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BULLETIN

OF THE

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

FEBRUARY, 1937

No. 64

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THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

FOREWORD

■ Among the things that enliven the official mail are the surprises. One never knows just what they will be. Our latest is a shower of mail, mostly postcard requests for enrollment in The American Iris Society. Finally several requests arrived that gave a clue to the mystery—an article in a current journal. The article, when traced, gave an invitation to any or all but failed to mention anything about dues. How many of the inquiries will turn into membership remains to be seen.

Another kind of postcard pleases us less well. It comes from the Post Office department to say that Mr. John Doe (A. I. S. member) has moved from Blank Street to Blank Street and will we please fix it up and pay two cents for the card. Or, that they have moved from Blank Town to Blank Town and will we also send postage for forwarding their second-class mail. So, if you are planning to move, please tell us first.

And then there are the plaintive letters to say that the BULLETINS have never arrived. Most complainants never believe that the whole fault is not ours. Our special case was one that took three sendings—the last one first-class, registered, return receipt requested, before the matter could be stopped. Of course, accidents can and do happen, but not all of them are in the mailing.

Then there are those persons who never send their annual dues to the Secretary's office but always to the Treasurer. This means extra work for both officers as the Secretary's office does all the bank depositing, mailing of membership cards and bookkeeping, so that the Treasurer has to make a small separate deposit and write and tell us who has paid and when. Please send all dues to 821 Washington Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

B. Y. MORRISON, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR 1936

■ 1936 found the Society in a prosperous condition as far as finances were concerned, but the drop in membership continued in spite of the betterment in business. I feel that it will require a little more effort on the part of the individual members to bring our mailing list back to normal again. Our Accredited Judges, and our Regional Vice-Presidents can aid also with increased activity on their part. Garden tours should be organized in every region where gardens contain the newer introductions, and Iris Shows must be encouraged in every sizable town and city. The American Iris Society is always willing to cooperate fully in these enterprises.

There has been considerable change in the Directorate, and you will find each member anxious to further your interest in every way.

This last year I had the pleasure to visit many gardens on my way to Hartford for the Annual Show and the New England Garden Tour. From Illinois through Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York I was impressed with the beauty of the gardens, with the widespread dissemination of the newer things and with the enthusiasm of the members. Surely we can communicate this enthusiasm to others who are not members. One or two memberships given as prizes at the Spring Shows would help wonderfully to bring members of your own garden club into our ranks.

The gardens in the New England region were superb, the meeting and the subsequent tour was splendidly managed. Members came from vast distances and all with whom I talked were very happy to have made the journey.

It is with regret that the Directors were forced to discontinue the Test Gardens, but recent introductions were not available, and it was felt that the Society would be better served by visits to private gardens.

Breeding and introduction goes on at an increasing rate. While this is a healthy sign I feel that many introducers would do well to know what the other fellow is doing. There are too many "one-pod" introductions where many varieties are introduced from a single cross, and which differ but little one from

another. This evil is not confined to the introductions of any one hybridizer. Can't we be just a little more choosy?

You will notice that there are some changes made in the Policy of Awards. It was felt by the Committee and by the Directors that these changes would simplify the work of the judges, and prove more satisfactory to the Society at large.

New material for the Bulletin must come in more freely and more promptly than it has in the past. It is only with your cooperation that a creditable BULLETIN is possible.

It is hoped that an increasing number will find their way clear to attend the Annual Meeting in Wilmington, Delaware. Within the nearby region are many gardens where most of the newer worthwhile iris are to be seen. There can be no better way to spend your vacation than to drive to Wilmington, visiting gardens on the road.

H. H. EVERETT, *President.*

REPORT OF VICE-PRESIDENT FOR 1936

■ Judging from reports received from members of the Society, the year 1936 was a banner iris year. The reports indicate that not only was there a profusion of bloom in all sections of the country, but also there was an unusually large number of new creations on display and an increased amount of enthusiasm shown by our membership.

The Regional Vice-Presidents in many sections of the country have continued with their splendid work in stimulating interest in the affairs of the Society and they are to be commended for their fine work. Iris Shows, Pilgrimages to iris gardens during blooming season, and locality meetings of Iris Society members and Garden Club members are the principal methods used by our Regional Vice-Presidents to stimulate interest. The Illinois and New England sections are to be highly complimented on the all-year-round activity of their local organizations.

Your Vice-President, who is also Chairman of the Award Committee, has received a vast number of letters from members making suggestions and requesting information regarding our system of awards and ratings. All these letters indicate a deep interest in the affairs of the Society and the suggestions assist your officers in formulating future policies of the Society.

I wish to thank and commend the Accredited Judges who submitted recommendations and ratings during the past season. The changes made in the 1936 Policy of Awards which provided for five sub-divisions in the Honorable Mention Class, have met with much favor among our members. The number of Awards granted in the Honorable Mention Class were very much in excess of the number awarded in this Class in any previous year.

It is the opinion of the Award Committee that the large increase in the 1936 Honorable Mention Awards, is due not only to the more elastic system adopted, but also to the small number of awards granted during the years 1934 and 1935, when drouth conditions existed in many sections of the country and seriously interfered with a normal blooming season.

The new Honorable Mention classes separating Dwarfs, Intermediates, Fall Blooming, Siberian, Hybrids and Species, have been commented on favorably by many of the members and no doubt the selection of outstanding varieties for Awards in these classes should not only stimulate interest in growing these classes in gardens, but also encourage hybridizers to endeavor to improve and increase the number of varieties in these classes.

WILLIAM J. MCKEE, *Vice-President.*

REPORT OF SECRETARY FOR 1936

■ The work of the Society as far as the Secretarial duties are concerned has gone along satisfactorily. Few complaints have been received. Some members have complained about the gap between the BULLETIN printed in June and the one of October—No. 63, which has necessitated some correspondence by way of explanation.

MEMBERSHIP

The 1937 bill-letter went out on November 24 and to date 225 renewals have come in with ten new members, making a total of 384, including Life (73); Free and Exchange (32); Honorary (8); 1937 Triennials (12); 1938 Triennials (24). On December 16, 1935, the total membership for the year had reached 879; the total membership for 1936 on the same date was 866. On the same date last year, only 172 renewals for

1936 had come in. Resignations so far are few for 1937—three only. Deaths reported are Mr. Charles S. Phillips, Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. T. A. Havemeyer, Glen Head, L. I., New York, and Mr. Charles Ayars, Takoma Park, Md.

ADVERTISING

1936 advertising has remained about the same.

1935—20 Commercial Directory—4 Specialists

1936—16 Commercial Directory—6 Specialists

A special letter inviting growers to advertise in the BULLETIN for 1937 has gone to some 200 names in an effort to increase our advertising for the coming year.

B. Y. MORRISON, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF TREASURER FOR 1936

December 1, 1936

Cash in Chemical Bank.....	\$525.66
Cash in Life Fund Account.....	1,673.70

BONDS

Cleveland Union	\$1,000.00
Northern Pacific	500.00
Paramount Broadway	1,000.00
Chile Copper	500.00
Treasury 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	650.00
Treasury 3 $\frac{1}{8}$	1,500.00
Treasury 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,000.00
Home Owners Loan	1,950.00
	————— 9,100.00

TOTAL	\$11,299.36
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PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

May 16, 1936, to Nov. 30, 1936

INCOME

Annual Membership	\$573.02
Tri-Annual Membership	93.00
Sustaining Membership	10.00
English Iris Society	29.13
Check List	5.00
Dykes	15.90
Sale of BULLETINS.....	54.13

Advertisements	5.00	
Income on Bonds.....	229.26	
Interest on Life Fund	15.38	
Miscellaneous	6.00	
		<hr/>
TOTAL		1,035.82
EXPENSE		
Administrative	\$151.15	
Steno. and Type.....	120.00	
Publishing and Cuts	341.20	
Stationery	52.10	
English Iris Society	14.25	
Medals	32.00	
Miscellaneous90	
		<hr/>
TOTAL		711.60
NET PROFIT, 6 months.....		\$324.22

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

Dec. 1, 1935, to Nov. 30, 1936

INCOME		
Annual Membership	\$2,025.57	
Tri-Annual Membership	237.50	
Sustaining Membership	40.00	
English Iris Society.....	60.38	
Check List	10.50	
Dykes	24.10	
Addisonia	4.00	
Sale of BULLETINS.....	90.97	
Advertisements	84.00	
Income on Bonds	333.94	
Interest on Life Fund	29.23	
Miscellaneous	16.28	
		<hr/>
TOTAL		2,958.47
EXPENSE		
Administrative	\$254.72	
Steno. and Type.....	345.00	
Publishing and Cuts	1,365.00	

Stationery	192.32	
English Iris Society	61.23	
Medals	32.00	
Miscellaneous	46.83	
TOTAL	2,317.10	
NET PROFIT, 1 year.....		\$641.37

RICHARDSON WRIGHT, *Treasurer.*

REGIONAL REPORTS FOR 1936

DAVID F. HALL, *Illinois*

■ Weather conditions in Region Nine last Spring were as unusual as in California.

It was much colder than normal and growth was very backward until May 6th, when it turned unseasonably hot and the temperature ranged from 85 to 95 degrees quite generally throughout the Region for a week. This extreme heat resulted in a very rapid and soft growth, and flowers opened before the stems had reached their normal height.

For some reason, possibly the very dry and hot summer and fall of 1935, normal increase was not common and many gardeners complained of fewer bloom stalks than usual.

However, when we consider weather conditions, we have to take our hats off to the iris. It far exceeded our expectations.

Accompanying the unseasonable weather was a blight called "root-rot" in some places, and in England "Scorch." I found this blight in every garden of any size visited last spring. In a few gardens it resulted in considerable loss, fortunately temporary, for in most cases it does not kill the plant. The result is the loss of bloom and increase for one or two years.

This blight is most prevalent a week or two before the blooming season. The leaves turn brown and together with the roots dry up, but the rhizomes remain firm. The rhizome will in most cases never again send out roots, but it will produce side buds that will grow roots and carry on in a normal way. Occasionally a plant that has all the appearance of this blight will start growth in the fall and the rhizomes will produce a new root system. Such plants have only a light case of the disease. This blight will affect at once an entire plant, regardless of its

size, but seldom spreads to an adjoining plant the same season, but the bacterial growth in the earth causing this blight will, if not checked, frequently spread to adjoining clumps the next season.

Removing the earth as far as the roots of the diseased plant extend laterally and to a depth of six or eight inches usually checks it, or if you remove the whole affected plant and turn the earth over once a week for five or six weeks, such treatment is likely to kill the fungus growth. Some affected plants, if undisturbed, will re-establish themselves in a couple of years. Probably unusual weather conditions have been responsible for the prevalence of this disease that first attacks the roots and shuts off the food supply to the plant, and then involves the rhizomes.

An early diagnosis of this blight and prompt treatment will result in a much more rapid recovery.

If you notice the center or newest fan turning brown at the tip, you know the food supply has been shut off. Dig the clump up immediately, cut off the dead roots and tops, and leave the bottom of the rhizomes exposed to full sunshine for two or three weeks, remove the earth surrounding the plant and subdivide and replant. Some gardeners leave the rhizomes in a strong solution of potassium permanganate for 24 hours before replanting and this treatment will do no harm and may do some good. The fact is—we have a lot to learn about this disease.

Do not plant deeply, for rhizomes affected by blight seem to lose much of their resistance to root rot.

This blight did a lot of damage in Midwest gardens in 1924. The following year it almost disappeared and there was very little of it until 1935, when it reappeared in a few gardens, and was very widespread in 1936.

It is noted that it has appeared in the years when wheat smut was prevalent. There may or may not be any connection between the two. It does not appear to prefer any particular variety, location or soil in a garden.

A good precaution is to subdivide valuable plants frequently.

* * * * *

Thirty-one members of the Association, residing within a hundred miles or so of Chicago, responded to a notification of

a "Get-Together Luncheon" held last March. They enthusiastically carried a motion calling for three or four such meetings a year.

Another luncheon was held on November 7th—twenty-eight attended this luncheon, which was served at 1 o'clock. Most of the members were still present when the meeting adjourned at 5:30 o'clock. Mrs. C. G. Whiting, of Mapleton, Iowa, gave a very interesting and instructive talk on the new and outstanding irises, and showed about 70 natural colored slides and three 400-foot reels of natural colored motion pictures of iris and iris gardens; they were much admired.

With colored photography one is able to bring to groups of this kind, in a very realistic way, the newest irises, gardens, and people of whom they have heard and read, but have not had the pleasure of seeing.

We had a garden tour on May 29th, which was in charge of Mrs. Fred H. Clutton, of Highland Park, Illinois. Members brought box lunches along, which were enjoyed under the large trees at the Northbrook Gardens. The genial and hospitable Christmans furnished tea, coffee, and a generous supply of ice cream.

There were a number of good iris shows in this region last Spring, but I will let Mrs. Karcher tell you about them.

Interest in iris breeding in this region is growing. I know of more than twenty who are growing from one hundred to several thousand seedlings a year. This year ten of these breeders registered and named 24 seedlings.

Fall bloomers, with the exception of Kansas and Nebraska, where the drought was very severe, did unusually well this year.

Dr. Wilhelm, of Chicago, had several hundred bloom stalks in late September and early October, most of them his own seedlings.

The finest individual stalk of the Fall bloomers I saw was Frost Queen, H. Sass, '33, a nice clear white about 30 inches high with good stem, branching, and placement of flowers and a pleasing odor. It is apparently one of the most dependable Fall bloomers.

MRS. GROSS R. SCRUGGS, *Texas*

The charm and romance of beautiful gardens has an irresistible appeal to all ages and types of people. Sweeping the country

like a mighty force has come an overpowering desire for personal knowledge of and active contact with growing things—to enjoy the reality of visible effects created by those who have acquired skill and understanding of artistic combinations of water, trees and plants.

The year of 1936 undoubtedly will stand in history as a period of greatest awakening to appreciation of color and outline pictured through the medium of plants, blossoms and foliage. Today large and extensive plantings, impressive and overpowering in beauty—share in interest and attention with smaller collections, for size and perfection of landscaping is not a primary requisite, rather perfection of blossom, and choice varieties of one special plant seem to arouse equal enthusiasm.

Thousands have been stimulated and aroused through the knowledge disseminated by societies and groups delving into the mysteries of plant life, and encouraged by the amazing generosity of owners of gardens who have so graciously shared their choicest possessions, at stated periods, by allowing others to view and enjoy their gardens.

Gardens of spring blossoms attract crowds of admirers—rose gardens have their age-old charm, and hosts of devoted enthusiasts; but it is the real plant connoisseur who revels in the intoxication of the glorious color of iris-time!

Day follows day, revealing new and different combinations, each more ravishing than the one before it. From the most delicate of pastel-shades to the depths of color of a royal potentates robe, thrilling and absorbing in their beauty, they fascinate and enthrall one!

Once their magic beauty gains possession of one's senses, no other flower can usurp its place—all other flowers must take a secondary place!

Year after year this glorious plant gains followers and admirers in this far southwestern country. Its friends asserted without hesitation that it was “the one plant that had demonstrated to all that it could withstand all conditions!”

Then came season after season more variable than had ever been experienced before, and the iris fared the same fate of all other vegetation. Its friends became discouraged, and lost their enthusiasm.

But the spring of 1936 held many encouraging promises. Fewer

plants were permanently injured during the winter. Blossoms came at more normal periods, and their development was much nearer the former type of excellence.

Many other important facts became apparent and impressive, that had formerly escaped notice—submerged by the tall-bearded's regal beauty.

Clumps of Siberian and other beardless iris, smaller in size but with a delicate charm all their own, proved their claim as a dependable garden factor.

The Spanish and Dutch iris developed many bloom-stalks to prove that they too were dependable, for the bulbs planted a number of seasons before had increased gratifyingly and gave a most satisfactory wealth of bloom.

A number of varieties of the Native Southern iris also blossomed profusely—proving that they, too, will thrive in the hardy border, without undue care, while the Japanese and other water loving iris were grown successfully when planted where their roots were constantly wet.

So, after all, we *again* assert that of all plants, susceptible of making a marvelous burst of color, extending so long a period of days—nothing is more adaptable to Southwestern gardens than is the iris!

CARL STARKER, Oregon

During the blooming season for the tall bearded irises we had much rain and wind so that it was a good time to note quality, substance and garden value.

An early visit to Beaverton showed the Weed's garden in very good order. We were much pleased with Mr. Weed's "Wine Glory." This new seedling is really outstanding. The following varieties showed up to good advantage: California Gold, Indian Chief, Happy Days, Copper Lustre, Tiger Tiger, Prince Amba and Brunhilde. Sierra Blue was particularly fine in the dull weather. Picador, an old timer but still good, was much admired.

At Cooley's the next week we found the usual spick and span garden that we have come to expect each year. Many of the lovely newer irises were in fine bloom. Two of Dr. Kleinsorge's new seedlings came in for special comment. These were: Far West, and Seedling 180. His Anakakim and Solitude also showed

up very well. Easter Morn, Golden Helmet, Ku-z-e, a Lapham seedling, Lady Paramount, Burning Bronze and Jean Cayeux all showed up well in spite of a very strong wind that rather spoiled some of the more fragile sorts.

We were happy to meet Mr. Carl Salbach in Cooley's garden and enjoyed hearing his comments and criticisms of the newer sorts in bloom.

While we were there Mr. and Mrs. Weed and Mr. Thurlow Weed drove up and a pleasant visit was had with much iris and general garden talk.

We exhibited dwarf bearded and early blooming iris species at the Portland Garden Club in April, and in May at the Laurelhurst Garden Show—an extensive showing of Schreiner and tall bearded irises. The Eugene, Oregon, Garden Club had an iris meeting for their May program, with a good showing of cut blooms. Mr. Cooley invited me to accompany him to a big iris show at Centrolia, Washington, but I was unable to go, so sent along a few species. He had a fine collection of blooms and reported a very good show with much favorable comment.

DONALD B. MILLIKEN, *California*

I have your recent notice asking for a report as Regional Vice President of this district. I must confess that there is very little to report inasmuch as we have had no meetings, nor have we had many iris shows. However, I will try to get together some notes on some of the new seedlings that bloomed this year in Mr. White's garden, etc., and will send you what I can.

J. MARION SHULL, *Maryland*

The report from Region No. 4 having been incorporated in my report published on pages 46 to 55 of BULLETIN No. 63, there is nothing that can be added now.

MRS. HERMAN E. LEWIS, *Massachusetts*

What is there left for this Regional Vice-President to report? The ground of our activities for the year has been so well covered.

All through the winter and spring of 1935 and 1936 our meet-

ings were devoted to plans for the Pilgrimages to follow the Annual Meeting to be held in West Hartford in June.

While Mrs. Kellogg and her son seconded by an able corps of Connecticut members were working sedulously on their plans for the real Annual Meeting the rest of New England busied itself with the plans after leaving Hartford.

The days at Hartford were full indeed and we were blessed with wonderful weather except the night of the dinner, when we were well housed—all but poor Mrs. Kellogg, who was obliged to make her way to the hotel in a perfect downpour.

I wish that I could tell you adequately of the wonderful buffet supper served in that beautiful garden. The groups of iris enthusiasts sitting here and there or wandering up and down those paths at sunset where iris and poppies vied with each other. Never will I forget beautiful No-we-ta at the end of one of the beds. And, the wonderful seedlings! Don Milliken's Mount Cloud, that exquisite stately iris that received a rating of 90! Bill Kellogg's own seedling, Mountain Snow, a ruffled iris with blue-white falls which rated 90 also, and which that benighted modest boy thought was not quite good enough to introduce! Mrs. Kellogg's Silver Dawn, with its silver standards with gold bands on both standards and falls and a brilliant orange beard gleaming on the pale lavender-white flowers! Such a wealth of beauty in all that famous garden! It is utterly impossible for me to do it justice, and besides you have already read about it in the last BULLETIN. But, I must mention how marvelous it all was as seen from the studio window looking down upon it in the sunset light—a picture to remain long in one's memory.

Over-the-Garden-Wall has such a wealth of varieties, I know no better place to study so many, many kinds.

It was a great regret to the New England members that so many of those attending the Annual Meeting had to hasten away and could not join the Pilgrimage, for that seemed to me a very important feature of the getting together from all parts of the country.

Those who could avail themselves of the Pilgrimage seemed to come closer together the more gardens they visited until finally when the time came to separate a splendid camaraderie existed that could not help but benefit the Society by making

each member feel that he or she really belonged to something tangible. All the voting for directors, and all the directors' meetings in the world will never produce that feeling of belonging, and until that can be accomplished a few members may work their brains to a frazzle in the endeavor to make the Iris Society (or any other society) the big thing that it should be—with a great increase in membership. I find that it is knocking your head against a stone wall to get new members. If every Regional Vice-President would make a practice of drawing their members together, getting them acquainted, making them work together, talking about and showing the beautiful new things, it would arouse much enthusiasm which would extend to their friends and benefit both the amateurs and the dealers by creating a demand for the "must haves." Easier said than done everybody will say! Make it social—serve a cup of tea and a cracker! Why is it that eating together brings people closer together? It is time for this Regional Vice-President to stop preaching and get back to her job of sending in an Annual Report.

