

THE REVIEW
OF
THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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Lots to Learn

Most of you must have had a better bloom season last summer than I did.

It really was the tall bearded irises fault. A year ago I had to dig, divide and replant all the tall bearded irises. It was an extensive job and it lasted much too long. In my frost-free climate in Santa Monica, we sometimes take advantage of it. When I had finished that job, it was well into December. I looked at the mass of Japanese irises in thick clumps. They had to be done too. I had been told they were not too fussy---so I dug, divided and replanted them. There was so much of each, I called iris friends and others to come and take the surplus. I suspect they may have had the same trouble I did. The plants were slow coming back except for several determined ones. By blooming time, most of them had grown, but much shorter, with very few blooms on a very few varieties. I am now convinced they must be divided much sooner. There is no end to learning.

I hope next year will be better---for all of us---for those just starting and for the experienced ones.

Thornton M. Abell
President

I. Pseudacorus x I. Kaempferi Hybrids

Since Iris pseudacorus x I. kaempferi hybrids have been made your editor has wondered how this could be done in view of the fact that his I. pseudacorus finish blooming two weeks before his first JIs bloom and particularly that I. pseudacorus was used as the pod parent for the hybrids.

Dr. Hirao was asked how the pollination was accomplished and has written as follows:

"I did not ask Oosugi but Ueki said he found a white JI flowering at the same time as I. pseudacorus. You know some JIs flower very early, though the flower is simple and rather small. The next time such a cross is attempted, I believe one should pot some good JIs, keep them warm to force them for two weeks or so and then use the pollen on the I. pseudacorus. Oosugi, Ueki, and Dr. Tomino used pollen of white JIs as they wished to produce yellow JIs. This line, of course, is worth repeating but using pollen of JIs with other colors should also be interesting. Using pollen of a purple JI to produce a "red" one for example as hybridizers have successfully done

with bearded irises, Louisianas and spurias. Further, I do not believe that *I. kaempferi* x *I. pseudacorus* is impossible thus using *I. kaempferi* as the pod parent. Many years ago I put *I. pseudacorus* pollen on JIs. After pollinating dozens of flowers I succeeded in getting about twenty seeds. They produced, however, albino seedlings which died for lack of chlorophyll. I found that there is a great difference in the acceptance of *I. pseudacorus* pollen by various JI clones. Some welcome it and others not. I believe that some day we shall find a JI which will serve as a pod parent for *I. pseudacorus* pollen and produce viable seed."

THE MAGNIFICENT HIGO IRIS

Mrs. Phyliss Kokich
Auckland, New Zealand

Though the Japanese irises hold a prominent place in the genus *Iris* and written records of hundreds of varieties date back to the fifteenth century, it wasn't until the latter years they were seen and plants became obtainable here in New Zealand.

About twenty-eight years ago I saw my first informative pictures of Higo irises, which were sent to me by a nursery man.

At much the same time we had moved into our new farm home, and below the house and garden was an unsightly bog where nothing but swamp rushes grew. Having to pass this eyesore often I decided I would do something about it. The best solution seemed to be to fence it in as part of the garden, make water lily ponds in the lowest depression and plant Higo irises in beds surrounding the four ponds. The excavated, heavy, yellow, sticky clay subsoil was placed in bays with large volcanic rock set around the edges.

On the first two feet of subsoil we put plenty of organic manure, worked it in as much as possible and then planted our chosen twenty-four varieties. These included Glamour, Inspiration, Night Music, Monarch, Purple Gown, Royal Robes and Sunnybank, a chance seedling that just appeared in a New Zealand garden approximately thirty years ago. It is still popular, a remontant, and the color is pleasing.

When I planted the irises I did not know whether or not they would grow, for if this dead subsoil was allowed to dry out during the summer it set like concrete with huge cracks forming across it. Only a giant would be strong enough to lift one of these great slabs of concrete-like earth in one piece!

