



THE SIBERIAN IRIS

# THE SIBERIAN IRIS

Fall 1974

Volume 3 Number 10

## INDEX

List of Officers and Chairmen . . . . .	Page 2
President's Page . . . . .	3
Minutes of Board Meeting at Roanoke . . . . .	3
Observations Regarding Siberian Irises in Europe 1974 . . . . .	5
Report of the Registrations and Awards Committee . . . . .	8
Siberian Irises at the British Iris Society Show 1974 . . . . .	9
The Convention at Roanoke . . . . .	10
Nomenclature of Siberian Irises . . . . .	11
Report of the Pollen and Seed Supply Committee . . . . .	14
Notes on the Sibiricae Material at Kew . . . . .	15
Obituary- Maurice Kitton and Elizabeth Seibert . . . . .	18
The Problem of Misnamed Plants . . . . .	19
Report of the Committee on Judging Standards . . . . .	21
Report of the Display Gardens Committee . . . . .	21
Report of the Robins Committee . . . . .	22
Report of the Publications Committee . . . . .	22
Report of the Nominating Committee . . . . .	23
New Members . . . . .	23
Registrations and Introductions 1973 . . . . .	24
-Registrants' and Introducers' Addresses . . . . .	26
Back Talk . . . . .	27

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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 are: Annual single, \$2; Annual family, \$2.50; Triennial single, \$5; Triennial family \$6.

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Another Siberian iris season has come and gone, leaving us lovely memories of gardens visited, new friends made and old friends seen, and those exciting first-year-to-bloom seedlings seen in our own and other gardens. To Kay and me there was also the special pleasure of our iris trip to Europe, described elsewhere in this issue.

Of course the subject uppermost in my mind as I write my final "President's Page" is the happiness and satisfaction the past three years have given me. The pleasure of serving our Society and the support and help I have received from the officers, Board, Editor and Committees and ALL of you have made the task of being President a truly rewarding experience. I must say a special "thank you" to Kay for all the typing she has done for me and for her advice on all sorts of questions.

On the basis of my experience I can genuinely congratulate Bill McGarvey who will become President on January 1, 1975. I know that he, too, will enjoy the opportunity you have given him to serve SSI and that with your support the Society will continue to grow and improve under his leadership.

Thanks and all good wishes to you all.

22 September 1974

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING AT ROANOKE, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1974

Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Peck are to discuss possible arrangements for purchasing printing through the Empire State Iris Society to determine if thereby SSI can save paying the N. Y. Sales Tax.

The Board approved setting up a portable display to be sent to Conventions and similar occasions to publicize the Siberian irises. Prof. McGarvey is to consult an expert of his acquaintance about the matter of getting suitable pictures or slides.

An audio-visual slide program is to be set up. Prof. McGarvey will work with the Slides Chairman on this.

There was a discussion of how to stimulate Siberian Auctions in other areas than the Northeast. It was decided to record on a map of the United States and Canada the location of each member in order to determine where there are sufficient members within a small area to support an auction, and then contact some member there who might take on the direction of a local auction. Possibly an Auction Chairman and Committee will be appointed.

The question was raised of having our own Morgan Medal to be presented to the Morgan Award winners. This is to be studied for costs, etc. Mr. Stark pointed out that if we decide to do so we might be better off to purchase a number of medals at one time rather than tie up the money in a bank where it will bring returns unequal to the increase in the price of silver.

The Chairman of the Publicity Committee is to obtain one-page articles from Mrs. Witt and Prof. McGarvey on the care and handling of both 28s and 40s on the West Coast and East-to-Central America respectively, to be made available to any area for publicity purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Carol Ramsey on the subject of judging, it was the feeling of the Board that there should be two classes of Siberians, one for the 28s and one for the 40s; hybrids between the two should be exhibited and judged with the group to which they have a greater resemblance.

Mr. Varner volunteered to serve as Historian on a trial basis.

Hereafter if a non-member wishes to subscribe to the publication at a rate equivalent to a year's dues, he may do so, but this will not constitute membership nor will it include the right to vote in elections or run for office or in any way have a voice in the operation of the Society. This decision is not to be publicized as our aim is to encourage those interested to join the Society, and become active members and workers.

Mrs. Barnes reported that there are now four Siberian Robins flying.

Mrs. Edwards is to investigate the possibility of having Mrs. Harriet Segesserman look into and report on the history of the Siberians.

Mrs. Edwards is also to get a price from the printer for making up stationery from the design of Kevin Okins in her possession which, if the price is right, could be sold as gift items for the benefit of the Society.

Dr. McEwen is to obtain reports from all committees to be sent to Mrs. Edwards to be printed in the Fall issue of TSI.

At this point it was necessary to adjourn the meeting, which was resumed the following day for discussion of the Budget.

This discussion was led by the Treasurer, Gunther Stark. It was estimated that income from dues would amount to about \$455, with an additional amount of perhaps \$350 from the annual auction held at the home of the Warburtons in Westboro, Mass. Since expenses were estimated at about \$560, it was clear that our dues alone do not meet the needs of the Society. Thus the importance of other income, such as that from the auction, is obvious if the dues are to be kept at their present level of \$2 yearly.

(Editor's comment: The estimate of expenses does not include the cost of producing the Check List or any other special publication that may be needed.)

# OBSERVATIONS REGARDING SIBERIAN IRISES IN EUROPE 1974

Currier McEwen

Eleven years ago an international symposium devoted to irises was held in Florence, Italy. This year, from June 4 to 7, a second symposium was held at Liblice, Czechoslovakia, under the leadership of Dr. Milan Blasek, Curator of the Botanical Garden at Pruhonice. Because one of the principal topics for discussion at the symposium was the classification of irises, I was invited to attend in order to report the efforts of the SSI Ad Hoc Committee on Nomenclature of Siberian Irises. It proved to be a most interesting meeting and in the seventeen days we had in Europe we also had an opportunity to attend a meeting of the Gesellschaft der Staudenfreunde in Tübingen on May 31 and the British Iris Society Show and Dinner on June 11.

The Gesellschaft der Staudenfreunde (Society of Friends of Perennials) is the former Deutsche Iris- und Liliengesellschaft which changed its name recently in order to reflect the broader interests of most of the members in many perennials in addition to irises and lilies. Because of our late arrival Kay and I had to miss most of the garden visits but were fortunate to see the lovely gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Hald; Mr. Hald is President of the Gesellschaft. At their home they have developed in a space I would judge to be no more than a few thousand square feet an enchanting series of plantings separated by shrubs, rocks and small trees in such a way as to give the impression of six or more individual gardens, including a water garden complete with a small waterfall and Siberian irises beside a pool. Their main collection of irises is in another garden several miles away in the country. Mr. Hald hybridizes tall bearded irises and they, naturally, predominate. However, we saw a number of well-grown Siberians. Most of them were familiar older cultivars but one was new to us, namely, the late Max Steiger's Apfelblutte. This was wine red in color with a white blaze and fairly wide, semiflaring falls. It appeared to have only two buds and no branch but the color and form were pleasing.

The meeting of the German Society was held in the Botanical Garden at the University of Tübingen. The grounds were immaculately groomed and beautifully planted. There were a good number of clumps of Siberians, especially along a brook, together with I. pseudacorus. All the former appeared to be various clones of I. sibirica. At the meeting that evening Mr. Fritz Kuhlein gave a fine talk with magnificent slides of irises, including Siberians, and other perennials; and I showed slides of American Siberian introductions of the past ten years or so.

On the following day our fellow SSI member, Mr. Eckard Berlin, formerly an ardent hybridizer of Medians but now devoted to Siberians, drove us to his home in Biberach an der Riss. He has been using colchicine for several years and now has a number of second-generation tetraploids. He

also has at least two induced chimeras of I. pseudacorus and one induced plant of I. setosa which appeared to me to be fully tetraploid. In both of these the falls flare nicely and the setosa had velvety texture.