The weather was superb during the Annual Meeting and it was a delight to spend so much time out of doors among the magnificent irises that were the same everywhere we went, and yet not the same. We saw many of the choicest varieties in all the gardens, while every garden had something seen nowhere else. It was a wonderful chance to see how each iris responded to its different environment, while the combination color varied so much that the garden value of each iris was exemplified to the nth degree.

On Thursday morning we started for Worcester where Mr. and Mrs. McKee welcomed us and we all enjoyed so much the garden in the bright sunshine, as always before it has been my lot to visit it in a rainstorm. James Butler proved most interesting. Monomy, Red Comet and Royal Beauty were anxiously sought, especially by the members from a distance who were not so familiar with Mr. McKee's own irises, but the rest of the garden was beautiful with many rare varieties—among them Cayeux's Marquita, Mitchell's Naranja, a bright spot of color, Grinter's Missouri and Blue Triumph, two lovely blues, as well as many seedlings under number.

Everyone was ready for the delicious luncheon served on the

porch, but time was short so we hurried away to beautiful Iristhorpe in Shrewsbury—the garden of Mrs. Homer Gage—an amateur's garden, indeed! A garden that took one's breath away with its long vista seen from the house, with Mt. Wachuset in the distance. There was the lovely rose garden, rock garden, and the wondrous landscape effect of the tall bearded irises. And yet, human nature will never be satisfied. We longed to see those Japanese irises in bloom in that perfect Japanese garden. We were glad of the cooling punch after the hot sun, but again word came that we must hurry away—this time to Mr. L. Merton Gage's garden in Natick.

Mr. Gage is a wizard. Such tall blue Siberians! His lovely Snow Crest! And, among the tall bearded were Rosy Wings, Gloriolle, that frosty blue, Eclat, Norma Gage, Red Beauty, Mary Lee Donahue as well as Cremilda, Sordello and new seedlings not yet introduced. They all deserve especial mention.

Again we started on—this time to that mecca of all iris lovers—Miss Grace Sturtevant's at Wellesley Farms. To her has been presented the Gold Medal of the American Iris Society. The smiling gentle welcome of the Dean of Iris Breeders never fails and it was a pleasure to see her in her fine old garden with its lovely trees, its shrubs and rock plants, welcoming the guests from afar. Her irises are known wherever irises are grown. Always here we see the best of Californians. Mr. White's Especially You, a very dark yellow of fine substance; Brown Betty, another of Mr. White's marvels—rich and dark; also Sweet Alibi. Good Cheer, Calling Me and Golden Amber, with its gorgeous orange beard—these three Miss Sturtevant's own. Gloriolle and Lady Paramount were beautiful in her garden and always Easter Morn shows up to great advantage there. Indeed, to tell all of the fine varieties in her garden one feels that they are compiling a catalogue. We left her garden with regret, but I assure you not before we had tasted and tasted once again the delicious things that she had provided for us. However, there was one more garden to visit that day and the guests in our car had to be left in Boston for the night and that was fifty miles from a very late dinner with our genial President and his charming wife—together with the California bride and groom trailing on behind. I wonder why you have to stop for gasoline at the most critical moment!

What can we say of Mr. Donahue's garden with its unique situation on the banks of the Charles River? I had almost said "Cam," with its great overhanging trees casting those mysterious shadows over what seems a broad backwater, with the poppies, the rare peonies and the irises giving a brilliant mass of color against the dark mystical background.

Mrs. Donahue awaited us and showed us everything. Unfortunately, Polar King had gone by, but Mr. Donahue showed us Stratosphere, a lovely blue, which will be his own introduction for this year, as he is a strong advocate of keeping down the number of introductions each year. Mr. Donahue later urged us to remain for dinner, but we regretfully declined, knowing that dinner awaited us at the journey's end. This was the end of the "First Day" of our pilgrimage—one tired group rounded up in Lowell and another in Haverhill.

Those of us in Haverhill breakfasted with Miss Stover, took an early peep at her Green Garden and my irises before starting for Mrs. Nesmith's garden in Lowell. Here we began all over again. After posing for a group picture, which came out wonderfully, we turned to the day's work. Irises from everywhere—those that we had seen and those that we had not. Among these latter was Mrs. Nesmith's own Cathedral Dome, Morning Glow, a beautiful glowing pink and yellow blend; Snow Plume, another pure beautiful white. Here we found Franceska, a Douglas introduction; Mary Stuart, one of Mrs. Stahlman's; Mrs. Benners' Ann Douglas, Chenoa, a deep purple self, Sunset Glow, another pink; Maluska, deep red—almost black, Cortez, a very brilliant iris, one of the last to bloom—all of these last introduced by Mrs. Nesmith. In this same garden are also all of these from Mr. Washington: Betty Nesmith, a pale yellow; Cellophane, a tall pale blue-lavender of marvelous texture; Southern Belle, a deep pink; Selerno, said to be an intermediate, but my measurements gave $30\frac{1}{4}$ inches; that dusky Manchu Prince; Sub-Deb, a seedling of Mary Geddes; Artistry, which on the 4th day and a last year plant I rated at 90—ashes of roses, with a gorgeous yellow beard; Castillian, a wine red; Sam Davis, rich red; Jeb Stuart, whose standards stay shut; Will O' the Wisp; Lily Pons; Mellow Moon, a tall Doxa; Hasse Oobea; Pink Butterfly. And *now* I have omitted all the beauties seen in the other gardens! Luncheon was served, and how

good it was! Sitting under the trees we compared notes and rested from our labors. Soon it was time for moving on to Haverhill.

Daylight saving time makes darkness long in coming in early June and there was plenty of time to see the irises before it descended. Much had been seen elsewhere although there were some different ones not seen before, especially some seedlings from California still under number, and others already introduced.

In telling of the things blooming in my own garden, I shall try to leave out the varieties already seen, but I must be pardoned if I become slightly mixed as to what especially stood out on June 5th and what bloomed at other times. After all, this is a report covering a year.

I think nowhere else had Jory's Grace Mohr been seen. This was a hybrid that attracted much attention. Its dark violet veining, its enormous flowers with flaring falls on a very vigorous one year plant, with its splendid stems and its great freedom in flowering made a seedling that created much favorable comment. Spring Cloud, which in 1935 masqueraded with me as Jory's Plicata, had white standards heavily marked with blue and falls almost white. It was as large as Los Angeles and San Francisco—perfectly formed on a tall, well-branched stem. There was also a flaming orange seedling of Dr. Mitchell's Sunol, a yellow blend blooming profusely uninjured in heavy wind and rain on its tall well-branched stalks. A goodly sized patch of that rapid increaser, California Gold, a veritable mine of gold, so fittingly named—a tall deep yellow gleamed in one bed, while its rival, Happy Days, reigned in another. But Happy Days is a paler giant with a striking orange beard on a splendidly branched stalk which stays in bloom a long time. What iris has created a greater furore? And then there is Natividad, an exquisite creamy white that looks as though a yellow candle was behind it, gleaming through the standards and falls. And Rubeo! Standing out from all the rest—tall and straight branching low and wide—its standards a deep rose with darker maroon falls of perfect texture making a beautiful red clump in the sunshine. Still I have not told of Naranja—that glorious brilliant orange thing that stands 44 inches tall and gleams like topaz in the sun. All these we owe to Sydney Mitchell.

Of Col. Nicholl's iris in the garden, Aurex and September Dawn both rating 92, and Caballero, a rosy iris of fine form and substance, were loveliest. These were first year plants and after an exceptionally trying winter and spring which caused many varieties to have stunted stalks were blooming way down in the foliage.

Snow Maiden, 12 inches tall, a Canadian Dwarf, beautifully branched, had pure white standards with a green midrib, a lemon yellow beard tipped with white.

There were some seedlings from Mr. Milliken—one No. 385, a variegata of wonderful color, with a bright orange beard, fine form, and a low-branched stem very vigorous and of great garden value due to its many flowers. Betsy Ross, ruffled with pale cream standards edged primrose, and white falls with a primrose edge, attracted some attention. Old Ironsides, extremely low-branched; China Boy, a first year plant of good substance and fine garden value.

Pale Moonlight was beautiful this year in the garden. New Albion is a little gem, an early and long bloomer—pure white, ruffled standards, pointed and domed with flaring falls—a sister seedling of Easter Morn, but very different, being smaller but of a texture like a gardenia. And Sitka—who does not love Sitka? It blooms so long and so prolifically on its great tall stems!

A group of little known iris in the garden were originated by Mrs. Tobie, of Portland, Maine—one of our New England workers who has been very reticent in having her originations placed on the market and whose fine garden on Cape Elizabeth it was impossible to visit, as her season is two weeks later than in Boston.

Natoma, similar to Rameses—fine form, perfect stalk, vigorous and a good bloomer; Allegri, a Denis iris, if I remember, was one of the first to bloom if not the first, and it was a little beauty with its lovely veinings. China Rose, a Dark Knight—a magnificent thing, rich and dark that catches the eye and draws one like a magnet—a late bloomer that does so much to prolong the season. This year I had two surprises as Conquistador bloomed again July 1st, and Blackamoor on July 4th. Eleanor Blue is a joy, while Neon sustained its reputation as a standout. Tioga did wonderfully well for me as did Tipo-Red also.

There are so many others that I would like to tell about but I am afraid that our Editor will cut this in two. After supper the members began to get restless. They had seen the other gardens, the roses, the woods, the rock gardens and rested in Miss Stover's quiet Green Garden, and the members from Georgia, Alabama and Oklahoma had a long ways to go, but everybody hated to separate. It had been such a nice get-together from Hartford on.

There is one event of 1936, very personal to me, but which I would like to share. The first seedling that ever bloomed for me came from an Alcazar seed planted in 1934, and it bloomed on September 5, 1936—a bicolor 25 inches, S. Dark Hyssop violet, domed $2\frac{3}{4} \times 1\frac{7}{8}$, good mid-rib and fine substance; F. blackish purple with dark reticulations, 3x2; wide white haft and a golden beard; F. semi-flaring and velvety; first branch 6 inches from the ground, 4 branches well spread, 11 or 12 buds, vigorous with a fine straight stalk. Behold my first child!

I regret to say that the Annual Meeting and Pilgrimage proved to be the Swan Song of the New England Region as far as a concerted effort was concerned, and not until late in the fall were we energetic enough to get together to consider the resolutions proposed by Region 9 in a letter from Regional Vice-President David F. Hall.

The resolution in regard to an earlier publishing of Awards was unanimously approved, as was that regarding the awarding of the Dykes Medal, with slight modifications.



P. I. Merry

1. *Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham*
2. *Mr. Charles E. F. Gersdorff*
3. *Helen Swift Jones*
4. *Mr. Moody*
5. *Mrs. Moody*
6. *Miss Eleanor Hill*
7. *Mrs. Hill*
8. *Mrs. L. J. Blake*
9. *Miss Miller (back row)*
10. *Mr. Wm. J. McKee*
11. *Mrs. Herman E. Lewis*
12. *Mr. Charles Huntington Smith*



13. *Dr. H. H. Everett*
14. *Mr. Edward Salbach (back row)*
15. *Mrs. Edward Salbach (back row)*
16. *Mrs. Thomas Nesmith*
17. *Mrs. Edward L. Kernochan (back row)*
18. *Miss May Hudson*
19. *Mrs. Walter E. Tobie*
20. *Miss Eleanor P. Jones*
21. *Mrs. Harry H. Everett*
22. *Mrs. James R. Bachman*
23. *Mr. Harry F. Hunter (back row)*
24. *Mrs. Harry F. Hunter (back row)*
25. *Mrs. J. Edgar Hires*
26. *Mr. Thomas Nesmith*
27. *Miss Thura Hires*

REPORT OF IRIS SHOWS

MRS. W. L. KARCHER, *Chairman*

CHULA VISTA, CALIF.

A very creditable Iris Show, which was held early in April, has been reported to us by the chairman, Mr. John A. Monroe, as follows:

“We had a nice appearing show of average quality. The date was about a week late to get the peak average bloom of our larger growers.

“There were fourteen exhibitors this year against last year’s eighteen. There was a decided gain in artistic display exhibitors, not only in entries per person but in quality. Several new exhibitors of decided ability appeared in these classes.

“I feel that promulgation of the A. I. S. rule, that flowers for those classes need not be home grown has brought this about.

“Some very good specimen stalks were shown and several newly acquired varieties appeared. Sir Michael and Loetitia Michaud came in fine form, and when they are good, they surely are things of beauty. Chula Vista, Otay, Los Angeles and Purissima all did well this year. Some of the debutantes were Rob Roy, Picador, Sweet Alibi, and Sitka. Many of our new acquisitions had either finished or had not come into bloom at show time.

“The beardless irises were well represented, especially in artistic displays.

“Trophy for the best beardless arrangement was awarded to Mrs. John Wimmer. A. I. S. Bronze Medal was won by Mrs. Dorothy Holmes. A. I. S. membership, Dorothy Holmes.”

REDLANDS, CALIF.

We have not received a detailed report of the Redlands Iris Show, but understand it was a small show of excellent quality.

The A. I. S. Bronze Medal offered by the American Iris Society was won by Mr. Stillman Berry, and the A. I. S. membership by Mr. Bernard W. Shaper.

IOWA CITY, IOWA

The garden department of the Iowa City Woman's Club stage a beautiful flower show annually and this year for the first time the American Iris Society cooperated with the iris department offering an A. I. S. membership, which was won by Mr. L. E. Clark on a very good showing of irises.

LOCKPORT, N. Y.

We have no report on the Lockport gardeners Iris Show other than the winners of the awards offered by the A. I. S. as follows:

Bronze Medal sweepstakes in the amateur iris division, Mrs. Herve C. Holly, Lockport. A. I. S. membership offered for the finest specimen in the show awarded to Mrs. A. J. Haskins, Lockport.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

The annual spring flower show in cooperation with the American Iris Society was held in the University Coliseum on May 23-24, and we think it was one of the most beautiful shows we have ever had. Each year enables us to give our shows a little finer finish, and each year we think our exhibitors put on their displays in better form.

The iris grown in this vicinity this year was much finer than it has been for several years, but exhibits that were sent from a distance where rains were infrequent, were not so large. In comparing the iris displays over a period of years I note that we seldom see any of the older varieties any more. Even in the ten, twenty-five and fifty stem classes, we find an excellent selection of the new and better things. In this section of the country the iris has made great headway in the past few years.

The Silver Medal of the A. I. S. was won by Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Colin. The Bronze Medal by Marjorie Bernstein, and the A. I. S. membership was awarded to Mr. Ralph Pierce. All of the winners were from Lincoln.

(MRS. A. C.) CAROLYN M. NELSON, *Chairman*,
Lincoln, Neb., Iris Show.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Choice collections of the irises were assembled this week for the first annual Iris Show of the Detroit Iris Society in cooperation with the American Iris Society.

The specimen blooms, both in number and quality, reflected great credit on this small but expert group of iris fanciers who offered displays that drew large crowds of interested visitors.

Charles U. Bear and Frank Campbell, of Detroit, acted as judges.

Mrs. Hoyt Nissley was awarded the Bronze Medal of the American Iris Society for the greatest number of points in the iris classes, and the A. I. S. membership was won by Mrs. A. W. Bender.

Two collections not entered in competition attracted admiration. These fine groups of named varieties were displayed by Mr. Bear and Mr. R. Marshall, two of the best known iris growers in the State. Interest in irises will assuredly be stimulated by this beautiful exhibit and the Detroit Iris Society is already planning for a bigger and better 1937 exhibition.

The decision for the winning of the Michigan Horticultural Society Medal, which was offered for the best specimen iris in the show, lay between Pink Satin and Purissima.

The Detroit Iris Society is most grateful to the American Iris Society for their cooperation and advice.

(MRS. H. HOYT) MARY K. NISSLEY,
President of the Detroit Iris Society.

TAKOMA PARK, D. C.

The 20th Annual Iris Show of the Takoma Horticultural Club was held in cooperation with the American Iris Society on May 15-16, in Takoma Park, D. C.

The judges were Mr. Charles Gersdorff, Dr. Howard Watkins and Mr. J. Marion Shull for the A. I. S. classes.

The Silver Medal of the A. I. S. was awarded to Mr. Winn T. Simmons, of Takoma Park, D. C., for his total of 110 points in the iris classes.

The winner of the Bronze Medal of the Iris Society was Mrs. A. T. Harrison, Takoma Park, Maryland, with 87 points.

This is usually our largest show of the year, but not so in 1936, due to an extremely and unusually severe winter and a devastating rain, hail and windstorm two days before the show. There were comparatively few entries.

Mr. M. B. Doub, of Hagerstown, Maryland, was the only commercial exhibitor in class 27. Some excellent seedlings were

shown by Mr. J. Marion Shull, of Chevy Chase, Maryland, and Mr. J. B. Parker, of Washington, and were highly commended by the judges.

As chairman of the Iris Show, may I express the appreciation of the Takoma Horticultural Club for the cooperation of the American Iris Society in helping to make this exhibit one of interest and value to local members and iris growers in this community.

MARGARET CALDWELL LANCASTER, *Chairman*,
Takoma Horticultural Club-Iris Show.

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA

The sixth annual flower show of the Four Garden Clubs of Danville, Virginia, was staged at Hotel Danville, on May 13.

Only amateurs are allowed to compete in this show and while it is a general flower show, iris exhibits form a large part of it.

This year we had the misfortune of having a terrific hail-storm two days before the show and blooms were so badly injured that the number of exhibits, and the quality of those shown were not up to our usual standard.

Mrs. H. V. Fitzgerald, of Chatham, Virginia, won the greatest number of points in the iris division and was awarded the Bronze Medal of the American Iris Society.

Mrs. Fitzgerald also won an award for the best collection of iris in the show.

We wish to express our appreciation to the American Iris Society for their cooperation.

MRS. E. WALTON BROWN, *Chairman*.

DULUTH, MINN.

The City Hall lobby was the setting for the eighth annual Iris Show of the Duluth Peony and Iris Society in cooperation with the American Iris Society, which was held June 23-24.

These dates proved to be the best, although some of our better varieties had not yet bloomed. We had a very erratic season, early irises blooming late and late irises blooming early.

More than one thousand blooms were exhibited in first class condition and the artistic arrangements were particularly lovely.

Nancy Finch won the Bronze Medal offered by the American

Iris Society for the most points. The A. I. S. membership being awarded to Arnold Jacobson. The best specimen iris in the show was a fine stalk of Genevieve Serouge, shown by Nancy Finch.

MRS. CONRAD J. SCHLAMANN, *Chairman.*

FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Freeport Garden Club staged a beautiful iris show May 30-31 with a wealth of specimen bloom as well as several large non-competitive displays by Quality Gardens, Charles Sherman, and others. Sweepstakes award was made to O. E. Heard, Jr.

Judges—Mrs. Silas B. Waters, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Mrs. O. W. Dynes, Hinsdale, Ill.; Mrs. M. Harris, Chicago, Ill.

MRS. A. C. EMRICH, MRS. J. V. PERKINS, *Co-Chairmen.*

CHICAGO, ILL.

The Midwest Horticultural Society, in cooperation with the American Iris Society, held their Second Annual Iris Show on May 30 and 31. Although the date for the show was advanced one week, we had 579 entries in the specimen classes. Of outstanding interest was the collection of 44 iris seedlings. This in spite of the fact that our early heat wave caused the passing of many fine varieties.

Our show was staged in Horticultural Hall in Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago. The glass had been sprayed with white-wash to keep out the intense heat yet providing sufficient light for adequate judging. This house, 250 feet long and 50 feet wide, was landscaped as an outdoor garden, the entire center composing the lawn of a formal garden with rectangular beds which were used for our commercial exhibits, all named varieties of iris. The individual containers were sunk in the soil and potted ferns placed between them to give a more realistic effect.

A gazing globe occupied the center of a circular bed which was located in the mid-section of the garden and surrounding it were grouped large baskets of iris. At each side of the formal beds were long gravel walks toward the center of which, and alongside, were wooden seats covered with a short pergola, vine covered. On one side of these walks were our show tables banked at the back with tropical trees and shrubs. The tables and

containers were clothed in coverings of green and gave a delightful harmonious effect.

At the end of one walk a white garden gate greeted the eye, and to its right a mound of turf, surmounted with a most inviting summer house. It lent an air of garden enchantment that aided materially in presenting a feature worthwhile. Flagstone steps led to this delightful spot and on both sides were groups of blue iris and other spring flowers. The greensward consisted of *Helxine Soleirolii* (Baby-tears) and *Selaginella denticulata* (Club Moss).

Four of the iris seedlings were chosen by six Accredited Judges to be recommended to the American Iris Society for highly commended award. They are:

No. 10-35—Dr. A. C. Wilhelm.

No. 17-36—Dr. A. C. Wilhelm.

No. 15-36—Dr. A. C. Wilhelm.

No. 36-23—Mr. David F. Hall.

No. 10-35 is an Apricot seedling as shown by Ridgway's Chart, a new color in iris.

No. 36-23 is a very large pink iris, strong stem, large flowers, five to the stem. A more complete description will be sent to the American Iris Society BULLETIN.

