

# *The Siberian Iris*



*Fall 1997*



**Roaring Jelly (Schafer/Sacks '92), AM winner 1997**



**Harpswell Velvet (McEwen '91), AM winner 1997**

— THE SIBERIAN IRIS —

**VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4**

**FALL 1997**

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**Front Cover: Coronation Anthem Morgan-Wood Medal  
Winner for 1997**



## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Three years have come and almost gone. Too fast! As of the end of this year I pass over the President's post to Tom Abrego. I am sure you will welcome him and give him your support. Incidentally, Tom deserves a strong vote of thanks for putting together our lovely new "Invitation to Join" brochure that will act as an excellent recruiting tool. If you haven't seen it, I can assure you will be impressed. Look for some of the other iris sections to upgrade theirs now!

The Siberian Society is in pretty good shape, though there is good reason to be concerned about the declining membership and financial woes of AIS, which could cause us problems down the road. Without the AIS as a strong stem, our Siberian branch will not thrive and blossom for long.

Problems with SSI's membership communications have been cleared up thanks to a new printer and a strong effort by Howard Brookins. The new checklist has already sold out and is being further updated and reprinted, also thanks to Howard. An SSI website is well on the way to completion under the care of Jim Wilson. Look for an announcement of its opening in the next TSI. The financial state of the Society is sound, particularly because of some recent generous donations. Betty Wood provided liberal support for striking the new Morgan-Wood Medal blanks. Since this year's award goes to me for **Coronation Anthem**, my sense of gratitude to her is particularly acute. Currier McEwen made a fine donation from the royalties from his book and, as usual, the NE Apogon Auction shared their financial success with us. My sincere thanks go to all these helpful donors.

The next Siberian Convention is firmly established for June 2000 in Iowa, and a good number of new seedlings are now in the ground there. Among them are some novel types from Mr. Ho Shidara in Japan. In May I had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Shidara's garden near Tokyo. As Japan's only known breeder of Siberian irises, he has almost 50 years' experience and has developed a number of innovations, including 6-petal and multi-petal forms and some nice yellows -- all without much contact with western breeders since he doesn't speak any English. I'll tell you about this visit in the next TSI.

My special appreciation goes to all who have supported SSI and me over the last three years: particularly to Jim Holmes who has kept the books, and Ada Godfrey who has kept the minutes, both doing so accurately and without fuss. Last, but believe me not least (since she will be editing these comments in about 10 minutes), I have to thank my wife, Judy, for the great job she has continued to do as Editor of TSI over the last three years. I think she has good reason to be proud of the standard that TSI has achieved while it has been in her care, and I have surely been lucky that she has kept going for all of my three years in office. May the next President be so fortunate -- and find as much reward in the job as I have.

Bob Hollingworth

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## **IN SIBERSPACE**

### **SIBROB NOTES**

**From Ellen Gallagher** \_\_\_\_\_

Siberian irises are alive and well on the Internet and especially on the Siberian e-mail robin. This AIS robin has operated with a high total of 31 'Sibrobbbers' and presently the number is 29.

Here is a small sampling taken from messages posted 8/11 - 9/20. All of these are verbatim quotes, and they were lifted out of posts sent to the SIBROB regarding companion plants.

~~~~~  
Rocks: An iris planted and growing into a good clump beside a craggy gray rock is a fine garden picture. I have rocks to spare so find this easy to do but if you need to import some, find those that are natural looking and take some muscle help.

Claire Peplowski

East Nassau, New York - Zone 4 - Berkshire area

~~~~~

Artemesia: I grow 'Silver King' as a backdrop for the Siberians. It is tall and the silver foliage really compliments the rich colors of Siberians. In my sandy soil, it tends to be VERY weedy. I pull it out by the handful--all season long. But it is worth the effort.

R. Dennis Hager

Millington, MD - Zone 7a

~~~~~

Some of the things I use for companion plants are Astilbes - I love A. superba Taquetti and Sprite.

Anna Mae Miller,

Kalamazoo, MI - Zone 5

~~~~~

I have a group of sibs with some Sedum 'Autumn Joy' around them. This makes for a low maintenance section of garden. I just had to learn how to get the spacing right. The contrasting textures of these two look particularly effective, and the density of the foliage seems to keep weeds down as well.

Bob Dickow,  
Moscow, Idaho - Zone 5

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Anna Mae said bulbs would go well to extend the bloom season. I do have a number of daffodils planted in the bed to start the bloom season. The hostas and sibs do a great job of hiding the foliage later. The two ends of this bed are planted with daylilies to carry over color until the hostas bloom, which they are still doing now. The hosta **Invincible** has great flowers and they are carried for sometime.

Bill Dougherty,  
Fridley MN - Zone 4

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I agree with your choice to combine sibs. and hostas. I think they are good companions. As a part of my garden is in the shade of pine forest, I began at once to collect those hostas which like only partial sun or full shade. Then I had the idea to combine sibs. and sun loving hostas in the sunny part of the garden, in which I do reconstruction especially for irises. Only from foreign orders can I can achieve this - here in Lithuania there is a very short list of hostas available.

Edmundas Kondratas  
Lithuania

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Have to say that the prettiest companion plants I've ever seen are in a garden I visited. Many blue sibs interspersed with red coral bells.

Ginny Prins,  
Ontario, Canada - Zone 4b

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Here is an addendum from Graham Spencer on another subject – the 40 chromosome Siberians:

We grow the plummy red colored form called "Rubella" and also the black form (which really is black with the familiar gold writing on it). Unfortunately, many nurseries sell these grown from seed, and they do not always come true, especially if *forrestii* is lurking near their stock plants. You can get some interesting chrysofors seedlings from this cross, but they are a bit annoying if you've just purchased them labeled as chrysographes.

I know that one or two of the big Dutch wholesale growers have started to do them, including one that we use occasionally that has a really good reputation for honest naming of plants, so I expect these plants to get increasingly easy to buy in Europe. At the moment they are still really limited to specialist growers and some more adventurous general growers. Incidentally, this particular wholesaler has a nursery in the US, so expect these plants over there too.

