



# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY

FOR

JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 25

NUMBER 2

FALL, 1988

**THE REVIEW  
OF  
THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES**

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**Part of Guest Iris Planting  
Ensata Gardens  
1988 SJI Convention**

**Photo by L. Welsh**



## BUSINESS ITEMS

The Review is published semi-annually by The Society For Japanese Irises. Editorial office is at 7979 West D Ave., Kalamazoo, MI. 49009. Deadlines for receiving copy are March 1 and September 1; earlier receipt of material is desirable. Black & white photographs and drawings are welcome; please indicate if you want them returned. Reprinting is by permission of the writer and editor, with due acknowledgement.

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**Renewals:** If your mailing label is marked with the expiration date 8807 this will be the last copy of "The Review" on your present membership. Please renew. If you have just recently sent in your dues, ignore the notice as there is an inevitable gap in passing along the information.

**Address changes:** please notify the Membership Chairman.

**Back issues:** Back issues of The Review are available for a charge of \$1.50 per copy, including postage. In some cases there are no original copies available, but photo-copies will be provided at the same charge. Volume 1 (1964) consists of three issues, all subsequent volumes contain two issues each. Order from the LIBRARIAN. Include a check made out to The Society For Japanese Irises in an amount to cover the number of issues ordered.

**Slide Sets;** A slide set and several library items are available for rent or purchase. See separate article this issue, pages & for items available and charges. Order from the Slides/Librarian Chairman.

**Advertising:** Will be accepted for plants and horticultural related items. Charges are: Full page layout, \$18; ½ page layout, \$10; short adds, text only, \$2 for up to five lines and for each additional five lines or fraction thereof.

See details on how to prepare and submit adds, in the Spring issue, 1987 (Volume 24 Number 1), or contact the Editor. Send adds to the Editor with payment in the form of a check made out to The Society For Japanese Irises. Deadlines as noted above.

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Photo by Adolph Vogt

#### DR. SHUICHI HIRAO

Word was received by members of the SJI this summer of the death of our member and strong supporter, Dr. Shuichi Hirao, of Zushi, Japan. Dr. Hirao was personally known by several members of our group through his organization and planning of the tours in Japan for members of the iris society. He had spent much time with the tour members while they were in Japan.

Dr. Hirao was recognized as the leading contemporary hybridizer of Japanese irises, and an authority on their history and culture. He was author of at least two books on Japanese irises, (the most important being the beautiful volume "The Japanese Iris", which he co-edited with Motojiro Kuribayashi) and numerous published articles. He has served as president of the Japan Hanashobu Society since 1975.

The world of irises will greatly miss his presence, but will cherish his many contributions, both in the form of hybrid cultivars and recorded knowledge about Japanese irises.

We wish to share with you two items received regarding Dr. Hirao. First, the lovely letter from Mrs. Hirao to Dr. Hirao's friends. It was forwarded to "The Review" by Dr. William Ackerman. This is followed by Dr. Ackerman's own tribute to his friend.



To the beloved friends of Shuichi Hirao.

It is my sad task to tell you all that my dear husband, Shuichi Hirao, died suddenly from a fatal heart attack in Kyoto on June 8, 1988.

No one expected him to leave us so soon. He was only 68 years old. He left home to do business in Kyoto as a living, vibrant being and was returned to me as a cold and lifeless one. I miss him very much as I know all those who were also devoted to him will miss him.

Even as a small boy he loved plants. He became a highly respected horticulturist who willingly shared his knowledges of and enthusiasm for plants with his many friends and was father to all the young, aspiring Japanese Gardeners.

His most recent honor was to receive in 1987 the Foster Prize for hybridizing Iris from the British Iris Society in London, England. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness and friendship to him and to wish you all good fortune and health in the years to come.

*Ryuko Hirao*

Zushi, 20. August 1988



Dr. Hirao's  
Funeral Flowers

Photo  
Courtesy of  
Ryuko Hirao

PASSING OF JAPANESE IRIS BREEDER,  
DR. S. HIRAO, OF ZUSHI, JAPAN

William L. Ackerman

It was with much sadness that I learned from Mrs. Ryuko Hirao of the untimely death of her husband, Dr. Shuichi Hirao. It was a great loss to those of us who were honored to know him personally, and also a great loss to all plantsmen, be they growers of Japanese Iris, Camellias, Amaryllids, Narcissus, or other plant genera.

Although a Marine Biologist by profession, Dr. Hirao was, from his early youth, most interested in all forms of plant life, and he excelled in the breeding and development of many. His home in Zushi, Kanagawa, Japan, exemplified this interest. It is situated on a high hill where he and his brother (who grows cacti) have a greenhouse. Leading to his home are a series of very long steps up the hillside, on each side of which are planted his breeding parents and the progeny from his many controlled crosses of various plant genera.

I remember his telling me that early each morning, and again in the evening, he would walk the stairs to examine his plants, observe flowering, make crosses, or gather seed as the season dictated.

Dr. Hirao was a great inspiration to plant people throughout the world. He seemed equally at ease in associating with the most eminent of Japanese and foreign professionals, and the young struggling enthusiasts as well. His interest in people was as broad as his interest in plants. My own associations with Dr. Hirao were principally involved with studies of Camellia, Japanese Iris, Japanese flowering apricots (Prunus mume), and the Amaryllids - he was most knowledgeable with all.

My first contact with this dedicated plantsman was during a three-month plant exploration trip made in 1977 for the USDA. During that trip, most of my collecting involved Camellias. Later trips were more general and included the Japanese Iris and other species. I became involved in a series of rather formal lectures wherein Dr. Hirao served the Japan Camellia Society as my interpreter. This relationship was repeated with different sponsors during 1980, 1984, and 1985. This, of course, gave us much linguistic practice together and he was very proficient in conveying my thoughts and ideas to our audiences - his English was flawless.

I will deeply miss this good friend; a very humble man, but one of superior intelligence and unique talent in communicating with others.





Photo  
Courtesy of  
Lynn  
Westmeyer  
Slink

**ELEANOR DUNHAM WESTMEYER**

Mrs. Troy Westmeyer died suddenly on July 6, 1988, at her home in Stamford, Connecticut. Born July 15, 1919 in Lima Ohio, she graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and received a masters degree in education from New York University. She taught home economics for several years in Stamford schools.

Eleanor, in conjunction with Bee Warburton, was instrumental in the forming of The Society for Japanese Irises. Having contacted others interested in Japanese irises about the idea, probably in 1961, they drew up bylaws and drafted a slate of officers. Eleanor served as the new society's vice president through 1964. The society was first listed as a section of AIS in the April 1963 issue of the Bulletin.

Eleanor also was the first Editor of "The Review", with the first issue being published in January, 1964. She served in that position through 1966. She became President of SJI in January, 1967, holding that office for 6 years.

In addition to her interest in irises, Eleanor was a member of the Hemerocallis Society and the Hosta Society. She wrote a number of articles about all three types of plants. She was also an avid photographer, traveler, collector, and culinary artist.

The Society for Japanese Irises will greatly miss the presence of one of its founders. We express our sympathy to her family, husband Troy, daughter Lynn of Stamford, son Wesley of New York City, and three grandchildren.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

September 19, 1988

Dear Friends,

It doesn't seem possible that my term as President is almost over. The time has passed very quickly, but I can say a very fond adio, for I have made so many new friends. It is with this thought in mind that I say thank you each and every one for the opportunity to serve in this office. A special thanks to Carol Warner for great work with the membership and Treasury and Florence Stout for our new 88 Check List. I could go on and on, for there are so many who have worked so very hard to make this society a joy, and a love for us iris enthusiasts.

It is now Japanese iris dividing time, with a lot of activity going on, and all of those new Japanese iris orders coming in with the expectations of new and beautiful blooms. So let's all keep digging and making big plans for the future of the Japanese iris.

It is with the hope of seeing you next season, that I close.

Respectfully yours,

Don Delmez

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### MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1988 - OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by President Don Delmez. Twenty-three SJI members were present. Additional officers attending were: Clarence Mahan, Florence Stout, Carol Warner; Board members Currier McEwen, Ed Varnum, Jill Copeland; Committee members Hal Stahly, Terry Aitken, Virginia Burton, John Coble, Vincent Bitzer and Claire Barr.

Guests attending were welcomed by the President. These included from Region 18, Sue Delmez, Frances and Harry Boyd, Pauline and Ralph Dierkes, Joan Kellar, and Patricia Bitzer; from Region 6, Ron and Anna Mae Miller, Art Cronin, Robert Bauer, Joan Verwilt, and Jim Copeland; from Region 1, Shirley Pope; from Region 4, Lloyd Zurbrigg; from Region 5, Virginia Burton; and from Region 14, George Waters. This was considered a fine attendance.

Minutes of the two Board Meetings last year were read by the Secretary. Old business called to mind by the minutes were: printing of a new cumulative checklist of Japanese irises, revising the By-Laws, and progress on the book project. These items were taken up in order.



Mrs. Stout displayed a copy of the new checklist to be available at the Kalamazoo convention. It has a lilac cover, is easily readable, and with the hanging indents in bold face, makes finding an item very easy. Costs for printing 200 and for 500 were discussed and since the supply of the current yellow-backed copies is exhausted, McEwen moved and Mahan seconded that 500 be printed. Motion passed unanimously. Selling at \$4, the checklist is expected to bring in about \$1000 for the book fund.

The By-Laws committee reported areas that need change, distributing copies of the current By-Laws to Board members. One of the obvious changes must be the dues (now listed as \$2) which should read "rate to be determined by the Board", and the term "kaempferi" should be changed to "ensata (form. kaempferi)". Some of the wording needed updating elsewhere. New copies with revisions are to be presented to the Board at Kalamazoo before given to the membership for voting.

Ed Varnum gave a report on his "Guidelines for Conventions" to aid our section in preparing and running a convention. One of the items he mentioned from his experience as a "must" was the necessity for at least 3 years lead time in planning. All points were well taken and Mr. Varnum was thanked for his time and effort on behalf of the SJI.

The Treasurer's report was called for, and she reported a healthy balance of \$12,790.60, quite necessary for the upcoming book publication.

Dr. McEwen was asked to report on the book's progress. He reported that it would consist of three parts: 1) for the beginner, 2) for the hybridizer, and 3) for the expert. A proposed length of 64 pages with 8 pages in color as passed previously, will require about \$9540 and an additional \$2000 for advertising to sell 2000 copies. Color separations costs will be reduced by grouping 8 pages in color in the center rather than dispersing them throughout the book. Flexible covers (so-called "Perfect" binding) was considered, Hard covers cost more and would raise the selling price.

In the discussion which followed, some members disliked the size of page considered (like McEwen's Siberian book), some thought a higher priced book similar to the new Louisiana book should be considered. A consultation with the Louisiana book publishers was suggested. Another Board meeting was scheduled after this was done, and a compromise was reached. George Waters was present at both meetings to answer questions of technical nature about the printing procedure. It was decided not to put a color reproduction on the front of the book, which would be cost-prohibitive. A color dust jacket with a picture can be used, the same to be used in the advertising.

A letter requesting the AIS Foundation for a loan amounting to half the production cost was prepared by Delmez and signed by the Secretary with the full approval of the Board.

The Robin Chairman, Vince Bitzer, announced there were 3 active robins flying and if any member wished to join one of them or a new one getting organized, he would be happy to place them. He was thanked for his conscientious and enthusiastic performance.



The Chairman of the Display Garden Program, Claire Barr, was asked for a report and she said that all display garden owners had replied to her request for information and she is very encouraged. Only 11 AIS Regions are represented currently with Japanese iris display gardens, but this is a big improvement over the past. They are listed each year in The Review. More display gardens should stimulate more interest in Japanese irises. Get in touch with Mrs. Barr if you think you would like to list your garden as an official display garden.

The membership chairman reported a record membership of 397.

Adjournment at 6:00 pm.

#### FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JULY 1-2 - KALAMAZOO, MI

The meeting was called to order on July 1, 1988 at 3:30 pm by President Don Delmez. In attendance were officers Clarence Mahan, Florence Stout, and Carol Warner; Board members Currier McEwen and Jill Copeland; Editor Leland Welsh; and members Richard Ferris, Shirley Pope, Adolph Vogt, Arthur Cronin, Anna Mae Miller, and Robert Bauer. As this Board Meeting was held primarily to discuss changes in the By-Laws and progress on the book on Japanese irises, the President proceeded directly to old business.

It was announced that the 1988 Cumulative Checklist for Japanese Irises had been printed and was available from Florence Stout for \$4 per copy.

Clarence Mahan distributed 13 revisions of the amendments to the By-Laws and requested that he receive comments on them in time for him to send them to Lee Welsh by September 15, 1988 for publication in the fall Review.

