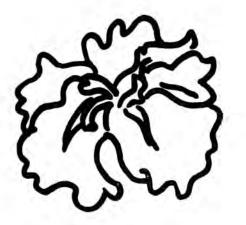
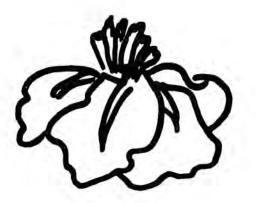
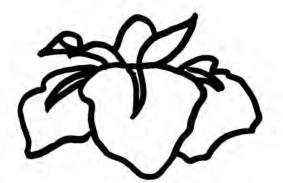
VOLUMN 9, NUMBER 1

APRIL 1972







THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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OF

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APPOINTMENTS

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

What a joy it is to see those first green iris tips popping up. After such an erratic winter, we wondered what would be left in the garden. Now that our belated cold weather seems to be gone, we can look forward to the bloom season with high hopes. There are many new varieties from Japan, the West Coast, replacements and new introductions to bloom for the first time. Do drop in to see them if you are nearby.

If you are planning on attending the American Iris Society convention in Portland, Oregon this year, plan to get there early enough to attend our meeting on Wednesday morning, May 24th from 10 to 11:30 A. M. We will have slides to show and hope to have lots of time to get acquainted.

As you can see from our Treasurer's annual report, we are barely making ends meet this year. If it were not for the money earned at our auction, we would have to use our reserve account to publish THE REVIEW. I have held up publication for several weeks for our quarterly payment from the AIS Treasurer, so that we can handle the mailing expenses without touching the savings account. We will need to do some serious evaluating during the coming months to decide how to meet rising publication costs. Should we raise our dues--or can we get enough new members to increase our income adequately?

Will you help us with a contribution of plants for our fall auction? You need not dig the plants until they are sold. Just send me a card listing the varieties you wish to donate and the successful bidder will contact you for shipping at the proper time.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so when you pay your AIS dues. The reminder sent to you from St. Louis provides a place for you to check the Sections you wish to join. One check, payable to the American Iris Society, then covers all of the Iris Societies that you wish to join. Remember, in order to remain a Section of the American Iris Society, all of our members must also belong to the AIS. A double membership--in AIS and our Society makes a very nice gift for someone you know who is fond of irises.

Our thanks to Mrs. Edith Cleaves and Mrs. J. A. Crist for serving us for double terms as Directors. Their wonderful cooperation has been a great help.

Now, we welcome another very capable Board of Directors: Mrs. F. W. Warburton, Mr. Leonard Jugle and Mr. William Gunther. With their help, I am sure the Society for Japanese Irises will continue to grow and prosper.

Do plan to visit some of the gardens featuring Japanese irises near you this summer. Don't forget the Region 6 tour of our Editor's garden in Terre Haute, Indiana on June 25th. And take lots of pictures!

See you in Portland.

Eleanor Westmeyer

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HYBRIDIZING JAPANESE IRISES A. H. Hazzard

As an introduction to a nontechnical discussion of my hybridizing practice, handling of seeds and seedlings, standards for introduction, etc., as related to Japanese Irises, I cannot improve on the words of Mr. W. A. Payne which appeared in the May, 1962 issue of The Review; "... the routine methods employed in originating new varieties of irises are almost as numerous as the persons engaged in the hybridization. The following program, long used by the writer, has given satisfactory results although it may appear unnecessarily fussy and, no doubt, varies in many respects with the methods employed by other growers, it probably is as simple as is compatible with accuracy, which in my opinion is of the utmost importance in any well organized breeding program. Though it well serves my purpose it will not apply equally well for everyone and more than likely the beginner after a time will adopt a routine better suited to his individual needs."

Then follows a detailed description of his procedure which all having access to the issue in question would do well to review. Briefly, for the benefit of those not so fortunate, he recommends very early morning removal of anthers, covering blooms, second day pollination, re-covering bloom and tagging. I follow this routine whenever possible but occasionally other commitments have forced me to complete the process in one day but with much poorer results. I make reciprocal crosses and favor a numerical code for tagging to minimize chances of illegible tags from weathering, the code and other pertinent information being recorded in a daybook. And, where space will permit, I do not ignore attractive bee-pods, especially if they have some aristocratic neighbors nearby. Probably most Japanese Iris growers have more consideration for the beauty of the bloom than its pedigree and there is always the chance that one may hit the jack-pot with another "Snow Flurry" to increase enthusiasm and improve bloodlines.

