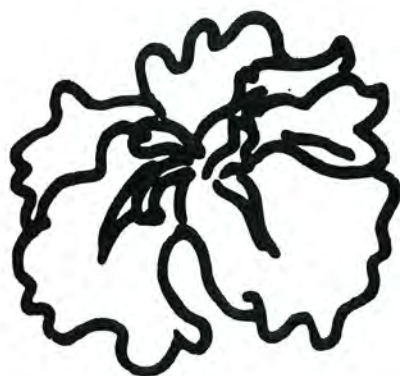
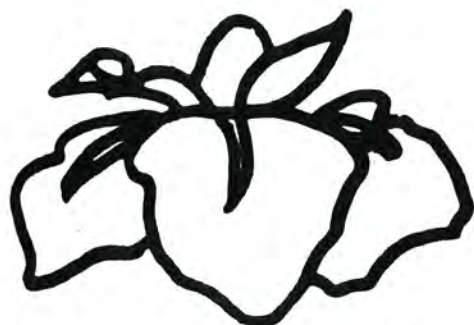
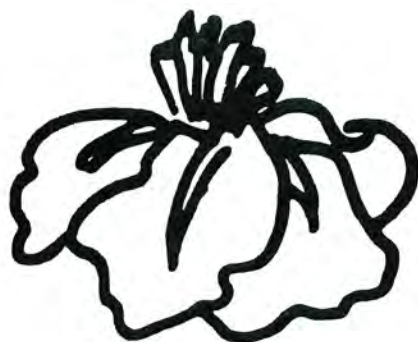


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VOLUME 17, NUMBER 1

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# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

THE REVIEW  
OF  
THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As another Japanese iris bloom season approaches I hope all of you have good weather and a wonderful bloom. Every member should be growing some Japanese irises. They are not difficult to grow. All they need is an enriched mildly acid type soil and plenty of water. Also more members should be actively hybridizing. Japanese irises offer a greater potential for future development than any other irises. Don't let this season go by without planting a few.

I am open to suggestion on how to get greater membership participation in THE REVIEW. Would a question and answer section be of interest?

Our Society has a new Membership Chairman, Mrs. C. Robert (Evelyn) Minnick, 324 N.E. Park Circle, Kansas City, MO 64116. Thank you Evelyn for accepting this important work. A hearty Thank You to Marilyn Harlow for a good job well done. You deserve a rest.

To appreciate the beauty of Japanese irises they must be seen. That requires shows and public displays. That requires people growing them. Get out your spade. A spade will give you as much exercise as running shoes and last twice as long.

Adolph Vogt

## Dr. Hirao - W. A. Payne Correspondence

Dr. Shuichi Hirao, a leading Japanese hybridizer of Japanese irises, has kindly given your Editor a complete photographic file of his correspondence with the late W. A. Payne. It is excerpted below.

In Dr. Hirao's opening letter he describes his interests in Japanese irises as of 1961. Since then he has continued in the forefront of hybridizers and growers. With Mr. Motojiro Kuribayashi Dr. Hirao co-authored the magnificent THE JAPANESE IRIS published in Tokyo in 1971.

W. A. Payne was the leading non-Japanese hybridizer and grower of Japanese irises. During a 30 year period starting in 1932 he grew about 100,000 seedlings, numbered 1349 and registered 170. He won awards in international competition. In 1967 he spent about six weeks in Japan during the Japanese iris season as a guest of the Japan Iris Society. He lived in Terre Haute, Ind.

Dr. Hirao, February 8, 1961: It is my great pleasure to write to the most advanced breeder of Iris kaempferi in the USA. I knew you through the letters of Mrs. W. B. Melnick of North Carolina and Dr. Patzelt of the Deutsche Iris Gesellschaft. I have devoted myself to the breeding of Higo kaempferi over fifteen years and believe my varieties are the best in Japan.

I am very curious to see your excellent varieties, so it will be very much appreciated if you are kind enough to sell me some of your plants, or exchange for some of my plants of the best ones. I shall be happy if I could have three to seven varieties of yours before coming spring. Would you kindly write and let me know the cost of condition for the exchange? I have been growing thousands of seedlings every year and now have about two hundred of selected varieties of various colors and forms, some photos of which are enclosed with this letter.

I published a monograph entitled "Hanashobu (the Japanese name of kaempferi)" dealing with the varieties and cultivation of it, which I despatched to you today.

(Editor's note: The monograph is a small book of 206 pages written in Japanese which I have now.)

