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The
Siberian Iris



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Society for Siberian Irises

Section of American Iris Society

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Membership - Member of AIS in good standing. Dues -\$1.00 year

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE Charlotte Withers

Another spring is here and some of the irises have already started to bloom. We are making plans to attend the AIS Convention in Milwaukee and hope to see many of you there. I understand the Siberians there are going to receive a lot of attention this year and that is as it should be.

Since the last issue I have received several letters from members in which they pointed out that our Section isn't very well represented in the AIS Bulletin as far as articles are concerned--TRUE and who is to blame? YOU ARE! You grow the Siberians and so you should write and report on how they are doing in your areas, what you use for fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and so on. Are you hybridizing? Where are your Siberians available commercially so members who want to buy them can write and send orders? Do you use Siberians for landscaping, arranging? Do you take pictures or slides of those growing in your garden? Do you belong to a Robin? Are you faithful in keeping the Robin moving and notifying your Director where it is being sent? Do you take an active part in local flower shows by seeing to it that the Siberians are written into the show schedules, entering yours either as specimens or in arrangements--and being MALE is no excuse for not entering the arrangement classes--or just providing a nice bouquet of our favorite irises for display at the show? If you enter a display bouquet, be sure to tie on little name tags so the viewers can take a look and see WHO is WHO in the Siberian world.

Above all, be sure to send in comments to your editors--we get inquiries from all over as to where to buy, when to plant for their areas, where to get slides of the new ones and who will swap what for what! We started a QUESTION and ANSWER section--where are the questions? And the answers?

* * * * *

AWARDS ELIGIBILITY
Registration Plus Proof of Introduction

Registration is simple. Rules are in your AIS Bulletin, and when you get your blank you'll find explicit directions printed right on it. If you have thought of a name, and it is available, you will have it reserved for you along with the blank, but if you haven't been able to think of a name you may have a form anyway, to fill out while you are thinking of a name. Currently this will cost you \$3.00, but check your AIS Bulletin as the price is changed from time to time.

The registry of irises is a position of honor, and the American Iris Society is the duly appointed international registry for all irises other than bulbous. If your chosen name is refused, as it may be for any number of given reasons, it is because your registrar is bound by a code for naming plants and must abide by the rules. If you run across cases in which the rules have been fractured, remember that even computers make mistakes.

Until it is formally introduced, as iris is eligible only for the HC award, even if its name is duly and dutifully registered. Now you have to prove that it can be bought on the open market; if somebody with a printed catalog introduces it for you, fine; if you want to sell it yourself, you must either advertise it in the AIS Bulletin or have it offered for sale in a printed list (or both). Copies of the catalog or list must then be sent to your Registrar (J. Arthur Nelson, 3131 North 58th, Omaha, Nebraska 68104), and he will send you a card which is your proof of introduction. You are now IN. Your baby is now eligible for the next honor, the HM.

At present, the Morgan Award is equivalent to an Award of Merit; let's get our wonderful Siberians on the market so we can have HMs, AMs and THEN the Morgan Award.

Many happy HMs, AMs and Morgan Awards to you!

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SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in bank as of Nov. 27, 1967		\$264.94
Service charges 11/16/67 thro 12/16/68	\$ 3.96	
Checks to cover mailing & printing	<u>142.90</u>	
	\$146.86	
Deposits through 12/30/68		203.25
Balance in bank as of Dec. 30, 1968		\$321.33