I found that on cleaning the site of the thriving rushes and tilling, the subsoil dried considerably and, to keep the soil from drying and cracking, it was necessary to keep water running into the pools during summer and autumn. The overflow flowed gently over the iris beds keeping them constantly wet. It was not necessary to keep the water running during the winter and spring as most of our yearly average of 70 inches of rainfall fell during that period and kept the diminishing natural seepage very boggy. We farmed in a wet and cold belt and have known over 100 inches of rain to fall in a year. We have also seen our water-lily ponds frozen over until mid-day.

To prevent our plants from rotting, the beds were raised so excess water ran off the crowns. As this was in the nature of an experiment, I was astonished to find that not only did the irises grow, they thrived so well the beds were soon crowded with plants.

Then came the joyous thrill to see my first real live Higo flowers and there were countless numbers of trips down the rock-terraced garden paths to see what new beauty had opened or was opening! Looking down from a rustic bridge, or from the surrounding paths, the water-lily ponds appeared to be sunken pools in a beautiful floral carpet made of masses of Higo irises in every conceivable shade of blue, purple, and wine-red---many being beautifully veined with deeper shades or with white.

To work the soil it was necessary to use a roadworker's pick. It was far too sticky for one to use a spade. This was done only when the plants were lifted for dividing and that was every three years. Owing to the nature of the soil it was impossible to work the organic manure in, so liberal quantities of this was spread over the plants. As the beds were very wet and the irises shallow rooting, due to the soil's being impenetrable, the iris plants lived happily on the wet goodness from the manure. Gradually, year by year, the soil improved and, though heavy and sticky, the iris roots kept penetrating a little further.

As the years slipped by I added new varieties such as: Ruby Ruffles, Summer Storm, Taikairaka, Shikingo, Sea Fury, Indian, Lady Fayre, Maple Mountain, Fascination, Blue Waves, and Botan Sakura.

Ten years ago we moved 130 miles south to Auckland and from scratch made another new garden. Again we started with a lily pond and surrounding beds for Higo irises! The soil was of a clayey type though not so back-breaking to work and make friable. This soil is much drier with a twenty-foot high run-off into the sea estuary below.

Now, with Ned (my husband), who has been converted to irises and lends a hand, our collection has expanded to some 85 varieties. We grow the Higos in varying aspects of soil conditions and methods

and find they can be grown without difficulty. They are most accommodating plants. Water lilies have been discarded to make room for Higos planted in boxes, clay pots and four-gallon polyethylene planter bags for trial. Now, it appears, we will continue only with polyethylene planters. They have the advantage of easier handling, are space savers and are not so noticeable in the water!

The organic manure-enriched soil-filled containers are stood on bricks so the crowns of iris plants are above water level.

With our yearly rainfall of approximately 60 inches here, and when necessary using the hose to keep up the water level, there is no fear of the water becoming stagnant.

We also had Higos growing in the herbaceous borders. This meant a lot of hose-watering in the spring and summer and with heavy competition especially from the hemerocallis the stalks were shorter and the flowers somewhat smaller. They were none-the-less floriferous and made desirable garden plants. However, to save the extra watering, we decided to make polyethylene "baths". After carefully selecting suitable positions, we dug the soil out the required size and to a depth of approximately 20 inches, then lined the bottom and sides of the excavations with heavy grade polyethylene, replaced the organic enriched soil and watered well before planting. Water is thus trapped in the polyethylene "bath," hosing is considerably reduced and suitable bog-like conditions can easily be created when the irises are growing and coming into bloom. Also companion plants do not rob the irises of the moisture. Old baths, tubs, or kitchen sinks buried deep enough in the soil so as not to show their tops for neat appearance are also ideal containers for retaining moisture. We use these smaller items for growing *I. kaempferi* species.