W. A. Payne, February, 1961: I am indeed very happy to have received your letter and I very much enjoyed seeing photographic prints of some of your most excellent varieties of Japanese iris, for which I thank you. I choose to designate them as "Japanese iris" in preference to Iris kaempferi for the reason Japanese hybridists were solely responsible for the existence of these highly developed forms, consequently I feel they should be so honored for their achievement. I naturally am flattered that you are interested in seeing the results of my feeble efforts. . . . My varieties, however, represent an authentic strain developed by intercrossing of my own seedlings, which had their origin in a few varieties imported from the Yokahama Nursery with selected European and American varieties available here at the beginning of my breeding program---twenty nine years ago. There is no Higo parentage in any of my introductions to date. I have, however, of late been using them to a limited extent in my breeding operations. . . . My efforts have been directed principally to developing a strain especially adapted to the climatic conditions and cultural requirements prevailing in this country. Our summers here in the midwest U.S.A. are hot and dry and soil conditions not well adapted for their best growth. Our use of the flower also differs from that of your country in that they are grown mostly for display in the mixed flower border or massed in the landscape planting. They are very seldom used as cut flowers and pot grown plants are never used here for display in the home. Therefore, among other qualities, our special requirements are for plants with sturdy stems that hold the flower erect, regardless of its size under all ordinary weather conditions. Stems having at least two, well spaced, long branches



to allow for a comparatively long period of bloom for the plant and flowers with sufficiently heavy substance to withstand exposure to hot sun and wind. Plant as a whole also of pleasing proportions and well related in size and height to size of flower. . . I would be very glad indeed to make an even exchange of seven of my best named varieties for an equal number of your originations. I especially liked your Kuon-no-yuki, Mai-Ohgi and Yuki doroh.

Dr. Hirao, February 24, 1961: I was delighted with your most friendly letter. It is really my great pleasure to have made an intimate correspondence with you. I believe your efforts in breeding longer blooming, more weather-hardy varieties should be highly respected. Kaempferi in Japan, especially Higo and Ise varieties, have been selected mainly for the indoor admiration and consequently many of them are too delicate to expect good flowers in a dry and windy place, though some of their recent varieties have stronger petals. But demands for planting Kaempferi in parks, large gardens, etc., have recently increased. So your varieties will be highly appreciated not only in your country and other western countries but also in my country where their grandparents were born. . . My varieties will be sent in a few days by air mail. The names of them are: Kuon-no-yuki (Perpetual Snow). . . , Mai Ohgi (Dancing Fan). . . , Yuki-dohro (Snow Lantern). . . , Hekitoh (Blue Wave), Genkai (Name of a sea). . . , Sakura-no-haru (Cherry Blossoms in Spring). . . , Shin-Asahi-no-Yuki (Shi means new, Asahi-no-Yuke means sunrise on snow). . . , Chosin (Clear-hearted). . . . Have you ever succeeded in breeding a variety with a yellow shade? I found that pollen of I. monnieri gives albino plants when pollinated on kaempferi. They always die within a few months after germinations. So at present there is no hope for me in producing yellow kaempferi. I have a variety of purple with brownish shade, but it is far from yellow or salmon.

W. A. Payne, February 27, 1961: Your monograph came to hand Friday, February 24th and what a delightful volume it is. I assure you I am proud to possess an inscribed copy and am most appreciative and grateful for the kindly gesture. . . Naturally I regret not being able to read the text. I am, however, able to gain considerable insight into its contents from the illustrations which I found most interesting and some of which very beautiful. . . It is unfortunate that I cannot avail myself of the services of a very dear friend of many years who would have translated the text for me. There is the barest possibility you may have heard of Professor Cho Yo. He was commissioner of the Japanese art exhibit of the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1892. . . I am enclosing a copy of my catalog which may be of some little interest to you.

W. A. Payne, March 27, 1961: Shipment of plants goes forward by Air Parcel Post today. . . I will greatly appreciate your candid opinion of the various and assure you that I will not in the least feel hurt for any adverse criticism. . . (varieties listed) Sky and Water, Enchanted Lake, Confetti Shower, Danseuse, Swirling Waves, Cobra Dancer, The Great Mogul, Miss Simplicity, Seedling 259 (later named Magic Ruby) and Silver Frills.

W. A. Payne, March, 1961: Your shipment of iris arrived in perfect condition yesterday, March 15, and were potted at once. . . . Since I feel at my age, eighty years and my health is not the best, that it is necessary that I get results quickly, my breeding operations have been mostly with varieties of my own strain. The introduction of foreign parentage it seems is generally more or less incompatible and for this reason my use of varieties of unknown parentage has been mainly for the purpose of incorporating their desirable features into my breeding lines rather than for any special objective. For direct results I have found the use of varieties of known ancestry offers a distinct advantage, consequently interest in varieties other than my own is mostly for comparison purposes. I have not been especially interested in working for yellows and have done little along this line. Though I could be mistaken, it is my opinion that yellow can be developed in the Japanese varieties without the introduction of foreign species by the use of varieties which show a slight suffusion of yellow coloring in their styles and to a lesser extent in their petals. Though this would doubtless be a long drawn-out process, I believe it would be preferable to the use of extraneous species for the reason that one is apt to lose some of the refinement of the Japanese varieties. The *Iris kaempferi* as developed by the Japanese are without doubt the most highly refined of all iris. . . . Last season in a backcross and its reciprocal I had a few seedlings of a brown color such as you mention to appear. Though lacking yellow which is present in tall bearded varieties they were definitely brown.