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LISTING OF SIBERIANS AND SIBERIAN HYBRIDS REGISTERED
1960-1967

- 1960: Domino (Stoll); Mandarin Purple (Neel); Three Violets (Stoll)
- 1961: None
- 1962: Beth Ellen (Knock); Bonnie Blue Ribbon (Spofford); Bright Shadow (Spofford); Carrie Lee (Wiswell); Dark Marine (Knock); Mandy Morse (Spofford); Mildred Peck (Spofford); Moon Moth (Delany); Nelson Blue (Delany); Placid Waters (Cassebeer); Sailor's Delight (Spofford); Salem Witch (Spofford); Sea Turn (Spofford).
Introduced: Porcelain Doll (Shinkle 1959); Prince of Whites (Shinkle '59); Tealwood (Varner '59); Velvet Night (Edwards '59)
- 1963: Bickley Cape (Kitton); Canford (Kitton); Cape Dazzle (Kitton); Copper Elf (Kitton); Court Violet (Kitton); Hazel's Choice (Spofford); Ivory Moonlight (Spofford); Jimmy's Gem (Kitton); Joretta (Carlson); Looks Mohrish (Spofford); Moonscape (Kitton); Nellie E. (McGarvey); Oyster Bird (Kitton); Purple Cloak (Hutchison); Snow Flare (Carlson); Violetmere (Hutchison); White Net (Kitton); Yellow Court (Kitton).
Introduced: Carrie Lee (Wiswell, 1962)
- 1964: Barbara's Choice (Kitton); Blauer Orient (Steiger); Cambridge (Brummitt); Charm of Finches (Hansford); Court White (Kitton); Dreaming Spires (Brummitt); Japanese White (Kitton); Leopard Spots (Hansford); Mitsou (Mize-Ruggles); Sea Shadows (Brummitt); Tetrafor (Steiger); White Cape (Kitton); White Magnificence (Kitton); White Rabbit (Kitton); Yellow Apricot (Kitton).
Introduced: Joretta (Carlson '63); Snow Flare (Carlson 1963)
- 1965: Anniversary (Brummitt); Blue Burn (McGarvey); Dewful (McGarvey); Ego (McGarvey); Id (McGarvey); King's Forrest (McGarvey); Super Ego (McGarvey).
Introduced: Mandy Morse (Spofford '62)
- 1966: Camouflage (Witt); Claret (Wiswell); Fair Colleen (Mahood); Illini Encore (Varner); Lights of Paris (Rich); Sapphire Bouquet (Wiswell); Swirling Mist (Witt); The Gower (Randall).
Introduced: Ego (McGarvey '65); Super Ego (McGarvey '65)
- 1967: Ruby Wine (Hager); Sparkling Rose (Hager); Violet Repeat (Brummitt)
Introduced: Dewful (McGarvey '65); Lights of Paris (Rich '66)

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SIBERIAN REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS 1968

- BIG BLUE (Dr. Currier McEwen, r. 1968) Sdlg. 61/Cas 4-3.
Siberian, 34", EM-LM, BVI Fcm. S. RED 89C; F. 89B, medium
sized white blaze; style 89C. WHITE SWIRL x unknown.
Colchicine induced chimera.
- *BLUE BURN (McGarvey, Siberian, r. 1965) Old Brook 1968
- BLUE SIGNAL (Mrs. D. Hansford, r. 1968) Sibirica, 36", L,
B1P. Pale blue self with darker blue signal patch. CHARM
OF FINCHES x sdlg of same.
- CHARM YELLOW (Mrs. D. Hansford, r. 1968) Sibirica, 36", L,
Y1cm. Aureolin yellow self with small black spots on sig-
nal. CHARM OF FINCHES x sdlg of same.
- CHRISTOPHER (Mrs. D. Hansford, r. 1968) Sibirica, 36", L,
RVI. Red-purple self. (Hybrid Bulleyana x Chrysographes)
x sdlg.
- CLEAR POND (F. W. Cassebeer, r. 1968) Sdlg of 936. Siberian,
30", M, VB1F. Methyl violet (39/1) self shading deeper to-
ward haft and paler at tip of petals; light style arms of
same color. WHITE SWIRL x unknown.
- CLEVE DODGE (Dr. Currier McEwen, r. 1968) Sdlg. 64/67-10.
Siberian Diploid, 26", EM-LM, BVID. S. between RHS 88A and
89A; F. same, velvet texture; styles same. 61/Cas 2:
(VIOLET FLARE x unknown) x unknown.
- EARLY BLUEBIRD (Dr. Currier McEwen, r. 1968) Sdlg. S60/7-7.
Siberian 32", E-L, B1Dcm. Blue (RHS 89C) self with yellow-
black-white blaze of medium size on F. TYCOON x PLACID
WATERS.
- ELIZABETH'S BIRTHDAY (Mrs. D. Hansford, r. 1968) Sibirica,
36" W4YP. S. white; F. cream. CHARM OF FINCHES x CHARM OF
FINCHES.
- GERALD DARBY (R. H. Coe for Gerald Darby, deceased, r. 1968)
Sib-La. (Flowers of Siberian, growth habit of *I. foliosa*).
June, VID. Blue-purple self; twisted red stems. L. orient-
alis x probably two Louisiana hybrids. Norton Hall 1967
- GOLDEN AUREOLE (Mrs. D. Hansford, r. 1968) Sibirica, 36", L,
Y1Fcm. Mid-yellow self with black signal markings. CHARM
OF FINCHES x CHARM OF FINCHES.

