THE REVIEW

of the Society for Japanese Irises

Volume 48, No. 2
Fall 2011

2011 Payne Medal Winner
'Lake Effect' (Bauer/Coble, 2004)

Photo: Ensata Gardens

Table of Contents

Fall 2011 Volume 48 Number 2

On the Front and back Covers: Views of Mt. Pleasant Iris Garden, July 2011, Photo - Chad Harris

This Page: ,'Whispy Clouds', Photo - Debbie Hughes

THE REVIEW of the Society for Japanese Irises

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President's Message

Photo: Brooks

The Constant of the Garden

I still remember the first time I saw Japanese irises in bloom. I was awe struck. I had discovered a wonderful plant. What I did not understand at that time was that many generations before ours had very similar experiences. Every bloom season, once again I am awe struck with the beauty.

The world is changing—and it is changing rapidly. The internet did not exist when I first saw Japanese irises in bloom. When I went to my first SJI Convention, very few people were using the internet. Now, any organization that does not use the internet and embrace social media is practically doomed.

When I saw so many of you at the convention in Portland, I was reminded once again of the importance of getting together. It was great to be with friends in the garden. There is no way that the new and emerging social media can replace that experience. The goal is to get to the garden and enjoy it with friends. That is our constant.

See you in the garden!

Editor's Corner

Debbie Hughes, Wellsville, KS

The year is drawing to a close and this publication is like a year end review of the exciting experiences many of you shared in the garden. The Greater Portland Iris Society did another fabulous job hosting another convention in the area. I understand the weather did not help with the timing of the bloom, but from what I can tell a great time was had by all!

Congratulations to Bob Bauer and John Coble to 'Lake Effect' which won this year's Payne Medal and to all of the other award winners listed on the next page. Coupled with the Popularity Poll winners it looks like a first rate shopping list to dream about on a cold winter's night. After the brutal summer many of us experienced, I suspect more than a few of us may be thinking of doing some renovations come spring.

While this issue is past due in getting to you and will probably arrive in your mailbox after the holidays, I hope the timing will allow you to relax and enjoy reading the various articles submitted by the contributors. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Anner Whitehead, we will enjoy the fruits of her labor as we read her essay on the early history of Iris ensata and it's introduction into commerce in America by the Hogg family and their colleagues.

Put on a pot of tea and enjoy the read and if something strikes a chord with you, drop me a line. I'd love to hear your stories or ideas that could be shared with the rest of our membership.

Have a happy New Year!

2011 Japanese Iris AIS Award Winners

Ruth Barker, Greensboro, NC

THE PAYNE MEDAL - JI

(Total votes cast = 101)

29 LAKE EFFECT (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

Runners Up:

18 DIRIGO STAR (John White)
16 BLUSHING SNOWMAIDEN (Chad Harris)
16 FRECKLED PEACOCK (Chad Harris)
12 BEWITCHING TWILIGHT (Chad Harris)
10 SLUMBERING DRAGON (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

JAPANESE - AWARD OF MERIT

(Total votes cast = 175)

22 PINK PUFFER (Jill Copeland)
20 LADY IN PINK (J. T. Aitken)

Runners Up:

18 CRAOLA KISS (Lee Walker)
15 GINGHAM GEISHA (Dennis Hager)
14 BELGIUM WARRIOR (Willy Hublau)
14 DIRIGO MAIDEN'S BLUSH (John White)
14 SECOND WAVE (J. T. Aitken)

JAPANESE IRIS - HM

(Total votes cast = 255)

29 EVELYN WHITE (John White)
24 SUGAR DOME (Bob Bauer/John Coble)
22 JOHN'S FANCY (Jill Copeland)
18 CASCADE RAIN (Chad Harris)

Runners Up:

15 KIMONO SILK (Bob Bauer/John Coble)
14 SIMPLY STATED (Dennis Hager)
10 BELGIUM SKY (Willy Hublau)
10 BOB’S CHOICE (Jill Copeland)
10 DON AND DONNA (Bob Bauer/John Coble)
10 LAVENDER BLUE SKIES (Lee Walker)
10 SUNRISE RIDGE (Chad Harris)
10 WHITE CAPS (Jill Copeland)

SJI Popularity Poll 2011

Ruth Barker, Greensboro, NC

Thank you to all who participated in the Pop Poll voting for 2011! Twenty-eight ballots were received representing 33 voters. Due to the later bloom season all ballots received by mid-September were included in the totals. There were 30 write-ins with one vote each, while six write-in cultivars received the two votes required and will be added to the 2012 ballot.

We have a brand new winner this year, 'Sing The Blues'! In second place was the 2011 Payne Award winner, 'Lake Effect' and in third was 'Sue Jo', the 2010 Payne Award winner.

2011 Place	Votes	Cultivar	(Hybridizer/Year)	2010 Place
1	13	SING THE BLUES	(Reid '97)	3
2	11	LAKE EFFECT	(Bauer/Coble '04)	8
3	10	SUE JO	(Delmez '03)	1
4	9	DIRIGO RED ROCKET	(White '01)	-
4	9	JAPANESE PINWHEEL	(McEwen '88)	-
6	8	DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE	(White '00)	1
7	7	CASCADE CREST	(Aitken '88)	5
7	7	CENTER OF ATTENTION	(Rich '86)	10
7	7	IAPETUS	(Innerst '88)	-
7	7	LION KING	(Bauer/Coble '96)	5
7	7	LITTLE BOW PINK	(Delmez '98)	3
7	7	TIDELINE	(Bauer/Coble '95)	10
12	6	BLUE SPRITZ	(Delmez '96)	8
12	6	DANCING WAVES	(Payne '64)	-
13	5	BEAUTIFUL ACCENT	(Delmez '94)	15
13	5	BEYOND CHANCE	(Delmez '01)	-
13	5	BEWITCHING TWILIGHT	(Harris '00)	-
13	5	CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY	(Marx '85)	15
13	5	CRAOLA KISS	(Walker '05)	-
13	5	FIRST STRIKE CRAOLA	(Walker '05)	15
13	5	HONOUR	(McEwen '01)	-
13	5	KALAMAZOO	(Hazzard '89)	-
13	5	RASPBERRY CANDY	(Bauer / Coble '99)	7

2011 SJI Convention Report

Chad Harris, Convention Chairman

Unlike the rest of the United States heat wave, the Pacific Northwest has and is experiencing one of the coldest springs and summers on record. The two weeks after the convention we did have "normal" warming days that brought out the bloom of Iris ensata. However, as I pen this we are back to 15 degrees below average with showers. In 30 years of growing Iris ensata I have never experienced this late of a bloom season. Today it is July 14th, the late Ensata's are starting to open and the very late are still in tight bud.

Hager Sdlg. 04-18-9; Best Seedling
Photo: Harris

At the time of the convention a few irises were seen blooming. Dennis Hager's 04-18-9 a three fall powder blue with a white ray pattern was voted best seedling. 'Rose World' by Lorena Reid 1989 a six fall magenta with stark white styles was blooming well and voted best introduced variety.

In our garden 'Rose World' is still in full bloom. With one to two branches, carrying five to seven buds per stem, coupled with great bloom sequence. I constantly record this plant to bloom for four to five weeks in our maritime climate.

‘Rose World’ (Reid, 1989); Photo: Harris

The Payne Medal was presented by President Dennis Hager to Don Delmez for his 'Sue Jo' 2003. With six rounded falls of pale blue, dark blue violet veins and style arms and a strong vertical plant. Blooming now as a guest plant in my garden, I agree that this is one top notch plant along with its name sake Sue Jo Delmez. Congratulations to all!

We ended the closing banquet with a digital slide program of the donated plants to be auctioned off. This method of showing the bloom besides verbal description helped to up the bidding, especially when bloom notes could not be taken in the garden. Already a check for $1,500.00 has been sent to Judy Nolin, our SJI Treasurer. The remainder will be sent this fall after closing the books on the convention. Thank you to all that participated in the auction.

I would also like to thank my committee that helped with this convention: Terry & Barbara Aitken, Dale Grams, John & Kay Ludi, and Will & Tracy Plotner.

Even if bloom was shy I got the impression that things went smoothly and everyone had a good time. Personally I enjoyed the round table talk with several of the hybridizers and growers at the breakfast table the morning of the tours.

I am looking forward to the next SJI Convention 2015 in Victoria, Canada, hosted by British Columbia with Ted Baker as chairman.

Photos on opposite page by Alan Brooks.
Clockwise from top: Hybridizer's Panel L-R: Lee Walker, Don Delmez, Terry Aitken, Jill Copeland, Sharon Whitney, Stephen Smith, Dennis Hager, Chad Harris, Carol Warner. Chad Harris presenting the Best Japanese Iris Seedling award to Dennis Hager. Chad Harris presenting the Best introduced Japanese Iris award to Lorena Reid. Don Delmez with the Payne Award Trophy. Don and Sue Delmez receiving the Payne Medal for 'Sue Jo' from SJI President, Dennis Hager


Donald Dolmar

Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm

Patrick Spence, Woodinville, WA

When I was asked to do a write-up for the convention stop at Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm, I thought it would be simple, and it was. I have the fortunate ability to see the garden every year and frequently visit more than once.

Chad and Dale have created a glorious park-like garden that is immaculately groomed, with a wide variety of unique and well-tended flora.

We started with Chad sharing his experience growing 'Pleasant Earlybird' (Harris, 1995) next to his pond. His attempt to re-create I. Ensata growing in its natural environment was educational and beautiful.

We then moved to the guest bed. Unfortunately, the spring weather had not cooperated, and only a few iris were in bloom. We did get to enjoy 'Dirigo Red Rocket' (White, 2001), Best Seedling winner '04-18-09' (Hager), and Pseudata 'Komano' (Shimizu), among others. The plants were obviously well grown, and I am certain that the next week showed spectacular bloom.

Chad did have several early bloomers in his other beds —'Pleasant Earlybird', 'Coho' (Harris, 2004), and 'Rose World' (Reid, 1989), to name a few. He also had several of his own early season seedlings in bloom. Of note were three pink siblings lined out for further evaluation.

Most of the hybridizers were in attendance, and they readily shared their insights and experiences in their efforts. We had great conversations, the weather was beautiful, and delicious home-made cookies and breads made for a very "Pleasant" stop on the tour.

