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THE SIBERIAN IRIS

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Membership in this Society is open to members of the American Iris Society living in Canada and the United States, and to interested iris enthusiasts elsewhere. Dues: Annual Single, $2; Annual Family, $2.50; Triennial single, $5; Triennial Family, $6.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Among the advantages available to the person who joins a specialized plant society such as our Society for Siberian Irises, is the pointed and expert advice he may obtain about the registered or otherwise identified clones and cultivars of the species and hybrids which are the special responsibilities of that society.

Discussing this advantage from the point of view of membership in The Society for Siberian Irises, we find that, among other things, there are members of the society who have made themselves more knowledgeable, even expert, about such things as which plants are good garden subjects, which are easy, which difficult and better left to the experts. There are members of this society who can tell the new or less experienced among us how to grow Siberians in any section of the world even when these areas are not normally places where Siberians are grown. And there are also members of the society who experiment in many ways to increase knowledge of the species, their clones and hybrids, and even the individual cultivars of the hybrids. Such knowledge may range in usefulness from matters of first importance to a scientific theorist, to matters important to a gardener who wants simply to grow a pretty flower in the garden.

There are members who have made themselves expert in comparing known Siberians with newly introduced ones. These judges have learned how to keep personal prejudices sufficiently under control so that their evaluations are made without conflict of interest. As a result of the action of this group of persons new and better Siberians are approved and find their way into commerce and into our gardens.

I shall mention only one more of the many kinds of experts found in our society. These individuals are very important to the continuing life of the society itself and are frequently not recognized. These people are more interested in people than plants but as a result of SSI membership they become Siberian enthusiasts along with the rest of us. They are necessary to the very existence of the small voluntary society because they become expert in knowing what makes people tick. They want to know what satisfactions are obtained by the individual members of the society. They want to learn how good leadership can be detected and what the differences are between successful and unsuccessful groups. They want to discover the characteristics of the successful individual member and then put this knowledge to use for the good of the society.

A book could easily be written on the subject of individual expertise, but enough has been said to make the point that very many types of interest make people want to join our society. Many members do not become 'experts' because they

'don't know enough to be interesting to other people' and forget that at some point in time every expert was a tyro. My point to the member is, if you have an interest, build on it; my point to the society is, encourage the growth of your experts, particularly the young ones, and put them to use.

Bill

ROBIN EXCERPTS: Siberian Iris Robin 4, U.S. and Europe.

Rebloom:

"Reblooming presently (July 9, 1975) among the Siberians are CAMBRIDGE, JAPANESE WHITE, and until a day or so ago, HELEN ASTOR; among other irises the versicolor is doing considerable reblooming" Lorena Reid, Springfield, Ore.

(Others in this robin mentioned rebloom on CAMBRIDGE, PLACID WATERS and ERIC THE RED - Robin Editor)

Hybridizing:

"From one of the articles of Prof. McGarvey I learned something about the importance of selfing in breeding Siberians and I started some selfing lines (MY LOVE, CAESAR'S BROTHER, BLUE MOON, WHITE SWIRL, CAMBRIDGE and COURT RUFFLES). Until now my experience is a negative one. Most of the plants tend to be short, very shy flowering, weak, and more and more sterile... Selfing of WHITE SWIRL was made possible by use of pollen taken from unopened flowers. Only the embryo culture method resulted in some seedlings; no normal germination took place. One of my six plants flowered this year with extremely small and weak flowers."Tomas Tamberg, West Berlin, Germany.

Culture:

"FORREST SCION received in fall of 1971 would not live and would not die. In spring 1975 I divided the plant into 5 little pieces and planted them in a bed with much peat moss. Now I have strong plants." Eckard Berlin, Biberach an der Riss, West Germany.

1975 AWARDS

Morgan Award: HALCYON SEAS (McCord) 38 votes.
Runners-up: AUSABLE RIVER (Cassebeer) 37; ORVILLE FAY (McEwen) 30

Honorable Mention (H.M.) VI LUIHN (DuBose) 66; SILVER EDGE (McEwen) 33; STARSTEPS (Hager) 33; DARK DESIRE (Varner) 32 NAVY BRASS (McEwen) 30; MARANTHA (Varner) 28; SAVOIR FAIRE (DuBose) 28; TIMELESS (Harder) 21; MARLYA (Varner) 18; AUGURY (McGarvey) 17; YANKEE CONSUL (McEwen) 13; BLUE FORTY (McEwen) 13; FLOATING ISLAND (McEwen) 13; BLUE BURGEE (McEwen) 10; SNOW BOUNTY (McEwen) 10.

REGISTERING IRISES

Kay Negus

The American Iris Society is the registration authority of the world for all kinds of irises except bulbous. As a central clearing house for registered names, the registrar is in position to assure that a particular name is used only once for a given iris and is in compliance with the international code on registrations.

An iris is usually named by its hybridizer, but can be named by a selector for the hybridizer. Once named and launched into the gardening world, no one can predict in what corners of the world it will be grown, so careful thought should be given to the selection of the name.

Write to the Registrar-Recorder, Kay N. Negus, 6111 South 135 Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68137, for a registration blank, enclosing your check for the $3.00 registration fee payable to the American Iris Society. The application blank will call for information such as height, bloom season, color description and parentage of your iris. Select a name which has not been previously used and can be submitted for approval at the time you request the application blank. Previously registered names can be found in the 10-year Check Lists, and in the annual reports of the Register for years since 1969. If you do not have access to these publications, suggest alternate names at the time you request your application blank to save time for yourself and the Registrar. The Registrar will hold an approved name, enabling you to complete the application and return it to her. However, a name is not registered until the registration blank is filed and approved, and a certificate will then be sent to you.

Names should follow the rules established by the International Horticultural Code, and the following names shall not be admissible:

1. Names of living persons without the written permission of that person.
2. Names of persons which include the form of address. (That is, JANE DOE, not MRS. JANE DOE).
3. Names including numerals or symbols.
4. Names beginning with the articles 'a' and 'the' or their equivalents in other languages unless required by linguistic custom.
5. Abbreviations unless required by linguistic custom.
6. Latin names or latinized forms. However, the AIS custom of using part of the latin names of a species, namely, the specific epithet, as part of the cultivar name when this seems appropriate, shall be continued. (CLARKEI MINIMA would not be allowed, but LITTLE CLARKEI might be-- Peg E.)

