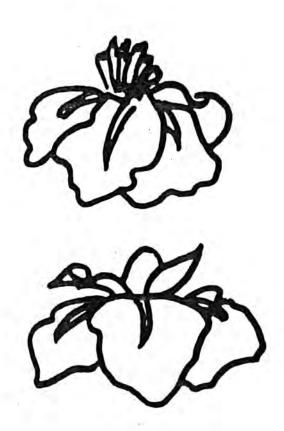


VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1

APRIL, 1978



THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

THE REVIEW

THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

Vol. 15, No. 1		April, 1978
	Contents	
The Adaptable Iris -Abe	11	1
	arden of Pure Clear Harmony	
	Peace - Elsely	
	Abell	
	, Spuria and Japanese Iris	
	p of the British Iris Soci	ety-
	.tt	
MJIWhy Not? - Ross		5
	ama Iris Fan	
Report from Huntsville,	A1	7
Membership Request		7
SJI Minutes		8
[- ^ - [
Treasurer's Report		
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which which	Officers	Action to the second
President	Mr. Thorton M. Abell, 469	
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THE ADAPTABLE IRIS

Thornton M. Abell

After this year, I am sure the Japanese iris will grow anywhere—with flooding in the West and bitter cold in the rest of the country!

My garden was undamaged by the rains in southern California (steady since last Christmas!). In fact all the iris, as well as the weeds, are supremely happy. I look forward to a fine blooming season.

From all reports our society is doing very well. Membership is increasing as well as interest in our iris. It is all very encouraging. Now, if our members will keep sending in reports as to what they are doing and what they would like to see in the Review, we will make more progress still.

We need more hybridizers working toward a wider range in color. It would be nice if we could get flowers that gave a hint of yellow or brown, or even pale torquoise---wishful thinking, but you can't be sure---it just might happen.

Here is to a splendid year for Japanese iris!

SEIWA-EN, MISSOURI'S "GARDEN OF PURE CLEAR HARMONY AND PEACE"

John E. Elsley, Curator of Hardy Plants Missouri Botanical Garden

May 5, 1977, heralded the dedication at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, of North America's largest traditional Japanese garden, a 13.5 acre development christened by its designer, Professor Koichi Kawana, Professor of Art and Lecturer in Environmental Design at the University of California - Los Angeles, Seiwa-En, "Garden of Pure Clear Harmony and Peace." The traditional Japanese dedication ceremony was graced by such notable dignitaries as Japanese Ambassador Fumihiko Togo and Mrs. Togo from Washington, D.C., Japanese Consel General and Mrs. Kiyoshi Sumiya from Chicago and Mayor and Mrs. Setsuji Iwamoto, from Suwa, St. Louis's sister city in Japan. Other officials and representatives of major contributors to the garden present included the National Endowment for the Arts, the Japanese World Exposition Commemorative Fund, the Missouri Arts Council, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and many individual donors. The new garden is constructed around the 4.5 acre lake and includes four islands and two waterfalls. An authentic Japanese Tea House, a gift from Missouri's sister state of Nagano, Japan, dominates the largest island, which is itself