Photos on opposite page By Alan Brooks except as noted. Clockwise from Top: 'Rose World' (Photo: Harris), Clive Barrell of New Zealand, *I. ensata* in natural setting, "budding irisarian", Jim and Jill Copeland

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

Ted Baker, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

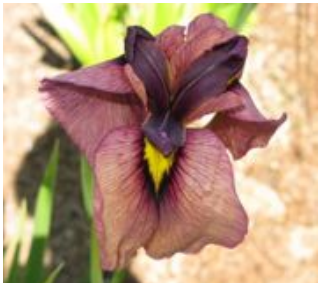
I am always excited to visit Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden. For over thirty years Terry and Barbara have gathered an impressive collection of most types of irises. In addition to this, Terry has hybridized most types and has created many award winners. Considering the amount of work involved in maintaining this complex collection of plants on five acres, both Terry and Barbara have volunteered countless hours to AIS, AIS Sections, local clubs, and other organizations and individuals such as myself.

This was the last Host Garden we visited on a perfect day of sunshine. Terry and Barbara were there to greet us and escort us to the iris fields. From the road we passed the house through the shade garden along a winding path. To the right were many fine clumps of Iris foetidissima. Other plants doing well in the shade garden included hostas, foxgloves, astilbe, aqualegia, day lilies, Sword fern, and Sweet William. A yellow peony had claimed a sunny spot. A clump of white Asiatic lilies with dark pink tips showed up well in the sea of green. Rhododendrons provided much of the shade.

As we entered the iris fields your eyes were drawn to the stunning collection of Spuria irises in peak bloom. The Guest Irises were located on the far side of the the house and the approximately 140 plants were laid out with three rows of ensatas and one row of SPEC-X with a wide path dividing them. To add to the experience two deer trotted away from the far side of the field. The ensatas were well grown with some bloom. A Denis Hagar seedling [04-18-09] carried nine blooms and was voted the best seeding in the three Host Gardens at the convention. The very pretty bloom was light blue with white veining on the standards and falls. The standards had a noticeable blue edge and the white styles were tipped blue. 'Coho', a Chad Harris introduction was also blooming as was

expected from this pretty, early pink. Also notable was Lee Walker's seedling [LWT96/66/12] with four blooms. This 3F was white, heavily washed maroon purple, especially in the fall centers. Also, being photographed many times was 'Beyond Expectations'. This 6F lavender pink was very ruffled including the standards. The result was a very full and pleasing bloom. While the plant was not growing at its best this is one to watch.

The Pseudatas [SPEC-X] were showing some yellowing of the leaves but for two year old plants were well grown for the west coast. Everyone in this area is having some difficulty growing Pseudatas. It is thought that possibly the early growth, which is a beautiful, very pale yellow is a result of lack of sunshine in our cool, cloudy spring weather .This also suppresses growth. Later the tips burn with increased sunshine and then the foliage gradually turns green. There was a good selection of bloom to evaluate and admire. 'Chaki', a Shimizu SPEC-X was striking, with rich dark purple maroon style arms, pale plum falls with very dark plum 'eye lashes' that radiated to the fall edge. The color combination really set off the yellow signal. 'Komano', another Shimizu Pseudata was very pale lavender with a purple lash pattern to the edge of the fall from the greenish yellow signal. This flower showed well in all three Host Gardens. Also very attractive was another Shimizu, 'Sabaku No Michi'. The bloom had a yellow ground but when first open was heavily overlaid with red purple giving a warm brown colour. This colour is much like the brown Siberians being created by Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks. The 'eyelash' pattern was a rich chocolate brown.



There were many Japanese irises blooming in the commercial beds. Notable was 'Rose World', by Lorena Reid. This lovely 6F, mid-dark violet rose with a prominent white eyelash pattern around the yellow signal was voted the best named cultivar at the convention. Other notable plants blooming included 'Cascade Crest', 6F white washed light blue growing more intense towards the edge with blue styles. 'Dirigo Pink Milestone' was showing well and lovely as usual. Also at peak was 'Japanese Harmony', a white 3F with yellow green signal and upright standards veined and washed purple.

A good selection of Louisiana irises were growing in the bottom of the lower field. The spectacular amphitheater of Siberian irises still had some bloom. Showing good colour was 'Juke Box Hero', 'Harpswell Princess' and 'Joyce Cole'. 'Harbor Breeze', a blue dark top, and 'Beam Up Scotty', two of Terry's 2011 TB introductions were at peak bloom and looking very impressive. 'Beam Up Scotty' has white standards, plum purple falls with tan purple edge, yellow hafts and beard and very prominent white style arms tipped yellow.

On the way back to the bus there was time for a quick stop at the greenhouse to check the fine display of orchids. Also displayed there were the tasty treats Barbara had baked. The white chocolate-Macadamia nut cookies were exceptional.

Many thanks to Barbara and Terry for another memorable visit to their wonderful garden.

Photos: Ted Baker

Wildwood Gardens

Rita Butler, University Place , WA


Photo: Brooks

Having attended an informative business meeting then judges training presented by J. T. Aitkin on Friday, then the welcome dinner and slides afterwards, I felt prepared to be a better judge for Japanese Irises.

The call for breakfast at 6:00 AM felt very early but that was part of the schedule. We loaded onto the bus and headed south to Wildwood Gardens and the home of Will and Tracy Plotner.

As we passed a multitude of nurseries and woods I thought of the wonderful climate for growing plants which are sent from Oregon to all parts of the world. When we arrived at the Plotner's garden the first irises we actually saw were the Spuria Irises left from last year's convention. They were very bright and at the height of the season for them. The Japanese irises were just starting to bloom which was a bit disappointing. Many of the guest irises were still in tight bud. Mother Nature was playing with El Ninio

Off-loaded from the bus we wandered through species of what felt like almost every variety of iris, no surprise as Will is President of SIGNA. It is fun to see if one recognizes the individual differences in the species.

One of the first plants I noticed was a SPEC X by Lee Walker (X01-74-5). It is a sturdy white flower with loads of substance. The flower looks like a Siberian iris at first then as I looked closer I noticed something much different very starchy and thick. The leaf is more like the JI parent. It is a Sib X JI. How fun is that!

Dennis Hager's 04-18-09 is white with a pale blue overlay, darker on the rim and a small yellow-gold signal. It was blooming a bit low into the foliage, but certainly the best thing happening in the garden that day.

'Beyond Expectations' JI 06 by Don Delmez is a multi-petaled pink JI with ruffles galore.

'Margo-No-Sakura', Joe Griner-JI 08 Lavender pink base with reddish lines, blue to white to bright yellow signal 3 wide falls.

Lee Walker has a dark blue with lavender flushes JI, white signal with a tiny yellow center signal, JBC-C02-129-5, which I found attractive.

85101-IJ by Lorena Reid is a real eye catcher hidden among the JI's. It is a sino-siberian which is lavender with a dark purple eye and a small yellow signal. The plant is small and displays the flowers very politely.

There were lots of JI X Pseudacorus irises by Hiroshi Shimizu. Eyelash patterns on white, cream, lavender, soft yellow to pinkish overlay are very interesting. The two I liked best are 'Saru No Koshikake' a creamy white, purple eyelash, soft yellow styles with lavender tips and 'Okagami'-white, with a pointed deep yellow signal lightly freckled, bright wine, with a jagged wine eyelash downward into a line. I am looking forward to seeing how well these unusual plants will grow in my garden.

As we got on the bus there were grapevines and wild roses on the fence across the road with tall buttercup, oxeye daisy, vetch and grasses blooming in abundance. What an old fashioned welcome into summer.

Letter to the Editor

I'm Roberto Pellegrini, a new SJI's member from Tuscany, Italy. I live in a small city (Pescia, provincia of Pistoia) between Pistoia and Lucca and I study botany at Pisa University.

I visit the "Giardino dell'Iris" every spring but, incredibly, I am not a member of the "Società Italiana dell'Iris": the majority of members grows only Bearded Irises and they do not consider the type of Iris that I prefer, such as JI and aquatic irises.

roberto.frediano@tiscali.it

Thank you for writing Roberto. The first three photos are the ones you sent with your message. The bottom two are ones I took when I visited the garden in 2009. I really liked the way they combined the pool and bog area at the bottom of the hill. Certainly gave me a few ideas on changes to make in my home garden.

Keep us posted on your observations from your corner of the world!

Debbie Hughes

Kalamazoo JI Display, 2011

by John Coble, Galesburg, MI

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society again set up a Japanese iris display (unjudged show), July 2, 2011. John and Bob from Ensata Gardens and Jim and Jill Copeland set up three tables with 39 JI and 8 Pseudatas. The display set up at Wedel's Garden Center, we were pleased to have many visitors on the holiday weekend. We ended up handing out 135 blue ribbons to gardeners passing by to place beside their "favorite" that day. Tough decisions! Most stalks received at least one ribbon.

The favorite of the day was R-18T, a pure white tetraploid of Jill Copeland's with 13 blue ribbons. The next vote getter was 'Sugar Dome' with 11 ribbons. Jill's 'Blue Marlin' attracted 10 ribbons. To show that all colors and patterns were attractive, the following varieties received: 'Wine Maiden' 8 votes, and 'Indigo Angel' and 'Classical Charm' each received 7 votes.

Of the 39 JI, 4 were seedlings. Of the 8 Pseudatas, 4 were seedlings. This year the Pseudatas did not receive much attention. You never can second-guess the public.

Editor's Note: What a great way to have a show and get visitors to interact! Almost every town has some sort of garden center. What a great way to get in front of people who are obviously interested in gardening!

This color page
is sponsored by the
Southwestern Michigan
Iris Society

R-18T Copeland Seedling

'Sugar Dome' (Bauer/Coble, 2008)

'Wine Maiden (Bauer/Coble, 2009)

Classical Charm'
(Bauer/Coble, 2005)

J02H-1h Seedling

A Letter to Hybridizers, Young and Old

To whom it may concern,

I would like to become a hybridizer of Japanese Iris. They are boldly elegant and a real garden treasure. My collection includes many notable iris—modern, historic, and everything in-between. I have found the improvements over the years to be dramatic and inspiring. Though I enjoy the older varieties, 'The Great Mogul' (Payne, 1957), 'Oriental Eyes' (Vogt, 1984), 'Worley Pink' (Worley, 1966), and the like, my first attempts using these iris were somewhat disappointing. Having learned from my mistakes, there are some newer varieties that have really caught my eye. Where-in the problem lies.