7. Use of trademark or copyrighted names unless previously in Common use.
8. Names containing more than three words.
9. Names which exaggerate or may become inaccurate (e.g. Heaviest Lace, Tallest Black.)

(Thank you, Kay. The last half of the second paragraph might be expanded into a long article, but it would have to have limited circulation if it gave examples of some of the possibilities that occur to me, of names which would be perfectly acceptable in, say, the United States, but would be offensive--vulgar or even dirty, in other countries. My own advice would be: do not use a name so long that the poor soul at the typewriter loses track of the spelling halfway through the name, otherwise your pride-and-joy might not get mentioned in iris publications!)

1975 REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introduced:
ATOLL (B. Warburton, SIB, R. 1974) Old Brook 1975.
DEAR DELIGHT (McEwen, SIB, R. 1975) McEwen 1975
EARTHSHINE (McGarvey, SIB, R. 1969) Old Brook 1975
LETITIA (Varner, SIB, R. 1974) Illini Iris 1975
PEG EDWARDS (McEwen, SIB, R. 1975) McEwen 1975
PURPLE PRINCESS (McEwen, SIB, R. 1975) McEwen 1975
REJOICE ALWAYS (Varner, SIB, R. 1975) Illini Iris 1975

Registered:
BLUE CHANTEUSE (McGarvey, SIB, R. 1975) Sklg. 75-70-18-B-1. 38", M-L. Light blue self; stylarms same. BLUE BURN X McG 68-65-50-B-1: (WHITE SWIRL X SUPER EGO).
DEAR DELIGHT (McEwen, SIB, (diploid, 28 chr.), R. 1975). 28", EM. S. light blue; F. light blue with pure white blaze. (CAMBRIDGE x unknown) X CAMBRIDGE.
GULLS WAY (McGarvey, SIB, R. 1975). 28 chr., 34", M. White self. (WHITE SWIRL X (WHITE SWIRL X (GATINEAU X CAESAR'S BROTHER))) X ((SUPER EGO X WHITE SWIRL) X SUPER EGO).
HYCO (Karol Hujsak, SIB, R. 1975). 36", E. Violet blue self. WHITE SWIRL X unknown.
ILLINI PEACE (Varner, SIB, R. 1975). 33", ML. Slightly ruffled white self; flat umbrella shape. WISLEY WHITE X WISLEY WHITE.
JANE BONSAL (McGarvey, SIB (28 chr.), R. 1975). 34", M.S. Light blue, very dark blue deep in heart; F. light blue, very dark blue hafts. (WHITE SWIRL X NELLIE E) X 70-Swirl-63-3-2-W2.
PEG EDWARDS McEwen, SIB (tetraploid ca. 56 chr.), R. 1975) 34", M.S. violet-blue (92B); F. violet-blue (83B), inner 1/3, lightening to 92B at outer 2/3; white blaze. (WHITE SWIRL X TURQUOISE CUP) X ((WHITE SWIRL X unknown) X (SNOWY EGRET X unknown)).
PURPLE PRINCESS (McEwen, SIB (40 chr. diploid), R. 1975. 26", M. S. red violet, darker veining, giving overall color of rich purple; F. same but more velvety. COURT VIOLET X I. clarkei.

REJOICE ALWAYS (Varner, SIB, R. 1975). 35", VE-M. S. light pastel lavender and lilac; F. deeper pastel lavender-lilac; white signal. Sensenbach 6 X TEALWOOD. HC 1974.

ROANOKE'S CHOICE (McGarvey, SIB, R. 1975) 32", E-M. Opens pink (Munsell 2.5RP 7/8) and changes to violet (7.5 P 6/8). ((ROYAL ENSIGN selfed X 63-2-2-2) X (WHITE SWIRL X ROYAL ENSIGN selfed)) X ((ROYAL ENSIGN selfed X SUPER EGO) X SUPER EGO).

SHOWDOWN (Varner, SIB, R. 1975).25", M. Red grape self; wide white signal veined aqua-purple; ruffled aqua-purple styles. Sensenbach 6 X ILLINI ENCORE. H.C. 1975.

That's what we have for this year, kids. I'm glad to see a new name among the registrants this year: welcome, Karol Hujsak! We're also getting into some very complicated parentages, which as a typist, I regret, but as a promoter of progress in Siberians, I welcome. The more the hybridizers use good new varieties along with their own inbred strains the wider the range of new forms and color-patterns we will have for our gardens. And the wider our range, the more interest we will generate among the not-yet-convinced. (Please notice I don't say, the unconvinced; we'll convince them yet!)

I hope next year we will have some more newcomers among our hybridizers. But at the same time I devoutly hope that nobody will register anything without careful thought as to whether it really is new, different, a step in another and a good direction. There is such a thing as having too many new cultivars offered. We have all seen, particularly among the TBs new introductions that were not a particle of improvement over varieties already on the market and doing nicely, and available to the gardening public for considerable less money than the new variety must be sold for if it is to earn its keep. And please, do not be seduced into registering and introducing any Siberian simply because of its color. It must also have a good plant--one that is vigorous and floriferous with normal garden care, not a crank that has to be fussed over constantly if it is to produce a scattering of flowers; one that has a strong stem with branching and more than two buds. It might be profitable for the prospective introducer to read over his copy of the judging standards before making up his mind to register his pets. Take a folding chair out in the garden as near as possible to the seedling row; plunk yourself down with the handbook; as you read each passage, look up and meditate on how your darling stacks up on that characteristic. It might be enlightening. It shouldn't discourage you from continuing to work for your desired goals. One useful stopper is to raise a batch of seedlings from that particular darling that bloomed this spring, before sending to Mrs. Negus for an application form. You might have the pleasant surprise of finding among the seedlings one even better--in which case, why bother with mama? Think about this a while. -Peg