- GRAND JUNCTION (Forrest McCord, r. 1968) Sdlg 6250. Siberian, 23", M, Bl. S. Blue, reverse bud with white markings; F. bright blue. TUNKHANNOCK x TYCOON. HC 1968.
- *ILLINI ENCORE (D. Steve Verner, Siberian, r. 1966) Varner 1968
- LIMEHEART (Marjorie Brummitt, r. 1963) Sdlg 17/7. Sibirica, 39", M. WLG. White self, green haft: WHITE SWIRL x WISLEY WHITE.
- LITTLE WHITE (Dr. Currier McEwen, r. 1968) Sdlg. 858/76-2. Siberian, 18", M, WiY. White self, very little haft marking visible. From unnamed sdlg. going back to GATINEAU and SNOW QUEEN.
- MARILYN HOLMES (Dr. Currier McEwen, r. 1968) Sdlg S63/40A. Siberian, 27", M, VBlD. S. rich violet-blue (RHS 93D); F. 93B. WHITE SWIRL x BLUE BRILLIANT.
- POLLY DODGE (Dr. Currier McEwen, r. 1968) Sdlg. 64/67-4. Siberian, 20-25", EM-LM, RVIF. S. 74B; F. 74A but darker and of velvety surface; styles 74C. 61/Cas 2 (VIOLET FLARE x unknown) x unknown. Colchicine induced chimera.
- RUBY WINE (Ben Hager, Siberian, r. 1967) Melrose 1968.
- SALLY KERLIN (Dr. Currier McEwen, r. 1968) Sdlg 562/7A. Siberian, 27", M, BlF. Clear pale blue with slight lavender tone (RHS 94D) with small white blaze. WHITE SWIRL x GREY DOVE.
- *SPARKLING ROSÉ (Ben Hager, Siberian, r. 1967) Melrose 1968
- SWANK (Ben Hager, r. 1968) Sdlg. SB-9. Siberian 32", M, BlD. Deep blue self, little signal. WHITE SWIRL x BLUECAPE. HC 1968.
- TIMELESS (Larry Harder, r. 1968) Sdlg 1. Siberian, 28", M, BlD. Dark blue self. Unknown parentage.
- WATER SPRITE (Mrs. D. Hansford, r. 1963) Sibirica, 36", L, RV3PLcm. S. pale mauve; F. deeper mauve, speckled. CHARM OF FINCHES x unnamed sdlg.
- *WHITE CAPE (Kitton, Sibirica, 1964) Orpington 1968
- *WHITE HORSES (Kitton, Sibirica, r. 1964) Orpington 1968

This looks like a good year for Siberians; 19 new registrations one of which was also introduced in 1968; plus 5 older registrations introduced this year. This year for the first time since the Society for Siberian Irises was organized, Siberians lead the list of Apogon registrations. I suppose I should really say we had $18\frac{1}{2}$ new Siberians; GERALD DARBY is a hybrid between a Siberian and a Louisiana seedling. It will take time for the many English registrations to reach America, and vice versa; but that will come.

Total registrations for 1968 were 582; TBs accounted for 379 or just over 65%; Medians were 120 or just under 21%; Apogons, 57, just under 10%. Siberians were a bit less than 3% of the total. Doesn't sound like much, does it? But when we started Siberian registrations amounted to less than 1%. There have been years in which none were registered. In fact the real problem now is not so much registrations as introductions. Since 1960, when our Society was organized, there have been 87 registrations; but only 12 introductions of record prior to this year's six. And four of those were registered before 1960. Whatever became of DOMINO, MANDARIN PURPLE and THREE VIOLETS, all registered in 1960 but of which I have not heard a word since? And the other 65? Well, no, we should subtract this year's crop - they are just 'out' and must be allowed a little time to find a market. Some of the earlier ones were registered overseas and perhaps are available there. That still leaves us with quite a few bred in America, sitting in the originator's garden waiting - for what? For some commercial grower to happen along, see them, and cry 'you must let me introduce that for you - it must be given to the world!' It is the originator's job to put his creations where they will be seen. This means doing one or all of these three things:

Send them to conventions. The Guest Iris Committees for AIS conventions (and believe me. I can speak with authority as of this year!) want your seedlings; they put notices in the Bulletin two years ahead, sometimes sooner, telling you where, when and how to send them.