Graham Spencer  
West Sussex, England

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*I down-loaded the following list of hostas which grow in sunny conditions. They were posted by Bill Dougherty from Minnesota and Edmundas Kondratas from Lithuania. Ed.*

August Moon  
Blue Umbrellas  
Bright Glow  
Chinese Sunrise  
Color Glory

Midas Touch  
Moonglow  
Moonlight  
On Stage  
Royal Standard



Fall Bouquet

Francee

Gold Drop

Gold Medallion

Golden Prayers

Golden Sculpture

Green Fountain

Green Wedge

Honeybells

Sea Drift

Shining Tot

Spritzer

Sugar and Cream

Sum and Substance

Zounds

H. plantaginea

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## **FURTHER THOUGHTS ON PLANTING SIBERIANS:**

**By Jean-Marc Boileau, Québec, Canada** \_\_\_\_\_

I found Sandra Rawling's article entitled Spring Versus Fall Planting (TSI, Spring 1997) very interesting. This article led me to think about the factors influencing the rate of success with Siberian transplants. I live in Canada and in the past few years, I have imported hundreds of beardless irises from American suppliers. I have planted Siberians almost anytime from the beginning of May to mid-October. The Canadian Customs inspection system is slow and inefficient, and my orders were generally delivered to my house within 11 to 16 days. This was unacceptable, so I had to look for alternate methods to speed up the process.

From these stressful experiences, I remember that I received Siberians which had remained healthy despite spending 16 days in the mail, while plants which had been delivered within two days had already started to rot inside the box. Needless to say, after losing many plants, I gained some experience in identifying some of the factors influencing the success of Siberian planting.

When newly planted Siberians are lost, many people feel guilty and wonder what they did wrong. It is not an easy task to

determine what went wrong. Once Siberians have been dug out, plants will deteriorate more or less rapidly, depending on such factors as: 1. health of grower's stock, 2. packaging and shipping delays, 3. type of care given to new plants. Let's examine each of these factors.

### **Grower's stock: how healthy is it?**

Foliage must be green and clean, the crown (the area between the leaves and the rhizome) must be firm and roots must be healthy. Healthy roots are firm with no "slimy" or soft areas, and the color is close to white. If all of the roots are brown, there should be new white roots forming on the sides and/or under the rhizome. If there are none, you will need some luck! Siberians must be free of borer eggs and thrips. If the Siberians had to endure many weeks of drought before being shipped, the plants might be weak and hard to transplant; under these circumstances, a supplier should make his customers aware that the plants will need extra care.

All plants should be freshly dug. I do not know what "fresh" means exactly, but it certainly does not apply to plants that have been sitting in a bucket of water for five days before being shipped. Unlike bulbs and other types of perennials such as daylilies and bearded irises, Siberians deteriorate rapidly, and each day that the plants spend in water or in a box reduces the chances of successful planting.

### **How long will it travel?**

Would anyone eat green onions - wrapped in plastic bags - that had spent two weeks packed on top of each other in a virtually air-tight, non-refrigerated box? Siberians are no different. Siberians should not be in the mail for more than a week. Two to three days is ideal, but this is not always

possible. If the plants are expected to remain in a box for five days or more, additional precautions must be taken. Roots must remain moist at all times, but the leaves and crown will rot if they are submitted to the same moisture treatment as roots. Dampness inside the box will stimulate growth of fungus on the leaves. Once leaves start to rot, the disease spreads quickly to the crown and even if the roots look healthy, the plant is at risk of being lost. It is important to ensure proper air circulation inside the box by allocating sufficient space between the plants; materials such as wood chips, styrofoam peanuts or layers of crumpled newspapers, between each division will enable air circulation. It is also important to reduce the amount of dampness inside the box by bringing in fresh air. This can be done by punching small holes on each side of the box. For large orders, I think it is well worth the expense of paying higher shipping fees for a big box since the extra space will provide the plants with more breathing room.

### **Customer's Responsibility:**

Customers should make sure that a proper planting space has been prepared ahead of time. It is essential to soak the plants for several hours or even for a day before planting, but remember that Siberians do not live in the water. If no planting space is available, the plants can be potted or planted in a temporary place until a permanent space becomes available. Potted plants can be transplanted almost anytime if the roots remain undisturbed, but it is advisable to wait one year before moving Siberians from one place to another.

Siberians take time to adapt to their new environment. A few leaves might turn brown, particularly if the plants are in full sun and the weather is hot. The new plants will appreciate some shade at mid-day. Anything can do the job: lawn chairs,

patio tables, fabric, etc. Newly planted Siberians should never be allowed to dry out. The soil must remain moist for a few months, but remember, moist does not mean wet. A mulch around the plants will help to keep the ground cool and retain moisture. I do not think that Siberians should be fertilized at the time of transplant. For the first two to three weeks, plants are merely trying to recover from their journey, and their metabolism might not be strong enough to assimilate fertilizers. There is a risk that chemicals remaining around the plants will burn the roots. After a few weeks, a balanced liquid fertilizer (such as 20-20-20) will be beneficial if the plants seem to be doing well.

According to my experience, time is the single most important factor when Siberians are to be transported and planted. When healthy plants are dug out one day before being shipped, then are delivered within 2 or 3 days and are soaked for no more than 24 hours before being planted, they will easily survive even in less than perfect weather conditions. Plants should then be properly planted and well watered during the following weeks. From the time of digging out to the time of planting, each person who handles the plants is responsible to ensure that no precious time is lost. Careful handling and planning are the key to success with Siberians, and the rewards by far exceed the efforts!

**NB.** See Dr. Currier McEwen's book **The Siberian Iris** for more tips on how to care for Siberians.

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## **1997 AIS AWARDS FOR SIBERIANS**

### **MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL**

	votes
<b>Coronation Anthem</b> (Bob Hollingworth)	85

#### **Runners up**

<b>Reprise</b> (Bee Warburton)	41
<b>Springs Brook</b> (Bee Warburton)	40

### **AWARD OF MERIT**

<b>Roaring Jelly</b> (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)	148
<b>Harpwell Velvet</b> (Currier McEwen)	98

#### **Runners-up**

<b>Cheery Lyn</b> (Anna Mae Miller)	70
<b>Devil's Dream</b> (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)	57

### **HONORABLE MENTION**

<b>Strawberry Fair</b> (Bob Hollingworth)	138
<b>Lake Keuka</b> (Dana Borglum)	95
<b>Mesa Pearl</b> (Bob Bauer/John Coble)	76
<b>Golden Edge</b> (Currier McEwen)	34

## THE BACKGROUND OF CORONATION ANTHEM MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL WINNER FOR 1997

By Bob Hollingworth\_\_\_\_\_

### *Coronation Anthem*

*An upright character prevails over a lazy beauty*

When **Jewelled Crown** first appeared in 1983, and its conversion to tetraploidy resulting from colchicine treatment turned out to be a stable, it seemed like a dream come true. But, dreams can sometimes be short-lived. One other thing was essential to make the whole thing perfect -- **Jewelled Crown** had to be fertile so that I could build on its several novel qualities. There was no guarantee. It is not at all uncommon for such converted tetraploids to be very reluctant parents. I can think of several of occasions when the initial "eureka" was followed by a long period of disappointment when no pods or viable seeds ever arrived and the breakthrough never happened. Fortunately, **Jewelled Crown** did not play coy when it came to iris romance. It rapidly proved to be a willing pod and pollen parent. One of the resulting seedlings from a cross made in 1985 was **Coronation Anthem** (seedling 87P1B6). The other parent of **Coronation Anthem** (82J3B1) was one of those seedlings that is good enough to get a number, but not great enough to introduce. Coming from a sibling of **Windwood Spring**, it was a mid-to-light blue tetraploid with good vigor and bud count, but a color that in the last resort was not different enough to make the final cut. Fortunately, the vigor and bud count carried through to its progeny.

