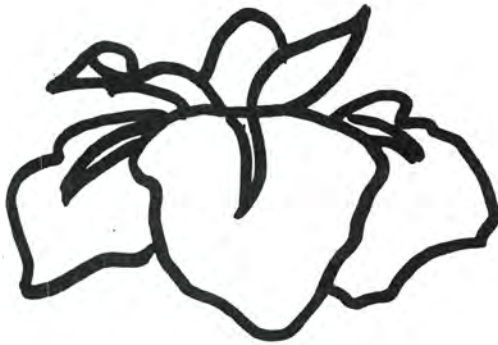
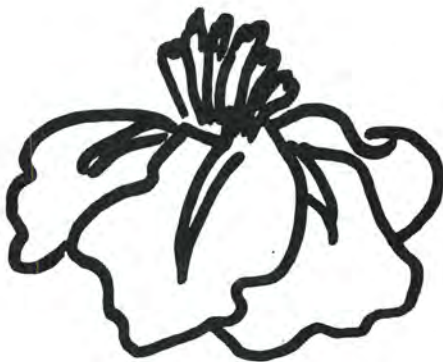


VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

APRIL, 1970



THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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OF
THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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OFFICERS

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Vice President	Mrs. J.E. McClintock, North Olmsted, Ohio.
Secretary	Mrs. Maiben C. Reynolds, Birmingham, Ala.
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Directors	Mr. Phil Cammer, Williamsport, Pa.
at Large	Mrs. Edith Cleaves, San Jose, California
	Mrs. J.A. Crist, Franklin, Ind.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Ray Monnie, Butler, Pa., through 1971
Mr. A.H. Hazzard, Kalamazoo, Mich., through 1970
Mr. Andy E. Hayes, Troy, Tenn., through 1969

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. W.E. Ouweneel, Editor and Publications Chairman,
Terre Haute, Ind.
Mr. E.H. Wagner, Robin Chairman, Columbus, Ohio

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This issue of THE REVIEW has been held up in order to bring you an up-to-date membership list, in the hope that it will be useful during your garden visitations this summer.

It is always a thrill to learn that a Japanese iris has captured the prize as Queen of the Show, especially when competing with other types of irises. We salute Bill Gunther for his expert grow-and-showmanship with SCHEHLRAZADE.

We continue to miss the inspiration and guidance of our first President, Bob Swearingen, who passed away last October. It was Bob who deserved much of the credit for the birth of the Society for Japanese Irises. His efforts in getting the Judging Standards proposed by Arlie Payne accepted by the AIS Board pointed out the need for a formal organization of Japanese iris growers. Bee Warburton supplied the knowledge from her experience in organizing both the Median and Siberian Iris Societies and the work necessary for us to become a Section of the American Iris Society. For many years, Bee served as Secretary and Publication Chairman generously contributing her time by typing and mimeographing our news so we could get started with a minimum of expense.

We are still a young Society and one of our greatest problems is that of getting more people to see the wonderful new varieties available and obtaining recognition for named Japanese irises. Please help us by opening your garden to visitors, propagating and sharing your best varieties and photographing your Japanese irises. We need prints and slides of both good and bad features for judging programs. If you are a hybridizer, please send us slides of your introductions for use at the Convention.

As you can see from the enclosed financial statement, we are operating on a very close budget. Nearly all of our income from memberships is used for the publication of our two annual issues of THE REVIEW. It is hoped that in the future we will have more money available to renew our Show Program and develop more test gardens around the country. This might be accomplished through an all out membership drive, by raising our dues or by initiating other fund raising projects.

Region 1 of the American Iris Society has graciously offered to sponsor a fall auction for Japanese and Siberian irises, to benefit our Society and the Siberian Society. This certainly is a worthy project for other Regions to consider also as it would be helpful in getting newer beardless irises more widely distributed.

