



# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY

FOR

JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 25

NUMBER 1

SPRING, 1988

# SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

## Financial Statement

January 1, 1987 - December 31, 1987

### CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

Total reinvested 12/7/86	\$2,388.40
Interest 12/7/86-12/7/87	148.51
Transferred to Money Mkt Savings	<u>2,536.91</u>
Balance	00.00

### MONEY MARKET SAVINGS

Balance on hand 1/1/87	\$5,220.79	
Interest	333.18	
Summerville Auction	300.00	
Northeast Apagon Auction	1,825.00	
Talks (McEwen)	100.00	
Life Memberships (Delmez, Baird Cronin)	250.00	
Certificate of Deposit	<u>2,536.91</u>	
Balance on hand 12/31/87	\$10,565.88	\$10,565.88

### CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance on Hand 1/1/87	\$1,463.33
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#### Income:

Dues	1,020.00
Checklist Sales	97.00
Back Issues REVIEW	61.50
Interest	95.72
Slides	<u>30.88</u>
	\$1,305.10

#### Expenses:

Spring REVIEW	312.78
Engrave Payne Medal	13.86
Postage (Mem. Sec.)	65.69
Slide Postage	4.80
By-law Printing	18.76
Fall REVIEW	<u>480.87</u>
	\$ 896.76

Balance on Hand 12/31/87

1,871.67

TOTAL CASH ON HAND 12/31/87

\$12,437.55

Respectfully Submitted,

*Carol S. Warner*

Carol S. Warner. Treas.

Faintly now a lark.....  
on snow-patched earth the sun; and  
I too, long for spring.

Robert Mainone



THE REVIEW  
OF  
THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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OFFICERS

President	Mr. Donald Delmez, 3240 Connecticut St., St. Charles, MO. 63301	Tel. (314) 724-4274
Vice-Pres.	Mr. Clarence Mahan, 7311 Churchill Rd., McLean, Va. 22101	Tel. (703) 893-8526
Secretary	Mrs. Florence E. Stout, 150 N. Main, Lombard, IL. 60148	Tel. (312) 627-1421
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	Dr. William L. Ackerman, P.O. Box 120 Ashton, MD. 20861	Tel. (301) 774-7538
	Jill Copeland, 34165 County Rd. 652, Mattawan, MI. 49071	Tel. (616) 668-2156

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Through 1988	Dr. Harold L. Stahly, 8343 Manchester Dr. Grand Blanc, MI. 48439	Tel. (313) 694-7139
Through 1989	Mr. J. T. (Terry) Aitken, 608 NW 119 St., Vancouver, WA. 9866	Tel. (206) 573-4472
Through 1990	Mrs. Wells E. (Virginia) Burton, 3275 Miller Dr., Ladson, SC. 29456	Tel. (803) 873-7388

APPOINTMENTS

Editor, THE REVIEW	Mr. Leland M. Welsh, 7979 West D Ave. Kalamazoo, MI. 49009	Tel. (616) 349-9253
Membership Chairman	Mrs. Andrew C. (Carol) Warner See address above.	
Slides Chr./ Hist./Lib.	Mr. John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI. 49053	Tel. (616) 665-7500
Robins Chr.	Mr. Vince Bitzer, 614 Nandale, Manchester, MO. 63021	Tel. (314) 227-5930
Publicity Chairman	Mrs. Wells E. (Virginia) Burton See address above.	
Display Garden Chairman	Mrs. William E. (Claire) Barr, 12565 Cloudesly Dr., Rancho Bernardo, San Diego, CA. 92128	Tel. (619) 451-6333



## 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 put return address on the back if you want them returned. Reprinting is by permission of the writer and the editor, with due acknowledgement.

**Dues are:** Single annual, \$3.50; family annual, \$4.00; single triennial, \$9.00; family triennial, \$10.50; single life membership \$75.00; family life, \$100.00. Dues may be sent either to the AIS Membership Chairman, or directly to **The Society For Japanese Irises' Membership Chairman.** (See address on page 2).

**Renewals:** If your mailing label is marked with the expiration date 8801 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:** Copies of all back issues 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. Back issues should be ordered from the **Editor.** Include a check made out to **The Society For Japanese Irises** in an amount to cover the number of issues ordered.

**Slide Sets:** A set of slides on Japanese irises may be rented from the **Slides Chairman** (see page 2 for address). Charges for handling and mailing is \$5.00 per set. Enclose a check payable to **The Society For Japanese Irises** with your request.

**Advertising:** Advertising will be accepted for plants and horticultural related items. Charges are: Full page layout---\$18;  $\frac{1}{2}$  page layout---\$10; short ads, text only, \$2 for up to five lines and for each additional five lines or fraction thereof.

For details on how to prepair and submit adds, see article in the Spring issue, 1987 (Volume 24 Number 1), or contact the Editor. Adds should be sent to the **Editor.** Include payment in the form of a check made out to **The Society For Japanese Irises.** Deadlines for receiving adds are March 1 and Sept. 1 for spring and fall issues respectively.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear JI Friends,

It is with great appreciation that I thank our new Robin Chairman, Vince Bitzer for his efforts in organizing our robin program. If there be any other members that would like to join a new robin, please write him. I'm sure he would like to hear from you. (see address on Page 2)

Our Treasurer, Carol Warner has reported that our Publisher, Mr. James Foreman, has made a sizable contribution to our society book fund, in the printing of our last bulletin. Thank you Jim.

What is probably foremost on most of our minds is the new book that is in the works on Japanese iris. The book has not yet gone to press, but the possibility of its being printed early in 1989 looks very good. Dr. Currier McEwen will have a report on the book in this issue.

At last count we only had 19 gardens listed with our Display Garden Chairman, Mrs. Claire Barr. The society would appreciate your assistance in this program, so that our judges could visit more gardens to vote their Ballot. Thank you.

It is with anticipation that I am looking forward to the upcoming conventions. First in Oklahoma City, and then in Kalamazoo, where we will be able to visit many gardens and see some of the new introductions. I would like to invite you to attend our Convention. If you haven't been to one yet you don't know what you are missing. The Japanese iris will be super, I promise! Hope to see you all soon.

It is with much regret that I report to you the passing of one of our beloved members and former Editor, Bill Ouweneel, on Nov. 8, 1987. I would like to express my condolence to his friends and family.

Thank you,

Don Delmez





WILLIAM E. OUWENEEL  
1897 - 1987



WILLIAM E. OUWENEEL  
1897 - 1987

William E. Ouweneel died on Nov. 8, 1987. "Bill", as he was known to all, had served SJI as editor of "The Review" for a period of 18 years. Since that time he had continued to take an active interest in "The Review", sending comments, suggestions, and support to the editor upon several occasions.

His son, Richard Ouweneel, of Indianapolis, Indiana, provided the accompanying portrait, and a statement about his father. This statement is quoted here in its entirety as a fitting tribute.