At first, **Coronation Anthem** was neglected. It was the clear second choice for introduction from among its group of siblings. A sister seedling actually was the apple of my eye -- a



tall clear light blue with a strong white signal patch and perfect form. However, this lovely sister turned out to have a character flaw. She had lazy stems. Reluctantly I had to admit that her flower stalks were top-heavy and too often ended up in a faint on the floor after wind or rain. **Coronation Anthem** had a more upright and workmanlike character and never lounged around. The other thing that eventually brought **Coronation Anthem** to the fore was its vigor and floriferousness. It grows and blooms like crazy! This is one iris we never have to worry about keeping in stock.

Maybe this is why, of all the irises we have introduced so far, **Coronation Anthem** comes closest to deserving the “repeat bloom” label. Close, but not close enough. We get frequent reports of people having a strong second bloom period a few weeks after the first. I have seen this here too, but for us it is never predictable -- some years, some clumps, yes; other years, other clumps, no. I have never been able to identify any climatic or cultural reason for this on and off behavior. But, if anyone out there is interested in trying to tame this repeat bloom character in Siberians, **Coronation Anthem** would be as good a place to start as anywhere I know.

Finally, **Coronation Anthem** is proving to be an outstanding source of robust, strongly ruffled tetraploids. It is one of the parents of **Blueberry Fair** that we introduced this year, and it is the progenitor of a series of tetraploids with very extensive white signals in which the color on the falls is limited to an outer rim. I think these are exciting -- look out for the first of them coming as an introduction next year!

## MORGAN AND WOOD, THE MEN BEHIND THE MEDAL

*Since new Morgan-Wood medals have just been struck, assuring their continuance for at least the next 25 years, it seemed timely to review the history of the Morgan Award and the Morgan-Wood Medal. It is rather complicated, and many of our newer members may not be aware of the difference between the two awards. I have tried to clarify the subject of the awards and to shed a little light on the men for whom they are named. Ed.*

### ***F. Cleveland Morgan***

F. Cleveland Morgan was a prominent citizen of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and his family owned Henry Morgan and Co., Ltd., a Canadian department store chain, of which he was a director. He was a patron of the arts and served as president of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts for eight years and had a 45-year association with them.

Ask an irisarian who F. Cleveland Morgan was, and you will hopefully get the answer –hybridizer of that wonderful Siberian iris **Caesar's Brother** and the man for whom the Morgan Award and Morgan-Wood Medal were named. Knowing these facts, one would expect to find plenty of information about Mr. Morgan in past AIS bulletins, but unfortunately this is not so. We do know that he was a life member of AIS, Region 19 and The Canadian Iris Society, and that he hybridized several tall bearded irises in the 1920's and 30's before switching his interest to Siberians. He originated **Caesar** (1930), **Hadrian** and **Quebec** (1931), **Caesar's Brother** (1932) and **Tropic Night** (1937). Caesar won an AM in 1928 from The Royal Horticultural Society in

England, **Caesar's Brother** won the Morgan Award in 1953 and **Tropic Night** won it in 1954.

He did have an article published in the July 1927 AIS Bulletin describing a trip he made to England where he visited the Chelsea Flower Show and toured the trial Gardens at Wisley. In another bulletin (April 1931) an "Irises in Canada" issue, he wrote again and included a picture of **Grandis** (Farr 1912) photographed in his garden. The following quote is the first indication that I can find of his interest in Siberians. "*I would urge growers in Canada to devote more time and space to the Siberians. They are of iron-clad hardiness and will thrive in the coldest parts of the country without any particular care. I have many thousands of seedlings and hope in time to make some of them available to gardens.*"

Mr. Morgan was awarded the AIS Hybridizer's Medal in 1950 along with Isabella Preston, a fellow Canadian and creator of the Siberian **Gatineau**. But strangely, this was not reported in the AIS Bulletin until July 1953, and was noted then only as part of a list of winners of the Hybridizer's Medal from 1941 to 1952. There was no photograph or biographical sketch included. All other entries except those of Morgan and Preston had a previous bulletin reference. Did the editor just miss them out in the 1950 bulletin? We will probably never know.

Also in 1950, at the AIS Board of Director's meeting held in St. Louis in November, (10 years before the Society for Siberian Irises was formed), Mr. Robert Allen proposed that a medal for the outstanding Siberian variety of the year be presented yearly at the discretion of the board, and that this medal be named the Morgan Award in honor of Mr. F. Cleveland Morgan in recognition of his outstanding contributions in production of such widely recognized and

grown varieties as **Caesar** (the spelling then accepted, but corrected in the 1949 AIS checklist), **Caesar's Brother**, **Tropic Night** and others. The Board accepted the proposal, and the Morgan Award came into being. It was first awarded in 1952 and was to be given annually to the officially registered and introduced Siberian receiving the greatest number of votes, at least seven being required. Varieties had to have received an HM to qualify, and voting was by AIS judges on the official AIS ballot, (TSI. Vol.1, no.5, March 1963).

According to AIS historian Larry Harder, no photograph of Mr. Morgan was ever published in an AIS bulletin, nor did I find one in TSI, so here was a challenge. I contacted the librarian of *The Gazette* (Montreal), a prominent Canadian newspaper, and they kindly sent me his obituary and the photograph on page 20. He died on October 3, 1962 at the age of eighty. In the obituary (*The Gazette*, October 4, 1962), there is mention of a special exhibition at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, which honored the work done for the museum by Mr. Morgan. It was comprised of a representative selection from the vast collection of fine arts that he had donated to the Museum over the years.

There is no mention of his interest in irises, although it does state that another focal point of his life was his world-famous rock gardens at his country estate in Senneville. The gardens were often opened to the public and local garden societies. Jean-Marc Boileau, one of our members from Quebec, did some checking and found that the estate at Senneville is now The Morgan Arboretum. It covers 245 hectares of forest where many trails are available for pedestrians (admission \$4.00/day). The old Morgan house is still there, but it cannot be visited. He asked if there was a garden or irises near the house and the answer, sadly, was no. Although a section of

the arboretum is located in Senneville, the entrance is in Sainte-Anne-de- Bellevue, which is about 20 miles west of Montreal.