Next day he and his charming wife drove us to the Bodensee on the shores of which Germany, Austria and Switzerland meet; and there in a meadow area close to Langenargen we saw thousands of I. sibirica growing wild together with smaller numbers of I. pseudacorus. All resembled the illustration in Dykes' *The Genus Iris*, with fine branching and medium blue flowers with much splashing of white markings on the pendant falls giving a plicata-like effect. Although all were similar they showed considerable variation. About a quarter had reddish violet instead of blue-violet standards. Another quarter had the white plicata-like markings to a pronounced degree and in about 5% of them this was so extreme that the falls appeared to be almost white all the way to the tips crisscrossed with narrow blue-violet lines. In 1 to 2% the falls, instead of hanging, were nearly horizontal. About half had two branches with 3 or even 4 buds at the terminal, giving a total bud count of 5 to 8. The height varied from 2½ to 4 feet. I saw almost none without at least one branch at Langenargen but an hour's drive farther at Wasserburg very few had two branches, most had one and about a third had no branch. Otherwise they were similar in the two places. Unfortunately I had no tapemeasure but would estimate that the diameter of the flowers was about 3 inches, increased to perhaps 4 inches in the few with flaring form. The falls were about ¾ to one inch wide and about twice as long as wide. Standards were upright at about 30 degrees from the vertical. The fact that I. sibirica is a plant of low, wet meadows was well illustrated at both sites which were sunny meadows but definitely boggy and clearly suitable also for pseudacorus. All were in areas of the meadows where they received full sun. Subsequently at the symposium in Czechoslovakia, a field trip was made to northwest Bohemia where we saw wild Siberians growing near Cereniate. Here again the area was a wet meadow and I. pseudacorus was present also. The flowers and plants were similar to the predominant ones seen near the Bodensee. They had one branch only and 5 buds. I saw none with the extreme "plicata type" pattern but this may have been a matter of numbers since there were thousands at the Bodensee and only 30 or so in the Bohemian meadow.

Although not part of this trip I will mention also a plant of I. sibirica sent to me by Dir. Roman Kutylowski of Warsaw which had been collected in the wild in Poland. This example of the species closely resembles the predominant ones near the Bodensee. It grows 40 inches tall and has two branches bearing 2 buds each plus usually 4 at the terminal; a truly splendid plant.

The symposium in Czechoslovakia was held in the Castle of Liblice near Melnik which since the seventeenth-hundreds has been identified with the

Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences through the scientific interests of its noble owner. Now the State uses it most appropriately for scientific meetings. The participants numbered 83. Simultaneous translation in Czech, Russian, German and English saved the day for Bee Warburton and Kay and me! Two of the four days were devoted to lectures and the other two to a trip to the Botanical Gardens of Pruhonic and the field trip referred to above on which we saw I. aphylla growing on a steep, rocky hillside but not in bloom, as well as the sibirica already noted. The only paper specifically related to Siberian irises was the report I presented for the SSI Ad Hoc Committee on Nomenclature (presented elsewhere in this issue) and an evening showing of the slides I had used also at the meeting in Germany. However, discussion and slides of various species of Sibiricae were included in more general presentations made by Dr. Rodionenko of the U. S. S. R. and Mr. Kohlein of Germany as well as others. Bee Warburton gave a paper on classification of Medians and in a second appearance showed excellent slides of more recent introductions especially in the Tall Bearded.

Of particular importance to me as chairman of the SSI Ad Hoc Committee was the opportunity to talk with Dr. George Rodionenko, a noted iris taxonomist and Director of the Leningrad Botanical Garden, regarding the efforts of our Committee. It was gratifying to learn that he is currently engaged in a study of Series Sibiricae to learn whether revision of his current classification is warranted with regard to them.

Due to the efforts of Milan Blazek the Botanical Garden of Pruhonic has an excellent collection of more than a thousand tall and median bearded irises as well as several hundred examples of many of the beardless species and hybrids. Unfortunately Dr. Blazek has not been able to import any dating after 1967 but this was for me offset by a wonderful historical collection of the very earliest introductions and species which one rarely sees in the United States. At my request Dr. Blazek gave me a list of the 45 cultivars of Siberian irises which are now at the Botanical Garden or elsewhere in Czechoslovakia. This includes many of the fine ones of earlier days but only one as recent as 1966. It is my hope that our SSI hybridizers can give plants to make the really remarkable iris collection at Pruhonic fully representative of the recent best in Siberians.

The final part of our pilgrimage was the annual British Iris Society Show and dinner on June 11 and 12. This provided not only a great opportunity to see lovely flowers but also to see old friends and meet new ones. It was good to see our fellow countryman, Roy Davidson, who had been in England several weeks studying records of iris species with Mr. Brian Mathew at the Herbarium at Kew Gardens. Some of Mrs. Brummitt's outstanding Siberians were on display at the show but regretfully not her 1972 introduction SEA HORSE which I had hoped to see. Outstanding was a scape of DREAMING SPIRES in the display of the Norton Hall Nurseries which bore 5-inch flowers of beautiful form with falls 2½ inches wide. I have never seen such a well



grown example of it in our country. I also was fortunate to see a single flower of Mrs. Tallack's 1973 introduction CANONBURY BELLIE of semiflaring form and pleasing violet-blue color. It is said to be particularly outstanding in its wide branching but this, of course, I could not judge. Among the displays was an excellent one featuring various iris species including some of the 40-chr. Siberians, which was presided over by Mr. Brian Mathew of the Kew Garden Herbarium.

I was also much interested in two hybrids shown by Mr. Donald Patton: one, his fine brown HOLDEN CLOUGH which he believes is a wild cross of I. chrysographes x I. pseudacorus, the other an interesting patterned blue which he lists as a cross of I. chrysographes and I. versicolor. Another interesting Siberian was one of Japanese type exhibited by Alex Back. All six segments had the appearance of falls in their position and in having identical markings, with only the styles being upright.

As in our country there is unquestionably a growing interest in the Siberians in England and I also met several people who are interested in Cal-Sibes although I do not know of any new ones that have originated there.

Altogether the trip was a wonderful experience which Kay and I will remember with pleasure.

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#### REPORT OF THE REGISTRATIONS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Kevin Vaughn.

The Committee recommends:

1. That we continue the registration of unregistered but distributed material. The Committee has previously registered Dorothy Spofford's JUNE VIOLET and Elizabeth Nesmith's CANTON BLUE. We are still looking for information on Mrs. Spofford's clone distributed as Lazure Blue.
2. That we cooperate with the AIS Registrar to put chromosome counts on registrations and to correct inaccuracies in registration.
3. That we propose to the Board of Directors that a Morgan Medal be established, in view of the increased activity in hybridizing. The chairman does not urge the establishment of an intermediate AM- requirements for a medal the same as those for the Morgan Award would be sufficient. Funds for the medal could come from auction proceeds.

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The Editor requests that members PLEASE take note of the issue deadlines which appear on page one below the Index. More than once since I took on this job articles have come too late for the issue in which they would be timely and useful- by the next issue they were out-of-date.

SIBERIAN IRISES AT THE BRITISH IRIS SOCIETY SHOW 1974.

Roy Davidson.

Without doubt Mrs. Brummitt's DREAMING SPIRES was the most outstanding new (to me) Siberian iris seen in the show. I can only regard it as seen on the show bench as I did not see it growing, but it impressed me as a magnificent, graceful and refulgent flower of great individuality. Noted on the Norton Hall Nurseries stand was a sib to it, not as ample, but colored a richer blue. On Sidney Linnegar's stand was a sib to VIOLET MERE boasting the nice contrast of blue styles on a violet-toned flower. Even in bud the evening before, LIMHEART showed the promising cool greenish color that never diminished in the opened blossom the next morning and was still cool in the evening. Certainly a most elegant creation, one I coveted.

In exhibits for competition, Classes of Division VI, Sibirica Subsection, were amply full and the entries of high quality indeed. In Class 26 (Siberian hybrids, 3 in 3 vases, 6 stalks each) Mr. Back took first, and the Spender Challenge Trophy, with COOL SPRING, CAMBRIDGE and WHITE SWIRL; Mr. Christopher came second with NOTTINGHAM LACE, BLUE MERE and MOUNTAIN LAKE. Mrs. Brummitt's splendid entry of LIMHEART, CAMBRIDGE, and an unnamed Cal-Sibe from Bob Schreiner's tweezers had to be disqualified as not conforming to schedule for the class. It would have placed in the Species Classes, Division VII.