"William E. 'Bill' Ouweneel was born in 1897 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His heritage was Dutch, his manner was firm and fair, and his interest was in nature in all of its aspects. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Chemical Engineering in 1924. There was a sameness to him in the experiences of camping in northern Wisconsin in the early part of the century, the looking for (and finding of) Indian artifacts in the fields of Indiana in the thirties and forties, the raising and hybridizing of Japanese Iris in the forties through seventies, and the reading of books on genetics in the eighties. His general interest in flowers became focused on Japanese Iris through contact with Arlie Payne in the late thirties and early forties. What began as periodic family trips to the Payne Nursery for general goods, became a lasting interest and friendship. He and his wife's retirement property was desirable to him because 'it had five kinds of soil and a pond for the Iris'. With retirement, there was also room in his schedule for the raising and incorporation of many Hoosier wildflowers into the ravines next to the house. Both they and the iris were shared with others on many occasions. Bill's skills, interests, and character continue with those who knew him."

We, of the SJI, will greatly miss his presence.

The moon is up, and yet it is not night;  
Sunset divides the sky with her; a sea  
Of glory streams along the Alpine height  
Of blue Friuli's mountains; Heaven is free  
From clouds, but of all colours seems to be,--  
Melted to one vast Iris of the West,--  
Where the day joins the past Eternity.

Lord Byron

## GUEST IRIS REQUEST

Dear Hybridizer:

The Maine Iris Society will host the 1990 Japanese Iris Society's convention. At least 5 large display gardens are ready for planting.

Hybridizers are asked to send their newer introductions and seedlings to Shirley Pope, 39 Highland Avenue, Gorham, Maine 04038, beginning May 1, 1988.

Shipments of irises can be accepted through September 15, 1988. However, earlier shipments will allow plants to become well established in time for convention bloom.

Please send the following information with each plant: Hybridizer's name and address, name or number of the iris, height, color and bloom time.

A special form will be sent to hybridizers in 1990 asking how they wish us to dispose of their irises.

Thank you for helping to make the 1990 SJI convention one to remember.

Sincerely,

The Maine Convention Committee  
Shirley Pope, Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## NORTHEAST APOGON AUCTION

The 1988 Northeast Apogon Auction will be held September 11, in Bedford, Massachusetts. In the morning there will be slide presentations, including new hybrids and seedlings of Currier McEwen and Bee Warburton, and a review of the 1988 Japanese Iris Convention in Kalamazoo, from our members who are attending. After lunch, and a mad dash for the sale table (in 15 minutes everything is gone), the auction begins. Each year it seems that Japanese irises are getting more popular. The Northeast Apogon Auction Committee would greatly appreciate donations of plants from any member of the Japanese section. In the past, members around the country have been very generous. All proceeds from your contributions will be sent on to the Society for Japanese Irises. Anyone interested in contributing to or attending our auction should contact Marty Schafer, 45 Elm St., Bedford, Ma 01730, for further details.



## GARDENS ON REVIEW

### 1988 NATIONAL JAPANESE IRIS CONVENTION

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN      JULY 1-3

Headquarters at the Ramada Inn, 5300 S. Westnedge, Kalamazoo  
(I-94 and Westnedge North Exit - Exit 76B)

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society is planning a full week-end for your enjoyment.

**FRIDAY, JULY 1:** SWMIS will host its 14th Japanese and Late Iris Show at THE CROSSROADS (mall), 12 noon to 7 p.m. Entries for the show will be received between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.. If you have blooms (any type of iris) to exhibit, please bring them. A show schedule may be obtained in advance by contacting the show chairman, Leland M. Welsh, 7979 West D Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49009, Tel. (616) 349-9253. We will welcome you to the CONVENTION at the registration table for the show. Start off the week-end with a REVIEW of the best show stalks and seedlings of Japanese iris and special Ikebana arrangements with Ikebana demonstrations (in the afternoon) by the Sogetsu School members.

Dinner on your own: There are four restaurants at the Mall or dine at the Ramada.

7:00-8:30 p.m.: Hors d'oeuvres and punch get-together in the banquet room at the Ramada. At 8:30 p.m., John Coble will show slides, from the archives of SJI, that were taken by Arlie Payne. This will be a program to REVIEW the garden and hybridizing of Arlie Payne. Those in attendance who had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Payne and his garden will add their comments about this hybridizer who gave us many of the best JI still on the market. REVIEW comments will also be given on the gardens of Walter Marx and Arthur Hazzard, with slides of some of their best introductions.

**SATURDAY, JULY 2:** A day of bused-garden tours and a banquet. The buses will take us from the Ramada Inn to the gardens of Ron and Anna Mae Miller and Dick and Eileen O'Melay. The Millers have a large garden of perennial borders and commercial plantings of perennials and iris. Anna Mae has large plantings of Siberian iris cultivars and rows and rows of Siberian seedlings. Her JI plantings increase every year. From her seedling rows she has chosen two JI to introduce this year. Dick and Eileen O'Melay are newer members of our club that immediately proclaimed the Japanese iris as their favorite iris. In their landscaped gardens and yard they have laid brick paths and made formal display beds for the guest iris and their favorite cultivars. You will enjoy the special plantings beside the new pools and waterfalls.

About noon, the buses will converge on the Copeland garden. Jill will be anxious for your attention in her field of JI seedlings, many under promising number. She is requesting your comments on her breeding lines for pinks, dwarfs, and tetraploids. This is the "breeding grounds" from which came Jill's Payne Award winner BLUE MARLIN, and her HM winner DACE.

Their son, Jim Jr., also has a JI garden of several hundred seedlings of which two are planned for registration this year. Jim Sr. is hoping to share his favorite sport with you and serve another fish-fry for your lunch.

After your leisurely iris viewing and lunch conversations, we will bus across town to Bob Bauer and John Coble's garden in Galesburg. Bob and John have a commercial garden planting of 400+ named and labeled JI, about 2000 seedlings, and special display beds of newer introductions and one bed of Art Hazzard's introductions.

In Bob's Japanese Garden, special bog plantings have been made with JIs for your assessment of this cultural trial. New rock-bordered pools have been added to the garden, with the guest iris planted along the edge of the connecting stream. The hosta beds, fernery, and dwarf conifer plantings have been added to keep your gardening interests peaked as you turn into each new view in this quiet garden setting. After an hour of viewing, one hour of judges training will be given in the garden.

The buses should have us back to the motel by 6 p.m.. From 6:30 - 7:30, you are invited to an open-bar get-together in the banquet room. The banquet meal will be served at 7:30. Our banquet speaker will be Dr. Currier McEwen talking and showing slides of his most recent work and developments with Japanese Iris. He has told us that 1987 was the most exciting and rewarding bloom season in his seedling beds since he started hybridizing! We are anxious to hear updates on his work with repeat bloomers and tetraploids. We hope you will join us to REVIEW the current garden and irises of Dr. McEwen. Following Dr. McEwen's talk, we will have an auction of Japanese iris plants (special donations and guest irises that have been donated by their hybridizers). So--- be sure to mark your guest-iris handout of those you would like to own. This will be your chance!