Most imposing, we think, is our 210 foot long, rock-walled, terraced bank which slopes in varying heights down to the sea. Here are Higos in bold groups and clumps with one variety in each group or clump. The size of each is governed by the number of plants available. The plants are never left more than three years before they are dug up, mainly for rejuvenating the soil. This is done more often if time permits. Experience shows that plants benefit if lifted more than once in three years. Our irises planted in four-gallon size planters standing in water pools need to be lifted and divided every year---such is the increase.

I was led to believe, when I first started growing Japanese irises, that they resented disturbance but this is not so. The main rule is not to let the plants die out. If given good enriched soil and "puddled" in, the plants will not look back.

Our yearly attention program, apart from weedking and keeping plants tidy, stresses the importance of moisture during the growing period. Water may be stopped after blooming has finished although,

if the weather is very dry, we extend watering until the autumn rains. We find that Higos grow and bloom all the better for a mulching or dressing of any, or a mixture, of the following: organic manure, compost, sawdust, and spent hops from breweries. The mulching is applied any time during the year according to what and when available. Commercial blood and bone manure is used in making compost and a dressing of blood, bone and potash is given once or twice a year according to supply. We also use a commercial seaweed spray during spring with good results. That sounds like a lot of feeding but in our climate much of the nutrients are washed from the soil.

My favourite time of the year for planting is spring when new shoots make their appearance although they may be moved at other times if there is reason to do so.

The congeniality of Higos is shown by an experience Ned and I had years ago. We were invited to do the pools and rock gardens in a display featuring a "Northland Garden" (our province then) for a "National Show". Why wasn't it held when the irises were in bloom, we asked. Lo and behold, a clump decided to oblige! Never had I moved a clump in bloom before, so with misgivings and painstaking care this wonderful treasure was potted, transported on its long journey and placed in a pool. This remontant iris aroused much interest for its elegant beauty and anonymity. After the three-day "Show" our treasure was replanted in the garden without setback for its unusual experience.

Another wonderful attribute which I think makes Japanese irises so desirable is that they bloom in November and December after the Louisianas, Sibiricas and bearded irises are finished, thus providing continuation of iris bloom and a magnificent splash of colour in the garden at Christmas time.

The many groups of gardeners and flower lovers alike who visit our garden are really captivated by their 10 to 12½ inch blooms of gorgeous satin and crepe-de-chine or velvety textured petals. And to me "Queen of the Orient," as they are affectionately called, is fitting to describe their exotic beauty. The anonymity is now gone and their popularity is now spreading throughout our country.

As it is necessary for me to import new varieties from the U.S. to improve my collection, I shall not append a selection of varieties we grow and just say---We love them all!

JI Seeds

Your Editor has about 400 1976 JI seeds (parentage unknown) which he will divide equally to all SJI members requesting some before January 1, 1977. In the meantime the seeds are being stored in a tightly sealed glass jar under outdoor temperatures.

PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS IN COLOR

Harlan B. Clark

One of my friends who attends most of the national iris and daylily society conventions tells me he noticed at one convention this year that a majority of the happy shutterbugs there were photographing flowers with Kodak Instamatics and other relatively "simple" cameras. So do the members of my immediate family, and perhaps all who do so are completely satisfied with the results.

I guess I was the same until when, some years ago, I began to envy the folks at slide shows who could fill a screen with one of their slides of a single bloom, and I started out on a long and needlessly expensive road that has ended with my being content at last with a single-lens-reflex camera and a macro lens.

There is so much one can learn about cameras, lenses, filters, tripods, auxiliary light sources, films, and dark room techniques that just to glance through a current photographic magazine can make one's head swim. Even the simplest manuals either say too much for the beginner or leave important questions unanswered.

Is there no way that flower lovers can obtain guidance on what kind of equipment to buy at reasonable cost so they can take good "life-size" pictures of their irises, roses and other flowers? Of course there is, but since one can get almost the same result using different techniques, there are several possible answers to each question, all of them more or less right.