The AIS Awards Ballot is due on July 10, but there is a separate ballot for Japanese iris because of their late bloom season. A discussion was held on whether to eliminate the separate ballot and have the due date the same for all irises so that all awards could be announced at the same time. Proponents argued that even though the season for Japanese irises is late, all are in bloom by July 10. Those against argued that the season varies greatly throughout the country, and as it took considerable effort in the past to obtain the separate ballot, the extension should remain. It was decided not to request a change in the separate Awards Ballots.

The Board granted a request from Editor Welsh that he be allowed to find his own printer to publish the Review.

A long and detailed discussion of the progress of the book on Japanese irises was held. It was decided that eight pages of pictures bound in the center of the book would be suitable. Another meeting was scheduled for Saturday evening to continue the discussion. President Delmez reported that a publisher contacted by Carolee Clay estimated that it would cost about \$6000 for a book as the one proposed, having a hard cover, 7x10" format, with 20 color photos on 8 pages bound in the

Continued, please see page 17.

1988 AWARDS FOR JAPANESE IRISES  
AND POPULARITY VOTES

A number of Japanese irises received recognition this year. Following are the results of balloting by AIS Judges, voting by those attending the 1988 S.J.I. Convention at Kalamazoo, and voting by S.J.I. members in the popularity poll.

1988 AIS Awards

PAYNE AWARD

Oriental Eyes (A. Vogt)      26 votes

Runnersup

Blueberry Rimmed (C. McEwen)      25 votes

Anytus (S. Innerst)      13 votes

HONORABLE MENTION

votes

24 Royal Game (Vogt/Stahly)  
22 Center Of Attention (L. Rich)  
19 Hegira (S. Innerst)  
19 Ling (Jill Copeland)  
15 Harlequinesque (Marx/Hager)

votes

15 Striper (Jill Copeland)  
13 Pink Bunny  
    (W. Ackerman)  
11 Kontaki-On (L. Rich)  
10 Perriwinkle Pinwheel  
    (Marx/A. Rogers)

HIGH COMMENDATION

14 Votes    A. Vogt A4473

7 votes    J. Copeland, Jr. 83-17-1

7 votes    S. Eddy 5-81-1

7 votes    A. Miller 79-40-8

5 votes    C. McEwen 85/88-2

S.J.I. Convention Voting

FAVORITE GUESTS:

name or number	votes
A4473    A. Vogt	23
5-81-1    S. Eddy	18
Continuing Pleasure	11
Garnet Royalty	10
Stately Flamingo	7
Gala Performance	6
78-35-1    A. Miller	4
A120-1    L. Reid	4

Five irises received  
2 votes each  
Three irises 1 vote  
each

Total Ballots      96

FAVORITE IRIS:

votes

Royal Game	10
Jacasta	8
Wari Hotei	7
Continuing Pleasure	7
Ike-no-sazanami	4
Fashion & Fancy	4
Strut & Flourish	3
Numazu	3
5-81-1    S. Eddy	3
Immaculate White	3
Blueberry Rimmed	2
Spring & Sea	2
Hegira	2
Stippled Ripples	2
83-17-1    A. Miller	2

And 32 other varieties  
were given 1 vote each!

Total      94



## Popularity Poll

Report by "Ginny" Burton

In my last year as President of S.J.I., 1984, I suggested to the JI membership a Popularity Poll. All seemed to like the suggestion and our first one was to be in the fall of '84, when we would vote for the 10 JI we liked in order of preference. We had 9 voters. In 1985 we had 20 voters, in '86 again there were 9 voters, in '87 we changed to the 10 JI we liked best and not in order of preference. We had 44 voters from 11 states, BUT, only after I had sent out several post card reminders and our editor, Lee Welsh, "wedged" in 4 more late ballots I forwarded after sending what I thought was the final ballot. Icy Peaks by Adolph Vogt received the most votes in 1987.

In late '87 Lee and I discussed that "maybe" a ballot in the spring issue of "The Review" would help to remind us of the JI Poll and to vote. As of today, Aug. 24, 9 days after the deadline, I have 36 ballots from 15 states: MI, KY, VA, SC, NC, GA, MD, B.C., ME, PA, MD, MA, OR, IN and NY. (Editor's note, 3 late ballots were forwarded to the editor and incorporated, making a total of 39 ballots.) The results are:

Freckled Geisha, 15 votes; Icy Peaks, 10; Royal Game, 9; Hagaroma, 8; Jacasta, Lilac Peaks and Raspberry Rimmed, 7 each; Continuing Pleasure, Double First, Enchanting Melody, Geisha Gown, Hegira, Oriental Eyes, Strut and Flourish and Warai-Hotei, 6 votes each; Sakura-Jishi and Umi-Botaru had 5 votes each; Those with 4 votes each were Confetti Shower, Dancing Waves, Fairy Carillion, Kontaki-On, Prairie Edge, Ruffled Dimity, Rose Prelude and Wine Ruffles.

Those with 3 votes each were Anytus, Agrippine, Blue Marlin, Frilled Enchantment, Frosted Pyramid, Fuji, Garden Caprice, Gayety, Izu-no-umi, Japanese Pinwheel, Jeweled Sea, Knight in Armour, Le Cordon Bleu, Ling, Little Snowman, Maine Chance, Muffled Drums, Numazu, Prairie Delight, Purple Parasol, Royal Fireworks, snowy Hills, Stippled Ripples, The Great Mogul and Yu-Ho.

Those with 2 votes each were Arthur Hazzard, Dace, Driven Snow, Enduring Pink Frost, Galatea, Garnet Royalty, Geisha Parasol, Harlequinesque, Ike-no-Sazanami, Kyokko, Leave Me Sighing, Mai-Ohgi, Midwest Splendor, Ocean Mist, Ol Man River, Oriental Elegance, Premier Danseur, Rose Adagio, Rose Queen, Sea Fury, Sheer Fascination, Sorcerer's Triumph, Swirling Waves, Violet and Silver, and Wind Drift.

Those with one vote each were: Acclaim, Aura, Aichi-no-Kagayaki, Agripinella, Benitsubaki, Burbot, Caprician Butterfly, Cascade Crest, Center of Attention, Crystal Halo, Dame Fortune, Dappled Dragon, Dazzling Debutante, Double Cream, Eternal Feminine, Evening Reverie, Fashion Classic, Flashing Koi, Flying Tiger, Frostbound, Gay Gallant, Glitter and Gayety, Good Omen, Gusto, Happy Awakening, Harena-No-Hibiki, Himalaya, Hue and Cry, Iapetus, Immaculate White, immaculate Glitter, Imperial Fireworks, Imperial Robe, Ipsus, Japanese Princess, Joyous Troubador, Kongo-Jo, Ki-No-Suzanami, Lavender Krinkle, Lilac Garden, Light at Dawn,



Lady's Fan, Lace Ruff, Maiko-no-hama, Midsummer Reverie, Mist O'Morn, Mammoth Marvel, My Heavenly Dream, Magic Ruby, Miss Coquette, Milady's Fan, Narihiri, Nikko, Oriental Royalty, Prairie Chief, Periwinkle Pinwheel, Prairie Noble, Painted Princess, Prairie Glory, Pink Dimity Prairie Royalty, Peacock Dance, Prairie Marvel, Popular Acclaim, Persian Rug, Reign of Glory, Returning Tide, Rose Cavalier, Royal Ramparts, Suiten-Ishiki, Sakutano-Miya, Scheherazade, Sky and Mist, Stately Flamingo, Suiten-Ushaku, Summer Storm, Sakuraku, Shakko, Simple Elegance, Tropic Showers, Tuptim,, Walk in Beauty, Wine Ruffles, Worley Pink, Winged Chariot, and Wounded Dragon.

The first 5 to send in their ballots were Pat Brooks, Ruth Wilder, Walter Hoover and Suky and Clarence Mahan, (Congratulations)! Some comments: "You want us to pick only 10!" (They are only growing 250 plus JI); Roger Donaldson of KY, First JI to bloom was Peacock Dance on June 3, and last to bloom was Veined Artistry, had repeat bloom on 2 plants of Royal Ramparts at the end of July, and over 10" short of rain for the year. Claire Honkaned liked Adolph Vogt's seedling which won the top award for guest iris in Kalamazoo this year.

Carol Warner says to watch for Sterling Innerst's JI seedling #3044-1. Eric Baker likes the JI Dr. McEwen is introducing. Cheryl Morris of B.C., "This is the first year I've even seen introduced JI varieties, previous experience has been only my own seedlings grown from purchased seed. I have been expanding my named JI for two years now so should be able to vote for more next year. Each new JI opening is like a surprise package." The Watsons in GA.---Agrippine did real well and bloomed on a 1st year plant, Wine Ruffles did real well once it got established and the color was superb in our HOT sun, Freckled Geisha was lovely. Frilled Enchantment has been a 3 year dog that got to be smaller than a pencil last spring, but extra water and liquid acid fertilizer caused it to be this year's best surprise. This iris caused several persons to become interested in JI at the Atlanta Iris Show, which proves we should never give up on one when it appears to be on the way out. I feel Lilac Peaks deserves national recognition as a superior plant with quality." Sara Swift "had a good JI growing year". Lee Welsh, "a hot, dry year and a limited watering capacity, moved everything last year, Snow Avalanche was first to bloom on June 15 and Long Delay opened June 16." Virginia Burton, My JI year started May 18 with a 3 petal JI sdlg., and ended July 6 with Comedienne. Raspberry Rimmed was the tallest at 41" with 9½" blooms, it first bloomed May 23, the second stalk bloomed just before the JI show June 4, with 2 open blooms for the show. It is still hot here. At 5 am it was 77 degrees and 94% humidity---enough said!

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## 1988 JI SHOW REPORTS

There were a total of 7 known shows of JI or late blooming beardless irises held this year. Reports on these shows have been received as follows:

### Summerville, S.C.---Report by Virginia Burton

The Summerville Iris Society presented a standard flower show June 4, 1988. The show was in cooperation with AIS and the Society for Japanese Irises.

The show's theme "The Artist's Palette" had as a focal area a 5' artist's palette on a tripod, with JI and companion flowers extending through the holes usually holding paints. This was done by the show's co-chairman Leora Moore. Frances Thompson was show chairman.

Each year SIS tries to do something different in the design division of our iris shows. This year we had iris mobiles. The 7' tall T formation, mounted in a pail of plaster of paris, was done by one of our new members, Peggy Beason.

Kathy Woolsey did the educational exhibit on iris species. Kathy also entered a container grown JI in bloom, to prove one can get JI from seed to bloom in 18 months!

Mrs. W. I. Rodgers, of Beaufort, S.C., was in charge of the bus tour to Beaufort. They visited private gardens and homes and had their picnic lunch in The Secession House, home of Mr. and Mrs. Rodgers. Sonia Schneider was bus captain.

The 2 hour judges training class, with 32 in attendance, was conducted by Adolph Vogt and John W. Wood. Twelve took the examination. Peggy and Leora were in charge of our buffet supper following the judges training course. SIS members are good cooks! The Saturday AM breakfast, with Ruth Wilder in charge, again had food furnished by our SIS members.

Our JI horticulture division had many of the newer JI, including Double First, a very nice white; Raspberry Rimmed, also by McEwen; and Icy Peaks, by Adolph, which is very popular here. John Wood and I each had three first ribbons, but John had more seconds to win the horticulture sweepstakes rosette and 2 iris etched glasses. John also won the best species award, receiving a silver tray. Raspberry Rimmed, (tet. JI by McEwen) won Best of Show Rosette for me and a crystal pitcher. It had two nicely opened and spaced blooms.

Betty Black won the companion plant sweepstakes award and a crystal cream and pitcher set, the best companion plant rosette and a crystal pitcher, and the design sweepstakes award rosette and two iris etched goblets. Leora Moore won best design rosette and a crystal rose bowl.

Our auctioneer, Ruth Wilder, did a terrific job and was ably assisted by Geny Morrison, Virginia Rowland and Pat Brooks.



## **Washington D.C. Area---report by Diana Nicholls**

The 1988 Beardless Iris Show was hosted jointly by the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society and the Francis Scott Key Iris Society on June 18 in Towson, Maryland, at Kenilworth Park. Nine exhibitors entered 106 stalks of Japanese, Siberian, Spuria, Louisiana, and Species iris and JI seedlings.

Clarence Mahan exhibited a lovely stalk of Hegira (JI) which was awarded Best Specimen of Show. He also was awarded the AIS Silver Medal for most blue ribbons. Diana Nicholls was awarded the AIS Bronze Medal for second most blue ribbons.

Best Seedling went to A 4 10-32, a Japanese, originated by William Ackerman. Bill described his seedling as a single (3 petal) contrasting vein type. The ground color is near white and the veins are dark violet purple. Near the signal the color is dark purple. The standards are upright-veined purple with white margins. The stylearms are purple with a lighter purple at the tips. The stalk also had branches. I thought you might enjoy seeing this seedling through the hybridizer's eyes.