W. A. Payne, August 18, 1961: With the best of prospects early in the season what should have been a banner year was a keen disappointment with not more than a third of a crop of bloom due to unseasonable spring weather. Twenty-six degree weather in late May when early-blooming varieties had large stalks completely killed some plants. There was however some fairly good bloom among the two year seedlings and I selected more than a hundred for further trial. . . . Among the progeny of a certain cross a few of the plants showed an unusual feature with a dark spot on the large yellow signals. Mai Ohgi was magnificent and gave three lovely blooms from which I have nine well-filled seed pods crossed on some of my varieties. I am pleased to see that you have joined the A.I.S. and hope you will find it rewarding. Our small group of Jap growers here in the U.S.A. really have little influence on its activities. . . . We are, however, gaining in numbers and making a strenuous effort to get more recognition. We hope to organize a Japanese Iris Society within the jurisdiction of the A.I.S. real soon. In the next few days I shall send some forty plants of my varieties to the International Horticultural Show at Hamburg, Germany. I hope you are also participating with a collection of your originations.

Dr. Hirao, September 9, 1961: All the plants you sent me are growing successfully. Two of them bloomed this season. Confetti Shower and Miss Simplicity, both very nice. Though the stalks were only thirty centimeters, the size of the flowers was very

large. The former, I believe, surpasses Japanese ones in complexity of color blending. Styles are large, substance is heavy, all good. Miss Simplicity is full of purity both in color and form. I like it very much. Naturally this year's blooming was not their full performance. They must be more magnificent in the coming year. Your No. 259 (Magic Ruby) is one of what I expect most. You mentioned this one is the nearest approach to rose color, which indeed is a great achievement. This blooming season I looked for a red with lesser blue shade among my seedlings, old varieties, etc. It resulted only in confirming this year's observation that the "red" in kaempferi is almost the same color regardless of variety. It is true that some varieties seem nearer to red but in most cases they are illusions on the side of the observers. Red on a petal of plicata looks more reddish than that of a self. Should the "wall of red" be climbed over by piling up minute advancements with terrific long hard effort? This wall, however, may be more easily crumbled if we could meet a better parent plant. I heartily hope your No. 259 is the very one. I shall be happy if I could learn something about blues. I guess it may be rather easier to approach to true blue, although present varieties are insufficient, than red. One trouble is the bluer the color becomes the lesser the thickness. So making the color deeper is the problem. As far as I learn from bulletins and catalogs abroad, the condition with TB iris seems the same: best blues are always pale. On the other hand fertilizer largely affects blue shade. For instance my varieties such as Hekitoh and Shinkai-no-iro bloom almost sky blue when no fertilizer is given, but when they are fed much, though the size becomes far larger, the color becomes dull and much pruple. Your new seedling in your letter, large yellow patch with dark spots on it, must be a beginning to a very hopeful new area. My friend, Mr. Osaki, who has been devoted to morning glories, got a pale yellow one for the first time in the history of that plant from a parent with an unusually dark spotted flower. He could not know why such a yellow one came out suddenly. I do not necessarily mean you shall get a yellow from your dark spotted kaempferi, however I feel that something new will be sure to appear in your garden. I find RED TITAN in your list very interesting. It has petal-like styles. Does it bloom always with such styles as shown in your photo? Some of my varieties bloom with a similar form of style in such a bloom season when temperature is unusually high. In ordinary blooming seasons, however, they bloom only common shaped styles. I find you note in your list some of your three-petal varieties, MAGIC SPARK, ROYAL SAPPHIRE for instance have smaller standards than their styles. According to criteria by old Higo people in our country, standards should stand obliquely upwards, should be larger than styles. I personally agree with it. I shall be happy if I could hear your opinion how a standard should be. Our old Higo people disliked color-veined petals, that is, darker colored veins on white or any other color background. This is why old Higo varieties are self or white veins on color background. They looked for a white without any trace of veins though such one has not been created yet. Nowadays Japanese do not reject veined flowers as Higo people did, however they seem to prefer veinless or white-veined ones to color-veined ones.