Exhibited were such outstanding varieties as "Claribel," a new plicata by Jacob Sass, 1936; "Golden Helmet," "Ethel Peckham," "Cimarron," "William Mohr," the Pogocyclus iris, "Persia," "Indian Chief," "Los Angeles," "Pluie d'Or," "Pink Satin," "Ethelwyn Dubuar," "Wambliska," "Blue Velvet," "Purissima," "Rameses," "Al-lu-we," "Talisman," "Peaches," "Dolly Madison," "Henri Riviere," and many other good varieties were entered in the specimen classes. The judges were Mr. Jacob Sass and Mr. Henry Sass, Omaha, Nebraska; Mr. David Hall, Wilmette, Ill.; Dr. A. C. Wilhelm, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Lelia M. Bach, Bloomington, Ill.; Mr. E. G. Lapham, Elkhart, Indiana; Dr. Franklin Cook, Evanston, Ill.; Mr. August Koch, Chief Horticulturist, Chicago Park District; Mr. Wm. F. Christman, Northbrook, Ill.; Mr. Robert Gore, Oak Park, Ill.

Mrs. E. A. Julius showed a nice collection of twenty-five distinct varieties for which she was awarded Byzantium Iris by Robert Schreiner.

The outstanding arrangement was a very large semi-flat bowl of William Mohr iris with own foliage. The iris and foliage held in place by white swans. This was awarded the Sweepstakes in the arrangement classes. Crown Jewell iris was awarded to Mrs. Frank C. Lambert, who made the arrangement and raised these Pogocyclus iris to perfection.

Our two-day show was enjoyed by 10,136 visitors.

While our show, because of the freak season, was held with some misgivings, we feel that the affair, in number of entries and quality of materials, was a huge success.

The outstanding awards were high score of points, the Silver Medal of the American Iris Society, won by Mrs. Frank C. Lambert, 5445 Iowa Street, Chicago, Ill.

Second high score of points, \$10.00 worth of iris plants from the Quality Gardens. Won by Dr. Franklin Cook, Evanston, Ill.

The Bronze Medal of the American Iris Society won by Vaughan's Seed Company, Chicago, Ill. Commercial class.

The annual membership in the American Iris Society for the most comprehensive display in Group 3 was won by Mr. C. S. Anderson, 9322 Washington Avenue, Brookfield, Ill.

The Silver Cup, donated by President Robert Dunham, of the Chicago Park District, was won by Mr. David Hall, Wilmette, Ill., for a specimen bloom of Claribel.

The Achievement Medal of the American Home was won by Dr. A. C. Wilhelm, Chicago, Ill., with the famous red iris Ethel Peckham.

Chicago is rapidly becoming a center of iris interest, large fields are being purchased for hybridizing iris, and with such marvelous facilities as the Garfield Park Conservatory has to offer and the knowledge of such a fine organization as the Midwest Horticultural Society, our iris show can only continue to grow better each year. With a more favorable season we expect to stage a mammoth iris show.

MRS. FRANK C. LAMBERT, *Chairman.*

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

The fourth annual iris show of the Niagara Falls Garden Club, held Saturday and Sunday in the Y. W. C. A., not only surpassed former shows in quality, but so outstripped them in quantity that the committee in charge had a difficult time find-

ing accommodations for exhibitors. A last minute call had to be made for more containers for the many iris offered for display. In the competitive named classes there were 265 entries, representing over 240 varieties, all properly labelled. The non-competitive display of Mrs. Leo C. Shippy contained 82 named varieties, many of them recent introductions. After checking for duplication in this exhibit it was found that over 280 named varieties were on display in the show. Entries in the unnamed classes brought the total of varieties well over the 300 mark.

Tables had been arranged to spell "Iris" in the center of the floor, and the specimen classes were grouped on these, giving a blue "I," a purple and pink "R," a red "I," and shades of yellow and white in the "S." This arrangement was especially attractive from the balcony. Other tables were arranged around this group.

The show was put on with the cooperation of the American Iris Society. Mr. Frederick Stuntz, of Snyder, had been asked to judge, but a short time before the show he was called out of town. W. M. Rogerson, of this city, served in his stead, assisting Lester F. Hoyt, of East Aurora, in the specimen classes. In all classes in which Vida S. Rogerson had entered, however, he withdrew, and Mrs. Frederick Kratz and Mrs. Waldo E. Tuttle assisted Mr. Hoyt. Mrs. Kratz and Mrs. Tuttle judged the artistic classes.

The Allport Nursery Cup for the best white in the show went to Mrs. H. M. Clark for Purissima, an excellent specimen with clear glistening white standards and falls. Late Saturday afternoon the bloom wilted somewhat, but two buds of equal quality unfolded Sunday morning. The Allen Milling cup awarded for the best blue iris in the show went to George H. Wagner for Hynerian, a tall light blue with slightly ruffled standards. Mr. Wagner also won the Rev. Jacob Storer's prize for the best yellow iris in the show with a specimen of Prairie Gold. This variety while not as tall or florescent as many of the other yellows has a clear deep yellow with good substance in both standards and falls.

Mrs. R. C. Milne's prize for the best red iris went to Vida S. Rogerson for Indian Chief. Miss Rogerson also won the *Buffalo Evening News* prize for the best iris in the show with an ex-

cellent specimen of Los Angeles, which was one of the tallest spikes in the show.

The sweepstake prize, the American Iris Society Bronze Medal for most points in the named variety classes went to Vida S. Rogerson, of this city, with C. K. Bassett, of Buffalo, runner-up. Miss Rogerson's entries won much praise for their size and clear colors. Mr. Bassett's possessed unusual substance and texture which gave the petals a slight ruffled effect and long life, many blooms being in as good condition Sunday afternoon as they were when judged Saturday noon.

Sewall S. Smith was chairman of the show. Many members of the local Garden Club served on the committees under his direction. Mrs. R. C. Milne, Dr. G. E. Lewis and F. L. Koethan, members of the classification committee, reviewed each exhibit for color classification, name and labelling.

Mrs. Leo C. Shippy's exhibit was greatly appreciated by iris fans, as it included several varieties which are quite new and not widely known. Several of these aroused considerable enthusiasm, as they represented new tints and color combinations. Members of the club are making a visit to her gardens at 536 Willow Avenue, Lockport.

Winners in the color classes were as follows:

Class 1, light blue lavender selfs, twenty-two entries; Mrs. R. C. Milne and Mr. C. C. Rice with "Souvenir de Loette Michaud"; R. A. Kazanjieff with "Bluette."

Class 2, light blue lavender bicolors, eighteen entries; Geo. H. Wagner with "Hyperion," which also won the Allen Milling Cup for best blue in the show; C. Kryder with "Ballerine"; C. H. Missal with "Hyperion."

Class 3, medium blue selfs, eight entries; Vida S. Rogerson with "Baldwin"; C. K. Bassett with "Wm. Mohr"; Mrs. Clark Shipston with "Mrs. Allen Grey."

Class 4, medium depth blue bicolors, eleven entries; C. K. Bassett with "Esplendido"; Mrs. W. Taylor with "Prospero"; H. L. Robson with "B. Y. Morrison."

Class 5, blue purple selfs, nine entries; Mrs. R. C. Milne with "Buto"; C. K. Bassett with "Blue Velvet"; Mrs. H. M. Clark with "Dusk."

Class 6, blue purple bicolors, eighteen entries; V. S. Rogerson with "Cuparo" and "Klamath"; R. A. Kazanjieff with "Tropic Seas."

- Class 7, pink lavender selfs, seventeen entries; V. S. Rogerson with "Troostinger"; C. Kryder with "Aphrodite" and "Dream."
- Class 8, pink lavender bicolors, twenty-one entries; V. S. Rogerson with "Elizabeth Egelberg"; R. A. Kakanjieff with "Magnifica"; V. S. Rogerson with "Dolly Madison."
- Class 9, medium red purple selfs, eight entries; C. K. Bassett with "Ed. Mitchell"; G. H. Wagner with "Evadne"; C. K. Bassett with "Victor Hugo."
- Class 10, medium red purple bicolors, six entries; V. S. Rogerson with "Sir Michael"; C. K. Bassett with "Deputé Nomblot"; Mrs. R. C. Milne with "Prosper Laugier."
- Class 11, deep red purple selfs, sixteen entries; Mrs. R. M. Clark with "Tarsus"; Mrs. C. Shipston with "Crimson King"; Mrs. O. C. Thompson with "Apache."
- Class 12, deep red purple bicolors, nineteen entries; V. S. Rogerson with "Indian Chief" and "Coppersmith"; G. H. Wagner with "Morning Splendor."
- Class 13, pure yellow selfs, twenty-two entries; G. H. Wagner with "Prairie Gold"; Mrs. O. C. Thompson with "Gold Imperial"; C. K. Bassett with "Soisson d'Or."
- Class 14, yellow blends and buff tints, nineteen entries; V. S. Rogerson with "Tuscany Gold"; C. K. Bassett with "Soufflot" and "Jean Cayeux."
- Class 15, yellow bicolors, seventeen entries; R. A. Kazanjieff with "Iris King"; C. K. Bassett with "Mary Geddes" and "King Juba."
- Class 16, pure white selfs, fourteen entries; Mrs. H. M. Clark with "Purissima"; R. A. Kazanjieff with "Micheline Charraire"; C. K. Bassett with "Purissima."
- Class 17, white with gold hafts or veinings, only two entries; Mrs. H. M. Clark with "Moonlight" and C. K. Bassett with "Wambliska."
- Class 18, white plicatas, sixteen entries; V. S. Rogerson with "Los Angeles"; C. K. Bassett with "Los Angeles"; R. A. Kazanjieff with "True Delight."
- Class 19, white bicolors with blue or red, five entries, the variety "Mildred Presby" winning for R. A. Kazanjieff, Mrs. O. C. Thompson and Mrs. W. Taylor.

Unnamed classes:

Class 20, blue lavenders, eighteen entries; Miss Hazel Dolton, Mrs. Clark Shipston and Mrs. R. H. Turver.
Class 21, blue purples, eleven entries; Miss Hazel Dolton, Mrs. Call and C. L. Hodgkins.
Class 22, pink lavenders, ten entries; C. K. Bassett, Mrs. C. Shipston and C. L. Hodgkins.
Class 23, red purples, six entries; Miss Hazel Dolton, Mrs. Lee P. Allen and Mrs. C. G. Campbell.
Class 24, yellow selfs, six entries; Mrs. R. H. Turver, Miss Hazel Dolton and Mrs. R. H. Turver.
Class 25, yellow blends and bicolors, eleven entries; Miss Hazel Dolton, Collette F. Ryan and Mrs. F. N. Hopper.
Class 27, white plicatas, Mrs. R. H. Turver, H. L. Robson, Miss Hazel Dolton.

Class 29, beardless and bulbous iris, V. S. Rogerson with "Periwinkle"; F. L. Koethen with "Sibirica."

Artistic Arrangements Classes:

Class 30, bowl of iris, Mrs. A. Schoelles and Mrs. C. G. Campbell.
Class 31, bowl of iris and ferns, Mrs. C. G. Campbell, L. L. Hodgkins, Mrs. Paul Hooker.
Class 32, vase of two varieties, Mrs. R. T. Lawler, Mrs. A. Schoelles, Mrs. C. G. Campbell.
Class 33, vase of iris, Mrs. C. G. Campbell, Mrs. C. C. Rice.
Class 34, basket of iris and ferns, H. L. Robson, Mrs. F. N. Hopper, Mrs. O. J. Carpenter.
Class 35, basket of iris and other flowers, C. L. Hodgkins, Mrs. C. G. Campbell, Mrs. A. Schoelles.
Class 36, oriental poppies. No award.
Class 37, Aquilegia; Mrs. A. Schoelles, Mrs. C. C. Rice, Mrs. O. J. Carpenter.

DR. H. L. ROBSON.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.

The St. Joseph Iris Show was held on May 23-24 in the King Hill Masonic Temple. It was held in cooperation with the South Side Garden Club's Spring Flower Show. The Iris Show was held on the ground floor and the Spring Flower Show on the second floor.

We considered the show a success inasmuch as we didn't have as much iris entered as we did last year. This was due to the

fact that we had a very peculiar iris season here. We had some very warm weather early and just as the buds started developing we had an awful hard freeze which cut our bloom more than fifty per cent. Then it got awfully warm, which put our bloom about a week ahead of schedule and, as our date had been set for our show and we had made so many preliminary preparations, we found it impossible to change our date, so practically all of our iris which were entered had been in cold storage for from five to fifteen days. We can certainly swear by "Cold Storage" of iris here. Several of our large exhibitors were either out of town or were too ill to exhibit and this cut our exhibits down a little also. I honestly believe though that the quality of our bloom was extra good, even better than last year. Mrs. Dumont of Des Moines and Miss Stoner of Merriam, Kans., who judged our show I believe will bear me out in my statement in regards to the quality of the bloom.

Mr. E. A. Byous, our Iris Show Manager who designed our lovely garden on the stage last year which was reproduced in one of our BULLETINS, again had charge of the special decorations and features of the show and this year produced on the stage a "Woodland Garden" which certainly was beautiful. Conservation was stressed heavily by our club this year and this Woodland Garden bore out this topic wonderfully with its wild flowers, trees, shrubs and bird life.

Also in the center of this floor Mr. Byous had arranged a beautiful formal pool. It was edged with red tiles and surrounded by a grass plot with Pfitzer junipers at each corner of the pool. At each end of the pool was a large Blue Garden Vase. With the pool filled with red, pink, white and copper colored water lilies and the fish darting here and there among the pads, it certainly was attractive.

As the theme for the year in our garden club is Conservation we thought a woodland garden would be most suitable for the stage in the Masonic Temple. With the cooperation of Mr. Charles P. Gorely, landscape architect of Wellesley Hills, Mass., we copied a garden he arranged for the Boston Show in 1934. This was a wooded meadow where the grass met a marsh. In the background was an ancient pine, an old fence and a fungus-covered stump. Native wildbirds were arranged in natural positions in this setting. This garden attracted much attention and the fact that the loads of native shrubs, sod, rocks and other

material was arranged and supervised by a nineteen year old girl made it much more interesting. She has a rare sense of proportion and the native flowers were perfectly arranged. These, in some cases, had been in storage for two weeks but kept through the show beautifully.

That the view of this woodland garden might meet the eye of visitors as soon as they entered the first floor, a formal pool was arranged in the center of the room and tables were placed at the sides of the room. This pool was a tank $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and 8 feet long. It was surrounded by a grass plot and at each corner a Pfitzer juniper was used. The pool was bordered with terra cotta tile and a large blue terrace jar used at each end.

The use of a formal and informal feature on the same floor did not clash.

In the basement where the irises were displayed on low tables, a background of greenery was used. Against a backdrop of blue sky and fleecy white clouds a high hedge was arranged. A white picket fence, a white arched gate and a white bench completed this and with the use of 6 large evergreens it looked remarkably realistic.

In the opposite end of the room a birdbath was surrounded by blooming daffodils. These had been in storage and were bloomed for the show.

AWARD LIST OF THE ST. JOSEPH IRIS SHOW

The Silver Medal of the A. I. S. for most prize points scored in the show was awarded to Dr. Henry W. Schirmer.

The Bronze Medal of the A. I. S. for the second largest number of points scored was awarded to Mrs. Frank Conner.

The A. I. S. Membership for the most points scored in group three was awarded to Mrs. Thomas J. Woods.

The Mid-West Cup for the best specimen in the show was awarded to Carl O. Schirmer for a wonderful spike of *Pluie d'Or*, with three fine blooms open and seven buds.

The winners as to classes were as follows:

Class 1A—White self colored—First, *Wambliska*—Second, *Venus de Milo*—Third, *Snow White*.

Class 1B—Lavender, light blue or mauve self colored—First, *Missouri*—Second, *Sensation*—Third, *Castalia*.

- Class 1C—Dark Blue, Blue Purple or Red Purple self colored—
First, Mid-West Pride—Second, Duke of Bedford—Third,
Germaine Perthuis.
- Class 1D—Pink, self colored—First, Satin—Second, Imperial
Blush—Third, LeVardar.
- Class 1E—Red, self colored—First, Dauntless—Second, Waconda
—Third, Dauntless.
- Class 1F—Yellow, self colored—First, Pluie d'Or—Second, Pluie
d'Or—Third, Coronation.
- Class 2A—White Bicolored—First, Dorothy Dietz—Second, Mil-
dred Presby—Third, Lenzschnee.
- Class 2B—Lavender, light blue or mauve bicolor—First, Cru-
sader—Second, No award—Third, Crusader.
- Class 2C—Dark Blue, Red Purple or Blue Purple Bi-color—
First, Legend—Second, Cardinal—Third, Swazi.
- Class 2D—Pink, bi-color—First, Elizabeth Egelberg—Second,
Frieda Mohr—Third, Frieda Mohr.
- Class 2E—Red bicolor—First, Rose Dominion—Second, Irma
Pollock—Third, Irma Pollock.
- Class 2F—Yellow bicolor or Variegatas—First, Crown Prince—
Second, King Juba—Third, Henri Riviere.
- Class 3A—White Plicatas—First, True Delight—Second, Damo-
zel—Third, Damozel.
- Class 3B—Yellow Plicatas—First, Jubilee—Second, Cydalise—
Third, No Award.
- Class 4A—Light Blends—First, Rameses—Second, Allure—Third,
Rameses.
- Class 4B—Dark Blends—First, Grace Sturtevant—Second, Omaha
—Third, Mrs. Valerie West.
- Class 5—Not more than 25 stalks of tall bearded iris, nor more
than five varieties with or without other flowers or foliage.
First was a beautiful basket of Juniata iris with white and
pale pink peonies. Second was a basket of mixed iris with
own foliage, very tastefully arranged. Third was a basket
of mixed iris with Weigelia Rosea.
- Class 6—Not more than stalks with own foliage in a low bowl.
First was for a bowl of dark purple table iris, very beauti-
ful. Second was for a bowl of white bicolor iris. No
third award.

Class 7—20 varieties, one stalk each. First went to this collection—Ambassadeur, Andrew Jackson, Baldwin, Coronation, Frieda Mohr, Golden West, King Juba, King Tut, Melchior, Mrs. Valerie West, Mildred Presby, Pluie d'Or, Pallida Speciosa, Rameses, Red Radiance, Sunset, Venus de Milo, Wambliska, Waconda and Wm. Mohr. No second or third award.

Class 8—12 varieties, 3 stalks each. First went to this collection—Dazzler, Elizabeth Egelberg, Golden Glory, Irma Pollock, Morning Splendor, Nebraska, Omaha, King Juba, Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau, Titan, Wambliska and Zuni. No second or third award.

Class 9—10 varieties, 1 stalk each. First went to the following collection—Allure, Antares, Coronation, Jubilee, Moa, Midwest, Mrs. Cuthbertson, Nebraska, Snow White and Trostringer. Second went to this collection—Bruno, Chasseur, Jane Williamson, Mme. Cheri, Mother of Pearl, Pluie d'Or, Prairie Gold, Rheintochter, Sunset and Titan. Third for this collection—Dream, Eloise Lapham, Iduna, King Tut, Le Correge, Nebraska, Prospero, Pink Satin, Primrose and Vesper Gold.

Class 10—5 varieties, 3 stalks each. First for this collection—Ambassadeur, Monsignor, Mildred Presby, Sunset and Tristram. No second or third award.

In the Spring Show on the second floor in the specimen class for the best bloom in show for the Lewinson cup, this was won by Mrs. Carl O. Schirmer with a beautiful spike of Missouri with three beautiful blooms open. Second and third were also won by Mrs. Schirmer with Wambliska and Rameses, both exceptional blooms. Some outstanding stalks in this collection were the following—Baldwin, Blue Monarch, Irma Pollock, King Juba and Pluie d'Or.

CARL SCHIRMER AND E. A. BYOUS.

REPORT OF JUDGES FOR 1936

■ Very fortunate for the compiler, but most unfortunate for the A. I. S., only a few judges sent in comments this past year. It would seem that these comments could be of great value to the Society if only more interest were shown by those who know irises, especially the most recent varieties. Oh Judges! Why not jot a short sentence telling your first impression upon the sight of a new iris, such as "a break in color" or "only the substance mars this flower"?

The comments given below are all that were received by the compiler. Some are favorable and some are quite the contrary. All are printed so as to inform the Society members what the judges think of some of the newer irises. Here's hoping that all new irises have good strong legs to stand on lest this "comment report" knock them into the discard pile.

Comments:

ALICE HARDING (Cay. '33)—Very fine medium toned yellow, splendid branching and beautifully formed bloom, 36" (Ga.).

ANOTHER DAY—A charming white of heavy substance and pearl-like sheen (Cal.).

ANITRA (H. P. Sass)—A pearly blue of fine texture and great substance, has a luminous quality by twilight (Iowa).

AVONDALE (H. P. Sass '34)—A lovely bright color, a largish flower with S. a bit too large for perfect proportion (Ill.).

BLUE MONARCH (J. Sass '33)—A self of hyacinth lavender with a sparkling texture, good branching (Ill.).

BLUE TRIUMPH (Grinter '34)—1. It has many excellent qualities—it seems to lack that indefinable something that we call charm (Ill.). 2. Well named, best of the light blues, but would like to see Gloriole to compare. Gives one the idea of the cast iron substance of Anne Marie Cayeux (N. J.). 3. Fine in every respect. Only fault—its tendency to fade (Ga.).

BRONZE GLORY (Simpson '33)—I find nothing unusual. I like Burning Bronze better (Ga.).

BROWN BETTY is a distinctive and beautiful brown blend (Cal.).