HISTORICAL NOTES

Currier McEwen

Recently I became interested in learning who the hybridizers of Siberian irises have been and something of their interests and practices. This article is the result. Except as noted below, the data presented in the two tables were derived from a detailed study of the Check List of Siberian irises compiled by Peg Edwards and her helpers which was published in four installments in The Siberian Iris Vol. 3, numbers 1,2,3 and 5, from the Spring Issue of 1970 to the Spring Issue of 1972. Peg Edwards has confirmed that, with the exception of possible oversights, this first Check List includes all Siberians of record through 1960 and also most of those registered between 1961 and 1970, but not all. I have therefore obtained the additional information needed to round out that decade from the lists of registrations in individual issues of The Siberian Iris and by consulting Peg Edwards. Only bona fide listings of recognized cultivars as shown in the Check List in capital letters have been counted. In the tables I have included all breeders and Siberians of record through 1900 as a group but after 1900 have listed them by decades. Table I gives the names of the hybridizers and, in parentheses after each name, the number of registrations* separately for 28 and 40 chromosome cultivars and tetraploids, and those from 'wide crosses' between 28 and 40 chromosome ones or between Siberians and irises of other series. The parentheses also show, by K, those from crosses for which both parents were known. If there is no K or indication of chromosome number in the parentheses these cultivars were of the 28 chromosome group and the parents were not known. I must emphasize that I have included among the cultivars of known parentage those in which the registration data show the parents as seedlings and not as named plants when it is clear that the hybridizer knew and selected the seedlings used. As an example I refer to the registrations of Kitton. He, in common with most hybridizers, used many of his unnamed seedlings as parents and they are shown in the Check List merely as seedlings. However, it is known (2) that he used only seedlings which he selected as good parents for his purpose; in other words they were not 'bee' or 'natural' crosses.

In Table II the information in Table I is given in numerical form and in addition the percent of hybridizers using known parents for all or some of their crosses, and the percent of cultivars derived from such crosses are recorded. It should be noted that in the data regarding hybridizers in this table those making wide and tetraploid crosses usually are included also in the columns for those working with 28 or 40 chromosome Siberians or both with the result that adding all numbers for a

* In the early decades cultivars were merely listed ones or had been introduced but not registered.

given decade gives a figure larger than that in the 'Total No.' column.

Early History--McGarvey (1) has suggested that since most species of Siberian irises are native to Asia it is probable that the use of Siberians as garden subjects started there. However, we have no records to confirm this. The first Siberian iris species of record is I. sibirica, named by Linnaeus in 1753, followed by the other 28 chromosome species, I. sanguinea which was called I orientalis by Thunberg in 1794 and given its present, correct name by Donn in 1811. The other eight sp species, or presumed species, which comprise the 40 chromosome group of Series Sibiricae followed between 1848 and 1933. Excluding these species, 17 Siberian irises are listed in the Check List as known before 1901 in association with the names of eight men. All of the 17 named cultivars were of the 28 chromosome group and probably all were selected or collected clones and not the result of planned hybridizing. The earliest of the 17 was SIBIRICA ALBA, recorded in 1809, but the name of the pioneer responsible for it is not listed. Next was the dwarf I. sibirica named ACUTA by Willdenow in 1813. This was followed by HAEMATOPHYLLA (Fischer) in 1825, by NERTCHINSKIA (Lodd) a form of I sanguinea, in 1832, and by TRIGONOCARPA (noted by Braun, Koch, and Bouche) a clone of I. sibirica, in 1853. Following a lapse of another 20 years, a new group of cultivars is recorded. Chief among them are those of Van Houtte who named six, including NIGRESCENS, in 1875 and '76, and of Dammann who named EUTERPE in 1874 and LEUCANTHA in 1894. The list concludes with COREANA, collected by Leichtlin in 1886, GEORGE WALLACE introduced by Wallace in 1894, and last but certainly not least the lovely white form of I. sanguinea, SNOW QUEEN, collected by Barr in 1900. It is noteworthy that plants bearing the names of at least four of these are still in commerce, namely ACUTA, NIGRESCENS, GEORGE WALLACE and SNOW QUEEN.

Hybridizing Practices - The Check List reflects the fact that the establishment of the American Iris Society as the official agency for registering Siberian Irises did not occur until 1920 or very soon thereafter. Prior to that, cultivars were merely named and, sometimes, introduced. Indeed some listed after that date were introduced but never registered and others were registered several years after their introduction. By 1930, however, the practice of making introductions only after registration was well established.

A glance at Table I shows that most hybridizers through the years have registered only one or two cultivars and that single registrations usually were of plants resulting from natural crosses. This suggests that those registering them were not deeply involved in hybridizing Siberians but had planted seeds from some 'bee-set' pods and had been pleased with one or two of the seedlings. On the other hand many growers were obvi-

ously seriously devoted to developing new cultivars. Among these were Perry and Gersdorff, each of whom named 49, and Mrs. Cleveland who introduced 47. No others in the period covered by this tabulation have come near those records but Wallace and Kitton each registered 21, Preston 20, McEwen 17, McGarvey 14, Spender 11 and Spofford 10; and eight others from 5 to 9. Gersdorff's record is particularly interesting because although he registered 48 only 2 of them appear to have been introduced.

Whereas the hybridizing efforts of most of those named in the Check List were very brief, some extended over two or three decades. Notable in this regard, as shown in Table I, were Cleveland, Dykes, Perry, Preston, Scheffy and Wallace.

Interest in 28 and 40 Chromosome Siberians - Table II shows that the 28 chromosome Siberians have been used far more than those with 40 chromosomes. Dykes named three cultivars involving 40 chromosome species in 1914 and Perry introduced 19 from 1922 to 1927 but thereafter only a very small fraction of those introduced yearly were of this type until those of Maurice Kitton and Doris Hansford in England in the 1961 to 1970 decade. A total of 435 cultivars is shown in the Check List through 1970. Of these, 342 or 80% were of the 28 chromosome group and only 20% were 40 chromosome Siberians.

The Use of Known Parents vs. Natural Crosses - The results of this analysis were particularly surprising to me. I had long assumed that the early hybridizers used only known parents but that later this practice tended to be ignored until the 1960s when the importance of making planned crosses was again realized. As shown in Table II the parents used for crosses were listed for none of the nine cultivars recorded for the decade 1901-1910, and for only three, or 11%, of the 28 listed for 1911-1920. Similarly only one (12%) of the eight hybridizers of that decade used known parents, and that one was Dykes. Subsequently (see Table II) the percentage of hybridizers using known parents increased steadily from about 25% for the period 1921-1940 to 33% for 1941-1960 and 55% for 1961 to 1970. Moreover, as shown in Table II, the percentage of the resulting cultivars after 1920 varied surprisingly little and amounted to close to 50% or more of all cultivars listed in each of the subsequent decades.