I think most amateur color photographers---and even many professionals---would agree that the single lens reflex camera is the best "box" to buy because one is able to see through the viewer and lens the actual picture he or she will be taking. If one can also afford a 50 mm. macro lens, he can get along without any other, since he will be able to focus down on a flower to within 5 or 6 inches, and refocus on a friend or flowerbed across the garden without changing lenses. There are also macro zoom lenses which can do the same and in addition take telephoto shots, but they are more expensive.

Perhaps the next most useful (and less expensive) lens is the wide angle lens with one or more simple and relatively cheap extension tubes for taking closeups. Most wide angle lenses (20 mm. to 35 mm.) have almost no distortion and are blessed with great depth of field, so that pictures taken with them are seldom out of focus. I shall mention only one other possible choice, assuming you already have a camera with a removable standard 50 mm. lens. That is a "telephoto" lens of about 135 mm. which can take good closeups without one's having to get down on one's knees, but it has disadvantages such as short depth of field and the frequent necessity of using a

tripod to get unblurred pictures. Incidentally, unless one finds it hard to hold a camera fairly still, or the light is so poor that a very slow shutter speed must be used, one ordinarily does not need a tripod when shooting with a 50 mm. or shorter focal length lens, and I almost never use one.

This leads me to the last thing I'll mention in this brief discussion, and that is the lighting of flowers to be photographed. While one can take color pictures---some of them very "soft" and interesting---early or late in the day, or otherwise in poor light, the best color rendition can be obtained with the light just strong enough to "burn" evenly through the three pigment layers of a color slide film. If one can choose the time of day to photograph a flower in color, mid-morning or mid-afternoon (not high noon) on a sunny or hazy day is best, and if the flower is partly shaded you can try using a reflector of crumpled aluminum foil fastened to a cardboard or carton stand to throw more light on the darker side of the flower. Some of the best color shots are made this way with back lighting from the sun and the lens carefully shaded from direct rays. I think it is a waste of money to buy ultra-fast lenses for photographing flowers in color: if the light isn't strong enough to enable one to take a picture at f 5.6 or so, the colors may look washed out.

So much for my brief comment. I'm sure there will be others and I'll enjoy seeing them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mrs. Grady Kennedy, 9610 Todd Mill Road, S.E., Huntsville, AL 35803, has requested announcement of the following:
"The 1979 AIS Convention Tour Gardens in Huntsville, Alabama, are prepared to accept guest plants immediately. Hybridizers should contact the Guest Iris Chairman, Mr. T. A. Gilliam, 2022 Rodgers Dr., M.E., Huntsville, AL 35811, telephone 205-536-8777, as to how many and when to ship."
2. Mrs. James Copeland, Mattawan, MI, asks that wherever a JI appears labeled "155 Copeland" it should be changed to "733 Hazzard".

WANTED

Article or articles on flower arrangement using JIs. Write your Editor, W. E. Ouweneel, RR 31, Box 206, Terre Haute, IN 47803.

TETRAPLOIDY - 1976 EXPERIENCE

Dr. E. Currier McEwen

In previous issues of The Review (1,2) I have discussed my use of colchicine to convert Japanese irises to the tetraploid state and have reported the results obtained since I started these efforts. The Editor has suggested that I bring these results up to date and that is the purpose of this article.

For a number of years there were no successful crosses using what appeared to be fully tetraploid flowers, and crosses of my many chimeras (partly tetraploid plants) resulted in only diploid seedlings. However in 1975 five sister seedlings (T_2 73/9-1 through 5) from a cross of two colchicine treated plants proved to be tetraploid and, hence, the first second generation tetraploids became available. As I reported to Bill Ouweneel last year (3), these five sisters are not very impressive. They came from a cross of rather poor three-petaled dark violet-blue flowers and were similar to the parents though slightly larger and more flaring in form. Several successful crosses were made between the sisters and between them and a colchicine induced plant. These third generation seedlings have not yet bloomed but probably will in 1977.