In Class 27 (Siberian hybrids, 3 in 3 vases, 3 stalks each) Mrs. Goodwin took first with PURPLE MERE, BLUE MERE and WHITE SWIRL; Mr. Patton second with WHITE SWIRL, PURPLE MERE and TYCOON.

In class 28 (Siberian hybrids, 3 stalks of one or more varieties in 1 vase) Mrs. Goodwin was first with PLACID WATERS, WHITE SWIRL and CAMBRIDGE; Mr. Patton second with HELEN ASTOR, FORETELL and BLUE WILSON; Mr. Jeffs was third with Hutchison sdlg. O/9, CAMBRIDGE and WISLEY WHITE. This Hutchison seedling was a huge medium blue, GATINEAU-like, mothlike; and Foretell looked very well in the crown- of good size, it is yellow veined violet, the styles and standards smoked-buff with tiny visible lines etched in purple-gray. BLUE WILSON had nothing of the wilsonii look to it and in fact appeared to be "another Siberian", and Schreiner's Cal-Sibe was similar to FAIR COLLEEN, the color not quite as blue- an all-over etched pattern on a creamy ground.

It was not my lot to see and study many Siberians in the field; a very great many were seen, not as yet in flower, at Kew, Wisley and Edinburgh, many of them with collector's numbers on labels such as bulleyana, chrysographes, clarkei, forrestii and wilsonii.

Elsewhere is a report on what I found in herbarium research on my trip. Perhaps it will be of interest.

## THE CONVENTION AT ROANOKE

Peg Edwards.

I've been going to Conventions for 16 years now and never have I seen Siberians better grown. They were really spectacular! I saw for the first time this year ANNIVERSARY and WING ON WING; on seeing Mrs. Brumitt's fine white my first thought was that WHITE SWIRL was outdated, and then I saw Prof. McGarvey's white beauty and thought it was a tie for best white. Then in the Price garden I saw the Cassebeer classic and decided it was a three-way tie. They differ sufficiently from one another so that there is plenty of room for all three- and for Mr. Kitton's WHITE MAGNIFICENCE as well, which is not of the wide-flaring type with horizontal falls, but has the gracefully pendant shape that was for so long the shape of Siberians. Each type has its place in any Siberian planting. FOURFOLD WHITE, a tetraploid from Dr. McEwen, is a large and handsome iris too, though I would not be completely happy with the shape of its haft; it tapers outward so that there is no 'dividing line' between the haft and the blade and so I don't see that perfect circle (well, almost perfect!) that to me distinguishes the falls of the Siberians from the other grassy-leaved Apogons. Still, this is a matter of taste, and this one point aside it is a lovely and, seemingly, a vigorous cultivar.

ORVILLE FAY, another of the McEwen tets, is a stunning blue, and his BLUE PENNANT, also a tet, is a lovely deep velvety violet blue, both well worth having. Among the diploids PANSY PURPLE is a fine velvet a little more on the violet side, and Dr. McGarvey's BLUE BURN is still my pet of the clear blues, though EGO, SUPER EGO, and MARILYN HOLMES gave it a good run for the ratings. POLLY DODGE is a beautiful red velvet- the lustrous silky velvet of the fabric that used to be made in Lyons and that looked too good to be wasted on anything less than a Duchess' court robes!

But to me the stunner of the Convention was a McGarvey seedling, McG-72-68-15-2, a real color break; it is a pinkish mauve, very smooth, with a flaring form. I don't know the parentage but as Bill has been working for several years with a strain of seedlings deriving from WHITE SWIRL and ROYAL ENSIGN, some of which showed similar coloring though not as intense or as smooth, I would suspect this might be from that line of breeding. Would the Professor care to confirm or deny? At any rate it was in several gardens and looked lovely in all of them.

The Section Meeting, on May 15, was very successful. Prof. McGarvey gave a program on judging Siberians, well illustrated with slides showing both virtues and faults of every aspect of the plant from flower shape to branching of the stalk. As the Convention Committee had arranged that each program have its own time slot, attendance was good- at least 150 were at the meeting and it was SRO before the program began. Probably well over half were non-members.

# NOMENCLATURE OF SIBERIAN IRISES (\*)

Carrier McEwen (\*\*)

In his classic work on The Genus Iris (1), Dykes placed nine Apogon species in his Sibirica Group, namely: Ii. sibirica, orientalis, clarkei, delavayi, wilsonii, forrestii, bulleyana, chrysographes and prismatica. Of these, I. prismatica has subsequently been placed in a separate series, and the name of I. orientalis has been changed to I. sanguinea by some (2, 3). Also two additional species have been added, namely I. dykesii and I. phragmitetorum. Thus the Series Sibiricae currently consists of ten species placed together because of morphologic similarities.

From observations of early hybridizers, it was clear that some of these species intercrossed readily, whereas such crosses rarely succeeded between others, and when successful, usually produced sterile hybrids. With subsequent developments in cytogenetics these earlier experiences of hybridizers were explained through the discovery that the species within Series Sibiricae fall into two distinct groups in terms of their chromosome numbers, namely Ii. sibirica and sanguinea (orientalis) with 2N eq. 28 and the remainder with 2N eq. 40. On the basis of these cytogenetic differences, Simonet (4) separated the species with 40 chromosomes from Series Sibiricae and placed them in a distinct Series Chrysographes. Werckmeister has used Simonet's two Series in his Catalogus Iridis 1967 (5) and this has been adopted also in the listing of seeds made available by the Special Seed Distribution of the British Iris Society (6). In the standard classifications of Lawrence (7) and Rodionenko (8), however, all the Sibiricae are retained in one Series.

From the standpoint of a horticultural society such as the Society for Siberian Irises it is important, for practical reasons, that growers of these irises understand that Series Sibiricae includes two distinct groups which are essentially incompatible genetically and which have somewhat different cultural requirements. This is important in order to avoid disappointment among growers because of unsuccessful efforts at breeding and poor performance of plants resulting from inadequate growing conditions. Currently, the two groups are referred to by their chromosome numbers, i. e. the 28 chromosome group and the 40 chromosome group. These terms, while accurate, are awkward to use and have little significance to the average grower who lacks knowledge of chromosomes. They are likewise unsuitable designations for use in catalogues and lists intended for the general gardening public. As a result a number of terms have been proposed in recent years as designations for the two groups. Since this promised to cause further confusion, the Society for Siberian Irises in 1972 appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Nomenclature to study the problem and make recommendations.

Early in the Committee's deliberations, it became clear that terminology

of these irises demanded two types of consideration: first the question of taxonomic arrangement and second that of "common usage" terms. The Committee started with the assumption that it lacked competence to make taxonomic decisions and hence should limit its recommendations to common usage terms. Nevertheless, it was apparent that it must advise the Society with regard to the two types of taxonomic classification already proposed, namely that of Simonet, dividing the Sibiricae into two distinct Series, and that of Dykes, Lawrence and Rodionenko retaining them in one Series. It was the unanimous recommendation of the Committee that, at least for the time being, the Society should continue to adhere to the latter and include all ten species in a single Series(9).

From the standpoint of common usage terms, the Committee has considered a number of proposals based on the chromosome numbers, on the geographic Regions where the species occur, and on the conditions under which they grow. Among geographic terms, Eurasian Siberians, Eurasian group, Siberians, Eurasiobiberians and Northern group have been considered for those with 28 chromosomes; and Chinese group, Sinosiberians, Yunnan group, Himalayan group, and Southern group for those with 40 chromosomes. However, in view of the fact that any appropriate common usage terms should reflect taxonomic ones, the Committee has decided that it will be best to continue for the present to designate the two groups by their chromosome numbers and postpone a recommendation regarding other terms pending a taxonomic decision.