Plans for the AIS Convention in New York City are nearly completed. Our Society will be represented with slides in the "Wonderful World of Irises" and at the Judges' Training Panel on Monday evening, June 1st at the Statler Hilton Hotel and at our own Society meeting either Saturday or Sunday evening. Because of the time limit on use of a projector, all slides will be edited in advance of the Convention. If you have new slides that you wish to shown, please send them to me before May 25th. I have asked Lee

Eberhart to show the movies that he made of the gardens in Japan during the Japanese iris bloom season as the highlight of our session. Do look for me and introduce yourself, as I welcome the opportunity to visit with every member who attends the Convention.

This is our election year. The new slate of officers will be presented in our next issue. It has been a great privilege and pleasure to have served for two terms as President. I want to thank all of you who have helped to promote the interests of our group. I appreciate having such a capable and cooperative Board. John Hartman, Gene Wagner, Jack Craig, Arlie Payne, Bill Ouweneel, and Virginia McClintock have been very helpful in planning and presenting our Convention programs. We could not have managed without Vic Scholz and Art Hazzard's help with our finances. Art also has been the inspiration and guiding hand behind so many Japanese iris shows, I've lost count-- and now he is still serving us in planning for the future on the Nominating Committee. My thanks to all who have served on our Committees and as Directors-- to our guiding "angels", Bee Warburton and Arlie Payne, to Art Rowe whose loyalty and dependability as Secretary and Treasurer have been an inspiration to me. I want to give a special commendation to Bill Ouweneel for his patience with me and his dedication to THE REVIEW. His foresight, research and hard work have been responsible for the publication of the best articles available about our favorite flower.

Eleanor Westmeyer

ART HAZZARD'S PROJECT

A one-man project to promote growing of Japanese irises and help the AIS Scientific and Research Committee financially has been initiated by Art Hazzard.

Using about a hundred thousand seeds collected last year, he has mailed packets of 100 seeds each to about a thousand individual AIS members chosen from states where Japanese irises are known to have been grown successfully. The seeds were produced from named varieties-- either AIS registered or imported.

Art is suggesting that \$1.00 or whatever the recipient feels is reasonable be sent to him for each packet. The net proceeds will then be sent to the AIS for use by the Scientific and Research Committee.

AIS members who have not received packets and who wish to participate may write to Art. As this issue goes to press he reports that he still has a few packets.

Mr. William T. Bledsoe, President of the AIS, has given the idea his enthusiastic endorsement.

CALIFORNIA FOLLOW-UP

by
Bill Gunther

The October, 1969, issue of THE REVIEW included an article about Japanese irises which had won "Queen of the Show" awards in AIS sanctioned iris shows held in Southern California during May, July and October of 1969.

THE REVIEW is delighted to announce that the April, 1970, issue of the CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine (which is read by thousands of California gardeners) will carry a revised version of the same article, with the same photographs, as also will the Spring, 1970, issue of the AIS Region 15 Newsletter.

Additional happy news is that in the first AIS sanctioned iris show of 1970, which was held in Arcadia, Los Angeles County, on January 24, the Japanese iris SCHEHERAZADE again won "Queen of the Show". This is the same variety which won "Queen of the Show" at the 1969 Region 15 Fall Iris Show which was held in LaJolla, California. In fact, both bloomstalks were from the same plant. This further verifies that Japanese irises are year around bloomers- and year around winners- in Southern California.

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Following up the above show the Annual Aril Society's show was held in Arcadia on March 28, 1970. In order to keep the arils in the limelight during the aril show, the Show Chairman issued rules to exclude tall bearded, spuria and Louisiana irises. He neglected to exclude Japanese irises only because they had been unheard of during the aril season.

However, when the entries arrived the following Japanese irises were present: PILLAR OF FIRE, BLUE GENTIAN, SCHEHERAZADE, STIPPLED RIPPLES, SEA TITAN, CONFETTI SHOWERS, WORLEY PINK, SPIRIT LAKE, ROYAL TIGER plus some seedlings.

The fact that none of these Japanese iris entries was selected as "Queen of the Show" might be attributed to the fact that no "Queen of the Show" was designated. Blue ribbons were the highest award for which Japanese irises were eligible and they certainly won more than their share of these. They also upstaged the other iris categories in attention from the spectators.