BRUNHILDA (Salbach '34)—1. An iris that you won't forget,

- another of the four really great 1936 irises (N. J.). 2. Smooth finish and color of Kochii (Mass.).
- BURNING BRONZE** (Ayers '34)—1. Rich in its coppery tone, excellent branching (Ill.). 2. A particularly rich and beautiful iris in sunlight, but such a dull and different iris in a shaded part of the garden (N. J.).
- BYZANTIUM** (Ayres '33)—This and Tint o'Tan have similar garden effect, like the color of Byzantium better (Ky.).
- CADMIA** (Emig '34)—Badly reflexed F's (N. J.).
- CAL. GOLD** (Mitchell '33)—1. Once the deepest yellow now being moved up a notch as Naranja becomes the deepest of the "Yellow Four" (N. J.). 2. The most outstanding yellow in size, color, and height (Ky.).
- CAPRI** (Schreiner)—Seen close, its primrose color is dulled by a delicate olive brown overtone and dark reticulations (Ill.).
- CASTALIA** (Williamsons '33)—1. A floriferous, strong growing light blue of good form. I am rather surprised it has not received an Honorable Mention. It is one of our best garden iris (Mass.). 2. Clear light blue that carries so remarkably well across the garden (Ill.).
- CHEERIO** (Ayres '34)—1. The brightest red (?) of the lot, fine carrying quality, good substance and well branched (Ga.). 2. Insufficient substance, otherwise fine (N. J.).
- CHENOA** (Nesmith)—One of Mrs. Nesmith's best introductions—a very rich blue purple (Mass.).
- CHINA MAID** (Milliken)—Tall, beautiful, pinkish iris; petals thick and firm with a smooth surface. This iris is "different" in color besides being very fine (Cal.).
- CHRISTABEL** (Lapham)—A red bicolor that is unquestionably the reddest iris yet introduced, with all the other qualities that make a fine iris (Mass.).
- CHIOSEN** (White)—Finest yellow I have so far seen. It is deeper than Lady Paramount—perfect in form and has heavy substance. The tall stem is always erect and well-branched. It is as large and tall as Lady Paramount and has the advantage of having no Dykes in its ancestry. The color is clear and pure. It is vigorous and a fast increaser (Cal.).
- CITY OF LINCOLN**—1. Much the same coloring as Vision and seemingly unaffected by the heat. Falls almost as red as Cheerio's falls and flower is slightly larger and plant taller

(Ill.). 2. The one year plant with fine form and texture was outstanding as I saw it (Ia.). 3. A great improvement on King Juba, this height in the variegatas is an achievement (Ia.).

CLARIBEL (J. Sass '36)—A plicata, large, well-formed, good substance, eight flowers, three branches, very nice indeed (Ill.).

COPPER LUSTRE (Kirk. '34)—1. With Summer Tan the best of Dr. Kirkland's bronze tan series, showing less of the pinching of the falls which seems to prevail in the series (N. J.). 2. Blooms were down in the foliage (N. J.).

COPPER PIECE (Kellogg '36)—1. One of the most distinctive copper red irises I have seen (Mass.). 2. A different iris of a most pleasing blend of colors. Well grown on established plants, this iris will be long remembered for its coppery tones and violet edging on the falls. A finished iris (N. J.).

CORALIE (Ayers)—Another year—and another failure; however, I feel lucky, for I saw this iris as it might be grown the year of its award (N. J.).

CREOLE BELLE (Nich.)—One of the richest colored irises I have seen (Mass.).

CRYSTAL BEAUTY (J. Sass '35)—1. The pure white flowers are of excellent substance and the stems are tall and well branched (Ia.). 2. A very slight infusion of color, pink, very delicate and attractive, giving the flower a sort of pearly tone (Ill.).

DESERET (Thorup)—Clear canary yellow S. ruffled and touching and F. veined to almost solid color with bright and lively brown red.

DESERT DAWN (Andrews) — Was an outstanding variety. Flowers, fine substance and splendid form are gracefully poised on erect and well branched 40" stalk (Ia.).

DORE (J. Sass '35)—Falls too small for standards and not good enough substance (Ky.).

EILAH (Loomis '35)—1. An old friend—a large, somewhat tailored flower of a distinctive tone—a slightly olive tinted primrose, the F. darker and with self reticulations. Wide haft and short high branching (Ill.). 2. The first view of this was a most pleasing surprise as had expected nothing so fine as it is. Very fine shape and color. Size and height outstanding, as is the substance (Ky.).

- EARLY MASS** (White)—Is one of the most lovely blues with grace of form and poise combined with real color (Cal.).
- ELEANOR BLUE** (Sal. '33)—A very outstanding clear blue iris, height 40" (Ia.).
- ELEANOR ROOSEVELT** (H. Sass '33)—A most dependable iris (Ia.).
- ELLA WINCHESTER** (Grinter '35)—1. A strikingly handsome red self, large flowers of heavy substance and fine shape (Ia.). 2. Soft crimson with very velvety F. having extra wide hafts of a coppery tone and a deep orange beard (Ill.).
- EL TOVAR** (J. Sass '33)—The iris with the black falls (N. J.).
- EROS** (Reider '34)—1. Good color and branching. Disappointed in its color—expected more of a true pink—yet the best of its color shade (Ga.). 2. Was a disappointment this year, perhaps the heat faded it and made its flowers small, not as good as last year (Mass.).
- ESPECIALLY YOU** (White)—Why, it is a yellow Polar King (Mass.).
- EXCLUSIVE** (Grant)—1. By far, one of the most outstanding blues I have ever seen. French blue of exceedingly vigorous growth, leathery substance, cupped standards with heavy midrib, brilliant yellow center with beard tipped blue. This and Gloriole are the two best blues (Ky.). 2. This is what is termed a blue iris, and is about as blue as any of them, although having a gray lavender tone as all of them do when compared with real blue. It is a strong, clear light tone of the color class. It is just about perfect in every respect, except that it is not blue but is better than Blue Triumph, Gloriole, etc. (Ga.). 3. A fine blue, ranks with the best in its color (Ga.).
- FAIR ENOUGH**—A tall large blue, is all its name implies. It bloomed continuously from December to May (Cal.).
- FIESTA** (White)—Is a coppery blend that attracts all eyes. Has good firm petals, something a good many of this type lack (Cal.).
- FRANK ADAMS**—Very coppery red, distinctly bicolor, with open standards and velvety falls widening to the end (Ill.).
- GARDEN MAGIC** (Grinter '36)—Rich color—about the tone of Dauntless, the S. fading to a purplish tone as they fade, the F. are velvet of a slightly deeper shade, branching is rather close (Ill.).

- GENEVIEVE SEROUGE (Cay.)—Has pretty thin substance (N. J.).
- GLORIOLE (Gage '33)—1. A very fine blue with a better color than expected, as some had reported it as practically a white (Ky.). 2. A pale blue, made paler by fading; nice form, large, good substance (Ill.).
- GOLDEN BOW (H. P. Sass '35)—Striking and effective with Gentius. Excellent form with a smooth velvety finish (Ia.).
- GOLDEN HIND (Chadburn '34)—1. Although not a tall grower the plant draws the eye like a magnet and satisfies it with its rich coloring and pleasing form (Ill.). 2. The deepest yellow; only objection, its height and slightly pinched falls (Ga.).
- GOLDEN LIGHT (H. P. Sass '33)—1. A profuse bloomer of splendid carrying quality. A beauty (Ga.). 2. An exquisitely beautiful blend with large blooms of fine form and heavy substance (Ia.).
- GOLDEN TREASURE (Schreiner '36)—Will push most yellows in the background but cannot compare with its color rival in the "Big Four" of the yellows (see Happy Days for the "Big Four") (N. J.).
- GRACE MOHR (Jory '35)—A glorified William Mohr (Mass.).
- HAPPY DAYS (Mitchell '34)—Best yellow that is yellow. The "Big Four" of the yellows: Lady Paramount lightest of our regal yellows with Happy Days a shade deeper yellow and California Gold once the deepest yellow now being moved up a notch as Naranja now becomes the deepest of the "Big Four" (N. J.).
- HASSE OOBEEA (Wash. '34)—An improved Mary Geddes (Mass.).
- HONOR BRIGHT—A "gasper" (calls forth a gasp of astonishment). It is not quite so large as Mohrson but eight inch white flowers of magnolia-like substance are not to be sneezed at—they are impressive (Cal.).
- INNER LIGHT (Scott '35)—Changes color and the individual bloom is short-lived (N. J.).
- INDIAN HILLS—Vigorous grower and bloomer with fine height and size, splendid garden value (Ky.).
- JANET BUTLER (McKee)—A variegata blend with a lot of red, fascinating.
- JASMANIA (Ayers '35)—Very lovely. A deep primrose; ruffled S. touching and F. of deeper color with scarcely any reticulation (Ill.).

- JEAN CAYEUX** (Cay.)—Best of tan shades, splendid substance and well-branched (Ga.).
- JORAM** (Nes '36)—A fine tall yellow and red variegata that I rated 90 (Mass.).
- JOYCETTE** (J. Sass '32)—A truly "fine red" (N. J.).
- JUNALUSKA** (Kirk. '34)—1. Brilliant in the garden. Has every good quality. Blooms last longer than any variety have ever had (Ky.). 2. Of those on the red color range it seemed to suffer least from the heat. Freshly opened blooms showed the rich rosy copper tone which has won it so many friends (Ill.).
- KALINGA** (Kleinsorge '34)—Of the whites I like Kalinga the best. It delighted me with its charmingly delicate tone, its yellow tinted haft and orange beard (Ill.).
- LADY PARAMOUNT** (White '33)—1. Prepared for something just deeper than cream—and here stood the beauty dressed in primrose, the falls deeper and with deeper veins running half way down (Ill.). 2. Has shown itself to be at home in New England. It is to me the outstanding light Yellow iris, good form, clear even color (Mass.).
- LUCREZIA BORI** (Schreiner '35)—1. Whereas one may not care for the form, the size of the bloom will make it popular with the buying public (N. E.). 2. It seemed a dirty yellow (N. J.). 3. Don't like the strap leaf falls and the purple blotchings (N. E.).
- MARTIE EVEREST** (Kirk.)—Good color but substance not so good (Ky.).
- MARQUITA**—Very fine and distinctive (Mass.).
- MAYA** (Wash. '34)—1. A redder "Rosy Wings," I like it (Mass.). 2. Is another iris which was equally outstanding this year and last. It is a reddish blend with a clearness of color which is most pleasing, tall and vigorous (Mass.).
- MISSOURI** (Grinter '33)—1. A thoroughly finished iris of excellent color and style (N. J.). 2. One of, if not the best blues; large flower of beautiful form—holds color well (Ga.).
- MOHRSON** (White '35)—A "gasper." In this class it would rate about a 100 per cent for it will produce more gasps than any iris I have seen. The flowers are immense and the thick fabric-like petals are a brilliant compelling purple (Cal.).
- MONOMOY** (McKee)—A wonderfully rich dark blue purple with velvety blooms of finest substance (Ia.).

- MAGENTA**—Color is very distinct and brilliant; I know of none like it. The name is a misnomer. (Mass.).
- NARANJA** (Mitchell '34)—1. As seen in two places many miles apart proves to be a new deep golden yellow. The golden brown haft does not distract upon close inspection, and from a distance it becomes a new color in irises. Everybody seemed to feel it was as fine an iris as I did. To me Naranja was one of the four really great irises that I saw this year (N. J.). 2. A much improved Suntan (Mass.).
- NATIVIDAD**—1. Fine substance, excellent color (N. J.). 2. Very striking, a beautiful light cream with yellow haft, well-branched and blooms over a long period (Ga.).
- NEON** (Sal. '34)—1. A sparkling bright flower—a vivid clump to catch the eye all across the garden. Yet upon close inspection many of the attributes that go to make up a truly beautiful flower were missing, the S. lacked the beauty of an arch, the F. were small and with narrow hafts (Ill.). 2. While it was good it was disappointing (Ky.).
- OXHEART** (Nich. '34)—I suppose we are to think of a cherry, upon hearing the name—but “something in a butcher shop” is what it always brings to my mind, and so I'd like it better with another name. (Ill.).
- OZONE** (J. Sass)—1. Another new color with fine habits. Another really great 1936 iris (N. J.). 2. An iris of beautiful and unusual color which attracts much attention (Ia.).
- PARTHENON** (Connell '34)—Will make a great iris where a hardy reliable white is needed (N. J.).
- RED RADIANCE** (Grinter '32)—In mass as seen at Over-the-Garden-Wall cannot be forgotten (N. J.).
- RED DOMINION** (Ayers '31)—Fine, among the last to flower (Mass.).
- ROBERT** (Ayers '33)—1. A stately iris most impressive near sunset (I never get up early enough to see a flower at sunrise) (Mass.). 2. About the best of the medium toned yellows. Large flowers and splendid form and finish (Mass.).
- ROSY WINGS** (Gage '35)—1. It is one of our best reds (Mass.). 2. Ahead of anything in its color range. Admired by all who see it. (Ga.).
- SHAH JEHAN** (Neel '32)—1. Very striking—decidedly the best amoena (Ga.). 2. I do not care for the color type, but this

- iris is a hard one to cut (in giving it a rating) try as I did (N. J.).
- SERENITE** (Cay. '31)—Splendid growth and delightfully pleasing colors (Kans.).
- SHINING WATERS** (Essig '33)—A beauty—hardy and blooms over a long range of time (Ga.).
- SHIRVAN** (Loomis '32)—For a rich well-finished iris (N. J.).
- SIR KNIGHT** (Ashley '34)—A prominent iris in the garden because of its height and the rich dark blue purple flowers. (Ia.).
- SNOWKING** (H. P. Sass '35)—1. Judged from the last flower on a fine stalk—this iris stood up under the beating given it by the continual caressing by admiring A. I. S. members. (N. J.). 2. A fine large pure white, flowers of fine shape and very firm substance (Ia.). 3. Carried just the barest suggestion of blue in its white—not enough to be really noticeable but just enough to accent the white. The blooms are less pleasing in form than Kalinga (Ill.). 4. Should be the perfect white if another year carries out this year's promise (Mass.).
- SPOKAN** (J. Sass)—1. So well liked last year and again this year (Ill.). 2. Fine large bloom, admired by all who see it. (Ga.).
- ST. LOUIS** (Wiesner '33)—To me the best of the dark velvety blues. Excellent substance. (Ga.).
- SUNMIST** (Nichols '34)—That flower of charm: delicate ivory in tone with a central portion of maize yellow; light and gay and appearing almost translucent—yet not lacking in substance. Standards open and beautifully ruffled (Ill.).
- SUMMER TAN** (Kirkland '34)—1. With its coffee and cream S. and richer brown falls with yellow-toned haft and almost tangerine beard it is intriguing, a lively color at a distance, a lovely soft brown, and bright and attractive in sunlight. (Ill.). 2. With Copper Lustre seems to be one of the best of Dr. Kirkland's bronze tan series. (N. J.).
- SUNOL** (M. M. '33)—Another of Prof. Mitchell's fine iris. Seems to do well everywhere. (N. J.).
- SWEET ALIBI** (White '35)—Enthused about it last year, and am still delighted with its fresh crisp color, perfect form—perhaps the loveliest form of all iris in my eyes. Its only fault a slightly close branching causing the large blooms to crowd a bit. (Ill.).

- THE RED DOUGLAS** (J. Sass)—Growing in a block of other outstanding reds, Joycette, Red Robe, Ethel Peckham, its brilliance is dominant. It is the reddest iris I have ever seen. (Ia.).
- VISION** (Cay. '32)—The best variegata I have seen. Plurabelle almost its equal. I like Plurabelle's branching better. (Ga.).
- WAR EAGLE** (J. Sass '33)—If it possessed a stronger midrib in S., it would be worthy of a much higher rating, especially as it is the largest iris in a period when public taste seems to dictate large iris for a good part. (N. J.).
- WASATCH** (Thorup '35)—Most pleasing of the plicatas that are familiar to me, delicate in its markings, wide haft and good substance. (Ill.).
- WESTWAYS** (White)—is an adorable iris for table arrangements. (Cal.).

IRIS WEEK IN NASHVILLE

MAY 9TH

Iris Week will be observed in Nashville, Tenn., on May 9th, at which time the new Municipal Iris Garden, a WPA project completed last year, will be dedicated. Mr. Stanley F. Horn, President of the Nashville Iris Association, invites the members of The American Iris Society to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING

Don't forget Wilmington, Delaware, date, etc., to be sent you by mail at a later date.

IRIDOMANIA—
PHASES OF IRIS FANCY

DR. FRANKLIN COOK

■ Doubtless there are several hundred reasons why people like to grow iris as a hobby. Years ago, while still ignorant of iris lore, I occasionally followed the ecstatic visitors to my father's garden and speculated upon the degree of madness such individuals must have incurred to wax so enthusiastic and spend so many hours poring over this or that clump of iris. What did it matter, thought I, whether or not *Pink Satin* was closer to "true pink" than *Imperial Blush*? Was it worth talking and arguing about until the soup got cold at dinner? And what *was* there about some of those pastel blends with the difficult French names that demanded that one get out of a soft warm bed at six A. M. and rush out to the garden to see *Jean* or *Anne Marie Cayeux* in the slanting light of near-dawn? To put it mildly, I thought some people were just the least bit "touched"!

Alas for those who protest overmuch! They are likely to be incubating the self-same virus so recently berated. After all, when discriminating people name their estates—and yes, even their children after iris, to say nothing of iris motifs in their rugs, pictures, lampshades and furniture, there must be *something* to it! At first I condescended to grow a few of father's surplus iris in my vegetable garden across the street. Then Nature took its course. What is there about this iris business that seems so irresistible? I have been interested to speculate upon this phenomenon in both its initial and more progressive stages, and find that a good case can be made for the hypothesis that it is a manifestation of certain rather elementary urges and emotions which find their fulfillment in the pursuit of this joyful hobby.

In our present economic setup, the accumulation of wealth seems to be a rather dominating motive of an increasing number of people. So many of us expect that our ship will come in someday. We grow impatient as its arrival is delayed by various misfortunes taking it off its course, and such restlessness is bad for the soul. One way out of this dilemma is simply to go home and forget all about that golden ship. Invest your last few dollars in iris, instead, and start "chasing the rainbow." The returns on

the initial outlay are quite likely to run from three to four hundred per cent a year to be conservative. One quickly senses the thrill of a vast automatic dividend machine piling up surpluses in the backyard. Here indeed are riches, and the iris fan hoards them,—at least in the initial stages of his fever. It is during this phase, which may last anywhere from a few years to such a time when the property is completely overrun with iris that one symptom is almost universally observed. The embryo iris fan adheres to a doctrine that the greatest crime short of manslaughter is the wanton tossing out of a single viable iris rhizome, even if it be a borer-ridden nubbin!

It seems that a few iris fans never get beyond this stage. There is the “iris collector.” Little does he care if a variety is fifty years old and surpassed by many at the same price as long as it carries a different name from any in his collection. Unless possessed of considerable real property such a collector presents a sorry spectacle. Year after year he gathers the bargain-list waifs into the bosom of his garden until it is fairly ready to explode from a surfeit of iris. Each year he trims down his larger clumps to make room for a few new rhizomes to be tucked in somewhere—though it may take hours to find that coveted vacant spot amid the tangle of iris jungle. Such a fan may readily be identified by asking him how many varieties he possesses. He will give you the exact number, plus the number of doubtful varieties or “unknowns,” and will also produce a mimeographed list of his iris possessions beginning with *Alcazar* and ending perhaps with *Zua*. Should you meet him downtown in mid-December, the same battle-worn list will be in his inside coat pocket. Sure, it’s fun—but it’s just the first step.

His hoard of iris has given him a feeling of wealth, and having done so, beckons him on to the second stage of iris enjoyment. It may be labeled the “squandering phase.” At first reluctantly, then willingly, and at last passionately, he gives away roots to all who will take them. Perhaps he has come across a copy of Malthus, perhaps he has merely noticed his iris encroaching upon territory heretofore reserved exclusively for phlox or delphinium. At any rate, he has learned that the fecundity of Ellis Parker Butler’s guinea-pigs is as nothing compared to the performances set up year after year by *Dolly Madison*, *Rameses*, *Royal Beauty* or *Venus de Milo*. He suddenly realizes that he possesses something which may be given away magnanimously. His ego is in-

flated, and he feels a kinship with royalty. *Noblesse oblige*,—and no seeker after favors is ever turned away without the back seat of his car filled to overflowing with clumps of iris rhizomes. At one time I suspected that there must be a By-Law in the American Iris Society's Constitution requiring every member to give away a few of his least appealing yearly discards to his closest friends!

The third phase of iris enjoyment results in part from the satisfaction of a desire to excel others in some particular field. As such avocational excellence is a ready and powerful antidote to the many disappointments one meets in business and professional life, it can be of great value in building up not only the self-esteem of the individual, but his neighborhood or community prestige as well. Growing fine iris in one's backyard may serve this purpose with just as much effect and at considerably less expense as driving a Rolls-Royce out of the garage every morning. Witness the envy and admiration of neighbors for blocks around as they view the procession of enthusiasts into your garden to see your iris in June. In adult society, where physical prowess is minimized as a social asset except in a sort of second hand manner through the sport pages of the daily newspaper, other inducements must be presented before a hypercritical world will sit up and take notice. I presume to suggest that a really well planned and executed planting of fine iris with due consideration given background and interplanting with other simultaneously blooming perennials will perform this function admirably. The more so because it is so rare to find any such grouping.

