctober, 1967, issue of The Review your Editor stated that he was treating rhizomes of "blighted" Japanese irises with Agrimycin following,in general, the method given on page 6 of the April, 1967, issue of The Review and that results would be reported later.

The variations in the method used were (1) Rootone was added to the Agrimycin solution, (2) rhizomes were potted in garden soil immediately after treatment if they showed buds or roots and (3) the plants were kept under twenty-four hour lights at about 70°F until planted in the garden in May. No fertilizer was used with the potted plants because rank growth was not desired.

Forty-seven rhizomes from twenty plants representing sixteen varieties were treated. Initially a record was made of the number of buds and roots on each rhizome. These figures were presumed to be a measure of the vitality of each rhizome.

Of the forty-seven rhizomes treated, eight showed no signs of buds or roots after lying on gravel overwater for two months. The other thirty-nine showed buds or roots or both and were potted at the end of treatment. In May fourteen of the plants had survived and were planted in the garden. Since then then have grown vigorously and are conspicuous because of their increase and heavy foliage. None bloomed this year.

An attempt was made to obtain some relationship between the apparent initial vitality of each rhizome and its outcome. No such relationship could be seen. Four of the plants used showed a high

proportion of surviving plants. This might be explained as indicating varieties susceptible to the treatment. Then it mustalso be concluded that the varieties which did not survive are not susceptible. However, the plants which showed good survival had only one plant of each variety in the test and one cannot say whether the favorable results were due to the variety or the individual plants used. It can also be said that, since "blight" is only a symptom, perhaps the surviving plants had a disease which is susceptible to treatment whereas the failures were not.

Really, the results are not conclusive. If ninety per cent of the treated rhizomes resulted in healthy plants, one might be justified in being optimistic about the treatment. In view of the low percentage of healthy plants surviving one must recognize that (1) the soil used for potting was not sterilized and (2) no controls (untreated equally diseased plants) were used. One can only say that this set of tests proved nothing.

It seems reasonable to say that the excellent garden growth of the surviving plants could be due to the use of lights during the winter. When theplants were set out the pots were filled with roots.

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One should not jump to the conclusion that a discolored leaf marks a plant with "blight". Iron and nitrogen deficiencies are easily diagnosed and treated.

Iron deficiency is indicated by iron chlorosis in which the leaf veins are green but the areas between are yellow (not straw-colored). It iscorrected by supplying either iron chelate (which can be purchased in your garden supply store) or, as in the case of some fertilizers, an iron salt plus a chelating agent.

Nitrogen deficiency is indicated by the entire leaf turning yellow and may be corrected by supplying any high nitrogen fertilizer.

Iron and nitrogen deficiencies may exist in individual plants in a bed. They may, however, be warning signs that the whole bed needs treatment.

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THE PAYNE AWARD
by
C.A.Swearengen

Several years ago, before the S.J.I. was organized, we talked of the need of an award for Japanese irises above that of H.M. but at that time there was no group to urge the establishment of such an award and, without such urging, the A.I.S. Board of Directors took no action as they seemed to feel, and correctly, that if the hybridizers and growers were sufficiently interested, that they would cause a Section to be organized and, from the Section, would ask that such an award be established.

When the S.J.I. was organized, nearly six years ago, I started talking to various members of the A.I.S. Board, explaining the need of this award. They were also told that most of our members felt that we should name the award for Mr. W.A.Payne, our senior hybridizer. After due deliberation, the Board established the award with the name as requested.

Mr. Payne, feeling that the award should be more than a certificate, and, due to conditions of health, not quite able to see after this matter himself, gave me a check payable to the A.I.S. and asked me to make such arrangements as might be necessary for the purchase and engraving of a suitable cup to be used for this award. After consultations with several on this subject and because he was quite willing and acquainted with the dealers in such items, Mr. Hubert Fischer was chosen to procure the cup and arrange for the engraving. Theselection of a cup and the engraver were both highly satisfactory and we now have a cup for this award that is not only a thing of beauty but a valuable award.