Whereas the Committee has ruled that it should not attempt to make taxonomic decisions since that is the province of professional taxonomists, it does believe that its members should make careful observations on the species of Sibiricae which they grow in the hope that this may provide information of use to taxonomists. To that end, a careful check has been made comparing the individual features described by Dykes (1) with those observed in living plants during the 1973 blooming season. It has not been possible to include I. phragmitetorum in these observations but results with regard to the other nine species are as follows: There appear to be no significant differences between the 28 chromosome and the 40 chromosome groups of species as regards the leaves, stems (with the exception of I. clarkei which has solid stems in contrast with the hollow stems of the other nine species), branching, seeds, rootstock, pedicels, ovaries, falls (except for the size of their "flanges"), standards, styles, crests, stigmas, filaments, anthers or pollen color. On the other hand, both Dykes' observations and ours show four consistent differences: 1) spathe of the two 28 chromosome species are comparatively short, measuring about 2.5 cm. in length whereas those of the 40 chromosome species are from 5 to 10 cm. long; 2) the "flanges" at the base of the falls are small in the 28 chromosome group and longer and broader in those with 40 chromosomes; 3) the top of the seed capsule is blunt in the 28 chromosome species and "spiked" in the 40 chromosome group, and 4) mature seed capsules of the 28 chromosome species are hard, and difficult to open by hand, whereas those of the 40

chromosome group are fragile and easily opened.

The two groups differ also in their natural geographic distribution. According to Dykes (1), *I. sibirica* is native to Central Europe and Russia and *I. sanguinea* (*orientalis*) to Manchuria, Korea and Japan. All the 40 chromosome species appear to be native to the Himalayan Mountains and southwestern China where most of them can be found in the Province of Yunnan.

The differences are summarized in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Differences Between the Two Groups within Series Sibiricas.		
	<i>I. sibirica</i> & <i>sanguinea</i>	<i>I. clarkii</i> , <i>delavayi</i> , <i>forrestii</i> , <i>wilsonii</i> , <i>chrysographes</i> , <i>bulleyana</i> , <i>dykesii</i> & <i>phragmitetorum</i> *
Geographic	Central Europe and East Central Asia	Southwestern China, centering on Yunnan, and Himalayan Mountains
Cytogenetic	Chromosomes: 2N eq. 28 The species within each group cross easily, giving fertile hybrids, but intercrosses between the groups rarely succeed and ordinarily give sterile offspring. However, fertile hybrids do occur.	Chromosomes: 2N eq. 40
Morphologic	Spathes short Flanges at base of falls small Tops of seed capsules blunt Seed capsules hard	Spathes more than 2 inches long Flanges large Tops of seed capsules spiked Seed capsules delicate
*The Committee has not observed <i>I. phragmitetorum</i> .		

The Committee believes that the evidence warrants separation of the two groups either into two Series or into two Subseries of a single Series Sibiricae. For practical reasons of usage and on the basis of general similarities, the Committee favors the latter, i. e. a single Series with two Subseries. The fact that fertile hybrids between the two groups do occur gives further important support to this view.

The Committee and the Society for Siberian Irises appreciate this opportunity to present its views at this Symposium. The Committee has

stated its thoughts regarding some of the current taxonomic questions but makes no recommendations regarding them on the ground that this is the province of professional taxonomists. We believe that additional taxonomic study could clarify some current uncertainties and hope that the efforts of the Committee may be of some usefulness to such a study. We will welcome suggestions as to additional observations that members of our Committee can make or other ways in which we can be of use in finding the answers to the questions which have been posed.

\* Report Presented at the International Iris Symposium held in Liblice, Czechoslovakia, June 4, 1974.

\*\* For the Committee on Nomenclature of the Society for Siberian Irises.

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9. Ad Hoc Committee on Nomenclature, Soc. for Sib. Irises: Preliminary Report, The Siberian Iris, Vol. 3 No. 7, Spring 1973, page 11.

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Report of the Pollen and Seed Supply Committee- Jean Witt.

Seed requests will come under the Species Iris Exchange, where we charge 25¢ per packet, postpaid. Requests for pollen should be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope, and perhaps an extra stamp if forwarding is necessary. The members of TSI can obtain a copy of the Species Iris Seed Exchange List by sending me a stamped, self-addressed envelope in November-Not later. This will give directions for ordering seeds.

(ed.:) We hope the members will make more use of this than they have in the past. It is an excellent way of obtaining species both for garden plants and as parents for possible hybridizing programs.

# NOTES ON THE SIBIRICAE MATERIAL AT KEW

Roy Davidson.

My planned projection of a Scottish-English horticultural tour toward the Continent and the Pruhonice Symposium did not get off the ground. Due to re-injury to an old back problem, I remained in and around London for the time remaining on my flight ticket instead, and although it was somewhat of a disappointment (I'd even hoped to get out Mt. Olympus!) it did make possible the extension of the planned one day at the Kew Herbarium to almost a week, most of it spent leaving telltale fingerprints on the very collections that form the basis of our iris taxonomy, a good many of which bore the "W. R. D." that signified that none other than Dykes himself had been there.

Further study of Sibiricae material was perhaps unnecessary since it had been so recently and thoroughly perused by Christopher Grey-Wilson in preparation for his monograph. Nevertheless, seeing for oneself certainly does give clarity and focus to understanding, and I believe that I might have perceived some few details that he may have missed, or at any rate made no comment upon.

First examined, of course, was the file of I. sibirica itself as the type on which is based the whole group, which consisted of very many collections. These represent the reported range through middle Europe from France to Russia, mainly north of the Alps, some from North Italy and from an outlying station northward in Estonia. These demonstrate great variability in size. The average was about 18 inches, but many were larger, up to three feet, and could well have been cultivated forms, as some most certainly were, although the notations did not consistently make this clear.

There were many sheets of I. sanguinea, showing well the variations and the multiplicity of names. As it does not specially relate to the study at hand, they were not noted in detail.

As to I. bulleyana, Grey-Wilson told me he had found no evidence that this was to be considered a 'good' species entity: he believes that what we now grow by the name had its origin in Bulley's garden-nursery (Bees seed firm, now the grounds of Ness Botanical Garden of the University of Liverpool). We had visited this garden, but before any irises had come to bloom. On record at Kew are three sheets of collected material, subsequently identified as this species, in the herbarium: Soulie (without number: ex Herb. Musee, Paris) coll. Ta-Tsien-Lou, E. Tibet, 1893; O. Schloch # 77, coll. 1900 n. in Yunnan, "islands of lakes at base of mountains", 4 May 1916; McLaren's collectors #N-124 (ex Herb. RBG Edinburg), coll. Yung-Ning, W. China, May 1933. This last is a very small, slender subject, 9-12 inches total height, whereas the two others are considerably larger, the Schloch specimen to 20 inches and stocky-robust. None was branched; spathes in all



were elongated and slightly unequal; all were two-flowered. McLaren, who was later to become Lord Aberconway, had continued to employ the native collectors who had worked with Forrest, for the years 1932-1938, after Forrest's untimely demise.

Kew's reference material includes, in addition to the herbarium of preserved collections, a vast library, photos, paintings and drawings, and a correspondence file of pertinent materials, all of which were made available to me through the kindness of Brian Mathew of the Kew staff. There were many sheets of I. clarkei, plus a photo of great "banks of purple iris in the Kama Valley" taken by the Mt. Everest Expedition of 1922, showing the profusion attained by this lower-meadow species of the Himalayan alliance of Sibiricae. Another illustration, a painting by M. Smith, and det. (?determined) by Dykes to represent I. clarkei, depicted a very full flower reminiscent of the Curtis plate of I. dykesii (more on this later.)

There is also a very bulky amount of material representing collections of I. chrysographes. Kingdon-Ward # 4025, coll. 1924, and # 4026, coll. 1925, are noted merely as from "W. China", as is also Wilson # 1486, collected for Veitch and presented by that firm. Other Wilson sheets, # 4555, #1304 (with exceptionally large, full flowers,) #3701 (total of three sheets,) and #3070 are all from Szechuan, as is Pratt #147, "W. Szechuan-Tibetan frontier." Other material, all of it from Yunnan, includes: A. Henry #11,928 A & B (both with exceptional flowers) and #11,927, the color stated as "blue"; Forrest #8184, "6-8 in., deep purplish-blue with yellow markings, fragrant; moist pasture"; Forrest #17078, in capsule; Forrest #25, 043, "16-20 in., deep indigo-blue; margins of marshes and boggy lakes at 11-12,000 feet; Sept. 1924"; and two sheets by McLaren's collectors #D-187, also from Yunnan. (How one wishes others had been able to convey their field observations, even to the fragrance, onto herbarium labels!)