One example of such a "living picture" that illustrates my feeling in the matter was arranged in the following strikingly beautiful manner: a large *Koster* Blue Spruce in the center of a circular bed served as an effective background for a grouping of fifty or more plants of lovely *Missouri*, punctuated here and there with specimen stalks of *Snow King*. Immediately in front of this clear violet blue mass grew lesser clumps of pure yellow *Éclador*, in front of which was repeated a slightly different shade of blue in a swath of *Wedgwood*. The edging of the border consisted of a dense band of *Hemerocallis Gold Dust*. A royal combination indeed, and one to bring an artist many miles to see! To conceive such a picture, to dream it, and then working out the combinations of color, height and blooming season, to paint the living picture with plants into a projected mosaic pattern of perfect color harmony, finally watching it bloom as in your original

mind's eye—such is to taste the glory of creativeness, the same rush of enthusiasm a great painter must feel on completion of his masterpiece, or the secret joy of a research worker finally tracking down, after years of effort, an answer to his problem.

To me this is the great fascination of iris as a hobby: *to paint living pictures with flowers*. All other reasons for growing iris pale into insignificance when compared to this sadly neglected phase of our hobby. Let others collect iris like postage stamps, or try to keep up with the "best" lists, or seek to drown their inhibitions in a tremendous sea of conglomerate iris—I wouldn't trade *one* of my small "living pictures" for ten acres of assorted iris, even if every one was of the vintage of '37.

At long last a fourth stage of iris enjoyment may be reached by a few hardy souls. After tiring of hoarding iris and then squandering them, of trying to have more of the "Hundred Best" than anyone else in town, or of trying to collect only those rating ninety or above, the FANCIER STAGE is reached. Technicalities of the show bench are here little regarded as of much importance, partly because the true fancier is too familiar with them, partly because he comes to a realization that the iris is most remarkable among all other plants for its versatility as a *garden flower*, not as an exhibition specimen. The term "*fancier*" in itself implies that one is in a CREATIVE mood in respect to the object cultivated, rather than in an iconoclastic humor. This originative motive may take the form of breeding iris towards some definite projected goal, or of creating new ways of enjoying iris through arranging existing varieties in new patterns and harmonies. In this way one can create living pictures that have never before been painted. Will anyone rise to state that such artistry is not as worthy as painting such a "picture" as "*Nude Descending a Staircase*"?

There is little doubt but that some individuals seem to be possessed of more artistic "sense" or "feeling for color" than others. While difficult to define, I have noticed its operation in certain people who visit my garden. One of these color-perceptive individuals used to come around nearly every day during blooming season. He would study my plantings a little and then, walking over to another section of the garden, would return with a bloom in his hand which he would hold near one of the stalks in the picture planting. "Look," he would say, "here's what we're after! A true complement in blue to this deep yellow here." An analysis of the two colors on the Birren Color Wheel showed he

was correct, but he had such an acute sense of color complementation that what to me would be a half-hour study in physics was to him scarcely more than a glance. The end result was the same.

I have heard it said that all iris varieties look well together, that Nature has so constructed their colors that they all "blend" well. To this teleological viewpoint my exclamation is "Applesauce!" if not "Horse-feathers!" Try *Rameses* next to *Pink Satin*. Put *Frieda Mohr* near *Vision*. Attempt to make brothers-in-the-bond of *Frivolité* and *Magenta*. If these combinations don't give you a rather sorry feeling in the pit of the stomach you are not "color-perceptive" (four out of five aren't), and you may do well to consult someone else to work out your color harmonies.

No two people are identically equipped in their visual apparatus to come to unvarying decisions on the harmony of any group of hues. Harmony heretofore has been a relative term expressing a certain fitness of things, a joining together of various elements into a more or less pleasing whole. But harmony is "going scientific" (what isn't, these days?), and we may expect in the not too distant future to be able to *prove* by color analysis whether our groupings are truly harmonious, and what shade or tint or what hue is missing in order to make them so. Only the mentally lazy will deride such a possibility, for the promise it holds will mean much to a better understanding of color values and should serve to promote a higher conception of color harmony everywhere. There are always a few artists who complain that too much research into the physical basis of color "spoils" their viewpoint. They would prefer to depend upon "inspiration" without effort. This is usually nothing but a confession that their "art" is a personal prerogative, an emotional foible of no consequence to anyone else in the world.

The psychological theories of color harmony propounded recently by Faber Birren in his "Color Dimensions" may prove to be very helpful to anyone wishing to work out his iris harmonies on any basis other than personal color preferences. Birren's work emphasizes the degree of variation of hues perceptible to the human eye rather than their variation in spectral degrees or wave-lengths. Without going into detailed analysis of his work, many valuable suggestions can be educed from it in arranging our iris more effectively. I would like to supply examples, using iris, of each of his three fundamental methods of attaining color harmony, not because there is anything so novel about these com-

binations, but merely because they serve so admirably to explain the "why," and more important, the "how" of harmony.

Harmony by *analogy* is secured by using differing tints and shades of the same or similar key hues. With lavender pink or mauve as such a hue, a combination of *Imperial Blush*, *Frieda Mohr*, *Fascination*, *Ambrosia* and *Mary Senni* make up a splendid harmony, pointed up by creams like *Winter Moon* or *Kalinga*. An analogous harmony in blue which I have tried out consists of *Shining Waters*, *Priestess*, *Black Wings*, *Summer Cloud*, *Royal Beauty* and *Wedgwood*. Among pink and yellow blends *Rameses* in back of *Golden Flare* and *Midgard* is effective, and in the red violets, *Labor* and *Magenta* are analogous.

Because of the still limited range of hues found in iris, harmony by *complementation* is possible only between the neighbors on the color circle of blue and yellow, respectively. Perhaps the most striking color harmonies of all can be formed of these primary and near-primary hues. An early-blooming representative of this type of harmony is *Pacific* and *Desert Gold* in the lighter tints, *Buto* and *King Midas* in the shades. Midseason complements are *Shining Waters* and *Phebus*. Later representatives are *Missouri* with *Éclador* and *Sensation* with *Pluie d'Or*. A liberal sprinkling of white with any of these combinations will still further heighten the contrast. Now, most of these combinations approach primary hues and are therefore quite bold. If we wish to diverge toward secondary hues, a more refined effect is possible. *Naranja* and a deep purple is an example. In lighter tints, *Jean Cayeux* and *Gloriole* are effective, but must be in fairly good light to be so. Altering our complementary axis across the color circle to the right of yellow-blue, *Magenta* and *Yellow Moon*, said to be one of Mr. Schreiner's onetime favorite combinations, appears harmonious, while if we swing our axis to the left, *Aline* and *Eros* harmonize. While white is invaluable in pointing up primary hues, creams like *Sweet Alibi* or *Golden Treasure* help with secondary hues.

Of the thirteen base hues of the Rational Color Circle which can easily be distinguished from one another, only six, or less than half, can be said to be represented in the genus iris, and it is doubtful whether this number will be appreciably increased in the future, for we are given by Nature a rather definite palette of hues with which to work: yellow plastids and flavones, various anthocyanins ranging from near-blue to reddish violet, possibly tannins of some sort, and green chlorophyll. No matter how these

component pigments are shaken up and recombined, I see no way open for the production of an iris flower of any of the seven *pure* hues not now represented in the iris. Mind you, I said PURE HUES. These are red, red-orange, orange, leaf, green-leaf, green and turquoise. They are invariable standard colors, and the Society would, to my mind, be perfectly as safe in offering ten thousand dollars, if it had it, for an iris of any such pure coloring, as the Dutch Government has been in offering a similar prize for a true blue tulip.

This should not be discouraging to hybridizers. "Reddish" iris are becoming more "reddish" all the time, and the limit does not seem to have been reached to the amount of blue pigment that can be extracted out of such a combination. Similarly various blends are reaching out towards a sort of "orange effect." But neither the true red nor the true orange of a practical colorist has yet even been approached. There are, of course, literally hundreds of new color effects still possible entirely within the range of chroma, tint and shade variations of the hues we are given to work with. It is with these that hybridizers will secure novel "colors" in the future.

Working with this rather restricted palette of colors, one feels that certain generalizations about color harmony in iris can be made which will help us to combine our plants with greater effectiveness. Examples of harmony by *complementation* have already been given for the various tints and shades of blue and yellow and their near relatives, also examples by *analogy* among the blues and mauves. Suppose, however, that we want more complicated color schemes, perhaps designed around some special variety for which we have a particular fancy. Certain rules can be laid down to help us here, too.

In the mauve pink class, I happen to have a special liking for *Imperial Blush* and *Pink Satin*, and have tried to build up a combination of other iris around them so as to enhance their color value, and to make them appear more "pink," more "alive" and less lavender. I found that this was achieved with remarkable success by the use of large clumps of cream-colored *Kalinga*, cream-white *Venus de Milo*, and smaller clumps of *Shining Waters* and other very clear blues. Weak, pale, pastel tints are apt to look washed out and muddy when used either alone or with strong colors, whereas cream or warm white or very clear blue of approximately the same *value* sets them off just right. To avoid

making pink-lavender look too lavender, it is important to omit all companions with a purplish tinge.

Purples and violets are extremely difficult to handle in any other way than by analogy, or by setting them off with very deep yellow, or yellow blends. *Varese* and *Golden Hind* approach the latter solution successfully.

Blues and near-blues appear brighter and bluer when combined with yellows, creams, whites, or yellow-pink blends, and these rather contrasting colors are softened considerably when placed in partial shade.

So-called "red" iris are perhaps best treated by combining them with other "reds" of varying shades and tones. Hard brassy yellows may be used with them, but not purples, if you wish to emphasize their redness. Similarly the brown-toned variegatas fit in here. Since green is complementary to red, dark green foliage serves as a perfect background for red-toned iris, whereas greyish blue-green is ideally fitted to fill the same function with creams, yellows and blues.

Yellow lends warmth and brilliance to the garden picture, but must be matched in tone with the colors it is to go with. Use pale yellow or cream with pale tints of pink or blue, darker yellow with darker blues or purples. Thus my *Imperial Blush* is lovely with pale *Phebus*, but is pushed off the map by *Golden Hind*, and conversely the latter makes the deep purple *Wotan* glow much more richly than would a pale yellow. Orange with purple finds its split complement in dark green foliage. *Legend* with oriental poppy *Olympia*, together with the waxy dark green foliage of Japanese Yew is an example. Some orange tones are also effective with bronzy red-purples—*Naranja* with *Deputé Nomblot*.

Perhaps the least understood and most universally misused color of all is white. And yet it is of the utmost value and renders great service in many ways. It may separate warring colors, set off pale tints, lighten up an otherwise dingy grouping, or divide the border into separate color pictures. Large masses of it are dignified and give character, while carefully arranged smaller clumps may serve some special function related to near neighbors. To simply drop in a note of white here and there throughout the border, however, is often to create a jumpy, jarring effect at variance with the rest of the picture. Among iris, white appears either quite pure and snowy, or else tinged with either blue or yellow along the haft or style arms. As a rule, the bolder the color to

be set off, the purer the white should be, whereas the cream whites are more useful with secondary colors, and the bluish whites have the least value of all. About the only situation I have found where pale blue *Priestess* would fit is in with *Ambrosia*, in comparative shade. Creamy whites like *Easter Morn*, *Joyance*, *Golden Treasure* and *Parthenon* serve their purpose admirably when planted either with light blues or delicate mauves. Here they emphasize the delicacy of almost any tint, and add an ethereal quality to a flower that left alone would look anemic and washed out. Creams are a rather recent color development in iris, and we need more of them. Such introductions as *Doré* and *Sylvia Lent* serve to secure even more interesting variations in this line. I have rarely seen an iris garden that could not be made twice as effective by the judicious use of more whites and more creams.

How well some fanciers have grasped these principles, either by intuition or study, is best illustrated by citing a few of the noteworthy groupings seen in various gardens during the last few years.

In Mrs. Pattison's lovely Freeport garden grew a striking analogous triad of *Spring Maid*, *Coralie* and *Dauntless*, located in such a position as to reflect light upon their various tints and shades of red much as sunlight streaming through a curtained window picks up and enriches the tones of an oriental rug. A wider, more complemental harmony was thoughtfully achieved by *Royal Beauty*, *Alta California*, *Summer Cloud*, *Wambliska* and *Blackamoor*. Only a color-sensitive individual could plan and execute such a harmony, and yet almost everybody who saw it seemed to sense its fitness.

Mrs. Charles Whiting is another fancier whose combinations have been most pleasing. *No-we-ta* with *Blue Hill* in front of a pink *villosa* lilac, *Eros* with *Blue Triumph*, *Midgard* with *Realm*,—these are typically "feminine" harmonies, according to some colorists. However, another great favorite of hers is *Golden Light* with *Thuratus*, surely a bold contrast, but still a subtle one, since both members are of secondary hues.

Mrs. Hires has treaded dangerous ground while seeking something to go with the "art shades," but emerges successfully with foils of clear-toned blue and red-purple for those most difficult of all colors. *Genevieve Serouge* and *Lux* are suggested as neighbors for *Twilight Blue* or *Shining Waters*.

Mr. David Hall envisions this combination: With a background of shrubs or evergreens a large clump of the new yellow iris *Jasmania*. In front of this a clump of *Venus de Milo* flanked by oriental poppy *Tanager*, the border to consist of *Hemerocallis Dr. Regel*.

Mr. McKee, as befits his high station in the affairs of the Society, remains neutral as to any "favorite" grouping, but names this combination as being most pleasing: *Jerry, Nordic* and *Mary Geddes*, in front of green shrubbery. This must be indeed a rich harmony as I try to imagine it, and in varying conditions of light what a rhapsody in rich tones!

MRS. SILAS WATERS

In season or out, it is a joy to visualize the charm of color in the iris garden.

Sometimes I think of my group of Los Angeles with a mass of *Sensation* is the most ethereal planting I have. The color value of *Sensation* adds greatly in many ways in bringing our hidden beauty in other irises. With *Dolly Madison* and *Ophelia* it takes unto itself added charm while enhancing theirs.

President Pilkington is lovely wherever planted, but the tints and blends are richer when it is near a blue like *Sensation* or *Shining Waters* or *Sierra Blue*.

Another picture before me is a grouping of *Deputé Nomblot* with *Helios*—the soft ivory tones in the latter being a fine foil for the rich copper red with its glints of gold dust in the former.

Coralie is lovely with *True Delight* but then the last named is a "delight" in almost every place it goes.

Last year *Jean Cayeux* was a picture with *Helios* and *Sir Michael* nearby.

I have the feeling that *Marquita* should be associated with creamy whites and am trying it this year with *Easter Morn* and will be interested to learn what others like with it.

The longer I grow irises the more I appreciate that we all can, if we but will, "paint pictures with the pigments of the Almighty."

And so it goes. What a great deal more pleasure one can derive from iris by creating such novel and harmonious living pictures.

(May we not expect that others will send in their favorite groupings?—Ed.)

The difficulties of organizing a group of iris so that they will perform symphonically, as it were, can be overcome in only one way that I know of, and that is by keeping careful records of the actual color, the relative blooming time, average height and floriferousness of the individual actors-to-be in the projected iris pageant. Trade descriptions of these features may or may not be adequate, although such information is gradually becoming incorporated into more and more catalogs. I believe Mr. Schreiner's supplies more of this essential information than any other I happen to know of, and he is to be congratulated upon this painstaking work. Well do I remember my purchase, one year, of several rhizomes each of King Midas and Black Wings—hoping that they would bloom together in what I believed would be a striking combination of old gold and frosted midnight blue. I found, of course, that the *King* had had his day and abdicated before *Black Wings* spread her bloom upon the scene.

My present procedure is to grow new varieties in a test plot for a few years while I record their chief characteristics. Then each summer I prepare a small piece of ground with suitable background for the next season's chief display, having spent various idle moments the winter before in determining what combinations of plants I wish to use, how many of each and in what order. To those who think this too much bother, my reply would be simply that it seems to me to be worth the extra effort. The result is a symmetrical splash of concentrated bloom all at the same time without which any attempt at harmony is quite abortive. If one mixes very late bloomers and very early in the same small patch the flowering clumps may well be so far separated at any one time during the blooming season that their total effect as a piece of color harmony is lost, and they stand out as isolated specimens only, unless viewed at a distance, when the distinguishing character of the flower is lost.

I hope this rather long discourse will arouse others to the realization that iris culture has almost infinite possibilities for advance along innumerable lines. As a science, it is yet in gestation. As an art it is hardly born. But as a hobby it fulfills every requirement of the man or woman who enters it in the proper creative frame of mind. Thus may iris fanciers plan and dream, plant and cultivate, painting the bare earth with bright tapestries of living

color. It begins so modestly. It becomes so engrossing. Like all appetites, it must be curbed, but gains in passion at its very restraint. Anyway, it's fun!

CHROMOSOMANIA IRIDIS

J. MARION SHULL

■ I wonder if the iris fraternity has not gone just a bit chromosome-mad. This recent furore over diploid, triploid and polyploid, mouth- and eye-filling scientific terminology, must all be very impressive and incomprehensible, and therefore very wonderful, to the just plain iris layman. No doubt all this knowledge, this scrutinizing of the innermost secrets, of our favorite varieties is very interesting in retrospect. It may sometimes help the most knowing ones to understand a small part of what has happened—after it has happened. Interesting for its own sake of course, but just how can knowledge of the number of chromosomes possessed by both parents be of practical help in realizing the universal dream of the newly arrived iris seedling-grower, the production of an iris completely unlike and superior to every other iris ever produced?

So far as I can see, mere knowledge of chromosome number has contributed nothing to the production of any fine iris. To the breeder whose ideal is to be expressed only in millions or billions it might serve as a partially reliable safeguard against wasted time trying to mate incompatibles, but most of us haven't succumbed to the present day fad of thinking in billions.

Where chromosomes remain normal, apparently the only effect of increased numbers is increase of size, each cell having to accommodate a larger household so that the assembled households, completing the village, let us say, necessarily cover a greater area. Result, a larger flower, but nothing more. Query: Is Buechleys Giant just possibly a dionnequintuploid? I have recently seen it with a spread that must have been eight inches—but with little else to recommend it.

After all, it is not so much the number of chromosomes possessed as those other things that do sometimes happen to chromosomes, things hinted at in the terms "lethals," "crossing over," etc., that are responsible for the "breaks" that from time to time have given a new direction to the development of the breeder's

work. These things are not amenable to count under the microscope. More than that, they are largely of the nature of accidents over which the breeder can have no directive control. The breeder may shake up the chromosomes by the use of X-rays in such a way that if he falls short of killing them the percentage of such accidents may be enlarged, but even so he has no directive power over the changes brought about. Under such circumstances there are likely to be a larger number of so-called "breaks," but there is no assurance that they may not all be undesirable monstrosities instead of the longed-for improvements.

I suspect that all this pother about the number of chromosomes is really of small importance. When we contemplate the possible mathematical variations in the combining of even such a modest number as a pair of twelves, it must be evident that the hundreds of new iris breeders, working with their thousands of seedlings, have not yet exhausted the possibility of arriving at some new combination!

Anyhow, I for one don't want the sure-fire, easy seed producer. In fact, when a variety is indicated as readily producing amply-filled pods to any mongrel pollen that may come bumbling along, my suspicion is aroused and I shun that variety as probably altogether too plebian. I may be wrong in this, for it would take years of steady toil to demonstrate beyond a shadow of doubt the truth or falsity of the theory. No one has done this, and just possibly it isn't worth doing, but I still cling to the idea that perhaps the difficult breeder is a little more complex, a little more out of the usual, perhaps in a number of ways, and that while you get relatively few seeds the chance of unusual parental combinations, in other words new "breaks," is thereby enhanced.

Personally I would stake much more on the ancestral picture of the varieties chosen for parentage together than upon any amount of knowledge of the chromosome number of any or all of them, for it is not the number, but the character and quality of what lies in the chromosomes that counts toward production of superior offspring. If the genes of the pairing chromosomes complement each other instead of merely duplicating, there will of necessity be not only divergence from but improvement over the parents. Over this we have no immediate or direct control, can only judge of it by what has gone before as indicated by what I have chosen to term the "ancestral picture"—a composite of the ancestry back

as many generations as are knowable. Everything present in that ancestry may still be present to some degree in the latest offspring. Fortunately in the iris world we are not handicapped as in the human or animal world, or in the world of annual plants, for we can retain desirable ancestral members indefinitely, can therefore know their every characteristic at first hand without depending either on hearsy or on ancient history. With such possibilities in reach, why should we breed blindly, breed any parent of unknown antecedents with another equally unknown, moved thereto perhaps by the mere fact that the chosen seed parent outrivals the Dionnes in fecundity?

I have seen two worthless corns deliberately mated to produce a magnificent crop, simply because each parent supplied to the other just what was lacking in that other. Jointly the pairing chromosomes provided everything needful to excellence. And so with iris. It is the complementary relationship of pairing chromosomes that gives us our desirable new combinations, whether of color, form or placement, of vigor or habit of growth, and in these things mere reduplication of similar chromosomes has no important part.

IRIS OR IRISES—SHALL WE CHANGE THE DICTIONARY?

