



THE SIBERIAN IRIS

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Volume 5, Number 8

Fall, 1983

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Back issues: all back issues will be \$1.50 each issue if available--some of the early issues are no longer available; the Check List is \$2.75; Judging Standards \$1 while they last. Checks for all publications, payable to the Society for Siberian Irises, should accompany all orders. Send to the Publication Office, c/o Mrs. Ruth Wilder, 2219 Matthews SE, Huntsville, AL 35801, except for SIBERIAN IRISES, by Currier McEwen, which should be ordered from Mr. Julius Wadekamper, 10078 154th Avenue, Elk River, MN 55330. Price for this, by mail, is \$7.00 including postage and handling.

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Slides	Mr. James Foreman--address above
Editor	Mrs. H. L. Edwards--address above

WANT TO HELP? Write the chairman of the committee that interests you.

The President's Page

Greetings!

The Siberian Section meeting in Boston was well attended, and Don Koza presented a fine program. Dr. McEwen updated us on his recent trip to England and on Siberian developments overseas, and also on some of his new introductions. Julius Wadekamper brought some slides from Steve Varner who couldn't attend--we missed you, Steve!--and these were well received.

CHILLED WINE, a red-wine Siberian with a blue blaze, was runner-up for the Franklin Cook Cup. This fine origination by Ben Hager is a beauty. HARBOR MIST, a new light blue Siberian from Ken Waite, was also well liked, and a tetraploid blue bitone, #80 V 2B7, from Bob Hollingworth was outstanding. I hope you will find a full report on the Convention as to Siberians elsewhere.

It is a real pleasure to report that Steve Varner has won the 1983 Morgan Award for his introduction, ANN DASCH. This is a distinctive mottled blue-purple bitone which is a good performer in many parts of the U.S. Congratulations, Steve!

I am also pleased to welcome Ainnie Busse of Cokato, Minn. to our Board. She will fill Pat McCallum's post and also serve as our Auctions Committee chairman. Calvin Helsley, of Mansfield, Mo., will fill Aggie Waite's position, which she vacated due to Convention responsibilities. Carol Lee Haack of Madison, Wis., will handle the Publicity Committee responsibilities.

The Society for Siberian Irises' Distinguished Service Certificates have finally been completed under the expert guidance of Bob Hollingworth and have been sent to the first four recipients--Peg Edwards, Charlotte Withers, Currier McEwen, and Bill McGarvey. They are handsome documents and attest well the wonderful service to our Society that these four people have given.

Sincerely

Harry

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING, SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

The meeting was held on June 3, 1983 at 8:30 PM at the Boston Park Plaza, with Harry Kuesel, Julius Wadekamper, Dr. Currier McEwen, Dr. Don Koza, Bee Warburton, and Anna Mae Miller attending; visitors were Roy Johns of Texas and Herb Rommel of Rhode Island. Mr. Kuesel presided.

In the absence of Gunther Stark, Mr. Kuesel read the Treasurer's Report, with a balance of \$751.96 in the checking account. The loan from the AIS Foundation has a balance remaining of \$4,500. A motion was made by Dr. McEwen to repay \$2,000 on this loan when a C.D. of \$2,000 matures in August. Jim Foreman seconded this motion. It is to be noted that we pay on this commitment as we sell books and that the Society is ahead in repayment. Motion carried.

Julius Wadekamper gave a report on the sale of the book 'Siberian Irises.' We still have approximately 3,600 on hand. Four bookshops are now selling these books, as well as the direct sales by the Society.

The Nominating Committee report was given by Dr. Koza. Ainnie Busse and Calvin Helsley were nominated to the Board. Mrs. Busse is from Minnesota and Mr. Helsley from Missouri. Mr. Foreman moved, Dr. McEwen seconding, that they be elected; motion carried.

Auctions of Siberian Irises were next discussed. The Beardless Auction in Minnesota, the Connoisseurs in Michigan, and the Northeast Auction all bring revenue to the Society. We need to increase the number of auctions in U.S. and Canada, and can do this by publicity in bulletins and other media.

A suggestion to have advertising in our publication limited to those related to Siberian Irises brought a favorable response. Julius Wadekamper moved that we accept this type of advertisement. Dr. Koza seconded this. Motion carried. The president and the editor will confer on the appropriate rates, which will be included in the Bulletin.

AIS By-laws have been revised. As soon as the AIS-approved by-laws are available, ours will be amended to conform.

A report on The Siberian Iris by Peg Edwards was presented by Harry Kuesel. In the sending of complimentary copies, a motion was made by Jim Foreman that these be sent to the President of AIS, the Editor of the Bulletin of AIS, the Registrar, and the Historical Chairman, and that we exchange publications with the New Zealand Iris Society and the British Iris Society. This was seconded by Dr. McEwen and carried. Mr. Foreman moved that prices for all back issues be raised to \$1.50. This was seconded by Mr. Wadekamper, and carried. The need for a Publications Chairman was next on the agenda. This should be a person with ample space to store the back issues and other publications.