During the 1976 season three new second generation seedlings have bloomed, all from different crosses. The first to bloom was T_2 73/5. One of its parents was my very first induced tetraploid which bloomed in 1965 and which came from seeds given to me by Dr. Hirao from a cross of Ageha x Shikino Hajime. That parent is similar to Ageha but is slightly larger and distinctly more starchy and flaring. The grandchild, T_2 73/5 is still better. Again it resembles Ageha but is larger and flares close to the horizontal. The pattern is "sanded" reddish violet on white (or white on reddish violet) like that of Ageha but there is a one-quarter inch paler border similar to those of Immaculate Glitter and Frostbound but wider. It, like the five sisters of T_2 73/9, has two branches plus terminal. I probably will not introduce it but it shows progress.

The other two new ones (T_2 74/17-2 and T_2 74/38-7) are six-petaled dark violet-blue flowers of rather pleasing flaring form. Several sister seedlings of each should bloom next year. All three of the new second generation plants have set what appear to be good pods this season and I trust, therefore, that in another few years there should be a considerable number of new tetraploids of advanced generation.

Thus far the characteristics of tetraploid Japanese irises are similar to but less striking than those in the case of Siberian irises and daylilies. Most notable is the more "starchy" substance

of the flowers and this gives them their flaring form. The flowers are only slightly larger than those of their diploid parents and several of the T₂ 73/9 sisters are no larger. As in the case of Siberians the stalks and foliage are somewhat larger in width but are not taller. A feature of Siberian irises which provides a quick means of presumptive recognition of tetraploids is the large size of the anthers compared with those of diploids. This feature has been less reliable in the case of Japanese irises for, although the anthers of tetraploids are wider than those of most diploids, they have not thus far appeared to be longer. Colors are richer than those of the diploid parents. This is to be expected since presumably each cell contains approximately twice as much pigment. The definitive identification is, of course, made by microscopically measuring the size of the pollen grains. All of the second generation tetraploids to date have excellent branching and bud count. Probably this is not related to their tetraploid state but to standard genetic principles since I have been working for branching in my breeding program for some time.

It has been common experience with daylilies and Siberian irises that fertility is low in induced tetraploids and in early generations of those from crosses. This has been true for Japanese irises also. Many crosses have failed and most of the successful ones have produced only one to five viable seeds. To my regret, one rather handsome although too short, six-petaled red and white tetraploid induced by Mr. Mitsuda and given to me by Dr. Hirao has given me no seeds in the two seasons I have used it but eventually it may. Certainly one may be confident that fertility will be restored as the generations of tetraploidy advance because that has been the experience with other flowers.

Thus far my tetraploid irises have not been outstanding. However, they have come from rather poor parents and in each instance they have been better than the parents. I am encouraged to believe, therefore, that tetraploidy in Japanese irises will result in some features superior to those of diploids just as has been the case with Siberian irises and daylilies. I will continue my efforts and time will tell.

2 October 1976

References

1. McEwen, C. Efforts to Induce Tetraploidy in Japanese Irises. The Review vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 9-11, April 1971.
2. McEwen, C. 1972 Tetraploidy Report. The Review vol. 10, no. 1, p. 8, April 1973.
3. The Review, vol. 12, no. 2, p. 12, Oct. 1975.

MIDWEST REGIONAL REPORT

Adolph J. Vogt, Reporter

Art Hazzard writes: "The secret of successful summer JI planting is water, water and more water. Doing all the work myself forces me to begin planting at the end of the bloom and I use a lot of city water which tests pH 7.

My bloom was much better than average this year but 7 to 10 days early compared with the previous 19 years. Quite a number of judges dropped in and I received two HMs and three HCs. Number 586 was not among them but it attracted considerable attention because of its red veins on white. I am not pleased with the form but otherwise a good single. Now that the rains have begun I hope for a good increase this fall."