Physically, the cup is ten and one-half inches tall and five and three-fourths inches in diameter at the top. It has the form known as a Prince Erk Vase and has engraved on one side the likeness of the iris Swirling Waves. The cup is mounted on a suitable mahogany base that carries four silver escutcheon plates which will bear the names of the irises which will be honored by its award, the hybridizer and the date of award.

To win this award, an iris must first win Honorable Mention and then be voted the Payne Award by the A.I.S. judges. It is held for a one-year period and then goes to the next winner. Its status is the same as the Award of Merit and the other awards of the various Sections.

Now that we are honored with such a goal, let us strive for its possession by raising more seedlings, that suitable irises will be available to compete. Even a single pod may give you a winner!

We, the members of the S.J.I., wish to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Payne for his generosity and Mr. Fischer for his assistance.

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Since the above was written I have been informed that Mr. Payne's Dancing Waves is the 1968 winner of this cup. C.A.S.

KAEMPFERI VS. ENSATA VS. LAEVIGATA

As everyone probably knows, Latin names are used in plant nomenclature partly to show a plant's position in a classification system but also to have one name in an international language for each species. A goodexample of how this theory breaks down occasionally is our own garden varieties of Japanese irises. Their wild precusor has in recent years been given all three of the species designations found in the above title. In the April, 1968, issue of The Review Dr. Tomino called the wild species Iris ensata Thunb. var. spontanea. In the same issue Dr. Hirao called it Iris kaempferi.

In a recent letter to officers of the Society, Eleanor Westmeyer commented as follows on the use of kaempferi and ensata:

> "I am disturbed to learn that both seeds and new books coming out of Japan are using the name I. ensata for what we have always called I. kaempferi. The books involved include:Lineamenta Florae Manchricae by Masso Kitagawa, Hsinking, 1939, partly in Japanese with names and references in English; An Illustrated Flora of Japan with the cultivated and natural plants by Tomitaro Makino, Dr. Sc., The Hokuryukan Co., Ltd., Tokyo, 1953, descriptions in Japanese, drawings, names in English with each drawing;Flora of Japan (in English) by Jisaburo Ohwi, National Science Museum, Tokyo, Japan, and Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1965. In all of these ensata is preferred over kaempferi, according to my source of information".

Readers of Dr. George M. Reed's published articles will find an interesting progression of the author's position on the use of these three names. His comments are given verbatim below.

In AIS Bulletin No. 28, July, 1928, Dr. Reed made these remarks on the confusion between the use of the terms kaempferi and laevigata:

> "Iris kaempferi has long been confused with Iris laevigata, called in JapaneseKakitsubata. This may be due in part to the fact that that the two species occur together in the swampy places near Lake Baikal and the Amur River region of Manchuria, thence eastward through northern China to Korea and Japan. Iris laevigata was first described by Fischer in 1837. His description was based on plants collected by Turczaninow in 1829 near Lake Baikal.
>
> "Iris kaempferi, named for Dr. Engelbert Kaempfer who traveled in Japan in 1690-92, was not described until 1857. The original description by Lemaire was made from plants obtained from Japan by Siebold, which flowered for the first time in 1857 in Verschaffelt's garden in Ghent. Lemaire's description is evidently based on a garden form, and the accompanying colored illustration is certainly similar to varieties in cultivation today. Regel in 1864, however, under the name of Iris laevigata Fischer, evidently illustrated the true species in his colored plate 442, published in Gärtenflora, Vol. 13, page 198. His figure with reference to size, shape and color is very similar to the plant as now recognized."

Dr. Reed then follows these two paragraphs with detailed descriptions of the two wild species, Iris kaempferi and Iris laevigata.