How is the taste with your people? Our people are generally indifferent to branching of flower stalks. In pot culture we remove branches to give more nourishment to buds on the main stem. Old Higo people removed not only the branch but also the second bud on the main stem to let the first one display its highest beauty. So they saw a flower only three days a year on each plant. Nowadays this operation is done among a few fascinated people. People in general prefer to see flowers as long as possible. So branching can be a welcomed character in our country too. You will note some varieties have three buds at the top of the stalk. It takes more than twenty days to finish all three flowers. At present the "three buds nature" is not yet fixed. In the future if this character is combined with branching nature, the blooming season of kaempferi will be much prolonged. If you like to have it I will send a three-bud one. I find some Ise varieties are superior to other strains in blue and pink. Though the form is simple the color is good. If you would like to see I will send some. They cross easily with other varieties. Why do you think kaempferi is less popular among your people? Because of difficulty in cultivation? Or lack of information? Or narrowness of color variation? Anyway I shall be happy if I could help you and your kaempferi lovers in any direction. In a few days I shall send plants to Hamburg. Dr. Tomino who is an excellent collector and breeder of Ise kaempferi, and Mr. Mitsuda who is a breeder of Higos will send plants as well. They will be 175 varieties in total.

W. A. Payne, September 26, 1961: I am, of course, very pleased that my varieties which you have are all doing well and that you found the two which bloomed interesting. I especially like Confetti Shower and am glad that you also care for it. I fervently hope that seedling #259 (MAGIC RUBY) will not disappoint you. It probably would be well to not be over-optimistic concerning it, though I consider it besides being one of the best of its color, a good variety in other respects. I have had it since 1947 but have not introduced it nor used it extensively but have almost decided to register it when I work up a sufficient stock. When it blooms please let me know your candid opinion of it as I will value your estimate of its worth. I had not given particular attention to the fact that styles of yellow tinted varieties are more intense than the petals. I have done but little breeding for yellow but this last season I observed a slight improvement in the color among my crosses. I hope to continue along this line. I agree the blue in Japanese iris is not as pure or intense as desirable. We need such color as gentian blue. Among flowers of all kinds there is no true blue. I have been working quite a little with the blues and my Blue Nocturne is one of the bluest and is very dark. Although it is a splendid variety it is not large. Night Festival, though not related, is about the color of Hisakata. It is heavier-textured and for me is a better variety in other respects. Among the light blues I have nothing better than Sky and Water. Hekitch which bloomed for me was quite red and far from the blue I had expected. I had not known that fertilizer affected the color to such extent. Relative to Red Titan I could not say definitely that its petal-like styles are always present but I considered the flower pictured in my catalog as typical of a well-grown specimen.



In judging Japanese iris I do not restrict myself to any particular form. I cannot say that in a three petal variety that the standards be longer than the styles and occupy an outwardly flaring position although the form is very beautiful. I insist only that the general make-up of the flower have graceful lines, that the various parts be of pleasing proportions and that the flower as a whole possess character and distinction. In other words it should have that something which sets it apart from other varieties of similar color and form. The same applies to the darker veined varieties. If they are beautiful it is sufficient reason for their perpetuation. I believe you would like my Cresting Waves although its branching is not the best. I am introducing one this year, a pure white without sanding or halo with dark-blue veins on the petals and a ball-like center of intense blue tipped white. I am enclosing a copy of a judging criterion which a few of us here are using and hope to have adopted by the A.I.S. if and when we succeed in organizing a Japanese Iris Society. I readily understand that flowers when used for indoor display disbudding would be desirable but as we employ them here it is important that the season of bloom be lengthy. I note some varieties, Sky and Water for instance, begin early and continue blooming throughout the entire blooming season. I consider this habit a very desirable feature. We have also observed several varieties with three terminal buds though the characteristic is not yet fixed. I am hoping to incorporate this feature into new varieties. Two years ago I had two two-year plants of a certain seedling, one of which sent up fifty bloom stalks and the other seventy-seven. Many sections of our country have an alkaline soil in which Japanese iris do not thrive and require special care. My soil here requires acidifying. However, in my opinion the greatest deterrent to their growing seems to be the fact that in Japan they are usually flooded with water at blooming time and our growers mistakenly concluded they were a water-plant and consequently planted them in water and swampy locations where they soon passed out. This gave them the reputation of being difficult and many persons were defeated even before they tried growing them. Often visitors to public gardens here declare, "They are beautiful but I can't grow them." Without doubt their cultural requirements should be given more publicity here in this country.

W. A. Payne, November 23, 1961: I finished my fall planting around the first of the present month. Now must soon apply a mulch of ground corn cobs which I leave on permanently. This has proven a great labor saver for me in the control of weeds and it holds moisture well.