* * * * *

DR. HIRAO'S BOOK

In a letter dated September 22, 1969 to Arlie Payne Dr. Hirao says:

"The big book, THE JAPANESE IRIS, will eventually appear in the spring of 1971. It will be big, about 10 inches by 14 inches, with about 350 varieties, all in full color."

By B. LeRoy Davidson*

My first sight of an Iris growing in Japan was in one of those very unlikely and incongruous sounding combinations, which, like the strange and abstract developments in flower arrangement in vogue currently, came off very well indeed, but one would have to be there to see for himself, as certainly no words could portray it. The ultra-new public and business buildings in the heart of Tokyo are themselves innovations in the utilization of space, the service area to them inevitably through a vehicular inner courtyard, with facade and foot entrance set back from the street in a manner foreign to the old street-front buildings they replace. This fronting area is given over to planting, sometimes, if the area is narrow, to avenues of trees (Ginkgo is a favorite) with ground cover (dwarf boxwood most effectively massed in large areas was a lawn-like innovation), but where the area has some depth, a stylized landscape garden is placed.

One such landscape garden was backed with a grove of *Cedrus deodara* against the facade and consisted of flowing beds set island-like in seas of crushed stone. The plant material, which is ordinarily selected for form and texture without regard for flowers, was here very consciously inclusive of flowering material, though the blossoms would be regarded as secondary in importance; however, masses of orange *Calendula* in one island were overtopped with a froth of tall-growing white "daisies" of small size, repeating the color and somewhat the texture of the gravel and giving the effect of a cloud formation. Everything else at this time (about June 1st) was just green, though in carefully planned composition; drifts of fall chrysanthemums and dwarf gardenias were accented by the weight of glaucous blue spikes of foliage of Irises, a most unusual combination, to say the least! But very effective. The irises, now past flowering, were of medium stature and may very well have been some of the indestructable old diploids; this was to be observed in many places later; the old "germanicas" are tenacious indeed, whereas the tetraploid pogons fall prey to deadly rot.

No visit to Japan is complete without including at least one of the famous iris plantings in such shrine gardens as the Heian of Kyoto or the Meiji of Tokyo, where, by ponds and marshes, seas of massed Japanese irises are marked annually among the most noted of floral displays, with great pilgrimages to see the lovely pastel blue, orchid, lilac and mauve sorts, accented by the deep blues, violets and purples, and highlighted by the whites, untainted, or lined and marked with deeper color. The Heian garden is also famous for its waterlilies, and the combination with irises in a setting of great "natural beauty" about the several connecting ponds is serene. In addition, we were favored with opportunities to visit two private collections, that of Mr. Kamo of Kagegawa, and the seedling fields of Dr. Hirao in Chiba, several hours by train from his home in Zushi, near Yokohama. Kamo-san's irises were grown in great blocks of color, which were seen on approaching across the verdant rice fields fronting the forested mountain against which the compound of elegant old tile-roofed mansion-house and outbuildings was set in a walled garden featuring a venerable pint of great girth. Here the classic varieties of Japanese Irises are grown with new ones

*Mr. Davidson is Chairman of the AIS Species Committee. The article is copied with permission from a recent issue of SIGNA, the publication of the AIS Species Group.

from Drs. Tomino and Hirao and imported ones as from Marx and Payne. A favorite seen here was the intense double SEA OF IZU; in fact the blue ones of all tints and depths were especially lovely in this green setting, in a soft drizzling rain.