Though Mr. Morgan will be remembered in Montreal as a prominent businessman and outstanding contributor to the arts community, I hope that his creation of **Caesar's Brother** will not be forgotten. It will certainly remain as a lasting tribute, along with the Morgan-Wood medal in the Siberian iris world.

### *Ira Wood*

Ira Wood was born in Redlands, California in 1903. He was an electrical engineer by profession, working at Bell Telephone Laboratories for many years. In 1929 when moving to Bell, he was told that he could go east by any route he chose, at company expense. He chose to go by boat via the Panama Canal! His work at Bell Labs was in circuitry design. During the Second World War, he worked on circuitry for gun directors and guided missiles and spent quite a bit of time at White Sands where the missiles were tested. He did not like the idea of working on weapons and was happy when he was able to return to telephone work.

His interest in irises began in 1948 when he and his wife Betty moved into a garden apartment in Summit, New Jersey where there was an iris garden. They soon outgrew the garden space by the apartment and so they bought an acre of land and built a house. After several years of growing and hybridizing tall bearded irises, Ira decided that there was an undeveloped future for Siberians and turned his attention to making very carefully controlled Siberian crosses. A perfectionist, he had only chosen to introduce one of his seedlings when his work

of his 74th birthday. That seedling, a warm white self out of **White Swirl**, was named **Ong's Hat**. It was introduced by Tranquil Lake Nursery in 1981.

He had encouraged increase of another of his seedlings, one with an especially rich blue color and vigorous growth. After his death, this seedling was grown in Currier McEwen's garden and Currier named it **Ira Wood**. It was registered and introduced by Seaways Garden in 1982.

Ira served the American Iris Society in many ways, including three terms on the AIS Board of Directors and was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal of AIS. He was a director of the Siberian Iris Society at the time of his death. He and Betty attended every AIS convention from 1954 to 1977.

### **The Morgan Award and The Morgan-Wood Medal**

Following the AIS Board action in 1950, the Morgan Award took the form of a certificate presented to the winner, similar to an AM certificate, to which the award was considered equivalent.

After Ira's death, Betty Wood and Region 19 wanted to find a suitable way to honor him. They decided on the Ira Wood Medal, to be presented to the winner of the Morgan Award. At this time there was no award for Siberians higher than the Morgan Award. David Silverberg, RVP of Region 19, worked with Betty to develop the medal. *Medallic Art* in Meridian, Connecticut was chosen to do the casting, and Betty and David made 5 or 6 trips to supervise the design and development. **White Swirl** was chosen to be the center design because of its distinctive shape, and because Ira had used it extensively in his breeding program. Betty Wood and Region 19 split the cost of \$2000, and 25 of the handsome



medals were struck. They were first presented at the AIS Convention in Tulsa in 1980 with Betty and David together at the podium. They presented the award to Bill McGarvey for **Augury** and to all living hybridizers for each Morgan Award they had previously won. The medal read "The Ira Wood Medal For Siberian Irises," and on the reverse "Presented to the Winner of the Morgan Award."

In 1985, at the Seattle Convention, the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society approved a proposal, presented by the Society for Siberian Irises, to upgrade their top award to medal status. It was decided to award two AM's per year for Siberians and to elevate the Morgan Award to medal status and name it The Morgan-Wood Medal. No award was given in 1985, but from 1986 until 1996 the Ira Wood medals were used. The wording on the reverse now read "Presented to the winner of the Morgan-Wood Medal." This year, when the old medals had been used up, Betty Wood again gave a generous donation for the striking of the new medals. These medals, for the first time, carry the legend "The Morgan-Wood Medal" on the obverse.

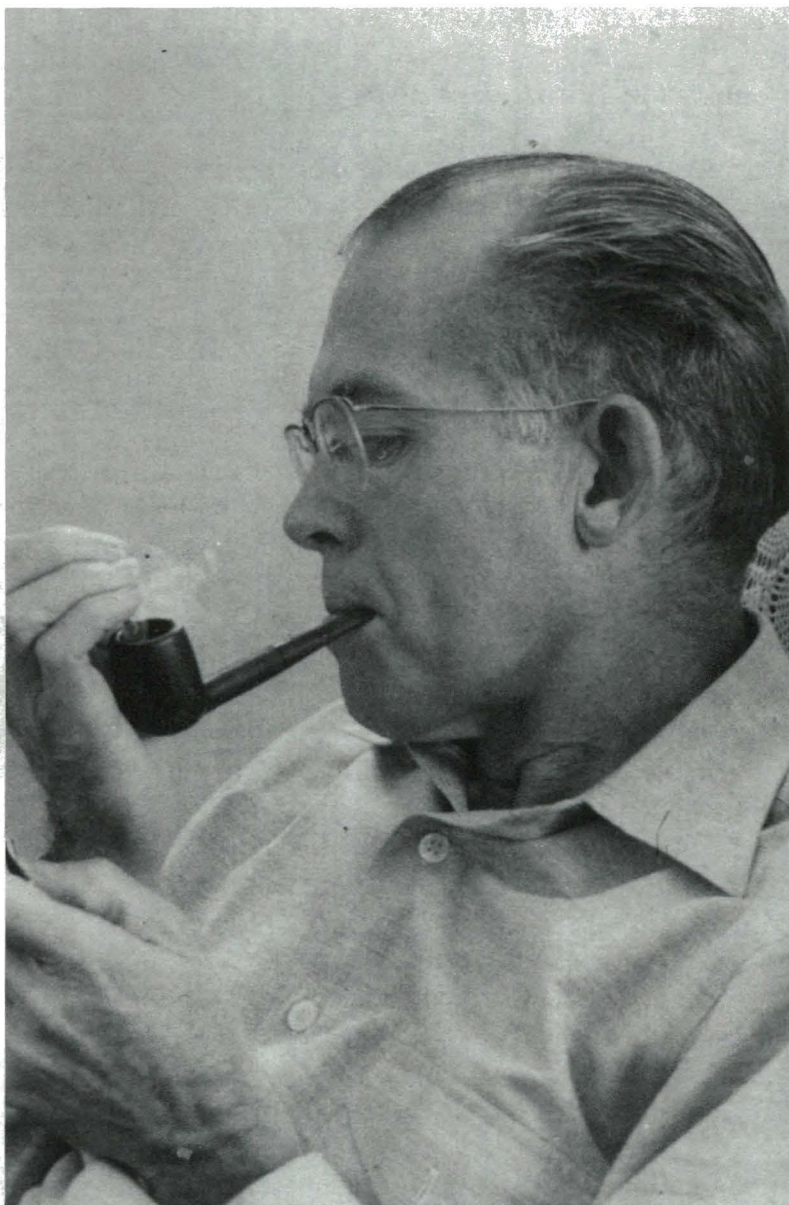
*I must thank Jean-Marc Boileau, Larry Harder, Currier McEwen, Keith McNames, David Silverberg and Betty Wood for their help in researching this article.*