These new iris have large, beautiful flowers that have brilliant color combinations and are loaded with extra style arms and petaloids. They have nice foliage, great branching—everything you could wish for in an iris. But, where's the pollen? 'Evelyn White' (White, 2008), 'Japanese Plum' (Harris, 2010), 'Wispy Clouds' (Bauer/Coble, 2004), and 'Night Angel' (Aitken, 1996) are excellent examples. I am certain they would all make great "mothers", but somebody needs to provide the pollen, don't they? 'Sugar Dome' (Bauer/Coble, 2008), 'Artesian Spring' (Harris, 2010), 'Victorian Trim' (Bauer/Coble, 2009), the list goes on…

I find myself wondering if the hybridizers have done this intentionally. Without pollen, I can't create a better iris. Is it a conspiracy? Do you hybridizers meet in secret to decide the best ways to keep new hybridizers from infringing on your lofty territory? Perhaps you just don't realize the necessity of pollen in the hybridizing process. Whatever the reason, it's awfully thoughtless of you. Just a little pollen, is that too much to ask?

Thanks to your selfishness, I've spent many grueling hours in my garden hunting through flower after flower trying to find pollen (actually, I found it quite enjoyable, but that's beside the point). Day after day, poking and prodding, searching for that elusive stamen with just a few grains of pollen.

I'm on to you, hybridizers, and I'll be watching. I am determined to succeed despite your best efforts.

Sincerely,
Anonymous

Respectfully submitted by Patrick Spence

Submitter's note: 'Red Tessa' (Aitken, 2007), 'John's Fancy' (Copeland, 2008), 'Mulberry Tango' (Walker, 2006), 'Cascade Rain' (Harris, 2008), and many others do have pollen and are just as beautiful.

THOMAS HOGG, JR.: HIS TIMES AND HIS IRISES

Anner M. Whitehead

"There can be no greater mistake than to suppose that he is the most useful man who creates the most noise." ~ C. M. Hovey

Much remains to be written about the earliest days of the Japanese Iris in North America. The fullest account we have had of their introduction, that in Dr. McEwen's now classic *The Japanese Iri*s, 1990, while intriguing, is slight, and appears to derive preponderantly from a limited group of post-1900 secondary sources which themselves address the subject only incidentally. These sources include a short article by Robert Cameron, curator of the Harvard Botanic Garden, which appeared in August, 1908 in *Horticulture*; Dr. George M. Reed's "The Japanese Iris," 1928, a seminal contribution to the *Bulletin of the American Iris Society*; and the brief biographical notes and taxonomic data in the 1939 American Iris Society Alphabetical Iris Check List.

Cameron, who came to Harvard from Kew in 1888, just as the early period was nearing its close, wrote, "Probably the first varieties were brought to this country by Thomas Hogg about the year 1869, but it took them many years to become popular." His piece appears dependent upon an article published by the distinguished horticulturist *J. N. Gerard* of Elizabeth, New Jersey, in the January 18, 1893, issue of *Garden and Forest*, the international journal published by the Arnold Arboretum to which he was a frequent contributor. Gerard observed, "These irises seem to have been cultivated in gardens here only since the opening of the treaty ports of Japan. Probably the first were introduced by the late Thomas Hogg about the year 1869, and were grown in James Hogg's garden, and by Dr. George Thurber, who described them in the American Agriculturist in 1870."

When this was written, Thomas Hogg, Jr., for decades a prominent New York nurseryman, and, later, a prodigious plant hunter in Japan, vice-president of the Torrey Botanical Club, and founding member of the Corporation of the New York Botanical Garden, was but recently deceased, thus the preponderance of J. N. Gerard's readers would have understood exactly to whom, and to what events, he was referring. By 1921, however, the collective memory of Thomas Hogg's irises appears to have been fading. As part of the vigorous press campaign attendant upon the founding of The American Iris Society, the young John C. Wister, its first president, wrote *"What America Has Done for the Iris,"* an article for the June 1921, issue of *The Garden Magazine*, the cover of which featured a superb illustration of Japanese Irises.

But Wister did not present an authoritative historical

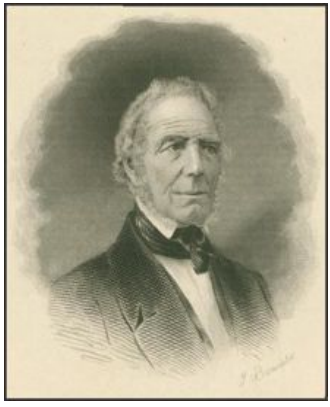
account: *"It has been stated that Thomas Hogg was its first importer, and his collection given to Doctor Thurber, then Editor of* The American Horticulturist [sic] *was introduced into the trade shortly after1869, the approximate date of importation. Others give the credit not to Hogg, but to Hallock & Thorpe of Queens, L. I. But whichever came first, both were early and widely disseminated collections, for the beauties of this new flower speedily captured the gardeners."*

By 1947, when The American Iris Society published *The Iris: An Ideal Hardy Perennial*, the name of Thomas Hogg, Jr. no longer appeared in Dr. Reed's historical discussion. In the Society's *The World of Irises*, 1978, nothing was said about the early days of Japanese Irises in America. In their classic studies of early American horticulture, neither Dorothy S. Manks nor U. P. Hedrick accorded due attention to the Hogg family, so that a satisfactory history of their nursery has not yet been written. Stephen Spongberg's account in *A Reunion of Trees*, 1990, while interesting, contains several notable errors.

The purpose of this essay, therefore, is to revisit the history of the Hogg family, with particular attention to Thomas Hogg, Jr., and his colleagues, including Dr. George Thurber, toward reconstructing the story of the introduction into American trade of early horticultural varieties of *Iris ensata* Thunberg, then known as "Iris Kaempferi."

THE HOGGS AND THEIR GARDENS

Thomas Hogg and his sons James, the elder, and Thomas, Jr., were prominent nurserymen, commercial florists, and seedsmen in Manhattan from *circa* 1822 to *circa* 1867. The father came to New York from his native Scotland by way of London, where James and Thomas, Jr. were both born, in December 1814, and on February 6, 1820, respectively. The family also included Mrs. Hogg, of whom little is known beyond that she survived her husband by only a few weeks, and a daughter, Ellen, who was married to one James Bannister, whom I understand to have been the English-born engraver of that name whose portrait of Thomas Hogg from *circa* 1850 Spongberg misidentifies as Thomas Hogg, Jr.



Our most ready sources of information about these three men are obituaries; contemporary published descriptions of their gardens and reminiscences about the family; and material written by the subjects themselves. Two commercial catalogs dated 1834 and 1847 are also extant. The later includes the catalog of an independent seed store operated by James Hogg. While not exhaustive with regard to the family's finances, legalities, and personal histories, this body of information is generally adequate for our purposes.

Thomas Hogg was born in Scotland, and died suddenly on October 11, 1854, in New York City of what was described as "Asiatic cholera." From early in life a devout man, he was at the time of his death the pastor of a small Scotch Baptist congregation in lower Manhattan of which he had long been a member. He was widely esteemed in his profession for his remarkable knowledge and skill, and what was described as his gentle character and superior intelligence. It has often been

written, as by Charles Sprague Sargent, the founding editor of *Garden and Forest*, whose obituary of Thomas Hogg, Jr. has been heavily relied upon by subsequent biographers, that death occurred in 1855, but that is not correct.

The most informative article about Thomas Hogg to appear after his death is that published in *The Horticulturist* in April 1855, accompanied by the Bannister portrait. From this we learn many interesting personal details, particularly of his early life in England. Charles M. Hovey, the eminent nurseryman and founding editor of the *Magazine of Horticulture* who was for many years also president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, came to know the Hogg family well, and considered Thomas Hogg *"a modest, intelligent man."* Hovey, too, published an appreciation of his late friend in which he observed that Hogg *"came to New York at a time when plants and a taste for them were equally rare, and by his example and conversation encouraged both.*

That the names Thomas Hogg and James Hogg were common on both sides of the Atlantic has caused no small confusion in the literature; therefore, it will be well to clarify that Thomas Hogg of Scotland and New York was not, in fact, the same individual as the English florist Thomas Hogg of Paddington, author of *A Practical Treatise on the Culture of the Carnation*, who died in 1841, as has been stated from time to time, notably by Alice M. Coats in *The Plant Hunters*, 1969. Similarly, James Hogg, brother of Thomas Hogg, Jr., was not also James Hogg, L. L. D., F. R. S., the British pomologist whose name also appeared in the contemporary American horticultural press. More recently, Clarence Mahan's apparent conflation of the names Hogg and Hoog in *Classic Irises*, 2007, appears to arise from editorial error. To my knowledge, there is no reason to associate the two families.

Thomas Hogg was born in Polworth, Berwickshire, Scotland on February 20, 1778. His father was a road contractor who reportedly laid the first macadamized road in Scotland. The son, however, was sent to apprentice as a printer on the *Liverpool Mercury*, which profession he, after positions in diverse shops, decided was not congenial. Nothing is known of Thomas Hogg's education– nor that of his children, for that matter– although the family appears to have been informed and literate, with an aptitude for the written word and an interest in publishing. In 1855, Lewis Gaylord Clark, editor of the journal *The Knickerbocke*r, recalled that Thomas Hogg *"was distantly related to* [the poet] *James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, and when excited by his theme, had much of his natural eloquence, and all his love of the beautiful in nature."*

Leaving Liverpool, and embracing horticulture as his profession, Thomas Hogg apprenticed at Dicksons' nurseries, near Hawick, and thereafter held several positions, including management of his uncle's farm in the fen country of Essex, where he caught a fever which severely compromised his health. He moved to London, and, in time, distinguished himself supervising the greenhouses of one William Kent, described in *The Horticulturist* as *"one of the merchant princes of England,"* who was said to have assembled the largest and most sophisticated private plant collection in England. In this position, Thomas Hogg made the acquaintance of the eminent horticulturists and collectors of the day, and developed knowledge of botany so extensive he was elected to the Linnaean Society in London.

After some years, however, his health had deteriorated to such a degree that a sea

voyage was recommended. He determined to emigrate to Australia, whose flora would later so fascinate him, but, as C. M. Hovey tells us, Mrs. Hogg quashed that idea. They then decided to remove to Canada, where prominent friends had assured him of a gratifying reception. The family, including Thomas Jr., a nine month old babe in arms, arrived in New York City in November, 1821, with letters of introduction to, among others, the physician, philanthropist, and botanist, Dr. David Hosack, founder and former owner of the defunct Elgin Botanic Garden, who persuaded Thomas Hogg to remain in Manhattan and establish a nursery. For many years, until Dr. Hosack's death in 1835, these men, so different in temperament, yet united in their interest in plants, worked closely with other prominent citizens to develop the New York Horticultural Society, an organization which they incorporated in 1822.