Send them to a commercial grower for consideration. Write first and ask if he would be interested in having a look at your registrations. Don't write to someone who deals only in Tall Bearded irises, or Medians, or some other specialty. Check the catalogs that arrive so bountifully each spring and write to someone who already has Siberians on his list.

Put an ad in the Bulletin and offer them for sale yourself. Set a price high enough to cover the cost of the ad on a small sale plus the costs of shipping, inspection, etc. but not so high as to discourage possible buyers. Don't expect to make

money on the deal; don't sell more than half your stock - 1/3 is safer.

Whichever course you take you will have to arrange to have your stock inspected before you send it. Check with your local agricultural agents, both state and Federal. Some states require that plant materials coming in have the USDA sticker, some prefer the State inspection. Don't be half-safe, get both.

Prepare in advance if you plan to sell your own. At best transplanting time in your area, prepare a good bed in a sunny spot and divide your clumps into small sections - 4-5 fans. Water them and feed them; mulch over winter if that is advisable in your area. In January send your ad to the Bulletin - you don't need a full page unless you are offering several new introductions; get an ad to fit your material. The ad will come in the April issue. The orders - who knows? Maybe the first will arrive a week later; maybe none will come until July. Maybe none will come, period. But you have offered your pet in commerce and it is now eligible for HM and higher awards.

If you are not going to sell your own but want to ship to a convention or to a commercial garden, find out first whether the Agricultural agents will come to your garden or expect you to come to them. In either case have the plants you are sending dug, trimmed, washed free of all soil. Have some damp peat at hand to wrap around the roots after inspection. If you are taking the plants to be inspected you might as well have the packing box along too; pack the irises, close the box, put on the sticker. Or maybe you will get a certificate to be put in the box. At any rate, get the plant in the mail and on its way as fast as possible after inspection. If the package is going any distance send it Air Express or Air Parcel Post. If you are in doubt about the best packaging methods study the boxes in which you receive Siberians and note which produce the healthiest plants. My own experience is: roots wrapped in damp (not soggy) peatmoss; plastic bag around the roots tied firmly at the base of the foliage; the plant packed into a corrugated-board box just large enough to hold it without squeezing; a few holes poked in the sides of the box; then the box tied and labeled. It is wise to have a copy of the label inside the box in case the outside one falls off or gets torn. Mark the box "Live Plants - Keep from Heat and Cold" - and if the inspection certificate is inside note that on the outside.

Good Luck - and get on with it! Don't keep us waiting.

SIBERIAN TEST GARDENS

Several offers to maintain test gardens for Siberian irises have come to me in the time since our last issue. Let me give some details as to the locations of these available plots.

We already have the offer of one test garden in Athol, Massachusetts from Kevin Vaughn. His plot would start out as a 20' x 20' space and increase as the need might be.

A second offer of a plot came to me from Mr. Julius Wadekamper, Faribault, Minnesota, who states he has plenty of space and assistants in the members of his agriculture classes at his boys' school. Area used would be fenced and taken care of with proper records being kept. Good growing area with good rich soil.

A third offer has come from Verna Cook of Tacoma, Washington, who states she has good black loam soil and a helper to assist with the upkeep. From her letter she is rapidly enlarging the list of Siberians she has in her garden through "trades" and purchasing of the newer ones available.

These three areas certainly would give us an idea of the stamina of Siberians to grow in various parts of our country, from east to west--however, all are about the same distance north and approximately in the same growth belt.

They would be in areas accessible for many iris viewers but not in locations of future AIS conventions. It has been our aim to have good representation at the conventions of the newer Siberians, including some of the English introductions so that as many people as possible could see how lovely they are both in display gardens and used in casual landscaping.