Seed is gathered as the pods begin to crack open or when the stalks are brown. As the ripening period extends through September and October, I find it convenient to cut the pods with a three inch stem and stick them into the sand of the cold frame until all have been gathered. If I am forced to cut some a bit early the ripening process appears to continue. Freezing of seed seems to increase and speed up germination so if spring planting or general distribution is planned, a few hours in the deep freeze is beneficial. I prefer October planting 1/4 inch deep in a cold frame the year of harvest and let Jack Frost do the work. Japanese Iris seeds remain viable for long periods. In the summer of 1970, I found a 1964 Veinette pod in my office and out of curiosity planted the contents in October, 1970. Forty-four seeds germinated and the variety averages about 50 per pod. For a germinating medium I use three inches of clean plasterer's sand on a garden soil base in a cold frame. The seeds are planted generously (they like company) in rows about four inches apart, labeled, covered with a heavy leaf mulch and no glass. In the spring when frost is out of the ground, the leaves are removed and the glass sash replaced. The planting is watered freely on a daily basis. A planting chart made in October enables me to replace any labels which may have been dislodged in removing the leaves and there is a three-inch space between varieties in the rows. If the cold frame is not shaded, white plastic netting may be substituted for the glass or the glass may be white-washed. The sand prevents damp-off and if transplanting is delayed, seedlings' roots reach the underlying soil and growth continues. Dr. Hirao uses river sand (no salt) and vermiculite and sand mixes are also satisfactory. My efforts to germinate the seed under lights have been very unsatisfactory.

I do not use flats but line out the seedlings around July 1st, about three inches apart and provide shade and daily watering for two weeks, or longer if little or no rain. When planting space has been limited, I have used a twoinch spacing without serious difficulty as all plants which have bloomed are removed the same year, the numbered ones for dividing and the others for composting. The original planting is continued for two more years on the same basis and the balance destroyed thereafter. I have not found seedling bloom variation sufficiently troublesome that it interferes with this program and it enables me to eliminate the cultivars which resent transplanting as well as determine if some of the tardy bloomers are worthy. Minuet In Blue was in the latter class, no bloom until the fourth year but then a large plant with about ten beautiful stalks of miniature blooms which captured the hearts of all the arrangers who saw it. Tardy blooming is not apparent in the cultivars.

Yellow foliage often indicates lack of acid in the soil and I first try an application of aluminum sulphate solution - 1 handful to 12 quarts of water. Most respond to it but some seedlings seem unable to manufacture chlorophyl and usually die in a short time. Foliar feeding has helped to establish and invigorate a planting of weak cultivars, heightening the blue-green color of the foliage so much desired. I plan to continue it as needed.

Numbering of worthy plants is done daily using 8" plastic labels good for two or three years. The number and description of the flower is entered in a daybook and the date of the first bloom is recorded in a similar record. It is surprising how punctual these first blooms are regardless of seasonal variations. Plots are lettered, rows are numbered and planting order and quantity are also recorded in a daybook from original sheets made at the time of planting. Annually, numbered cultivars are selected for increase and the divisions are planted wherever space permits without destroying the original planting. Crossindexing enables one to locate the stock easily although it is not in a single location. A 3 x 5 card is maintained for each named variety and a similar card for each row. Individual cards show name, origin, date, short description, location, quantity, awards, source and original record folio. Unregistered numbers are recorded in order on sheets showing location by row numbers. Row cards show order of planting, numbers, names and quantities.

Programs for selections of seedlings for registration and introduction probably vary as much as in hybridizing but for me the subject must first measure well up on the scale for point judging supplied in the Judges Handbook. The color must be clear and pleasing, the form good even if new, bloom habit free, size not too important and overall not too similar to varieties currently available except where there is some marked improvement. Exact duplicates probably never occur but the beautiful illustration included in the brochure of Dr. Hirao's book caused me to wonder where they obtained a picture of Prairie Indigo. As one cannot be familiar with all varieties under cultivation the world over, it is quite possible that there are numerous cases of close similarity but I doubt if many occur in introductions from a single source.