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL REPORT

Bill Gunther, Reporter

It is regrettable, but true, that those of us who receive this publication really are the ones who need it least. We who receive this publication already are very familiar with Japanese irises; we already are growing them and we already appreciate their beauty. With that in mind, let's each of us consider the thought that after we read our copy of this publication, we should pass it on as a gift to some gardening friend who now doesn't even know what a Japanese iris is, along with surplus divisions from a few Japanese iris varieties which have multiplied in our garden to the point of overabundance. Given the built-in traits of gardening friends everywhere the recipient of your gifts quite likely will read through this publication if for no other reason than that it was a gift from you, and will plant your Japanese iris divisions, per the verbal instructions you provide, for the same reason. That having been done, it is quite likely that your gardening friend will become a closer friend than before. Perhaps in a year or two you will become more than just 'gardening friends'; perhaps you will become fellow Japanese iris enthusiasts. Try it.

A somewhat different approach toward making Japanese irises better known and more popular is to make deliberate advance plans to insure that more and more people see them in bloom---either in floral arrangements, or as garden plants, or both.

It probably is true that for floral arrangements---particularly for arrangements with an Oriental theme---the Japanese iris is the most effective and the most desired, but also the least available, of blossoms which might be used by the arrangers. The way in which we, as members of our Society, should respond to this situation is

apparent. If a competitive judged exhibition of artistic floral arrangements is scheduled in our vicinity during our bloom season, we should in advance let the Show Chairman and/or the various arrangers know that we will donate stalks of Japanese irises for the event provided that the entry tag for each relevant entry clearly identifies the blossoms as being Japanese irises. Almost certainly, the arrangements which utilize Japanese irises will win an outstanding share of awards. And very naturally, many of the visitors to the show who see and admire the award-winning arrangements will thereupon want some Japanese iris plants for their own gardens.

Another very effective way to help popularize Japanese irises is to arrange to have potted plants in public display at bloom season. For the past two years, with the very willing cooperation of the local Park Department, hobby growers of Japanese irises who live near San Diego have taken many potted Japanese irises, just coming into bloom, to Balboa Park, where, in the Botanical Building, the pots have been submerged in display pools---with the labels as well as the plants above water. There, in public display, these Japanese irises were admired by many thousands of people, and many who saw them resolved to grow them in their own home gardens. One of the leading local nurseries reported that while the Japanese irises were on display in Balboa Park, customers at the nursery were almost continuously asking for Japanese irises.

The Japanese Iris Section of the American Iris Society is a very small group. It will grow larger only if those of us who are members work not only to publicize the Section, but also to popularize Japanese irises. Let's each of us resolve to do our share.

Do you think it might ever happen that Japanese irises would rate 'equal time' with tall bearded irises at an AIS Regional meeting? Surprisingly, it HAS happened! It happened in October of this year, at the AIS Region 15 Fall Meeting (Region 15 includes southern California and Arizona).

The meeting was convened at one of the big convention hotels in San Diego, and a prime purpose of the event was to provide all the required training requirements for the year necessary to sustain certification of the judges of the region. Accordingly, the largest part of the meeting was allocated to judges training, and it was decided that everyone in attendance at the meeting, whether an accredited judge, an apprentice judge, a student judge, or otherwise, would attend the training sessions.

Detailed plans for the training session were made jointly by Bob Brooks (of Cordon Bleu Farms), who currently is Region 15's RVP; and by Barbara Serdynski, the Region's recently retired RVP, who now is the Region's Training Chairman. They evaluated the needs of this area, after which they planned and set up the meeting with the judges

training portion to be in two sessions, each at a different time, each of the same duration, each to have a different Chairman, and each to be on a different topic.