Abbe Delavay's own #2683 (ex Herb. Musee Paris) was the first of the several I. delavayi to be seen; it is over 30 inches, with "flowers violet" according to the collector's note, taken 14 June 1887, station not noted; others were Forrest #1895, "purplish blue; boggy open mountain pastureland on E. flank Tali Range, W. Yunnan, 9-10,500 ft."; Rock #18,061, July 1929, Kulu in the Muli Kingdom, SW Szechuan, with a stalk to 14 inches, "flowers dark purple-blue"; McLaren #8-41 from W. Yunnan was exceptionally robust, bore one short branch. (In the garden at Kew, their #651-69-06007 is a very fine, large-flowered I. delavayi, well-branched, robust.)

As cultivated by Mr. Musgrove, the type specimen of I. dykesii, which had been rescued by him from the late Mr. Dykes' garden, is on file. It was of course the subject of the Curtis plate t. 9282, and the original of this is here as well. Often these superb drawings tell more of what we need to know than do the most carefully preserved actual material. Musgrove's correspondence with Dr. Stapf is quoted by the latter in his description accompanying the Curtis plate. (After going through all this at

considerable length and referring back to a number of sheets, it seemed to me that this resembled both clarkei and chrysographes, and in later conversation, Grey-Irson expressed the same opinion. Certain observations of I. clarkei material substantiated a guess that this entity of unknown origin may very well have arisen as the result of such a hybrid combination. There is no material from the wild. It would appear to be a little absurd under such circumstances to continue trying to authenticate it as a 'good' species.)

Of I. forrestii, Forrest's own #6028, coll. 12-13,000 ft., E. flank Lichian Range, is noted as "7-16 in., flower bright yellow with brownish-green markings, faintly fragrant; open alpine pasture"; Schneider #1891 (ex Herb. Dend. Soc. Austria-Hungary/Arnold Arb.), coll. June 1918, is a very slender and dainty thing, to a foot high; McLaren #n-48, coll. June 1933, Li Chung, W. China, is similar to the last. (This does not seem to be a very extensive record of the species in the wild, nor does it display the variability it shows in cultivation. A good share of the latter may well be of hybrid origin.)

I. phragmitetorum is represented by the type collection of Handel-Mazzetti #8628, coll. 19 April 1916, Yunnan, "in regione colide temperate prope urbem Yunnan-fu, in parte stagnante lacus in phragmitetis".\* It is large in all parts and is said to have been "beardless, striated white and blue", and the specimen appeared to me to be remarkably similar to I. sanguinea. This specimen is a little larger and remarkably similar to one attributed to A. Henry, #11,927A, which Dykes identified as I. chrysographes. Both standards and falls, however, are both far longer and broader than others of that species on record here. (Mr. Mathew concurred in my opinion of the remarkable similarity of the two, which actually appeared to be as nearly 'identical' as one could hope for - or shudder at, for that matter, so close these various entities seem to be, at least in their dried condition.)

I. wilsonii is well represented in the Kew records; Wilson's #1450, #1164 and #1164A are mounted on a single sheet from material grown by Veitch and Sons, 1907, and collected for them. There is a note in the TYPs folder analyzing Wilson's Western China Irises (doubtlessly the unsigned observations of C. H. Wright in relation to his conveying species rank to I. wilsonii) in which is recorded "This species varies somewhat in size; var. major is probably only an extreme form with larger, short-pedicelled flower, whose style-arms, instead of being of a uniform clear yellow, have a pale chestnut along the midrib and are suffused with the same color in the upper part." This is dated 1 July 1907. Additionally, there are three of Wilson's collections, #2371 and #3072, plus one without number; field notes state "very rare", and "grasslands at 7,000 ft."; some are in cap-

(\*-roughly trans. as "in a moderately hilly region near the city of Yunnan-fu, in a stagnant part of a lake in among reeds"- 'colide' is not in my Latin Dictionary but could derive from col, a hill- Ed.)

sule, and all were collected in W. Hupeh. There are also four Forrest collections: #16,294, from Yunnan; #21,373 "flower fragrant, lt. yellow, falls marked pale purple-blue; margins of streams and nearby meadows in the mountains, June 1922, S. W. Szechuan"; #23,611 "open dry hillsides and meadows"; ans #23,613 "2-2½ ft., flower yellow with blue lacings on the falls; dry rocky hillsides on the Chien-Chuan-Mekong divide at 11-12,000 ft.", both the latter in Yunnan.

These Himalayan irises may well be closer to a single biological species (or two?) than we suppose, in the wild state. Their points of difference are assuredly far, far less than their similarities.

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MR. MAURICE KITTON- An Obituary.

It is with real sorrow that we pass along to our American members the information received from England that Mr. Maurice Kitton, who produced a number of fine Siberians, among which are BLUECAPE and WHITE MAGNIFICENCE, died last year. We have not received any details as to the time or circumstances.

Mr. Kitton was one of our Society's first Corresponding Members and in the early years sent us much information about English work with Siberians, both his own and that of others. He had been working with the 40-chr. group in recent years and had registered several of his hybrids but so far as we know none were formally introduced and only a few have been brought to America. However several of his 28-chr. cultivars are in commerce here and some others are still to be introduced in England.

MRS. ELIZABETH SEIBERT- An Obituary.

Mrs. Seibert, who served for so long as Slide Chairman of SSI, died last March. She had been a charter member of our Society and an enthusiast for Siberians for nearly half of her relatively short life- she was in her late 40s when she died. Despite frequent periods of ill-health she managed to be an active member of AIS, Region 3 and SSI. We will miss her.

I think I will remember her best as she was at the 1961 Newark Convention, when SSI was new and we were all full of fresh enthusiasm, riding the bus and keeping us in giggles when she called out: "Looka all the pretty FLAGS!" every time we passed some garden laden with the sturdy old lavender, white and yellow irises of Grandma's day.

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Members are reminded that it is the policy of TSI to note on the address of your copy when your dues are in arrears or about to become so. We send one issue after dues lapse; if you renew this copy is counted as the first of your new membership period. To keep it coming, keep the dues coming!

## THE PROBLEM OF MISNAMED PLANTS

Carrier McEwen.

Elsewhere in this issue is a brief account of the annual show of the British Iris Society held June 11th and 12th in London. The only less-than-perfect episode encountered there was the discovery, in three different displays, of plants labeled WHITE SWIRL which were not true to name. It has been reported to me also that there are two different plants going under the name of WHITE SWIRL in New Zealand. Certainly all seasoned growers of Siberian irises know all too well that some of the older varieties which one buys may prove to be not true, but to encounter this type of mistake in so famous and relatively recent an introduction as WHITE SWIRL is rather a shock. Unfortunately the opportunities for such a mistake are numerous. In nursery rows uncollected bee-set pods can drop seeds which start plants assumed to be the one designated by the label at the end of the row; but that is only one source of trouble. In a tour garden at one of the recent AIS Conventions to which I had sent plants there was one labeled POLLY DODGE which was incorrect. The mistake could have been made by me, the Guest Iris Committee, the owner of that garden, or some child helpfully pulling out labels. I don't think I sent the wrong plant but that is not the main point. What is important is to realize that such mistakes can be made and, without any thought of blame, correcting the mistake as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Currently I am writing to the people involved in the displays at the BIS Show to learn the source of the wrong "WHITE SWIRL" they had. I trust that the mistake can thus be traced to its source. One must rely on the integrity of the supplier to destroy the incorrect stock and see that all those who received the wrong plants are notified and sent correct plants of WHITE SWIRL. Meanwhile those buyers may have given divisions of the incorrect plants to others and they, too, must be notified. Obviously this is a difficult task and perhaps some of the incorrect plants never will be corrected.

The incorrect plants of "WHITE SWIRL" which I saw were quite pleasant white flowers like many other white Siberians of older type. Those who showed them may wish to keep them in their gardens and clearly that is their right but NOT as WHITE SWIRL. Otherwise the whole purpose of Registration is destroyed. I urge that each one of us, if he has doubts about the authenticity of a Siberian iris which he owns or sees elsewhere notify the garden owner, the source if known, or if necessary the Chairman of the SSI Committee on Registrations and Awards so that the possibility of error can be investigated. This is not being 'busybody' or unfriendly. It is an essential measure to preserve the purity of Siberian irises and the honesty of those who grow them.