**SUNDAY, JULY 3: GARDENS ON REVIEW.** Your return visit to the Copeland garden is welcomed this morning. Transportation will be provided by club members and car-pooling. Breakfast refreshments will be served at 9:00 a.m.. From 10 to 11:00 a.m. another hour of judges training will be offered in Jill's seedling rows and/or on show judging for those wishing credit, or who just wish to listen as judges critique the seedlings that you made notes on yesterday. This will end the formal plans for the week-end.

For those with extra film or only half-filled note pages, you are invited to re-visit the other gardens you toured yesterday or additional gardens in the area. Club members will car-pool out-of-town visitors to Review the gardens Sunday afternoon, and provide you "glad-you-could-come" trips to the airport either Sunday or Monday. Please feel free to stay as long as you can.



Transportation will be provided on Friday from the airport or train depot, to the Ramada, to the Mall, and back to the Ramada. Sunday, we will provide rides to the Copeland Garden and other area gardens and to your point of departure. We will need your co-operation to co-ordinate our car-poolers! Please send us your flight arrival and departure times (and dates). Kalamazoo also has good Amtrak service from Detroit and Chicago. If you are driving, let us know and we will send maps for the Ramada (and other motels), the Mall, and Gardens. We are expecting 100+ to attend, talk, and REVIEW Japanese Iris. Welcome.

Registration fee for the CONVENTION will be \$35.00

Our buses and banquet require us to pay a deposit two weeks prior to July 1. Please register (if possible) before June 1; it will certainly help us plan accomodations (and whether or not we will need a third bus for Sat.!). Please register for the CONVENTION, with your check made out to: S.W.M.I.S. (Southwestern Michigan Iris Society).

Send to: Bob Bauer  
9823 E. Michigan  
Galesburg, Michigan 49053  
Tel. (616) 665-7500

Make your room reservations directly with Ramada Inn, mentioning 'Iris Convention' for the group rate of \$51.00 per double room, per night. This is a flat room rate for 1-4 persons per room. We will try to help you find possible roommates to share expenses; send us (Bob Bauer) your name and we will send you a list of others looking to share a room.

Ramada Inn  
5300 S. Westnedge (616) 382-1000  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008 1-800-228-2828

The Board of Directors will meet in Oklahoma City on Tuesday, May 3, at 8:00 p.m., in the Shore Room.

There will also be a Board of Directors meeting for SJI in conjunction with the SJI Convention in Kalamazoo. The meeting is scheduled to be held Friday night, July 1, following the slides program.

In William Ackerman's article, "Breeding For Dwarfness In Japanese Iris". under the photographs on page 35, descriptions were inadvertently omitted.

Under Figure No. 1, the following wording should have appeared: A397-57) double, 4" lavender pink, flower on 12" stalks.

Under Figure No. 2, it should read: A4(8-14) double, 5" dark lavender flower shading to dark lavender pink at signal, style arms white with lavender margins. on 10" stalks

Word is received from a member who is seeking a source for the book Japanese iris, by Kuribayashi and Hirao, published in 1971. If you know of a copy available, please contact:

Mr. Jan Ponchalek  
3258 N. Sheffield Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60657

## 1989 JAPANESE IRIS CONVENTION

Diana Nicholls

Planning and work are well underway for the Japanese Iris Convention hosted by the Frances Scott Key and Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Societies on June 16 and 17, 1989 in Washington, D.C.

Our American hybridizers have responded well to the request for guests by sending over one hundred plants. In addition to seeing the best of the American hybridizers work, we are pleased that you will be able to view the best of the work going on in Japan. The Japan Iris Society has sent one hundred nine guest plants for the convention. We are very excited about this wonderful opportunity you will have to view these marvelous guests as well as the hundreds of named cultivars that exist in the tour gardens.

Four gardens will be on tour. Clarence and Suky Mahan's garden in McLean, Virginia; Don Spoon's garden on the Georgetown University Campus, Washington, D.C.; Carol Warner's garden in Upperco, Maryland and my own garden, Nicholls Gardens in Gainesville, Virginia will make up the tour gardens with the guests placed in the last three gardens.

Additional details will be in the fall 1988 REVIEW. We look forward to seeing you in June 1989.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 1988 JI POPULARITY POLL

Virginia Burton

The response to the popularity poll was much better last year than in the past. To help facilitate the poll this year, hoping for a much larger participation, we are enclosing a separate ballot form in this issue of "The Review". There is space on this form for two people to vote in the case of a family membership.

Fill out the ballot with your 10 favorite JI that you have seen in gardens this year. They do not need to be listed in any special order. Mail the ballot to me, postmarked by August 15, 1988. Please meet the deadline, to save Lee Welsh and me extra work in juggling JI names (to make room for late entries) and vote totals, after I have compiled the list and sent it to Lee.

People seem to like the poll and say it is worthwhile in choosing new JI for their gardens. They also like the extra comments such as time of their bloom, the early bloomers, late bloomers and the rebloomers.

Let's have a really large response this year.



## JAPANESE IRIS SHOWS FOR 1988

The editor has been informed of the following Japanese or beardless iris shows to be held this season. If you have any iris to exhibit you would be welcome to do so at any of these shows. You are also welcome as a visitor. If more information is desired about any one of these shows, contact the show chairman or whoever is listed as a contact person.

Best wishes to all of you for very successful shows.

### St. Louis, Missouri:

The Greater St. Louis Iris Society will present their fifth annual Beardless Show, caribbean Cruise, on June 4, 1988, at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Classes will be open in horticulture and judged by accredited judges of The American Iris Society. The design division will be judged by qualified design judges. For further information call: Don Delmez, (314) 724-4274.

### Summerville, South Carolina:

The Summerville Iris Society, an affiliate of The American Iris Society, will present a Standard Flower Show on June 4, 1988. The show is in cooperation with the AIS and the SJI. Theme for the show is "The Artist's Palette". It will be held in the Cuthbert Community Building at 101 W 5th St. So., in Summerville, S.C.. Show time is 1 - 8 pm.. The show is open to the public with no admission charge. Frances Thompson is show chairman ph. 744-3442; Leora Moore is co-chrm., ph. 552-6347. Barbara Mitchum is design entries chairman and her address is P.O. Box 817 Moncks Corner, S.C. 29461, ph. 899-3877. Virginia Rowland is reservation chrm. for the JI weekend, address 113 Laurel Ave., Goose Creek, S.C. 19445, ph. 553-1168. Cost for the weekend is \$25.00, check made out to Virginia Rowland and received by May 20, 1988. There will be a 2 hour judges training session on show bench judging of JI at the show building, 5 - 7 pm. June 3, with Adolph Vogt in charge. There will be a written exam. For those interested in credit, please become familiar with the following terms: form, substance, color, pattern, proportion, condition, grooming and know what is meant by "firm attachment of flowers and overall grace and beauty". We will also have some JI seedlings to evaluate so we will be looking for distinctiveness of the flower and its proportion to the stalk. There will be a buffet supper after the judging session at the show building.. Saturday morning there will be breakfast hosted by SIS with Ruth Wilder in charge. There will be a bus tour, lunch, auction, supper and program on the 4th. At this time our plans are to go to Beaufort to see gardens, and to have lunch.