The next topic was the proposed Judges' Handbook. Mr. Wadekamper was appointed as the new Chairman of Judges and was given the responsibility of coordinating all revisions in the Siberian section of the AIS Judges' Handbook.

In Jim Foreman's report on Slides it was pointed out that there is a definite need for new slides. Dr. McEwen and Mr. Kuesel, as well as Mr. Wadekamper, offered some slides. Members will also be encouraged to take extra slides during bloom season for the slide library. Some black-and-white slides should also be kept on hand.

Dr. Koza mentioned that it would be a good idea for Mr. Foreman to write an article for The Siberian Iris on photography.

Favorable reports were given on the Display Gardens. More publicity should be given them on the local level.

On the subject of Robins, next on the agenda, Jeane Stayer, AIS Robins Chairman, has stated the need for Siberian Robins. Dr. McEwen has started an international robin, and Bee Warburton has a robin in flight. Mr. Kuesel mentioned that Anna Mae Miller is attempting to revive the Siberian Robins and all communications about this should be directed to her.

Bob Hollingworth reports progress on the Distinguished Service Certificates, and expects to have it ready in about three months. Dr. Currier McEwen was nominated by Mr. Foreman, Julius Wadekamper seconding. The motion passed. Mr. Wadekamper then nominated Prof. McGarvey and Mr. Foreman seconded. Motion carried.

Finally, the meeting was asked to consider a letter from Keith Keppel asking that AIS Bulletin featuring Siberian Irises be produced in cooperation with this Society. It will need articles and black-and-white pictures, and it will take a while to assemble the material, and the aim is to present it as the January 1985 Bulletin.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Ruth Wilder, Secretary

AUCTION ACTION--Marian Schmuhl

The more, the merrier! SSI members and friends in Region 1 hit upon the right formula for a successful auction this year. The irises were plentiful, thanks to Currier McEwen, Bee Warburton, Adolph Vogt of Kentucky, and the combined generosity of various Siberian hybridizers, plus the hard work of '83 Convention gardeners and workers. Enthusiasm generated in part by the Convention displays of Siberians, and the publicity efforts of the Apogon Auction hostess, Barbara Schmieder of Concord, MA, achieved an unprecedented high attendance: roughly 45 people.

We were treated to a delightful buffet luncheon prepared by the Schmieders, with additions by various members. The auction itself began with the announcement that the bargain table was open--and exactly 45 seconds later the table was bare. (Make a note: bring more older Siberians next year.) Marty Schafer and our famous Region 1 auctio-

neer, Walter Kotyk had the irises all sorted and ready, Janet Sacks had the bidding numbers assigned and the bookkeeping set up--and away we went. The only 'missing element'--Dr. McGarvey, who usually drives all the way from New York with a generous supply of iris donations, was unable to attend this year, and he was truly missed. We hope to see him again next year.

Each iris was described by either Currier or Bee--with additional input from other experienced members such as Harry Bishop and Charlie Trommer--as it went up for bids. It was a fascinating and delightful afternoon, and when it was all over, most of us were astonished by how much money we'd spent so cheerfully and so easily! The final tally: \$1,698 to SSI, \$186 to the Japanese Iris Society, \$35 for expenses, and \$25 to Region 1. This is, I understand, roughly three times as much profit as has been achieved in recent years. The financial success is great news for SSI; equally exciting is the fact that so many more people in this area are becoming deeply interested in Siberians.

Special thanks must go to Currier McEwen, who dug so many irises, drove all the way from Maine to deliver them and then was so enlightening in his description of each; to Bee Warburton who dug and brought a tremendous number of Siberians; to Marty Schafer who helped Bee dig and also dug guest Siberians at the Case Estates; To Janet Sacks and Bobbie Whitehouse for organizing and handling the tedious bookkeeping (those two, along with Marty and Walter, were the only people who couldn't relax and totally enjoy the afternoon) and to David and Barbara Schmieder for orchestrating it all and working so hard behind the scenes to make it such a perfect afternoon.

(Barbara Whitehouse, in a note to Harry Kuesel which he passed along to me, made some interesting comments, which follow.)

...The Auction was a HUGE success this year, thanks to the generosity of hybridizers of Convention guests, to beautiful weather, to a large crowd, to our hostess, and to our auctioneer. We sold a total of \$1,944 worth of Irises.... Just don't expect that every year.

We had enough of ANN DASCH to give a piece to all of our bidders as a door prize, which sent them all home happy.

(We don't as yet have any other Auction reports, but this is a doozy!)

THOSE FORTY-CHROMOSOME SIBERIANS--Calvin Helsley

How many iris lovers grow the 40-chromosome Siberian species and their hybrids in their garden? Probably very few can give a positive answer and even fewer are successful. Maybe my observations and experiences can help you with your problems and 'fears' of growing these plants. With a well-prepared bed and extra water, these charming irises should grow for you.

The 40-chromosome varieties will add new colors, spotting and other patterns, different forms, and an extended bloom season to your Siberian family. Near true blacks, mauves, several shades of yellow,

interesting pastels, and a variety of spottings and stipplings can all be found in these varieties. Most are dainty with grassy foliage, smaller flowers, and, usually, more narrow petals than their 28-chromosome relatives. They extend the season in our area by as much as a month as their bloom is just starting when the 28's are finishing.