J. MARION SHULL

■ Encouraged in my youth to acquire the dictionary habit, with correct usage of English always a goal to be striven for, it is still with some difficulty that I adjust myself to what seems a lower level of excellence. Of course, no language in actual use is ever finished, is ever even static, until after long years of neglect it gravitates to the status of a "dead language," and even then it may be the subject of very lively disputes and differences. Fortunately the English language is a long way from being a dead language and its glory lies in its superabundance of words, words garnered from every conceivable source, words capable of expressing such delicate shades of difference that no other language can compare with it. Only a virile, exuberant, widely tolerant language would have incorporated thus within its own body such diverse elements in such tremendous volume, and I for one have little patience with any attempt to curb its continued growth.

Dictionaries and dictionary making may be approached from two points of view. One of these, dictator fashion, sets up the lexicon as an authority to which all are presumed to conform. The other makes no claim for itself other than as an impartial recording of usage. As a matter of fact, every dictionary wavers between these two points, sometimes on one side and again on the other. Quite obviously there is a certain amount of debased usage to which the dictionary can not be expected to defer, but who shall decide at what point usage shall be declared ignorant and therefore properly to be ignored, or sufficiently learned to be admitted somewhat reluctantly to the body of the elect? Are we to settle it merely on a majority basis as apparently did the American Gladiolus Society when it chose to change the pronunciation of its main subject from the learned and more elegant usage of the past to the inelegant usage of the present? Shall the dictionary make no effort to stem the tide? Shall a more numerous but less educated society, such as democratic institutions based solely on majorities tend to produce, be the sole guide for the lexicographer? Or must he still struggle with the question of "best" usage, however that may be determined, rather than accept majority usage and let it go at that? But you may ask what this had to do with the A.I.S. anyhow.

To answer that I raise the question particularly with regard to the plural of iris. Nowhere have I found dictionary support for the use, which seems to be growing, of the form "iris" for both singular and plural. There may be no logic in such usage, no historic warrant for it either directly or collaterally, but the fact remains that it is being freely used in this way. The same is true of gladiolus and probably of every other plant name ending in "us" or "is." Shall we openly accept it and ask the next edition of Webster and the Standard to record the fact?

There need be no insurmountable barriers to such use. All of us use without difficulty the words of similar status, such as sheep, deer, etc. There is no lack of clearness or understanding if my neighbor says "I have an iris" or "I have twenty-five iris in my garden."

Let us see then who uses "iris" as the plural, unconsciously perhaps, to get rid of the somewhat awkward form "irises"—gladioluses is still worse, wherever we may choose to place the accent. Well, the catalog makers are apparently the most con-

spicuous users of iris in the plural, but many of them are by no means consistent and occasionally run in an "irises" even where their prevailing use is otherwise.

Consulting past BULLETINS of the A.I.S. as the most accessible source of information regarding American usage, I find no less than three advertisers in BULLETIN No. 1 use iris as the plural. In BULLETIN No. 2, page 33, G. H. Francis, though generally using "irises," lapses to the extent of saying "Spanish iris do well * * *."

By the arrival of BULLETIN No. 3 we find, "In the old days the iris were massed * * *," and "the iris have been moved," these two citations, by the way, from a report by President Wister, though he uses "irises" elsewhere in the same article. Spanning the years from 1921 to BULLETIN No. 61, President Everett speaks of "wild iris which spread out from the banks," while in the following article by Stanley C. Clark we are told that "the English iris have done remarkably well * * * in Idaho."

In the same BULLETIN Andrews asks "Do we raise iris for their expression of beauty * * *?" Thorup also, page 36, says "Our iris were fine." Is it necessary to labor the matter further? Are these, and the many others that might be cited, sufficiently representative of "good" usage to warrant recognition from the dictionary makers, or are they to be classed with those whose ways of speech or of writing are to carry no weight with the lexicographer?

Maryland.

THE ADVENTURES OF A NOVICE IN IRIS LAND

MINERVA MONROE

■ How can I describe my first visit to the iris gardens of our friends in Southern California? My husband had gone forth each year to gather greater knowledge in this wide field, and returning told such tales of what he had seen that I decided to be included in this aesthetic feast. But in spite of all the surprising reports I had heard, I was not prepared for the festival awaiting me.

Our first hostess was Mrs. Lothrop of Los Angeles. Her temporary garden is essentially a breeder's workshop. It is filled with well grown stud and seedlings of one year's growth, Mrs. Lothrop having moved part of her stock from San Bernardino last year. All gardens fill us with delight, but here we found our interest immediately engaged by the new seedlings. One of these, No. 36-7, is a superlatively fine dark red-purple iris, the varying tones of which give the dusky blooms a rich brilliant effect. This seedling is the result of a cross between Esteban, a Lothrop seedling, and Modoc, Esteban being out of Mauna Loa. A refined Modoc has thus been produced, darker and richer, with larger flowers and finer form and texture. It is a handsome iris of great dignity and promise.

Nos. 36-16 and 36-17. One cannot imagine the beauty of these two seedlings from one pod, out of Orifero by Dykes, a heavenly light blue forty-eight inches tall and a wax yellow fifty-six inches tall. The surpassing quality of these two dreams suggested the superb perfection of the incomparable Michaud, this being the more apparent in the blue, due to the color. These two irises are identical in general excellence and in each the efflorescence seemed sprinkled with sparkling frost, lending an exquisite radiance to the flowers. The picture presented seemed but a transitory vision. The blue iris has shown little or no tendency to fade; and if it proves generally reliable with us, it will be a decided addition to iris in Southern California, as the delicate color of Loetitia Michaud fades badly in our intense sun.

Several groups of pink seedlings were particularly interesting. Some warm salmon pinks had the most intriguing color combinations and in their general perfection were equal to many in their

class now in commerce. One seedling had the most intense pink tone in the falls we had ever seen, the color being positively raucous. Unfortunately the standards had a bluish tinge. But the warm pinks were really lovely with their mellow shading of pink and delicate yellow. Great possibilities could be seen in these irises and a decided advance has been made towards a true pink. However, all these seedlings fell far short of Mrs. Lothrop's ideal and have been relegated to the stud in an endeavor to fix their wondrous colors in a really fine iris.

The next morning we journeyed with Mrs. Lothrop to Pasadena, where we were most cordially welcomed by Mrs. Reibold.

As we left the car, we noticed a row of California wild irises in yellow, lavender, purple and pink, edging the lawn. Evidently they were quite content to grow there with no special care or attention. Passing through the garden gate, we saw spread out before us a gorgeous panorama of color. Thousands of flowers were clamoring for attention, each vying with his fellows for first place. A more exhilarating picture cannot be imagined. At the left, extending the entire length of the garden, was a bed of the older varieties of iris, some actually primitive in iris land, but so well grown that one was curious to know their names. They were old favorites not entirely forgotten.

Although the sky was overcast, *Welcome*, a Reibold production, with its light yellow blooms gave a hint of California sunshine. Very floriferous and growing vigorously, this fine iris of glistening texture should indeed be "*Welcome*" in any garden. In a bed of one year plants *Burning Bronze*, *Cheerio* and *Welcome* formed a magnificent group of gorgeous color, *Welcome* growing equally as well as in the older planting. An entrancing blue bi-tone, *Blue Dusk*, a Reibold seedling, was growing sturdily in a four year clump. This production is medium in height, excellent in form and substance, and furnished with rich velvety falls. The lavish display of flowers denoted a vigorous grower and great increaser, a truly superlative garden iris where the dark blue note is needed.

Hoogiana, growing in a huge clump and lovely as always with its steel blue coloring, fine satin finish, and heavy magnolia substance, was indescribably beautiful. Unfortunately the onocyclus, regelias and their hybrids among other species, for which Mrs. Reibold's garden is famous in this part of the country, had finished their blooming period. The Reibold *Fulva* hybrids in

rose, pink and orange had almost passed their prime, but enough bloom remained for us to see their attractive colors.

In a bed of Dominions, Cardinal stood forth conspicuously, grown to perfection, the best we had ever seen in Southern California. Mrs. Valerie West, Sir Micheal, one of my favorites, and Tenebrae were all equally well grown and presented an impressive group of rich color. Across the path, Mrs. Lothrop introduced me to Red Dominion (Dr. Ayres), which my husband had seen and told me of last year. This marvelous iris dominated its section of the garden. Very well grown and in perfect form, it stood forth boldly in all its sumptuous beauty, announcing to the admiring throng that notwithstanding the weakness of humans for their special favorites, it was resolved to attain its rightful place in iris history.

An English introduction, Dog Rose, was the best dark rose pink we had seen. It made a brilliant note of color to bid us goodbye. I left the experts to their measuring and wandered in the midst of all this wondrous beauty fashioned by the loving thought and care of those who had labored that they might give pleasure and inspiration to their friends.

That same afternoon we visited the Millikens' Iris Gardens, which need no introduction to iris growers. Charmingly welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Milliken, who received us at the entrance despite the many demands upon their time, we began our tour of inspection. One was immediately impressed by the vigorous growth and sturdy appearance of the plants. Strong healthy fans waved bravely in the soft breeze. Gift (Lothrop), an entrancing iris and one of the special favorites in our own gardens. The standards are a lustrous brown red with falls of deep rich carmine velvet, the color carrying well up to the haft and beard with no noticeable reticulations. It is a vigorous grower and lavish bloomer. The lovely flowers are gracefully poised on well branched stems. The blooms presented an appearance of unusual elegance and most exquisite finish. I trust I am not being indiscreet in repeating the opinion of an iris authority: "Gift reminds me of a perfectly groomed woman of great distinction." High praise indeed.

Once more we had the joy of admiring Red Dominion. This handsome iris was growing equally as well as in Mrs. Reibold's garden. The rich red coloring and deep velvety appearance pro-

duced a most striking effect. It is a dominion of dominions, retaining all the good qualities of the race but with greatly improved form and stem. Conspicuous for its brilliancy, this iris is worthy of the highest praise and honor.

Royal Salute (Milliken) and Sierra Blue (Essig) formed two magnificent groups, growing luxuriously and in their usual good form.

Royal Salute is probably one of the best blue purple iris, and was very effective in the garden, making an outstanding note of rich color. We were much impressed by Mt. Cloud (Milliken), for this iris is simply enormous in size, quite surpassing belief. The blooms are gracefully borne on stems of sixty inches. Surely it is a super giant in white iris. The blue white flowers are of generally excellent quality and of an unusual texture, the falls particularly giving the appearance of heavy white satin. The effect is truly regal. China Maid, an outstanding pink, and China Boy, both Milliken originations, had passed their blooming period, much to our regret. Burning Bronze, appropriately named, and Cheerio, "a flame in the garden"—both Dr. Ayres—are deep toned, rich, handsome irises. A good natured discussion arose between the members of our party as to which was the redder. Mr. Milliken took a fall from each flower and after juggling them about behind his back produced them for the final decision. But the laughter and the burst of conversation that followed the sleight of hand hid the verdict from one. Both of these iris were noticeable for their brilliancy, similarity of color, and general good qualities; but of the two Burning Bronze was our favorite.

A large planting of J. D. Neis (Neis) of *fulva* coloring and *hexagona* substance with its wide heavy petals of golden bronze made an impressive display. Dark Morass (Neis) was blooming beside its sister seedling and, with its rich royal purple blooms of immense size, formed a wonderfully effective picture. A marvelous clump of a pale blue spuria seedling (Milliken), with a large conspicuous orange signal on the wide petals, was blooming lavishly. Nearby was a creamy white spuria seedling—another Milliken production—of general ochroleuca coloring with narrow pointed petals, very much frilled and ruffled, and showing the orange signal delicately.

The Milliken Iris Gardens can boast of many promising seedlings, some of which will probably be introduced in due time. Around a turn in the garden path we came to a bed of lovely

things, the table iris, the first I had seen. The appealing tenderness of these little blooms was affecting. I glanced at our friends and found that unconsciously they were all smiling in homage to these diminutive perfections. Picture an iris bloom in small scale decidedly not of the dwarf class as we know it, but a perfect miniature in form and proportion, blooming merrily on a slender graceful well branched stem of approximately eighteen inches. A more refreshing vision can hardly be imagined. Pee Wee, a tiny adorable pure white flower, and Kinglet, a small exquisite deep golden yellow of solid color, both Williamson productions. No iris garden is complete without these adorable little flowers! And in a nosegay for one's lady love, what more enchanting than these dainty blooms with their shy quaint dignity?

Our next call was made upon our good friends Dr. and Mrs. Williams of Patton, about six miles from San Bernardino. This garden is truly delightful, with many secluded nooks and corners sheltered by the flowering shrubs and inviting me to rest. When we were there, the orchid tree, *Bauhinia purpurea*, was in full bloom; the rose arbors were laden with flowers; and the artistic tree roses were filling the air with their fragrance. I gathered that Dr. Williams' favorites are the beardless iris and they seem to reward his devotion by growing in luxurious fashion. Planted around a pool was Kildea, a Williams' seedling. It is an apogon of the lovely soft creamy yellow so much needed in our California gardens, since the warm color blends far better with the brilliant sunshine than do the cold whites.

Planted around a second pool, we found the blue white *miraculosa* and a warm white *citricristata alba* and *moricolor*, the latter a deep rich red, lending a dash of accent. In the foreground was a group of three yellow *fulvas* from various sources; a particularly attractive and happy arrangement. The most outstanding display in the garden was mirrored in a third pool. In the background were the *laevigata* and *kaempferi* species seedlings in lovely tones of blue purple. These were planted in boxes and pots and were disposed in the best possible manner. These iris were grown from seed furnished through the courtesy of Dr. Reed of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. It is astonishing the variety of form and color which can be produced from species seed, selfed. Too much stress cannot be given to the fact that this type of iris should be more widely distributed and freely grown. It is decidedly the most attractive in the class of Japanese species. Its

white, and red purple, and blue purple flowers, growing on sturdy stems, lend themselves admirably to any flower arrangement, being especially charming and graceful in a Japanese arrangement. In the foreground of this third planting was a great group of *laevigata Colchesterensis*. Blue purple and white mottled, imperfectly describe their color pattern—a combination producing a showy effect in any flower. These iris were growing in the open ground to a height of thirty inches, being perfectly at home in the rich peaty soil, watered by the overflow from the pool. This is truly an achievement and attests to the careful attention of a capable gardener. The entire group around this pool was in full bloom at the time we saw it and was a gorgeous display. A Williams seedling, No. 10-34, is a deep rich royal blue toned apogon, very attractive and well grown, as were all of Dr. Williams' irises. The signal is of deep chrome, and unusually large and brilliant, and is carried well out towards the point. I must mention Rose Lou, a garden name for an unusually lovely rose colored Louisiana seedling of unknown origin. Outside the garden, we saw still another Williams production—a wonderfully attractive group of No. 1-36, out of Sweet Alibi by No. 1-C-7. It is a lovely steel blue, almost a self, of good substance, with a very fine silky finish, self reticulated. The flowers are well spaced on two branched stems. The falls curve inward as in many onco cyclus, this being a quarter breed, a particularly attractive and well known one year plant. We also saw Sweet Alibi, Sequoia and other outstanding varieties of bearded irises. Dolly Madison was magnificent. One stalk over three feet tall was in bloom.

Dr. and Mrs. Williams very kindly drove us all over to Redlands to White Hill, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence G. White. This was a visit I had long anticipated and we all had a delightful time. A charmingly arranged path on either side of which were naturalistic plantings of flowering shrubs and annuals led from the house to the iris garden. Passing under some old trees we saw a lovely picture spread before us. I hardly knew in which direction to look first. Lack of space prevents me from describing all the iris we saw, so I will confine myself to a few of Mr. White's productions.

Lucre, a lemon chrome self (Ridgway), is an iris of great richness, the color being carried well up to the brilliant orange beard. This strikingly vivid effect was a luminous note in the garden. The gorgeous flowers are carried on wildly branched stems of fifty

inches. A very strong grower and lavish increaser, unusually floriferous, Lucre has a blooming season uncommonly long. Last year my husband saw a two year plant which carried fifteen stalks, all of which were in bloom, standing fifty-two inches tall. Still another two year plant flaunted thirty-six bloom stalks to the amazed beholders. A stunningly picturesque effect could be obtained by the use of this intense yellow note with a background planting of delphinium and delicate textured shrubs.

Incognito, a seedling—standards litho purple, falls cotinga purple (Ridgway)—is an imposing iris of great dignity and richness, the large flowers of heavy substance being carried on tall stems. The general color effect is varying shades of red and blue purple with black overtone. We watched a fresh bloom unfolding. It was indescribably beautiful in its mellow coloring and lustrous velvety finish.

“A great, swashbuckling cavalier clad in purple silken tapestry” is a fitting description of Mohrson. A compelling iris. It is fashioned of deep rich varying tones of violet, the standards delicately ruffled, the falls closely veined, and the beard showing the unusual effect of purple sprinkled with gold dust. The enormous flowers are of a very heavy substance with wide petals of great depth of color and texture, the whole producing the sumptuous illusion of silk and velvet. A one year plant carrying twelve bloom stalks forty-five inches tall proves the iris a strong grower and riotous bloomer. Mr. White was the first hybridizer to meet with success in breeding Wm. Mohr.

Chosen was still another one of Mr. White’s visions which we were privileged to view at close range in all its glorious perfection. Surely another sun had arisen! So bewildering was the effect of these amazingly huge golden yellow flowers, of excellent substance, form and proportion. Carried with rare charm on tall well branched stems, this iris will make a tremendous sensation when all this magnificence is spread before the public eye.

Fiesta gives joy and happiness to all who see it. The large flowers are perfectly formed with broad rounding petals of fine texture and excellent substance. The standards are honey-yellow flushed with mauve; the falls are orange cinnamon with a hint of vinaceous violet; the beard is of an intense orange. This intriguing combination tends to give a golden glow at the center of the flowers. Viewing this iris from a distance so that the intricacies

of the color pattern are not apparent, one sees a brilliant burnt orange. The landscape effect, however, is a soft orange.

At the lower end of the garden, we joined Mrs. Lothrop, Mr. White and the Williams, gathered about a new pink seedling. And mighty attractive we found it. Something quite new in pinks, the flowers are large, with the iridescence of the Aurora. One might also compare it to a piece of exquisite pink onyx. The colors are in no way blended, but separated by veins which diffuse the delicate shades. Pink predominates; but there is a mere suggestion of blue and the faintest illusion of yellow in certain lights. It has the garden characteristics of the pogon but the delicate coloring of the oncocyclus. The general color effect is a warm pink. It is really a lovely iris and I should have been quite content to have brought a rhizome home in the pocket of my best coat.

Mr. White's iris garden is ideally located on a northern slope. The delicate blooms are protected from the intense sun by lath and big meshed wire netting. As one stands at the entrance, a vivid mass of iris blooms is displayed as far as one can see. This gorgeous picture is supported on the east by shrubs through which came glimpses of the gay planting about the house. On the west is the riotously blooming rose garden filled with hundreds of the choicest varieties. At the foot of the garden one looks over a well planted canyon and across a wide valley to the distant San Bernardino Mountains, where the late snow glistens and gleams in the draws. White Hill is indeed a great estate and I am anticipating another visit there some day, when I may again stroll along its picturesque paths and again enjoy the delightful hospitality extended by its host and hostess.

California.

NAMES!

CHARLES E. F. GERSDORFF

■ There seems to be quite a general impression amongst certain breeders that suitable names for their productions are totally pre-empted, and there are others who would raid the existing check lists on the claim that many may never be introduced and therefore should again be made usable, who advance theories that no member should be granted the privilege of naming and registration, which is actually the duty of all breeding members, unless absolute assurance can be given that introduction will follow, forgetting too in their zeal that the naming of new plants is a right

inherently vested in the breeder thereof. Such a policy would result in a breakdown of registration, for it is only because of being impressed that it is their DUTY to register varieties when named that your registration committee has built up the system to its present high standard of nearly perfect cooperation of all the world's breeders with whom we have had more or less direct contact.

Realizing that some breeders are too (?) busy to give up a few moments of their time in hunting out suitable names which they may use, or are actually too lazy in that direction, or lack imagination, or something, I have the temerity to present herewith lists of names available at this date. The total of names set down by me at this time was 160, and out of these only 9 were found to have been appropriated before this date, leaving 151 still available. That they may not think this completes the list of names which may be found available let me draw their attention to the fact that these 160 names were written down by me in but two evenings, the sources being Washington's daily papers and current magazines, besides a fertile imagination, and I confess to the latter without a blush. And now, let no breeder say he has less time to hunt out names than the writer. Every paper, magazine, novel, or other source that passes my eyes, gives up a name or more to be jotted down for possible future use as plant names. I must warn members, however, that I will not permit any of them to raid this list. Let them go hunt their own. One can delve through ancient history to present times, all countries and peoples and their languages for suitable names, and cover many other subjects besides working on the imagination for name combinations, transpositions and fanciful ones.

There are undoubtedly breeders who lean strongly to everyday Americanisms. I have in mind such as Black Huzzy, Blind Baggage, Alley Cat, Copper, Cop, Flat-foot, Hot Dog, Peroxide Blonde, Redhead Jane, Yellow Cur and Yellow Streak. Some may seem far fetched as plant names, and some I am sure are quite appropriate. However, lest some shock the sensibilities too much, may I then suggest names from the race-tracks and their horses, like Black Devil, Brown Witch, Belmont, Black Helen, Bright Bubble, Hialeah, High Socks, Hot Shot, Jamaica, Kentucky Derby, Pimlico, Playaway, Sunchance, Sweet Chariot, Some Good and Statecraft, every one of which can be applied to iris fittingly.