There were few commercial horticultural establishments in New York in the spring of 1822, save the stores of Grant Thorburn, seedsman, and Michael Floy, florist, in downtown Manhattan, and the famous Prince Nursery on Long Island, called by its proprietor "The Linnaean Botanic Garden." Thomas Hogg took possession of a piece of land at the lower end of Broadway on which he established a nursery and greenhouses to support a commercial florist business. Writing in 1881, Peter Henderson observed that this same property had previously belonged to Michael Dennison, the florist who had once been curator of the Elgin Botanic Garden, and was at Dennison's death leased by Thomas Hogg.

After initial struggles to establish profitable custom, Hogg's cut flowers and houseplants, including his superb collection of imported fancy geraniums, and bouquets of cut camellias for parties and balls, found steady demand. His reputation for being fastidious in his management of his facilities, and the best cultivator of exotic plants in New York City grew. He continued to enjoy the support of his friends in England and Scotland, who shipped him new plants and trained gardeners wishing to emigrate. During this period, he also botanized in the surrounding countryside, collecting interesting native plants to send abroad.

In 1834, with the clear intention of announcing his scientific approach to his profession as had William Prince, he published his *Catalogue of Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Herbaceous and Greenhouse Plants Cultivated and For Sale by Thomas Hogg, Nurseryman and Florist, At the New-York Botanic Garden in Broadway, Near the House of Refuge.* The House of Refuge was from 1825 to 1839 a home for wayward adolescents located near what is today Madison Square Park. This document, which measures about four by six inches, contains sixteen pages of double columns of small text comprising approximately twelve hundred entries. Numerous irises are included.

The title of the 1847 catalog, *Thomas Hogg and Son's Catalogue of Hothouse, Greenhouse, and Herbaceous Plants, Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Roses, Dahlias &c. Nursery at 79th Street and 3rd Avenue, New-York,* strongly suggests that by this date only one son, Thomas, Jr., routinely worked with his father at the nursery. This impression is reinforced by the inclusion on the back page of *James Hogg's Catalogue of Garden, Farming, and Flower Seeds, Roots &c, Store 562 Broadway, New-York.* In his store, James sold all manner of interesting seeds and implements, including medicinal herbs, bird seeds, *"esculent roots,"* and *"Books on Horticulture and Agriculture, constantly on hand."*

The later history of the Hogg nursery was determined at least in part by forced changes arising from rapid expansion of the metropolitan area. His establishment having been repeatedly reduced by encroaching city improvements, Thomas Hogg, in 1838, obtained a lease on a parcel of land in the Yorkville area of Manhattan on 79th street at the East River. By 1840, he had moved much of his operation uptown.

Describing a *"rural walk in the city"* in April, 1843, A. B. Allen, editor of *The American Agriculturist* spoke of the early days of the nursery, *"a charming country spot all around. And many are the happy hours we have spent* [. . .] *gathering wild flowers in the meadows and beautiful cultivated ones in Mr. Hogg's garden. Now the populous town has* [. . . .] *has so plundered Mr. Hogg's grounds in the way of streets, that he has barely one and a half acres of land left for his garden. His ranges of glass, however, are extensive, full 350 feet in length.* [. . . .] *In addition to these grounds, Mr. Hogg has ten and a half acres at Yorkville, full of all sorts of shrubs and fruit and forest trees."*

The following month, the editor of *The New World* announced, *"Mr. Hogg's nursery is at Yorkville, and his garden and greenhouse at 21st street* [. . . .] *We particularly commend the rare collection of Mr. Hogg to the attention of all readers who have the taste to appreciate the most beautiful of nature's productions, and the ability to gratify that taste."*

A. J. Downing, writing in *The Horticulturist* for July, 1849, observed the Hogg nursery now included extensive *"greenhouse, hothouse, and stove departments"* as well as a lily pond for aquatic plants. *"The establishment at Yorkville is now remarkable for its richness in all botanical rarities, as well as the scientific knowledge of both father and son."*

By the time of Thomas Hogg's death, the entire business appears to have been relocated to Yorkville, and, according to C. M. Hovey, who had first met the family as a young man, no trace of the earlier nursery remained. But notwithstanding the riches of the nursery, Lewis Gaylord Clark's first visit following Thomas Hogg's death was made melancholy by the absence of its founder, whom he had known for twenty years: *"A good man has gone,– an honest, clear-headed, warm-hearted, unobtrusive, unpretending citizen has passed to his final rest."*

It seems unlikely that James Hogg, the more outgoing of the brothers, would often have been described as unobtrusive. He appears to have been an expansive man, interested in civic affairs and new enterprises. He joined the Republican Party when it first formed, and, in 1860 stood as a candidate for the State Assembly. For many years he was passionately involved in the immense, highly politicized, project to build Central Park, serving from 1857 to 1859 on its first Board of Commissioners. As a young man, he was both Secretary and Librarian of the New York Horticultural Society when the charismatic botanist Dr. John Torrey, who had been Dr. Hosack's student, was President. When the Torrey Botanical Club, an informal group of advanced amateurs and eminent professional scientists which gathered around Torrey, incorporated, James Hogg served as Corresponding Secretary. In the 1840s, he founded *The Floral Cabinet*, an elegant short-lived magazine, and *circa* 1874, assumed editorship of *The American Garden*. He was a contributor to the periodical *Hearth and Home*; and his book, *The Vegetable Garden,* appeared in 1877.

James Hogg remained active in the family business, and also, at some point prior to

the mid-1860s acquired a parcel of land on the East River which remained in his possession until *circa* 1876. In garden periodicals this property was referred to as "James Hogg's garden." Charles Sprague Sargent, writing in *Garden and Forest* in 1888, remembered: *"More than twenty years ago, Mr. James Hogg began to plant in his grounds at Eighty-fourth Street and the East River the novelties which his brother Thomas Hogg was then sending from Japan. At one time there were collected here more than 300 species of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, mostly from Japan and China. Most of these were the first specimens of their kind to reach the country, and many were received here some time before their introduction into Europe."*

For precisely how long, and in precisely what form, the nursery founded by Thomas Hogg continued to operate in the years following his death in 1854, remains unclear. It has often been written that for some time, always unspecified, the sons carried on the "flourishing" business of the father. U. P. Hedrick asserts that the *"work that made the Hogg nursery famous in the garden history of this country"* actually began during this period. However, substantial changes were effected almost immediately, and there are indications that by 1867 the nursery was closed.

In March, 1855, an advertisement appeared in the magazines *The Horticulturist*, and *The Working Farmer*, signed by James Hogg, Administrator: *"In order to close the estate of the late THOMAS HOGG, the extensive stock of Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Herbaceous and Greenhouse Plants, &c in the Nurseries at Yorkville, will be disposed of in quantities to suit purchasers, at greatly reduced prices* [. . . .] *Of the well-known character of this valuable stock, it is thought to be hardly necessary to speak– it embraces almost every standard article as well as every novelty of merit known in the Horticultural world in this country* [. . . .]*"*

Obviously, then, business did not continue as usual. Distinguished collections were sold off, including the orchids which preoccupied the elder Thomas Hogg in his later years, which went to the nurseryman Isaac Buchanan of Long Island, a family friend who was also a member of the Torrey Botanical Club. Moreover, the lease appears to have become irksome. The farm land on which the nursery was established was leased in 1838 from an epically complicated estate dating to the end of the eighteenth century, the administration of which had compelled at least one act of the state legislature. Actual control of the property was vested in the Trustees of the New York Protestant Episcopal Public School, and, as Yorkville became developed, the School required additional funds to pay their taxes. In 1856, the Trustees petitioned for permission to sell off some of the property, thereby inaugurating a series of court cases and appeals which extended over several years. It would not have escaped the attention of the Hogg brothers that their continued tenancy was not assured. Thus, for reasons no doubt various, the decision was apparently made to close the nursery. When James Hogg died at his home in lower Manhattan on July 4, 1889, his obituary in *The New York Times* read: *"Mr. Hogg senior [sic] died in 1854. His two sons succeeded him, remaining at the same place until 1867, when the opening of that part of the city and the growth of the town in every direction led them to give up their business and retire from active life."*

The suggestion that either of the Hogg sons retired from active life at this time seems odd. James was fifty-three and always open to new prospects, while Thomas was forty-seven and a member of the United States delegation in Japan, busily sending choice botanical, agricultural, and horticultural discoveries– including Japanese

Irises– to his brother and other colleagues for study, and commercial introduction.

THOMAS HOGG AND JAPAN

The Treaty of Peace and Commerce of 1858, which went into effect in 1859, six years after Commodore Matthew C. Perry and his fleet first steamed into Tokyo Harbor to demand a trade treaty, opened several Japanese ports to commercial traffic with Europe and the United States. Nurserymen had long yearned to know the Japanese flora, to experience the mysterious and beautiful plants of the long-isolated land of which they had only read, and this now became a possibility. The first documented Japanese plants to arrive in the United States were the discoveries of George Rogers Hall, an American physician turned adventurer and dealer in oriental artifacts, who sent material– not, apparently, including irises– to Francis Parkman of Boston in 1861, and a collection of Wardian cases sheltering other Japanese exotics to Samuel Parsons at the latter's Long Island nursery in 1862.

The signing of the Treaty, which had been negotiated by Townsend Harris, a prosperous New York merchant with ties to the Orient who would later become the first United States Consul to Japan, created enormous public excitement, well admixed with patriotic fervor. When, in 1860, a delegation of 77 Japanese diplomats arrived in Manhattan on a multi-city public relations tour, they were greeted with a parade witnessed by half a million inhabitants. Military bands played, spectators climbed lamp posts to see the exotic foreigners, and Walt Whitman ecstatically wrote a poem about the arrival of a new age.