### Portland, Oregon:

The Greater Portland Iris Society will hold its Japanese Iris Show on June 11, 1988. Location will be the Clackamas Town Center, Portland, Oregon. For further information contact: Mr. J. T. (Terry) Aitken, 608 NW 119th St., Vancouver, Washington 98685.



### **Washington D.C. Area:**

The Chesapeake and Potomac and Francis Scott Key Iris Societies will have a beardless iris show on Saturday, June 18 in the Kennilworth Bazaar in Towson, Maryland. Entries will be accepted from 8:00 - 10:00 am. and the show will be open from 10:00 am. to 5:00 pm.. All iris growers are invited to exhibit. For more details contact: **Carol Warner**, 16815 Falls Road, upperco, MD. 21155.

### **Harrisburg, Pennsylvania:**

The Susquehanna Iris Society will present its Japanese Iris Show on June 25th, at the Harrisburg East Mall, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. For further information contact: **Dorothea W. Marquart**, 2060 Good Hope Road, Enola, PA 17025.

### **Kalamazoo, Michigan:**

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society will hold its Japanese Iris show on July 1 in conjunction with the SJI Convention. Please see details in another article in this issue, "Gardens On Review 1988 National Japanese Iris Convention".

### **Newton, Massachusetts:**

The Iris Society of Massachusetts, in conjunction with the Japan Society of Boston and Ikebana International will hold its first show of Japanese irises on Sunday, July 10, at the Newton Art Center, Newton, Massachusetts. It will be open to the public from 1-4 pm. For further information contact: Tom or Alice Schaefer, 27 Waverly Ave., Newton, MA 02158, Tel. (617) 965-0546.

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## **JAPANESE IRIS DISPLAY GARDENS**

**Claire B. Barr**

The following gardens have been listed with the Display Garden Chairman. The owners invite you to contact them and visit their gardens during the bloom season.

### **Region 1**

- 1) Dr. & Mrs. Currier McEwen, Seaway Gardens  
Route 1, Box 818, South Harpswell, ME 04079
- 2) Mrs. Maurice B. Pope, Jr.  
39 Highland Ave., Gorham, ME 04038

### **Region 3**

- 1) George C. Bush, 1739 Memory Lane Extd., York, PA 17402
- 2) Mr. & Mrs. Sterling U. Innerst  
2700A Oakland Road, Dover, PA 17315

cont'd.

**Region 4**

- 1) Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Mahan, The Iris Pond  
7311 Churchill Road, McLean, VA 22101
- 2) Michael and Diana Nicholls  
4724 Angus Drive, Gainsville, VA 22065
- 3) Mrs. Andrew C. Warner, 16815 Falls Road, Upperco, MD 21155

**Region 5**

- 1) Mrs. Wells E. Burton, 3275 Miller Drive, Ladson, SC 29456

**Region 6**

- 1) Robert A. Bauer & John A. Coble, Ensata Gardens  
9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053
- 2) Mr. & Mrs. James A. Copeland  
34165 CR 652, Mattawan, MI 49071
- 3) Mrs. Ronald F. Miller, Old Douglas Perennials  
6065 Old Douglas Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
- 4) James W. Shook, 3987 Lincoln Lake Road, Lowell, MI 49331
- 5) Dr. Harold L. Stalhly  
8343 Manchester Drive, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
- 6) Mrs. Robert Stallcop, Rt 2, Box 676, Greencastle, IN 46135

**Region 7**

- 1) Adolph J. Vogt, 5101 Fegenbush Ln., Louisville, KY 40218

**Region 9**

- 1) Mrs. Florence E. Stout, 150 N. Main St., Lombard, IL 60148
- 2) Jerry & Melody Wilhoit, Route 1, Box 141, Kansas, IL 61933

**Region 13**

- 1) Terry & Barbara Aitken, Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden  
608 N.W. 119 St., Vancouver, WA 98685
- 2) Mrs. Lorena M. Reid, Laurie's Garden  
41886 McKenzie Hwy., Springfield, OR 97478
- 3) Allan & Dorothy Rogers, Caprice Farm Nursery  
15425 S.W. Pleasant Hill Rd., Sherwood, OR 97140

**Region 15**

- 1) Lillian Champion, 12420 Seventh St., Yucaipa, CA 92399

**Region 18**

- 1) Donald Delmez, 3240 Connecticut St., St. Charles, MO 63301

**Region 19**

- 1) Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

## SOME COMMENTS ON JUDGING JAPANESE IRISES

Leland M. Welsh

A little over seven years ago Virginia Burton requested that I write an article for "The Review" about judging Japanese irises. That was long before I became editor, and for whatever reason, procrastination took over. Perhaps it was simply a feeling of not being sure I had that much to say which would be worthy of publication. At any rate, seven years later I shall make the attempt.

During this time interval, the new AIS Handbook for Judges and Show Officials was produced. This is supposed to be the authority, and last word, regarding the judging of all irises. When it comes to the Japanese, I have some reservations. This may be considered a heresy, I hope not. It might be looked upon as stepping on some toes, but I hope that is not the case, at least it is not the intention. It will remain however, untill later in this article to pursue these specifics, as at this point I feel some general considerations need to be given attention.

The Japanese irises seem to be at a disadvantage when it comes to "getting out the votes". There are several reasons for this, or perhaps a better term would be excuses, all of which I feel should be invalidated. First, is the fact that the Japanese are the latest of all the irises to bloom. Many of the bearded iris enthusiasts seem to feel that when the last T.B. bloom has folded the iris season is over. The ballot is filled out and promptly forwarded to the Awards Chairman. My attitude towards this is that when we become AIS judges, we take on the obligation to look at all types of irises, so far as possible, at least all types which are commonly grown and hybridized in our own area. This article is being written for a Japanese iris publication, and therefore the message will probably not reach the offenders eyes. How can we correct this situation? I guess all we can do is for each of us who care about the Japanese to simply keep urging other judges to look at more irises. Maybe we can try to make sure they see some Japanese, and then become aware of how beautiful they really are.

A second excuse is "I don't know enough about Japanese irises to vote for them on the ballot". It is true that you really don't know about any type of iris unless you have grown it. We need to urge those judges in areas where Japanese irises grow to try a few. Even if one does not grow them, one can look and learn. We have frequently held training sessions on Japanese in our local area. What has been very distressing to me is to witness some of the same judges who have used the lack of knowledge excuse, and who live near an area where the training is given, to either not attend or even worse, be in the garden and hold their own conversation in another corner. Well, I guess all we can do is go on trying to educate.