One may turn to humor as in Whizz Bang and Vanity Fair; or

to music as in Jazz Band, The Continental, Dancing Spirit, Dancing Girl, Enrico Caruso, Floral Poetry, Isle of Capri, Johann Strauss, March King, Mme. Melba, Old Kentucky Home, Old Black Joe, Richard Wagner, Reginald de Koven, Swanee River, St. Louis Blues, Waltz King and Victor Herbert; or authors and poets, as for instance Poe, Terhune, Holmes, Cooper and Whittier. Now are these not very nice names?

Or let us select either of these birds—Black Crow, Chicken Hawk, Starling, Turkey Buzzard, or even Love Bird and Peace Dove; or of other than race-horses such as Dobbin and Old Gray Mare; and then turn financial with such as Credit System and Paper Profits.

For the historically inclined there are Athabasca, Buffalo Bill, Burgoyne, Cornwallis, Crazy Horse, Crow, Daniel Boone, De Kalb, Geronimo, George Brandt, Huron, Kit Carson, Kosciusko, Lafayette, Mohegan, Mandan, Merimec, Osage, Pueblo, Piute, Pima, Pulaski, Sitting Bull, Seneca, Tonti, Von Steuben and Wild Bill Hickock—Indian tribes and warriors, revolutionary leaders, frontiersmen and places in this country.

For those not too dry I would suggest Four Roses, Old Crow, Overbrook, Old Overholt and Seagrams; from card games Simple Honors and Grand Slam, and from pyrotechnic displays that of Roman Candle. Or why not turn to the fraternal orders like Free Mason, Knights of Columbus, Knight of Honor, Knight of Pythias, Mystic Shrine, Odd Fellows, Redmen and Woodmen. Another field as yet unworked is that of auto makes, as Dodge, Ford, Hupmobile and Reo.

Drawing on the imagination for fanciful ones or otherwise, I reach a happy climax in Crepe de Chine, Dress Parade, Display, Dashing, Dark Lady, Esthetic Repast, Gracious Gift, Golden Glitter, Grand Way, Guiding Light, Grandmas Girl, Little Chum, Love Pirate, Magic Gift, Brilliant Baby, Old Rogue, Redhead, Rustic Lassie, Silken Dress, Sweetie—and strange as it may seem to some of you, many of the nicest of these are names of racing horses; and now in a final windup I take in geographical names like these places—Barnstable Light (Mass.), Doonholm (England), Mombassa and Makassar (Africa), Salween (river in Tibet) and Shugden Gompa (town in Tibet), and these people, Ghurka (India) and Senegalese (Africa).

Sources of names are illimitable.

MY YELLOW SEEDLING

F. M. HANES

■ At the Hartford meeting of the Society—a meeting made thoroughly delightful by Mrs. Kellogg's efficiency and generous, laughing hospitality—Mr. Morrison requested that the members write more often for the BULLETIN. "Just write of things that interest you personally," said Mr. Morrison. Now, I have a yellow iris seedling that surely does interest me personally, and I want to talk about it.

Like the rest of the iris hybridizing world, I have made many crosses of yellow during the past five years. My *Pluie d'Or* rhizome came direct from Cayeux, and I placed its pollen on a great many iris. Of hundreds of seedlings not one was better than *Pluie d'Or* itself.

With the pollen of W. R. Dykes I had some success, and in 1935 one of my yellow seedlings was superb, being almost a duplicate of *Lady Paramount*, which was blooming in my garden on a one year plant at the time. However, nothing else at all exciting occurred and I patiently pulled them up as they bloomed and consigned them to the compost pile. Gradually I began to realize that I was doomed to take my place with that small group of hybridizers who have the distinction of *not* possessing one of the world's best yellow iris.

And then the 1936 crop of seedlings began to bloom. It was the same old story—not good enough; and the rows of seedlings began their yearly contribution to the compost pile. However, my attention became focussed on a row of six plants with fine sturdy foliage and strong bloom stalks. They were the result of fertilizing *Persia* with the pollen of Dykes. Two of them bloomed. They were awful. I couldn't pull them up fast enough. "How," I thought, "could two of the most wonderful iris in existence produce such inferior offsprings?"

Then the miracle happened! One of those fine, strong bloom stalks produced buds three inches long, tipped with yellow—not cream, but yellow!—six buds, on a beautifully branched stalk, forty inches tall. Those graceful, golden buds left no doubt that a magnificent iris was in gestation, and every iris lover will understand the excitement with which I awaited its birth. I watched



Dr. Hanes' Yellow Seedling

it open one brilliant sunny dawn and I knew then, and know now, that for me the greatest iris experience of my life was unfolding with its glorious yellow petals.

John Wister dropped by when the blooms were four days old, and I quote his unemotional description:

“Seedling BETTY HANES (Persia x W. R. Dykes), Dr. F. M. Hanes (N), First Bloom 1936.

Height: 40 inches. First branch 17 in., second branch 27 in., third branch 32½ in. Stalk one inch in diameter.

Standards cupped, falls flare very well, broad, whitish veins on haft of greenish yellow.

Texture and substance extremely good. Stands sun without wilting.

Color about half way between W. R. Dykes and Pluie d'Or.

Carries well at distance, being much more striking than either of these two irises.

General appearance like Dykes but not so floppy and without the veining or mottling. It seems to be a much better grower and should make a much better garden mass.

I think it deserves a rating of about 95. Its height and garden value is close to 100. For substance and texture about 98, for branching, foliage and color about 95. It may tend to be a little crowded at the top and might only receive 90 on this quality.”

Of course I know that other blooming seasons must test the ultimate worth of my seedling, but no subsequent disappointments can rob me of the joyful experience of its birth. Should it live up to its youthful promise I will have the added pleasure of having perpetuated in another color the splendid growth habits of Persia, the glorious production of that Prince of Hybridizers, my friend Wylie Ayres.

From Ohio

Three or four years ago there was sent me Purissima on a “grow or no pay” basis. It lived and I paid for it. In spite of being moved several times, and a bitter struggle with borers it is still living and has bloomed beautifully two seasons. It set a fine seed pod on a cross with Esplendido and I have a bunch of its seedlings which will bloom this coming season. Until last winter I had given it careful protection but had not time last fall, and it got nothing

but a few leaves that nature blew around it and its neighbor, Conquistador. We had 15 degrees below zero several times and our usual wild changes from 65 degrees to 5 degrees below in a few hours. In all, it was the worst winter I remember or that the weather bureau records, and many supposedly hardy plants were killed. However, Purissima and Conquistador came through in fine shape. It seems to me that their tenderness has been exaggerated. Given good drainage and planted in time to get hold of the ground they can "take it" down to 15 degrees at least.

GEORGE S. PIERCE.

A KENTUCKY IRIS SEASON

HENRY L. GRANT

■ The winter of 1935 and 1936 was extremely cold for Louisville. The temperature was 15 below zero in February, with heavy snow on the ground during most of the extremely cold weather, but we did have zero weather with the ground bare one or two days. The last freeze was about April 3rd, the iris season developed without late freezes, and by mid-season of the tall bearded iris, the temperature part of the time was above 90 degrees in midday and the weather very dry. Crysoro was open April 28 and is a very nice early yellow of very short blooming period. The tall bearded season opened May 5 with Indian Chief and Trail's End. Trail's End on a one year plant could only be judged for color, which is true to its ripe bittersweet berry description and is one I look forward to having in normal bloom. Wasatch on a first year plant had a good stalk and, with three blooms out, each of which was almost six inches tall, attracted much favorable comment, as the blooms were perfectly spaced. Eilah on a one year plant had two good stalks which had five open blooms one Sunday during which the temperature was around 94. They took the heat in a fine way and perhaps improved a bit in color, as the yellow of Eilah has a bit of duskiness which improves with a little bleaching. Its height, size, substance, form and branching are very fine and before the season was over we considered it as fine a yellow as Alice Harding, which for two years we have considered the best garden yellow we have seen in commerce. Alice Harding for two years has grown as well and bloomed as freely as any variety in the garden. It is tall, well-branched and of good size and form.

It is a fine variety for hybridizing, as it sets seed freely both ways and next year we hope to have upward of one thousand of its seedlings in bloom. W. R. Dykes bloomed well for the first time here and gave us nice color without any purple on the falls; we like the form of flower very well and question a bit the criticism of the "ungainly" form. Eros on a second year plant made a beautiful clump one morning when the weather was cool. Its color and substance do not stand much sun or rain, but it is worth having just for the right weather. Easter Morn had a fine stalk and glorious bloom on a one year plant. Purissima, Shasta, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Happy Days did not have a single stalk on established clumps. Gloriole did well on a new plant with nice form and size, but the color faded so as to be uninteresting in extreme heat. Hernani shows nice color and with the sun on it was about the best of the "reds," although the form of flower is not to my ideal. Neon was very tall and well-branched but not as vivid in color as I had expected. No-we-ta was a good shade of pink with perhaps some salmon. Pink Opal and Imperial Blush were nice tall lavender pinks that seem to be much ahead of Pink Satin in every respect except softness and purity of color. Marquita carries well, and attracted people from the street as much as any iris in the garden. Coralie had nice color, bloomed well, and has grown well here. Blue Triumph and Missouri showed fine color but were not typical enough to judge otherwise. Gudrun was taller this year and is a white that is well worth a place in every garden. Byzantium had very fine color and faded very little. It did not have a straight stalk but is acceptable even if that defect was not due to this season. Dore was tall, well-branched and of a very interesting color combination. Robert continues to be a fine late yellow blend. Jean Lafitte has many buds and a long season of bloom and is of a very good color. Jeb Stuart and Mary Geddes both flowered well and belong in every collection. For several years I have had some seedlings of Dr. John Scott's in bloom. One is an early soft blue of medium height that has a very fine color, texture and finish. A number of Bruno seedlings, one with some pink tones, have been interesting in mid-season and two or three that come into flower just as the season ends not only add ten days to two weeks to the bloom period, but are also very fine iris. They are bronze tones.

My seedlings, Indian Hills and Exclusive, performed well this

year and showed fine color, good branching, prolific bloom and large increase.

Dr. Ayres was in the hospital during the iris season and did not have any time in his garden, but I had a brief visit to his garden on May 22. *Jasmania* showed up as one of the best yellows to date this year. It has some slight brown blended on the haft of the fall which adds to its attractiveness.

Burning Bronze, *Cheerio*, *Cincinnati*, *Sierra Blue* and *Eclador* were named varieties we saw in fine form.

There were some fine pure yellow seedlings of other years that looked very desirable; also some very good yellow blends and other blends with a decided pink tone that were good enough to be in commerce.

Two seedlings stood out at that time as the best of this year's bloom. One was a yellow blended with some light brown, carrying an underlay of light coral pink, the falls slightly deeper than the standards. It was of medium height, nice form and good substance, with well branched stalk. There were probably seven or eight sister seedlings of this cross, all of which were interesting. One gave a pink porcelain effect, its texture and luster were so fine. The cross was interesting, as these came from a seedling he calls *Arizona*, which is more or less a dull, insignificant, brownish blend, crossed with a seedling *Milliken* admired and which he calls *Milliken's Red*. It is similar to *Joycette*. All these seedlings were much lighter in color than either parent and the brown tones of *Arizona* were the only ones that carried over, but they are much lighter.

The other was a tall, well-branched stalk, with a flower that was practically a self of an antique gold color. It was a color similar to standards of *Mary Geddes*, perhaps deeper. It had similar sister seedlings of not quite as good form and branching. These two will be very desirable additions to our colors.

This has been written on November 1, 1936, practically without notes, midway between two seasons and with some of the fall bloomers now in bud, but I hope it may be of value and interest to our members.

Louisville, Kentucky.

ALONG THE IRIS COAST

JULIUS DORNBLUT, JR.

■ Enthusiasm ran high this year in Berkeley iris gardens. Sierra Blue, that gorgeous Essig creation, had just won the Dykes Medal, Shining Waters, an Award of Merit, Ukiah, an Honorable Mention. Happy Days, winner of an Honorable Mention, gave promise of still happier days to come in the many gardens it will surely grace and serve as a reminder of the efforts of Professor Sydney Mitchell. The Salbachs were hoping that the American Iris Society would come West for an annual meeting the year of the San Francisco Bay Fair which will celebrate the completion of the two great bridges. Professor E. O. Essig had a new yellow plicata seedling which looked very promising, Golden Madonna. In the California Spring Flower Show at Oakland, Professor Mitchell's *Cytisus* Pomona won an Award of Merit for the outstanding horticulture novelty of the season.

As I visited before the season was fully underway, I sometimes like to speculate on the pulse beat of these gracious, lively Californians during the midst of the season. Surely it must have been near the high point this year with so much to accelerate it.

Since Professor Essig's garden has a western slope overlooking the Golden Gate and therefore obtains more of the afternoon sun, his things were about a week earlier than similar iris in the Salbach garden. Even then many of his plants were not in bloom.

Well grown and outstanding indeed was Sierra Blue. In the center of the garden, this newest Dykes Medalist gave proof that it was in every way a thoroughbred with its well branched stalks, carrying color and mass of perfect, well placed bloom. Having come to the fore of attention with less fanfare than many an inferior sort, no one will deny that Sierra Blue will long hold a niche in the iris world. The paler, wax finished Shining Waters, equally fine, has won a top place for itself, too.

China Lantern was a joyous sight to see. This large flowered creation is to my mind one of the most attractive, if not the most garishly colorful, of the many near-variegatas offered in the last few years. Its ideal branching and substance are above reproach.

In one corner was Easter Morn, a veritable altar cloth of dazzling white made brighter still by the orange beard and golden brown haft reticulations. The branching and substance were perfect.

Golden Madonna should appeal to all those who like refined things in their gardens. A lovely yellow plicata with domed, enticingly crinkled yellow standards, white falls of good form bordered yellow, Golden Madonna is like many another Essig creation—remarkably well named. Partial shade is necessary to bring out its lovely color effect. With excellent branching and plenty of substance to recommend it, this seedling should prove a blessing for those seeking superfine creations.

Another seedling showing promise in the garden was 1196 H, a well formed, nicely branched, crinkled ivory self, a favorite of Mrs. Essig. Seedling 1224 A was a good early, low growing variegata underlaid with yellow.

No other breeder with whom I visited this year was more critical of his own seedlings than Professor Essig, no other originator's hybrids showed better substance or branching. In spite of the sudden heat of that early April afternoon everything in bloom in this garden held its color and shape.

Looking out over the Bay cities from this peaceful hillside garden, one sees in the distance the fairylike span of the Golden Gate Bridge. For two two-week periods each year the sun sets in the gate for the Professor, but like many another true Californian, he dislikes the bridge over the gate; possibly, because he is an entomologist, he does not care for spider webs over his sunsets!

The most outstanding things in the Salbach's fine commercial garden early in the season are the large beds of Purissima and San Gabriel scattered here and there. Purissima is so absolutely perfect here that description is really futile. Edward Salbach praises it along with very few other iris for photograph ability. It is too bad that those of us living in colder climates cannot have San Gabriel.

At Salbach's, Happy Days was just coming into bloom, while at Essig's it was a perfect mass of color. It is a glistening yellow I shall want for my garden, having all the qualities I desire in an iris; good substance, branching, form, color, fragrance, floriferousness, fine carriage, clean foliage. The slight yellow tan veining on the haft may be a fault with some, but it does not bother me. The crinkled standards are an added point of interest. It did not show signs of Dykes parentage by flecking or spotting in either garden.

Brunhilde is a most unusually impressive, well-branched, large bluish violet self. The standards are particularly luscious in that

they are very silky in appearance. The blue beard in almost inconspicuous as it is different except deep in the throat. Brunhilde makes a fine clump.

Stafford Jory's Spring Cloud, with its speckled blue standards, Los Angeles falls and good branching makes a fine sister for those who wish more company for Los Angeles and San Francisco.

An older variety in the Salbach garden which is not so widely distributed as it should be was that pale yellow intermediate, Desert Gold. Not too well-branched, it does hold its color in the sun and is deserving of a place in the early garden. El Capitan still occupies a premier position among the large blues. Candela-bra branching helps to display the light violet blooms.

Down in the seedling beds there were two items which were most interesting, Number 2-34, an early well-branched flower somewhat like Sunol with beautiful yellow standards and a Dauntless x Modoc cross which I would like to see again.

At the California Spring Flower Show there was a most fascinating display of *Iris Douglasiana* arranged by Miss Juliet James, of Berkeley. An exhibit of *Iris susiana* by Mrs. M. Mitchell won her an Award of Merit and brought forth many Oh's and Ah's in the "New and Rare" section!

Later in the season the gardens of two Seattle Iris lovers brought many surprises. F. A. Thole's garden is a combination breeder's and commercial workshop showing much care and intensive cultivation. Many of the newer and better iris in commerce were giving a good account of themselves. El Tovar, a Sass origination, was most striking. Rubeo, Crown Prince, Jean Cayeux, Deputé Nomblot, President Pilkington, Black Wings, Persia, Mary Geddes, Gilead, Marquita, and Sierra Blue made fine showings.

Purissima weathered one of the most exasperating winters on record in splendid fashion. Lady Paramount exhibited the same stem weakness here as in California. By flecking she gave away her Dykes ancestry. Mr. Thole believes that all Dyke's descendants will do this sooner or later under varying conditions. Coralie, the highly touted Dykes Medalist of some years ago, certainly did not look worthy of any kind of an award here.

Impressive indeed was the red break Mr. Thole obtained by crossing L'Aiglon and Deputé Nomblot. When compared with Rubeo, Red Dominion, and Joycette it showed far, far less purple

on the falls. It was even redder than the glowing wine red falls of Coralie. This hybrid has the flaring falls of Deputé Nombrot, excellent substance, and exhibited good branching for a two-year-old. Of all the reds I have seen, it is my favorite.

Another seedling of Mr. Thole's worthy of note is an attractive deep pink, a Rameses x (Romola x Mrs. Valery West) cross. A fine large blue, the parentage of which I did not get, may be introduced by Mr. Thole in his catalogue this year. It was very much admired by Mr. Cooley when he visited the Tholes.

George Brehm's gardening spirit does not need much encouragement. What with several really choice yellow seedlings to his credit and a number of brilliant King Midas crosses, he is a hybridizer who promises to give us something really worth while. If the fuschias and roses can and do lure visitors astray in the Essig garden, fuschias and begonias do the very same thing at Brehm's. Few people I have ever known really seemed to enjoy planting and growing more than does George Brehm. His garden is a delight not only because it is well done, but because the owner delights in having people who really enjoy flowers.

After going through another season of fine bloom I shall have to confess that no other iris seems so vital and fresh when admired, seems so completely satisfying in itself as does Hollywood. Despite its stem fault, the habit of bringing forth perfect flower after perfect flower late in the season should commend it seriously to every irisarian's consideration. No other iris haunts me more than this vivacious blend.

SOME 1936 NORTH-CENTRAL OHIO IRIS NOTES

ROY W. GOTTSCHALL

■ North-central Ohio has had a fairly good iris season in this year of 1936. We all wondered what would happen to our iris after a real old-time winter. The results were better than anyone would expect. For me even some of the more noted tender ones did bloom, probably due to the fact that they were frozen in the whole winter and had no warm spells to send them into premature growth.

After looking over the season's new ones as well as the old, at least all that were available in several very large plantings, I have made up my own mind as to the best. That may not mean a great deal to others, but to me there is always one particular bloom in each color that makes the top rating and is the one I compare all others with, for future judgment.

Yellow—California Gold. This iris proved hardy, is a fine, tall, big dark yellow that is by far the best I have seen. Much better than Happy Days or Golden Glory.

White—Snow King. If you have seen all the white ones wait until you see Snow King to make your conclusions. Here is a very big white with little of that blue cast, and a nice lemon to darker yellow beard. It proved hardy.

Blend—Shah Jehan. Had never seen it before and it fairly took my breath away. It has an excellent garden color and worthy of a special position. The standards seemed a light tan yellow to me, with the falls plum violet with lighter margins. Like California Gold and Snow King, I had a hard time when rating this to cut it anywhere. A full rating just about goes to all three.

Pink—Ethelwyn Dubuar. Thanks to the originator of this iris, I have had it in my collection for several years and will not hesitate to pronounce it the best pink I have seen. It is larger than Pink Satin, a better formed flower, taller, just as hardy and after three years of comparison, I say it is better. It is just a shade darker than Pink Satin when it opens, but after a few hours it's just about the same color and even looks a lot better.

In addition to those mentioned I have rated highly others but with qualifications. Castalia is a first grade iris but the stalk was not branched enough and the color was about that of the Duke of York. Then Amigo is a fine bicolor about like Blue

Banner, but with darker falls. Blue Banner has always been a fine iris for garden decoration and for mass display—Amigo would have to prove its ability to produce so many stalks and flowers as Blue Banner before I would be willing to say it is better in that classification. I do believe, however, that an individual stalk of Amigo gives a better and more startling color combination to the eye.

Jennie Sue is one of those new bi-color blends with yellowish standards and reddish washed-out falls. There may be room for this type in the color classification. It had a weeping stalk and the color is too undecided to give any great garden value. The coffee-browns are having their coming-out party, too. Monal is a blend with light coffee brown standards with lavender in its falls. It did not have those nice strong tall stems we want so badly in our top-notch iris. It was near 30 inches tall and that places it rather close to the new intermediate class. Another coffee one is Moon Glow. This one had pinched standards, showed up to me in color as a coffee-brown self blend. It is just a little tender and I must say I liked the color of Monal better.