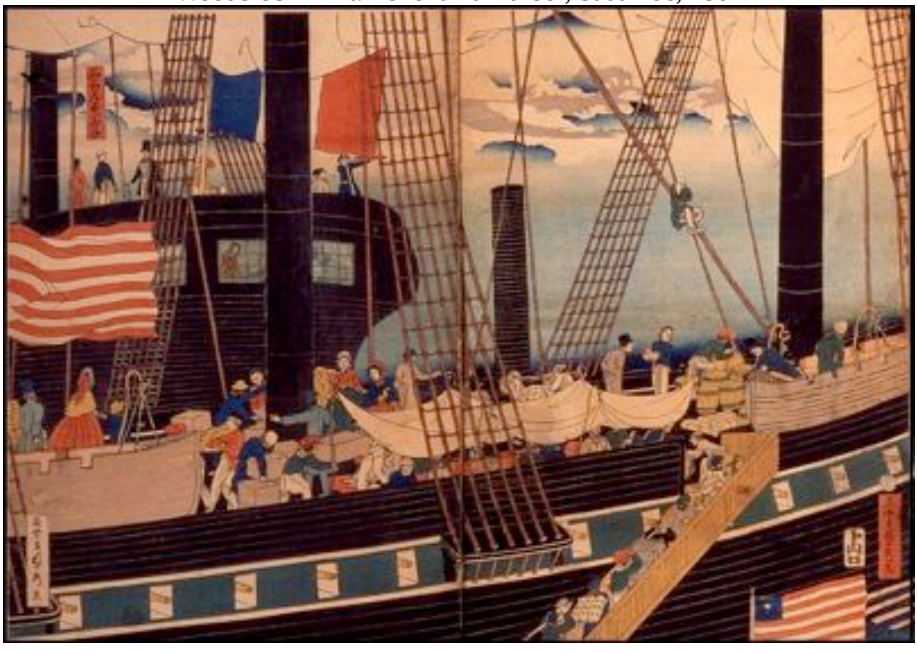
Thomas Hogg, in his prime and unmarried, had also been curious about Japan. Perhaps assisted by friends in the Republican Party, he secured a presidential appointment as a United States Marshal assigned to the Consulate. Peter B. Mead, editor of *The Horticulturist*, observed that, *"he was going to a field which had filled his dreams for years. Probably no person has yet visited Japan better fitted as a collector of plants."* Although, as Mead noted, the job, itself, did not involve horticulture, part of Hogg's distinction as a candidate may well have been his ability to assess the agriculture of the country, and identify useful plants and potential markets.

The nursery trade and press were enormously interested in Thomas Hogg's appointment. In *The Country Gentleman* for January 16, 1862, we read, *"A well known florist, Mr. T. Hogg of Yorkville, has been appointed Marshall of the American Embassy at Japan. Mr. H. will be able to avail himself of whatever is new in horticulture in that country and introduce there what will be new and of use to the Japanese."*

He arrived in Japan on August 22, 1862, after a difficult voyage from San Francisco. In a letter dated November 22, addressed to Isaac Newton of the new United States Department of Agriculture which was later published in *The New York Times*, his excitement is palpable*: "Dear Sir: I embrace the opportunity of forwarding to you, by the steamer Scotland, direct from here to San Francisco, a package of grapevines, as promised, when I had the pleasure of an interview with you in Washington* [. . . .] *Hon. Robert H. Pruyn, United States Minister to Japan, also forwards a package of the same, together with a quantity of upland rice, of which, no doubt he has instructed you."*

Stephen Spongberg's suggestion that Thomas Hogg began sending Japanese plants to James at the family nursery because in his absence he was *"hoping to fulfill a useful purpose for the concern"* clearly misses the mark. Opportunities for personal adventure notwithstanding, plant collection in service of human betterment and commercial gain was from the outset the purpose of Thomas Hogg's sojourn in Japan.

Woodblock Print: Yokohama Harbor, Sadahide, 1861



The 1860s were a period of violence and widespread social instability in Japan. In addition to the upheaval attendant upon the forced entry of the country into the community of nations, there were crises arising from the end of feudalism, the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate, and the restoration of imperial rule, the so-called Meiji Restoration of 1868. Famine; cynical gold speculation; rebellious warlords; political assassinations; unpleasant incidents involving corrupt opportunists or clashes of civilizations, all were commonplace. Yokohama, the center of international activity, was but a primitive fishing village turned commercial port. One scholar has described it as a "frontier town," analogous to those in the Wild West.

The international community, as comprised of the citizens of the so-called Five Nations, was, however, a vital and interesting one. A widowed bookseller from Elmira, New York, Francis Hall, went to Yokohama in 1859 as correspondent for Horace Greeley's newspaper, and established one of the major trading houses. His published diary offers many insights. The young Ernest Satow, later an eminent diplomat, and A. B. Mitford, later grandfather of the notorious Mitford sisters, were with the British legation. Basil Chamberlain would join them in 1873. The photographer Felice Beato arrived in 1863 to document the rapidly changing scene. The Veitch family of English nurserymen were interested in Japan, and in 1860 John

Gould Veitch became one of the first plant hunters to arrive. In 1862, the Russian botanist Carl Maximowicz was still in Yokohama, and proved generous with helpful information when Thomas Hogg arrived.

"Horikiri Iris Garden, 1857" Utagawa Hiroshige

Over the next few years, Thomas Hogg wrote several long and thoughtful letters to the American press, notably to Peter B. Mead, about his discoveries, and frustrations. Confined for the first several years to the limited geographical area then permitted by treaty to foreigners, he sought the acquaintance of Japanese gardeners and plant dealers, and secured their cooperation in gaining plants which interested him. He also pondered Japanese notions of garden design, and studied tools and implements, soils, and unusual horticultural techniques, including a *"curious method of grafting"* which James would later demonstrate to fellow horticulturists in New York. The high incidence of Japanese plants developing variegated foliage interested the botanical community generally, and Thomas Hogg, in whose nursery A. J. Downing had in 1849 admired a flourishing variegated dogwood, was especially alert to these forms.

He much enjoyed the clement Japanese climate, but yearned to see more of the country, and more of the gardens. In June, 1864, he wrote, *"One cannot help feeling a regret, apart from commercial interests, at the mutual consent given by other governments to the closing, for the present, of Kioto* [. . .]*That city is the Paris of Japan wherein is collected all that is rare and beautiful."*

The first indication of Thomas Hogg's interest in the irises of Japan appears in a note from his brother to *The Horticulturist*, in which James Hogg says, *"I am this day in receipt of another letter dated Nov. 10, 1862, informing me of the shipment of the first installment of his collections, which of course embraces many valuable novelties. Among them are* [. . .] *some new and beautiful Iris."*

With regard to highly developed horticultural plants, Thomas Hogg's procedure in assembling a collection, which he followed with tree peonies as well as irises, was to commission Japanese plant dealers to gather from nurseries beyond his reach the most distinct and best varieties in cultivation. From these, he would make his final selections. In a letter dated June 21, 1864, we read: *"Not the least beautiful of Japanese plants is the Iris, of which many varieties are cultivated from the purist white to the darkest blue, with all manner of intermediate shades and pencilling. I shall have a collection to send home the coming autumn; and if they survive and*

bloom, when you see them you will agree with me in saying their merits deserve that they should be classed as a 'florists' flower.'"

The first documentation of American bloom of the Thomas Hogg irises of which I am aware appears in *The Gardener's Monthly* for August, 1865. *"We have some cut flowers from Mr.* [J. W.] *Wood of Washington Heights, New York, from plants received by him direct from Mr. Hogg, at Yokohama, Japan.* [. . . .]*Those of our people who lament that new things have first to come from Europe, will have an excellent chance thanks to Messers. Hogg and Wood, to patronize good things direct from their native lands."* So far as I have determined, Mr. Wood, or it may have been Woods, was an amateur horticulturist.

Thomas Hogg remained in Japan until 1869, during which time he also worked to develop new regulations for the Japanese customs authorities. He continued to ship plants and seeds to James Hogg's garden, and to diverse friends and fellow nurserymen, some of whom, doubtless, have yet to be identified. Several years later, the Japanese government asked him to return to Japan in their employ to undertake further work in customs. This he did in the spring of 1874, staying two more years. It has been suggested that during this period, because of his association with the government, he enjoyed access to remoter parts of the country than other collectors. Certainly, new material, notably Japanese maples and *Cornus kousa*, the oriental dogwood, were shipped to Samuel Parsons' company on Long Island, whose advertisements then read, *"The Japanese Department is being constantly enriched by Thomas Hogg, now in Japan."*

Thomas Hogg's beautiful and useful new plants, and also his name, were valuable commodities. Although the Hogg family had a reputation for generosity, it seems reasonable to presume that after 1867, certainly, and quite possibly before, mutually advantageous financial arrangements were established with those nurserymen receiving his Japanese collections. Such a commercial arrangement certainly existed with the nurseryman Robert Buist of Philadelphia concerning a fetching new ornamental grass, a Japanese "Eulalia." We know this because in 1875 Dr. Thurber wrote in *The American Agriculturist* that, before returning to Japan, Thomas Hogg had told him*"he had placed his stock of the grass in the hands of Robert Buist to be propagated on joint account."*

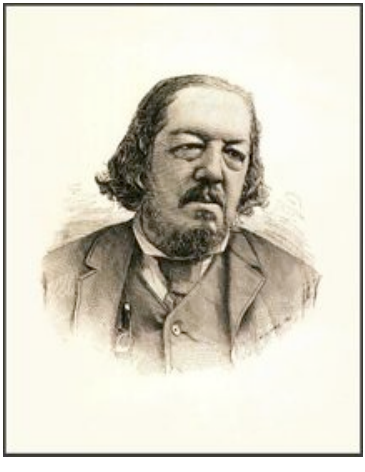
DR. THURBER AND MR. WOOLSON

When Dr. George Thurber, born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1821, died April 2, 1890, at the family home near Passaic, New Jersey, Charles Sprague Sargent, writing in *Garden and Forest*, observed that he had been *"the most accomplished horticultural writer America has produced,"* a man whose work *"had done more to elevate the standing of the agricultural and horticultural press of the country than the writings of any other man."*

As a young man, George Thurber trained as an apothecary, and became interested in botany in conjunction with his pharmacological studies. His life changed, however, in 1850 when he accepted a position as quartermaster and commissary with the United States and Mexico Boundary Survey Commission, which was formed to define and explore the new international boundary after the Treaty of Guadalupe

Hidalgo, 1848, ended the Mexican-American War. His duties also included conducting a botanical survey of the largely uncharted territory stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean, a task he performed in exemplary fashion. The results of his work were analyzed and published by Dr. Torrey in the Commission's formal report, *Botany of the Mexican Boundary*, 1859. In 1853, Dr. Thurber joined Dr. Torrey in working as a chemist in the United States Mint's Assay Office in New York. In 1859, he accepted the professorship of botany and horticulture at Michigan State Agricultural College in Lansing, where, during his tenure he revised several standard reference books. He resigned in 1863 to join the Orange Judd publishing company of New York as editor of the magazines *Hearth and Home*, and *The American Agriculturist*. He retained this position, which also involved oversight of all other Orange Judd publications in his fields of expertise, until his health began to deteriorate in 1885. He specialized in agricultural botany, and like Dr. Hosack, had a special interest in grasses, on which he was considered the foremost authority in the country.