It is interesting to note in the tables that crosses of known parents have been used far more often for the 40 chromosome group than for the 28 chromosome Siberians. As examples, both Dykes and Perry (see Table I) listed the parents used for their 40 chromosome crosses but not for the 28 chromosome ones, and this was true of other hybridizers also. In numerical terms 40% of the 342 28 chromosome Siberians registered between 1900 and 1970 had both parents listed whereas this was true of 82% of the 52 registered 40 chromosome ones. One may speculate that

this difference in practice was due in part to the fact that in making the crosses of the 40 chromosome group the earlier hybridizers were consciously using different species and wanted to know if they would be compatible whereas the 28 chromosome crosses were usually made with familiar plants or seedlings. One would expect that Dykes and Perry as well as other hybridizers in later decades must have used known parents for their crosses of 28 chromosome cultivars just as they did for their 40 chromosome ones, but if so they were not recorded.

Waxing and Waning Interest - Table II illustrates also the varying degrees of interest in hybridizing Siberians since the turn of the century. Both the number of hybridizers and that of registrations rose steadily to a peak of 34 hybridizers who registered 123 cultivars in the 1931-1940 decade. Probably because of World War II, the numbers dropped sharply to 9 hybridizers and 20 registrations from 1941 to 1950. In the past two decades the numbers have gradually increased but by 1970 were still below the peak years.

Wide Crosses - This term is used for hybridizing efforts using species or subspecies which do not readily cross. For our purpose these can be considered under two headings: 1. crosses of 28- with 40-chromosome Siberians, and 2. those of Siberians with irises of other Series. The first now of record was ZETA, a seedling named by Dykes about 1914 although the exact date was not recorded, from a cross of I. sibirica x I. wilsonii. Three more of these crosses between 28 and 40 chromosome Siberians were recorded by Perry in 1922 and 1924 using compound names made up of the two species as follows: CHRYSOBIRICA, CHRYSOBIRICA GLORIOSA and CHRYSOBIRICA PURPUREA. Using the same system of naming, Wallace registered SIBULLEYANA in 1934. Two years earlier Spender registered HELICON, a cross of a seedling from I. chrysographes by one derived from the 28 chromosome cultivar EMPEROR; and in 1943 he registered the hybrid AEGEA derived from the reverse cross. No further hybrids from crosses between 28 and 40 chromosome hybrids were noted until the 1960s when Kitton registered MOONSCAPE and McGarvey, FORETELL. The latter is of particular interest because it differs from the others named above in being fertile. Kitton also reported one from a cross of I. forrestii by ERIC THE RED (3) which was fertile but he lost it and it was not registered.

Registrations of hybrids resulting from crosses between Siberians and irises of other Series have been somewhat more numerous. Perry named two: LONGSIB, from I. longipetala x I. sibirica in 1925, and MARGOT HOLMES, from I. chrysographes x I. douglasiana in 1927. He also recorded a successful cross of SNOW QUEEN X I. hartwegii. Williams recorded LILLABELLE, from EMPEROR by I. versicolor in 1934 and Simonet registered ORIENTOSA from I. sanguinea x I. setosa in 1938. Two have been recorded as being hybrids between Siberian and Louisiana irises,

TABLE I: Hybridizers of Siberian Irises by Decades.

Before 1901	Barr (1); Braun, Koch & Bouche (1, listed); Dammann (2); Fischer (1); Leichtlin (1); Lodd (1); Van Houtte (6); Wallace (1). Probably most, perhaps all, gave names to selected or collected clones and did not make crosses.
1901-10	Barr (4); Perry (1); Van Wavern (1); Vilmorin (2); Ware (1).
1911-20	Dykes (K:40chr-2,W1); Barnewitz (1, listed); Cleveland (9); Farr (1); Fryer (2); Drelage (1); Perry (16); Royal Tottenham Nurseries (1).
1921-30	Peckham (K:1); Norgan K:1); Preston K:15, Not:4); Perry (K:40chr-19,W6, Not:28chr-4); Berry (1); Birchfield (1); Bralliar (1); Cleveland (22); Correvon (40 chr-1); Dykes (3); Freeborn (1); Goos & Koenemann (1); Koehler (1); Millet (1); Perry (28chr-4, 40chr-1) Simonet (1); Smith (28chr-1, 40chr-2); Sturtevant (1); Ward (1-collected); Wallace (2); Waterer (1).
1931-40	Christie (K:28chr-1, 40chr-1; Craigie (K:4); Gage (K:1, Not:1); Gersdorff (K:48); Loat (K:40chr-1); Morgan (K:1, Not:3); Preston (K:1); Spender (K:W-1, Not:28chr-1); Wallace (K:40chr-6, W-1, Not:28chr-11); Chugai (1,selected); Cleveland (16); Foerster (2); French-Allen (1); Jennings (1); Kellogg (2); Kelway (2); Nesmith (2); Nichols (1); Perry (2,selected); J. Sass (1); Scheffy (3); Sturdevant (2); Tennant (1); Vilmorin (1); Wade (1,selected); Washington (3); Waterer (3); Wayman (2); Whitney (1); Yeld (1).
1941-50	Craigie (K:2); Spender (K:28chr-2, 40chr-2,W-1); Whitney (1); Auten-Schroeder (1); Clevenger (1); Hall (1); Scheffy (6); Stone (1); Wallace (1).
1951-60	Hodson (K:2) Hutchison (K:5); Kitton (K:1); McCashin (K:1); Shinkle (K:1, Not:1) Stoll (K:7); Cassebeer (3); Edwards (2); Kitton (2); Marx (2); Neel (40chr-1); Steiger (1); Streibach (1); Wheeler (1).
1961-70	Brummitt (K:6); Hager (K:2); Hansford (K:40chr-8); Hutchison (K:2); Kitton (K:28chr-10, 40chr-8,W-1); Knock (K:2); McCord (K:1); McEwen (K:28chr-3, 40chr-2,T-3, Not:28chr-7, 40chr-2); McGarvey (K:28chr-10, 40chr-2, W-1, Not:40chr-1); Randall (K:1); Sensenbach (K:1); Steiger (K:T-1, Not:28chr-1); Van de Water (K:1); Varner (K:2); Wiswell (K:1, Not:2); Ziepke (K:1); Carlson (1); Cassebeer (5); Darby (W-1); Delany (2); Harder (1); Mahood (40chr-1, W-2); Mize-Ruggles (40chr-1); Patton (W-1); Peck (1); Reinhardt (1); Rich (1); Spofford (10); Witt (40chr-1).