The 40's merely existed the first few years I grew them. Plants were small with little increase and only an occasional bloom. My garden is located in southwestern Missouri just where the Ozark Mountains begin. Missouri weather can be very unpredictable. Cold temperatures in winter can range from 0°F. to 15°F. usually without benefit of a snow cover. Summers range from 90°F. to 105°F. with high humidity. Spring and summer rainfall is never consistent; one summer may be a total drought and the next brings enough rain that there is never a need to water.

I'm sure that anyone who has tried 40-chr. Siberians has read that they require an acid soil and constant moisture. My impression of constant moisture is considerably different from what they seem to require. June of 1982 was one of our wettest with almost daily rains. This made the usual gardening activities like cultivating and weeding almost impossible for a month. I have the 40's in a slightly raised bed so that no water ever stands on them, but during that June they had all the water they could possibly use. As a result they doubled in size from previous years and grew actively all summer.

With some special attention to soil preparation before plants are set out, and extra water, my 40's are growing and blooming. The soil in my garden is basically clay which has been broken down over the years with compost and some sand. When I make the 40's beds I add the equivalent of a gallon of peat moss per plant and a generous sprinkling of both soil sulphur and ferrous sulphate (both available at garden centers) and dig all this into the top 8" of soil. After the plants are planted in the fall, they are watered in and mulched with straw or excelsior. At no time are they allowed to dry out and the mulch is used through the year. During the growing season, if it doesn't rain, the beds are flooded every 3-4 days. When growth starts in the spring, and until the end of July, the plants are fed with a liquid fertilizer such as Miracid every two weeks. My plants are in light shade during the middle of the day so they escape the hot sun during their bloom season.

The Cal-Sibes are doing equally well under the same conditions. These are sterile hybrids between a 40-chr. Siberian as one parent and a Pacific Cost, or Californicae, iris as the other. The first Dykes Medal awarded in England went to one of these, MARGOT HOLMES, in 1927. These varieties are often shorter and make good border plants for the 40's beds.

I encourage you to add to your gardening pleasure by expanding with these 40-chr. Siberian irises. (2¢ worth: If your soil is acid you may be able to use a neutral liquid fertilizer instead of the Miracid--Rap-id-gro or a similar one, or if you have the wherewithal, manure tea--Peg.)

SLIDE LIBRARY--Jim Foreman

At present I am somewhat embarrassed, as Slides Chairman, to point out that the Slides Committee has no slides. I have written to several people and received answers indicating that they would send slides. I spoke with quite a few people at the National Convention in Boston and they also said they would send me some. So far (end of August) I have received none. Perhaps they are like me and still have last spring's film in the camera.

As Slides Chairman I will make as many slides as possible. No slides chairman will ever be able to see all of the newer introductions in bloom. For these he must rely on the hybridizers and members of SSI for slides. Anyhow, please shoot the remaining film in your camera and send some of the Siberian slides. Please send them to Jim Foreman, 1360 W. Michaels Rd., Tipp City, OH 45371.

I thank you in advance.

More on slides: Harry Kuesel, in a note to me (Peg) suggested an added remark about including black-and-white slides; this is a good point as, if slides are being used in Judges' Training, study of form and of growing habit can be taught better without the distraction of color.

Slides of older Siberians would also be useful; how can you show how Siberians are being improved if you don't first show what they were like? Also, many of them are still fine garden plants, well worth growing. I do not know of anything that could replace SUMMER SKY, or the fluttery lightness of some of Miss Preston's introductions. Maybe those of us who have been making slides for 15-20 or more years could rummage around in the slide box and come up with some that would be useful.

And I have been wondering whether it mightn't be useful to have a collection of photographs--black-and-white and color--to lend when the writer of an article needs material to illustrate it. There are, I know, people in the business of making pictures available for this purpose; but they occasionally slip and send, e.g., a picture of a clump of SDBs with a caption for *I. pumila*, or a Siberian labeled Japanese Iris. At least we'd know better than that!

ROBERT HOLLINGWORTH--SIBERIAN HYBRIDIZER OF THE FUTURE

--Julius Wadekamper

This year I was fortunate to be able to visit the garden of Bob and Judy Hollingworth. I was very impressed; I predict that many future Morgan Awards will come from this garden.

In the reds, and reddish pinks it was difficult to choose only 5 or 6 from an exceptional line of 50 or more clumps. These irises are broad-petalled, ruffled, intensely colored; some have a sparkling blue pattern on the violet-reddish falls.

The blues were equally notable. Some had attractive white and gold fall markings. The form was very specific, with standards held at 45 deg., short and wide, and wide falls. I could list any quantity

of numbered seedlings that were superior to any I have seen presently named. Perhaps it would be better to wait until these are named and available to the public before describing them in detail. For now, suffice it to say that we will see some really superior Siberians coming from Bob and Judy Hollingworth's garden.