The day spent going to Chiba was a delight, rather an "International Meeting" of sorts, for Lee Eberhart of Ohio, Jack Craig, a former Californian now resident in Japan, and Esmond Jones of Australia were in attendance also. The typical unhurried and completely delightful Japanese hospitality was never so pleasant as on this day, with a luncheon served before we donned boots to "do the seedlings". Dr. Hirao feels as do many others, that after so long a time, the ultimate in inciting or inducing and selecting worthy innovations within the series *I. kaempferi* (Japanese botanists say this is correctly *I. ensata*, a taxonomic problem which should be resolved at the meeting of the International Botanical Congress by the time this is in print) has been reached, and that his doubles, which have extra petaloid formations in addition to the six segments of the usual older "doubles", are perhaps his better achievements. Nevertheless, he is exploring a new avenue, that of cross-the selected forms of "wild" *I. kaempferi spontanea* with the dainty classical Edo varieties, to achieve a wider color range in the smaller sorts. True blue color is lacking in all but the largest, and it will be a real break-through when it can be brought down into these small ones, heralding a new popularity for the Japanese irises. Spectacular as the huge ones are, they do rather dominate the usual small garden, whereas the daintier sorts can find true landscape use in modest settings. Among the maiden bloom of these seedlings, I was taken with several which were heavily veined on three white broad falls, the styles and standards of deep rich blue forming a dark top-knot or cuplet of contrast. Number A18 was a small dusky purple of fine style and unique color. In the selections of former years, number S1 seemed especially pretty, a frothy, feminine, pastel, self colored pinkish lilac, a vigorous and productive plant.

Observations of other Iris species growing in Japan, both in nature (whether indigenous or introduced was often problematical) and in cultivation, were many. Great mountains of *I. japonica*, especially surrounding the Izuru Shrine up into the limestone mountains out of Tochigi Village, were just passing bloom and were handsome indeed in their intense light and dark pattern of graceful evergreen foliage. It is observed that none of this Iris growing in Japan, being triploid, ever sets seed, and that it may indeed all be of a single self-sterile clone, probably spread far and wide, with the help of man, first from some foreign source (China or Formosa) to shrine and temple grounds, thence by the long stolons to its present appearance, where it assumes its position in the landscape to appear as a native plant, especially handsome in groves of bamboo.

In the village of Iwa-Fume we climbed the broad and mortared handsome staircase of 610 steps (I counted them) to the shrine of that name atop the rock (Iwa-Fume translated is "Rock-Ship", from the likeness of the prominence as seen from the broad valley; it is now subject to blasting away for building stone). In the shallow soil of the dry pine-woods were no less than three species of Iris co-mingling, and none really happy; due to the proximity of the very old shrine garden, I would suppose all three to have escaped its bounds- *I. japonica*, *tectorum*, and *kaempferi spontanea*. Of these, only the last is to be found in what is undisputably its native state in Japan today.

LIME AND DROUGHT-RESISTANT TETRAPLOID IRIS KAEMPFERI

by Max Steiger*

I live in a rather dry area with a permeable sandy soil containing a great quantity of lime in the form of calcium carbonate. Also the water we have at our disposal contains much lime and is, therefore, very hard. IRIS KAEMPFERI could not stand these two factors: water shortage and high content of lime. I strictly refuse to believe in misfortune and consider it good luck, that the conditions of my soil are so unsuitable for growing irises. As a matter of fact, my hobby did not remain just a hobby owing to this very circumstance.

I had to overcome all these difficulties and create new types of iris, if I wanted these wonderful flowers in my garden. Soon I realized that only really intensive work on a large scale could lead to positive results.

I, therefore, began working systematically eight years ago (Ed. 1955) with a large number of seedlings, choosing every year a still more lime-containing soil and always drier sites for planting. The intended selection was actually performed through these measures by nature itself. Thus only a few specimens survived which were later used to carry on the cultivation.

I need not describe the dreary impression offered by a field of 10,000 seedlings with yellow and brown leaves! Once there were only a dozen green plants among them which blossomed.

After many failures, however, all this work and effort led to success. I would not like to consider this as a final conclusion, as actually every year more beautiful and strongly resistant types grew in my fields. Not only was the resistance to lime greatly increased, but also the enormous need for water during the main period of growth was almost eliminated. How great this resistance to drought could be was shown during the last year by a plant which produced 14 bloomstalks, 40 inches high, and flowers with a diameter of nine inches on a three year-old plant. It may be of general interest that through my selective cultivation plants with decidedly superficial roots developed into plants with deep roots. These roots now penetrate the ground twice as deep as those of the usual IRIS KAEMPFERI do.