Just a word about The Dykes Memorial Medal: We now have six splendid Japanese Irises which have been voted the W. A. Payne Award, Strut and Flourish, Leave Me Sighing, Dancing Waves, Star At Midnight, Worley Pink and Numazu, all eligible for Dykes competition, save possibly Strut and Flourish because of the four-year limitation, so why not recommend them for consideration by all the A.I.S. judges we know or can contact? We might not make it in '72 but it would be a step in the right direction and might bring recognition to winners in more classes other than TB's. The JI's can stand the competition so here's hoping!

CROSSING IRIS KAEMPFERI AND IRIS PSEUDACORUS Dr. Shuichi Hirao

To introduce yellow color into Iris kaempferi by crossing Iris pseudacorus on Iris kaempferi has long been tried with no success, as the resulting seedlings invariably lack chlorophyll entirely and soon die. However, the reverse combination succeeds occasionally and two people have flowered the hybrid independently for the first time in 1971. They were Mr. Yoshiharu Ueki, an amateur hybridizer in Yokohama, and Mr. Onshin Sakurai, a collaborator of Dr. Koji Tomino in his university.

First, according to Mr. Ueki's record: In 1969 he pollinated a white variety of Higo Iris kaempferi on I. pseudacorus. The anthers of the pod parent were removed before opening but no bags were put on the flowers after pollination to avoid the bees. Six seedpods were obtained from about forty crosses, four of which were quite irregularly shaped but the other two were normal and in later years grew up to ordinary I. pseudacorus proving that the pod parent had been bee crossed. From the other four seedpods three seedlings germinated and two of them survived to maturity. Though these two hybrid plants are vigorous and rapid increasers, the new leaves are always pale yellow green but become greener afterwards. The yellowness differs, however, from that of iron-deficiency symptom where the veins are light green on yellower background. Looking at a leaf blade of the hybrid against sunlight the green network, which is most prominent with I. pseudacorus but almost invisible with I. kaempreri, remains but vaguely. In late June 1971 one plant of the hybrids flowered for the first time. Only two bloomstalks on this plant of eighteen fans probably showed this hybrid to be a shy bloomer, or it rather may be that the plant had been underfed while it had been increasing rapidly. The bud was pure yellow and light lemon yellow when opened. The flower was six inches across, the falls being 2 1/8 inch long, 2 1/3 inch wide. One of the two bloomstalk set only one bud but another set two buds. One flower lasted for only two days, being less than either parent. Leaves were 23 inches at the longest and 5/8 inch wide. The flower had very small amount of pollen and, using it on two I. kaempferi varieties was unsuccessful. However, crossing I. Kaempferi pollen on the hybrid the pod started swelling for a while but soon died off.

Next, according to Mr. Sakurai's record, he crossed 94 flowers of I. pseudacorus with I. kaempferi since 1967, obtaining seven seedpods containing 145 seeds, from which 43 seedlings were obtained. The reverse combination of crossing, however, produced 27 seedpods from 691 crossings but none of them germinated. One of the former seedlings flowered in June 1971. The color was light yellow and the flower was about six inch across. The color of foliage and the prolific habit are quite similar to Mr. Ueki's plants. An interesting difference was that the brown marking around the eye of I. pseudacorus was almost invisible with Ueki's plant while it was prominent with Sakurai's plant, the former seems nearer to pollen parent while the latter to pod parent. Chromosomes were counted on Sakurai's plant to be 2n = 29 showing the mean half of its parents.

From these two experiments, it does not seem easy to carry on breeding with these F_1 hybrids because they seem highly sterile, but it may be an interesting way to use different varieties of I. kaempferi as pollen parent because hundreds of garden cultivars are at hand, in the same way as Paeonia lutea was pollinated with many different Chinese tree paeonies to produce many new hybrids on each combination.