Other awards included in the show were two runners-up to the Queen; Rose Queen (JI) exhibited by Diana Nicholls and Strut and Flourish (JI) exhibited by Rosalie Figge. Doris Simpson exhibited a stalk of Mrs. Ira Nelson, a Louisiana, which was selected as Best In Section.

Our judges for the show were George Gerarhart, Harold Griffee and Lary Westfall, all reside in Pennsylvania. Our apprentice judges were Mike and Anne Lowe of Virginia and Libby Dufresne of Maryland.

## **Harrisburg, Pennsylvania---Report by Ophelia Straw.**

The Susquehanna Iris Society presented the eighth beardless iris show at the Harrisburg East Mall on June 25, 1988. Theme for the show was oriental Fantasy. There were 82 Japanese and 3 Louisiana irises entered by 9 exhibitors.

Snowy Hills, shown by Sara Senft, was Queen of the Show. The Queen's Court was Hegira, shown by Larry Westfall, Lilac Garden, shown by Clarence Mahan, Oriental Eyes and Ipsus, shown by Sara Senft. Best Seedling was William Ackerman's JI-A3-2-100. The Sweepstakes winner was Sara Senft. Second sweepstakes winner was Clarence Mahan.

A sale of bearded iris rhizomes was held along with the beardless show. Many fine rhizomes were sold to the public at great savings, which enabled the S.I.S. to build up its treasury in anticipation of the 1995 National Convention.



**Massachusetts---Report by Marty Schafer.**

July 10, 1988, newton Arts Center, Newtonville, MA

The lion dances  
Under the spring tree's shadow  
To the drum's cadence.  
Flowers will blossom faster  
To the cadence of a dance.

Everybody in New England enjoys the flowers of May and early June. Then garden magic evaporates in summer heat. The Iris Society of Massachusetts with help from Maine Iris Society friends and puppeteer Paul Vincent Davis proved with our show "The Lion Dances" that Japanese irises bring the magic back. July is the time of year that atmospheric violence is commonplace. On July 9 a thin line of clouds dropped three inches of rain in one and a half hours from Maine to Massachusetts. On July 10 the heat was turned up to 99 degrees and the humidity was unbearable for humans. However, the Japanese Irises were perfectly fit. Stately and beautiful, they gave the old church walls of the Newton Arts Center something new to look at.

And what a superb setting for Japanese irises - a high ceiling and white walls, large stained glass windows and good lighting! Best of all - sculpture display cubes just waiting for the creative touch of staging manager Jane Kratsch who worked her own magic with Japanese parasols, fans, mats, shawls and festoons of fabric to create a many-layered Queen's Court. On a bamboo mat at ground level stood Swirling Waves - Queen of the Show, on higher levels Currier McEwen's Fourfold Mystery - Best Seedling, and John White's 86-M-10, seedling runner up, and Eternal Feminine, Continuing Pleasure, Triple Threat and Royal Crown completed the court. These winners were chosen from a field of 56 entries (53 cultivars). John and Evelyn White won the silver medal, and Vintage Festival was voted the most popular entry by the public even though it didn't win a ribbon.

At the other end of the hall from the Queen's Court was a stage, decorated with more parasols and fans and rare and beautiful hostas. (We have arranged a joint show with the New England Hosta Society for next year.) Upon the stage Show Chairpersons Tom and Alice Schaefer arranged three wonderful entertainments. After visitors had a chance to view the irises, Paul Vincent Davis gave us three plays of rod puppets in Bunraku style - a wild lion's dance, a courtly maiden's dance, and a dying warrior's dance. Adults and children sat as if spellbound while the puppets told their stories. For a short time the heat was forgotten. When the applause died down Alice Schaefer gave informal lessons in origami and as a final treat we were given a demonstration of home style Ikebana flower arranging.

So don't let people tell you the the lion only dances in spring. With the help of friends, hard work and Japanese irises, anything can happen.

(Editor's note; this was the first JI show in the Massachusetts area.)

## Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The Kalamazoo show was held in conjunction with the SJI Convention. For a report on the show please see the convention coverage in this issue.

## St. Louis, Missouri---Report by Sue Delmez.

The Grater St. Louis Beardless Iris Show was held June 7 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. There were 16 exhibitors showing 76 entries. Queen of the Show went to Haremanshiki, exhibited by Don Delmez. The silver medal was won by Don Delmez and the bronze medal went to Ralph Dierkes. The best seedling, number DB1, was exhibited by Marie Dienstbach.

In the design division, Sue Delmez won best arrangement and Vince Italian won sweepstakes.

## Portland Oregon. --- Report by Terry Aitken

Picking a date for a Japanese iris show in Portland (June 11 this year) is difficult under the best of circumstances, and almost impossible when Mother Nature decides to play tricks. This year JI season was preceded by a record dry and mild winter, then constant cool rains all thru May (T.B. season). The end product of this seasonal reversal was to move bloom season 2 weeks later than "normal".

Most of the JI bloom present at the show came from Lauries Garden (150 miles south of Portland), while Portland club members filled in the gaps with many other types of iris, ranging from IBs, TBs, Siberian, Spuria, Dutch, Species and Pacific Coast Natives. Eventual show winner was a very fine stalk of HOLDEN CLOUGH. A strange year indeed!!

**Editor's Note:** Terry also writes---"Actually our JI bloom was superb - if late. We just had bloom well into mid July. Our JI plantings seemed to suffer from an application of Simazine (weed retardant) as we got very little spring growth and had brown leaf tips. Plants settled down during the summer and put up good growth by fall."

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES---Cont'd. from page 10.

center of the book (similar to McEwen's book on Siberian iris). The Board was reminded that the new book on Louisiana irises has 32 pages of color distributed throughout the book and it was published at modest cost. President Delmez was instructed to continue with negotiations with publishers. McEwen announced that the text of the book is finished and that pictures would be selected this week-end with the assistance of Slides Chairman Coble. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Florence Stout.

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A SENTIMENTAL LOOK AT 25 YEARS  
Leland M. Welsh

June 1, 1988 was an exciting day. After months of preparation, the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society's annual Japanese Iris Show (of which I was chairman) had taken place. In conjunction with the show, the third national convention of SJI had begun. Imagine, having so many JI enthusiasts in one spot (all together about 130 people took part in the convention) looking at specimens and artistic arrangements, judging seedlings, watching Ikebana demonstrations, and greeting each other. Then the informal get-together at the Inn and the presentation of Arlie Payne's slides. I came home exhausted, crawled into bed to prepair for the next days tours, and lay there for hours with thoughts whirling through my mind.

Central to all these thoughts was the memory of Art Hazzard, and the rolls he had played in helping to set the stage for these events. How pleased he would have been to see these events, and all of these irisarians at a JI show.

The next day over lunch I was talking about my nighttime thoughts. Somehow, as a result, it was suggested during the evening that a history of the development of the shows, conventions, and perhaps SJI, should be published in the next issue of "The Review". The history of SJI has, for the most part, been published before, but here is an attempt to look at the events from another viewpoint. It seems especially significant on the 25th anniversary of both the first Japanese iris show and the founding of SJI to look at how these events have related to each other, and how they have developed together. The news received later this summer of the deaths of Eleanor Westmeyer and Dr. Shuichi Hirao, seem to make it even more poignantly so.

It is believed that the first Japanese iris show ever held, (at least the first Western style judged show) was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan on June 6, 1963. The report of this show, which makes interesting reading, is in the very first issue published of "The Review". Among the people attending that show were 15 from out-of-state, including Dr. Shuichi Hirao of Tokyo, Japan. The show had been sponsored by the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society due to the influence of Arthur Hazzard.

I did not see the 1963 show, having just learned one month earlier there was such a thing as an iris society, by accidentally coming upon the T.B. show. The next year, June 26-27, 1964, the second Japanese iris show was sponsored. I did visit it, as I had just joined the society one month earlier, again at the T.B. show.

In subsequent years, shows were put on in Davenport, Iowa, 1965, and Terre Haute, Indiana, 1966. Art Hazzard assisted with the planning and presentation of both shows. The Terre Haute show was judged by Bee Warburton and Eleanor Westmeyer. This was a rather important show in the life of SJI, as there were visitors from 14 states and gardens were toured, but more about that later. A show was planned for 1967 in Portland, Oregon by Walter Marx, again with Art Hazzard's advice, but I find no report in "The Review" as to whether or not it actually took place. It is interesting to note that none of these 3 shows developed into a "repeat performance".



Let's go back now to 1963, and the founding of SJI. The Society was first listed as a section of AIS that year in the April issue of the Bulletin. It is probable that SJI was actually organized earlier, possibly in 1962, but there seems to be no published evidence to that effect. Eleanor Westmeyer stated that she and Bee Warburton had discussed forming such a group earlier, and talked about it with Bob Swearngen at an AIS convention, probably in 1961. They then solicited officers and wrote bylaws, but the first record is the AIS Bulletin listing. Apparently it was simply coincidence that the first JI show, and the first record of SJI as an organization, both occurred in the spring of 1963. Thus a dual 25th anniversary celebration. The first "Review" was published in Jan., 1964.

It seems to have been the Terre Haute show which really put life into the new organization. The event was attended by a number of people as before mentioned. This was just before Arlie Payne retired to California, and his garden was visited, along with those of Bob Swearngen, Bill Ouwenel and Russell Isle. It was here, according to Eleanor Westmeyer, that they "discovered the talents of Bill Ouwenel". As a result he became editor of "The Review" for the next 18 years. This meeting might be looked upon as a precedent to what would happen many years later.

In 1968 There was a third Japanese iris show in Kalamazoo, with Ronald Miller as chairman. It would be nine years before we again took up the cause. Meanwhile, SJI continued to grow.

In 1977 Jill Copeland and I were co-chairmen of the T.B. show. An early season left us with no bloom and no show! Jill said "Why don't we have another Japanese iris show?" In less than a month the show was produced. It was so successful that the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society decided to sponsor it as an annual event. It is interesting that also in 1977, the first report appears in "The Review" of a JI show in Summerville, S.C. They too have continued to hold shows annually. The idea has gradually caught on until this year there were a total of seven JI shows across the U.S.

Now, back to my thoughts as I tried going to sleep last July 1st. A few years prior to our 4th local JI show in '77, I began going to regional meetings. In Region 6, the regional meeting, both spring and fall, usually starts with a slide fest on Friday evening. At each of these meetings, Art Hazzard would be there with slides of his Japanese irises and seedlings. Being a rather quiet person, Art would usually wait until all others had shown before he went to the projector. Or was it that JIs not yet being so popular, he was last to be asked? Whatever, by the time he would get to project his slides, everyone was so tired most had slipped away, to prepare for the next days activities. But, at each session, Art persisted. How times have changed! Was it partly due to Arts perseverance? At any rate, we now find JI slides greeted with as much enthusiasm, and as many oohs and aahs, as those of the bearded irises.

About 1983, it was realized that there would be no Region 6 spring meeting in '85 due to the convention in Indianapolis. Jim Copeland suggested we might expand the Kalamazoo JI show to include a tour, as a substitute. We decided to go ahead. It was not accepted as an official regional meeting, but plans

continued. Guest irises were solicited 2 years in advance. Publicity was put out for the JI Weekend. As the date approached, the response was unbelievable. About 90 people from several states participated. The JI Weekend was so successful it was decided to consider it the first SJI National Convention. A second one was planned for Summerville in 1987, and another for the Washington D.C. area in 1989. Meantime, at the urging of Currier McEwen, it was decided to make them annual events, and Kalamazoo planned to host their second one in '88. Thus it was that about 130 people gathered here last July to look at, discuss, and enjoy Japanese irises. What excitement! What a way to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first JI show and the founding of SJI! Together, show and society, in one big combined event.

SJI is well, and growing. Shows are increasing. Future conventions are being planned. No better tribute could be given to the ideas, visions, work, and perseverance of Art Hazzard, Eleanor Westmeyer, and all the others who have made the Society, and JI shows a successful reality.

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## THE GREAT 1989 SJI CONVENTION

### WASHINGTON D. C. AREA

Friday & Saturday, June 16 & 17

Hosted by

Francis Scott Key Iris Society  
&  
Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society

Headquarters  
Holiday Inn, Manassas, VA.

Those flying should plan to  
arrive at Dulles Airport.

It is suggested that you may wish to allow extra time to see more of Washington D.C.