Thanks to these achievements I can now plant these new kinds of iris in all perennial borders. I believe that on account of this adaptability to common garden needs we have succeeded in opening the way for IRIS KAEMPFERI into almost all of our gardens and in securing its wide distribution.

I have not yet succeeded, however, in eliminating completely a sensitivity which we notice particularly in ground rich in lime: chlorosis. As this problem is easily solved by the addition of fertilizing salts containing iron or iron compounds which can be obtained on the market it is a desirable aim but not an absolute necessity for cultivation.

*This article is copied from the report of the 1st International Symposium on Iris held at Florence, Italy, May 14-18, 1963. Permission to do so has been obtained from the Italian Iris Society.

It is and will remain the dream of the grower of tall bearded irises to succeed in giving a longer life to the single bloom of our beloved iris. An essential step in this special direction was achieved by using the tetraploid bearded irises coming from Asia Minor.

Not only amongst the irises, but also amongst other plants, the doubling of chromosomes has brought about enlargement of the flower, improvement of the substance and prolongation of the life of the flower.

As development of improved substance increases resistance of the flower, I hope to reach a partial positive result also in IRIS KAEMPFERI through tetraploids. I know that, when breeding plants, no mechanical work can be done but there are fundamental rules which must be observed in order to achieve positive results although necessary measures should be adapted to each case. According to the old rule of life: "Who wants to build, must destroy", six years ago (Ed. 1957) I began to treat IRIS KAEMPFERI seedlings with "Acenaphthen" and "Colchicin". Only the Colchicin treatment gave satisfactory results and the following year treated about 10,000 shoots with a 0.2% aqueous solution for from two to three hours at a temperature of 24 °C. The seed was treated in its earliest phase of germination, i.e., when the first point of the shoot became visible as a light spot in the seed.

During this experiment about 97% of the seeds were lost, but, given the greater number of treated seeds, quite a number of seedlings were saved which showed the characteristics of the tetraploid plants already in their leaves: darker coloring and thickening of the leaves.

These tetraploid plants had the following changed characteristics:

- (1) A thickening of the flower petals
 - (2) A small shrinkage in the size of the flower
 - (3) A prolonged blooming
 - (4) A friability of the petals
 - (5) A reduced fertility
 - (6) Stronger and darker leaves
- (an increased fluting and waving of the flower petals.

Editor's note: The paper also included comments on production of triploids, yellow Japanese irises and embryo culture using agar.

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Dr. Hirao had these comments at the Symposium in a paper which he presented:

"I regret to be unable to say anything about the optimum pH for the Japanese iris, as we in Japan are often indifferent to the soil reaction as the soil in Japan is acid all over and we are free from the trouble of excess alkali.

"It is often noted that lime resistibility differs much depending on varieties. Some varieties will suffer from a small application of ashes, while others will not show any adverse symptom. An extensive trial on this point is to be recommended prior to the introduction of the Japanese varieties into alkaline soil countries".

TWO TOURIST'S OBSERVATIONS ON JAPANESE IRISES IN JAPAN

Bob Swearengen's library has two books, both published in 1908, containing comments on Japanese irises which are interesting in this year to say the least.

The first quotation is taken from Tarkington Baker's YARDS AND GARDENS.

"And have you ever seen a hundred plants of the Japanese (irises) in bloom? It is a sight worth traveling far to see. In Japan they are grown by the million, and during their season of bloom the little empire is a paradise of color - marvelous and exquisite color. The Japanese have been cultivating the iris for generations, and they have brought to bear upon its flowers all the wonderful skill for which they have been noted. Travelers have remarked the iris gardens ever since the tourists began to journey to Japan, but, strange to say, these irises, known as *I. laevigata* or *I. kaempferi*, as they are called by the trade, are as easily grown as a potato, perfectly hardy, demanding but little attention and were until recent years but little known in America. Yet importations were made among the first products brought over from the land of the Mikado. We have been dilatory in planting them, but now, however, they are planted by the thousand every season in America, and each season the demand increases".

Baker continues saying that though Japanese irises "thrive best and the flowers attain greatest size" in "the water garden", it is not necessary to have a water garden to have them. He then gives directions for deep preparation of a bed with "liberal amounts of well-rotted manure spaded in".