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As judges we need to remember that one of our duties is to look at work of the hybridizers in our area (all types of irises), to encourage them in their efforts, and perhaps try giving some suggestions or direction where needed. That means visiting their gardens whenever possible. Hopefully also, as the SJI program of display gardens becomes established it will be conducive to more judges seeing more Japanese irises.

Whether or not we are well acquainted with a particular type of iris, I believe there are certain constants which hold true in judging all types. Certain principles by which one is guided, either in the garden or at the show bench. Usually, in judges training sessions, these are gone over individually for whatever type of iris is being studied, almost as if it were something exclusive for that type. They are not, at least in my opinion. What is special for each type are a few details unique to the type of iris being studied, and relating to these general principles.

Let's look first at some of these general principles as they apply to show bench judging. When you are judging a show you are expected to judge everything there at the best of your ability. It is usually not possible, when judging a mixed show, upon coming to a group of entries with which you are less familiar, be it species, dwarfs, or Japanese, to simply step back and say I can't judge this section. If you do, it may be unfair to the other judges, and certainly to the show. Most any of us with any experience can tell if the specimen has been well grown, if it is in good condition, and how well it is groomed. With that as a base we can go on to specifics related to the type of iris being viewed and use our best judgement.

It is recommended in the Judge's Handbook that the exhibition of Japanese iris be classified by cultivars. I heartily agree. This is especially desirable in Japanese iris because of the great variety of forms, pattern and texture which is available within any one color group, and the many intricate combinations of colors and shadings available. This lets you judge each specimen according to how well it is grown compared to the potential for the particular variety. This is the point at which a knowledge of Japanese irises becomes most important, to know the variety. Few judges however, no matter how experienced, are going to know every variety which may appear on the show bench. This is true in any type of iris. Again, when coming upon an unknown variety, one simply has to use their best judgement.

At this point we come to one of my concerns about the AIS Judges Handbook. Under "Exhibition Judging Japanese Irises", page C-45, following a brief introductory paragraph about using cultivar classes it simply gives a scale of points, no explanations. The scale is reproduced here:



## Scale of Points

<b>Cultural Perfection</b> .....	75
<b>Flower</b> .....	50
Proportion .....	10
Color .....	10
Pattern .....	10
Form .....	10
Substance .....	10
<b>Stalk</b> .....	25
Proportion .....	5
Firm attachment of flowers .....	5
Overall grace and balance .....	15
<b>Condition and Grooming</b> .....	25
	<u>100</u>

Let's look at this scale a moment. My first reaction upon reading the list of qualities for the flower is to consider it in terms of: is the proportion of the flower parts to each other and the stalk pleasing? Is the color clear, and pleasing? Are the pattern and form pleasing? Is the substance good? If I do this, it sounds like I am judging a seedling in the garden, trying to determine if it would be a worthy variety to introduce, or if an introduced variety is it worthy of an award. The questions might be valid if we are judging a color class show, but it has already been suggested that this should be set up as a cultivar show.

What we need to do for judging a cultivar show, and I do not think the Handbook explains this, is to look at these items from a different perspective. We need to ask: Is the proportion typical of this variety? Is the color typical? And so on. Good culture will, of course, affect these qualities, enhancing them, especially I would say in the case of proportion, but it can not change the qualities of color, pattern, form and substance, which are determined by genetics.

The same is true for items listed under stalk. If the variety being judged happens to be one notorious for having weak-necked flowers, the specimen can be considered on the basis of whether its flower is well attached to the stem for that variety, if so can points be deducted because it is still not attached as an ideal flower would be? I think not.

Once the specimens on the show bench have been judged according to standards for a cultivar show and the judges proceed to select the best of show and a "Queen's Court", the perspective changes somewhat. We are still looking for the best specimen, in terms of cultural perfection, condition and grooming. It is possible for a specimen of a variety that is not the standard of perfection for the type to get the top award on the basis of cultural perfection. I think this to be especially true in Tall Bearded irises, where I would rather give the top award to an older but good variety which is very well grown than to a newer variety, equally beautiful at first glance, but not grown to its full potential. This would be true only as long as other points of consideration are equal.

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We need to remember that in a show we are awarding the grower for his ability to grow and display the iris, as opposed to garden judging where we are awarding the iris and its potential for meeting an ideal standard. Inevitably however, in selecting the best specimen of a show, we do to some extent, take into consideration the ideal iris, and this is where our perspective has changed. The well grown specimen which still has a weak neck is thrown out of consideration, along with the equally well grown specimen of a variety whose proportions, color, form, etc., still leave something to be desired.

Two other points regarding show judging need to be developed.

The first point, one which I would strongly emphasize, is unique to Japanese irises. In T.B.s, the flower opens, and in a short time has reached full size, is at its peak in freshness and color, and begins to gradually age over the life of the flower. On the show bench the freshest flower, or first day bloom, is usually preferable. The Japanese iris opens, and over the period of its life gradually changes. It expands and enlarges over the first day or two. Also the color gradually changes, usually becoming somewhat lighter than at first. In the Japanese iris, these changes are not viewed as a fault, or deterioration. As long as the color changes are pleasant, the condition and substance of the bloom remains good, and the changes are normal for the variety, each stage of the bloom is considered to be of equal quality. A first day and second day bloom of one variety sitting side by side on the show bench may look quite different, but each is considered typical of the variety and equally good, providing all other characteristics are equal.

Finally, in regards to show judging, are considerations which apply to the seedling table. The Judges Handbook does not give a separate scale of points for judging Japanese iris seedlings. Perhaps it should. At any rate, condition and grooming should be out, as in all other types of irises. Here distinction does come into play. We do not need another good white or purple variety that looks just like some others already on the market, unless it grows better, and this is a quality which can only be judged in the garden, not on the show bench. As to other qualities, we are not looking for cultural perfection as defined for the specimens in cultivar classes. Here our perspective changes to looking at these qualities in terms of an ideal standard, and a matter of what the potential is for the individual seedling. We are looking for something which, if not distinctively different from that already available, displays a noticeable improvement in some respect from what is available.

Now let us consider some factors relating to garden judging. Here, as alluded to in the above discussion, we are judging the iris itself; its potential and its typical behavior. For convenience in our consideration, the Scale of Points for Garden Judging of Japanese Irises, as given in the AIS Handbook for Judges is reproduced here.



1. FLOWER			
a. Form .....	20		
b. Color and pattern			
(1) Clarity .....	10		
(2) Harmony .....	5		
(3) Novelty .....	5	20	
c. Durability .....	5		
d. Substance .....	5		
e. Texture .....	5		
f. Distinction .....	5	60	
2. PLANT			
a. Vigor .....	5		
b. Flower stalk			
(1) Height in proportion			
to flower size .....	5		
(2) Branching and bud count .....	10		
(3) Strength of stalk			
and flower support .....	5	20	25
3. GARDEN QUALITIES			
a. Carrying properties .....	5		
b. Expansion of season .....	10	15	
		100	

The various qualities listed in the scale of points are then outlined and discussed in the Handbook. For the most part, I find these explanations quite clear and adequate. I would refer the reader to the Handbook for these, feeling that it is not warranted to repeat them here. There are three points however, where I feel the need to either add further emphasis, discussion, or in one case propose some disagreement.