DISPLAY GARDEN REPORT--James J. Foreman

The display gardens continue to function with good efficiency. Based on the limited number of gardeners reporting last year, the number of visitors increased 17%. When looking at the gardens as a whole, clumps representing 521 varieties are being grown. There are currently 40 Display Gardens. During the past year several gardeners resigned as they were no longer able to maintain their gardens or had reoriented their interests. We have been fortunate in that three new gardens have been added, thus keeping the total number of gardens nearly constant. From this year's survey, it may be noted that there are extensive collections of historical irises as well as more modern varieties and new introductions.

A few people, mostly AIS judges, are disappointed that display gardens do not receive the Siberian introductions three or four years in advance of introduction. My personal belief is that the display gardeners are doing very well in the area of new introductions. Many have 1980, 1981 and 1982 introductions.

The cost of operating the Display Gardens Committee is increasing. Postage has increased somewhat while printing has skyrocketed. Up to and including the 1983 Survey, I have considered the cost of printing a contribution to SSI. As printing costs now approach \$50, it may become necessary to pass the printing costs on to SSI for future services.

Display gardens have good distribution in the eastern half of the contiguous 48 states and on the Pacific Coast. Locations of the gardens approximates population density. Additional gardens need to be located in the western half of the United States as well as in Canada and perhaps overseas. A few are also needed in the eastern half of the U.S.

The objective of the Display Gardens has been to promote Siberian irises and to make them available for the public to see. Success has been good. We have had continuing good publicity through The Siberian Iris, but one must bear in mind that subscribers to TSI are members of SSI, i.e., already Siberian iris growers. We have also received good publicity from Dr. McEwen's book, Siberian Irises--again mostly to Siberian growers, secondly to other members of AIS. Is the SSI content with the status quo, or does it really want to reach the general public? If we intend to reach the general public, then we will need more diverse, properly timed publicity that goes to the general public. An Annual publicity campaign of this nature should be the function of a Publicity Committee and not merely an adjunct to Display Gardens.

In summary, all of the display gardeners continue to show good cooperation and are doing an outstanding job of improving their gardens. All that I have visited are good ambassadors of the SSI. It is certainly a real pleasure to work with these people.

Addendum -- List of Gardens -- Peg

In last spring's issue we published a list of the gardens then on the list; Mr. Foreman has sent me a current list along with this above report and there are only three changes: Prof. McGarvey has resigned as a Display Gardener (a source of regret for many of us, as he enthusiastically maintained one from our earliest days, but we do get a little less energetic as we grow older--I'm finding that out), and we now have the following additions:

Calvin Helsley--Iris: Mr. Calvin Helsley, Box 306, Mansfield, MO 65704; no phone listed.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard E. Hobbs, Rte. 1, Box 337, Nobelsville, IN 46060, Telephone: (317) 896-2800.

The third addition was apparently on the list sent me last spring.

MORGAN AWARD QUIZ--Harry Bishop

1. How many Awards have been given?
2. Which Siberian won the first Award? the latest?
3. Which Siberian won 30 years ago? 20 years ago? ten years ago?
4. Four Award winners were named after men. Which ones?
5. Two winners were white flowers, winning in successive years. Which were they and in which years?
6. Only one Morgan Award winner was named after a woman. Who was she?
7. Only one winner had a red flower. Which one?
8. Which was the first tetraploid winner?
9. Which hybridizer has won the most Morgan Awards to date?
10. Five of the winners had a color as part of the name. Name them.
11. What does Augury mean?
12. Which hybridizer had a Morgan Award, then had another Morgan Award named after him?
13. How many hybridizers won the Award in successive years, and who were they?

Answers will be found on page 20.

Anyone else feel like thinking up similar quizzes, on other aspects of growing Siberians? We'd all enjoy them, I'm sure!