Hirao, June 15, 1964: Regarding The Great Mogul and Confetti Shower, I have an apology not to have told you before. These two have won a wonderful popularity among our members. In the fall of 1962 I gave some divisions of them to some of my friends who were greatly interested in your origination. The plants had bloomed quite successfully while I was abroad last summer. Last fall the friends came to my home telling me that both were truly wonderful. The Great Mogul was an

astonishingly large flower and they added, "One petal of the flower was as big as a Japanese soup bowl" and "the color pattern of Confetti Shower was the most unique ever seen in Japan." On the 10th of this month we had a party trip to a Japanese iris garden in Shizuoka prefecture which is about 120 miles west of Tokyo and the climate was much advanced. In his garden we also found The Great Mogul wonderfully blooming. The height of the stalk was about 170 cm which is taller than other Japanese varieties and very outstanding. The huge falls of glossy red violet absorbed all the visitors. Night Festival was also blooming and very attractive. Do you have any intention to publish your record of crossing? I was amazed seeing your notebook recording the pedigree of your introductions most precisely. I believe this is indeed a most valuable material both for breeders and scientists.

W. A. Payne, August 30, 1964: Your last letter was most interesting and encouraging as I had not entertained the least idea that any of my varieties would attract interest in your country other than the fact they were samples of work being done here in America. It was astonishing to me that The Great Mogul attained a height of 170 cm inasmuch as here it does not exceed 120 cm. This only confirms my opinion your climate is more favorable to their growing and your growers more expert than we are here in America. I do not know without seeing it if such a height would be desirable. It could be detrimental. If, however, it would display the flower to better advantage it could well be an asset. We like it very well here as it is a splendid grower and an excellent breeder. Enchanted Lake is a prime favourite with me. It also is a very reliable grower. It starts blooming early and distributes its bloom throughout the entire blooming season. I have always considered Confetti Shower to be my most beautiful variety but it remains to be seen if Wounded Dragon may not displace it for this honor. I had no thoughts of publishing the diagrams of my introductions. I have had a few copies made of same, one of which I shall send you by surface mail. They give a complete history of each variety back to the original crosses. The square figures represent the pod parents, the round, pollen parents. I have underlined the varieties which in the original sheets appear red. Red in my notes always indicates inbred parentage. I am including also a table which Bill Ouweneel prepared which affords a quick run-down of the foreign parentage in all of my varieties.

W. A. Payne, December 9, 1964: As you may already know the A.I.S. awarded me the Hybridizer's Medal of the year for which I am proud to be so honored.

Dr. Hirao, January 22, 1965: Now I would like to ask you one thing personally. That is, do you have any mind to come to Japan to see Jap iris in bloom? I think it should be most wonderful if you could come over here. In that case I think we (some sponsors in the Japan Iris Society) can pay about half of your flight and staying cost if you like to have us do so. Of course you will not be obligated by it in doing anything you don't like. We shall not force you in

anything while you are here. You shall always be free. Here in June the second week will be peak for the Ise Jap iris, 3rd week will be for Edos, 4th week will be the best with better Higos. All this will be seen in Tokyo, Shizuoka and Nagoya (30 minutes from Tokyo by plane). Again in mid July will be the best in Hokkaido (1 hour by plane from Tokyo) where a large plantation of many varieties with excellent growth.

W. A. Payne, February 1, 1965: It was indeed a great pleasure hearing from you and I am truly grateful for the most wonderful proposal contained in your letter and also for your most helpful blooming schedule. In fact, permit me to say I was bowled over by such a wonderful, friendly gesture. I would, of course, feel it an imposition for me to accept in full such a generous offer as you suggest. A sharing of the expense in visiting the various gardens in Japan would be quite sufficient and most gratefully accepted. As to sharing any expense of my flight, I could not conscientiously impose upon your generosity. While I am planning to make such a trip, my state of health permitting, it cannot be this next season but possibly in '67.

W. A. Payne, May 18, 1965: Inasmuch as I am discontinuing my iris hybridizing, I had planned on making no crosses this season, though I may make a few crosses of it if by chance I may be situated where I can grow a few seedlings.

W. A. Payne, July 28, 1965: I am still planning on a trip to your country during the Jap blooming season in '67.

Dr. Hirao, October 7, 1965: I treated some seedlings with colchicine this past spring. About twenty young seedlings are surviving. Three of them look hopeful. They are about five inches now with five to six leaves which are very thick and much different from the normal ones. I expect they are tetras. I am not sure they will bloom in 1966 but should bloom by the time you come over here in 1967. For me 0.05% (which was taught me by Mr. Fay to be the best strength for TB iris, daylilies, etc.) plus 1% agar was the best material. Sticking a young seedling into the material upside down so that only the growing point is dipped in colchicine but the root does not touch it. I treated 12, 15, 24, 48 and 60 hours. Treated plant for over 24 hours died all in some weeks after the treatment. Treatment of 12 and 15 hours showed good survival and good polyploidy. Now I am intending to treat most of my seedlings this year. I prepared many combinations of crossing for this purpose.