There are 109 guest iris plants from Japan, in addition to over 100 guest plants from American hybridizers. This, in addition to the hundreds of named plants in the four tour gardens.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

There will be more details in the  
Spring '89 issue of "The Review"



## 1988 SJI CONVENTION REPORT

The 1988 SJI Convention was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on July 1st, 2nd and 3rd. We were happy to have a total of 130 people participate in the convention. Various convention attendants were asked to write their impressions of the show and tour gardens. Their reports follow:

### THE SHOW --- Report by Evelyn J. White of Maine.

GARDENS ON "REVIEW" was the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society's 14th show of Japanese and other late blooming iris. This show was held at "The Crossroads Mall" in Portage, MI on July 1, 1988, and certainly was a delightful adjunct to the Japanese Iris Convention in Kalamazoo July 1 - 3.

70 iris specimens were on display as well as 11 seedlings from 4 hybridizers. Ensata Gardens swept the Horticultural Division with ROYAL GAME, a gorgeous deep purple iris with a slight blue blaze around the yellow signal, as Queen of the Show. The 5 runners-up (all Ensata-grown) were FRINGED CLOUD, PURPLE PARASOL, UMI-BOTAN, IKE-NO-SAZANAMI, and HAGAROMA. Other specimens that I particularly liked were STRIPER, STIPPLED RIPPLES, PRAIRIE TAPESTRY, and ENCHANTING MELODY.

Ensata Gardens (The Bob Bauer/John Coble operation) also won the Silver Medal with 16 blue ribbons. Anna Mae Miller's #79-40-8, a lovely iris, white with blue veining, was voted Best Seedling.

As this was my first Japanese iris convention and the first Japanese iris show I had attended, I was apprehensive about it being held in a mall. However, mall patrons, as well as iris convention-goers, were attracted by and appreciative of this display. It was a fine way to interest the public in these lovely flowers. Leland Welsh, Show Chairman, is to be commended on his planning.

The show's Artistic Division captured its share of attention with 21 imaginative designs in 8 different categories. Judged the Best Arrangement was an interpretation of "The Water Garden" by Bernard Jones. He was also the winner of the Artistic sweepstakes, with 5 blue ribbons.

Another feature of the show was the Ikebana exhibition arranged by members of the Sogetsu Michigan Branch. In addition to their unusual arrangements on display, Sylvia Wong, Assistant Director of the school, gave an interesting demonstration of the Ikebana method of flower arranging. A sunken area beside a lovely fountain in the mall provided a restful setting for this demonstration, and Mrs. Wong was most generous with her suggestions and answers to questions.

The generosity of the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society members in providing transportation to the mall and back, as well as to convention gardens, was much appreciated by those who did not have cars. The thoughtful hospitality of these hosts added much to the convention. THANKS!

THE RON AND ANNA MAE MILLER GARDEN --- Report by Clarence Mahon of Virginia.

Until I had the good fortune to meet and chat with Anna Mae Miller at the Summerville Convention last year, I had thought she was a "Siberian person". After all, her lovely, ruffled violet-blue and purple Siberian iris DANCING NANOU has been "dancing" in my garden for a couple years now. And she has other Siberian registrations too: FATTANEH, CHARMING DARLENE, SWIRLING LAVENDER, ALMOST A MELODY, AQUA WHISPERS, and GENTEEL GRAYCE. Anna Mae is also 1st Vice President of the Society for Siberian Irises. Last year it was a delight to learn that Anna Mae is also a "Japanese iris person", and this year all of us lucky enough to get to visit the Ron and Anna Mae Miller garden learned that both of these nice irisarians are "real gardening people".

A purple iris windsock by the driveway welcomed our tour bus. Close by, a whimsical piece of garden statuary, a large stoneware frog, sculpted by Anna Mae, with his mouth open waiting for insects, also greeted us. Usually on garden tours, one group heads for the irises and the other group heads for the refreshment table. At the Miller's, many of those headed for the irises quickly became distracted by the array of fantastic perennials in the garden. A huge planting of gypsophila paniculata (baby's-breath) drew much attention. Anna Mae spent a lot of time answering questions from the many visitors who wanted to know "what is this, what is that?". The clary sage, salvia sclarea and flowering mullein verbascum bombyferum seemed to get more than their fair share of attention, and they were most attractive. My suspicions that Anna Mae is "into" flower arranging were confirmed when later we found an appealing arrangement with a purple Japanese iris and clary sage in a black container on the deck near the refreshment table.

Although some of the Japanese irises were experiencing stress because of the terrible drought, it was apparent that they were being grown by highly competent gardeners. There were many beautiful cultivars to be seen. One of my wife's favorites was PRAIRIE TAPESTRY (Hazzard, R. '77), a 3 petal with falls of red-purple veining on white, standards red-purple with a white border, and red-purple styles. A 3 petal dark violet with standards the same color edged in white that instantly caught my attention was PREMIER DANSEUR (Payne, R. '65). A Hirao iris from Edo lines that I had not seen before and liked very much was KOZASA GAWA, a very pale wisteria blue 3 petal. It was so pale it was almost white.

Adolph Vogt's STATELY FLAMINGO was looking very nice. To my eyes, this large 3 petal seemed to have falls of mulberry washed over white, with darker mulberry styles and standards; but the falls are described as grey, sanded purple violet, in the 1987 Checklist. In any event, it is stately and lovely. Others that were eye-catching included CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY, SHEER FASCINATION, PRAIRIE MANTLE and ENCHANTING MELODY. Lorena Reid's PINK DIMITY (Reid, 87) is a pinkish 6 petal with darker veins and styles; it possesses many meritorious qualities. Dr. William Ackerman's 7-7 is a 3 petal white with purple veining. It has red purple standards and darker red



purple styles. Although there is much space between the petals, my prejudice against this feature was instantly overcome by the overall charming effect of the iris.

Many thanks to Ron and Anna Mae for their hospitality. What a pleasure to visit such a fine "plant lover's" garden!

#### THE COPELAND GARDEN --- Report by Shirley Pope of Maine.

The 1988 Society For Japanese Irise's convention in Kalamazoo, Michigan was blessed with perfect weather. Obviously careful planning resulted in a noticeably relaxed atmosphere, allowing a much more leisurely tour of gardens than is often experienced.

Of special interest to me was our visit at the home of Jim and Jill Copeland in Mattawan. Upon arrival we were impressed by the long border of bearded irises which graced the spacious lawn. We couldn't help imagining how spectacular these must be in their blooming season. They are the work of the Copeland's daughter, Sue.

Our visit was timed to include a noon meal in the form of a fish fry. I am not a fish fancier. However, Jim Copeland soon made a convert of me with the most delicious fish I've tasted in years. It turned out he not only cooked the fish with a very special recipe of his own, but he had also caught them himself, probably in some secret hideaway spot.

It was difficult to leave the aroma of that wonderful meal, but we came to look at irises. Nearby was a garden of guest irises including Adolph Vogt's pink seedling A4473 which caught everyone's eye.

From there we descended a few steps to a well-organized layout of Japanese and Siberian irises and daylilies.

This is a family affair. Jim follows his interest in Siberians. Their son, Jim, Jr., has a bed of Japanese seedlings he has hybridized. I was especially impressed with a beautiful white with faint blue markings having good substance in spite of a fragile creped appearance.

Jill's primary interest is hybridizing Japanese irises which will tolerate alkaline conditions and she is making remarkable progress. Her seedlings show the results of careful planning in breeding. Interesting pattern development and color variations were evident. Because of the high pH prevalent in her soil, Jill sends possible introductions to Ensata Gardens for further evaluation.

At the outer edge of the garden lies a marshy area full of frogs. Many visitors were intrigued by the antics of the Copeland's little black dog, jumping into the pools in hot pursuit of a wary frog. It was said that upon tiring of this pastime he would head for the house. When admitted, he would leap into the bathtub to be rinsed off.

I am deeply grateful to the entire Copeland family for the kindness and hospitality extended to me in more ways than space here allows me to describe. It is always nice to share a hobby with others.



Above:

Judges ponder Queen of Show decision.  
Left to right, Don Delmez, Carol Warner, Apprentice judge Sue Copeland, Clerks Gladys Dodger and Carol Kerr, Doyle Inman.

Below:

Conventioneers enjoy Ikebana demonstration by Sylvia Wong.

Photos by L. Welsh





### THE O'MELAY GARDEN --- Report by Hal Stahly of Michigan.

The O'Melay home is located in a largely wooded rural area near Mattawan, Michigan, several miles west of Kalamazoo. The house is situated on a small hillside, which provides a beautiful setting for an intimate garden just off the back entry. At the top of the slope, by the house, is a pool with small fountains. Water spills from one side of the pool to fall over rocks into a second pool about six feet below. From here it is recirculated back to the fountains.

For a distance of perhaps 20 feet back from the corner of the house the hillside has been worked with flat rocks, a part of which form the waterfall. Around this are rock shelves with stone lanterns and small planting pockets, and plantings surround the upper and lower pools as well. This arrangement provides an ideal setting for Japanese irises, which grow here with well chosen companion plants. The entire treatment of the hillside creates a truly beautiful, harmonious scene.

The main planting of Japanese irises is in a separate bed located on an expanse of level ground at the foot of the hillside. Here they were flourishing despite the record heat and drought of the summer of 1988. The good care was obvious.

Some older JIs were holding their own in competition with some of the newest. Marx's FROSTED PYRAMID is a thoroughly modern looking thirty-year-old. Payne's KNIGHT IN ARMOR and SHEER FASCINATION, both violet with deeper striping, were looking good. Also in good bloom in the same color class was Hazzard's PRAIRIE NOBLE.

Among newer irises was IKE-NO-SAZANAMI from Hirao, a large six-petal white with shadings of blue-violet. Other standouts were McEwen's CONTINUING PLEASURE, medium violet with white veining and frothy style arms, and Jill Copeland's STRIPER, a beautiful six-petal white delicately veined and with style arms of orchid-violet. Also noteworthy was Vogt's pure white and short of stature LITTLE SNOWBALL -- very nice. Adolph's seedling No. A 4473 was putting on a beautiful display here and elsewhere. It is a nicely formed six-petal in pink-lavender shades. I was pleased with a clump of ROYAL GAME blooming away beside the waterfall.

I wish I could name all those blooming here. In a wonderful setting, obviously well groomed and attended to, the O'Melay Garden is sheer pleasure to visit.

### ENSATA GARDENS --- Reported by Terry Aitken of Washington.

As the three busloads of happily well-fed and rested conventioners rolled gingerly onto the grounds of the Ensata Gardens, we were greeted by a mature, informal landscape. Manicured lawns, with the incredible consistency of thick carpet, were lightly shaded by tall, old growth pines and umbrella shaped canopies of walnut trees. (The light shade later protected the Judges Training class from sparkling clear 80 degree plus temperatures of the open fields). At the end of the long, unassuming gravel driveway was a circular drive



Top Left:

THE KITCHEN GARDEN

Award winning arrangement  
in the artistic division  
by Bernard Jones.

Opposite Page:

COPELAND GARDEN

Top - Members take notes  
at guest iris planting.

Center - Looking over iris  
field.

Bottom - Jim Copeland at  
far right serves the fish  
fry.



Bottom Left:

Garden host John Coble  
talks with President Don  
Delmez at Ensata Gardens.

Photos by L. Welsh







where our buses gently came to a halt as if fearful of awakening a sleeping giant - the Ensata Gardens farmhouse. This is a farmhouse? As an architect from another region and time, my impression was one of stepping into the history of early Michigan - an era of the mid 1880's - "Country Elegance" at its architectural best. Fine red brick (made in a kiln built on the site in the 1800's) and a scattering of sculptured wood detailing articulated the wood porches. Even the outbuildings were an artist's joy in their use of wonderfully tactile surfaces of weathered wood board and batten siding. I could appreciate with honest envy the great storage spaces for gardening equipment that was available in "the outbuildings".

Having already spotted a large, waving field of violet off to the east of the turnaround, I immediately headed for the Japanese iris fieldrows. Obstacles in my path included long rows of daylillies just coming alive with early color and thick rows of Siberian irises sending up afterthoughts of color.

There stood the fieldrows of Japanese irises! Blocks of seedlings, standing like soldiers on parade, were obvious in their different stages of development. First year bloom, second year bloom, reselecs and breeding rows were followed by blocks of more mature clumps representing the named varieties.

While our visit occurred under idyllic conditions, it was apparent that the earlier great heatwave and continued drought of the central states was putting a strain on the dedicated performance of all the Japanese irises. These plants were receiving ideal cultural conditions - an ample quantity of compost and irrigation water and a heavy mulch of straw. In spite of all of this, most veteran gardeners will agree that there is just no substitute for real rain. A commercial grower on a buying trip relishes these conditions because it offers the opportunity to spot the real performers, and in this garden there were many. LE CORDON BLEU was a three petal with a smooth color transition from light edges to dark violet at the signal. IKE NO SAZANAME, which looked excellent on the Queen's bench at the indoor show, also was a standout in the fieldrows - a nicely flared six petal white with a delicately applied brushing of blue. HEGIRA was striking as a large, fluffy white overlaid with violet veins and dark stylearms on top.