joined to the mainland by two traditional bridges, a Dobashi, or earth bridge, and a Taikobashi, or drum bridge. Other significant elements incorporated into the project include a dry landscape garden, where white sand raked in specific patterns is indicative of water; a series of distinctively styled stone lanterns; a viewing arbor strategically situated among densely planted red-leaved Japanese plum trees; an extensive pebble beach and traditional boat dock. Along part of the southwestern lake shore is the unique zig-zag bridge called Yatsuhashi, a name meaning eight bridges and referring to a place in Mikawa Province, Japan, where in the tenth century a single river branched into eight channels. Each channel was crossed by a bridge around which grew masses of Japanese irises. Professor Kawana has emulated this feature by constructing eight wooden planter boxes situated between the main angles of the redwood bridge and planting each with cultivars of Japanese iris hybrids. Through the generosity of Mr. Adolf J. Voight of Louisville, Kentucky, we received in 1976 a selection of his iris hybrids which, having become established in parts during 1976, were forced into flower early and provided a display of blooms during June, 1977. These plants will now be utilized in other parts of the Garden. We have now installed a permanent planting of twenty iris hybrids planned by Mr. A. H. Hazzard of Kalamazoo, Michigan. The cultivars utilized are Sky and Water, Azure Perfection, Calico Print, Foralpha, Prairie Velvet, Prairie Indigo, Prairie Chief, Premier Danseur, Prairie Star, Prairie Edge, Gossamer Threads, Veined Artistry, Strut and Flourish, Storm at Sea, Velied Vanity, Ruffled Brocade, White Chiffor, Forbeta, Mahagony, and Veined Artistry. In addition to the Japanese irises, the new garden has enabled us to incorporate a range of new plants hitherto not included to any extent in the botanical garden. These include specially trained specimens of Japanese Black, Scots, Austrian, and Mugo pines, the Japanese umbrella pine, Sciadopitys verticillata, several forms of the Japanese maple, Acer palmatum, and two cherries, the pink double flowered Prunus serrulata, "Kwansan" and Weeping Higan Cherry Prunus subhirtella "Pendula." An impressive planting of the Japanese Holly, Ilex crenata "Convexa" and the American Ilex glabra will both one day form excellent hedges. Other shrubs and ground covers extensively utilized include magnolias, azaleas, expecially some of the Kurume cultivars, Euonymous alatus, noted for its brilliant display of fall coloration; quince; both the American and Asian dogwood, Cornus florida and Cornus Kousa; several different crabapples; Korean lilac, Syringa velutina, a delightful species especially suited for small gardens; dwarf bamboo, Sasa pygmea; and several different leaf form cultivars of the excellent Asian plants, Liriope muscari and Liriope spicata; Lily turf and Monkey or Mondo Grass, Ophiopogan japonicum, the latter three being first class ground cover subjects. The Missouri Botanical Garden extends a warm welcome to members of the Society of Japanese Irises to visit St. Louis and enjoy this new development as well as the mano other features to be seen at America's oldest botanical garden.

CORRECTION

On page 15 of the October, 1977, issue of THE REVIEW the first sentence in the article entitled "CLONE" should read: "The word 'clone' is occasionally seen used as a synonym for clump or division."

WHAT WE HAVE TO JUDGE

Thornton M. Abell

Besides sturying the AIS Handbook for Judges, there is really no excuse for not having a few Japanese in your garden. They grow practically anywhere with reasonable care. Growing them, you develop a background for judging them.

The flowers have a variety of shapes: single ones with tiny standards and large falls, and double ones with standards similar to the falls, making a double layered shape. Petal form varies from circular, pointed, tailored, waved or ruffled. Flower form varies from flaring almost horizontally to sweeping down almost vertically and many waved forms between. With man of these, the style arms vary in size and may be flat, vertical or even double.

With all these forms, the one thing most necessary is substance. If the flower doesn't have it, it doesn't last, it doesn't hold its shape and it loses color rapidly.

As well as having a single uniform color, they more often are shaded and flashed lighter or darker toward the center of each petal, or lightly or strongly dotted, or splashed, or edges with contrasting color in great variety. Most flowers have a yellow blaze in each petal but it varies from large to almost none. Colors generally are in a lovely range from white, shades of blue, lavender, pink, red violet, blue violet and pruple, with combinations of these in great variety.

Some varieties do not have branching. If the quality of the flower is exceptional and long lasting, branching is not important. Other varieties often have several branches which increase the number of blooms. If these are well spaced the stalks can be handsome.

Whatever the variety, the plant should be vigorous with good increase most years. If the plant has trouble surviving with reasonable care, it should be discarded. There is no room for poor plants, unless the hybridizer finds some rare quality he hopes to pass on without obvious faults.

Recognizing the wide range of shape, form and color these iris have, you are then at a point where good design has to take over. I am convinced there are a few basic elements that underlie good design in anything, whether flowers, bathing beauties or chairs. You can call it proportion——relationship of parts, of colors, of patterns, whatever makes up the overall design. In addition to this basic design, the details vary from extreme complexity to extreme simplicity. It is in the details that violent differences of taste can occur. As long as the basic design is present, the details are a matter of choice.

Whet it amounts to——the flower and plant should please you. If you have doubts——there is probably a reason. Try to find out what it is that bothers you, and then you can have the pleasure of looking for a better one.