In AIS Bulletin No. 44, July, 1932, Dr. Reed and Bunkio Matsuki published a"Translation of the Explanatory Text of Dr. Manabu Miyoshi's Illustrated Album of Hana-shobu". In a foreward to the article Dr. Reed says:

> "The scientific name used for Hana-shobu by Dr. Myoshi is Iris laevigata, Fisch., a name which has been used for these plants by many students of the iris. However, the plants described and illustrated are what we generally know as I. kaempferi Siebold. The Japanese title of the work is 'Hana-shobu Zufu', and the Japanese apply the name Hana-shobu definitely to the type of iris described and illustrated in this Album. The smooth-leaved iris, correctly known as I. laevigata. Fisch., is very distinct, and is known to the Japanese as Kakitsubata. "

The name I. laevigata apparently is not in use today for the precursor of our garden varieties of Japanese irises.

In AIS Bulletin No. 40, July, 1931, Dr. Reed extended his position by stating that the specific name ensata had some historical basis when applied to what he firmly called I. kaempferi in 1928:

> "The botanical name generally accepted for Hanashobu at the present time is Iris kaempferi, which Siebold used in 1856, although the first detailed description was made by Lemaire in 1858 and published in L'Illustration Horticole, Vol. 5, and illustrated by colored plate 157.
>
> "Recent investigations indicate that Thunberg collected Hanashobu in Japan on his visit in 1776-1777, and listed this plant under the name of Iris graminea in his 'Flora Japonica' published in 1784. In 1794 he published 'Botanical Observations on the Flora Japonica' in Vol. 2 of the Transactions of the Linnean Society. In this work he lists Hanashobu under the name of I. ensata, evidently recognizing the fact that the plant differs in essential points from the I. graminea of Europe. "

One wonders whether Dr. Reed's reference in 1931 to Thunberg's use of the specific name ensata is related to his trip to Japan in 1930.

In the Summer, 1948, issue of Plants and Gardens, Brooklyn Botanic Garden Dr. Reed gives the name ensata preference saying:

> "The Japanese irises rank very high as garden plants. They have been developed from the wild Iris ensata (Iris kaempferi) which grows in eastern Asia and is widely distributed in Japan".

This seems to be Dr. Reed's last published statement on the matter.

Dr. Tomino was asked about the synonymous use of kaempferi and ensata. His answer was as follows:

> "About this question please read the treatise by the late Dr. Miyazawa. His treatise was published about forty years ago and since then most of the botanists in Japan have used

I. ensata for hanashobu. Nowadays I. ensata is so popular that nobody can replace I. ensata with I. kaempferi. So we add I. kaempferi only as the synonym of I. ensata."

The treatise of Dr. Miyazawa mentioned by Dr. Tomino reads as follows:

"Observations on the Botanical Name of
Japanese iris and its Horticultural History
by
Bungo Miyazawa
(1929)
From Bulletin of Miyazaki College
of Agriculture and Forestry, No. 1

"Summary:
Iris laevigata FISCH. or I. kaempferi SIEB. have been applied as the botanical names of Japanese irises. However Fischer's description under this name shows that it is not the Japanese iris and later writers such as REGEL, MIQUEL, NILL, or LEICHTLIN made a mistake in their citing so that the confusion was caused. The name I. kaempferi was applied to a garden variety by CH. LEMAIRE in 1858 independently from the other name or description of the Japanese iris.

"Kaempfer was the first to write the Japanese name of this iris with Roman characters in his Amoenitatum Exoticarm, but there is no botanical name described. In the library of the Natural History Museum, London, there are kept the botanical specimens collected by him in Japan, but we cannot find this iris among them. About seventy years after the publication of Kaempfer's book Thunberg collected a specimen of the wild plant during his stay in Japan and it is still deposited in the Herbarium of Uppsala University in Sweden. It bears a name I. ensata by his own handwriting. Thunberg described I. ensata as a plant from Japan in Transactions of the Linnean Society, Vol. II, page 328 (1784), however on account of the fact, probably, that the description is simple it was not generally accepted as the Japanese iris, but the name I. ensata was applied to a totally different European iris by later botanists until nowadays. For the reason above mentioned it is safely said that the name Iris ensata should be applied to the Japanese iris.