A similar pattern was KAMO #92 (WARAI-HOTEI), a very substantial light blue topped off with a tuft of dark blue stylearms. This plant caught the attention of many visitors as it was the most hotly sought after plant during the Auction, finally going for some \$70.00! (This was a particularly humbling experience for us hybridizers, as this plant was first offered in commerce in this country almost 100 years ago!) WINGED SPRITE struck me as the bluest blue. SWIRLING WAVES was a very nice light blue with dark tufted stylearms. JEWEL SEAS was a fine blue violet with white stylearms. A really classy plant was HARLEQUINESQUE, with lots of buds. It was a luxurious light ground overlaid with a fine sanding and veining of strawberry-pink - much darker at the





Top:

Carol Warner conducts judges training class at  
Ensata Gardens.

Bottom:

Conventioners look over iris plantings at the  
Miller Garden.

Photos by L. Welsh



edges blending to near white at the signal. KONTAKI-ON was a light ground with a delicate fine sanding over-all of light blue violet, deepening toward the signal.

Next to Harlequinesque stood the iris which was to become the star of the convention - ROYAL GAME (A. Vogt by H. Stahly '84). Rich, glossy, deep purple on six rolling, ruffled petals exuded "quality"! It was no wonder that it won Queen of Show indoors as well as Best Iris on Tour out of doors.

Moving on to the display/landscape garden was a breathtaking experience, with wandering waterways, quiet reflecting ponds, rock outcroppings, beautifully manicured plantings of many exotic trees and shrubs. Magnificent plantings of HAGAROMO and STRUT & FLOURISH standing shoulder high greeted us in near intimidating proportions. In a large clump and at a distance, HAGAROMO appeared white, while STRUT & FLOURISH seemed raspberry-pink.

Nearby was the strikingly unique JOCASTA, later to be announced as the runner up for best iris on tour. This six petal iris has a light ground overlaid with red violet veins; and overall sanding of red violet which deepens at the petal bases and forming a dark, dense band defining the outer petal edges.

HAPPY AWAKENING also was attractive in a color which could be construed as raspberry-pink. Copeland #86-12 was a well rounded six petal white, flushed with smooth pink violet around the signals. Reid D658-7 had a distinctively bright pink overlay of veins on a light ground, topped off with bright pink stylearms. Miller #79-41-13 was a very nicely proportioned six petal pink, deeper in color at the signal. Next to this plant was a very floriferous clump of GALA PERFORMANCE, a nicely flared six petal white with deep blue stylearms on top.

Next were the Aitken introductions - CASCADE CREST and MIDNIGHT STARS. After observing these plants in their native Northwest marine climate, I was quite startled to note how much lighter their colors appeared in the Michigan heat. Is it simply heat, or also soil chemistry which alters color intensity? Conversely, in 1991, when many easterners will visit the Northwest for the Japanese convention, will they be pleasantly surprised at the lush growth and more intense colors which we observe in the cool, moist Northwest climate?

I returned to the fieldrows for another look at the seedlings. (Instinctively, one hybridizer always wants to know what another hybridizer is up to!) After "Walking the rows", I concluded that there were a number of particularly noteworthy intense pink seedlings. I was advised by John Coble and Bob Bauer that these were derivatives of PINK BUNNY.

This was my first venture into the Michigan area to observe Japanese "iris in action", and I would heartily recommend this activity. It is a great opportunity to meet the people who make the system work; an aesthetic experience to see the great irises of tomorrow, and a chance to meet the new people who will be the veteran gardeners of tomorrow.



## EXPERIENCE WITH SEAWEED AND PINE NEEDLE MULCHES

Currier McEwen

In the Maine seacoast area two mulches often used because of their availability are pine needles and seaweed. The mulch that we usually use at Seaways Gardens is oat straw but we have thought of using the other two and in the fall of 1987 tried all three to compare them. Our display beds have consisted of three contiguous beds, each measuring about 15 by 20 feet. using them as our test sites in October, 1987 we used oat straw in the south bed, seaweed in the middle one and pine needles in the north bed. Each spring I test the pH of various garden beds and in 1987 the pH of all three display beds was 5.3 to 5.5. I had not thought of testing the pH as a part of the trial of the three types of mulch but it was done in the spring of 1988 as a routine annual check. To my surprise and chagrin the pH was decidedly changed in two of the beds. Only that with the oat straw mulch was unchanged with pH of 5.5. The one mulched with pine needles was 6.3 and the one with the seaweed 6.75. Unfortunately, the only bed with the seaweed mulch was the one containing Japanese irises. All seaweed was carefully removed and the individual Japanese irises in that bed were heavily drenched at once with acid type soluble fertilizer and this was repeated about a month later.

Behavior of the various JIs in that bed differed markedly in the following months. 'Returning Tide' appeared to grow normally with 29 bloom stalks of usual height and good bloom. 'Triple Threat' did about the same as in another part of the garden that had no mulch. 'White Parachute' bloomed but with flowers of abnormally small size and on stalks of half normal height. 'Simple Elegance' was low in height and did not bloom. 'Continuing Pleasure' was especially poor with height only about 12 inches, many poor yellow leaves and only a few poor flowers about one third their normal size. These results and the pH in May and August 1988 are shown in the Table.

NAME	BEHAVIOR	pH	
		<u>May</u>	<u>Aug</u>
Returning Tide	Apparently normal	6.25	6.25
Triple Threat	Apparently normal	----	5.5
White Parachute	Short small flowers	7.0	5.0
Simple Elegance	Short no bloom	7.0	6.0
Continuing Pleasure	Very poor	7.25	6.5

These results suggest the possibility that some of these cultivars are more tolerant of higher pH than others. 'Returning Tide' grew well with pH of 6.25 both in the spring and August. By far the one that suffered most was 'Continuing Pleasure' but the pH at its site, especially in May, was the highest of them all. Probably the behavior of the five cultivars related directly to the pH but on the chance that

'Returning Tide', for example, may be more tolerant that the others to higher pH and 'Continuing Pleasure' may be less tolerant we will try growing them next year in pots treated with lime to give a gradation of pH values. If the results warrant we will report again.

I was surprised also that soil pH in the bed mulched with pine needles rose from 5.5 to 6.3 between fall 1987 and May 1988. I have thought that pine needles make a good acid type mulch but that was not the case in this single trial.

The bed with the seaweed mulch also contained Siberian irises and they all appeared to grow perfectly normal.

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## BATTLING GARDEN VARMINTS

William L. Ackerman

It has been only during the past half-dozen years or so that I have come to realize that Japanese iris are a gourmet delicacy. Oh, I have always appreciated their outstanding beauty, but their edible qualities must be superb considering the way they attract voles and mice in my garden. Although I grow many other plants, it is the Japanese iris they seek out and consume.

During the years prior to my retirement, when I grew large numbers of JI seedlings at Glenn Dale, MD, I was never aware of such a problem. I am not saying that I did not on occasion lose a JI plant to these varmints. It was that rarely did I see a mole run (the warning sign that the voles and mice would soon follow), or any other evidence of destructive behavior. Quite possibly, the heavy clay soil was not conducive to moles and other burrowing animals. On the other hand, the light sandy loam at my home in Ashton appears to be ideal for all digging creatures.

Thus, the war began some six years ago, with a series of trial and error methods. I have won some battles but, in the long run, I fear I may be losing the war. Those JI growers I have talked with consider these varmints to be more of a persistent irritation than a life-threatening matter. In my own case, of all the various hazards of growing JI's, the problem of moles, voles, and mice is the most likely to drive me out of the JI breeding business.

Most magazine articles, including those in THE REVIEW, are one of two types. Most provide information to the reader, while a lesser number solicit participation by their reading audience. This article falls in both categories, a little of the first and, hopefully, more of the latter. My purpose is to write about what I have done and ask you readers for any further suggestions.



I normally plant JI seedlings in rows two feet apart and one foot between plants in the row. The most usual damage occurs when a mole (who is not interested in my JI's, but only in the earthworms and grubs that may be living near the roots), works his way into my JI plot, finds worms plentiful in a particular row and proceeds down the row for perhaps eight to ten feet before veering off to another row, or elsewhere. The voles and mice quickly follow in these runs and devour the roots and crowns of all the JI's within reach. This damage appears to occur most heavily in the early spring when they are especially hungry after a long winter.

My first approach, besides trapping, gassing, etc., to be discussed later, was to try to outsmart these varmints. This works reasonably well if there is sufficient plant material of any cultivar or individual seedling to make a series of divisions. The strategy is to widely scatter divisions of each item in as many locations as possible. The probability of having them all eaten decreases proportionately with their numbers over single row plantings. This, of course, complicates record keeping, but is a small price to pay over losing individual cultivars or seedlings. The value of this dispersal system proved itself last year when I lost 87 JI plants out of 390 in one especially hard hit JI block. In spite of the fact that this was essentially a 22% loss, I only lost all plants of five individual seedlings and one cultivar.

All my plants of 'Double Cream' were lost, and five out of six 'Pink Bunny'. Of course, this method is no help during the early stages of growing on seedlings during their first years. I find I am having to hold such young plants longer and longer in containers, rather than putting them to the risk of the open garden.

Of course, probably the surest way to protect the plants is to isolate them from predation, either by holding them in containers or protecting the entire root systems with hardware cloth underground. This entails digging out a trench or bed to a depth of 16 to 18", lining it with the wire and filling it with soil, peat, etc. This is fine for protecting a dozen or two special plants, but certainly a major chore where a few thousand seedlings are involved. Several years ago, I did just that. I dug and lined with wire six beds each five feet wide and ten feet long. Here, I planted my best seedling selections and felt these, at least, were home free. My mistake. Nothing in this world is certain. It kept out the moles, but the following winter we had a heavy snow and the mice came in under the snow and raised havoc. Perhaps I should lay wire over the top of the bed in winter?

What I have mentioned so far are not really control methods of the animals themselves. That is another battle. Here, the first line of offense is to attack the moles. You thereby severely limit the damage by voles and mice. I have tried the conventional spring-loaded mole traps with very little success. Last year, I heard of a simple method which does seem to work. This is the use of Juicy Fruit chewing gum. Apparently, moles love it, but cannot digest it. Supposedly, it messes up their digestive system and they starve to death. Not a pleasant way to go, but eventually one puts compassion

aside, and does what one must. All I know is that this spring I carefully opened up what appeared to be active runs. Cleared out a small chamber, placed a stick of gum in the run (carefully avoiding touching it with my bare hands) and covered the chamber with a shingle to shut out the light. This was done at perhaps a dozen locations. I periodically checked each chamber, and as the gum disappeared (sometimes within an hour or so), replaced it with new bait. After a little over a week, there were no more new runs being formed and I have had no further trouble this season.

Hopefully, I may have stumbled on a workable solution. However, basic pessimist that I am, I await the next onslaught from the army and will prepare to do battle again.

Voles and mice are much easier to trap than the moles. A method I have found quite successful is to make small side chambers at right angles to active runs. Each chamber should be at least six inches long with its base compacted and level. Bait a regular mousetrap with a wedge of apple containing a portion of the skin. The skin is secured under the tongue of the bait plate. Point the bait end of the trap towards the run, so that regardless of which direction the vole (or mouse) may come, it will have equal access to the bait. The main problem here this past season has been in baiting and resetting traps. After catching 45 voles and 60 mice, I stopped counting!

Phosphorous smoke bombs were also used with questionable results. The main problem here is not knowing whether you have made a kill or merely driven the animals to another part of the garden. Frequently, there is a drop in activity in the area but then it picks up again within a week. Are the same animals coming back, or are new ones moving in to replace the previous residents?

My most recent approach is perhaps the most 'far out' yet undertaken. Didn't I mention previously about what desperation can lead to? Two weeks ago, (August 22nd), I purchased a Bassett Hound puppy. Some people have told me I should get a cat with the proper hunting instincts. Always having been a dog lover, and never one overly fond of cats, I have to admit the puppy is really an extension of having had many dogs of various breeds over the years. However, the choice of breed this time was to some degree influenced by the problem. Bassett's have an excellent sense of smell, are built close to the ground, and have a natural hunting instinct as well as making excellent companions. This puppy, only 9 weeks old, is already showing promising signs of being a good mouser. I intend to teach her (among other things) the art of stalking and hunting the garden varmints in question. Now, if I can only do this without her tearing up my garden beds in the process, I think I may have the ultimate control!

Is there anyone out there who has had comparable problems? If so, I would appreciate hearing from you (my address is near the front of the magazine). Perhaps we can compare problems and solutions. There is an old saying "Misery loves company." I would like to think I am not alone in my difficulties.