1982 REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS

- ALTER EGO (B. Hager, SIB, R 1979). Melrose Gardens 1982.
- ANNEMARIE TROEGER (T. Tamberg, SIB, R. 1980). Schoeppinger Gardens 1981.
- BIRD FEEDER (L. Bellagamba, SIB, R. 1981). Bellagamba 1982.
- BLUE KALEIDOSCOPE (C. Helsley, SIB, R. 1980). Helsley 1982.
- BLUE ROSEBUD (T. Tamberg, R. 1982). SIB, 27½-31½" (70-80 cm, M. S. light mid-blue; F. light to mid-lavender-blue. ((TYCOON x LIME-HEART) x LIMEHEART) X CAMBRIDGE.
- CABERNET (B. Hager, R. 1982). Sdlg. SB90dkRd. SIB, 34" (86 cm), M. Dark wine-red; small signal veined over white under extended dark red styles. SB58V: (DREAMING SPIRES x RUBY WINE) X SB55DkWi#1: (RUBY WINE x ROYAL ENSIGN). Melrose Gardens 1982.
- DANCE BALLERINA DANCE (S. Varner, R. 1982). Sdlg. S040, SIB, 32" (81 cm), E. S. near white with light pinkish violet plicata effect; near white styles; F. full lavender-rose pink, lighter band at edge, ruffled. McEwen T4 72/10 X unknown.
- DIANA BLUE (S. Varner, R. 1982). Sdlg. V9144. SIB, 30" (76 cm), ME. S. dappled purple-blue; F. lightly dappled deeper purple-blue; feathered light blue styles, tiny turquoise ribs. BELFAST X STEVE.
- DREAM HOLIDAY (S. Varner, SIB, R. 1981). Illini Iris 1982.
- ESTHER C. D. M. (W. McGARVEY, SIB, R. 1981). McGarvey 1982.
- FOURFOLD LAVENDER (C. McEwen, R. 1982). Sdlg. T₅ 75/138(4). SIB (tetraploid) 28" (71 cm) M. Ruffled lavender (RHS 87C), 1/8" nearly white edge; white styles; yellow signal veined lavender (87B). T₄ 72/128: ((ORVILLE FAY sib x BLUE BRILLIANT sdlg.) x (SNOWY EGRET sdlg. x DREAMING YELLOW)) X unknown. Seaways Gardens 1982.
- FROSTY RIM (G. Bush, SIB, R. 1979). Correction of parentage to: dark sdlg. of CAESAR'S BROTHER X AUSABLE RIVER.
- GEORGE HENRY (B. Warburton, R. 1982). Sdlg. ARV-80-7. SIB, 31½-39½" (80-100 cm), M-L & RE. White self with brown-gold hafts and signal. ATOLL X RUFFLED VELVET.
- GOSSAMER SAILS (J. Witt, CA-SIB, R. 1981). Witt 1982.
- GULL'S WAY (W. McGarvey, SIB, R. 1975). McGarvey 1982.
- HAPPY EVENT (C. McEwen, R. 1982). Sdlg. T₅ 75/35A. SIB (tetraploid), 36½" (91 cm), M-L. Ruffled white self; inconspicuous yellow signal. T₁ 67/114: (WHITE SWIRL x POLLY DODGE) X bee. Seaways Gardens 1982.
- HEATHER ANN (J. Ennenga, R. 1982). Sdlg. E 71-6. SIB, 34" (86 cm), M. S. lilac-orchid (HCC 033/2); F. same, greenish throat shading to yellow-brown at side of hafts, white signal. Unknown parentage.

- HIGH OFFER (S. Varner, SIB, R. 1981). Illini Iris 1982.
- HUBBARD (C. McEwen, R. 1982). Sdlg. T₄75/108Z. SIB (tetraploid), 36½" (92 cm), M. Velvety rich wine red (RHS 77A); white signal. T₃75/59(8): (EWEN x (POLLY DODGE x (WHITE SWIRL x ERIC THE RED))) X T₃73/59 (ER-10). Seaways Gardens 1982.
- INNOCENT EGO (B. Hager, R. 1982). Sdlg. SB82Wh. SIB, 36" (91 cm), M. Pure white with touch of yellow deep in the throat. SWANK X SUPER EGO. Melrose Gardens 1982.
- IRA WOOD (I. Wood by C. McEwen, R. 1982). Sdlg. WT371/18A. SIB (tetraploid), 36½" (92 cm), M. Rich dark blue-violet; inconspicuous yellow-white signal. ORVILLE FAY sib X EWEN sib. Seaways Gardens 1982.
- JAYBIRD (B. Hager, R. 1982). Sdlg. SB6881. SIB, 36" (91 cm), M. S. light lavender-blue; F. near cobalt blue, small dark signal. EGO X SWANK. Melrose Gardens 1982.
- KENABEE (C. McEwen, R. 1982). Sdlg. 78/143(3). SIB (diploid), 38" (97 cm), M. Light violet-blue (RHS 97C), slightly darker (97B) F.; blue-violet (97D) signal with blue (100C) midrib. SIGNALS BLUE X 75/52(6): (ANNIVERSARY x ((CAMBRIDGE x BLUE BRILLIANT) x BLUE BRILLIANT x CAMBRIDGE))). Seaways Gardens 1982.
- KING OF KINGS (S. Varner, R. 1982). Sdlg. SO135. SIB, 33" (84 cm), ML. White with green veining and green shaft on F. ODE TO LOVE X ILLINI ENCORE.
- LADY OF QUALITY (C. McEwen, R. 1982). Sdlg. T₄75/59A. SIB (tetraploid), 34" (86 cm), M-L. S. light blue-violet (RHS 89D); F. lighter blue (93C), slightly edged silver, inconspicuous white signal. T₁72/109(2): SALLY KERLIN x CAMBRIDGE) X SILVER EDGE. Seaways Gardens 1982.
- OMAR'S CUP (B. Hager, R. 1982). Sdlg. SB91rd. SIB, 34" (86 cm), M. Bright wine-red, dark veining over white signal with tint of cobalt. SB58V3: (DREAMING SPIRES x RUBY WINE) X SB55Dkw1#2: (RUBY WINE x ROYAL ENSIGN). Melrose Gardens 1982.
- PERCHERETTE (B. Warburton, SIB, R. 1980). Warburton 1982.
- PERCHERON (B. Warburton, SIB, R. 1980). Warburton 1982.
- REMEMBER (A. Van Mulders, R. 1982). Sdlg. 107. SIB, 40" (102 cm), M. Blue-violet self, darker veining. CAESAR'S BROTHER X sdlg. Van Mulders 1982-3.
- ROSE QUEST (B. Hager, R. 1982). Sdlg. SB64Rs0c. SIB, 40" (102 cm), ME. Rose-orchid self. SB27Bch: RICH LAVENDER sdlg. x BETH ELLEN) X SB28WiB1Sp: (BETH ELLEN x SPARKLING ROSE).
- RUFFLES PLUS (C. McEwen, R. 1982). Sdlg. T₄76/64(15). SIB (tetraploid), 30" (76 cm). M. Ruffled, velvety dark blue-violet (RHS 89D). T₁72/86C: ((BLUE BRILLIANT sdlg. x CAMBRIDGE) X T₃73/62(3));