Numbers of registered or introduced cultivars for each hybridizer are shown in parentheses. 28chr means 28 chromosome group; 40chr- 40 chromosome group; W- wide cross; T- tetraploid; K- both parents known; Not- one or both parents not known. If K is not stated parents were not known; if chromosome number is not stated the cultivars are of the 28 chromosome group.

namely CLARET, of Mrs. Wiswell in 1966, and GERALD DARBY, registered for Mr. Darby by Coe in 1967. However, Mrs. Wiswell subsequently reported that CLARET was from two 28 chromosome Siberians (4) and the registration was corrected accordingly. I believe some question has been raised also about the parentage of GERALD DARBY. One more such wide-cross hybrid, HOLDEN CLOUGH, was registered in 1970 by Patton as 'probably from I. chrysographes by I. pseudacorus.' This conclusion regarding its parentage was based on its physical characteristics but is merely conjectural because it was the result of a natural cross.

By far the greatest interest in hybrids from wide crosses has been in the so-called Cal-Sibes. The first of these, MARGOT HOLMES, which has been referred to above, was awarded the first British Dykes Medal in 1927. There was a long lapse of time before the modern interest in them developed, largely through the efforts of Jean Witt, Leona Mahood and Lorena Reid on the West Coast. Three were registered from 1966 to 1970, SWIRLING MIST by Witt and FAIR COLLEEN AND SPACE CHILD by Mahood. In those crosses it seems natural that the Siberian parent has been a 40 chromosome cultivar since the Californicae also have 40 chromosomes. Only one cross of an iris of Series Californicae by a 28 chromosome Siberian has been registered, namely ROYAL CALIFORNIAN, from I. douglasiana x CAESAR'S BROTHER, by Lenz in 1955.

Tetraploids - The final topic which I will consider is that of tetraploid Siberians. The nature of tetraploidy and methods for inducing it are discussed elsewhere (5,6). The first one, registered as TETRAFOR by the late Max Steiger in 1964, was induced with colchicine from a clone of I. forrestii. Unfortunately it was lost during his long illness. At the same time McEwen (5) was developing tetraploidy in plants of the 28 chromosome group. The first of these colchicine induced cultivars bloomed in 1962 but none was registered until 1969 when the level of second generation tetraploidy, i.e., seedlings from crosses of induced tetraploids, had been reached. Only three were registered by 1970 but more have subsequently been added.

I have little doubt that I have made errors of commission and omission in this report and will appreciate being informed of any mistake.

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1. McCarvey, W.G., The Culture and Hybridizing of Siberian Irises: A Short History and Report on Current Work. Bull. AIS, No. 219, p. 20, October 1975.
2. Kitton, M.E., Further Notes on the Sibirica Sub-Section, Yearbook, B.I.S., 1961, p. 116, and personal communication to this author.
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4. Wiswell, G., Notes on Hybridizing Siberians, TSI, Vol. 3 No. 4, p. 5, Fall 1974.
5. McEwen, C., Tetraploidy in Siberian Irises, Yearbook B.I.S., 1966, pp77-84.
6. McEwen, C., Further Experience with Tetraploid Siberian Irises, Bull. AIS, No. 213, pp. 52-56, April 1974.

TABLE II. A- Hybridizers, According to Type of Cross, by decades

Years	No.	Number using known parents						Number using Bee Pods			
		28chr	40chr	Both	Wide	Tetra	%	28chr	40chr	Both	Wide
		All probably selectors or collectors of 28chr clones									
Pre1901	8										
1901-10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
1911-20	8	0	1	0	0	0	12	7	0	0	0
1921-30	20	2+(2)	1	0	1	0	25	12	1	2	0
1931-40	34	4+(1)	3	1	1	0	27	28	0	0	0
1941-50	9	2	0	1	1	0	33	6	0	0	0
1951-60	16	0	0	0	0	0	33	9	1	0	0
1961-70	27	10+(1)	1	1+(2)	2	2	55	8	3	0	3

(Numbers in parentheses indicate hybridizers using known parents for some crosses.)

TABLE II, B- Registrations, According to Type of Cross, by Decades

Years	No.	Number using known parents					Number from Bee Pods		
		28chr	40chr	Wide	Tetra	%	28chr	40chr	Wide
		All 28 chromosome ones; probably selected or collected							
Pre1901	17								
1901-10	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0
1911-20	28	0	2	1	0	11	25	0	0
1921-30	90	14	19	6	0	50	47	4	0
1931-40	123	56	8	2	0	61	67	0	0
1941-50	20	5	2	1	0	45	11	0	0
1951-60	33	17	0	0	0	50	15	1	0
1961-70	115	43	20	2	4	61	33	6	4
TOTALS	435	135	51	12	4		207	11	4

(The Editors have taken the liberty of substituting the term 'Bee Pod' for the term 'Natural Cross' which the author used in the original draft of the Table; this was done because otherwise the Table would have extended out almost to the edge of the paper. The meaning remains unchanged.

WHY BOTHER WITH THE SIBERIANS?

Muriel Coombs

Siberians don't need babying. Oh yes, I had TYCOON and GATINEAU on a bank under maple trees, another (never blooms and I've forgotten its name) by a hot dry corner of a building. My brother-in-law fell for CAESAR'S BROTHER at an auction, set it beside his little creek but in shade where they had to compete with tree roots. An ERIC THE RED and more CAESAR'S BROTHER are under his roof drain, always damp but not always in shade. All were babied and are proof of what not to do. They live. That's all.

Ten years ago I was starting TB seedlings under Gro-Lights mostly in gallon tins. I had picked a few Siberian pods, gave them similar treatment and sowed them in two gallon tins, expecting nothing. I guess all came up. What to do next stumped me.