Dr. Hirao, June 21, 1966: This morning your Immaculate Glitter bloomed for the first time. Indeed it is a great iris. Dark velvety violet with the most eye-catching white line on the edges! It is a great achievement ever done on Jap iris. This color is found on a few old Jap iris but they are poor in color and form. Truly Immaculate Glitter is a great iris. The height of the bloomstalk was 120 cm.



Dr. Hirao, May 15, 1967: These days I am treating many Jap seedlings with colchicine. A few days ago I delightful confirmed at least two plants being tetraploid. They were treated in 1966 spring. At that time I treated more than one thousand tiny seedlings, and by last summer at least one hundred of them were supposed to be tetra. But afterwards many of them died and I have some thirty survivals. Taking pieces of leaves from two of them, I studied with microscope. I confirmed their pores on the leaf were twice as large as the normal. I have not yet tested the other plants, but some of them may also be tetras. Those plants are about ten inches high, and if carefully observed the leaves are thicker and coarser than ordinary ones. By the way do you know a variety Marx's Pink Triumph? Years ago Eleanor sent me a piece and since then I am wondering if it is polyploid. It is rather untidy eight petal pink, but the substance is heavier than the normal ones, and the color is more like the skin of European lady, the life of the flower is slightly longer than ordinary varieties, the leaf is thick and deep green and is more like Iris pseudacorus, and the rhizome especially in the fall grows thick twice as large as ordinary ones. This variety is sterile in both ways. Looking forward to seeing you here soon....

W. A. Payne, June 5, 1967: I shall be leaving Honolulu Pan Am flight number PA 1, Thursday June 15 at 12:30 pm and should arrive Tokyo 3:25 pm. I would especially enjoy staying at the original Imperial Hotel Wing since I personally knew Frank Lloyd Wright the designed of the building quite well and have great admiration for his work.

(Editor's note: For Mr. Payne's report on his tour in Japan see the October, 1967, issue of THE REVIEW).

W. A. Payne, August 6, 1967: I arrived home last Monday as per schedule after a quite anjoyable stopover in Honolulu. . .I want to thank you for the many fine things you have done to make my visit to your country one of the most memorable events of my lifetime.

W. A. Payne, September 22, 1969: The big book "The Japanese Iris" will eventually appear in 1971 spring. The size will be big, about 10 x 14 inches with about 350 varieties in full color. We have already taken 465 varieties including over 40 varieties of yours. The publisher, however, advised us that as the book is big and the pictures have to be large, the color transparencies should desireably be larger, about 4 x 5 inches or somewhat larger. So Mr. Kuribayashi and we all decided to continue to take pictures again 1970 summer to give the "finishing touch" on our material.

Dr. Hirao, November 11, 1970: Congratulations that you will be ninety next year. I find that Japanese iris people are quite long living. Our Hon. President, Mr. Kanroji, will be 91 next year. Our President Mr. Inoshita is I guess 87 or so. He was one of the founders of our Society organized on the occasion of Dr. G. M. Reed when it was 1931 if I remember right. I think I have been telling you on many occasions that the Japanese Iris Book will

appear soon but I am much ashamed it has never come true. There have been many complicated conditions on our side to publish it but eventually it has been fixed 1) the book will appear in May 1971, from the Asahi Press, Yurakucho, Chiyodaku, Tokyo, 2) the size is B4 which is 23.7 cm x 36.4 cm, 3) color pages are 120 sheets, one side printing, because the book will look more aristocratic, 4) about 70 varieties are printed in full size, which means one variety on a sheet, and about 40 varieties in half size, and about two hundred varieties in smaller sizes. About 300 varieties in total. This number is not finally fixed because some films are still being laid out by the editor now. 5) about 35 or your varieties, some from other originators in your country, one or two from Germany, about 100 of Edo variety, about 40 of Ise variety, about 100 of Higo variety some of the oldest garden cultivars from which Edo and other varieties seemed to have started, some wild forms, will be illustrated in color. 6) The price will be ¥ 23,000 which is about \$64. This is quite expensive but owing to Mr. Kuribayashi's sponsorship this price was set. He contracted with the publisher to buy 1,000 copies when it is published. Without his sponsorship the price would have been almost twice. 7) the explanation will of course be in both English and Japanese. It is fortunate that the book appears from the Asahi Press which is the foremost newspaper here. Many people want to publish their books from that publisher but only a few lucky people can do this. From this publisher appeared a deluxe book of pictures painted by our Empress, and this year another deluxe picture book by our foremost painter Mr. Sakamoto gathering all his lifeworks. The successor to the above two books is our "The Japanese Iris." During this past season we again took many photos mostly on 4 x 5 inch size for the full page printing. Yes you already gave me Wounded Dragon and Immaculate Glitter both of which have been shared by our members with much admiration. I want to especially admire the latter. The threadlike white edge is really marvellous. Wounded Dragon is really an unusual color pattern. It blooms at the end of the season.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Payne died February 13, 1971, nine days after his 90th birthday.