((WHITE SWIRL x VIOLET FLARE) x BLUE BRILLIANT) x (WHITE SWIRL x POLLY DODGE)). Seaways Gardens, 1982.

SAILING (C. Helsley, R. 1982). Sdlg. 22-82. SIB, 34" (86 cm), M. White self with few yellow-green veins on hafts, no signal. WHITE SWIRL X SKY WINGS.

SAILOR'S HORNPIPE (C. Helsley, R. 1982). Sdlg. 11-82. SIB, 32" (81 cm), M. S. blue-violet (RHS 95C/D); F. same, veined blue-violet (95B), white and black signal.

SEA CHANTEY (C. Helsley, R. 1982). Sdlg. 32-80. SIB, 28" (71 cm), EM. S. blue (RHS 98C); F. same, veined dark-blue violet (96A), dark blue-violet signal; turquoise midrib on stylearms. WHITE SWIRL X SKY WINGS.

SILVER BIRD (S. Varner, SIB, R. 1981). Illini Iris 1982.

TWEED (B. Warburton, R. 1982). Sdlg. ARV-80-32. SIB, 35" (90 cm), M-L. S. shades of light violet-blue (RHS 90D) with dappled coloring; F. shades of deep and lighter violet-blue, slightly purple velvet (90A/D) dappled like tweed; round bright gold signal; no fragrance. ATOLL X RUFFLED VELVET.

VEE ONE (A. Back by A. Blanco-White, R. 1982). Sdlg. VI. SIB, 24" (79 cm), M. Medium blue with unusual markings on S. and F. WHITE SWIRL X unknown. Selected for Trial (Wisley) 1974.

WATERLOO (S. Varner, SIB, R. 1981). Illini Iris 1982.

YOUNG LADY (B. Warburton, SIB, R. 1981). Warburton 1982.

ARIZONA COMMENTS--Kathryn Romero

I lived in Scottsdale for quite a few years, and grew--or tried to grow--Siberians for at least six years. Mesa, Tempe and Scottsdale all have the same climate--lovely in the winter--horrible in the summer. I was gone, to California, one summer for only three weeks; two of those weeks they were without water (sprinkler pipe broke and I didn't know it), and I lost over a dozen plants. The ones that did survive that ordeal were stressed to the point of no return and it was only a matter of time till they, too, dwindled away. I have planted Siberians and Louisianas together with much success and had 18 growing along a wash, flourishing for many years with over 20 blooms per clump every spring.

But gardening in the Valley of the Sun is at best a hardship; that is one of the reasons I moved up north where there would be heat during the day, but cool in the evenings. Prescott Valley is 5,100 feet up, and the climate is lovely. Now I can grow my beloved Siberians, with half the worry. The temperature in the Phoenix area could be 112 during the day and at night cool off to 90°. Things can rot, dry out and disappear over night, yet increase can

be fabulous--TBs can have 36 increase in one season. Spurias and Oncos do the best, as they don't like water in summer.

I would like to get some seeds to start up here. My Californicas are doing well; they are 4-5 inches high and I think they will do beautifully on the hillside. Louisianas should do well here too and put on growth with snow on the ground. I am really pleased.

CHILE CHIMES IN--Dr. F. M. Schlegel, Valdivia, Chile

Valdivia is situated in South-Central Chile, in lat. 40 deg. South and only 20 to 50 meters above sealevel. The climate is a West Coast one, like the Southern coast of Oregon--I would guess Zone 9. Annual temperature amplitude is 9.2 deg. C.; mean maximum is 17.3°C and the mean minimum is 7.9°C. (roughly 60 to 40° F.) Rainfall is about 2450 mm (roughly 75") annually, concentrated between May and September, but with about 50 mm (about 2") of rain in the summer months. An annual mean of 98 days are frost-free. Soil is acid (pH 4.6-5.) of volcanic eolic ash origin and rich in organic matter.

Since 1971 I have been cultivating Siberian irises together with Pacific Coast natives--*Ii. douglasiana* and *Innominata*. Normally, the Siberians flower later than the Pacific Coast ones (Dec.-Jan.) reaching a meter tall. Up to now I have only three varieties. I would like to know the name of the one on the slide I enclose; it flowers profusely and produces a lot of seed. (I'm going to pass the slide around among the experts and let them guess--Peg.)