In early June the mother of a large family living about four miles up the road said to my 72-year old husband, "You are good with boys. Sparky (her second son) needs a job to keep him busy. His father could drop him off on the way to work mornings and pick him up on the way home." So Sparky got the job.

At times when Frank didn't have enough work to keep Sparky busy he lent him to me for an hour or so a day. By the end of July four long beds had been freed of rocks and stones, manured, tilled with a spading fork and planted to TB seedlings. I still did not know what to do with the Siberians, by now four inches high and acclimated to being outdoors.

The acid clay soil had once been hayfield, then well manured vegetable garden for ten years. But no space was left in it except about a one-foot strip maybe sixty feet long with new TB seedlings on one side and an 18 to 24 inch dropoff or slope on the other. We put the assorted stones and rocks we had removed from the TB beds along this slope--sort of a rock mulch to prevent erosion.

Frank was now keeping Sparky so busy I could not count on any more help. I did not have the strength or the time to break up a new area of sod. Those Siberians had to be gotten into the ground <u>then</u>, while I could still separate them. I thought they probably wouldn't live anyway, so I didn't take any pains, just hurried them into one long row between the well-prepared TB seedling bed and the stone-covered slope. I spaced them three or four inches apart, watered them then and once a week (unless it rained) during August. That was all the care they got.

They lived! I was utterly flabbergasted! They thrived!

Now, TB seedlings take three to five years to bloom for me; the Siberians bloomed the second year! Most were blue, ok but not noteworthy. Two looked like ERIC THE RED. Three were large but were dirty pinkish lavender marred by brown veining. Several were lovely large deep blue TYCOON types.

Unfortunately that 1968 season finished me iriswise. The state chose to close all the nice friendly nearby nursing homes and there was nothing to do but have Frank's helpless brother come here. I had retired, was old, simply could not take care of both irises and us. The TB seedlings lingered a year or two, then gave up the ghost. The field grew up to wild raspberry bushes, evening primrose, goldenrod, wild asters, etc. But those Siberians live, thrive, and bloom right along with the weeds. So--why bother with Siberians? They like benign neglect, full sun and the meadowlike environment.

(Thank you, Muriel--this was one of my nicest Christmas presents this past holidays.
But of course you know that the ones you planted so carefully were put in all the wrong spots and the casual crop was in just the right one. -Peg)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gunther Stark

On hand in Checking Account 1/1/75			$ 359.56
Income 1/1/75 to 12/31/75			
Dues	$395.75		
Miscellaneous.....	22.28		
Interest.....	87.50		
Auction net.....	376.50		
Total Income	882.03		882.03
			$1241.59
Expenses 1/1/75 to 12/31/75			
Publication printing and mailing.....		$386.27	
Supplies and postage (officers)		27.15	
Secretary's expenses		25.00	
Total expenses		438.42....	438.42
On hand in checking account 12/31/75			803.17
			1241.59

On hand also: 1 Certificate of Deposit $1000.
1 Certificate of Deposit 500.
Total Interest Bearing Capital 1500.

(Be it noted that again this year it was the profit from the Auction that kept us out of the red. And this issue will go up again over last year's costs because of the postal increase. Think about it. -Peg.)

REPORT OF THE DISPLAY GARDEN COMMITTEE

Julius Wadekamper and Currier McEwen

(Mr. Wadekamper reported that there had been no changes in Display Gardens in Canada and the United States since his last report; however he has had a report from Dr. McEwen on gardens overseas. Here it is.)

As was mentioned in the Fall Issue of TSI for 1974 (Vol. 3 No. 10, pp.21-22) Dr. McEwen had discussed the possibility of developing Siberian Iris Display Gardens in Europe during his participation in the Iris Symposium in Liblice, Czechoslovakia in June 1974. This idea was actively followed up during 1975 with the enthusiastic help of the European iris groups, as a result of which Display Gardens have been established in Czechoslovakia, England, Italy, Poland, U.S.S.R. and West Germany. Dr. McEwen sent some 23 plants to each of these gardens consisting of his own introductions and those of McGarvey and Warburton. He had hoped to send cultivars of other hybridizers also but the clumps in his garden were not large enough to permit this. It is hoped that other breeders will send plants directly to the various gardens. For those who wish to do so the names and addresses of those responsible at the gardens are as follows:

Dr. Milan Blazek
Botanika Zahrada
Botanickeno Ustavu CSAV
252 43 Pruhonice
Czechoslovakia

Mr. McForstney
Amenities Officer
Dunorlan Park
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent, England

Signora Ernesta Pacciani Lemmi
Comitato Per Il Concorso Internazionale Dell' Iris
Palazzo Strozzi
Firenze, Italy

The Director
Instytut Sadownictiva-Rosling Ozdobna 96-100
Skierniewice
Ul. Warynskiego 4
Poland

Dr. Rodionenko, G.I.
Botanical Garden
Ul. Popova 2

Leningrad 1972 22
U.S.S.R.

Mr. Fessler
Director
Botanical Garden
Tubingen
West Germany

The committee is indebted to Signora Flaminia Specht, Countess von Stein-Zeppelin, Mr. Alex Back, Dr. Blazek, Mr. Roman Kutylowski and Dr. Rodionenko who have been particularly helpful in making these arrangements.

Since most of these gardens do not have funds to defray the cost of the plants or their shipment, those sending plants should be prepared to do so at their own expense. The garden should, of course, be informed that the plants are for their Siberian iris display.

It must be made clear that plants sent to the Comitato Per Il Concorso Internazionale Dell' Iris are for display and not for competition as there is no class for Siberians in the Florence Competition. Therefore, the plants can be sent labeled with their names just as for the other gardens.

The plants already sent include the following: BIG BLUE, BLUE BURGEE, BLUE SONG, CLEVE DODGE, DEEP SHADE, DEWFUL, DREAMING YELLOW, EARLY BLUEBIRD, EGO, EWEN, FLOATING ISLAND, FORETELL, FOURFOLD WHITE, LITTLE WHITE, MARILYN HOLMES, ORVILLE FAY, PANSY PURPLE, POLLY DODGE, RUFFLED VELVET, SALLY KERLIN, SHADOW LAKE, STELLAR BLUE, SUPER EGO, CAMBRIDGE, TEALWOOD, VELVET NIGHT or YANKEE TRADER were sent also to one or another of the gardens.