(2¢ worth- by M. E.- This is not the only variety of fairly new introduction that has been involved in such a mixup. Steve Varner's TEALWOOD and my own

VELVET NIGHT have been confused in at least one garden- that is to say the owner of the garden received under the two names two identical plants not more than one of which can be what it was labeled as- possibly both are mislabeled as in my own experience VELVET NIGHT, TEALWOOD and Louise Marx' SEVEN SEAS are very similar to the casual glance; it is only on close examination that they can be separated. Chance seedlings from CAESAR'S BROTHER also often look very like these three and a typical Registration Description would serve equally well for each of these- except for the matter of height and branching. Prof. McGarvey is apparently certain that there are two different plants, at least, going under the name of ROYAL ENSIGN. The worst of these cases is that even checking out the plants as they grow in the originator's garden is not always helpful- I do not have any of the original stock, for instance, of VELVET NIGHT; Tom Hall died in the 1950s and his garden was distributed and only those who had the plant from him before he died, or right after his death, can be reasonably sure that they have the true stock. On the other hand, even if you can see the original planting of the variety and it differs from what you have, that is no guarantee that yours is incorrect- plant height and flower size can differ from one garden to another; with the blues, it is even possible to have some small variation of color. The best clues are: precise shape of flower- this does not change whatever the climate or soil quality; size and basic color of markings and blaze; presence or absence of 'velvet' on the falls; and, generally, the presence or absence of branching- a plant that consistently branches in most gardens is not likely to produce a whole clump in one garden that is completely without branched stalks.

So what can be done? On the part of all of us, the scrupulous removal of all bee pods from our plants well before they can ripen will at least prevent confusion in our own stocks, as will the careful labeling- and maintenance of our labels- of each cultivar, backed up with a chart of the planting. As for dealers, it might help if they would make it a rule not to run rows of similar varieties close together, where some helper might accidentally dig a plant from one row instead of the adjacent one. Another aid would be to use labels of a different color- red for choice- when it is necessary to substitute for a wanted variety that is out of stock, by way of alerting the buyer to the substitution. I had occasion a few years ago to visit a garden of an enthusiastic, but not particularly iris-oriented friend. She showed me her new clump of 'COOL SPRING'- which wasn't that at all; it was in fact PIRouETTE and I told her so. Couldn't be, she retorted, she'd ordered COOL SPRING. I rummaged at the base of the plant and of course she had not removed the label, and there it was: PIRouETTE, substitute for COOL SPRING. Possibly if that label had been in some way distinguished from the ones on varieties she had ordered she might have noticed it and realized that she had received a substitute.

Does anyone else have useful suggestions? Hey, CONTEST: Monogrammed needlepoint keychain to best suggestion received at this desk by March 1!

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDGING STANDARDS

William G. McGarvey.

Aside from distributing, and acquainting the broad membership of AIS with those standards for judging Siberian Irises published by this Society in 1963, little has had to be done concerning them. The application of these standards has provided evidence of their logical correctness and specific usefulness. However, a couple of points of emphasis in those standards do deserve special mention.

One point is that a wide range of forms is desirable in the Siberian cultivars. This decision is in sharp disagreement with the standards applied by some of our companion societies where one conventional form has been made into the form for that group and variation allowed only in color of the bloom. Think of the situation in human terms. If all women had the same shape men would be bored with that facet of feminine beauty. A second point is that any departure from the fundamental threeness which characterizes all irises is to be judged as monstrous. Again in human terms, a woman with two heads, however pretty they were, would be a monster.

Only one criticism has been brought against the present standards and that was a criticism of the idea that Siberians can be too big- the bloom size, that is. Though advanced by only a couple of individuals, it still warrants reply. It should be noted that Siberian flowers larger than the sizes allowed in the Standards will lose many of the other qualities correctly recognized as being good for the sake of gaining size alone. One event will make it necessary for the Standards to be enlarged at some time in the future. That is the development- chiefly at present by Currier McEwen- of tetraploid Siberians. For the present, however, it would be a mistake to decide on what characteristics are to describe a tetraploid Siberian in distinction from the diploid forms. A large amount of experience and study will be required before enough can be known about the possible good and poor qualities of tetraploid Siberians in the garden before any attempt is made to write standards for good tetraploid Siberians.

The Committee will appreciate being informed concerning any evidence as to types, forms and qualities required.

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REPORT OF THE DISPLAY GARDENS COMMITTEE

Julius Wadekamper.

A new endeavor of the Committee is the encouragement of Siberian Display Gardens in other countries. During his participation in the Iris Symposium held at Liblice in Czechoslovakia last June Dr. McEwen had an opportunity to discuss such gardens with representatives from England, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, the U. S. S. R and Italy. All expressed interest

in the establishment of such display gardens in their respective countries. This will be explored fully and reported in a subsequent issue of TSI.

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#### REPORT OF THE ROBINS COMMITTEE

Marjorie Barnes.

Four Robins devoted to Siberians are flourishing. Numbers 1 and 2 are of a general nature; the former directed by Dorothy Hamilton and the latter by Margaret Dunbar. Robin Number 4, directed by Bee Warburton, is devoted to hybridizing. Number 5, directed by Jean Witt, is an international one with members in Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Robin Number 3 is currently inactive. A new international Robin with members in several European countries is under consideration

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#### REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Peg Edwards.

Of the two main projects the Committee is presently involved in, the publication of a leaflet of general information on growing Siberians, intended for new members, has gone through some slight vicissitudes. Sarah Tiffney, who projected the idea originally (though the former Secretary, Mildred Johnson had proposed a similar leaflet to the Board some years ago) get such an enthusiastic response to the plan from various members of the Board and other Committee Chairmen that things actually came to the point where it seemed necessary to decide what was to go into this publication and what into the Check List! However a closer look at the costs of such a handbook of Siberians (for this is what it would have amounted to) coming at about the same time as the Check List, would have meant that the booklet would have to be charged for and would not, in fact, serve the purpose for which it was originally intended. So the plans were 'modified' back to the original aim of a small leaflet to be sent to new members. At present even this is in abeyance owing to various personal difficulties Mrs. Tiffney became involved in, including a stay in the hospital, from which I know we are all glad she recovered.

The Check List is still in the works. Progress has been made but my hopes of seeing it through the press this summer proved to be too optimistic by several months. However, at least the lists have been gone through by Mrs. Tiffney, Mrs. Warburton, Mrs. Witt and myself and we believe we no longer have any gaps where varieties ought to have been. Final typing for the printer is now going on (well, resume next week!) and the accompanying articles are in draft form. Maybe come spring?

TSI still, as always, needs and wants articles from the membership- as well as black-and-white pictures. How about you?

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

William McGarvey, Chairman; Charlotte Withers, Past President, Irene Van de Water, Evelyn Boon.

The following slate was decided upon:

President	William McGarvey
1st V. P.	Julius Wadekamper
2nd V. P.	Lorena Reid
Secretary	Kevin Vaughn
Treasurer	Gunther Stark

Board of Directors:

Currier McEwen, as Retiring President  
Peg Edwards, as Editor  
Sarah Tiffney  
D. Steve Varner  
Bee Warburton  
Ira Wood

Additional nominations can be made in accordance with the By-Laws; see your copy for details.