NEWS FROM THE SIBERIAN, SPURIA AND JAPANESE IRIS GROUP OF THE BRITISH IRIS SOCIETY

Jennifer Hewitt

Since the Group was formed in June 1976 it has not had an easy time, and nothing very much has been possible except for keeping it in being. Iosing our mainspring when only three months old was a great blow, but we are hoping that Alex Back's wish to see a flourishing Group devoted to our particular interests will not be long in becoming a reality. The support and encouragement we have received from specialist Societies in America has done a lot to cheer us and we are most grateful for it; our parent Society, the BIS, has also given us help in many ways, without which our problems would be greater.

A Group meeting was held on 14th June, 1977, to coincide with the BIS Late Show and though only a few members could be present, letters of support and offers of help had been received from others. The Chairmanship has been taken over by Max Divis, who I am sure will give us effective leadership. Doris Hansford has offered to continue as Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, and Mr. E. Elliott will look after the Seed Exchange; Jennifer Hewitt will act as Hon. Librarian and also duplicate the Group Newsletter which, it was decided, would now be of greater benefit to us than using the BIS Newsletter. But our thanks are due to the BIS for allowing us to use the Newsletter for the past year, which has been extremely helpful. A possible Editor for the Group Newsletter is to be approached and the permission we have been given to reproduce articles in "The Review" is much appreciated.

Further detailed plans for Group activities will, it is hoped, be made before long, and we feel sure our future is a bright one. We have about 20 members in Britain and overseas and thanks to generous donations are in a good financial position. The past 12 months we have been "marking time" but now we have a sound basis from which to take off. In particular, we hope to encourage more breeding of good British varieties, especially of the Japanese irises. Only a few people are much interested in them at present, but there are signs that the number is growing. Dr. Hirao kindly sent some seed to Doris Hansford earlier in the year and this is being distributed.

At the BIS Late Show held on June 14th and 15th at the Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall in London there were not many Japanese irises to be seen, but those on display included some well-grown spikes. An I. laevigata alba was included in the exhibit of species which won first prize in the major class for them and I. versicolor and I. versicolor kermesina were shown by several exhibitors in different classes. The Species Group display included I. pseudacorus and I. pseudacorus alba (really a very pale cream), I. versicolor and I. versicolor kermesina, and I. shrevei. It was, of course, too early for I. kaempferi and this, I think, partly accounts for the fact that they are not as well known as they should be—the Show is always too early.

When I visited the RHS garden at Wisley next day, none of the I. kaempferi in the rock garden were out, though there were fine large clumps of I. laevigata both variegated and plain in and beside the pools and lake, and the combination of white variegated leaves and deep blue flowers was an excellent example of flowers and foliage complementing each other.

MJI -- WHY NOT?

Skip Ross

Ever since the attractive Japanese Iris has been taken under the wings of iris fanciers and growers, the trend has been toward making this already striking plant even more eyecatching. Primarily, the hybridizers seem to have been breeding for larger blooms, more colorful blooms, more blooms and. . .more, larger, more colorful blooms. Where is it going to end? Are we going to continue in the direction where the bloomstalk becomes a disproportionate monstrosity with three or more dinnerplate-size blooms atop a four-foot stem which is about as thick as one's finger?

Hearkening back to the wonderful Japanese sensitivity for natural beauty, for harmony and proportion, it makes me wonder why we haven't seen a simultaneous movement to develop Miniature Japanese Iris. Whoops, there it is. . MJI.

Several years ago I wrote letters to a number of hybridizers inquiring whether any were growing small or miniature Japanese. The only affirmative response was received from Art Hazzard who stated that his MINUET IN BLUE tended in that direction.

In my estimation there is a lot to be gained from developing a line of Japanese iris which could be used in the foreground planting of small pools and which would fit in better proportion in the small garden. Such iris would not require the judge and viewer to stand on a small ladder to appreciate it at exhibitions. It would be infinitely more suitable as a cut flower in the home. In the April 1977 REVIEW, describing the how and why of Japanese Iris shows, Art Hazzard suggests incorporating a bonsai exhibit in the show to carry out the Oriental motif. In my view, such a suggestion itself beggars the need for miniature iris which would likewise reflect man's patient constraint on nature. So. . .why not MJI? If some hybridizers will develop the trend, I'll volunteer to write the Judging Standards. And. . .I'd plant all that I could get around the base of our Japanese lantern.