## JAPANESE IRIS IN FLORIDA - PART II

George Padgett

As we (Ensata Gardens) sent an order of JI off to George Padgett in Haines City, Florida, for the third year, we asked George to send us a letter to follow up on his plants performance as reported last fall in THE REVIEW (Vol. 24, No. 2, Fall 1987, p.33). In that article George reported on how the plants that we sent him in October '86, began blooming in March '87 and sent up sporadic stalks through June. We asked him to follow up on this report as to wheather the JI have settled down and established a "normal" bloom season. His letter follows, with some points on his culture.

John Coble  
Ensata Gardens

Dear John and Bob,

October 8, 1988

As reported last year, JIs bloomed over a radical and extended period in '87. They were also exceedingly productive which required a thinning out due to the small area that had been allotted to them. After the replanting, there was little hope for a good bloom season in '88. This reasoning proved to be a gross miscalculation.

The '88 season did see some leveling off of the bloom season. The first bloom appeared on May 2 with both August Emperor and Prairie Twilight. August Emperor also put up three stalks in June and one on the 1st of July. Prairie Twilight was not to be outdone and produced three stalks in May, one the 1st of June and one the 27th of June. One of the stalks in May had nine branches with 12 blooms, making a total of 20 blooms for the three stalks. The one stalk, without branches, on June 1, had five blooms. Center of Interest also bloomed in May, making it appear that May is our best month for bloom, although August Emperor, Burbot, and Prairie Twilight made June a close second, with Burbot blooming on the 23rd. All others bloomed during May, so it is apparent that May is our peak season.

I must admit that the complementing blooms of Burbot and August Emperor being in adjoining spaces was purely accidental. It was, none the less, a lovely display. I do hope the new bed being used this year will permit me leaving the plants in place for at least two years, allowing a true "peak bloom time" to be determined.

The May and June blooming was probably prompted by the heavy watering and fertilizing that was started the first week of March. December to June is our dry period. The foliage continued to increase even during these months to convince me that there is no true dormant period here. In early March, both Miracid and Peters 20-20-20 were applied and have continued to be applied alternately every other week. This schedule will continue until the end of November. All forty varieties that I now have will be in a new bed with no other plantings in it.

The "new" bed was started in April of this year. It is under-lined with plastic, about 16" deep to the plastic and approximately 5' by 50' in size. It is made basically of: one ton peat humus, peat moss, and sand. As the planting progressed, two bales of peat moss and approximately 400 pounds of cow manure were added. Since the bed was prepared in April, it also received fertilizer in accordance with the schedule. With all the feedings and good summer rain that did not include "acid" rain, a great year is expected for '89, a good year is already being anticipated.

George Padgett

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## NEW SLIDES, BIG BOOK, AND HISTORIES

### New Offerings From Your SJI Library

In the spring REVIEW we announced that the SJI Library had received some new slides from hybridizers of their newer introductions. The SJI slide set has been updated with these new slides, and retains many of the varieties introduced by Payne, Marx, Hazzard, and Hirao of Japan. The slide set of about 100 slides can be rented for your club's programs for \$5.00. Their return postage will cost you about \$2.50. We will send a culture sheet that you may copy for your club members.

We now have some supplemental material that you can buy or rent to help present a more comprehensive program on Japanese iris. We've photo-copied the 1956 & 1964 Payne catalogs (14 pages, 80 varieties) and a couple of the Marx catalogs, 1955 & 1964 (12 pages, 50 Marx varieties and 60 imports from Japan). The main use of these catalogs is the paragraph descriptions given to each variety, much more detail than the checklist. The 26 pages of descriptions are for SALE from SJI for \$2.50. Their return postage would make them more costly to rent!

For those of you interested in hybridizing Japanese iris and interested in using any of Mr. Payne's varieties, SJI holds a valuable notebook composed by Mr. Payne. It contains the complete breeding diagrams of his 170 introductions. If there are any serious hybridizers out there that would like to use Payne varieties for hybridizing and would like to have the background breeding on those varieties, we will photo-copy the breeding diagrams for you: 10 cents per variety; minimum charge of 50 cents. Some of these diagrams were printed in THE REVIEW, Fall 1965 (Vol 2, No. 2) and Fall 1966 (Vol 3. No. 2).

For the serious program presenter, we have an excellent article on the history of the Japanese iris in Japan and the major gardens (as of 1930): THE IRIS OF JAPAN, by George M. Reed, 1931. We have photo-copied this article from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden reprint (Collections No. 60) of the AIS BULLETIN, No. 40, July 1931, pages 3-48. Neither AIS or the Brooklyn Botanic Garden have extra copies to sell. Again, it would cost about the same to rent & return these 24 pages as to buy them post paid. So, we offer you THE IRIS OF JAPAN by George Reed, 24 pages, for \$2.50.



For a display of color at a club meeting, we have two color posters from Kamo Nursery in Japan. Each poster has 92 color photos of varieties offered for sale by Kamo Nursery. Only about 10-20 are available from U.S. growers at this time. Rental of the Kamo Posters is \$3.00.

The BIG new addition to the SJI library is the big 8 pound book (13"x10"), THE JAPANESE IRIS by Kuribayashi and Hirao, 1971. This copy was presented to SJI by the Japan Iris Society. The book is not in print and scarce copies are seldom found for sale. The book is 119 pages, containing 346 color plates: 309 varieties from Japan and 37 varieties from Western hybridizers (mainly Payne) of which only 18 are still in commerce in the U.S. About 20 of the varieties of Japanese origin are in U.S. commerce. The book is nice to look at, but it is not a buyers catalog! There are only six and a half pages of text in English, by Dr. Hirao. The text is reprinted in this issue of THE REVIEW. The book is rare and needs respect in handling. It will be loaned only to SJI members for \$10.00 sent UPS. Please return the book by UPS (insured for \$200.00). Shipping varies with distance from Michigan (California will run about \$5.75). This is a beautiful "coffee table" book to look at, but few of the iris pictured are available on the market. On the other hand, our slide sets are made up of about 95% commercially available varieties.

We hope you will make use of your library  
and share its information on Japanese Iris.  
Make your purchase or rental checks payable to:  
The Society for Japanese Irises.

SJI Slide Set rental.	\$ 5.00
Payne & Marx catalog reprints (26 pages)	\$ 2.50
THE IRIS OF JAPAN by Reed, reprint (23 pp)	\$ 2.50
Kamo Nursery color posters; rental	\$ 3.00
Payne breeding diagrams; .10/variety, .50 minimum	
THE JAPANESE IRIS book rental	\$10.00
The new 1988 Cumulative Checklist of JI	\$ 4.00

Send your requests and check to John Coble, address inside front cover. Order slide sets early for scheduling.

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#### NEW 1988 CUMULATIVE CHECKLIST FOR SALE

SJI has published a new 1988 CUMULATIVE CHECKLIST OF JAPANESE IRISES, edited by Florence Stout. This edition is an updated version of the 1981 Checklist with corrected information and all new varieties registered since 1981. Its time for all of us to replace our old dog-eared, garden-dirtied, well worn copies with the new updated version. And the new Checklist has nice clean margins for you to neatly copy your own notations! Does your Club have copies to sell to its members or at shows?

\$4.00 each. Order from John Coble, Librarian, as noted in the article above; check made out to Society for Japanese Irises.

The following is a copy of the complete English text by Dr. Shuichi Hirao from the book "THE JAPANESE IRIS" edited by Kuribayashi Motojiro and Hirao Shuichi, published in 1971 by the Asahi Shimbun Publishing Company, Tokyo, Japan. The text has been retyped and is included here since it was felt that many who have not had the opportunity to read this book would find the text interesting and informative. As noted elsewhere in this issue, the book itself can be rented from the SJI Librarian, John Coble. If you would have use for full size photocopies of the English text, as it appears in the book, they also may be obtained from John Coble, for a charge of \$1.00 each.

## THE JAPANESE IRIS: ITS HISTORY, VARIETIES, AND CULTIVATION

### INTRODUCTORY

The Japanese iris holds a prominent place among the many ornamental plants that Japan has produced in the course of the past several centuries. By now, tens of thousands of different varieties must have been created, with older varieties constantly disappearing only to be replaced by new. So far, however, there has been a sad lack of any comprehensive illustrated work of reference. The present work, which deals with the more distinctive wild forms and cultivated varieties, aims not merely to provide a horticultural record of the Japanese iris, but also -- since the plants that a country cultivates are an unmistakable product of a particular country and age -- to suggest something of the outlook of the men who grew it and the social climate in which they lived.

Somewhat over 340 of an estimated thousand varieties existing today are represented in this book. Much thought was given to the arrangement of the varieties, but it was finally decided to classify them into five groups: wild forms and ancient varieties; Edo varieties; Ise varieties; Higo varieties; and varieties developed abroad. All Japanese irises belong, botanically, to one species, and the division into five groups does not in practice mean that a strict dividing line can always be drawn between them. Even so, we believe that a glance through the plates will soon make it plain, even without further explanation, that each group does have its own special feature or features. Where arrangement by color is concerned, it would have been possible to group flowers of one color -- white, say, or purple -- together, but in practice this created an insipid, uninspiring overall effect, and we chose instead to consider the reader's pleasure and combined different colors on succeeding pages. When checked against a color chart, the range of color of the Japanese iris, from purple to blue, would seem to be relatively restricted; but in fact the impression given by many different varieties blooming together in one place is far more varied, thanks to the effect of the light on the dappled or veined markings and the varied



textures of the petals. The editors have tried to convey this feeling in the plates. The Color Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society was used in checking the color of each variety, so as to ensure faithfulness to the original in the plates. The non-Japanese reader, however, should remember that differing climatic conditions, and the strength and quality of the sunlight in particular, will tend sometimes to give a more reddish or bluish tinge to flowers of the same variety.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JAPANESE IRIS AND THE "EDO IRIS"

The cultivated varieties of Japanese iris unquestionably derive from the Iris kaempferi\* still to be found in its wild state all over the Japanese archipelago, but it is not clear at exactly what period the development from the wild to the cultivated varieties began. With very few exceptions, the cultivated varieties of Japanese iris all have the same chromosome count ( $2n=24$ ) as the wild form; they cross freely with the latter, producing normal descendants, and can therefore be regarded, botanically speaking, as belonging to the same, single species. There is no sign of any other species of iris having played any part in the formation of the cultivated varieties of Japanese iris. The flowers of the wild form as it survives at present in the Japanese countryside range in color from purple to violet. They are simple in form, with three narrow falls, and almost never show any color variation.

There are grounds for believing, however, that before the opening up of the plains of Japan to agriculture several centuries ago, natural variants still persisted among the country's flora and fauna, including, most likely, the Japanese iris. Japan's climate is for the most part temperate and its topography complex, and the great variety of microclimates led to the appearance of natural variants in a wide range of flora and fauna, with a good chance of survival.

Around the sixteenth century, the civil strife that had plagued Japan for so long began to simmer down; as it did so, men began to gather flowering trees and plants from the country for their gardens, and to set about cultivating still more beautiful varieties. These included the cherry, the camellia, and Primula sieboldii, and it seems likely that the Japanese iris was also amongst them. The breeding activities of Japanese gardeners have always differed from those of gardeners in the West in seeking, not so much to obtain new cultivated varieties by crossing a number of different species, as to follow up a variation within a particular species by gathering mutants from the countryside, whose seeds were then sown in the hope of obtaining still more unusual results.

\* As Miyazawa Bungo makes clear in his "Observations on the Botanical Name of Japanese Iris and its Horticultural History", the botanical name of the Japanese iris is properly speaking Iris ensata Thunb., but to avoid confusion the name Iris kaempferi Sieb. at present in common

Until about one century ago the Japanese iris, now known in Japanese as "hana-shobu", was called "hana-ayame" or simply "ayame". The word "ayame" is also used to refer to Iris sibirica, which occurs wild in the Japanese countryside, as well as to Acorus calamus angustifolius (the ancient Chinese custom of decorating the eaves of the house with this plant on the fifth day of the fifth month, as a means of warding off evil, is still practiced in Tokyo today). The latter plant is also known as "shobu", a name which is also frequently used as a contraction of "hana-shobu". The "ayame" that appears in the Man'yoshu, Japan's oldest anthology of verse, is believed to have probably been the wild form of Iris kaempferi, but there is no certain proof of this. What is interesting, however, is that as early as the time of the "Manyoshu", Iris laevigata was known as "kakitsubata" and distinguished from the "ayame".

The oldest written record relating to the cultivated Japanese iris is a mid-fifteenth century account of how a man called Kubodera who lived in Horikiri (now a densely built-up district of Tokyo, but until World War II a center of iris cultivation) cultivated "hana-shobu" which he had had sent from the Asaka marshes (surmised to have been the Asaka district of Miyagi Prefecture in northeastern Honshu). It seems likely that the wild forms in this area already included a considerable number of variants in which lay the potential for the cultivated varieties of the future. Today, one looks in vain for such a wide range of variants in the countryside of northeastern Honshu, yet more detailed observation will reveal a range of variants somewhat greater than that of other districts.