*The photograph of Mr. Morgan is printed with the permission of The Gazette (Montreal) and is not for reproduction without the payment of a fee and written permission from the newspaper.*

*The photograph of Mr. Wood was provided by Mrs. Betty Wood. Ed.*



**F. Cleveland Morgan**



**Ira Wood**

## RESULTS OF THE 1997 "FAVORITE 15" BALLOT

Compiled by Barbara Schmieder \_\_\_\_\_

This was my first year tabulating the Siberian iris poll, and I enjoyed it very much, especially all the letters and notes that people wrote to me! Here are a few statistics that you might find of interest:

1. Number of people voting: 83
2. Number of states the votes came from: 20 plus two votes from Belgium.
3. List of states the votes came from, plus number of people who voted: Massachusetts (14) Washington (9) Ohio (6) New York, Virginia (5) Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Oklahoma (4) Illinois, Montana and North Carolina (3) California, Colorado, Oregon and Maine (2) Arkansas, Nebraska, New Hampshire and New Jersey (1)
4. Since the 1995 poll 15<sup>th</sup> place finishers had eight votes each, it seems only fair that all irises that got as many as eight votes should be listed this year. They are (in addition to the top 15):
  - 11 votes - Isabelle, Moonsilk, Percheron, Trim the Velvet
  - 10 votes - Indy, King of Kings, Steve Varner, Temper Tantrum
  - 9 votes - Jamaican Velvet, Mad Magenta
  - 8 votes - Caesar's Brother, Devil's Dream, Harpswell Happiness, Linda Mary, Lorena Cronin, Pleasures of May, Sailor's Fancy, White Triangles
5. Number of irises that got at least one vote: 244!

If you are one of the ones that didn't send in the ballot this year, make a note on your calendar when the next one comes. The more people who vote, the more representative the results will be. Remember, you are allowed to vote for **any**

**Siberian iris**, not just the ones listed on a ballot as the AIS symposium is done!

### THE FAVORITE 15 SIBERIAN IRISES, 1997

	<i>Votes</i>	<i>Position in '95</i>
1. Jewelled Crown (Hollingworth, 87)	33	1
2. Roaring Jelly (Schafer/Sacks '92)	30	6
3. Coronation Anthem (Hollingworth '90)	28	8
4. Shaker's Prayer (Warner '90)	27	8
5. Lady Vanessa (Hollingworth '86)	26	2
6. Over In Gloryland (Hollingworth '93)	23	6
7. Snow Prince (Tiffney '90)	21	11
Springs Brook (Warburton/Schafer/Sacks '88)	21	10
Strawberry Fair (Hollingworth '94)	21	11
8. Lake Keuka (Borglum '94)	20	13
Pink Haze (McGarvey '80)	20	3
Reprise (Warburton '87)	20	11
Sultan's Ruby (Hollingworth '88)	20	9
9. Aqua Whispers (Miller '88)	18	6
Bellissima (Warburton '86)	18	new
10. Esther C.D.M (McGarvey '82)	17	7
11. Butter and Sugar (McEwen '77)	16	12
Shirley Pope (McEwen '79)	16	4
12. Liberty Hills (Miller '89)	15	12
Mabel Coday (Helsley '85)	15	7
Summer Sky (Cleveland '35)	15	new
13. Careless Sally (Schafer/Sacks '96)	14	new
14. High Standards (Hollingworth '87)	13	14
Mesa Pearl (Bauer/Coble '94)	13	new
Super Ego (McGarvey '66)	13	7
15. Ruffled Velvet (McEwen '73)	12	5
Shall We Dance (Hollingworth '92)	12	new

The following are some comments gleaned from the "Favorite 15" ballots:

**Mabel Coday** (Helsley '85) was the first to bloom and continued blooming throughout the Siberian season. The lovely blue-violet flowers held up well during the hot weather that followed the cold, wet spring that had delayed most irises by about two weeks.

Dorothy Willott

**Jewelled Crown** (Hollingworth '87) received a youth "Best in Section" for my daughter Stephanie (age 11) from a one-year clump. The show was held 5/18/97. The stalks after the show were even nicer. We saw **Mad Magenta** (Warburton '87) on the Region 18 Tour –very nice color. **Shaker's Prayer** (Warner '90) bloomed on a one-year clump. It received a blue ribbon at our show. Blooming after the show we really liked **Caesar's Brother** (Morgan '32), **Sprinkles** (Bauer/Coble '94) and **Mabel Coday** (Helsley '85): all one-year clumps. We are new to Siberians but really like them. We have 24 different varieties right now. I can see that we need more creams and yellows. We can hardly wait for next year, as we've heard that two and three-year clumps are better than one-year clumps.

Cindy Rust

**Navy Brass** (McEwen '74) has performed extremely well in my garden. It has beautiful upright foliage and forms a nice clump. It has a good bloom and has bloomed nonstop for over two weeks. It is by far the best Siberian in my garden.

Danika Marie King, Youth member



In this Oklahoma climate, the ground warms fast and most Siberians bloom half way in the foliage. Two notable exceptions are **Roaring Jelly** and **Springs Brook**. A two-year clump of **Roaring Jelly** had 15 bloom stalks. Each one bloomed well above the foliage and no one passed by without an exclamation of delight. **Springs Brook** put on a similar performance with a few less stalks.

Paul Black

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We are both of the opinion that **High Standards** (Hollingsworth '87) is the best landscape iris currently on the market. It is far superior for landscape use than most of the top award winners. Vigorous, un-temperamental and extraordinary in producing increases, **High Standards** shines in the garden. The tall, always-erect foliage looks good from spring until winter. The flowers and buds are excellent in flower arrangements. It has been the star in our garden for the past five years.