Upon the death of John Torrey in 1873, George Thurber became the second president of the increasingly influential Torrey Botanical Club, which then met at the Torrey Herbarium at Columbia College. He served as President for seven years. Widely admired as a man of probity and selfless kindness, his botanical knowledge was also highly respected. At his death, the editor of the New York trade paper, *The Florists' Exchange*, wrote that his name was *"a household word among botanists in every part of the country."*



George Thurber, who never married, very much enjoyed teaching, and young people. In 1870, George Clark Woolson, born in 1848 in Massachusetts and then a senior at the new Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst, became his Assistant Editor, and moved to Thurber's home, "The Pines," near Passaic. Mr. Woolson would eventually marry one of Thurber's three sisters, and have two sons. When Dr. Thurber retired from the Orange Judd company, George Woolson competed for, and won, the position of Superintending Gardener for the New York City Parks, which included Central Park.

At "The Pines," Dr. Thurber had a small experimental garden and a collection of native plants. These interested George Woolson. In 1877, the two established a nursery, Woolson & Co., which specialized in American native species and hardy perennials, neither of which was fashionable at the time. Their reputation grew, and their international clientele eventually included Gertrude Jekyll, and Max Leichtlin.

In 1868 or 1869, George Thurber visited James Hogg's garden, and there saw Thomas Hogg's collection of Japanese Irises in bloom. He was deeply attracted, recognizing in them something new, unusual, and fine. He was given some plants, and had an engraving made, which, to my knowledge, is the first illustration of

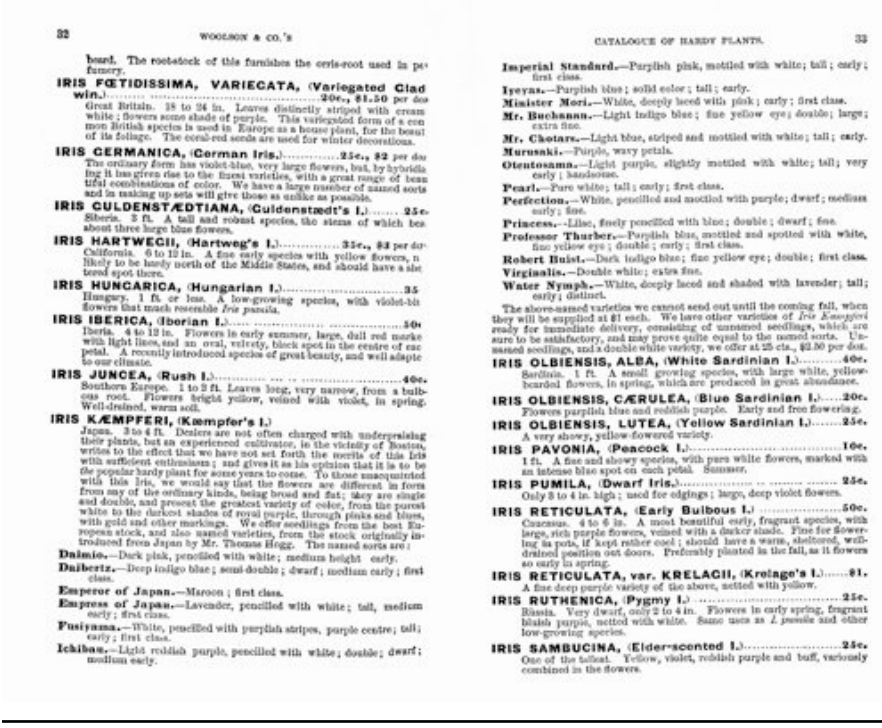
Japanese Irises drawn from life to appear in the American horticultural literature. He published this image with a brief notice, "The Japanese Irises," in *The American Agriculturist* for October, 1870, saying, *"Last summer we saw in the garden of Mr. James Hogg of Yorkville, N. Y., a bed of Irises, the roots of which had been sent from Japan by his brother Thomas. The Iris in its various species is a favorite with us, and this one from Japan struck us as a charming novelty. The foliage is not glaucous, like that of the usually cultivated kinds, but is of a dark green, the leaves being about two feet long, and less stiff than in the common species. The flowers, instead of having the petals recurved in the usual manner, are flat, as shown in the engraving, where they are about a third less than the natural size. The colors range from white and the faintest lilac, through blue to deep purple and present an agreeable variety in their veins. The one on the left of the engraving was of a rich purple with golden markings in the center; and the one on the right was white, delicately veined with lilac. Many of the flowers show a strong tendency to become double* [. . . .] *Some careful cultivator, by hybridizing this with other species, might produce some interesting results.*

In 1876, James Hogg's garden passed to the City of New York, which transferred many of Thomas Hogg's choicest shrubs and trees into Central Park, while the land itself appears to have formed part of that parcel which in time became Carl Schurz Park, below Gracie Mansion. It seems likely that, in anticipation of this move, the irises, or some portion of them, were sent to George Woolson. In *The American Agriculturist* for August, 1878, Dr. Thurber offered a reprise of his 1870 account, then observed: *"Within these few years the Japanese Irises have been introduced into European gardens, have been figured in European journals, and now our dealers have found out, from across the water, how fine they are, and offer them as novelties. Having cultivated them these eight or ten years, I can endorse all the dealers say of their beauty* [. . . .] *I am glad to know that Mr. Thomas Hogg, who has introduced so many choice Japan plants, without claiming the least credit, has selected the choicest of his importations, to which, as will be seen elsewhere, he has given names and descriptions, and has placed them in the trade."*

A page further on, under the title, "New Varieties of Japan Iris," Dr. Thurber, living up to his reputation for being fastidious about nomenclature– it was said he could not enjoy the peas on his dinner plate if he did not know their name– formally published the names of Thomas Hogg's twenty choices, with their descriptions, and the study

numbers under which they previously had been grown, and possibly distributed. He wrote: *"To avoid future confusion, it is desirable that these be placed on record, which we do in the interest of horticulture."*

These twenty named cultivars were listed for sale by Woolson & Co. in 1879, with the descriptions provided by Thomas Hogg. My research supports a presumption that they were the first named *Iris ensata* cultivars of documented provenance to be sold in this country. It is also probable they were the first *Iris* cultivars to be both formally published, and subsequently commercially introduced, in the United States. They were not, however, the first Japanese Irises– defined as the botanical type, natural forms, and cultivated varieties of *Iris ensata* Thunberg, otherwise known as "Iris Kaempferi"– in commerce here.



32 WOOLSON & CO.'S

bend. The rootstock of this furnishes the orris-root used in perfumery.

IRIS FŒTIDISSIMA, VARIEGATA, (Variegated Cladwin.).....20c., $1.50 per doz
Great Britain. 18 to 24 in. Leaves distinctly striped with cream white; flowers some shade of purple. This variegated form of a common British species is used in Europe as a house plant, for the beauty of its foliage. The coral-red seeds are used for winter decorations.

IRIS GERMANICA, (German Iris.).....25c., $2 per doz
The ordinary form has violet-blue, very large flowers, but, by hybridizing it has given rise to the finest varieties, with a great range of beautiful combinations of color. We have a large number of named sorts and in making up sets will give those as unlike as possible.

IRIS GULDENSTÆDTIANA, (Guldenstædt's I.).....25c.
Siberia. 3 ft. A tall and robust species, the stems of which bear about three large blue flowers.

IRIS HARTWEGII, (Hartweg's I.).....35c., $3 per doz
California. 6 to 12 in. A fine early species with yellow flowers, n likely to be hardy north of the Middle States, and should have a sheltered spot there.

IRIS HUNGARICA, (Hungarian I.).....35
Hungary. 1 ft. or less. A low-growing species, with violet-blu flowers that much resemble *Iris pumila*.

IRIS IBERICA, (Iberian I.).....50c
Iberia. 4 to 12 in. Flowers in early summer, large, dull red marke with light lines, and an oval, velvety, black spot in the centre of eac petal. A recently introduced species of great beauty, and well adapte to our climate.

IRIS JUNCEA, (Rush I.).....40c.
Southern Europe. 1 to 2 ft. Leaves long, very narrow, from a bulbous root. Flowers bright yellow, veined with violet, in spring. Well-drained, warm soil.

IRIS KÆMPFERI, (Kæmpfer's I.)
Japan. 3 to 4 ft. Dealers are not often charged with undergraising their plants, but an experienced cultivator, in the vicinity of Boston, writes to the effect that we have not set forth the merits of this Iris with sufficient enthusiasm; and gives it as his opinion that it is to be the popular hardy plant for some years to come. To those unacquainted with this Iris, we would say that the flowers are different in form from any of the ordinary kinds, being broad and flat; they are single and double, and present the greatest variety of color, from the purest white to the darkest shades of royal purple, through pinks and blues, with gold and other markings. We offer seedlings from the best European stock, and also named varieties, from the stock originally introduced from Japan by Mr. Thomas Hogg. The named sorts are:

Daimio.—Dark pink, pencilled with white; medium height early.

Daibertz.—Deep indigo blue; semi-double; dwarf; medium early; first class.

Emperor of Japan.—Maroon; first class.

Empress of Japan.—Lavender, pencilled with white; tall, medium early; first class.

Fusiyama.—White, pencilled with purplish stripes, purple centre; tall; early; first class.

Ichibus.—Light reddish purple, pencilled with white; double; dwarf; medium early.

CATALOGUE OF HARDY PLANTS. 33

Imperial Standard.—Purplish pink, mottled with white; tall; early; first class.

Iyeyas.—Purplish blue; solid color; tall; early.

Minister Mori.—White, deeply laced with pink; early; first class.

Mr. Buchanan.—Light indigo blue; fine yellow eye; double; large; extra fine.

Mr. Chotars.—Light blue, striped and mottled with white; tall; early.

Murusaki.—Purple, wavy petals.

Otentosama.—Light purple, slightly mottled with white; tall; very early; handsome.

Pearl.—Pure white; tall; early; first class.