Sandia is a lighter Coralie. Personally, I cannot see much garden value in this color, although the color itself I rated within ten per cent of perfect.

Toscana is a very nice color of light bronze or copper. The stalk was not what it should be, it was shy of bloom, the quality not bad, while the form and vigor ratings were about alike within 90 per cent of perfect. On rating a well established plant it might be more outstanding.

And now just a few generalities. Mary Senni is just a poor imitation of Asia and the cold winter hurt it. Imperial Blush is an ordinary flower to me, just a lavender tinted pink, or the other way 'round. Serenite is a nice big bicolor, good in any garden if you want a blend of light tan standards with light violet falls. Jean Cayeux is all you have heard it is if my judgment is any good. As a brown blended self it will be hard to beat and almost perfect all through the rating divisions. On the other hand there is no excuse for Carfax, Golden Hind, Golden Flare, Ministre Fernand David or Vert Gallant.

A few other foreigners besides Jean Cayeux made a better showing than the average. Marquita had cream standards that fade to white with red veined falls. There is a yellow glow in the center of the flower that helps put it in the higher ups. It

is well worth while in the garden. Cyndus is good, too, with a big flower. It is a purplish bi-color, the standards being a light sky blue. Eclador is just one of those big light yellows with brown veins in the falls while Evolution looks so washed out because the sun fades it so badly. However, either one of these would rate rather well.

As an accredited judge I was asked to make a choice for the Dykes medal. That was a difficult thing to do. Being only acquainted with 14 of the eligibles I wanted to make the best first and second choice possible in my ballot. In rating these 14 the general average was about 75 per cent. So many newer things have been introduced to compare them with. They were fine for their dates of introductions but in 1936 it is different. Two were outstanding in color and plant growth and to these two I voted my preference. If either one of these eventually picked by the committee there will be no upheaval. I hope they have an easier time deciding than I did, and that their better judgment will be agreed to happily by all.

OUR MEMBERS WRITE

From New Jersey

■ In member Dolman's "Notes on Germination" he mentions that seedlings in this part of the country don't bloom for several seasons as a rule. Now I plant the seeds in the fall and transplant the seedlings early in the spring as soon as they are about three inches tall to good rich garden soil. By careful and regular cultivation, feeding and irrigation during dry spells, I am able to get over 75 per cent of the seedlings to bloom in a year's time from the transplanting of the seedlings. It is important not to cultivate deeply, but maintain a dust mulch during the growing season. The bearded iris do well in rich soil, however, extra care must be exercised and one has to know ones plants.

About six years ago I tried the growing of the more tender iris varieties such as San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Mlle. Schwartz, Mme. Cecil Bouscant, and Mme. Durrand in a special way. Since that time I have had remarkable results with regular increase and yearly bloom. These varieties and others had been unsatisfactory under ordinary garden culture. My special culture consists of mixing at least 50 per cent sand and gravel to my clay loam and raising the soil in beds, as is best with all iris. In this way these iris will do well in a border with special preparation of the location of the tenderer varieties. When purchasing new iris from California of parentage that may be a bit tender, as well as expensive varieties, they are always grown the first year under a cold frame sort of structure. I have a raised bed of good garden soil with boards around the sides as in a cold frame, but the glass sash is supported about six inches above the boards. In this way I get protection from too much rain, also from the cold, but at the same time a certain circulation of air about the plants. The frame is removed in spring and the plants come into bloom in the frame, or it may be removed entirely. During the winter a lath shading on the cold frame sash is best. At least I have found it beneficial.

In answer to Ruth Adt in the October BULLETIN. The worms that are probably working the iris seed pods are the larvae of the Verbena Bud Moth. In an earlier BULLETIN there is an article (Science Series 3, I believe) in which a spray is given, arsenate of lead, and a sticker. I have never used this or any other spray.

as I have always left the forming pods alone in hopes of getting a good set of seed free from worms. However, this year, I say a good way of protecting the seed pods during the growing season provided the Verbena Bud Moth has not been at work during the blooming season. The method used was to cover the pods, once formed, with a little tobacco bag or similar bag which is tied about the stem. There is probably enough tobacco odor left in the bag to act as a repellent to the moth. Occasional spraying with a concentrated mixture of Black Leaf "40" or nicotine sulfate, will probably do the trick. I feel that oftentimes the damage is done during the blooming season when the eggs are laid and then unless the leaf bud shields are removed or pulled back the larvae will do its damage after entering the pod. I have always removed the leaf-bud shields or scabs and any other bud or growth near the forming pod for I feel that less damage will be done if the pod is fully exposed on all sides to the sun, air and perhaps wind. Most damage by the larva seems to be done where the pod is covered or against another bud or stem.

I have often noticed Curculios on the pods—especially on the Japanese iris, but do not know if they do any damage or not. I have an idea they may do some damage by feeding, but as to their laying eggs in the pod, I am not sure.

Another item of interest to me is the large versus the small iris rhizome. We all know that some varieties never produce the huge rhizomes that many of the Dominions and others do, however, under extreme growing conditions we will get very large rhizomes that are larger than the average. Some of the best results that I have obtained have come from the smaller rhizomes that seem to take immediately and make good root growth, while the larger rhizomes seem to stand still—sun cure—and form entirely new roots before they take hold. The larger rhizomes have larger leaf scars and often these scars are the means of entry of fungi that causes rot. When an immediate shift in my own garden can be made those large and extremely large rhizomes will make immediate growth, but when I get them in shipments they often don't do as well as the smaller rhizomes. It may be the tendency towards a more fleshy growth with a cellular growth that does not cure as easily.

Some noteworthy iris for me or seen by me this year were: Parthenon, outstanding; War Eagle, Spokane, Blithesome (if you

like it), Lady Paramount and Happy Days as it grew for me was tops in yellows—so far. Nine eyes developed during the past season from one rhizome. At least mine was a good reproducer.

Don't let me forget Sunol and two of Prof. Mitchell's seedlings that he used for breeding. They were small compared to the newer yellows but at Cranford were of fine color and form.

S. HOUSTON BAKER, 3D.

From New Hampshire

You may be interested to know that my *I. reticulata* has bloomed finely this year. I had about 20 blooms on my clump. As our winters are so severe in Peterborough this is a pretty good test of the hardiness of *reticulata*. I have had it in the same spot, a south slope, for several years.

ROBERT T. JACKSON.

Iris Beginnings in America

In re-reading several of the recent BULLETINS, as I so often do after a long day's work in the garden, I was greatly pleased to see in the Midwest Number the tribute to Mr. Farr's interest in irises and to the section of his catalogues devoted to this flower. How many recall that other man, Mr. Stroup, who loved the iris and helped blaze the trail to its present popularity by issuing what was, I believe, the first catalogue devoted exclusively to the iris. This was about 1914 and for several years his thin catalogues, with their fine colored plates, were eagerly searched by those gardeners who were interested in this plant. It was divided by sections following the classification of *pallida*, *neglecta*, *amoena*, *squalens*, etc., and contained excellent advice for those unfamiliar with any but the old common "Blue Flags."

Whether he sold his nursery, I know not, but after a few years his catalogues ceased to arrive and Mr. Farr's general catalogue became *the* iris book until Miss Sturtevant issued her first list. Just a few years ago Mr. Williamson and I were speaking of him and of how much he had done to create interest. Mr. Williamson told me he thought he had a small garden and still grew irises, but I do not recall whether it was in Ohio or Indiana. So in recalling with gratitude the pioneers amongst the commercial growers in this country let us not forget Mr. Stroup, whose iris catalogues were such an inspiration to gardeners.

T. T. H.

From Massachusetts

The new BULLETIN has just arrived and I note the assistant editor is still lacking, so I will write a few impressions of this year's iris. I attended the Annual Meeting in Hartford and was interested to meet and see the different iris celebrities whose writings I had read. I also went on several trips to judge iris. The best iris I saw was Mr. White's new deep yellow self 11-34-3, which I saw in Miss Sturtevant's garden. It is a free bloomer and the color is extra fine.

At Mrs. Kellogg's her K-34-8, a ruffled white, was very good. Mr. McKee's Janet Butler was very fine. Grace Mohr, a taller Wm. Mohr, was unusual. Aztec, Eleanor Blue, Maya, Jean Lafitte, Taos and Ukiah were all outstanding. As for my own garden, bloom was the best ever. I used salt hay for a covering which I think is the best thing I have used. I have quite a collection of Fall bloomers and they all bloomed well between the dwarfs and the tall bearded. Eleanor Roosevelt, Autumn Queen and Frost Queen, and my own Autumn Elf are the best ones I think. I have nine stalks showing now on Autumn Elf for second bloom and the first flower opened today. Last year I had bloom from July 8 until frost on Autumn Elf and I guess it will repeat this year. The first bloom started May 22 and lasted until June 15; second bloom is on one-year clump and single rhizomes and Fall bloom on two-year clumps. The first bloom is on 18-inch stalks and second bloom on 26-inch stalks, with larger flowers and more branching. It is interesting to go out and see new stalks appear daily. I have some pollen saved and am trying it out. I kept it in the refrigerator for some time but recently my family have gone for the summer and it is in my desk. Perhaps next year I will do the perfect experiment and keep it in some of the neighbor's refrigerators. I have set out over 1,000 seedlings—about 60 of Autumn Elf, with some other sorts. Only 8 per cent of Autumn Elf seeds germinated this spring. Seeds from some other crosses germinated up to 100 per cent. Sometime I hope to produce another Fall bloomer.

There are also three Autumn Elf stalks in bloom now at my garden at Westport, Mass., and last fall there were 25 bloom stalks and seven flowers a few days before Thanksgiving at Westport. That shows the possibility of all summer bloom, with rich soil cultivation and care you would give a tea-rose. Coal ashes

mixed with my heavy clay soil retains moisture and promotes summer growth in spite of the dry weather. I get more thunder showers than Miss Sturtevant or Mrs. Nesmith, or Mrs. Kellogg, as I am in the hills here, so the growth isn't quite so bad here.

G. PERCY BROWN.

Looking Back

Whenever I read of or see the newer irises, such veritable lords of creation, I am reminded with amusement of a very old book on gardening in my possession where the whole genus of iris is disposed of with these words, "Their flowers are of several colors and their figures different." True we must confess, but a noble example of under-statement! What would the good Mr. Bradley, who wrote this book in 1731—and many of the things in it are alive and modern even now—think if he could attend the annual meeting of the Iris Society.

This is really a question as to why we do not see more of that little white Siberian Iris, which I bought years ago under the name of alba. Whether that is its real name or not I have never been sure, but I would choose it ahead of the larger and newer ones. The haft is an olive green deepening into yellow at the edge with faint pencillings of brown, and there is a very faint greenish tinge to the falls. The white has a pearly look and it is so much lovelier and smaller than Snow Queen ever dreamed of being that I am at a loss to know why every garden does not possess it. Mine has increased like a weed, been divided and given away, left standing unplanted all winter and still never falters. In the distance the flowers are not unlike butterflies and there is a delicacy and grace in the way they are poised on their slender, rather tall stalks that makes them especially alluring when planted at the waterside. Clumps planted up and down a little brook that ran through a garden that once was ours were always reminiscent of small white lilies when looked at across a field and many times we were asked what the variety of lily was. Too unassuming to demand a place in the garden and lost sight of beside the larger, more conspicuous members of its race, once invited in there is always room for it both scattered in clumps through the border or near the pool or brook.

Massachusetts

ELEANOR P. JONES.

Fall Blooming Irises in Michigan

As yet but few irises have proven reliable as fall bloomers in the northern states, and when a good new variety does apparently so prove itself the fact is worthy of note.

During the past three or four years, Autumn King and Autumn Queen have given us some bloom in the autumn. Perhaps the French remontants, Souv. de Lt. Xavier de Chavagnac and Jean Siret have proven the most dependable for this feature. A quantity of the latter obtained for lining out late in October were allowed to remain in a carton for more than two weeks, and when planted out on November 5 last showed a number of blooms open and more buds ready to open. It is worthy of note that the same varieties planted in light or sandy soil bloom more freely in the autumn than when planted in heavy or clayey soil.

During 1935 we acquired a number of the newer fall-blooming sorts and were agreeably surprised at the bloom from some of them during the fall of 1936. Frost Queen especially excelled itself, being in full bloom or buds continuously from September 18 until cut down by a temperature of 19 degrees on October 27. In early October, Southland gave us some excellent bloom and it too was still blooming well when ruined by the freeze of the 27th.

Autumn Gleam and Autumn Haze were in bud when the freeze came, but gave no open flowers. On this date, November 27, having had one morning with temperature as low as 16 degrees, and three successive days with temperatures mostly in the low 20s, Souv. de X. de Chavagnac still shows well developed buds not yet emerged from the sheaths, buds which doubtless would yet open if given a week or ten days of warm weather.

So the belief would seem warranted that within a few years we may have a wide number of varieties that will give dependable fall bloom even in the northern states—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Battle Creek, Mich.

ROY V. ASHLEY.

From New Jersey

As a newcomer in the ranks of iris enthusiasts, I have been content, heretofore, to sit and read of the experiences of those who have experimented over a period of years improving our favorite flower.

The Iris Society BULLETINS which come periodically are read and re-read with much interest and profit. Long winter evenings are given over to the study of them and to the various books on the subject by Wister, Shull and Dykes. Catalogs from various growers are kept at hand and studied as reference works, as is the Alphabetical Check List, until the descriptions and habits of the various varieties and species are, at least to some degree, familiar.

The BULLETINS, especially, contain much of interest. Detailed descriptions and the family trees especially are welcome.

The usefulness of various varieties as breeders, as outlined in the BULLETINS is fine, but would like to see more articles from the east, as our climatic conditions would undoubtedly make a difference in the value of some varieties.

It would be enlightening to have an article or a series of them by an experienced eastern grower, setting forth his experience with various varieties both as garden subjects and as breeders.

Growing irises from seed is to me a most absorbing avocation, and the only thing that hinders more and more experimentation in this field is lack of space in the garden—just a back yard.

Counting bearded varieties, beardless varieties and species there are about two hundred kinds, not including about three hundred seedlings, fighting for a place to grow.

Following is a list of crosses made, most of them older varieties, together with the number of seeds obtained and the germination:

	<i>Number Seeds Germination</i>	
	<i>Per Pod</i>	<i>First Year</i>
Moonlight x Canopus	42	30
Ambassadeur x Lord of June.....	22	13
Juniata x Dauntless.....	9	0
Silver Ribbon x Moonlight.....	4	0
Silver Ribbon x Cardinal.....	7	0
Ochracea x Cardinal	37	1
San Francisco x Dauntless	29	12
San Francisco x Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau	23	9
Ambassadeur x Deputé Nomblot.....	20	11
Morning Splendor x Deputé Nomblot.....	40	29
Juniata x Bazra	18	0
Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau x Moonlight....	26	21
San Francisco x Cardinal	14	8

Ochracea x Pluie d'Or	53	39
Ambassadeur x Morning Splendor	11	3
Silver Ribbon x Morning Splendor	3	0

These seedlings set out May, 1936, have practically all developed into husky plants.

The past blooming season, owing to a press of business, I was unable to do much work with the irises and hence had no seed.

This fall I purchased seed of ten different species of irises and hope to be able to grow them, though from reports, our climate here is not suited to some of these.

GRAHAM L. SCHOFIELD.

Iris Arenaria and Iris Bloudowii

These two irises which have many characteristics in common, seem to be very badly confused by iris growers, even by those who have had a good deal of experience. Not long ago I read an article on dwarf types of irises in a popular magazine which contained a description and picture of an iris which the writer called *arenaria*, but which was quite obviously *Bloudowii*. This confusion arises mainly, I think, from the great similarity of the two irises and from the fact that many people do not know that there is such a plant as *Iris Bloudowii*.

Iris arenaria and *Iris Bloudowii* belong to a special section of their own in the iris classification. They have many points in common with the Regelia irises, but they also show a number of differences from them. They are small bearded irises with bright yellow flowers which last for only a day and twist spirally as they wither. They produce several flowers in succession, and a number of plants will give a good show of bloom over a long period of time.

The chief point of difference between the species is the size. *Iris arenaria* is a tiny plant which produces small tufts of leaves which are but little taller than the flower stems at blooming time, though they grow somewhat taller after the flowering season is past. The flower stems are only an inch or two high. The buds, two to three on a stem, are greenish yellow in color, slightly tipped with brown. The open flowers, which measure about two inches across are a bright clear yellow. There are a few brown veins on the haft of the fall, but they are scarcely noticeable. The beard is orange, quite definitely deeper in tone than the

flower itself. It has a distinct odor, quite like the perfume of the wallflower.

Iris Bloudowii is larger in all its parts than *Iris arenaria*. The leaves, which are about six inches high at flowering time and will eventually attain a height of ten inches, are wider and produced in larger tufts than those of *Iris arenaria*. The flower stems grow to a height of four or five inches and bear a terminal head of two flowers. The buds are quite brown on the outside and have a smooth, lacquered appearance. The flowers are the same color as those of *Iris arenaria*, but are larger; three to three and a half inches across, and seem to open out wider than do those of *Iris arenaria*. They are more heavily veined with brown, and the beard, which is about the same shade as the flower itself, is lightly tipped with brown on the haft of the falls. The fragrance is quite distinct from that of *Arenaria*, being much sweeter and not so strong.

Jennings Lodge, Ore.

CARL STARKER.

Iris ensata, I. hyacinthiana or I. biglumis

In the BULLETIN for June, 1936, there is a note and illustration on this iris. We have a plant grown from seed Rock No. 13,637, and Mr. Rehder, of the Arnold Arboretum, says it is identified as *I. ensata Thunb.* With us the stems are tall enough to show off the flowers to advantage and it makes an attractive clump. As a cut flower it is quite useful and the fragrance is delightful.

The capsule is shorter and fatter than the drawing of that of *I. ensata* in *The Genus Iris* (Dykes) and is triangular in shape.

Another plant that we grew from seed named *I. ensata* has much smaller flowers with little if any white on the falls, no perfume and long six angled capsules as described by Dykes. Both are hardy without protection at Ottawa and have formed large clumps in light sandy loam without any artificial watering. This latter one is not sufficiently attractive for garden use, but the large flowering variety is.

ISABELLA PRESTON,

Specialist in Ornamental Horticulture.

Biglumis, Indeed!

I have for years followed very closely the work of Dr. Reed with beardless iris, for I am particularly interested in them myself. I must owe a debt of gratitude to him for all I have learned from his studies and research among them which makes difficult the task of curbing the indignation which his article in the June BULLETIN roused in me. And yet it is but fair that these ruthless scientists should be rebuked when their untiring search for truth carried them too far. I refer to the sad case of *Iris ensata*.

When an iris has lived down a past like *biglumis* and managed to get itself known and admired throughout the iris world by the engaging name of *ensata*, why does anyone wish, how can anyone bear to reveal its so long concealed secret? Is there no decent reticence in science?

My little *ensata* (I simply can't bring myself to call it by that odious name *biglumis*) I raised from seed which came from England many years ago. I liked to think that its ancestors existed precariously on the plains of Asia. It has been often described and photographed so well as being an inconspicuous garden plant, but it blooms early and, as has been generally conceded, its delicate flowers lend themselves charmingly to arrangements. It needs no care or attention, no worms destroy it, no diseases attack its sturdy growth, and every spring its dainty flowers delight early visitors to the garden. And, for this it is rewarded by the approbrious appellation *biglumis*!

You asked for comment on *Hyacinthiana*. I bought it several years ago and after the first season it bloomed generously. I thought it, as you suggested, a variety of *ensata*, its flowers much paler and with a perfume which faintly suggested hyacinths, and from which I supposed it derived its name. I crossed it with *ensata* with a resulting bloom intermediate in color between the two and with the perfume of *Hyacinthiana*. The three are interesting together. I am fond of them and I am sure that Dr. Reed or no Dr. Reed and science to the contrary notwithstanding, I am positively not going to call them *biglumis*.

New Rochelle, N. Y.

(MRS. J. J.) HELEN MONTAGUE.

Glen Road Iris Gardens

Although noted elsewhere in the BULLETIN, may we be permitted to speak here of the closing of these gardens as a commercial enterprise. They have contributed so very much more to the life and development of our Society than the mere mechanical details of sales and seedling production that they deserve this mention. From them have come many illustrations, much data, and infinite inspiration. None of these will stop with this one change of program and we can hope that Miss Sturtevant will find increasing pleasure in her gardens and her iris now that she need give no active thought to our necessities.

Election of Officers

The members responded well to the Secretary's appeal for voting and returned to office the four directors who were proposed for reelection, but with a vote of only about 30 per cent of membership.

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At the Directors' meeting in December the Board reelected the incumbents, so we go into another year with no changes of staff.

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Compiled by L. Merton Gage.

COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY

All of the dealers listed below are members of The American Iris Society. If you are buying iris for your garden, it should be your particular pleasure to make your purchases from the dealers who have worked with and supported your society. Your officers and directors invite your particular attention to this list. They also ask a favor. When you order, tell the dealer you saw his name in the BULLETIN and do him a favor by not asking for a catalog unless you mean business.

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Book of the Iris." Price \$2.00

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