The second book, THE FLOWERS AND GARDENS OF JAPAN, by an English woman, Florence Du Cane, clearly was written as a record of sensitive appreciation of the art expressed in her subject matter. The book has numerous full-page colored reproductions of paintings by Ella Du Cane. The following quotations are taken from her book.

"If I were to be asked which of all the show gardens in Japan - a garden devoted to the cultivation of one especial flower - gave me most pleasure to visit, I should unhesitatingly answer Hori-Kiri, the garden of the hana shobu or Iris Kaempferi, in the neighborhood of Tokyo. Throughout the month of June this garden remains a feast of subdued colour; for the iris is no gaudy, flaunting flower, but a delicate blossom shading from pure white, through every shade of mauve and lilac to rosy purple, and so deep a blue as to be almost black. In the first days of June the paths winding through the rice fields from the banks of the river Sumida will be crowded with sight-seers whose steps are all bent in one direction and with one intent - to pay their annual visit to Hori-Kiri; and throughout the month this never-ending stream continues from early dawn until the setting of the sun or the rising of the moon. Flower sellers there will be too, one with only a modest bunch of half-opened buds in a wooden tub shaded from the sun by a large umbrella.... made of pale yellow paper, large and flat, with bamboo ribs, the owner's name inscribed in bold, black Chinese characters - or farther on a little stall decked with lanterns, and a gay-coloured curtain with some device suggestive of the iris; tiny toys, little fairy baskets of split bamboo with just one iris blossom or fans painted with a giant bloom covering the whole fan, and other dainty trifles, to carry home to the little ones left at home or as a souvenir of this iris land.

"The garden of Hori-Kiri must be of very ancient date, as the fine old pine trees, dwarfed and gnarled juniper bushes, are not the growth of this generation, or even the last. The garden is said to date from some three centuries, and to be handed down from father to son, always in the same family. Nothing could be more perfectly laid out for the proper display of its especial flower, the shaping of the beds, the placing of the bridges, and even the colouring of the summer houses in which to entertain their host of guests - all has been thought out by this artistic family; and last, but by no means least, the clothing of the little maids who wait on them with untiring zeal- their kimonos and obis all harmonising in colour.

"I have lingered too long on the surroundings of the flowers, and the reader will want to know more of this wonderful flower which deserves so much attention - it does indeed deserve attention, for surely by the middle of the "dew month" it is hard to imagine anything more beautiful than the scene which meets the eye. Some seventy varieties of this king of irises are grown, many raised from seed and jealously treasured by the owner of the garden. There are early and late varieties, three weeks almost between their time of flowering, but by the second week in June the second blooms of the early varieties will have opened and the first blooms of the later ones, so the effect is as if all were flowering together; every shoot of the plant seems to bloom; there are no gaps in their serried ranks. The mere variety is amazing. Some are pure white, only veined with a faint tinge of green; some have a margin of lilac; some are shaded; some mottled; but surely the most beautiful all is just a great single bloom of one shade, be it white, lilac or blue. Many people prefer the duplex flowers with an inner row of small petals, but to me this form seemed to have lost some of the natural beauty and grace of the true iris.

"August appears to be the especial month for dividing the roots or replanting them, so that month had better be chosen as the beginning of the iris year. The yellowing foliage is ruthlessly cut to half its natural height and the plants divided, for no clump is ever allowed to grow so large and old that it is hollow in the center; the outer shoots appear to be the strongest, and have the most promise of bloom the following year. The beds are sunk a foot or so below the paths; and the rich soil is like a quagmire, not with standing water, but like swampy ground. In November the plants are all cut down, in preparation for the first fressing of manure in December. The liquid manure is liberally applied, once toward the end of the year, and then again after an interval of a few weeks, the final dressing being given in January. By February the growth has started, and once the young leaves appear there can be no more manuring, or the foliage would suffer. From now until the time of flowering, the regulation of the irrigation seems to be the chief matter to ensure success in their cultivation. Each variety has its own special name, generally with some poetical meaning, but difficult for the European ear to grasp, and I noticed that, no doubt for the sake of the foreign market, all the rows were numbered as well as named.