Perfection.—White, pencilled and mottled with purple; dwarf; medium early; fine.

Princess.—Lilac, finely pencilled with blue; double; dwarf; fine.

Professor Thurber.—Purplish blue, mottled and spotted with white, fine yellow eye; double; early; first class.

Robert Buist.—Dark indigo blue; fine yellow eye; double; first class.

Virginalis.—Double white; extra fine.

Water Nymph.—White, deeply laced and shaded with lavender; tall; early; distinct.

The above-named varieties we cannot send out until the coming fall, when they will be supplied at $1 each. We have other varieties of *Iris Kæmpferi* ready for immediate delivery, consisting of unnamed seedlings, which are sure to be satisfactory, and may prove quite equal to the named sorts. Unnamed seedlings, and a double white variety, we offer at 25 cts., $2.00 per doz.

IRIS OLBIENSIS, ALBA, (White Sardinian I.).....40c.
Sardinia. 1 ft. A small growing species, with large white, yellow-bearded flowers, in spring, which are produced in great abundance.

IRIS OLBIENSIS, CÆRULEA, (Blue Sardinian I.).....20c.
Flowers purplish blue and reddish purple. Early and free flowering.

IRIS OLBIENSIS, LUTEA, (Yellow Sardinian I.).....25c.
A very showy, yellow-flowered variety.

IRIS PAVONIA, (Peacock I.).....10c.
1 ft. A fine and showy species, with pure white flowers, marked with an intense blue spot on each petal. Summer.

IRIS PUMILA, (Dwarf Iris.).....25c.
Only 3 to 4 in. high; used for edgings; large, deep violet flowers.

IRIS RETICULATA, (Early Bulbous I.).....50c.
Caucasus. 4 to 6 in. A most beautiful early, fragrant species, with large, rich purple flowers, veined with a darker shade. Fine for flowering in pots, if kept rather cool; should have a warm, sheltered, well-drained position out doors. Preferably planted in the fall, as it flowers so early in spring.

IRIS RETICULATA, var. KRELAGII, (Krelage's I.).....$1.
A fine deep purple variety of the above, netted with yellow.

IRIS RUTHENICA, (Pygmy I.).....25c.
Russia. Very dwarf, only 2 to 4 in. Flowers in early spring, fragrant bluish purple, netted with white. Same uses as *I. pumila* and other low-growing species.

IRIS SAMBUCINA, (Elder-scented I.).....25c.
One of the tallest. Yellow, violet, reddish purple and buff, variously combined in the flowers.

The species "Iris Kaempferi," or something represented as such, appeared in the Continental wholesale trade no later than 1858. The earliest American commercial listing of which I am aware is in C. M. Hovey's company's *Illustrated Guide to the Flower and Vegetable Garden*, 1866, which offers *"Iris Kaempferi. A magnificent new species from Japan."*

Interestingly, in 1867 Hovey & Co. received from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society a Silver Medal for *"improved seedlings of Iris Kaempferi,"* and another Silver Medal for the *"seedling Iris Kaempferi named Unique."* An examination of subsequent catalogs turns up no indication that *Iris* 'Unique'– quite possibly the first named American *Iris* cultivar– was introduced to trade, although a Japanese iris of

that same name was shown by the Veitch company at a Royal Horticultural Society Show in London in 1887.

In 1868, Hovey's *Descriptive Catalog of New Plants* offered *"New Japan Iris (Iris Kaempferi). These are new and beautiful varieties, raised from seed received directly from Japan."* The description is general, and the plants were sold as mixed seedlings only, albeit ones from stock which had won prizes.

It seems likely that Thomas Hogg was the source of C. M. Hovey's seeds, especially as they appear to have produced advanced sorts; however, Hogg had no monopoly on plants and seeds leaving Yokohama in the early 1860s; indeed he, himself, observed that demand for plant material was high among ships' officers and others returning home from Japan. In any case, the Hovey establishment did not demonstrate an abiding interest in Japanese Irises.

In 1870, the venerable establishment J. M. Thorburn & Co., of Manhattan, founded in 1802 by Grant Thorburn, in their *Miscellaneous Spring Bulbs* catalog offered *"Iris, Six splendid new Japan sorts*." Their 1871 *Descriptive Annual Catalog* included *"Iris Kaempferi, splendid."* This, of course, could have meant anything. Thorburn also offered Japanese Iris seeds in 1883, and later.

One large and very interesting personal collection which must have been formed comparatively early was that of the botanist and plant hybridizer Cyrus Guernsey Pringle, of Vermont. The V. H. Hallock & Son bulb nursery, which sold out to their neighbor, John Lewis Childs, in 1892, bought Pringle's entire collection of Japanese Irises in 1878. E. V. Hallock, writing in 1907, noted that the collection had contained *"many fine varieties, and many of the kinds are sold today."* He did not, however, say whether these were named varieties, whether raised and named by Pringle, or by someone else. Mr. Hallock also wrote that the clumps had grown in place so long they were bald in the center, but recovered nicely upon transplant. The source of Pringle's seeds, or plants, is not known. He had contacts in Europe, and *circa* 1870 was working with the B. K. Bliss & Sons seed company of New York, which had received some Japanese *Zea* seeds from James Hogg. Doubtless he would also have been aware of Thurber's work.

Henry A. Dreer, Co., of Philadelphia, was apparently the second commercial concern to offer Thomas Hogg's named Japanese Irises. The firm listed *"Iris kaempferi, mixed varieties"* as early as 1877, but their 1885 autumn bulb catalog offered four Hogg irises, with descriptions: 'Empress of Japan'; 'Iyeyas'; 'Mr. Chotars'; and 'Otentosoma.' In their *1885 Garden Calendar*, Hogg's 'Fusiyama' and 'Robert Buist' joined the group. The catalogs contained no information about the provenance of the irises.

The changes in Dreer's catalogs in following years may be considered representative of larger patterns in the industry. By 1891, their list of Japanese Irises included English originations from Barr and Henderson, a good number of names about which nothing is now known, some early signs of muddling, and no Hogg irises. While through 1896 English-language names predominated, in later years the names purported to be transliterated Japanese, and consisted of long lists of syllables with few translations, to which it is difficult to imagine enthusiastic response. While the 1890 catalog featured a handsome full color plate of "Dreer's 'Imperial' Japanese Iris," by 1898, the collection was said to have been selected by a wholesaler in Japan.

As early as 1882, there were indications that many Japanese Irises shipped to the West were inadequate. Sir Michael Foster, in England, was quite crisp on the subject, saying, *"some of the blotched half-stained varieties which come over to us year by year might with profit to ourselves come to an end in the voyage."* J. N. Gerard, never one to mistake novelty for quality, wrote in *Garden and Forest* in 1891, *"Among the numerous forms of Japanese Irises, it is doubtful if any are finer than the kinds originally imported by Mr. Thomas Hogg, which were the first seen here."* Samuel Parsons, Jr., Superintendent of Parks in New York City, also understood this critical distinction: *"The gem of all the irises is Iris Kaempferi* [. . . .] *The introduction of many of the finest of these kinds from Japan we owe to Mr. Thomas Hogg."*

As the century closed, there appears to have been some thought in the trade, albeit less so, perhaps, among the companies which primarily sold European named stock, that the Japanese Irises as a group were more or less fungible, so that ensuring accuracy in their names and descriptions was of little actual consequence. This constituted a tragic erosion, if not tacit rejection, of the fundamental taxonomic principle of the integrity of the "unique" horticultural entity, as asserted by C. M. Hovey in 1868, and promulgated by Dr. Thurber *"in the interest of horticulture*."

CONCLUSION

Thomas Hogg, Jr. died in New York on December 30, 1892 of *angina pectoris*. After his term of service to the imperial Japanese government, he had traveled widely, visiting China, Ceylon, and South and Central America. Later, he traveled to California, and to Europe on several occasions to visit the most interesting botanical gardens. He enjoyed libraries, and undertaking research, and kept well abreast of all developments, scientific and practical, in his fields of expertise.

In 1882, he, like his brother, formally joined the Torrey Botanical Club, with which he had, no doubt, been informally associated for years. He served as Vice-President of the Club from 1886 through 1892, with the exception of 1891, when he was out of the country.

When, in 1889, the young Professor Nathaniel Lord Britton of Columbia, and his wife Elizabeth Knight Britton, a renowned student of mosses, who were both prominent members of the Torrey Botanical Club, proposed that a botanical garden be established in New York City, Thomas Hogg served as chair of the Club's committee to evaluate the idea. Subsequently, a public appeal was launched; the state legislature provided land; and, in 1891, the New York Botanical Garden was formed, with Thomas Hogg named one of the original members of the Corporation. Writing in 1950, T. H. Everett, Head of Education, observed that the Garden, itself, was *"flourishing evidence of the interests and work of Thomas Hogg."*

In November, 1887, Thomas Hogg, who never married, gave to Mrs. Britton a handsome photographic portrait of himself, now in the collection of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden, and here reproduced with permission. Dr. Britton became the first Director of the Garden in 1895, and .it was he who in January, 1920, welcomed the organizers of The American Iris Society to the meeting at the Garden at which the Society was formed.

When Thomas Hogg died in late 1892, his friends understood that influenza he contracted in France during the severe winter of 1891 had greatly weakened him. He had chaperoned his niece, the portrait painter Eleanor Cunningham Bannister, in Paris that year so that she might study painting at the Académie Julian. Apparently even a subsequent excursion to the south of Italy did not bake the French cold out of his bones.

Dr. Thomas Morong drafted the memorial essay for the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club: "Mr. Hogg was grave, dignified and reserved, but he was invariably cheerful, and genial and kindly in spirit. Among congenial companions his*

conversation was sprightly, and often strikingly original and interesting, but his modesty was so great that few except such companions ever learned how rich were his stores of knowledge, not only upon his favorite subject, but also upon a wide range of other topics. His conversation sparkled with humorous anecdotes and shrewd observations upon the various people and scenes which he had encountered in the course of his long life."