A gardening manual published in 1681 records different colors such as white, violet, and light purple, as well as differences of texture and number of petals, while another manual for 1710 lists the names of thirty-six varieties. By 1755, yet another similar manual says simply, "The varieties, of which there are several hundred, are too numerous to record here." This period saw the cultivation of the Japanese iris reach one of its peaks, and a large number of varieties come into being in a short space of time.

The man who contributed most to the improvement of the Japanese iris was Matsudaira Shoo (Showo) (1773-1856), who can without exaggeration be said to have brought it to the highest point of its development. An autobiographical account of his sixty years of raising irises says, "His father Sadahiro obtained wild specimens from all over the country and raised them from the seed, but produced nothing unusual. Subsequently, he planted some seeds which according to the friend who sent them came from the "hana-shobu" of the Asaka marshes, and obtained single flowers of a deep purple. He continued to raise seedlings, and by the third or fourth generation had obtained a large double bloom of beautiful color. Shoo inherited his father's interest, and created more than a hundred superior new varieties. He too obtained plants gathered in the Asaka marshes, deep purple doubles and light purple singles, which he in his turn used as parent plants. It also seems likely that since large numbers of cultivated



varieties were known even before Shoo's time, Shoo collected and made use of these too. Shoo's ideal was the type of iris with rounded petals overlapping each other, a comparatively flat flower, petals thick and velvety in texture, good color, and a distinctive appearance. He disliked flowers with thin, drooping petals. He also says, "The iris is properly speaking a single bloom, and a good single iris cannot be beaten. Flowers with six petals or more are striking, but they lack the dignity of the single variety. However, both single and double varieties are so taken for granted by now that it would take a bloom like a peony to really arouse people's curiosity." Late in life he at last succeeded in producing such a "peony type". "For several decades," he writes, "I had been struggling to produce the flower of my dreams, but finally, it seems, man's efforts and the efforts of the maker of the universe coincided, and the rare flower made its appearance." "Looking back now," he adds, "I realize that I almost certainly had the opportunity during sixty years of cultivation from seedlings to produce other unusual blooms, and it pains me to think how often, through my faulty powers of appraisal, I must have missed them." The variety known today as "Uchu" (Universe, Plate 125) is probably identical with that mentioned in Shoo's own writings. In addition, other varieties such as "Reno-no-tama (Plate 35), "Geisho-ui" (Plate 45), and "Tsuru-no-kego-romo" (Plate 90) are believed to have been produced by Shoo. Shoo himself lists 120 varieties, including those just mentioned, but it is impossible to identify the others among varieties still existing today. As the vogue for iris cultivation alternately waxes and wanes over the years, the names of varieties are constantly being confused and old varieties replaced by new.

At the same period as Shoo there lived an amateur gardener called Mannen Rokusaburo who was Shoo's rival in producing new varieties. Together, the two men can be credited with having brought the cultivated Japanese iris to perfection. Since their time, countless other varieties have been created by innumerable breeders, but there has been almost no progress in basic matters such as range of color or variety of shape -- a sign, most likely, of the limitations imposed by the fact that all "hana-shobu" belong to a single species.

As society once more recovered its equilibrium following the Meiji Restoration of 1868, iris cultivation began to flourish in the Horikiri district of Tokyo. any number of iris gardens appeared that charged admission to view the flowers, which were grown in paddy fields with rustic summer-houses from which visitors might enjoy the irises at their leisure. One of the oldest was the Kotaka-en, followed later by the Horikiri-en, the Musashi-en, the Yoshino-en and other lesser-known iris gardens. Each garden cultivated from fifty to one hundred different varieties, some boasting that they preserved a large number of Shoo's varieties, others advertizing the new varieties producing by their own repeated efforts. Examples of new varieties produced in this way are Zama-no-mori (Musashi-en, Plate 47) and Goshō-asobi (Yoshino-en, Plate 74). A detailed account of these gardens is to be found in G. M. Reed's "The Iris of Japan," Bulletin of the American Iris Society, No 40 (1931).

The preceding brief account of the development of the iris has centered on Tokyo. However, as we shall see in what follows, from about 1930 on, the groups of Japanese iris known as "Higo hana-shobu" and Ise hana-shobu" respectively gradually came into prominence, so that the group of varieties that had been produced in the Tokyo area was henceforth known as "Edo hanasho-bu" (Edo being the old name for Tokyo) in order to make the distinction clear. Whereas the Ise and Higo groups are comparatively restricted in the variety of their blooms, consisting for the most part of improved varieties designed for cultivation in pots to be taken indoors when they bloomed, the Edo group was developed for cultivation in paddies or ordinary fields for the sake of its massed blooms, and shows a correspondingly great variation in the size of its blooms as well as in its forms, which include such unusual variants as the spherical "Gyokuhoren" (Plate 62) and the claw-shaped "Hakuryu-no-tsume" (Plate 127), and other unusual forms with four, or five, petals. It seems likely that such forms are either naturally occurring mutations or, at least, not very remote from such mutations; but this is a subject that requires further study.

Around the time of World War II, the four above-mentioned iris gardens went out of business, and a large number of varieties was lost in the floods of 1947, but some one hundred varieties were saved by Goto Wasaburo and other enthusiasts, and are now preserved in the Inner Garden of the Meiji Shrine. During the period from 1910 to 1920, Miyazawa Bungo reported the development of some 600 new varieties, but these achieved little general popularity. Since 1955, Ito Toichi and Oshida Shigeo have also made a large number of new varieties available, and many others are working to produce still further new varieties.

## THE ISE IRIS

The term "Ise iris" refers to the group of varieties that has been cultivated in the Ise-Matsuzaka district of central Honshu since around 1800. They show considerable differences compared with the Edo and Higo groups. If the Edo varieties may be likened in their smart, sophisticated air to the merchant culture that dominated that city for so long, the Higo group has the solemn dignity of a daimyo, and the Ise group the grace of a young woman of noble birth. Ise is the site of the Grand Shrines dedicated to the ancestors of the Imperial Family and has close ties with Kyoto, the former capital of the nation. From the seventeenth century on, the district became a kind of mecca for pilgrims visiting the shrines, and became associated with various types of feminine charm. The Ise iris is numbered among the "three flowers of Ise," along with the Ise dianthus and the Ise chrysanthemum; in all three, soft, drooping petals and a gentle, graceful air are particularly prized.

Many things remain unclear concerning the origins of the Ise iris, but it seems probable that it began with Yoshii Sadagoro (1776-1859) who selected and himself improved strains that were already generally available. The results were carried on and further improved by men such as Noguchi Saikichi (1829-1910) and Nagabayashi Kenzaburo (1876-1937), while in



recent years Tomino Koji has done much to preserve and improve the old varieties. There are now approximately forty traditional varieties and two hundred new varieties. Some Ise irises show genetic characteristics different from those common to the Edo and Higo varieties, which seems to suggest that at least one part of the Ise iris group derives from wild forms different from those of the Asaka marshes. The development of the Ise iris has been governed by clearly laid down aesthetic requirements. Thus it must have three petals; the six-petalled and multi-petal varieties are considered vulgar (though in recent years Tomino, Maeda and others have begun to produce six-petalled and multi-petal forms that do not do violence to the Ise mood). The three falls must be broad and overlapping at the haft, giving a generous impression. The falls must hang downwards rather than stand out horizontally. The standards must be well-shaped and the right size, and must stand at the right angle to form a pleasing contrast with the falls. The style arms must also be of a size to harmonize with the shape of the bloom, and the crests should be finely serrated, giving the bloom as a whole a feeling of delicacy. The leaves must be slender and stand upright, since the falls hang downwards, and should be as close to the height of the flower as possible.

Since the Ise iris was developed for the purpose of indoor appreciation, its grace is not seen to best advantage outdoors, though in the garden of, for example, a tea ceremony room it gives an appropriate feeling of simple refinement. The colors of the Ise varieties are mostly pale. The pink is the closest to a true pink to be found among Japanese irises. Some forms, again, show such a great difference in shape between the just-opening flower and the full bloom that one might suspect them of being different varieties, and it is an added pleasure to watch the gradual process of change. Tomino has discovered that approximately twenty of the old varieties still surviving are heteroploids having 25 instead of 24 chromosomes. They do not necessarily show common features, however, some varieties exceeding the normal varieties in the thickness of their petals and thickness and breadth of their leaves, while others are quite ordinary. Further cytological and genetic studies of these are called for. One also sometimes finds among Ise seedlings specimens whose petals are extraordinarily curled at the tips. Some Ise varieties also have a tendency to early flowering and to heavy branching, which gives them great value for use in breeding.

#### THE HIGO IRIS (KUMAMOTO IRIS)

The Higo iris is a strain originally produced by raising successive generation of seedlings from selected forms of the Edo iris, though in recent years attempts have been made to create new varieties by introducing forms and colors from the Ise iris or varieties of the Edo iris not hitherto used. Higo, an old province in Kyushu corresponding to present day Kumamoto Prefecture, has been known for its gardeners since olden times. In 1833 Hosokawa Narimori, lord of a feudal clan in Higo, sent one of his retainers, Yoshida Junnosuke, to study with Matsudaira Shoo in Edo. By 1852, he had brought back with him 64 varieties of Edo iris; the lord encouraged their cultivation, and a number of groups of iris growers grew up which engaged in lively competition with each other and

developed a large number of new varieties. Each group jealously guarded its own seedlings, which were not allowed to pass into the hands of anyone outside the group, not even close relatives.

In later years, these groups were to be amalgamated into the Mangetsu-kai, a society devoted to the cultivation and improvement of the Higo iris. For a number of different reasons -- the special fondness of the people of Kumamoto for the iris; their fear of having the seedlings stolen by others; the frequency of heavy rains during the flowering season in this area -- the Higo iris came to be grown in pots. It was already the custom to grow chrysanthemums and morning glories in pots, and the experience accumulated here led to a steady development in techniques. Gradually, too, rules were developed for the display of the irises within the house along lines suggested by the tea ceremony and the old schools of flower arrangement, while the improvement of strains was directed to the creation of varieties suitable for display in the Japanese-style room.

In recent years the Higo iris has developed a wide variety of colors, but before that the majority were restricted to self colors such as white, violet, and purple. The chief reason here was that when, as is the usual practice, the blooms are displayed in a Japanese-style room in front of a gold screen with a scarlet covering over the "tatami", blooms of definite self-colors, as well as pure white blooms, are seen at their most beautiful and most dignified, whereas blooms that are pale in color, that have the dark-colored veins on a lighter background often found in the Edo iris, or whose style arms are not white but tinged with purple or some other color make a surprisingly poor showing against the gold screen and create a somehow vulgar effect.

Where the shape of the style arms is concerned, the "Gyokuto" variety (Plate 191, 192), first produced around 1880 by Hirai Shokan, is considered to be ideal. The shape of the petals leaves something to be desired, but in this respect few other varieties even today can compare with "Gyokuto". To appreciate fully the perfection of its style arms, it is only necessary to come to "gyokuto" after viewing a large number of other irises.

In the 138 years since Edo irises were first taken to Kumamoto, 93 persons have developed a total of 1,170 new varieties. Originally the ban on the passing of plants outside the group meant that it was difficult for ordinary persons to obtain the irises, but in 1914 Mishida Nobutsune (1862-1938) began sales of plants; he also exported them to Europe and America, and himself developed a large number of new varieties. All but fifty or so of these were lost during or around the time of World War II, but Nishida's sons, Hirao Shuichi, Mitsuda Yoshio, Oshida Shigeo and others are once more producing many new varieties. With the changes in ways of life and customs since the war the Higo iris has come to be widely grown in gardens rather than only in pots, and efforts are being made to improve the strain with this in mind.



## THE JAPANESE IRIS IN THE WEST

The first appearance of the Japanese iris outside Japan is believed to have occurred around the middle of the nineteenth century when Siebold took six varieties back to Europe and, in 1855, produced blooms from them in his garden in Holland. Soon after this it spread to England and other countries of Europe, then to America in turn. Numerous further exports from Japan were made in the following years, but few varieties survive from that period, nor have many attempts at improving strains been made in the West. The leading iris experts in the West in recent times have been the Americans W. A. Payne (1880-1971) and Walter Marx, and Max Steiger of Germany. For some forty years beginning around 1930, Payne worked to produce new varieties, using as his original stock varieties already imported into America and Edo irises newly exported from Japan, and as a result introduced 160 new varieties in all. He lived in the center of the United State, and one of his aims was to produce strong varieties that could stand up to the rigors of the climate of that area. His method was to plant a bed thickly with seedlings, leave them for three years, then select those plants with the best blooms from among the survivors. With his keen sense of beauty, he produced varieties with a hitherto unknown clarity of color.