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ROBIN GLEANINGS

The following notes are taken from a recent flight of Robin No. 6.

Eleanor Westmeyer tells how Time-Life Books sent a photography crew to her garden, set up a studio in a neighbor's garage and then spent about eight hours and 35 rolls of Kodachrome II shooting about a dozen stalks of cut iris.

Bee Warburton wants ' some advice on how to develop pollen on varieties with petaloid styles." If you can help her, please send your answer to the Editor also for the benefit of other hybridizers.

Art Hazzard received numerous compliments for his Numazu and Love Song.

Edith Cleaves prefers vermiculite for germinating seeds. She says, "I get clean roots and strong plants at transplanting time." She uses bleach jugs to make pots for Japanese irises grown in shallow pools, uses the sides of jugs to make labels and the tops to make funnels.

* * * * * * * * * *

In a subsequent flight Eleanor reports: "After all the fussing that TIME-LIFE did about photographing Japanese irises, the Editor informed me that they were not going to use any of the pictures that they took! Perhaps it is just as well. They were only interested in artistic photography. Names of varieties didn't matter at all to them."

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There are two active JI Robins, each having about ten members. They swap experiences and ask questions. If you wish to join, write to Eugene H. Wagner, Robin Chairman, 1473 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43201.



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Taken at Tokyo in June. Newly divided fans planted in small pots. In September plants are transplanted to large pots. They bloom the following summer.

VISIT JAPANESE IRIS GARDENS

The following public gardens and SJI members extend an invitation to all interested persons to visit their gardens during Japanese iris bloom this year. Dates given are best for optimum bloom. See the membership list in this issue for further address details.

Rex and Jonnye Rich, Citrus Heights, Cal., May 10 to June 30.

W. J. Gunther, Del Mar, Cal., best dates varies with season during April and May. Bill suggests visitors check with him prior to visit.

Melrose Gardens, Stockton, Cal., May 20 to June 10.

Eleanor Westmeyer, Stamford, Conn., July 1 to 15.

Arthur H. Hazzard, Kalamazoo, Mich., June 28 to July 10.

Swan Lake Iris Gardens, Sumter, S.C., May 25 to June 10.

Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, June 20 to July 5.

Frank Foley, Davenport, Ia., June 25 to June 30.

Russell Isle, West Terre Haute, Ind., June 20 to June 30.

Adolph Vogt, Louisville, Ky., June 15 to June 20.

Ford Grant, Davenport, Ia., June 25 to June 30.

Dr. R. Dean Wilkinson, Lebanon, Tenn., June and July.

Walter Marx, Boring, Ore., dates not known.

Portland City Park, Portland, Ore., dates not known. Entrance fee \$1.00.

Thornton W. Abell, Santa Monica, Cal., June 15 to August 1.

Vay B. Sargo, Hot Springs, Ark., June.

Edith Cleaves, San Jose, Cal., June and July.

Cloyd Sensenbach, White Have, Pa., June 15 to July 15.

W. E. Ouweneel, Terre Haute, Ind., June 20 to 30.

Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, June 20 to July 5.

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THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - January 1, 1971 to December 31, 1971

CASH IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT - January 1, 1971	\$ 239.34 138.29
DEPOSITS Dues \$ 193.00 Iris Auction, Region #1 125.00 Sale of Review	333.00 \$ 471.29
EXPENSES Transfer bank accounts, cashier checks and service charge United Bank of California \$ 19.32 Funeral tribute 10.20 Printing Review, April 156.79 Postage for Review, April	
editor	329.14 \$ 142.15
Interest received	\$ 244.73
TOTAL CASH ON HAND - DECEMBER 31, 1971	\$ 386.88

Ford L. Grant, Treasurer

Section of THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

RR 31, Box 206, Terre Haute, Ind., 47803 March 27, 1972

Mrs. Eleanor Westmeyer, President, The Society For Japanese Irises

Dear Eleanor:

In accordance with "rticle IX of the Bylaws of the Society For Japanese Irises the Nominating Committee nominates Mrs. N.R.Carrington of San Diego, California, to serve on the Nominating Committee during 1972, 1973 and 1974 succeeding Mrs. Vay B. Sargo whose term expired at the end of 1971.