First, allow me to bring up the point of disagreement. The scale of points allows 60 points to the flower, 25 to the plant, of which 20 are attributed to the flower stalk, leaving only 5 points for vigor. The other 15 points, (carrying properties-5, expansion of season-10) are also for attributes relating directly or indirectly to the flower.

It is true, we grow the plant for the purpose of the flower. Therefore, in our thinking, the flower often becomes all important. Without a good vigorous plant however, there are not going to be many of those flowers to enjoy, no matter how beautiful they may be. It is also true that the plant is in bloom for a relatively short period of time, but we have to live with the plant in our gardens all year. This brings up questions of the plants character when not in flower, its color, growth habit, disease resistance, etc.. There is a known case of an iris, which apparently had a beautiful flower, or flowers, one year when seen by a number of judges and received an HM. It went on, apparently on the memory of being seen that year, to receive the Payne Award. The variety is a very poor grower, the hybridizer could barely keep it alive from year to year. Few people today have it, or have even seen it in bloom, and even the best growers have difficulty getting any increase to distribute. When we vote an award to an iris, we are telling the gardening public that this is a variety we recommend for their gardens. Is recommending an iris they can not grow, or may bloom only occassionally (no matter how beautiful the bloom is), a service

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to the gardener, to AIS, or to SJI? I think not! The same hybridizer who introduced the iris referred to above, also introduced many other varieties that are beautiful, do grow well, and many of which unfortunately, did not win any awards, even though more deserving.

Considering the above discussion, I feel the Handbook's scale of points is out of balance. More value should be given to vigor and to growth habits of the plant. These are difficult things to properly evaluate on a single trip to a garden while the plant is in bloom. We need however, to make an effort to give them more consideration.

The second point I wish to discuss here, is the one of flower form. The explanation on form given in the Handbook on page B-53 is quite good. The reference to form given in the opening paragraphs on page B-51 I find more ambiguous. True, there are several forms in the Japanese iris, and all are to be considered equally valid, and there is charm in the original species form. I have heard the idea expressed in training sessions, that since all forms are valid, there are no standards for judging form, and everything becomes good. Whatever you like goes. Would you believe, I was highly criticized in a hybridizers garden, in front of the hybridizer, by another judge, because I dared to suggest that the long hafted, narrow petaled, airplane propeller we were looking at was not good form, on the basis that all forms were desirable and valid. The opinion was expressed that if we insisted on setting standards, "eventually all Japanese irises would look alike as the Tall Bearded do"! Do all modern T.B.s really look alike? I don't buy this argument. I think we do need some standards. Otherwise why not introduce and premiate every seedling in the patch! The idea of having some standards for form may imply some restriction, but I don't believe it to be that serious. We would still have single, double, 12 petal, multiple petal flowers; flared, semi-flared, and hanging forms. Though I am personally fond of a single form with short hafts and wide, overlapping falls that are semi-flaring, that does not mean but what I can find a similar flower where the falls do not overlap but are wide, and everything is in good proportion, of equal interest. In double forms I do insist on overlapping, and fairly short hafts. Somehow holes, or "spaces", around the center due to long hafts or narrow petals simply does not cut it. If a long hafted, narrow petaled flower were to get my approval, it must have something in addition to lend grace, proportion and appeal. I am not saying this is impossible, but it is unlikely.

The form also needs to be consistent. If a double flower has one or two petals which frequently can not make up their mind whether they are standing up to make a single form or lying down to be a double form, but land somewhere between, that form is faulted. I find this true for petals which tend to roll or twist in an irregular manner, giving the bloom a rather rumpled look, like a person with uncombed hair. This is not meant to be a criticism of ruffling, which when regular and well mannered can greatly enhance an individual bloom.



Finally, I would like to discuss the subjects of Branching and Bud Count, and Expansion of Season, in relation to each other.

It is desirable to expand the season. As I see it, there are three approaches to this problem. One is to develop earlier and later blooming cultivars. If a seedling or an introduced variety you are looking at fits into this category, it probably deserves some special consideration, at least with other factors being equal. A second method of achieving extension of season is to increase the longevity of each individual flower. This is an approach that has been taken by Dr. Ackerman in his rather extensive work in trying to extend bloom season. A third approach is to increase bud count.

An increase in bud count does not automatically insure good extension of season. If a stalk has no branches and two buds in the terminal, the bloom season will be for the duration of those two blooms. If a stalk has two branches, each with two buds, plus two in the terminal, but branches and terminal bloom at the same time, the bloom season will be no longer than for the unbranched stalk. In fact, what you may have in the garden, if there are several stalks on the clump, is a plant that looks like a blob, with no grace about it. This may appeal to some people of the old school who hold that a T.B. must have three open blooms to be Queen of the show, and that all other irises should follow suite! In the garden it is much more preferred if the branches bloom consecutively, thus not only extending bloom, but allowing some space about each bloom in the clump. Since Japanese iris blooms are usually of good size, this space between blooms allows the clump to have some appealing grace about it in the garden, perennial border, or wherever it is used.

There are actually two ways in Japanese irises of increasing bud count. One, as above, is the development of more branches per stalk and increased bud count in the sockets. A second, is to increase the number of bloom stalks. Again, if all stalks develop simultaneously, the effect will be a blob of bloom and no extension of the bloom period will occur. If, however, the bloom stalks develop consecutively, then an extension of the bloom season occurs and at the same time the plant can have a graceful, pleasing appearance. I have heard discussions in judges training sessions regarding the relative merits of branching versus successive scapes, with some people insisting that one or the other is the only way to go. I feel both may be equally valid. Perhaps the ultimate would be successive scapes that also branch. One needs to be careful however, that in such a case too many branches and scapes do not begin to interfere with each other. In the case of plants that produce successive scapes, though a good number are desirable, the plant should not produce so many that there are no increase fans left for bloom next year. A plant that blooms well only every other year is not really a good subject for the perennial border or landscape, nor even acceptable by we iris enthusiasts for our gardens.

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Judging a plant on its length of bloom period is rather difficult to do in a single garden visit. Such a visit will not inform you on how long an individual bloom may last. In the case of branched stems, one may be able to assess the number of branches and buds per socket, thus getting some idea of the plants expected performance. In the case of successive scapes the assessment could be more difficult to make, as later developing scapes might not be as readily apparent. What we really need to do is observe the plant over a period of time.

We should keep in mind that as judges, our primary duty is to do garden judging. When giving an award to a garden cultivar, we are giving it a recommendation to the public for use in their gardens. The public opinion of Japanese irises (or any other iris) will, to a great degree, depend on how well we do our job.