Since those responsible for the improvement of the iris in Japan have left no records, it is impossible to trace accurately the pedigree of their varieties, but Payne kept very detailed pedigrees of all the new varieties he gave the world. Since he produced a large number of varieties from a relatively limited number of parents, concentrating on the repeated inbreeding of their descendants, the many varieties he created will doubtless prove valuable not merely for their beauty but also as research material for scholars studying the hereditary characteristics of the Japanese iris. Another American besides Payne who has created many varieties is Walter Marx, and many others are active in the same field.

Steiger set out to remedy the iris's notorious vulnerability to calcium. He sowed a large number of seeds in soil containing a high proportion of lime, producing over a period of eight years some ten thousand seedlings of which there were ten survivors. After further selection, he dubbed the resulting iris the "Care" (for calcium-resistant) strain. This strain is characterized by resistance to dryness as well as to calcium. It is greatly to be regretted that Steiger died in 1969, before he could bring his work to final completion.

G. I. Rodionenko of the Soviet Union reports that by crossing a wild form of Iris kaempferi from Siberia with Japanese varieties which fail to survive the severe winter in that country he succeeded in creating many varieties in various colors.

## CULTIVATION

A frequent misconception concerning the Japanese iris is that it is a bog plant and that flooding is necessary in its cultivation. In Japanese iris gardens, running water is usually to be seen when the flowers are in bloom, which creates the mistaken impression that the Japanese iris grows in water, but in fact the water is there for its aesthetic effect, and flooding is not necessary. The Japanese iris can be grown without difficulty anywhere that is congenial to ordinary perennials. It prefers an acid soil, ideally around p.H. 5.5. There should be rather more moisture than for ordinary perennials. It is extremely resistant to cold, but a ground temperature approaching 30 degrees C during its period of development in the summer will hinder proper growth. Like other irises, it is fond of virgin soil, and growth becomes poor if it is left for too many years in the same spot. Since the season when it flowers is rainy in Japan, the rhizome is divided immediately after flowering and replanted elsewhere. It invariably flowers again the next year, and it is commonly the year following this that sees the blooms at their finest. Another two or three years, and they deteriorate, so division and replanting becomes necessary again. This process may also be carried out in the autumn. It must be carried out annually if the plants are grown in pots. Replanting in the spring should be avoided, though it is common in the West, where transplanting immediately after flowering is sometimes difficult.

The commonest error among beginners in planting the Japanese iris is to give it fertilizer at the initial stage. Once the plant has taken root, however, it likes even more fertilizer than other irises. In raising from seeds, the seeds should be gathered in the autumn and sown immediately, taking care to protect the seedlings from frost during the winter. The seeds may also be sown in the spring, in which case they will, provided they are well tended, flower in the summer of the following year. Recently, a tetraploid variety has been produced, as well as a hybrid with Iris pseudacorus as its pod parent. The Japanese iris promises to develop over a still wider field in the near future.

Hirao Shuichi



## BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Work has been progressing for some time on revising the bylaws of The Society for Japanese Irises. Last year, President Delmez asked Vice President Clarence Mahan to consider the many suggestions which had been made and to propose the changes felt necessary to bring the bylaws up-to-date. The following changes are being presented by Mr. Mahan to the membership for consideration. They are being printed now so that members will have sufficient time for consideration prior to voting on the changes at the society's meeting on April 30, 1989 during the AIS convention at Memphis. If you do not have a copy of the present bylaws and wish one for comparison, you may request a copy from the Editor.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1:** Replace Article II, Section 1, and Subsection A with the following:

"Article II, Section 1. This Society shall foster the culture, appreciation, breeding and distribution of Japanese irises and hybrids involving these irises. The term 'Japanese irises' shall encompass all forms of *Iris ensata* (formerly known as *Iris kaempferi*), a species of the genus and subgenus *Iris*, section *Spathula*, subsection *Apogon*, series *Laevigatae*."

**REASON FOR AMENDMENT 1:** To acknowledge the redesignation of *Iris kaempferi* as *Iris ensata*, and to simplify the bylaws by combining the content of Subsection A into the main Section.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 2:** Replace Article III, Section 2 and Subsections a, b, and c with the following:

"Article III, Section 2. There shall be the following classes of members: Single, Family, Youth, Life and Honorary Life.

- a. The definitions of Single, Family, Youth and Life memberships shall be the same as definitions adopted for the same classes of membership in the American Iris Society.
- b. Single, family and youth membership dues may be paid on either an annual or triennial basis.
- c. Life membership may be on a single or family basis.
- d. Honorary Life membership, for which no dues shall be required, may be granted by the board of directors to individuals who have rendered distinguished service in furtherance of the purposes of the society."

**REASON FOR AMENDMENT 2:** To simplify classes of membership and to define the classes in the same way as the American Iris Society. To eliminate the specification of annual dues at \$2.00.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3:** Replace Article III, Section 4 with the following:

"Article III, Section 4. Dues for all classes of members shall be determined by the board of directors and shall have the same expiration date as American Iris Society dues. Members whose dues remain unpaid sixty (60) days after written notice has been given shall be deemed nonactive, and their names shall be removed from the membership rolls."

REASON FOR AMENDMENT 3: To clearly indicate the authority of the board of directors to determine membership dues, and to specify when a member shall be dropped from the rolls for nonpayment of dues.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 4:** Add Article III, Section 6 as follows:

"Article III, Section 6. Individuals or organizations may subscribe to the periodical publications of the society by paying an amount equal to the annual or triennial dues. If such individuals or organizations are not members of the society they shall be designated 'Subscribers' and shall not have voting or other membership privileges."

REASON FOR AMENDMENT 4: To authorize subscription to The Review and other SJI publications by nonmembers.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 5:** Replace Article VI, Section 1 as follows:

"Article VI, Section 1. There shall be the following standing committees: Registration and Awards, Membership, Publicity, Publications, Nominating, Elections, Display Gardens, Robins and Slides/Librarian. The Slides/Librarian Chairman shall also as librarian serve as a repository of historical materials. The president shall establish such other special committees as deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the board of directors."

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: To eliminate the requirement to have standing committees for Finance, Research, and Pollen and Seed Supply, which the society has not complied with for a number of years, and to establish the requirement to have Slides/Librarian and Display Gardens standing committees, which the society has found useful. This change will not preclude establishing the deleted committees in the future, but if established, they will be special committees. The designation of the slides chairman as librarian is proposed to recognize a de facto situation that is convenient. This proposal will also authorize the president to establish special committees, subject to board of director ratification, instead of the current provision which vests authority solely in the board of directors. This change will allow future presidents to deal with special issues and problems on a timely basis, but ensure oversight by the board of directors.



**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 6:** Replace Article VI, Section 2 as follows:

"Article VI, Section 2: Except for the Nominating Committee, all standing and special committees shall be appointed by the president subject to the approval of the board of directors."

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: To delete mention of the Finance Committee.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 7:** Delete Article VI, Section 4.

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: To delete provisions for the Finance Committee as a standing committee.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 8:** Replace Article VII, Section 2 as follows:

"Article VII, Section 2. The Display Garden Committee shall maintain a system of official society display gardens and, subject to board of director approval, establish rules for same. The Display Garden Committee shall encourage members to participate in the display garden program, publicize the program, and be empowered to designate, and withdraw designation, as official society display gardens."

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: To delete reference to Finance Committee and specify duties and authorities of the Display Garden Committee.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 9:** Replace Article VII, Section 7 as follows:

"Article VII, Section 7. The Slides/Librarian Committee shall maintain a library of slide programs on Japanese irises which shall be made available for use in educating members and others on Japanese irises. The committee shall establish rules for the slides program, subject to board of directors approval. As librarian, the Slides/Librarian Chairman shall maintain all literature and photographic materials belonging to the society, and shall maintain an up-to-date inventory of same. The librarian shall establish and operate the society's library, making materials therein available to members for such fees as necessary to cover postage. The librarian shall ensure that the president is at all times informed of all materials in the society's library and their location, and for having a written set of instructions, always current, for transferring society materials in the event the librarian cannot fulfill his duties as the result of sickness or death."

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: To delete reference to the Pollen and Seed Supply Committee and to specify duties and authorities of the Slides/Librarian Committee.

**PROPOSED AMENMENT 10:** Renumber Article VII, Section 10 as Section 9.

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: To have consecutive numbers in Article VII.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 11: Add Article XII as follows:**

"Article XII. No part of the net earnings of this association shall ever inure to or for the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustee, officers or other private persons, except that the society shall be empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the exempt purposes for which it was formed."

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: To comply with federal laws relative to tax-exempt status.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 12: Add Article XIII as follows:**

"Article XIII. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an association exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954."

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: To comply with federal laws relative to tax-exempt status.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 13: Add Article XIV as follows:**

"Article XIV. In the event of dissolution of this society for whatever reason, the assets of the Society for Japanese Irises will be transferred to the American Iris Society, a non-profit institution incorporated February 2, 1927 in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. Monies and/or assets will be transferred to the American Iris Society through the treasurer in office at the time of the dissolution. In the event that the American Iris Society is not in existence at the time of dissolution, assets will be distributed to an organization that is described and has established tax exempt status under 501(c)(3)."

REASON FOR AMENDMENT: To comply with federal laws relative to tax-exempt status.

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\*\* MEMPHIS CONVENTION MEETINGS \*\*  
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\*\* The AIS Convention in Memphis, Tennessee will be \*\*  
\*\* held from April 29 through May 3, 1989. The Board \*\*  
\*\* of Directors meeting will be on the afternoon of \*\*  
\*\* Saturday, April 29th, probably at either 4:00 or \*\*  
\*\* 5:00 PM. The SJI Section Meeting will be on \*\*  
\*\* Sunday, April 30th at 3:45 PM. This will be an \*\*  
\*\* important meeting as a vote is scheduled for that \*\*  
\*\* time on changes to the bylaws. All members are \*\*  
\*\* encouraged to be present. \*\*  
\*\* \*\*  
\*\* \*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee is pleased to report the following people have accepted nomination as officers of The Society For Japanese Irises, for a two year term, starting Jan. 1, 1989.

President-----Clarence Mahan  
7311 Churchill Rd.  
McLean Virginia 22101

Vice President---Shirley Pope  
39 Highland  
Gorham, Maine 04038

Secretary-----Robert Bauer  
9823 E. Michigan Ave.  
Galesburg, Michigan 49053

Treasurer-----Carol Warner  
16815 Falls Road  
Upperco, Maryland 21155

Nominating Committee (to serve through 1991)  
Jill Copeland  
34165 County Rd. 652  
Mattawan, Michigan 49071

If no other nominations are received, these nominees shall be considered elected.

Sincerely,



Hal Stahly, Chairman  
Mr. J. T. Aitken  
Mrs. Wells E. Burton

## THE EDITOR'S "REVIEW"

Whew! what a summer! seems the weather man played tricks on us in many parts of the country. The drought and heat were something else. We were fortunate in Kalamazoo that for the week prior to the convention the temperatures dropped from the upper 90s (and above) into the 80s, so that there was decent bloom and we could stand to be in the gardens. It went right back up the following Tuesday, to over 100 for 3 days, cooking everything. We were also fortunate that all of the tour gardens had watering ability.

October has been the reverse. It seems to me at least, to be an unusually wet and cold autumn.

The deaths of Eleanor Westmeyer and Dr. Hirao bring a sense of loss to Society members, especially to those who knew them well. It is good to know that Eleanor will be long remembered through the Society she helped to establish. Dr. Hirao will continue to be honored through both his many iris introductions and his writings, as well as in the memories of those who had the priveledge to know him personally.

What looked like it was going to be a small issue has grown, and grown, to become a very large one. Hopefully, each of you will find something of interest in it. My thanks to those who helped me by supplying photos, information, and articles. My apologies also for the lateness. The hot summer was followed by an Autumn of backaches and pinched nerves, hardly conducive to getting much work done. Maybe next year the garden will get the attention it deserves, as I say again each year.

You will notice a change in the return address. "The Review" is now being printed and mailed in the Kalamazoo area. Thanks to Ensata Gardens for the use of their bulk mailing permit. Bob Bauer is now also the custodian of the membership list in their computer. Also please notice a change in procedure for ordering back issues of "The "Review". All orders for published materials will now be handled by the Librarian.

The bog plantings at the Copeland and Ensata gardens seemed to be very successful, inspiring some conventioners to go home and try it in their own gardens. We hope in the spring issue to have an article on their construction and the results. Any other information which members would like to share is solicited, as always. The publication can thrive only when members continue to contribute.

Meanwhile, best wishes for happy holidays and a good winter, as you dream about plans for the next iris season.

Best Wishes,





Robert Bauer, Secretary  
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