LETTER OF THANKS

This finds me a few days from a scheduled business meeting and the program on Japanese Iris I plan to present to members, and by the time you receive this the meeting will be over I'm sure, so I wish to say, "Thank you," JI members and friends for information, study material, and slides to make up the program I presented.

The tall bearded iris society I belong to scheduled programs for 1977 as "Iris Around the World." It has been most difficult to obtain information on the Japanese iris except from AIS and JI members in the U.S.A., and my appreciation and thanks go to everyone who loaned material and assisted me--especially to Mr. Nearpass, Mr. Vogt, Mr. Ghio, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Ross, Mrs. McGahee, Mrs. Deaton, and Mrs. Gertrude Price, the hostess of our meeting.

A listing of 102 Japanese iris was given to each member and an invitation to join the Japanese Iris Society. Several members belong already, and I'm working on the other half.

Lots of the hybridizers and writers who enter articles in "The Review" may feel it repetitious of previous items published, but each article by a writer always adds valuable information for members, old and new. Keep up the good work.

Now, a few comments about the fun I've had this year crossing all the Japanese iris that bloomed in my flower bed. Little pods are presently forming, so I am eagerly looking forward to getting even one this year. About three years ago a friend gave me a greenhouse floral tray (4"x5") full of 1" seedlings. I carefully set them out in a semi-shaded place on the North side of my house. They were watered and pampered but never fertilized or mulched, for I knew nothing about them. But after the first flowers I was hooked for sure, and began to study the material available on JI culture. The seedlings have been in the same spot about 4 years, the leaves and fans are always thin and fragile looking; the blooms would vanish leaving no seed pods. Maybe this is a true characteristic of all Japanese iris——guess I'll find out after more study time is spent on them.

I plan to dig, divide and reset the li-tle fans in a few weeks to new and richer soil. A fan or two was dug in January or February when the shoots first began to appear and put in a pot os soil mixture for experimental purposes. To date the fans are lush green, tripled in size of height and fan base, but have not bloomed. The water and light application of plant food will continue until cooler weather or dormancy, and then the plant will be reset in the ground and mulched (still within the pot). The same plant will be redug next spring and the feeding cycle, etc., continued in hopes of getting some large blossoms.

I was hand pollinating my TB iris while my sister watched and asked questions. In a few minutes she looked straight at me and said, "Sis, you'll have them so crossed up you'll not know what you've got." I laughed so hard I almost swallowed my tweezers.

It's time to cut the flower chatter out and get onto other projects, so again a "Thank you" for helping to make my day a big success.

With love,

Alabama Iris Fan

REPORT FROM HUNTSVILLE, AL.

Julian Ross

I don't need to tell you about our record-breaking winter, but need only tell you that we had weeks of sub-freezing temperature and the temperature never above the forties since winter began. Today, after a week of sixties and a couple of excursions into the seventies, I got out and did a little pruning and put in some pansies to replace those lost during the winter. As I worked to the rear of the house, I came to the area where I had bedded out my Japanese Iris seedlings. As I pulled back the oak leaf mulch, I found the following: The seedlings were in two and three inch pots with about half the pots in a plastic flat with slotted bottom resting on a bed of samd. The other half are in an aluminum pan about two inches deep which was filled with water. Both saw the same environment except those in the pan stood in water which had to have been frozen much of the winter.

The seedlings which stood in the water all winter are about three times the size of the others, and roots have grown through the bottom of the pots into the water in the pan.

Of course, most of the growth took place before winter set in, but I was surprised to find that those which stayed wet had 100% survival and only 50% survived in the other tray. My mature plants which stood in water and which are in gallon nursery -ans are also pushing up robust new foliage.

From now on, it's going to be "tank gardening" for my Japs.

MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

Mrs. Bennett Jones, AIS Membership Secretary, has requested that all SJI memberships be made to cover the same time period as the AIS memberships. Some SJI memberships have been sent to her at other times, and considerable confusion has been caused.

MINUTES OF 1978 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SJI

AIS Convention, San Jose, CA., April 26, 1978

The Society For Japanese Irises, a Section of the American Iris Society, met on Wednesday, April 26, 1978, in the Governor's House, Rooms C and D, of the San Jose House at 1 PM.

In the absence of the President, Mr. Thornton M. Abell, the meeting was presided over by the Vice-President, Mr. Arthur H. Hazzard.