Clarence and Suky Mahan

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## NEW MEMBERS

Compiled by Howard Brookins

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We are delighted to welcome to the following new members:

*Adee, William R.* 927 N. Sheridan Rd. Waukegan, IL 60085

*Amekhin, Oleg.* Dálnia Street 18 Lviv, 290022 Ukraine

*Andreas, Dr. Christine M.* 14 Bradway Ave. Trenton NJ  
08618

*Baker, Ted E.* 185 Furness Rd. Salt Spring Island, BC Canada

*Banks, Susan* 3948 McClure Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15212

*Barnum, Nancy, Botanical Connections*, 3030 N Pierce  
 Springfield, MO 65803  
*Bushnell, Walter*, 6916 S Cook Way Littleton, CO 80122  
*Calicchio, Nancy Holmes*, PO Box 221, Putney, VT 05346  
*Castillo, Glenna*, 17429 Madison Ave. Hamilton, VA 20158  
*Cate, Genie H, Blue Rag Gardens*, HC6 Box 222A, Etlan,  
 VA 22719  
*Cryberg, Richard L.* 9531 Robinson Rd. Chardon, OH 44024  
*Eggenberger, Richard M., Tropical Plant Specialists*,  
 P.O. Box 2826 Cleveland, GA 30528  
*Foster, Howard*, P.O. Box 300 Gardiner NY 12525  
*Goforth, Marshall L. & Pam*, 837 S. Green River Rd.,  
 Gaffney, SC 29341  
*Hansen, Claude A.*, 3417 Kelly Way, Boise, ID 83704  
*Johnson, Don*, 3449 14<sup>th</sup> Ave NW Olympia, WA 98502  
*Jones Larry Lee*, 255 Massachusetts Ave #1119, Boston, MA  
 02115  
*Lipiec, Sharon A.*, 9701 Colby Ter. Spotsylvania, VA 22553  
*Mandell, Jean*, 31 Glen Meadows, Warwick, RI 02889  
*Mark, Maureen*, 1077 Guertia Ave. Ottawa, Ontario K1H  
 8B3 Canada  
*Matthews, Rex R.*, 3219 NW 19<sup>th</sup> Oklahoma City, OK 73107  
*Meyer, Hubert & Carryl M.*, 2532 Highwood Dr. Missoula,  
 MT 59803  
*Miller, Rita R.*, 6542 N Knox Lincolnwood, IL 60646  
*Moffitt, Judy*, 2512 Eagle Ave. Kent, IA 50850  
*Murphy, Norma Lee*, 428 Turley Falls Rd. Hendersonville,  
 NC 28739  
*Niemeyer, Duretta L.*, 813 SE Trilein Dr. Ankeny, IA 50021  
*Pirogov, Juri*, P.O. Box 15, Moscow 119121 Russia  
*Rogers Marian B.*, 3728 Concord Dr. Suffolk, VA 23435  
*Sobkowich, T.*, 555 McCleod Ave. Winnepeg, Manitoba R2K  
 0B4 Canada  
*Squires, Dana*, 1210 N. Wilson, Olympia, WA 98506  
*Stassen, Robert E. & Tamara*, 1714 Charlee Ave. Fayetteville,

AR 72703

*Stein, Joseph & Shirley*, 7907 Scott Lane, Machesney Park,  
IL 61115

*Taylor, Curtis A.*, 23 Princess Ave. Marlton, NJ 08053

*Thompson, Dale V.*, 32579 Thompson Rd. Ray, OH 45672

*Thorns, James E.*, 500 W. 36<sup>th</sup> St. Hays, KS 67601

*Wendel, Brian A.*, 8887 N. 100E Ossian, IN 46777

*Winkler, Jeanne*, 2935 Big Timber Circle, Green Bay, WI  
53052

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**MINUTES OF THE SIBERIAN IRIS SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 3, 1997  
HYATT REGENCY, DEARBORN, MICHIGAN**

**SUBMITTED BY Ada Godfrey, Secretary**

Present were: Bob Hollingworth, President; Carol Warner; Peter Weixlmann (proxy for Kathy Guest); Bob Bauer; Ada Godfrey; David Silverberg; and Judy Hollingworth; plus many members and guests.

President Bob Hollingworth appointed Carol Warner to fill in for Shirley Pope as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the remainder of 1997. Shirley Pope had tendered her resignation due to pressure of other AIS business.

The 1996 minutes were approved as printed in TSI, Fall 1996, and the treasurer's report was accepted as read (see page 33).

**REPORTS:**

**Membership:** There were some problems with renewals and material arriving on time, but this has been sorted out.

Anyone having further problems should contact Bob Hollingworth or Howard Brookins.

**Robins:** SSI's robin system is working well, with general, hybridizer's, international and email robins currently flying.

**Editor:** The editor now has a reliable, cheaper source for color separations. This will make it possible to continue and possibly increase color coverage in TSI.

**The Nominating Committee** presented its slate of candidates for office (see page 30). A motion to accept the slate was accepted and approved.

**Slides:** This has been a successful year with three sets of 100 slides circulating frequently. Tom Abrego wishes to be replaced in this position when he becomes president.

**Check List:** Howard Brookins has updated it to include the 1996 registrations and introductions. It will be sold at the convention for \$6.

A motion was made and approved to ask Howard Brookins to send new members the current issue of TSI with the welcoming letter.

The publication, *Invitation to Join*, has been re-worked by Tom Abrego and will be printed in color for a cost of approx. \$1400.

**Convention 2000:** Guest irises are coming in for the convention in the year 2000. Some have arrived from Japan and from U.S. hybridizers. As the original date, the second weekend of June, was the same as for the HIPS convention, the Siberian convention has been changed to the first weekend

in June. There will be a mixture of public and private gardens on tour, including several of general garden interest. SSI is looking for a group to volunteer to host a Siberian Convention in 2003.

**Judges' Handbook Revisions:** Suggested revisions are to be submitted to the committee by October 1, 1997.

**Awards:** The Morgan-Wood Medal has been re-struck at a cost of \$3500. Mrs. Betty Wood donated \$2000 towards the striking and SSI supplied the remainder.

**Revision of the Awards System by AIS:** A letter has been sent by the President of SSI to Roy Epperson, chair of the revisions committee with regard to the problems facing Siberians. In the new system, there is a bottleneck which is in the wrong place. It is difficult to get an HM as only 10% of those eligible receive the award. This makes it very difficult for a new hybridizer to break into the system. Since so few Siberians now win an HM, there is a small number competing for the AM's – and as many as 50% of the eligible irises may win. It should be more difficult to win an AM than the HM. It would be a lot more reasonable and equitable to have double the present amount of HM's awarded. If anyone wants input, write to Roy Epperson.

**New Awards:** The question arose whether SSI should provide awards for the Siberian conventions. It has also been suggested that SSI might present an award for garden-worthiness. This would be awarded to a Siberian which has grown well for at least ten years in many kinds of conditions and climates. One of the society's goals is to make the public aware of our favorite flower. There will be a proposal for the board at the next board meeting.

**Royalties:** Dr. Currier McEwen has generously donated, after expenses, the royalties from his book **The Siberian Iris** to the Siberian Iris Society.