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#### NEW SLIDES OFFERING

John Coble

Slides Chairman

I am almost afraid to announce that we have received some new slides of new JI cultivars, as I do not want you to think that we do not need any more! I hope to change and update the SJI slide sets every couple years, so that clubs that have rented the sets in the past and enjoyed them can again make Japanese iris the theme of another program and provide a new and updated slide show to their members.

Letters of request to hybridizers last fall brought forth more than 100 slides for consideration. I made copies of 72 slides to add to the SJI Library. These slides of new introductions and seedlings of promise will be incorporated into the SJI slides sets for winter 1988-89 showings. SJI thanks those who sent slides. SJI wants to thank more members who can help keep our slides programs interesting and updated. We are still in need of landscaping and garden scenes showing Japanese iris. Please remember us this summer during bloom season.

I guess no one out there has any old catalogs that offered JI! There was no response to my request in the Fall REVIEW. We really want to try to collect some historical material to offer along with our slide set programs. Please let me know what you may have even if you are not ready to donate it.

My address is inside the front cover.  
May I write you a Thank you?



MORE NOTES ON PLANTING TIMES  
Excerpts from Robin South, Flight 20

Adolph Vogt

"In this Robin there is a discussion as to when is the best time to plant JI. So, I will add to the confusion. The growth characteristics of JI are as varied as their bloom. When you add to this the varied environmental conditions such as soil, moisture, temperature etc., you can visualize why JI grow different here than they do in California, Texas or Maine. One good way to find out how to grow JI at your location is to grow a quantity of seedlings. If I line out seedlings in June, July and August when the weather is hot and the moisture is low, about 50% will not survive. The growth of those remaining is poor. They just seem to wait untill the following spring to start growing. If I line them out in the early spring, just as they start to grow (March and April) they take off and grow like weeds, with very few losses. This time of year the weather is cool with plenty of moisture and you have the help of those little genes that are responsible for that spring growth.

Replanting my named varieties, a different procedure is followed. Desiring maximum bloom, their roots are not disturbed in the spring. So, transplanting is started when they finish blooming; about the first week in July. To keep from having losses they are potted and placed in a pool, where they grow a new set of roots in 4 to 6 weeks.. Then they are removed from the pots and planted in the garden without disturbing the roots. It is important that the soil remains in place when they are removed from the pot; so I use a heavy type soil and remove them from the pool for several hours to allow the water to drain out. If they are watered for several days they will continue to grow well. When you just dig and replant, a majority of the very small capillary roots are destroyed. That JI you removed from the pot with the new roots including those important capillaries. can be planted in the garden any month of the year that the ground can be worked. To keep those planted late from heaving, plant in a 2 or 3 inch depression and cover with 6 inches of leaves."





## SOME OBSERVATIONS ON JAPANESE IRIS IN THE SUMMER OF 1987

John Coble

Every year of gardening seems to bring about new question-provoking phenomena; especially to us who grow large numbers of specialized cultivars or seedlings. Many are not apparently important nor cause for serious scientific studies; it would be interesting to understand why they occurred - to a few of us. In our Japanese iris, in 1987, there were several August and September bloom spikes with single blossoms produced at 4-6" from the base of the fan. What hormone or enzyme was produced and/or inhibited in the plant, at the wrong time, to stop growth at 4" and develop a normal size flower? And why on only one out of fifty plants of the same cultivar? Was it environmental: too warm, too dry, acid rain, too long of a day-length? Could it have been a chemical(s) from us growers; something in our insecticides or herbicide drift? My most serious hypothesis is night temperatures!

I do not understand my own hypotheses! I think some environmental influence of our abnormally early and warm spring caused some of the increase fans to grow and mature at an early date. And instead of sitting dormant with a bloom potential for next spring, went right on growing with immediate development of the bloom stalk meristem. The temperatures during these bloom spike formations in August were much different than during their normal May development period. I think their formation and performance is something akin to the situation observed when tulip or lily bulbs are forced too quickly. With too warm a temperature and without the slow, cool period of root development and bloom spike formation, they tend to force up very short stalks and not quite completely formed flowers.

In the Japanese iris, the most thought-provoking phenomenon, was the preponderance of 9-petal blossoms produced by 6-petal cultivars, not before known to produce 9-petal blooms. Several cultivars and a few of our seedlings produced a normal 6-petal bloom on the first terminal bloom and then produced 8-12 petal blooms on the branch! I think that the growing conditions were dryer during the meristem formation of the terminal bud, and our irrigation and fertilizing came into play at the stage of lateral branch development and bud formation (4-6 weeks before blooming).

Is there a genetic potential for 9-petal formation in these plants, and its realization brought forth via culture optimums (at the right place and the right time)? Perhaps in years to come some further statement can be made on this, as several of these 9-petal blooms were used in crosses onto cultivars of known 9-12 petal blooms (FROSTED PYRAMID and WINDSWEPT BEAUTY).

**JAPANESE IRIS  
REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS FOR  
1987**

The following information is taken from the American Iris Society publication REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS IN 1987.

Corrections of earlier registrations.

**ETERNAL FEMININE** (C. McEwen, JA, R. 1986). Correction of parentage to: M73/22A&B: ((69/7(2): Hirao seeds x Payne seeds) x (71/24(10):67/7 Hirao seeds x unknown)) X unknown.

**HORAE** (S. Innerst, JA, R. 1986). Name changed to Iapetus in 1987.

**IAPETUS** (S. Innerst, JA, R. 1987). Name changed from Horae.

1987 Registrations and Introductions:

**ARROGANCE** (J. Shook, JA, R. 1986). Shook 1987.

**CAPANEUS** (S. Innerst, R. 1987). Sdlg. 924-3. JA (6-Petal), 36" (91 cm), M. Ruffled deep velvety red self, narrow light blue halo. "Narihiri" X Banners on Parade.

**EDGE OF FROST** (M. Dienstbach, R. 1987). JA (6-petal), 36" (91 cm), M. Deep violet (RHS 86B) ground heavily veined red violet (83B), near white (85D) pencil line edge, prominent dark yellow (13A) crest; dark violet (86B) styles. Frostbound X (sdlg. 12 x unknown).

**ENAMOR** (J. Shook, JA, R. 1986). Shook 1987.

**HIGHWAY WALKER** (J. Shook, JA, R. 1986). Shook 1987.

**IAPETUS** (S. Innerst, R. 1987). Sdlg. 1540-2. JA (6-petal), 34" (86 cm), M. Ruffled light ground, sanded and veined deep blue-violet to red-violet, blue-violet halo; deep red-violet styles. 928-1: ("Narihiri" x Valiant Prince) X Frostbound.

**JACASTA** (S. Innerst, R. 1987). Sdlg. 1547-1. JA (6-petal), 36" (91 cm), M. Light ground, blue halo and veining turning red-violet at edge, red-violet band around S. & F.; light ground styles sanded blue-violet, deep red-violet tip. Peacock Dance X Banners on Parade.