Around Valdivia swampy areas are common, which is very suitable for Siberians. Another Siberian iris I have is a dark lilac and prefers a wetter site than the first one, and the third is a small-flowered one. I would very much like to receive seeds of white-flowering Siberians. The limiting factor is that our phytosanitary service is very strict, therefore, it is advisable to include the seeds inconspicuously in a letter.

I am the creator and conservator of a 32-hectare Arboretum with several swampy sites; I hope to build up a Siberian Iris Show Garden there. Maybe there will be a time in the near future when members of the AIS or the AHS will be able to visit my place to see the beautiful virgin evergreen rain forest and the attractive landscape of South-Central Chile.

I am also Senior Lecturer in Forest Ecology and in Conservation of Renewable Resources at the Faculty of Forest Science, Universidad Austral. I am looking forward to starting a seed exchange with AIS members; nobody here is cultivating Siberian Irises!

SOME OF MY FAVORITE SIBERIAN IRISES--Julius Wadekamper

SHIRLEY POPE has to rank near the top of this year's favorite Siberians. The color is a rich wine-purple with fine ruffling on wide flaring petals. I look as much at the foliage as the flowers on Siberians since we live with foliage for five months and the flowers only two or three weeks. SHIRLEY POPE has bright green upright foliage and makes a fine landscape clump.

Although I still find it fussy to grow, I prefer the blue color of CAMBRIDGE. The flowers show off the color well.

Of course, BUTTER AND SUGAR is unique in color and performance. Anyone who could have seen a row of it in the field would have to have it. Due to cool wet spring weather the color was a rich deep yellow this year, a truly magnificent new creation.

I liked BORBELETA (of course!) and have never seen a finer clump than the one growing in Bee Warburton's garden during the National Convention. The color and form were inherited from its parent EGO which still ranks near the top of my list of favorites.

I still like LIGHTS OF PARIS, old as it is. The many flowers are held gracefully above the foliage and the form is liling with firmly held upright standards. The creamy white color makes an excellent combination.

DEAR DELIGHT is exquisite. Deep lavender flowers of very ruffled form are sure show winners. The plant also has a lot of virtues.

GLENDA NORRICK is a rich purple-violet with white haft markings that are clear and defined on the purple-violet falls. It is a beauty.

SEA GATE is another of Harley Briscoe's irises that I like a lot. It is a rich purple, with smooth coloring and velvety texture. It is a tremendous increaser as well.

WING ON WING is, I believe, my favorite white so far. It is very floriferous, has super-good form, and the plant is an excellent grower with fine upright foliage.

SWANK is still a good Siberian with lots of bloom, good foliage and good color.

VIOLET SWIRL is a rich violet color with good form and a great increaser.

Two new Siberians that I liked very much this year were HARBOR

MIST, of Ken Waite, a good blue with straight upright standards, and CHILLED WINE, a floriferous, neatly colored flower of violet and blue.

Finally, I would like to add AUGURY to my list of favorites. Although it is still a little difficult to acquire, it has great color and the plant is a good grower.

I have not had the opportunity to see many of Currier McEwen's newer Siberians, to my sorrow. Prof. Hollingworth of West Lafayette, Ind. has some very superior new seedlings coming along.

Julius also sent a page from the Yearbook of the Iris Society of Australia for 1982, which I'd like to pass on to the rest of you:

Many of the Sibiricas at "Tempo Two" were at peak bloom during my visit, and what a display they make when blooming en masse in moist conditions that suit them. There are large drifts of HALCYON SEAS and its parent, GRAND JUNCTION. Both are deep blue with veined white signals. EGO in mid blue with upswirled petals and white haft pattern made an outstanding clump and is a regular winner at our shows. CLEVE DODGE was different and unusual because of its deep velvety violet petals and no haft pattern. SAVOIR FAIRE was a cobalt violet self with a small yellow signal, but probably the best of those in bloom was PIRATE PRINCE with deep blue-purple standards and solid purple falls and no signal. It had a green overlay on the haft and was quite impressive as a clump. For those who like the reddish tones, RUBY WINE was a rosy wine self with a large white signal marked brown, while, of the very new, CHILLED WINE, of blush carmine with a blue patch in the center of the falls and dark veined throat was quite different from all others seen.

Iris, Goddess of the Rainbow, must surely be very proud of some of her lovely children waiting in the wings, eager to grace our gardens of the future!!