The topic decided upon for one of the sessions was tall bearded irises, the Chairman selected for that session was Clarke Cosgrove, President of the American Iris Society. The topic decided upon for the other session was Japanese irises; the Chairman selected for that session was Thornton Abell, President of the Society for Japanese Irises.

Clarke Cosgrove gave an excellent presentation on tall bearded irises, the details of which are not pertinent here. Thornton Abell gave an equally excellent presentation on Japanese irises, and a few comments about his presentation are very appropriate for publication here, as follows:

In advance of the meeting, neither Thornton Abell nor anyone else knew how many or how few of the people who would attend the meeting actually themselves grow Japanese irises. But he had the courage, as soon as he took the speaker's stand, to ask for a show of hands from everyone in the audience who actually now has Japanese iris plants growing in their gardens. Up went the hands of what appeared to be about 25% of those in attendance. With that very unexpectedly high response at the very beginning of his session, Thornton Abell had full attention from everyone for the duration of his presentation; after that big show of hands no one could discount Japanese irises as being grown by so few people that a training session on them was not worthwhile.

In fact, the session was very worthwhile. Thornton Abell did a very good job of covering the essential points of what AIS Judges should know while judging Japanese irises in the garden and while judging them in exhibition. His presentation was so well received that there was a surprisingly large amount of audience participation. It was fun to note that most of the questions from the audience actually were not even related to the subject of judging of Japanese irises; the questions from the audience ran off the assigned subject to such things as asking where Japanese irises can be obtained, when they should be planted, and whether in this locality it is best to plant them in specially prepared 'acid beds' or whether it is best to plant them in pots partially submerged in ponds. From this line of questioning it was very evident that Thornton Abell's presentation served more than just to help meet judges training requirements; quite obviously it also served as stimulation to make a good number of additional members of the audience decide to grow Japanese irises.

It was very pertinent that for his San Diego presentation on Japanese irises, Thornton Abell gave as much time to exhibition judging as he did to garden judging. For Region 15, but probably for no other AIS Region, such a balance is valid and appropriate.

The reason for this comment is that in this particular area Japanese irises seem to have different blooming habits than in the rest of the world. Here, some Japanese irises usually are in bloom during the peak springtime TB season, for which reason some Japanese irises appear in the regular springtime iris shows of this area; these are scheduled around the first of May. Some Japanese irises locally are also in bloom two months later, for which reason they are an important part of the two-week-long show at the Southern California Exposition, here in Del Mar, which always is scheduled to include the 4th of July holiday. And at least during some years there are one or more Japanese irises in bloom for San Diego's 'reblooming' iris show in November and/or for Arcadia's (Los Angeles County) 'early' show in January and for its 'aril' show in March. This being so, the AIS Judges in Region 15 clearly have need for specific training for exhibition judging as well as for garden judging of Japanese irises. This contrasts with the situation in the rest of the USA (and with most of the rest of the world) where all iris shows are scheduled for dates on which no Japanese irises are available, for which reason, in those areas, there is no apparent need for AIS judges to study exhibition judging of Japanese irises.

GOLDEN QUEEN - THE BRITISH CONNECTION

Thanks to assistance of Bee Warburton and Roy Davidson, correct a statement ascribed to Mr. Horinaka on page 19 of the April, 1976, issue of The Review. The first paragraph describing his remarks should read as follows:

GOLDEN QUEEN (Aichi no Kagayaki) is a hybrid of *I. pseudacorus* x *I. kaempferi* produced by Mr. Oosugi. The *I. kaempferi* used as parent was a white seedling of HARSUSHIMO x HATSUNAMI.

The following sentence should be added at the end of the remarks:

In England the name GOLDEN QUEEN has been given to a form of *I. pseudacorus*.

The 1939 AIS Check List contains the following on page 445:

"PSEUDACORUS GOLDEN QUEEN, Laev. Y4D (Gibeon, Ltc., 1938)
Yr. Bk. I. S. (E) 1937; R., 1938".