**LAVENDER HINT** (C. McEwen, R. 1987). Sdlg. J80/166(2). JA (6-petal diploid), 36" (91 cm), EM-LM. Heavily ruffled pale lavender (RHS 75D), fading to near white by 2nd day, light yellow (9C) signal. 76/16J: (Mitsu-Sakura x Simple Elegance) X unknown. Pope's Perennials, Seaways Gardens 1987.

**LILAC PEAKS** (A. Vogt, JA, R. 1981). Tranquil Lake Nursery 1987.

**MINI HA-HA** (J. Shook, JA, R. 1986). Shook 1987.



**OL' MAN RIVER** (C. McEwen, R. 1987). Sdlg. J80/167A. JA (6-petal diploid), 36" (91 cm), M-VL. S. Medium red-purple (RHS 78A), veined darker, violet (83B) styles; F. medium red-violet (78A), veined violet (83B), giving overall effect of dark red-purple, yellow signal veined green (149A). M73/22A&B: ((69/7(2): Hirao seed x Payne seeds) x (71/24(10): Hirao seed x unknown)) X unknown. Pope's Perennials, Seaways Gardens 1987.

**PINK DIMITY** (L. Reid, R. 1987). Sdlg. D658-7. JA (6-petal), 36" (91 cm), M. lightly ruffled medium pink (RHS 55D) ground, veined light maroon (74B), mauve (74C) halo around gold signal; mauve (74C) style arms. Valiant Prince X Marx MX 4. Laurie's Garden 1987.

**ROYAL LINES** (W. Marx by D. Rogers, R. 1987). Sdlg. MX 7503. JA(3-petal), 42" (102 cm), ML. S. purple, narrowly edged white; F. white ground, heavily pencilled dark purple, gold signal rimmed white. Unknown parentage. Caprice Farm Nursery 1987.

**ROYAL VISION** (C. Helsley, R. 1987). Sdlg. 1-85. JA, 26" (66 cm), M. Rich violet (RHS 83A/B) self, bright yellow (9A) signal. Unknown parentage. Helsley 1987.

**SHOWA** (R. Fabel-Ward, R. 1987). Sdlg. E(BW)012-81. JA, 42" (102 cm), M. White self with light blue cast, pin needle signal. Yuki-No-Wada X Yuki-No-Yama.

**SPRINGTIME SHOWERS** (L. Reid, JA, R. 1986). Laurie's Garden 1986.

**STATELY FLAMINGO** (A. Vogt, R. 1987). Sdlg. A2269. JA (3-petal), 48" (122 cm), ML. S. Violet (RHS 83B), light midrib; styles lightly sanded violet, color intensifies on edge and tip; F. grey, sanded purple-violet (80B), color intensifies on edge, light yellow signal. Oriental Tracery X Powder and Paint.

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## WORD FROM A BRITISH JI ENTHUSIAST

Joan Trevithick

Having grown Japanese irises here in the Midlands (England) for over 20 years, 1988 is the year, when at long last they seem to be on the 'up and up'. My hat is up in the air, I hope you can catch it across the Atlantic?

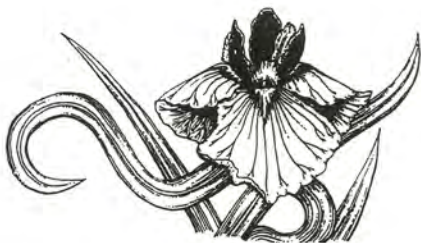
My love of Japanese irises started around 1966, when I received many packets of seeds from the British Iris Society Seed Distribution. One packet marked 'Higo Strain', produced one of the most beautiful, exotic irises I had ever seen, it was very much admired. I still have a photograph. In 1968, we moved to this house and garden---'Higo' came with us, and flowered again for quite a few years, but after the hard winter of 1986/87, it seems to have 'given up the ghost'. The roots are still there---I have looked, but it has not shown any signs of life---yet---I just live in hopes. It is so much colder here than in our old garden.

During these years, I have grown other *I. ensata* 'kaempferi' and I know such a lot more since taking on the job of Newsletter Editor for the SS&J Group in 1978, but that is quite a long story which I will continue in the fall. Good iris gardening to you all---Bye for now.

Joan Trevithick

### Editor's note:

Thank you Joan for this word, received just before going to press. We will be looking forward to hearing more from you for the fall '88 issue. Regarding the 'Higo' plant, I wonder if it was really the cold? They will stand a lot of it. How long had the plant been in the same location? It may have needed replanting, as the new roots tend to form above the old ones and they will sort of lift themselves out of the ground, and weaken from lack of nutrients. Just a thought. Maybe someone would like to send Joan some new 'Higo Strain' seeds to try.



## THE EDITOR'S "REVIEW"

The number on the front of this issue reads Volume 25, number 1. It was not until I prepared the cover sheet that I stopped to realize this is the 25th anniversary of "The Review". It was too late to do anything special with this issue, the first in the anniversary year. Maybe we can do something with the second one. Does anyone have a suggestion for commemorating this milestone? The editor would like to hear it.

For 18 of those 25 years "Bill" Ouweneel served as editor. What a long period of dedication and service. Bill is now gone, but he is not forgotten. It was he who recommended me as his successor. During my period as editor I have always felt that I had his support, and could count on him for help if need be. His presence will be missed.

From the editor's position, it is possible to see a considerable increase in the activity within, and influence of, SJI over a period of time, especially during the past few years. Of note is the development of SJI conventions, an increase in Japanese iris shows from one or two per year to a current five or six, the popularity poll, and of course the progress toward producing a book about Japanese Iris. I hope each of you will participate in the popularity poll this year, and as many as possible in a show and the convention. You will find them to be rewarding experiences. I would especially appreciate receiving reports from each of the shows for publication in the fall issue.

This issue is shorter on substantive articles than recent ones have been. I suppose it had to happen sometime, but I kept hoping it wouldn't. By the March 1 deadline, nothing had been received except some notices of regular events and business items. Let's all keep in mind the need for items of interest to other members, communication is the main purpose of "The Review". As the season unfolds, note your experiences regarding culture, what works and what doesn't in your area; insect and disease problems, and solutions; cultivar performances, likes and dislikes; genetics, hybridizing, etc. and etc.. Write about them and send it to the editor. It is the only way we can insure that "The Review" will continue to be an interesting and vital force of communication.

May this be your best bloom season ever.

Leland M. Welsh

## 1988 POPULARITY POLL BALLOT

Vote your favorite 10 Japanese irises as seen in gardens this year. They do not need to be listed in any particular order. This form is to be used by both members of a family membership. Place comments on the reverse side. Mail the ballot, post marked no later than Aug. 15th, to:

Mrs. Wells E. (Virginia) Burton  
3275 Miller Dr.  
Ladson, SC. 29456

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