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#### KALAMAZOO IRIS SHOW

As we go to press we are informed by Lee Welch that the annual Japanese Iris Show will be held this year on July 5. For further information contact Leland Welsh, 1003 Newton Ct., Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

## DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS - JAPANESE IRIS PLANTING

The following letter has been received by your Editor from Harry B. Kuesel on the above subject:

"This letter is in response to your recent letter to Harlan Clark for information about the Japanese iris planting at the Denver Botanic Gardens where I serve as one of the Trustees. The Garden is very new having only been dedicated on June 23, 1979. It is a two acre classic Japanese garden designed by Koichi Kawana, Professor of Japanese Art and Landscape Design at UCLA. Our Director, Dr. William B. Gambill, visited the Missouri Botanic Garden two years ago and saw a similar garden designed by the same architect and urged the Trustees to consider funding a Japanese garden. The principal feature of the garden at this time is a beautiful Japanese teahouse which was brought over from Japan and put together by Japanese carpenters to be an exact replica of similar structures in Japan. More than 50 character pines were brought down from the mountains by the Japanese-American community. There is gently sloping waterway that winds through the garden and it is in this waterway that the Japanese irises were planted in pots. More than 10 of each of the following varieties were planted: Azure; Fascination; La Favourite; Pink Sapphire; Rose Anna; Rubytone; Kumchii Gumii; Momiji No Taki (Worley '64); Ocean Mist (W. Marx '52); Pink Frost (W. Marx '55); Prairie Edge (A. Hazzard '68); Rose Prelude (W. Marx '59); Violet Spectacle (A. Hazzard '63); and Wakamusha (collected by Toko-en between 1900 and 1910). It would be appreciated if you could find the name of the hybridizer for the varieties listed prior to Momiji No Taki above.

"One of the reasons the Japanese irises were planted in pots was because they thought they would survive our alkaline soil problem better if they were brought in the greenhouse during the winter when acclimated here before final planting. For the benefit of these people on the garden staff, I wonder if you can explain how and where to plant these irises to insure their blooming next year. Perhaps THE REVIEW publishes something on how to grow Japanese irises in an area where we have alkaline soil and alkaline water in the natural habitat. The only method I know is to isolate from the regular soil with heavy plastic in an oversized hole and then pour in acid base soil and peat for the iris growing medium."

Your Editor answered Mr. Kuesel as follows:

"My information on growing JIs in alkaline soil is limited but I will note what I have.

"The only person who has worked on the problem as far as I know was Max Steiger. He was a German and tried to develop a "calcium resistant" strain which he called his CARE strain. As far as I know all references to it have originated with him. I know of no one who has had any of his plants. He died several years ago. I have never seen his plants advertised.



"I don't know whether your alkalinity is due to calcium or not. I have always been under the impression that Western alkalinity was due to sodium. Which brings me to say I have always wondered whether difficulty in growing JIs under alkaline conditions is due to high pH regardless of source or to calcium. I have seen JIs growing acceptably when they were near limestone outcropping and yellowish---at least during a short term.

"Your idea of isolating acid soil with a plastic barrier is the only practicable one I know of. Perhaps this is an opportunity for the Denver Botanic Gardens to make a contribution on the subject.

"Rubytone was registered by Hazzard in 1965. I cannot help you with any of the others.

"P.S. I am under the impression that Steiger contributed a paper to the 1963 Florence symposium. I do not recall on what subject. I do not have a copy."

If any reader of THE REVIEW has any comments on the above please send them to Mr. Harry B. Kuesel, 4 Larkdale Drive, Littleton, CO 80123, with a copy of them to the Editor of THE REVIEW.

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#### SOUTH CAROLINA---THE JAPANESE IRIS STATE?

If Mrs. Wells (Ginny) Burton of Ladson, S.C. has her way, Region 5's South Carolina may well become the Japanese Iris Capital of America. The move got underway when Ginny provided an educational exhibit on irises at the Convention of the Garden Writers Association of America held in Charleston, S.C. in 1977.

In April 1978 J. Drayton Hastie owner of the famous Magnolia Plantation and Garden invited Ginny to Magnolia for advice on establishing a planting of Japanese irises.

Magnolia Gardens consist of 470 acres, much of which is devoted to waterfowl, wildlife and aquatic plants, making it ideally suited to the JI. The climate seems to be just right also. Since Magnolia is one of the most popular of the Southern Gardens, having many thousands of visitors each year, it seemed a natural for helping acquaint people with the beauty of the JI.

As a result of Ginny's visit Mr. Hastie planted 3000 JI seedlings. At Ginny's insistence he agreed to make a special planting of named varieties. Initial donations of rhizomes came from Adolph Vogt of Region 7, Mr. James Shook of Region 6, Chris Burton and Ginny Burton of Region 5. It is hoped that others will follow suit.