This indicates that a clone of *I. pseudacorus* was registered with the Iris Society (now the British Iris Society) by Gibson, Ltd., in 1938.

John J. Taylor of Missoula, MT, sells "*I. pseudacorus*, GOLDEN QUEEN---wide, brilliant self from England." He obtained his stock from Crpington Nurseries, Surrey, England, who list "*I. pseudacorus* GOLDEN QUEEN, a selected form. . ."

THE JAPANESE IRIS,

by Kuribayashi and Hirao

Owners of copies of the above book will be interested in the following comments on the book. They are made with Dr. Hirao's approval.

Starting in the eleventh line on page 30 of the text the following words appear: ". . .but Nishida's sons, Hirao Shuichi, Mitsuda Yoshio, Oshida Shigeo and others. . ." At least two persons have read these words to mean, and a third person wondered if they do mean, that the three named persons are the sons of Nishida referred to in that sentence. When the question was put to Dr. Hirao he answered as follows"

"Nobutsune Nishida had several sons. One of them, Isea Nishida, who died last year at the age of 72, was a most outstanding successor to Nobutsune Nishida. He introduced many excellent varieties many of which are still highly appreciated. Yoshio Mitsuda, Shigeo Oshida and myself are of different families and are not Nishida's sons."

Also on page 30 appears the statement that W. A. Payne introduced 160 varieties. His final total was 170. And a slight correction--- W. A. Payne's birth year was 1881.

THE BRITISH IRIS SOCIETY

According to the August, 1976, Newsletter of The British Iris Society it has formed The Siberian, Spuria and Japanese Iris Group. This is the first group in the Society limited to certain species. Your Editor will send a copy of this issue of The Review to the Chairman of the Group suggesting that it and the SJI may exchange information to the mutual benefit of members of each organization.

VISITORS WELCOME

You may add the following garden to the JI Garden Directory on page 14 of the April, 1976, issue of The Review:

Samuel J. Harper
RFD #2
Alfred, Me. 04002

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome the following new members to the SJI:

Mrs. Gordon E. Allen, 12335 Orchard Road, Minnetonka, MN 55343.
Mrs. Jesse Cox, 228 Daffodil Lane, Hot Springs, AR 71901.
Mr. J. E. Craig, RDS (Univ. Syd.), 75 New South Head Rd., Vaucluse
NSW 2030, Australia
Mrs. Norman E. Fair, 2235 Talbott Ave., Louisville, KY 40205.
Mrs. Lillian H. Hafely, 564 E. Judson Ave., Youngston, OH 44502.
Mrs. Mary E. Kalkhoven, 17660 SW Oak St., Beaverton, OR 97005.
Mr. Mansel Ocheltree, 201 Oak Park Circle, Parkersburg, IA 50665.
Mrs. Edwin E. Patton, Jr., 2517 28th St., Lubbock, TX 79410.
Mr. Lewis Prestage, 1700 Cottonwood Rd., Bakersfield CA 93307.
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Shook, 3987 Lincoln Lake Rd., Lowell, MI 49331.
Mr. Marvin A. Shoup, Route 2, Box 56, Kankakee, IL 60901.
Mrs. Carol Shute, P.O. Box 68, Gilmantown, NH 03237.
Mrs. Helen Tarr, 820 Riedy Road, Lisle, IL 60532.
Mr. A. Reading Van Doren, 17 Ingleside Rd., Stamford CT 06903.

As of this mailing the SJI has 121 members.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Cliff Benson, Executive Secretary of the AIS, writes:

"I wish it were possible for you to see our new Japanese Iris Garden which is still NOT complete---when finished (before too very long) it will most certainly be a gem for everyone to enjoy. The Japanese Irises that were gifted by Mr. Adolph Vogt are growing nicely and all should bloom in 1977."

Adolph Vogt, who is RVP for AIS Region 7 and our Midwest Regional Reporter, gave 150 JI plants to the Garden.