What is the feeling of the membership as to setting up these test gardens--in light of the fact the AIS is now phasing out their test gardens? Are the results gained from test plots worth all of the worries and problems connected with planning, planting and maintaining these test plots? I would like to hear from our members on these questions.

We do, however, sincerely thank these members for offering to take on the projects and I personally know they would gain much knowledge from having grown the Siberians. One of the main problems would be obtaining sufficient plants for the tests to be worthwhile. One of our most needed items right now is more hybridizers! The second, commercial outlets.

So let's hear from all of you-pro and con-regarding test gardens.

WANTED - EDITOR FOR TSI

After taking stock of our publication in comparison to the publications of our fellow AIS sections I think it would be a good idea if we had some new ideas, format, timing and in short, a new EDITOR.

I know I speak for Peg Edwards too, when I say we have for the past six or seven years enjoyed hearing from our members and putting together this newsletter but the time has come we both feel when someone else should come forward and take over.

Times are changing, methods of doing this and that have also changed. I am sure there are many of our members with talents for the turn of words, maybe ideas they would like to put forth in print or changes they have thought of that we do not even dream of. Now is your chance to take on the job-- maybe you have a couple of pals who have some ideas they would like to put into print. Is there a talent for some sly and timely cartoons among our membership? How about a new cover, style, format and size? Print three or four issues yearly with less pages in each?

In the other sections the duties of the president seem to be enough for one person. The duties of an editor are also enough for one person. So let's divide the job and make two out of it. Why don't you offer to be editor for one or two years?
Charlotte Withers

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NEWER AND MORE SLIDES

Several requests for Siberian slides have come to me during the months that I spend in the south each winter and of course I am unable to fulfill these requests since I do not have charge of the slides--Mrs. Elizabeth Rowe is our Slide Chairman and all requests should go to her.

Recently I had occasion to use a set of the AIS slides for a garden club program and while most of the slides were very lovely, I was disappointed at the selection of Siberians included in the set. Only two of the Siberians were of the more recent introductions which isn't saying much for our interest in keeping up to date with this area of the viewing public.

As in the past, I am personally asking you to take a few slides of your newest Siberians and send them to Mrs. Rowe. We will pay for the cost of the slides so send the bill along with the slides. Maybe if you would use some of the AIS slides for programs you would be more interested in getting the very best slides in the sets.

BIG SIBERIANS - ASSET OR LIABILITY?
Presenting a Differing Viewpoint

I will start with the second question as posed on page 283 of the October 1968 issue of this publication. The question relates to the outline drawing of the McGarvey Seedling:68-63-2-2 that appears on that page. The drawing is 6" across with petals as much as 2½" wide.

QUESTION: Do we want Siberians as large as this one?

ANSWER: From my point of view, YES.

REASON: Well, when you come right down to it, I suppose my true reason is that they will sell and I am a commercial grower. I would HOPE that they would not overshadow the sale of small flowered sorts and would do all in my power to convince the buyers that they should have both.

But then my second reason for answering this question, YES, is because I would like them, nor does that stop me from being just as fond of the smaller flowered varieties.

Some of the features listed as "ideal" for Siberian irises leave me cold. The "fluttery" bit doesn't do a thing for me, as an example. What makes the Siberian iris different, and outstanding in that difference, is the clump effect they give when in bloom. Nothing else in the iris family gives that tall reaching stem effect, nor the masses of flowers displayed on those stems which rise out of a true clump of foliage. The Siberian iris is the only TALL iris that really gives a bouquet effect in the garden. So what matter the size of the flower except that larger flowers will give a stronger color effect in the landscape? After you get away from the garden effect and down to individual stem or flower scrutiny, the size becomes totally unimportant as a requisite, except that too small a flower can look silly on that tall stem when displayed as an individual. I like little flowers, SUMMER SKIES, I like big flowers, TROPIC NIGHT or TYCOON, and everything in between so long as each of them has the perfection quality expressed as its own thing. "Dogs" is "Dogs" in any size.