Ginny, in cooperation with Elsie Grimsley of Flowertown Nursery in Summerville, S.C., has established a JI Test Garden there. Eleven JI seedlings were put in last fall around their spring-fed lake. All bloomed this year and a number of other hybridizers have promised seedlings for this year.

These ladies, not being satisfied with just one garden, got permission from Mike Hinson, Supervisor of Parks and Playgrounds to put a planting of Japanese Irises in Azalea Park which is in Summerville. Donations of rhizomes from Adolph Vogt and from John Wood of Gaffney, S.C. have been added to donations from Ginny. Already a garden tour is being planned for Spring 1980.

#### Sumpter, S.C. Iris Festival

Sumpter, S.C. accidentally acquired an iris garden when one of their citizens tried to grow Japanese Irises in his home garden. They failed to grow there so he dumped them on an island he owned. Here they sprouted and thrived so well that he established extensive plantings there and later donated the tract to the City of Sumpter. With the addition of more land and another small lake The Swan Lake Iris Garden came into being. Some 7000 plants of 25 varieties grow and bloom there. The beauty of the JI inspired the city to establish the Sumpter Iris Festival.

Many activities are held at The Swan Lake Iris Gardens. The Iris Parade ends near there and is followed by a feast (served free to the public) of Red Chicken Stew, a Sumpter delicacy. During the Festival an Art Show and Sale is held with displays entwined throughout the garden. The Gardens are open all year and bloom usually occurs the last ten days of May and the first week of June.

(As far as the D.N. editor can determine no AIS members are involved. Maybe the Society for Japanese Irises could become interested).

The soil in most areas of South Carolina and in some other areas of Region 5 is well suited for the growing of JI so donations from other hybridizers would be welcome. Contact Mrs. Frank Johnson, RVP, Region 5.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is copied from the January, 1980, issue of the AIS Bulletin as a matter of record.

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#### WANTED---A TYPIST

Mrs. Hembree has found it necessary to discontinue her services as typist in the production of THE REVIEW. Her work in preparing the last eleven issues of THE REVIEW has helped significantly in holding down the cost of THE REVIEW and in avoiding an increase in SJI dues.

A typist is wanted who can take rough copy (almost entirely typed) and put it in the form you are now reading ready for photographic reproduction by the printer.

Interested persons are asked to write to the Editor: Mr. W. E. Ouweneel, RR 31, Box 206, Terre Haute, IN 47803.

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

January 1, 1979 to December 31, 1979

CHECKING ACCOUNT

On hand January 1, 1979		\$653.40	
Deposits:			
Dues	\$136.50		
Sale of back issues	2.50		
Iris Sale, Region 1	<u>203.00</u>		
Total deposits		<u>342.00</u>	
		995.40	
Expenses:			
Spring issue of THE REVIEW, printing, covers, postage	122.72		
Misc. postage	3.40		
Fall issue of THE REVIEW, printing, covers, postage	132.36		
Misc. postage	<u>7.25</u>		
Total expenses		265.73	
Cash in checking account, Dec. 31, 1979			729.67

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

On hand January 1, 1979		\$323.97	
Deposits:			
Dues	116.00		
Iris sale, Iris Soc. of Minn.	29.00		
Interest	<u>18.34</u>		
Total deposits		163.34	
Cash in savings account, Dec. 31, 1979			487.31

TOTAL

Cash on hand December 31, 1979		\$1,216.98
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Ford L. Grant, Treasurer

1003 Newton Ct.  
Kalamazoo, Mi.  
49008

Mr. Adolph J. Vogt  
5101 ~~E~~egenbush Lane  
Louisville, Ky. 40218

President: Society for Japanese Irises

21 Oct. 1979

Dear Adolph,

The nominating committee is pleased to report the following people have been contacted and accepted nomination to offices in the Society for Japanese Irises.

For Board of Directors; 2 year terms for 1980 and 1981;

Mrs. F. W. Warburton  
2 Warburton Lane  
Westboro, Maine. 01581  
Telephone 617-366-2160

Mrs. Wells Burton  
210 Miller Drive  
Ladson, South Carolina 29456  
Telephone 803-873-7388

Dr. Stanley Baird  
P. O. Box 516  
Blue Lake, California 29456  
Telephone 707-668-5277

Appointed to Nominating Committee for 3 year term through 1982:

Mrs. Frank Vincent  
Box 460  
Boneau, South Carolina 29431

We recommend these nominees to the society for election to their respective offices.

The nominating committee for 1979

*Leland M. Welsh*  
Mrs. James Copeland, Chairman  
Mr. Leland Welsh  
Mr. Ben Hager

copies to:

Ouweneel  
Copeland  
Hager