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NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Marlene Ahlburg, 3171 Rotgesbuttel, West Germany  
Mrs. Frank Balzer, 120 N. 10th St., Miamisburg, Ohio 45342  
Mr. Milton Berman, 5 Crow Hill Drive, Fairport, N. Y. 14450  
Mrs. Wm. E. Chambers, 282 Forrest Rd., Merian Station, Penna. 19066  
Ms. Mary Jo Christenson, 4550 Christenson Lane, Littleton, Colo. 80123  
Mrs. Dolores Dillavou, 2609 South Hinsdale Rd., Des Plaines, Ill. 60018  
Mr. Albert F. deGroat, 12 High St., Brockport, N. Y. 14420  
Mrs. Miles P. Farrar, Box #263, Mt. Holly, N. Car. 28120  
Mr. David E. Joyce, 251 S. 46th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19139  
Mr. Noritaka Kitahara, 2-6-35 Nishi, Kunitachi City, Tokyo, Japan  
Mr. Tukasa Makino, 1-24-26 Minamisakurazuka, Toyonaka 560, Japan  
Mr. Donald K. Marvin, 22 Mechanic St., Mattapoisett, Mass., 02739  
Ms. Kathleen McKinney, 123 McGrue Ave., Vallejo, Calif. 94590  
Mr. & Mrs. William G. McCallum, 2611 Southlawn Drive, St. Paul, Minn. 55109  
Mrs. J. R. Millikan, 640 N. Nanus Dr., Dallas, Tex. 75224  
Mrs. Lavone R. Ney, 2517 S. Brisbane Ave., Milwaukee, Wisc. 53207  
Mrs. Marion D. Pais, 4141 Poplar, Richton Park, Ill. 60471  
Mrs. Nelson O. Price, 107 Wharton, S. E. "JNLPRI", Blacksburg, Va. 24060  
Mr. Henry Rigg, 205 S. Euclid Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63110  
Dr. Raymond L. Scheele, 645 Caledonia Rd., Dix Hills, N. Y. 11746  
Ms. Marthella Shoemaker, Box #549, Nicoma Park, Okla. 73066  
Capt. & Mrs. Otis R. Skinner, Jr., Box #902, Yorktown, Texas, 78164



REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS 1973

A star (\*) before the name indicates an introduction of a previously registered cultivar.

\*AMAZEMENT (Wiswell, Sib, R. 1972) Siberian Iris Society 1973

ARABIAN PRINCESS (Mrs. P. Kokich, R. 1973) Sib, 32", L, LBV/LBVDEV7PY.

Light Moorish blue with deeper blue blaze on F.; cream veined blue signals, F. lightly waved. Red Flare x unknown.

AUGURY (W. McGarvey, R. 1973) Sdlg. 73-68-17-LT-li-1. Sib, 28 chr., 40",

LL-TB, PRV/PRV. Opens pink, converting to light purple (Munsell 7.5P 7/7) ruffled. TEMPER TANTRUM X 68-64-315 inroy super WL-BR-1

\*BLUE SONG (Warburton, Sib, R. 1972) Old Brook 1973

CANONBURY BELLE (Mrs. Tallack, R. 1973) Sdlg. C/170. Sib., 30", M, B/B. Blue self. Unknown parentage.

CANTON BLUE (E. Nesmith, deceased, by K. Vaughn, R. 1973) Sib., 24", ML,

FBV/BBV. Medium blue-violet (Moorish blue 739/3) self; small signal. Parentage unknown. Fairmount 1966.

\*CASTLEGRACE (Mrs. P. Nelson, Sib, R. 1972) J. Collins 1973.

\*FLOATING ISLAND (McEwen, Sib, R. 1971) McEwen 1973.

GLADYS MARTIN WISWELL (K. Vaughn, selector, for G. M. Wiswell, R. 1973) Sib,

25", ML, BV7W. S. bright blue-violet; F, same, veined white, ruffled. CLARET X TYCOON. Society for Siberian Irises 1973.

GREEN MOUNTAIN BOY (K. Vaughn, selector for G. Wiswell, deceased, R. 1973)

Sib, 25", M-L, RV.RV7W. S. bright red-violet; F. same, veined white. CLARET X TYCOON. Society for Siberian Irises 1973.

JEWEL OF HAPPINESS (W. McGarvey, R. 1973) Sdlg. 67 In Swirl P2B-1 Lt-B-1.

Sib, 28 chr., 38", L-M, PB/PB. Very pale blue (Munsell 10 B 8/4) self. WHITE SWIRL X McGarvey P-2: (ROYAL ENSIGN x self) x self.

JUNE VIOLET (K. Vaughn, selector for D. Spofford, R. 1973) Sib., 18", EML,

BV/BVSW. Blue-violet self; small white signal; turquoise rib on stylearms. Unknown parentage. Society for Siberian Irises 1973.

LAVENDER LIGHT (C. McEwen, R. 1973) Sdlg. 66/6. Sib, 28 chr., 38", L, RV/

RVSW. S. lavender (RHS 76B); F. same, hafts 163D, small blaze of white. MORNING MAGIC X FAIRY DAWN.

\*LIGHTNING (M. Reinhardt, Sib, R. 1972. Reinhardt 1973.

LILAC NYMPH (Mrs. P. Kokich, R. 1973) Sib dwarf, 15", M, PV/PV. Dainty

lilac-pink self. MILDRED PECK X unknown.

- \*LITTLE DAN (V. Cook, Sib, R. 1972) Cook, Flintoff 1973.
- \*LOIS J. (V. Cook, Sib, R. 1972) Cook, Flintoff 1973.
- MARANATHA (D. S. Varner, R. 1973) Sdlg. 177. Sib, 40", ML, DRV/DRV. Royal purple self; little signal showing giving self effect. Sensenbach #6 X TEALWOOD.
- \*MOON DRUMMER (W. Newhard, Sib, R. 1972) Palette Gardens 1973.
- \*MOON MOTH (Delany, Sib, R. 1962) Hauauru Gardens 1973.
- NAVY BRASS (C. McEwen, R. 1973) Sdlg. T3 70/49(5). Sib, tetraploid ca. 56 chr., 30", M, DVbfvb/DDVBYY. S. navy blue (89A); F. navy blue (between 93A and 89A but darker than both), bright gold blaze; styles 89C. ORVILLE FAY X T1: (WHITE SWIRL x VIOLET FLARE).
- \*NELSON BLUE (Delany, Sib, R. 1962) Hauauru Gardens 1973.
- RAINBOW IRLAND (L. Reid, r. 1973) Sdlg. Mc-R2-1. Sib, 28", M, 5rvVdrv/Y7BV. S. medium violet, mottled dark purple; styles dark purple edged medium purple; F. pale gold, bright at signal, dashed veins of navy blue-violet. From AIS species exchange seed of Mirza Citronella strain of 40 chr. HC 1972. Laurie's Garden 1973.
- RED PASSION (W. McGarvey, R. 1973) Sdlg. 72-68-19-ENS-COL-2. Sib, 28 chr., 40", LL, DRV/DRV. Deep purplish red (Munsell 5RP 3/9) self. TAMPER TANTRUM X 68-64-315 Inroy-super WL-BR-1.
- ROMANO (Mrs. P. Kokich, R. 1973) Sib, 26", L, LRV/RV8DRV. S. lighter shade of Doge purple; F. Doge purple with violet-purple blaze around creamy yellow veined black-purple signals. TOWANDA REDFLARE X unknown.
- RUFFLED VELVET (C. McEwen, R. 1973) Sdlg. C67/98A. Sib (chimera), 22", M-L, DVfv/DDV. S. velvety reddish purple (RHS 83B); F. darker (93A), ruffled; styles 83C-D; ruffled. POLLY DODGE X 61/Cas 4: (WHITE SWIRL x unknown). McEwen 1973.
- SILVER EDGE (McEwen, R. 1973) Sdlg. T3 70/49(1). Sib, tetraploid, ca. 56 chr., 28", E-M, DVbfvb/DVB6W8yW. S. medium blue (89C); F. medium blue (89B) with distinct silver edge; yellow-white blaze; styles 89D with turquoise midrib; ruffled. ORVILLE FAY X T1 65/22: (WHITE SWIRL X VIOLET FLARE).
- SNOW BOUNTY (C. McEwen, R. 1973) Sdlg. T369/33. Sib., tetraploid, ca. 56 chr., 36", M, W/W9gY. S. white; styles white; F. white, yellow base with green tone (RHS 1A). T1 65/71R2(1): (61/Cas 15(3):(PIROUETTE x unknown) x unknown) X FOURFOLD WHITEs.
- SOOTHSAYER (K. Vaughn, R. 1973) Sdlg. BW1. Sib, 28 chr., 38", ML, BV/W7BV. S. purple; styles pale; F. white veined pastel blue-violet. FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES X G-3 (GATINEAU x self).