ROBIN COMMITTEE REPORT

Marjorie Barnes

There are five Robins flying at present. They are:
1. General Siberian
2. same
4. Advanced Hybridizing
5. International
6. same

No. 1 has seven members with one more in prospect; anyone interested in joining it can write direct to Dorothy Hamilton, Box 509, Beverley Farms, Mass. 01920. Nos. 2,5, and 6 are full. No. 3 seems to have gone out of business. It could be reinstated with applications from five prospective members one of whom volunteered to serve as Director.

A RECEIPT FOR MAKING ORRIS ROOT

(This was found in an old, battered cookbook, or rather the remains of one, pp. 79 to 238, found in the attic of an old house bought by a friend. What its name was, who wrote it, who published it, we don't know. But we felt any iris nut might enjoy the 'receipt'--which we haven't tried and don't intend to. If anyone wants to, we'd love to hear the results.)

Take the part of the tuber between the point of branching and the growing end of the tuber (which ought to be returned to the garden to grow for the next season's flowers) and let the portions dry in the sun, taking care to protect them from rain and the evening dew. When they are well dried, which should be about a week, take a sharp knife and pare the skin from the meat of the tuber as thinly as is possible so as not to waste any of the meat.

Then with a coarse grater grate the meat into a wide dish, as a meat platter or baking pan. The flour should be spread in the dish to about the thickness of the thumb and again be set in the sun to dry further, but set a thin muslin cloth over it so as to keep it from being burnt by the sun. When it has done drying, which will be three or four days except it rain some of the time (when the flour should be kept from being wetted), the flour can be used to fill little bags for scenting the linens, or it can be used in making potpourri in the same way as with that which one obtains from the merchants.

The best kind of iris to use is the kind called Florentine Iris, which is the smaller white iris of the garden, but it can also be made from the taller blue iris. Some of the finer forms that are sold for the garden are not as good as they do not have as sweet a scent, if indeed they have any. It is not always the sweetest-smelling flower that makes the best orris root.

(The nearest we can come to dating the book is that it was of the vintage in which amounts were given in fistfuls, and pinches, and lumps the size of a walnut or an egg, and the cook is advised to 'pass the flour through a bolting cloth of fine cotton gauze to remove the coarser particles'--this for making a fine cake. But the 's'es are not 'f's so it can't be very early. Probably Victorian. It is also well equiped with nice little moral lessons such as the tag at the end of this recipe, and one at the end of a recipe for Johnny Cake, which says the cake will not keep well for more than a day or two and ends 'the sweetest pleasures are often the shortest.' Alas, it is not illustrated with plump little girls in hoops rolling out cookie dough; otherwise I might suspect it was written for children.)

NOTICE: please read the deadline information on page 1. The dates have been changed to accommodate the cross country trips.

Back Talk—

Oddly I seem to have quite a bit to tell you about this time. Maybe the winter's rest activated my brains? Of course it helps that I've had some interesting letters since the last issue--not exactly stuff I could swipe the makings of an article from but things you might want to hear about.

First I want to introduce our new Assistant Editor, Carol Dawson. She is married, lives in Oregon, has a nearly grown-up daughter and an almost three-year-old son, and used to work in the Extension Service. She volunteered to do the typing for the final copy--the sheets we send to the printer for photographing. Hallelujah! This was one of the other nice Christmas presents I got (I mentioned Muriel Coombs' letter, which came December 23; Carol's came a little while earlier.)

Because the manuscripts now must travel from Coast to Coast and back between my getting them and making the first draft of the whole kit and kaboodle, and their coming back here to be passed on to the printer, and along with the round trip must be typed twice, we will have to either make the deadlines earlier or delay the publication dates. I'm sure you would all rather we did the first--not to mention that for the Fall issue we would really have to if we are to avoid the usual Christmas mail jam. So: hereafter the deadlines will be September 15 for the Fall issue, February 15 for the Spring issue.

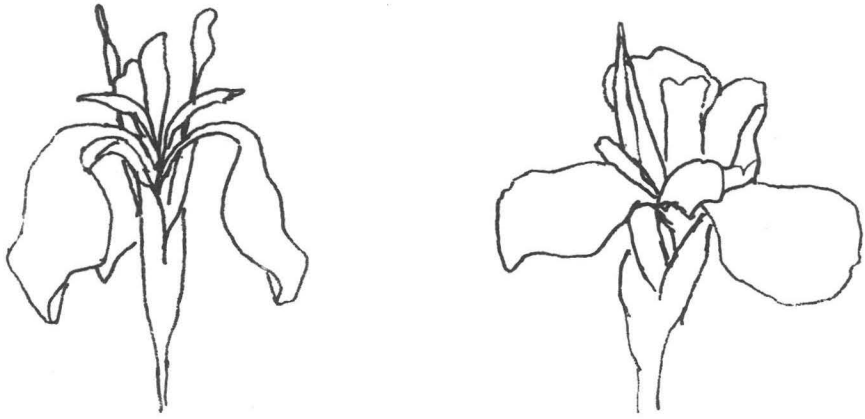
We still need materials for both issues. I do hate to nag, but we 'CAN'T PRINT WHAT YOU DON'T WRITE' as I've said so often before. I could easily have used another four to eight pages of articles, short bits, quotations from robins (Dear Editors, don't forget we can use extracts; so can Flight Lines.) We want anything--got any problems? ask the experts; see something exciting on your last garden tour? tell us; got a new way to sprout seeds? someone wants to hear; planted your Siberians in a different sort of mixed bed? go into details. Don't worry if it seems too long--we can cut it down without spoiling it. We can also expand your rough outline into a short article if you just don't feel you can write it all out. And please, if you say you will write an article, send it along in time; two that were promised for this issue never arrived.

Oh well, that's the story of my life. But the pleasant surprises seem to outweigh the unpleasant ones.

I had a letter from Eckard Berlin asking about the Check List--the old one in the 1970-72 issues. In the course of the resulting correspondence he included a snapshot of a tetraploid Siberian, I. forrestii, which he had created and which seems to be fertile--though he won't know for sure until spring when the seeds should sprout. Unfortunately we can't print the photograph

but I made a tracing of the flower as well as I could, and also one of I. forrestii as shown in Dykes--that is, the diploid form. The tetraploid is a sort of orange-sherbety color in the picture, with what appears to be rows of small brownish dots on the hafts. An unopened bud rises between the style arm (to the front) and the standard (to the back) at the left side. You can easily see how much more flaring the falls are, and that the standards and styles are broader and stiffer and indeed make a sort of cup shape at the center. How big the flower is I don't know, nor how well it will grow--it is a very new baby still.