**Web Page:** Jim Wilson asked if SSI would like a web page. The AIS, Aril Society, and HIPS all have one. He would be willing to attempt it, but he would like input from an advisory group. He will prepare a sample page and send it to Bob Hollingworth who will distribute it to the board for comment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Submitted by Tom Abrego**\_\_\_\_\_

The nominating committee submits the following slate of candidates for office in The Society for Siberian Irises. If approved, the term of office will be from January 1, 1998 to December 31, 2000.

President:	Thomas Abrego
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Carol Warner
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Barrett Stoll
Directors:	Robert Bauer
	Martin Schafer

The bylaws require that these nominations be sent to all voting members of SSI by November 15, 1997. Publication in TSI fulfills this requirement. If no additional nominations have been made within four weeks (by December 13, 1997), the slate is to be considered elected.



Additional nominations may be made in writing, signed by at least eight members “acting in concert,” that is, all signing the same nomination petition, and sent to the chairman of the nomination committee by December 13, 1997 together with a letter of consent from each candidate. In this event, the elections Committee shall prepare a ballot including all nominations, and designating those made by the nominating committee. The ballot shall be mailed to all voting members no later than January 15, 1998 with instructions for voting by mail. Ballots must be returned to the Elections Committee no later than February 1, 1998.



## THE SIBERIAN SOCIETY SECTION MEETING

There was a full house in attendance at the section meeting in Dearborn. There were brisk sales of the most recent checklist and the book **The Siberian Iris** before the meeting came to order.

President Bob Hollingworth welcomed members and guests and introduced special guest Dr. Zhao Yu Tang from China. Dr. Zhao is co-author of the book **Iris of China**. The proposed slate of candidates for office was presented and then the meeting was turned over to John Coble of Ensata Gardens.

John gave a lively and wide-ranging slide presentation on Siberians. He showed Siberian irises at past conventions, some doing great –some not so great. Huge clumps (in Oregon in 1994) really let visitors see the clump performance, foliage habit and bloom stalk height compared to foliage.

Slides were shown of yellow seedlings in Bob Hollingworth's garden the week after the first Siberian Convention (a hint to judges to visit gardens more than once a season). Featured also were the new Ho Shidara multi-petal Siberians, all this in an effort to encourage people to consider foliage habits, landscaping ideas and hopefully encourage the audience to make a few crosses of their own.

On a more practical note, slides were shown on starting seed germination indoors in winter and on digging and dividing a 4-5 year old clump ...suggesting that the job would have been easier if tackled two years earlier!

**TREASURER'S REPORT - Submitted by James P. Holmes**  
**INCOME STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 12-31-96**

**Income:**

Ads	\$ 360.00
Interest income, net of bank charges	863.85
Japanese cutting tool sales	198.00
M.A.S.S. Medley Convention	
Auction	612.00
Donation*	1,000.00
Membership income, etc.	2,191.75
The Siberian Iris Book	
-Revenues	5,283.95
-Expenses	4,790.50
Net	493.45
Slide rentals	84.56
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,803.61</b>

**Expenses**

Membership Secretary	\$ 182.26
Morgan-Wood Medals -25	3,032.00
TSI Publications - Spring '96	2,070.26
Fall '96	1,897.14
Color Separations	2,106.22
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>9,287.88</b>

**Income net of expenses** **(\$3,484.27)**

**BALANCE SHEET As of 12-31-96**

**Assets**

Bank Accounts		
Checking		\$ 317.07
Savings		3,504.84
Total		\$3,821.91
Investments		
U.S. Treasury Note 6 ¼% due 6-30-98	\$5000.00	
U.S. Treasury Note 6 1/8% due 8-31-98	\$5000.00	
Total		10,000.00
Total Assets		13,821.91
Liabilities, Reserves, Surplus		
Reserve for iris research and color plates**		2,093.78
General surplus		11,728.13
Total		<b>\$13,821.91</b>

**\*\* Represents net balance from \$4,200 donation from 1993 Siberian Iris Convention**

I never “give up the ship” when Siberians ordered from nurseries die right down as soon as planted. Nearly always such plants show fully as much spring growth as those that stay green.

Dorothy Spofford, TSI Vol.1, No.5, March 1963

## LAST WORD

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Just in case you were wondering if we'd forgotten to report on the guest Siberians at the AIS National Convention in Dearborn, the answer is no! Our fickle Michigan weather provided us with yet another atypical spring; very cool temperatures and a bloom season delayed by weeks. The only guest Siberian that I saw in bloom was the aptly named **Pleasures of May** –just starting to open on June 6. Now you see the problem! We are hoping for a better show in Colorado next year, but if not, well the Rockies are magnificent!

If anyone is still in need of a copy of Currier's book **The Siberian Iris**, I have half a dozen copies left from the Dearborn Convention. The cost is \$30.00 / copy plus \$3.00 for shipping.

Howard Brookins asked me to remind you all to check your renewal date printed on the TSI mailing envelope. It saves time and money if you can preempt the renewal notice –thanks.

This is the first issue of TSI in which e-mail has played a prominent part. Two articles came as e-mail and I sent chunks of another one to David Silverberg for review. Remember, you can contact me at 72302.1143@compuserve.com, and I still love to get regular mail and phone calls!

Judy

### **ADVERTISING RATES**

*A source list for Siberians is printed in each spring issue of TSI at a cost of \$5.00 per listing. Please send your check, made payable to the Society for Siberian Irises, to the editorial office at: 124 Sherwood Rd. East, Williamston, MI 48895 by February 15th.*

Other rates:

**FULL PAGE COLOR** 4" x 7" .....free  
(if color separation to be provided by advertiser)

If we provide the separation.....\$60.00

**FULL PAGE B&W** 4" x 7" .....\$50.00

**HALF PAGE B&W** 4" x 3 1/2".....\$30.00

**1/4th PAGE B&W** 4" x 1 1/2".....\$20.00

### **SIBERIAN SLIDES**

*Slides suitable for a club program are available at \$5.00 per rental from: Tom Abrego*

*19105 N.E. Trunk Rd.*

*Dundee, OR 97115*

**Please make checks payable to SSI**

### **PUBLICATIONS**

*Some back issues of TSI are available at \$2.50 per copy from:*

*Howard Brookins*

*N75 W14257 North Point Dr.*

*Menomonee Falls WI 53051*

**Please make checks payable to SSI**

## **SIBERIAN CHECK LIST**

*The check list is again available, updated to include  
Siberian registrations through 1996.*

To order, please send a check for \$6.50 per copy  
(\$10.00 for overseas orders)

To: Howard Brookins  
N75 W14257 North Point Drive  
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051

Please make checks payable to  
The Society for Siberian Irises

If you are interested in receiving the check list on computer  
disk, contact Howard at the above address or by phone at  
(414) 251-5292 or by fax at (414) 251-8298

### **PHOTO CREDITS:**

Front and back covers – Bob Hollingworth

Inside front cover, top – Jan Sacks

Inside front cover, bottom – Chandler Fulton

Page 20 - *The Gazette* (Montreal)

Page 21 – Betty Wood

## POPE'S PERENNIALS

### SIBERIAN IRISES

### JAPANESE IRISES

John White's **NEAT TRICK** has increased abundantly. Note the new price below. We have seen a seedling of **NEAT TRICK'S** in Dr. McEwen's seedling garden which has a totally different color pattern. We think **NEAT TRICK**, as a parent will create a new variety of color patterns in Siberian irises.