In his opening remarks Mr. Hazzard conveyed a message from Mr. Abell in the form of a suggestion that the group consider making donations of irises for the benefit of the society

A report from the treasurer, Mr. Ford Grant, showed a balance on hand of \$890.44

The presiding officer announced the forthcoming Japanese Iris show to be held by region 6 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on July 1, 1978 with Lee Welsh as show chairman.

Before introducing the speakers Mr. Hazzard explained that they had been selected by regions and that a question and answer period would follow the talk and slide presentations.

Mrs. Dorothy Willot in the Midwest gave a presentation of the Willot's progression in raising Japanese Irises starting with a collection from Mr. Swearengen in which only one out of 12 survived. Her slides were proof of the success they are noew enjoying with these irises from amny of the hybridizeres and suppliers including some in Japan.

Mr. Alfred Wirz from New York state, Region 2, reported for that area. He stated some of his problems and said that it was a Marx catalogue that pointed out some of the mistakes he had been making. He purchased a packet of seeds for \$1.00 (the money going for the research foundation) and then launched into hybridizing.

Mr. Adolph Vogt of Louisville, Kentucky, gave a very enlightening talk on raising of potted Japanese irises in shallow pools. It was illustrated with 25 slides. He mentioned using 1/3 of a part each of garden soil, sterilized cow manure and sand with 1" of peat moss in the bottom of each pot. He explained that pools can be fashioned from wood with a plastic liner but that he also likes and uses 4 foot pliable plastic baby pools which hold 21 7-1/2" # 400 plastic pots. Mr. Vogt stated that he is "working on developing a Japanese iris with three terminal seed pods with three terminal blooms blooming about a week apart."

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Freda B. Hazzard,

Sec'y. pro tem.

THE SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN IRIS SOCIETY IRIS SHOW FOR JAPANESE AND OTHER LATE IRISES Kalamazoo, MI., July 1, 1978 In Westmain Mall

The Show will be the fifth Japanese iris show of the Society Although Japanese irises will probably predominate in their Section I, SectionII will include other cultivars and Section III species. The theme of the show will be JOYS OF SUMMER.

First, second and third place awards will be made in each class where merited. Queen of Show and Queen's Court awards as well as awards for number of awards will also be made. Special divisions will include seedlings and Artistic Arrangements.

Provisions will be made for Educational Exhibits and Ikebana Flower Arrangement.

Editor's Note: Wild Flowers bloomed ten to fifteen days late in Terre Haute this spring. It appears that peony bloom will be similarly later than usual. It is therefore suggested that persons who would travel some distance to attend the Kalamazoo show check with the Show Chairman, Leland Welch, 1003 Newton Ct., Kalamazoo, 49004, or Arthur H. Hazzard, 510 Grand Pre Ave., Kalamazoo, 49007, before the planned date.

THE WORLD OF IRISES

Congratulations are in order to all who contributed to the publication of the WORLD OF IPISES especially the Editors Bee Warburton and Melba Hamblen. Likewise SJI members thank Eleanor Westmeyer for her chapter on Japanese iriscs. One minor correction should be made in page 260 - Payne introduced 170 varieties.

WANTED

A copy of THE JAPANESE IRIS by Kuribayashi and Hirao. Send details to Dr. Wray M. Bowden, 20 Richard Ave., Simcoe, Ontario, Canada, N3Y 3J2.

MEMBERSHIP LIST THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES MARCH 31, 1978

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Dr. Edward Valentine, Eleanor J. Valentine, 1750 Woodard Rd., Elma,
14059

Mr. Alfred T. Wirz, 40 McKinley Ave., Kenmore, 14217 Mr. Clinton H. Ziems, Rt. # 1, Box # 2, West Monroe, 13167

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

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Mrs. Lilliam H. Hafely, 564 E. Judson Ave., Youngstown, 44502
Mr. Joseph C. Hale, 5346 Fishcreek Road, Stow, 44224
Mrs. Floence Lovett, 1302 Kevin Drive, Fairborn, 45324
Rev. Dennis R. O'Grady, 19722 Bowman Dr., Strongsville, 44136
Mr. and Mrs. D. Olen Rawdon, 1344 Leeser Ave., Akron, 44314