"Although Prof. G. Koidzumi has already published the same opinion as the writer in the Botanical Magazine, Tokyo, Vol. XXXIX, p. 30 (1925) after examining Thunberg's specimen, he did not touch with the various literatures on this plant and alluded to what is the right name of the so-called Iris ensata when this name is to be applied to the Japanese iris. As regard the later question the writer has reached the conclusion that the botanical name of the so-called iris ensata is to be replaced by Iris biglumis VAHL..."

Garden Irises, published by the AIS in 1959, contains a classification of irises based on that of Lawrence. In that classification, under subsection Apogon, Series Laevigatae includes I. kaempferi, Siebold; I. laevigata, Fischer; and others. In the same subsection Series Ensatae is described as "a single asiatic species Iris ensata, Thunberg, ...Fischer's I. pallassii and Spach's I. doniana are considered to be synonyms of I. ensatae". Dr. Tomino was asked "If I. ensata is to be used for the species Randolph calls I. kaempferi, what name is given to the species he calls I. ensata?" He answered "What you call I. ensata in your country is I. Pallassii var. chinensis, (the Japanese name is Neji-ayame)."

In the above discussion the only question has been what name to apply to a recognized wild plant, it being agreed that garden varieties of Japanese irises have been developed from that species. However, another question arises from the footnote on page 265 of Garden Irises which reads as follows:

> "The Japanese irises are membersof the apogon series laevigatae and, <u>for the most part</u>, are derived from IRIS KAEMPFERI <u>with I. LAEVIGATA also involved</u>. Ed."

The underlining is by your Editor.

Dr. Randolph was asked for the basis of the underlined portions of the above quotation. His comments are as follows:

> "I. kampferi was described originally as a botanical variety of I. laevigata by the distinguished Russian taxonomist, Maximov (Bull. Acad. Petrograd 26:521. 1880 who obviously considered them to be so similar that they shouldn't be considered to be separate species. Although Dykes treated them as separate species in his monograph on the genus iris published in 1913, from the standpoint of the iris breeder the differences between them which he emphasized seemed relatively unimportant, especially as we now know that many iris species exist in a variety of color forms and that it is just such color forms that has made possible the wide range of colors among so many different kinds of garden irises, including most certainly the Japs!
>
> "In his discussion of their biological relationships Dykes (The Genus Iris, pp 73-76) states that I . kaempferi has often been confused with laevigata, that they have long been looked upon as synonymous and that very little has been disclosed about the origin of the cultivated varieties. Probably these statements are still true, or were a few years ago when I tried unsuccessfully to obtain from reliable Japanese sources more definite information on this subject. Since species hybrids have been involved in the origin of all of our other important groups of garden irises it seems to me highly probably that both of these were involved in the origin of Jap varieties...."

Dr. Randolph's comments bring to mind the following statement by Dr. John C. Wister, first president of the AIS :

> "On page 154 Randolph (in Garden Irises, Ed.) lists the series Laevigatae and under that he has Kaempferi Siebold and laevigata Fischer. I recall that before the big Dykes book was published there was controversy about these two species. One question was whether they were exactly the same and the second question was if they were not the same, from which species did the Japanese irises descend. When I met Mr. Dykes he was very scornful about these questions. He said he could take seeds of either one, put them in his hand, hold it behind his back, shut his eyes and go into a dark room at midnight and still tell exactly what species the seeds came from".

Your Editor has been able to find no positive evidence that I. kaempferi and I. laevigata can be crossed. Dr. Heinig in Garden Irises says that Dr. Reed was unable to cross the two in the 1930s. C.A.Swearengen has made 42 crosses in both directions without success. Dr. Tomino, as reported in the previous issue of The Review reports no pods in ten pollinations of I. ensata by I. laevigata and one pod in three pollinations of I. laevigata by I. ensata. However, he has not answered your Editor's question as to whether that pod contained viable seed.

-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-

KALAMAZOO JAPANESE IRIS SHOW

by

A.H.Hazzard

Place: Community Room of the Westwood Branch of The American National Bank and Trust Company of Kalamazoo, basement, air-conditioned.