**SNOW PRINCE** is now in the hands of Klehm Nursery, 4210 N. Duncan Rd., Champaign, IL 61821-5995. Before Sarah Tiffney's sudden death, we discussed having a larger, well-known nursery market this wonderful iris. We will still market her two other introductions: **LITTLE BLUE SPARKLER** and **HOLDEN'S CHILD**, and all introductions of John White and Dr. Chandler Fulton.

**NEAT TRICK** (White '97) Diploid, 35", E-M. A two-tone blue violet with neat white splashes on the falls. A medium sized iris considered by Dr. McEwen to be a breakthrough in the Siberian iris world. **\$25**

**ELISABETH McEWEN** (White '96) Dip. Deep blue violet with style arms near white on edges. White signal. **\$12**

**MAURICE POPE** (White '96) Dip. Velvety dark violet with greenish hafts and a large white signal. **\$12**

**HOLDEN'S CHILD** (Tiffney '91) The red-purple flowers on this wide apogon hybrid are held above the foliage on multi-branched stalks. **\$5**

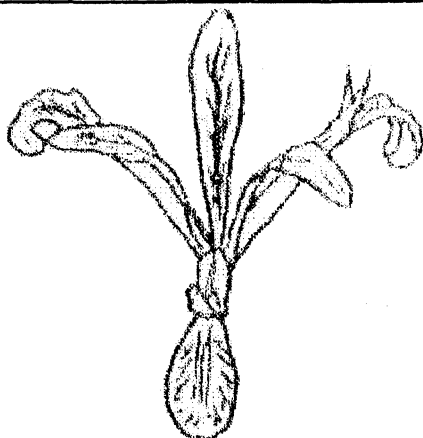
**LITTLE BLUE SPARKLER** (Tiffney '96) The standards are violet blue with faint darker veining. The falls are cream with deep violet blue veining, center line and edging. A small dainty bloom. **\$10**

**RASPBERRY RAINBOW** (Fulton '96) Violet and green buds open to graceful raspberry pink flowers blending to a blaze of sky blue surrounding a bright yellow signal. **\$12**

When ordering please add \$4. for shipping and handling. Postage for overseas and Canada shipment will be for full amount including State of Maine Phytosanitary Certificate charge of \$25. per package. Please specify **spring** or **fall**.

For these cultivars and a list of other Japanese and Siberian irises send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to:

Shirley Pope  
Pope's Perennials  
39 Highland Ave  
Gorham, ME 04038-1701



**IRISES AND IRIDACEAE:  
BIODIVERSITY & SYSTEMATICS**

Orto Botanico, Rome, 8-10 (11) May 1998



An international  
conference organised by  
the University of Rome  
"La Sapienza" and the  
Società Italiana dell' Iris  
of Florence.

**Prof. Maria Antonietta Colasante**  
**Dipartimento di Biologia Vegetale**  
**Università "La Sapienza"**  
**P. le A. Moro 5, 00185 Roma, ITALY**  
tel. +396 49912418 fax +396 4463865  
email: [colasante@axrma.uniroma1.it](mailto:colasante@axrma.uniroma1.it)



## THE SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

### OFFICERS

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President:	Dr. Robert M. Hollingworth (1997) 124 Sherwood Rd. E. Williamston, MI 4889
1st V.P.:	Mr. Thomas Abrego (1997) 19105 N. E. Trunk Rd. Dundee, OR 97115
2nd V.P.:	Mrs. Carol Warner (1997) 16815 Falls Road Upperco, MD 21155
Secretary	Mrs. Ada Godfrey 9 Bradford Ave. Foxborough, MA 02035
Treasurer:	Mr. James P. Holmes 2 Deer Hill Rd. Chester, NJ 07930

### DIRECTORS

---

Dr. Harold L. Stahly (ex officio)	8343 Manchester Dr. Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Dr. Robert Bauer (1997)	9823 E. Michigan Ave. Galesburg, MI 49053
Mr. Howard L. Brookins (1998)	N75 W14257 North Point Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Mrs. Kathleen Guest (1998)	494 North St. E. Aurora, NY 14052
Mrs. Judith M. Hollingworth (Editor)	124 Sherwood Rd. E. Williamston, MI 48895
Mr. Martin Schafer (1997)	337 Acton St. Carlisle, MA 01741
Mr. David Silverberg (1998)	P.O. Box 1046, Mount Angel, OR 97362

(Numbers in parenthesis denote the date term expires)

## COMMITTEES

---

Display Gardens:	Mr. Howard Brookins (as above)
Historian:	Mr. D. Steve Varner R.R.3, Box 5, Monticello, IL 61856
Judging Standards:	Mr. Julius Wadekamper 15980 Canby Ave. Faribault, MN 55021
Membership:	Mr. Howard Brookins (as above)
Nominating Comm.:	Mr. Thomas Abrego (as above) Mr. David Silverberg (as above) Mr. Bud Maltman, 206 Milltown Rd., Wilmington, DE 19808
Publicity:	Mrs. Ainie Busse 5873 Oliver Ave., Cokato, MN 55321
Registrations and Awards:	Mr. Howard Brookins (as above)
Research:	Robert M. Hollingworth (as above)
Robins:	Mr. Dale Hamblin, 152 Idlewild, Mundelein, IL 60060
Slides:	Mr. Thomas Abrego (as above)
Editor:	Judith M. Hollingworth (as above)

### **SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES:**

Membership is open to all AIS members in the United States and Canada, and to all iris fanciers elsewhere. Send your dues to the Membership Secretary, Howard Brookins at N75 W14257 North Point Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 Phone: 414 251-5292.

Fax: 414 251-8298

Dues are: Single Annual	\$ 5.00	Family Annual	\$ 6.00
Single Triennial	\$ 13.00	Family Triennial	\$ 15.00
Single Life	\$ 100.00	Family Life	\$120.00

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**Back Cover: Caesar's Brother (Morgan '35) in the  
Rebert Garden, AIS Convention, Washington, D.C. 1991**