For these larger flowers to have the "perfection quality" there would have to be certain features present that might differ from the smaller flowers. I think substance would be very important which would include a certain amount of flare. I certainly wouldn't like this large a flower to droop! The plant of such a flower could get away with less productivity, stem-wise, and still put on a good show, but if it had as many stems per clump as the rest, they would have to be extra strong, though not ungraceful (how can a straight stem be

called graceful?), so shall we say, not have too sturdy an appearance. The stems should not crowd, but would have to hold apart more than with smaller flowers, still keeping the upright reach, and a couple of branches would be ideal, just as it is with the smaller blossoms.

Yes, I think we have room for all sizes--and heights, for that matter, too.

QUESTION: Are you a purist?

ANSWER: NO! But being a perfectionist doesn't necessarily involve being a purist.

Ben Hager, 309 Best Rd. S
Stockton, California 95206

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REPORT ON SIBERIAN PROJECT Bee Warburton

I am holding down my Siberian Project - at present I am growing WHITE SWIRL and a few varieties I think would be good parents with it. I bought PIROUETTE last year because it was one of two 'must haves' from the Convention, but it probably won't bloom to any extent this year. The only other things I have, except some that have escaped being removed by the skin of their teeth (CAESAR'S BROTHER, ERIC THE RED, etc) are TEAL-WOOD, ROYAL HERALD and McGarvey's LgB seedling. As the point of the whole thing I have several hundred seedlings from WHITE SWIRL x LgB and by my WHITE SWIRL x LgB that I call Aqua Styles (garden name). These I have all on the outside rows so Frank can dig them out with the tractor shovel as I found necessary when I was discarding the WHITE SWIRL x ERIC THE RED. Those seedlings have all increased to 12-18 fans their first year; I don't know what this means as to their blooming their first year but would estimate that it would probably be scanty. I now have three large clumps of WHITE SWIRL, and if any of the seedlings do bloom and look good on the order of EGO (which I saw at the convention) or SUPER EGO (which I've only seen in pictures) - and have pollen, I will put them back onto WHITE SWIRL. In other words, I'm playing only with the WHITE SWIRL form, and holding until I get stocked for either 40-chr. or tetraploid hybrids, or both.

I've just been abstracting the Median Registrations and was most pleased to see Dr. McEwen's registrations; it means tetras will soon be available; but I am waiting for something really good like WHITE SWIRL or its derivatives to be doubled.

Comments by Mr. Clarence P. Denman, Fort Worth, Texas:

I am Chairman of the local committee which is helping to sponsor the Reblooming Iris Test Garden here, and wrote to Mrs. Brummitt about guesting her VIOLET REPEAT. I purchased two plants of it and am guesting one in the Test Garden. The other is in my own garden. In the order I also secured her ANNIVERSARY, CAMBRIDGE and LIME HEART (the latter is a new one ready to introduce), If I have success with these, I plan to increase the number of Siberians in my garden. I tried a few Siberians several years ago, but knew nothing about their peculiar characteristics and moved them several times when rearranging my garden. The first to open were on the morning of the local iris show. I did not know whether they were show-worthy or not but entered them and won two blue ribbons with them. I also won a blue ribbon on Caroline Jane and a few red ribbons and won the Bronze Medal. These two were CAESAR'S BROTHER and COOL SPRING. A year later I entered COOL SPRING and did not do so well. I overheard a local judge remark that he had seen it before and that this specimen was "a runt". That helped to cause my interest to wane until at the Denver Convention I saw the same sized blossom of it in a dried arrangement shown by Mildred Johnson at the meeting of the Siberian Iris Society and was assured that the size was normal.

I know of no one else growing Siberians in this area. If there is someone else not far away who is on your list I would like to have his name and address.

If the plants which I now have do well, I will inform you of their progress. The chief test will come in our long dry, hot summers. They seemed to get well established before cold weather came.

(Editor's note: If Siberians can do well in our 90°, 15% humidity here in North Dakota--think they can stand Texas weather. During the hot spells irrigate them if possible--they'll appreciate it, I assure you.)

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Comments and request from Verna C. Cook, 6924 Pacific Hiway E, Tacoma, Washington, 98424:

Siberians I grow to view myself. I am trying to build up a collection of new and old varieties. All of mine are named except a few. I am anxious to trade with anyone interested--will send list on request. I have many natives of Washington--and anxious to obtain Eastern U. S. natives.