Date: Saturday, July 6, 1968.

Competition was limited to amateur growers. Programs were mailed to approximately 100 known growers in southwestern Michigan andseveral others in Region 6 known to be interested. The quality of the specimens was very good. Numbered and unnumbered seedlings were accepted but selection of the Queen was limited to named varieties. Blue, red, white and green ribbons were awarded for first, second, third and exhibitor respectively. Local interest in named varities is growing but there are still many Marx and Hazzard seedlings being grown. If JI shows were annual affairs, the planting of named varieties would doubtless increase but many of the seedlings are better than some named ones on the market. Named clones were given as prizes to growers of the Queen and court. 100 colored slides of selected JIs were shown continuously during the time the show was open to the public. It was very educational and caused considerable favorable comment. Eleanor's classification proved valuable to the Registration Committee. Advertising was limited to one press item a week before the show but attendance was good and mostly by people interested in JIs.

All arrangements were by invitation and were not judged as the arrangers were experienced and had worked with JIs. Approximately fifteen were shown.

The Queen of the Court was Betteryet (Hazzard).

THE 1968 A.I.S. CONVENTION
by
Mrs. F.W.Warburton

It was really too bad that the timing of the SJI meeting at Berkeley resulted in small attendance because it was a fine meeting and a chance for people to talk with Arlie Payne who was attending his first convention. Mr. Payne was pleased to have Jack Craig there to preside over the meeting while he sat in to answer the many questions which only he could possibly answer.

Mr. Craig introduced himself as a textile designer who had lived for many years in Japan. He introduced his wife, Gingko, and small daughter, Christmas. He had some charts to illustrate his talk about standards for judjing irises in Japan which are very different from American standards. The Japanese make much of the "cup" formed by the styles and the "ears" (standards). The ears should be wide, rounded or slightly pointed at the tip, and a little longer than the styles, which should be at least one inch wide and have well-spread crests. Long narrow standards are called "willow" and turned-out standards "running away". These are faulty. Some fine slides followed the discussion.

Mr. Payne was asked how many irises he had introduced. The total is 165 to date but more should follow as people are still growing his later seedlings. Four or five of his introductions are miniatures (28 to 30 inches), of which he considers Miss Coquette to be the best.

In the matter of culture, thefoliage should be deep blue-green. If it is yellow-green, either the soil is alkaline or has not been supplied with enough fertilizer. A 10-10-10 or 20-20-20 fertilizer should be applied when thefoliage is about six inches high.

At least there is something to be said about a small meeting- those who were there were able to enjoy Arlie and the Craigs. We were only sorry that so many missed a rewarding time.

-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-

From the President's Desk, concluded.

As we near the end of the term for the present officers, I wish to express our appreciation to all who have served this Society so faithfully for the past two years. We send a very special thanks to Art Rowe, who, in spite of a crippling accident, has never failed to attend to our affairs promptly and efficiently; to Bill Ouweneel who has been an exceptionally capable Editor and already has the next issue of The Review well in hand and to Bob Swearengen whose financial advice has been indispensable; also to Art Hazzard and the Nominating Committee for working so hard to have the nominations ready for mailing with this issue.

Eleanor Westmeyer

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

To Members of The Society For Japanese Irises:

In accordance with the Bylaws of our Society, your Nominating Committee Nominates the following members for the offices indicated below for the years 1969 and 1970:

President: Mrs. Troy R. (Eleanor) Westmeyer,
Stamford, Conn.

Vice-
President: Mrs. J.E.(Virginia) McClintock,
North Olmsted, Ohio.

Secretary: Mrs. Maiben C. (Pat) Reynolds,
Birmingham, Ala.

Treasurer: Mr. Arthur E. Rowe,
Mason City, Ia.

Your Committee also nominates the following member to serve on the Nominating Committee for the years 1969 through 1971:

Mr. Ray Monnie,
Butler, Pa.

Sincerely,

A.H.Hazzard, Chairman
Andy E. Hayes, Jr.
Cloyd Sensenbach