Charles Sprague Sargent always understood the magnitude of Thomas Hogg's contributions. Writing in *Garden and Forest* shortly after Hogg's death, he remembered: *"In person Mr. Hogg was tall and spare, but well knit and muscular, with a strong but refined face and great dignity and gravity of manner. He was almost shrinkingly modest, but in congenial company was one of the most agreeable of companions* [. . . .] *His integrity was above any suspicion; and the purity, sincerity and unselfishness of his life commanded the respect and won the affection of everyone with whom he came in contact."*

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APPENDIX: FURTHER TO THE RECORD

From the collection of *Iris ensata* cultivars which he assembled in Japan and shipped to New York, where they were first identified only by number, Thomas Hogg, Jr. selected twenty. Apparently at George Thurber's request, and in anticipation of their introduction into trade, Hogg named these, and wrote descriptions which Thurber published in *The American Agriculturist* in August, 1878. This list was reprinted in the September 21, 1878 issue of the English journal *The Garden.* In 1879, Thurber and his brother-in-law, the nurseryman George C. Woolson, doing business as Woolson & Co. of Passaic, New Jersey, listed these twenty cultivars for sale.

Daimio.— Dark pink, pencilled with white; medium height early.

Daibertz..— Deep indigo blue; semi-double; dwarf; medium early; first class.

Emperor of Japan.— Maroon; first class.

Empress of Japan.— Lavender; pencilled with white; tall, medium early; first class.

Fusiyama.— White, pencilled with purplish stripes; purple center; tall; early; first class.

Ichibau.— Light reddish purple; pencilled with white; double; dwarf; medium early.

Imperial Standard.— Purplish pink, mottled with white; tall; early; first class.

Iyeyas.— Purplish blue; solid color; tall; early.

Minister Mori.— White, deeply laced with pink; early; first class.

Mr. Buchanan.— Light indigo blue; fine yellow eye; double; large; extra fine.

Mr. Chotars.— Light blue, striped and mottled with white; tall; early.

Murusaki.– Purple, wavy petals.

Otentosama.— Light purple, slightly mottled with white; tall; very early; handsome.

Pearl.— pure white; tall; early; first class.

Perfection.— White, pencilled and mottled with purple; dwarf; medium early; fine.

Princess.— Lilac, finely pencilled with blue; double; dwarf; fine.

Professor Thurber.— Purplish blue, mottled and spotted with white; fine yellow eye; double; early; first class.

Robert Buist.— Dark indigo blue; fine yellow eye; double; first class.

Virginals.— Double white; extra fine.

Water Nymph.— White, deeply laced and shaded with lavender; tall; early; distinct.

Although the American Iris Society did not become the International Registration Authority for non-bulbous *Iris* cultivars until 1955, attempts were made from the earliest days to document the garden irises, so that any discussion of early Japanese Irises will necessarily involve the American Iris Society Alphabetical Iris Check Lists, especially the 1939 edition. While at publication this resource was represented as definitive, the entries for the Hogg introductions include data upon which it may be useful to comment.

Simply, the information presented is not complete, nor is it invariably correct. Very few descriptions are included, and the original spelling of several cultivar names has been changed from the original 1878 forms so that they do not always appear in the expected places in the Check List.

While the presentation of information in the Woolson catalogs is exceptionally good for the time, the Check List compilers appear not to have enjoyed access to the earlier editions. Typographical errors notwithstanding, all citations are to the edition of 1882. Moreover, there seems to have been no real understanding of the actual origins of these *Iris* names, so that the only reference to the Hogg provenance is found not in their individual entries, as might be expected, but in a brief biographical note about Woolson & Co. in the introductory material. This information was apparently derived from Woolson's catalog copy, which, in 1879 read, *"We offer seedlings from the best European stock, and also named varieties, from the stock originally introduced from Japan by Mr. Thomas Hogg."*

This biographical note also identifies the abbreviation "Wool." It reads:

> *"Wool. – Woolson's & Co.,* [sic] *Passaic, N. J. Japanese varieties raised by them in 1832 were from the collection of Thomas Hogg."*

Clearly the date, 1832, is a typographical error, 1882 being intended. I have not seen the 1882 edition of the catalog; however, it is documented that the 1880 Woolson listing duplicated that of 1879, while changes in spelling appeared in 1881. Most of these were reversed in or by 1883, arguing they were clerical or typographical in origin. Given that little was apparently understood by the AIS of the history of these irises, it is not odd that most of the names were not "approved," that is, endorsed by the Society as taxonomically valid. Arguably, as a group, they were, indeed, validly published by George Thurber, following Thomas Hogg.

The entries in the 1939 Alphabetical Iris Check List for 'Empress of Japan,''Imperial Standard,''Minister Mori,' and 'Pearl, 'offer identical, if scant, information. These read:

* Empress of Japan. Jap. Wool. 1882; $.

* Imperial Standard. Jap. Wool. 1882; $.

* Minister Mori. Jap. Wool. 1882; $.

The styling in upper and lower case letters, signify that these are "unapproved" names. The data convey that, "Empress of Japan," for example, was a Japanese Iris cultivar listed in 1882 by Woolson, which was in 1939 believed to be superseded by better varieties ($), and no longer appeared in catalogs (*). My research indicates that 'Empress of Japan' was also listed in 1885 by the Henry A. Dreer nurseries, of Philadelphia.

Three irises were named for horticulturists whom we can easily identify. These are 'Professor Thurber,' 'Robert Buist,' and 'Isaac Buchanan.' In all these cases, the listings are identical to that of 'Empress of Japan,' above, except that it is also noted that Dreer also listed 'Robert Buist' in 1885, which fact is confirmed.

* Robert Buist. Jap. Wool. 1882; Dreer 1885; $.

The entry for 'Perfection', below, is more richly textured. Here we read that we have the name of a double-flowered iris in that color pattern which Dr. George Reed, in his descriptive system for Japanese Irises, denominated "Number 4." Notwithstanding the plant bearing this

name is said to have been offered in nurseryman Bertrand Farr's catalogs in 1912, and 1920, it has been deemed superseded, and declared obsolete. Interestingly, a date of publication of 1878 or 1879 raises questions about the priority of the name of Peter Barr's famous bearded iris, "Perfection,' from 1880.

* Perfection. Jap-Dbl-4 Farr 1912; 1920; Wool. 1882; $.

To one degree or another, the listings for the remaining cultivars, with the exception of 'Fusiyama' and 'Virginalis' which, so far as I see, do not appear in the AIS Check List, present anomalies. 'Fusiyama,' was actually offered by Dreer in 1885, while the name 'Virginalis' may have become muddled with "Virginal" and "Virginale."

In one case, that of 'Emperor of Japan,' the compilers' interpretation of primary data appears to have evolved into something conspicuously strange. The name 'Emperor of Japan' does not appear in the Check List; however, there is an entry for 'Empereur de Japon,' its French equivalent, which is associated with a Japanese Iris said to have originated in Rotterdam in 1868. In addition to the references to several distinguished European nurseries which allegedly listed that cultivar before 1900, we also find a citation for "Wool. 1882."

* Mr. Chotaru Jap. Wool. 1812; Dreer 1883; $.

The subject for whom 'Mr. Chotars' was named is unknown. In the Check List entry, the name is spelled "Mr. Chotaru," possibly a typographical or clerical error. The 1881 Woolson catalog spelling was "Mr. Chotaro," but the 1883 catalog restored 'Mr. Chotars.' The 1885 Dreer catalog is actually the first edition in which the name appeared. The date "1812"is, of course, incorrect.

Similarly, Hogg's 'Iyeyas,' named for the founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate, is listed as "Iycayas," apparently an error, however 'Murusaki,' spelled "Murasaki, may be a deliberate alteration by the compilers.

* Iycayas. Jap-Sgl Wool. 1882; Dreer 1885; $.

* Murasaki (Purple). Jap. Wool. 1882; $.

* Daibutz. Jap. Wool. 1882; $.

The original spelling of 'Daibertz,' a reference to the great statue of Buddha at Kamakura, was changed in the 1881 Woolson catalog to "Diabutz," and this revised spelling was retained in the 1883 edition.

* DAIMYO (Feudal Lord). Jap-Sgl-1 Wool. 1882; Barr; Farr 1917; $.

The name 'Daimio' is found in the 1879 and 1881 Woolson catalogs. The Check List compilers, however, listed it as "Daimyo." Along with some undated commercial paper from Peter Barr's nursery, Bertrand Farr's 1917 catalog is cited in the entry, although Farr also spelled the name 'Daimio." The mysterious resolution of all this is that "Daimyo" is printed in uppercase letters, that is, styled as an "approved" name. Nevertheless, whereas Hogg described the iris as dark pink, both Farr and the AIS Check List describe it as pure white.

Notwithstanding the banality of the names, some suggestion of transatlantic sales or exchanges also arises in the cases of 'Ichibau,' 'Princess,' and 'Water Nymph.'

* Ichibau. Jap. Bull. 1875; Wool. 1882; Dreer 1885; $.

* Princess. Jap. Hend. 1881; Wool. 1882; $.

* Water Nymph. Jap-Sgl-6 Wool. 1882; Barr 1889, 1898; $.

'Ichibau' appeared in the 1881 Woolson catalog as "Ichiban," but the original spelling was restored in 1883. The abbreviation "Bull." signifies William Bull, who, like Peter Barr, was an English nurseryman. Assuming the date is not a typographical error, it is unlikely any iris Bull

listed as “Ichibau” in 1875 was the Hogg introduction as that would chronologically precede the naming of the latter. “Hend.” was Arthur Henderson of the Pine-apple Nursery, London, later E.G. Henderson, an establishment which for some years was interested in developing Japanese Irises.

To my mind, the most interesting of the Hogg *Iris* names is ‘Otentosama,’ an abstraction which evokes the Shinto concept of the divine Sun as object of man’s worship. In the 1939 AIS Alphabetical Iris Check List, the entry reads:

> * Otento Sana (Highest Heaven). Jap. Wool. 1882; Dreer 1885; O-tento-sana.

The original name, divided into two words and with spelling revised, is here written in boldface lower case letters, an indication that it was considered an unapproved synonym of another, taxonomically legitimate, name. Typically, that “approved” name would be included at the end of the entry; however, the name in that position is not styled as a valid name. Moreover, I see no independent entry for any approved name of which “Otento Sana,” or ‘Otentosama,’ is a synonym. In the 1885 Dreer catalog, the name was spelled and described as Thomas Hogg, Jr. apparently intended.

About the Author: Anner M. Whitehead, who owns a small urban garden in Virginia, and serves as consultant to the Iris collection at the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants in Charlottesville, has held responsible positions in AIS and HIPS. A student of the history of gardens, and the literature of Iris, she researches subjects which interest or bewilder her, and publishes her insights when she believes they may interest others. She may be contacted at 3212 Patterson Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221, or ChatOWhitehall@aol.com.

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