SUNLIGHT BAY (L. Reid, R. 1973) Sdlg. MC-R5-1. Sib, 32", M, PNVy,b,rv/  
W7PBVSY. S. pale blue-violet; pale gold styles, blue centers, edged  
medium dark purple; F. white with pale violet-blue dashed veins, darker  
at gold signal. From AIS species exchange seed of Mirza Citronella  
strain of 40 chr. HC 1972. Laurie's Garden 1973.

TAWNY PIPIT (C. McEwen, R. 1973) Sdlg. 67/164(2). Sib, 40 chr. diploid,  
20", M, POY/POY9V. S. creamy buff (RHS 19D), styles 19B; F. creamy buff,  
deepening to 19B at inner half which is dotted violet (86B). From mixed  
seed from wild crosses sent by Maurice Kitton of England.

TIGGER (L. Reid, R. 1973) Sdlg. Chrysofor R2-1. Sib, 14", M, PNRvay/  
FY7RV. S. pale purple; bright maroon-purple styles with mod jagged border  
of bright gold; F. bright gold with dashed line veins of purple. From  
BIS species group seed of Chrysofor (hybrids between I. chrysographes  
and I. forrestii- 40 chr.) Laurie's Garden 1973.

\*TOKAY GRAPe (G. Wiswell, Sib, R. 1972) Siberian Iris Society 1973.

VASARI (Mrs. P. Kokich, R. 1973) Sib, 33", L, DBV/DBV8W. Rich deep Victo-  
rian violet with white signals veined Victorian violet. TOWANDA REDFLARE  
X unknown.

VI LUIHN (S. Dubose, R. 1973) Sdlg. Sib #5. Sib, 34", ML, DV/DV8PY. Deep  
violet self with pale yellow signal. TUNKHANNOCK X SWANK. HC 1973.

YANKeE CONSUL (C. McEwen, R. 1973) Sdlg. T3 69/58(5). Sib, tetraploid, ca.  
56 chr., 28", M-L, FV8DV6LViv/DV6LV6W. S. blue, centers deeper (88B),  
edges 88C; F. blue (88C) at peripheral 1/4 with dark (88A) thumbprint at  
center; white blaze; styles 88C to D; ruffled. ORVILLE FAY X T1 61/Cas  
1(3): BLUE BRILLIANT x unknown. McEwen 1973.

\*YELLOW POLKA (Mize-Ruggles, Sib, R. 1972) Tell 1973.

Registrants' and Introducers' addresses:

Cook, V, and J. Flintoff- 6924 Pacific Hwy. E., Tacoma, Wash. 98424

DuBose, Sid- 309 Best Road South, Stockton, Calif. 95206

Hauauru Gardens- 11 Frederick St., Carterton, New Zealand

Kokich, Mrs. P.-Flowerilla, 35 Swan Crescent, Parkuranga, Auckland, New  
Zealand

Laurie's Garden (Lorena Reid)- 17225 McKenzie Hwy., Rt. 2, Springfield,  
Ore. 97477

McEwen, Dr. Currier- South Harpswell, Maine 04079

McGarvey, Prof. Wm. C.- Stwilla Lane 1, RFD 3, Oswego, N. Y. 13126

Nesmith, see Vaughn

Old Brook Gardens- 10 S. Franklin Circle, Littleton, Colo. 80121

Palette Gardens (Newhard)- 26 W. Zion Hill Rd., Quakertown, Penna. 18951

Reinhardt, Mrs. Robert- 14151 W. National Ave., New Berlin, Wisc. 53151

Society for Siberian Irises- see Warburton

Spofford- see Vaughn

Tallack, Mrs. W. E.- 38 Canonbury Park South, London N1 2JH, England  
Varner, D. Steve- N. State St. Road, Monticello, Ill, 61856  
Vaughn, Kevin C.- 2017 S. Athol Rd., Athol, Mass. 01331 OR-  
Box 1877, Clark University, Worcester, Mass 01610  
Wiswell, see Vaughn  
Warburton, Mrs. F. W. (Bee)- 1 Warburton Pl., Westboro, Mass. 10581  
Collins Iris Gardens, Cambridge Road, R. D. 1, Tauranga, New Zealand  
Tell's Gardens- P. O. Box 3321, Orem, Utah 84057

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#### BACK TALK

Peg Edwards.

Sorry, Kids, no nice large black headline this time. I'd never get the paper back in the typewriter evenly again if I took it out in the middle of the page.

I'm happy to have a full 28-page issue again, aren't you? And full of such interesting articles, too. Maybe a little heavy on the science side for some- I'd have loved more articles on the Convention guests and on what was seen in other gardens- varietal comments, unusual combinations of the Siberians with other kinds of plant- heck, if some of you had written a few lines we could have gone to maybe 32 pages! The budget would stand it- we did quite well at the Auction this summer. How about tossing off a little something for the Spring issue which is usually the thin one?

The Auction was a good one this time, as usual, and this time I went up to Massachusetts the night before so I was there when the morning program started. Other years we have driven up in the morning of the day of the auction and always seemed to come in right in the middle of the talks, which leaves me somewhat frustrated- I keep wondering what I missed and that serves to make me miss what I'm there for, some of it at least. Dr. McEwen showed us slides from his expedition to Europe, and the sight of masses and fields of Siberians growing in the wild was very impressive. Not only Siberians- there were slides of areas in which I. aphylla grew, though they were gone by the time the tourists got there. Currier commented on a picture of himself perched on a steep hillside that if he'd had any sense he'd have let the rest of the mob climb up, and stayed down at the bottom instead- but I guess at the prospect of seeing an iris- any iris- growing wild, we tend to go a little nuts, and forget that scrambling around on alpine scree is for those in training for the climb. (Though I must admit I did draw the line at plunging into a bit of swamp, last year at the Philadelphia Convention, to see a bit of versicolor, or virginica, whichever it was, on its native heath.) Currier also had some slides of his tetraploids and chimeral plants- which are partly tetra and partly diploid and may have flowers of both types blooming together, and what a difference those two extra helpings of chromosomes can make in what is basically the same flower!

Betty Wood and Kevin Vaughn brought along slides of various other Apogon species they are growing, including, if I remember correctly, some of hybrids between species. Many of these are lovely things fully worthy to be grown in the garden- if you can make them happy. And Bill McGarvey showed a few corners of his garden as well as what grows in the middle. He showed a fine stand of discarded Siberians growing just outside the garden! I can't make them do that well in the garden.

I had a disappointing year this year; the WHITE SWIRL X TURQUOISE CUP seedlings that I had planned to use for crossing were moved last year and chose to sulk- not one bloomstalk from the whole row. And it is becoming quite clear that either I must dig up the front lawn and move the irises in there, or go out in the dark of the night and cut down some of the local oak trees; one in my garden and several in the neighbors' yards. I have TOO MUCH SHADE. Oh well, the front lawn never did grow too well. I cleared some shrubs out of the old front border, and Himself took out a crabapple that was sprawling all over the fence, and my new Siberians and other auction loot are planted in my new sunny corner; but until I can solve the shade problem on a larger scale the lists of orders I make out when the catalogs arrive will, as this year, mostly be torn up again. Maybe one tree out next year?

Do read carefully the list of new Registrations and Introductions. Some of those new things sound so luscious and different from what is now on the market; others I'm sure will be improvements in their color classes. I hope some of you will try importing some of those English and New Zealand registrations. I don't remember ever having so many listed in one year before this; nor so many people involved with them. This is good! And if quality keeps pace with quantity- even better.

This issue brings us to the end of Volume 3 of The Siberian Iris; next spring we will start Volume 4. The period between sending this to the printer and starting work on the next one next February seems like a good time to consider any possible alterations in format and content. So if you have suggestions to offer, now is the time. I will be grateful for any suggestions- and for offers of help. I know that the publication can be improved- nobody ever put out a perfect one- but I suspect that I have lived so closely with it for the past five years that I perhaps see faults that aren't there while missing those that do exist. Then too, a publication such as this, which is aimed at a rather miscellaneous group of people, needs to be a shotgun rather than a rifle- it is not enough to keep the hybridizers happy with serious articles on matters of genetics, etc.; we must also have material to please the gardener who wants to know about the personalities of both the new varieties of Siberian and the people who produce the plants. How about making it a matter of two-way communication? Tell me what you want to read about (of course I may then tell you to write it!)

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