Mrs. Carrington has given permission to be nominated.

Yours truly,

W.E.Ouweneel, Chairman, Nominating Committee

Copies to Mrs. Virginia McClintock Mrs. Vay B. Sargo Mrs. N.R.Carrington

ALABAMA

Mr. & Mrs. Julian Ross, 402 Mountain Gap Rd., SE, Huntsville, 35803 Mrs. Paul Frank Boon, 2761 Millbrook Rd., Birmingham, 35243

CALIFORNIA

Mr. Thornton M. Abell, 469 Upper Mesa Rd., Santa Monica, 90402
Mrs. Charlotte M. Adams, 7802 Kyle St., Sunland, 91040
Mr. Robert C. Brooks, 418 Buena Creek Rd., San Marcos, 92069
Mrs. Walter Bunker, Jr., 4721 Bancroft St., San Diego, 92116
Mr. N. Reavis Carrington, 6283 Buisson St., San Diego, 92122
Mrs. J. H. Chenoweth, 7606 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, 92045
Mrs. Edith S. Cleaves, 676 Downing Ave., San Jose, 95128
Mr. Ben R. Hager, Melrose Gardens, 309 Best Rd., So., Stockton, 95205
Mr. Herbert J. Holland, 200 Bently Circle, Los Angeles, 90049
Mr. & Mrs. Carl A. Jones, Star Route Box 62, Lucerne Valley, 92356
Mt. Diablo Iris Society, Station A, P.O. Box 20-3096, Concord, 94524
Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Rich, 8501 Sunrise Ave., Citrus Heights, 95610

COLORADO

Leona Glee Lofton, 3279 South Franklin St., Englewood, 80110

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Mr. Harley E. Briscoe, Route 1, Whitehall, 62092 Mr. Leonard Jugle, 261 W. Grantley Ave., Elmhurst, 60126

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 Mr. Robert Mueller, Chairman - Garden Club, Room 2F-201, Belle Tele. Laboratory, Holmdel, 07733
 Mrs. Fred P. Walther, 474 Upper Mountain Ave., Upper Montclair, 07043

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Mr. & Mrs. Orrin E. Merrill, Box #82, Gossville, 03239

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B. J. Brown, Route #3, Box #327-D, Charlotte, 28210

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PENNSYLVANIA

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SOUTH CAROLINA

Sumter Parks and Recreation Dept., 38 East Calhoun St., Sumter, 29150

TENNESSEE

Mrs. Quay P. Bauman, 3622 Lakeview Rd., Memphis, 38116 Mr. William T. Bledsoe, Rt. 4, Fayetteville, 37334

TEXAS

Mr. & Mrs. Jim D. Coward, 515 West Park, Waxahachie, 75165 Mr. John Rogers, Hondo Nursery, Hondo, 78861

VIRGINIA

Mrs. Hunt Nenon, Box #705, Chatham, 24531 Mrs. Charles F. Roberts, 226 Forrest Ave., Norfolk, 23505 Dr. Harvey N. Wingfield, Rt. #1, Box 395, Glen Allen Mrs. Lloyd Zurbrigg, 903 Tyler Ave., Radford, 24141

WASHINGTON

Mr. B. LeRoy Davidson, 911 Western Ave. #200, Seattle, 98104

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Iris Society, Mrs. Susan Troka, Lib., 2511 E. Denton Ave., Milwaukee, 53207

ARGENTINA

Mrs. T. E. B. Poole Jr., Lavalle 152, Temperley, Prov. de Buenos Aires, So. America

CANADA

Canadian Iris Society, Mr. O. L. Kummer, 997 Vine St., Preston, Ontario

JAPAN

Akira Horinaka, 113 Tojraku Cho, Nishinomiya Shi, Hiyogo Ken The Japan Iris Society, Manchidani 8-7, Nishinomiya City Mr. Mototeru Kamo, 110 Harasato Kakegawa-Shi, Shizuoka-Ken

SWITZERLAND

Sir Peter Smithers, c/o Credito Svizzero, Casella Postale CH-6901, Lugano (Tic.)

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