"Do not imagine that this is the only iris garden of Japan. There are many others, though I always think that Hori-Kiri ranks first, not only for the beauty of the garden, but the actual flowers seem larger and better grown than anywhere else. Only a few minutes' drive from Hori-Kiri will take you to Yosheno-en, celebrated for its wisteria as well as its iris. The ground is larger than Hori-Kiri and the irises are well grown, but as the garden is not devoted entirely to their culture the effect is not so pleasing. The whole district almost

seemed to be devoted to the culture of shobu - many, many fields of them I passed; but as they are grown entirely for the sake of cutting the blooms for market, there is never any mass of colour to be seen.

"The gardens at Kabata, belonging to the Yokohama Nursery Co., are perhaps the most extensive iris gardens in Japan; I felt almost dazzled and bewildered by the very size of the grounds - acres of irises - a beautiful sight; but I never derived the same pleasure from it as from the smaller garden. The iris is one of the few flowers which seems to be allowed to enter into the precincts of a true Japanese landscape garden: in many a private garden a stream will be diverted to feed an iris bed, placed where a piece of swampy ground would be most in keeping with the rest of the miniature landscape; or even the margin of a tiny lake will be utilized for just a few plants of shobu. I remember seeing an old priest tending his little colony of irises, which no doubt were chosen with great deliberation from a large collection for some special beauty. How often have I seen an old man and woman considering on which particular favourite their few sen shall be expended, and then, departing, the happy possessor of a new treasure to add to their little store. My friend the priest's collection all grew in pots; they did not look as though they would attain their full height and beauty; but as if to reward the loving care bestowed on them they all showed promise of flower; and no doubt in due time they will have been arranged to give the best effect and the greatest pleasure to their grower.

"I asked a Japanese who, with his little gentle wife, was sitting with quiet contemplation and evident enjoyment of the scene, to tell me something of the flower as it appeals to the Japanese, and he said: 'We live here in the choicest floral kingdom; and to our mind the flowers are beautiful, and we do not ask why or how, the sight of their beauty is far more real to us than any meaning which they suggest. You will find no other nation like Japan, which loves nature in her varied forms and holds communion with all her aspects*; we love the iris as a flower but as nothing else. I cannot make my mind associate with it any meaning of zeal or chivalry, nor do I think of it as any messenger; it appeals to me only as a quiet little beauty of the water side, making friends with the sadness of the rainy season. In our poems the iris is almost inseparable from water; one of our celebrated poetesses has written the following seventeen-syllable poem -

Midzu ga kaki,	(Water was the painter,
Midzu ga kashkeri,	Water was again the eraser,
Kakitsubata	of the beautiful fleur-de-lis.)

It is the universal custom throughout Japan to celebrate the fifth day of May by hanging bunches of shobu beneath the eaves of our houses and to put them in the hot water of the public baths, as it is perfectly delicious for the bathers to inhale their odour. We also drink Sake in which they have been steeped. I felt proud to hear that the fleur-de-lis, as I believe you call the iris, is the national flower of France, as I like to think it has found a home in the West, and when I was told that the flower which was put above Solomon's greatest glory was not the lily of our country, but that of the iris family, I felt glad and agreed with it' ".

*Editor's note: Could it be that either the Japanese man being quoted or the author had read Bryant's *Thanatopsis* (published in 1817) which begins with "To him who in the love of nature holds/Communion with her visible forms, she speaks/A various language."?

DISEASE AND PESTS*

(See footnote)

"IRIS (Crested, Danish, Dutch, English, Japanese or Kaempferi, Spanish, Siberian, Tall Bearded or German, and Zua).