* * * * *

(Editor's note: Any other reports on rebloom? I've heard rumors of this happening and I'm all in favor of encouraging it. Nice to have our babies bloom more than once a year!)

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Comments by Marjorie Barnes:

My interest in *Sibiricas* and their hybrids is fairly recent with me, although like many I've grown the bearded irises for many years. Of course there have been a few Siberians in the garden - an unnamed, as far as I know, late-blooming white with yellow signal, and a blue-violet with reddish bud spathes which always turned up, in quantity, as a leftover at PTA garden sales, and which I kept bringing home hoping each time that something different would be in this batch. Once there was - *I. pseudacorus*, which is useful with the blue and white Siberians until such time as the yellow Siberians become widely distributed. Later I added the charming and delicate little SUMMER SKIES and the tall light blue PERIWINKLE.

Two years ago an iris loving friend and I began exchanging a few more named Siberians, *I. chrysographes* and some Cal-Sib hybrids. Last spring we went to the Berkeley Convention and paid particular attention to the Siberian varieties displayed there. The Carnahan garden near Sacramento and the Foster garden at Walnut Creek had attractive, well-established clumps of Siberians. Several other gardens had more extensive collections but these were too recently planted for one to be sure that bloom was typical. My favorite of the newer ones was LIGHTS OF PARIS which was well represented in the tour gardens. We saw EGO and SUPER EGO in the Carnahan garden. There were more admirers and shutterbugs than blooms to be seen at the McGarvey Freudians. The flowers were sturdy-looking, in the WHITE SWIRL manner. I really see no reason why there should be only one type of Siberian; after all *I. sibirica* and *I. orientalis* differ considerably. But my own preference is for the more numerous and ethereal blossoms of *I. sibirica*.

At this year's Seattle Iris Show I saw GRANDIS for the first time and it I like best of all. It is taller than many of the garden hybrids, and the flowers have an attractive combination of dark blue-violet stands and white falls boldly reticulated with blue-violet. It must be quite antique; Ella McKinney mentioned it in her book 'Iris in The Little Garden' which was published in 1927. Of it she says "A three or four year old clump of GRANDIS will send up as many as 50 stalks."

* * * * *

REPORTS FROM THE NORTHWEST AREA

ALTA BROWN OF Kirkland, Washington: "I really enjoyed the Siberian Bulletins and am becoming more and more interested especially since I saw so many beautiful Siberians in bloom in the display gardens at the Berkeley Convention. The one that impressed me most of all was EGO and I was interested that the beautiful WHITE SWIRL was one of its parents. EGO has such wide flat petals in such a pretty shade of blue. I would have liked to see SUPER EGO growing near it but that wasn't in bloom yet. I hope that in time we may have other beautiful colors with the same fine shape as EGO.

I was delighted to see WHITE SWIRL blooming so well in the Foster garden at Walnut Creek. It was a mass of bloom and I could easily see why it has been rated so highly. It is now planted here in our garden and I am looking forward to its bloom in the spring.

Other Siberians that I liked and that were giving generous bloom were SEVEN SEAS, a deep blue-violet; LIGHTS OF PARIS, broad petaled white with bright yellow hafts; CARRIE LEE, rosy purple; COOL SPRING, lovely light blue; RUBY WINE, a most descriptive name, and SPARKING ROSE, a lovely-shaded mauve.

In our own garden I was pleased with the bloom on VELVET NIGHT. It was a one-year-old clump with several bloom stalks and flowers of deep violet and of very nice form. The old standbys that I have grown for years always perform well: PERIWINKLE, a rich medium blue; GATINEAU, also a lovely blue and I am never sure which I like better; BLUE MOON and TY-COON, both blue violets but with different forms; WHITE DOVE always blooms heavily but is a small narrow-petaled flower that I will no doubt eliminate when WHITE SWIRL becomes established.

We grew many of the older Siberians for many years but in 1964 when we moved to our present location here at Kirkland, we eliminated most of them. Now I am beginning to wish I had some of them back again - ones such as HELEN ASTOR, SUMMER SKIES and CAESAR'S BROTHER. But perhaps I should save space for some of the newer varieties. At any rate I hope to look a little closer and make more notes this spring for I think that Siberians are at last coming into their own rights.