OKLAHOMA

Mr. and ,rs. Robert Benton, 12311 E. 16th St., S., Tulsa, 74128 Mrs. Robert Bradshaw, 3106 S. Delaware Flace, Tulsa, 74105 Dorothy L. Jacobsen, 3882 S. 82nd Ave., Tulsa, 74145 Mrs. Charles E. Kenny, 10325 S. Louisville Ave., Tulsa, 74136 Marthella Shoemake, Box # 549-11327 Draper, Nicoma Park, 73066 Mr. Laurence M. Wilson, 10731 E. 29th Place, Tulsa, 74129

OREGON

Mrs. Mary E. Kalkhoven, 17660 S. W. Oak St., Beaverton, 97005 Mrs. Lorena M. Reid, 41886 McKenzie Hwy., Springfield, 97477 Mr. James E. Warnock, Jr., 16470 SW Wood Place, Tigard, 97223

PENNSYLVANIA

Mrs. Elizabeth Bassack, Route 3, Homesdale, 18431
Mrs. William E. Chambers, 282 Forrest Rd., Merion Station, 19066
Mr. Ralph E. Klingensmith, 181 Arla Drive, Pittsburgh, 15220
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice C. Nowlin, RD # 3, Box # 356, Malone Ridge Road,
Washington, 15301

Mrs. Jean Quick, Box 108, Clifford, 18413 Mr. Cloyd F. Sensenbach, 612 Berwick St., White Haven, 18561

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mrs. Wells Burton, 210 Miller Dr., Ladson, 29456 Sumter Parks and Rec, Dept., 36 Artillery Dr., Sumter, 29150 Mrs. Frank Vincent, Box 460, Bonneau, 29431

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Mrs. Luther Martin, 4065 Auburn Rd., Memphis, Tenn., 38116 Miss Alice Middleton, 3752 Wisteria Cove, Memphis, 38116 Mr. William Vines, 1480 E. Holmes Rd., Memphis, 38116 Miss Debra Lynn Vogt, 9001 Luz Lane, Knoxville, 37919

TEXAS

Mr. and Mrs. Jim D. Coward, 515 West Park, Waxahachie, 75165 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Johnson, Box 266, Wimberly, 78678 Mr. Barrie L. Kridler, Rt. #3, Box 244, Mt. Pleasant, 75455 Mrs. William E. Langford, 1121 Highland Drive, Handerson, 75652 Mrs. Edwin E. Patton, Jr., 2517-28th St. Lubbock, 79410 Mrs. C.C. Rockwell, Jr., P.O. Box 70, Fentress, 78622

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Mrs. Floris R. Eby, Rt. # 1, Box 294, Barbousville, 22923
Mrs. Hunt Nenon, 7 Court Place, Catham, 24531
Mrs. Charles F. Roberts, 226 Forrest Ave., Norfolk, 23505
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Mrs. Margaret Zurbrigg, 903 Tyler Ave., Radford, 24141

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Mr. Scott M. Pascoe, Rt. # 1, Box # 461, Lakebay, 98349
Yakima Valley Iris Society, Mrs. James S. Ford, 1801 S. 16th Ave.,
Yakima, 98902

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SWITZERLAND

Sir Peter Smithers, CH-6911 Vico Morcote, Switzerland

WEST GERMANY

Mrs. Marlene Ahlburg, 3171 Rotgesbuttal, Hohesfeld, West Germany Miss Waltraud Busbach, Aeussere Sulzbacher Str. 18, D-8500, Nuernberg, West Germany

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 1977 to December 31, 1977

Cash in Savings Account. January 1, 1977 Cash in Checking Account. January 1, 1977	\$293.04 308.50
DEPOSITS	
Dues	\$ 257.50 25.75 98.50
EXPENSES	\$ 381.75 \$ 690.25
EAFENSES	
April Review——Printing, Covers, Postage. October Review——Printing, Covers, Postage. 5 copies of April issue——reprint. Membership Chairman Expenses. Miscellaneous Postage.	91.27 80.80 3.12 9.94 9.35
	\$ 194.48
	\$ 495.77
CASH IN CHECKING ACCOUNT DEC. 31, 1977	
Savings Account January 1, 1977	\$ 293.04 15.13
	\$ 308.17 308.17
TOTAL CASH ON HAND, DECEMBER 13, 1977	\$ 803.94

TREASURER

Front L. Grant