1. Crown, Rhizome, Bulb or Crown Rots, Root Rots-....young fans may fail to grow in the spring. Leaves turn yellow, wither and die. Leaves suddenly wilt and collapse or die back gradually from the tips. ... Roots may decay; be few or none.... Control: Plant from disease-free stock in clean or sterilized soil. Before planting soak rhizomes or bulbs for ten minutes in a 1:1000 solution of mercuric bichloride..., Semesan solution (1 heaping teaspoonful per gallon), or in phenyl mercury solution for 30 minutes. Follow the manufacturer's directions. Space plants and plant in well-drained soil in a sunny location where these plants have not grown for at least several years. Dig and divide clumps every two to four years. Dry rhizomes or bulbs thoroughly in the sun for several days after digging. (Editor's note: Not Japanese irises). Avoid bruising when digging and cleaning. Avoid wounding leaves and flower stalks and over-watering. (Editor's note: not Japanese irises). Keep down weeds. If rot strikes, dig up plants that are seriously infected. Cut out the rotted areas of slightly infected rhizomes. Drench the soil around infected plants using the same strength of mercuric bichloride (1 pint per square foot) or use Semesan (1 ounce in 3 gallons of water). Phenyl mercury may also be applied following the manufacturer's directions. Repeat the drench treatment 10 days later. Control insects, especially iris borers, using DDT.... Certain fungus rots are controlled by mixing Terrachlor (PCNB) dust into the top 4 to 6 inches of soil about a week before planting. Follow manufacturers directions.

"6. Rusts- More common on wild iris and cultivated varieties of Iris Germanica type. Small, reddish-brown, dark brown or black pustules on the leaves and stems. Often surrounded with a yellowish border. Leaves of certain susceptible varieties may wither and die early...Control: Collect and burn tops in the fall. Most iris varieties are highly resistant or immune. Keep down weeds. If severe enough spray as for Leaf Spots (use Zineb, Phaltan, Captan or phenyl mercury to which detergent or spreader sticker is added) or use dichlone or ferbam.

"8. Bulb or Stem Nematode-Yellow spots or streaks on the stem or sheath. The base of the stem under the outer coatings may turn gray, brown, or lead-colored and streaked.....Infested plants may be stunted and dry up prematurely. Roots discolored, decayed or lacking. Control: Plant nematode-free stock in clean soil. If suspicious, treat dormant iris bulbs by soaking in hot formalin solution, 1:200, (1 teaspoonful of 37%-40% commercial formaldehyde in 1 quart of water) at 110°F for 3 hours. Dry and plant as soon as possible.

"9. Meadow or Root-lesion, Lance, Root Plate, Pin, Spiral Nematodes-Plants dwarfed. May die from rotting of the roots. Root system is often matted and "tufted". Younger, newer roots have small reddish-brown spots on them. Rot organisms and blue-mold often later destroy the infested bulb. Control: Plant nematode-free stock in soil pasteurized by heat or chemicals. Destroy badly infested plants."

*This article consists of portions of "How To Control Plant Diseases In Home and Garden" by Malcolm C. Shurtleff published in 1966 by Iowa State University Press and is reproduced with permission from the publisher.

SNAPS AT THE 1969 AIS CONVENTION
MILWAUKEE, WIS.
MAY 4-7, 1969



Bee Warburton



L. to R., Ben Hager,
Eleanor Westmeyer, Bill Gunther



L. to R., W.A. (Arlie) Payne,
Mrs. Art Hazzard, W.E.Ouweneel,
Eleanor Westmeyer, Art Hazzard



Virginia McClintock

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

FINANCIAL STATEMENT January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1969

Cash in savings account \$228.98

Cash in checking account as of January 1, 1969 ... \$34.46

Deposits

Dues paid direct	\$ 14.00	
Dues through AIS	228.50	
Sale of Check List	2.00	
Sale of back issues Review	7.00	
	<u>\$251.50</u> 251.50
		<u>\$285.96</u>

EXPENSES

Printing of Review, April	\$ 80.00	
Printing of Review, Dec.	132.38	
Postage	1.60	
Nominating Committee ...	10.20	
Bank service charges ...	10.41	
	<u>\$234.59</u> 234.59
Cash in checking account Dec. 31, 1969		<u>\$ 51.37</u>

Total cash on hand December 31, 1969

Savings account	\$228.98
Checking account	<u>51.37</u>
	<u>\$280.35</u>

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