Diploid on the left; tetraploid on the right



Now I want to say a few words about the Check List. It should get to the printer some time in May or early June. We can't say yet how much it is going to cost, but it certainly won't be very expensive--perhaps $2 or 3 at the outside. It would be a very big help if we could have some idea how many members will want a copy. I've already heard from some of you and have a list of the first customers on the waiting list. We don't want to order 500 copies and find we can only sell 150; but neither do we want to order 200 and have to go back to the printer to put out a second printing because between members and other interested people we have orders for 250. You don't need to send money in advance--in fact there's no sense doing that because we don't know what it will cost--no sense wasting the postage shuttling money back and forth. Just a postcard to say 'I'd like a C.L. when available' will serve the purpose.

And you shouldn't feel that it is only for the hybridizers and scientists among us. It can be a help in identifying your garden plants--for example, if you have a plant labeled ROYAL HERALD which is reddish, the C.L. will tell you that you may have a lovely plant but it isn't the original ROYAL HERALD but the result of a mixup somewhere--maybe 20 years ago! Or you might find that you have something that has been declared obsolete--but you can prove it isn't (if this happens, do let us know, because in about 10 to 15 years we intend to bring out a supplement to cover the varieties registered and introduced since this one, and we can easily at that time make some corrections of this sort of thing.)

Can I nag you all a little about auctions? I do it every issue, and I guess it just wouldn't seem like a normal issue if I didn't. Go back to page 16 again and study the Treasurer's Report. Dues barely cover the publication bill. Since our last issue postage has gone up and I have reason to think the printing bill will also be higher (although the issue will be smaller than usual) so it seems likely that this year's publication costs will run over the amount of the dues. The one auction that we have been having takes care of almost all our other expenses. We do, right now, have some money in the bank, but it really isn't enough to do anything in the way of sponsoring research into Siberian iris problems--which do exist and ought to be investigated by someone trained to do such work and with the facilities available to do it well. Our Research Committee has done quite a lot within its limitations--and they are on the whole capable workers who have trained themselves, or been trained in other fields, in the requirements of research. But they have been doing the work in their own back yards, which cannot provide the equipment, space and facilities for any really extensive research. We need funds available so that if and when we find someone who has access to proper horticultural research facilities and personnel, we can sponsor their work on Siberian iris problems. For that we need money available. The Check List is going to involve an outlay of ready cash too, which (we hope) will in due time be repaid out of purchases--but it sure can't be paid for right off the bat out of dues. The Publications Committee has some other ideas in mind for publications the Society can use--we'd like to put together an index of all articles we have printed so far. We'd like to collect the best and most enduring articles from the older issues, many of which are now out of print, and put out a small (well, smallish) book that could fill the gap for members who don't have a complete file of back copies and can't get them any more. The Secretary needs leaflets to give the basic information about the irises and the society, to send to new members and to have available at Conventions and Regional and area meetings to perhaps, persuade people to join.

Now all these things cost money. It would be lovely if we

could do them all this Fall. But for one thing we don't have enough money right now to do even half of them--for another thing, ye editor is planning a nice long rest once the C.L. is off to the printer! But we'd like to feel that the cash would be available when the time comes that we can tackle these jobs.

The only way we can get the money is through the auctions--we could raise dues but we don't want to do that; it would mean quite a few of our members would drop out (it always does). But if it is all left to the New England group and nobody else tries to put on an auction--well, really, is that fair? Of course we do have the fun, and we do get the bargains in irises and the delightful food and the interesting programs. But also we (some of us anyhow) do the work, and the whole Society benefits. Why shouldn't the whole Society benefit from the whole Society's work, and at the same time have a good time, a good nosh, and a bit of education? Not to mention the bargains!

Think about it a while! Aren't you missing something?

We have two pictures of last year's auction. Unfortunately I can't identify all the people in them--some are at an angle or in a light such that I can't be sure just who they are; some I know well, and their names are on the tip of my tongue but won't come off (you've all had that feeling, I know) and some are just not known to me. But for what it is worth, here goes. The pictures were taken by Ira and Betty Wood who also couldn't identify them very well. Oh well, when you only see people once a year, and then quite a lot of them at once, I guess this does happen.

The picture of two men shows Bill McGarvey on the left, with what looks like a hammer sticking out of his pocket. But it is probably only the top and clip of his eyeglass case. I think, but am not sure, the other is Ken Waite, but I don't recall seeing Ken frown quite so much. They both seem rather disturbed; perhaps someone had bid in something they both wanted for a bit more than they wanted to pay, and they are trying to decide whether to raise again? I have seen such faces at a poker game. The group picture...Well, the bearded gentleman is Harry Bishop. I don't know why he isn't shivering like the rest of us; that wide-open jacket makes me shiver even this long after I got warmed up again. Beside him, in the lower corner, is Esther McGarvey, who very sensibly came with a good warm raincoat. Of course she came from the west, where the nasty chilly spell came from, so maybe she knew something we easterners didn't? Right behind her is Ye Ed, huddled into a nice warm cardigan and freezing. I later put on a long skirt and a raincoat over my sweater, but I didn't really feel warm until we were almost down to New Haven. However, this picture shows that in spite of the chill we were enjoying ourselves; and this kind of weather doesn't happen very often--it is usually nice

and warm, if not actually roasting, the late August afternoons that we have the auctions. I know Dr. McEwen was somewhere near me but I'm not sure whether he is the gentleman in the black coat, or the one in profile behind me, or the one who is out of sight behind Mr. Bishop. I'm sure there weren't three of him, so I can't say who the other two are.

Which is not very helpful, is it? Oh well, enjoy. Try it yourself this year.

S. O. S.!

Marlene Ahlburg,
3171 Rotgesbuttel,
Hohe Feld 22,
West Germany,
wants to buy or borrow the following back copies:
Vol. I #s 5, 6,

Vol. II #s 1, 2,
4, 7, 8.

Write her directly if you can help her.

Peg

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