* * * * *

Brief note from Robert Schreiner: "...incidentally PLACID WATERS has given us a full second crop of bloom this year (1968). In tow different plantings. Makes a real combination with the yellow daylilies!"

I consider WHITE SWIRL to be the most valuable iris in any classification. I think it is well worthy of the Dykes and it would have been a demonstration of good sense by AIS to give it one, but there is no chance of such a happening.

* * * * *

ARE YOU REALLY INTERESTED IN SIBERIAN IRISES?

If you are, then you want to do everything you can to point out their value to people who don't know them. Right?

I've just seen some startling figures. They show the astonishing increases in awards given to irises versus the total numbers of introductions in various classes. It indicates to me the enormous growing interest of gardeners and iris specialists alike in irises other-than-Tall Bearded. And it indicates to me that members of the Society for Siberian Irises are standing around waiting for some miracle to fall into their laps. Siberian irises were low man on this poll's totem.

The other irises had been promoted to the skies by their special AIS Sections, and their individual members. The Society For Siberian Irises has never bothered to compete with them. The one thing which is apparent to me is that each of these other Sections has a Robin Program which works overtime enlisting members and keeping them flying. They report continuously on varietal performance - long lists of performance reports, pro and con, each season, by dozens of active, interested people. They detail crosses made and report the seedlings in most minute detail. They map out test crosses and whip up the enthusiasm of scores of members to participate in experimental work. Most of the special iris societies are just about as strong as the robin organizations within them, for robins are the member's link with one another.

Francis Brenner is a jim-dandy Robin Chairman, but he can't do the job alone. He HAS to have your participation. So how about it? Let's get the SSI Robins moving into high gear. There are four of them, each with vacancies. Write Francis today and enroll. Here is his address: Francis Brenner
Rt 1, Box 14
Dakota, Ill. 61018

* * * * *

A new source for commercial plants of Siberians was sent to your editor--here it is

Laurie's Garden 17225 McKenzie Highway
Route 2, Springfield, Ore.
97477

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MAY 1, 1969

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Walther, Mrs. Fred P. (Barbara) 474 Upper Mountain Ave Upper Montclair, N. J.	12-69		
Warburton, Mrs. F. W. (Bee) Rte 2 Box 541 Westboro, Mass. 01581	12-69	Dear Members:	
Wed, Mr. Melvin 7212 27th Avenue NE Seattle, Washington 98115	6-69	Barring typographical errors, this is an accurate up to date list of members. The numbers as shown on the right of each column indicates the date to which your membership is paid.	
Westmeyer, Mrs. Troy 60 Garv Road Stamford, Conn. 06903	6-68	I have been in the habit of trying to give each member enough leeway on due dates that we do not lose one single person; however, it has been my policy to hold only one year in arrears. There are a few listed on this listing with dates farther back than this: these are in general, founder-members and charter-members who have in the past payed a number of years at one time.	
Whitehead, Diane 85 King George Terrace, Victoria, P. C., Canada	12-69	If you do not care to continue as a member, please drop me a note re- questing cancellation (we hope no one will feel this way, however). It is not fair to let the paid up members carry us if we do not keep our dues up.	
Wilson, Mrs. Howard C. H R W Gardens Rte 1 Box 125 Bangs, Texas 76823	12-69	I am most gratified with the new memberships we have been receiving. I apologize for not writing personal notes for renewals, but find this "secretary-ing" a tremendous job to simply get out the cards and keep the records straight. Please know, how- ever, I am always pleased when I can send out a renewal card. We love you all for making this a great Soc- iety.	
Wisconsin Iris Society Mrs. John Troka 2511 E. Denton Ave. Milwaukee, Wis. 53207	12-68	Please note corrections to me; and thanks for putting up with my humble efforts.	
Withers, Mrs. John (Charlotte) Pte 1 Box 33 Mandan, North Dakota 58554	12-71		
Worland, Mrs. T. J. 4700 31st South Seattle, Washington 98108	12-69		
Wood, Mr. Guy C. RD 1 Coopersdown, New York 13326	12-69		
Zezevic, Mrs. Phyllis 219 McInley Place Massapequa Park, New York 11762	6-69		
Ziems, Mr. Clinton, RD 1 Box 2 West Monroe, New York 13167	6-70		

Mildred Johnson, Sec.