"Pollen Dauber"

GLEANINGS FROM THE MAILBOX

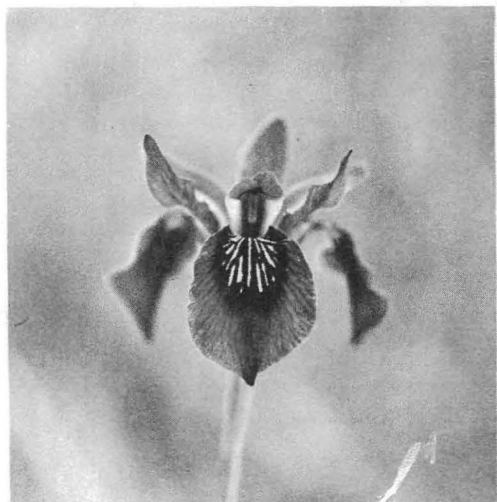
(from Dorothy Hamilton)--PINK HAZE's first-year bloom was a creamy coral or salmon oriental pink, a shade which was unusual. Beautiful! I wonder who will be the first to come up with that million dollar pink, locked away in the HAZES' genes....Gardeners are at a premium, so I am moving all my Sibs into the patch reserved for the newest. I do not feel that these older Siberians are going to suffer from comparison: So many of the older ones are as lovely as the newer. There was a time when I ordered all of the new introductions...now it would invite a financial disaster to order them all, there are so many.


(from Julius)--The Convention was great! Siberian bloom was wonderful. Later I went with Currier and Elizabeth to South Harps-

Family
Album



LAVENDER LIGHT
(McEwen 1973)
Wadekamper pic.



MAUVE MOOD 
(McEwen 1971) ;
Helsley pic. |



W/73/7X

(Waite)

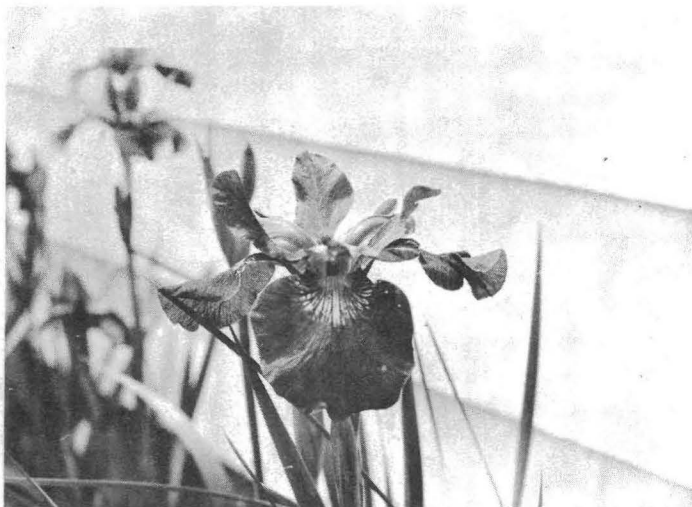
Wadekamper pic.



CHILLED WINE

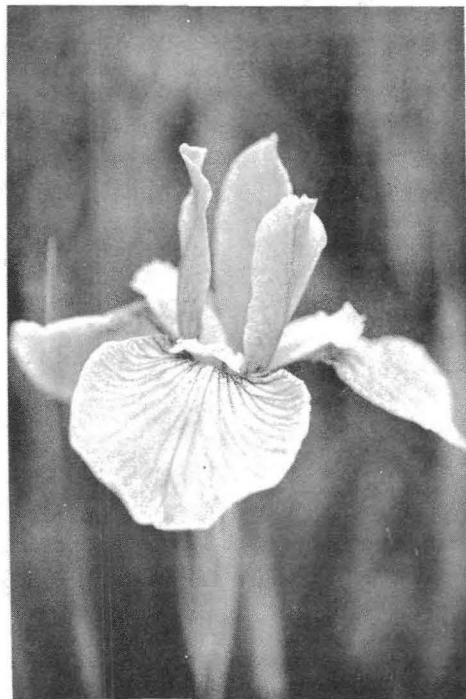
(Hager 1981)


Wadekamper pic.



TEAL VELVET
(McEwen 1981)

Wadekamper pic.



HARBOR MIST 
Wadekamper pic.

*The Society for Siberian Irises
Distinguished Service Award*

*is presented with pride, appreciation and
affection by the Officers and Board of Directors to*

Margaret L. (Reg) Edwards

*in recognition of the many loyal, devoted
and capable services rendered
to the Society and its members.*

John B. Zeeb

President,

The Society for Siberian Irises



well, but it was a little too early for the Siberians....Sibes are really getting popular. Everyone at the Convention really enjoyed them. Bee Warburton had a large clump of BORBELETA that made me really proud.

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CERTIFICATE

Our long-awaited Certificate has finally been designed, printed, and sent to those who were voted by the Officers and Board to receive it. On the opposite page you can see the design; I wish you could see it in color. It was worth the wait.

It is printed in dark blue and green inks and is very handsome. It measures 9 x 12 inches. I believe the inks used in the printing are the same blue as in our current cover and the green we used in the previous cover style; maybe with a little imagination you can 'see' the Certificate in these tints and shades.

Mine will hang proudly over my desk. I imagine those sent to Charlotte Withers, Bill McGarvey and Currier McEwen will be given equally appropriate places. I've seen certificates which were a great honor to receive, but so ill-designed they could only be hung in the back hall. This one is a parlor ornament--or even better, could be hung in the entrance hall where every visitor would see it and be properly impressed.

Start Now to Win Your Certificate! It's worth the work.--MSE

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 25.
2. TYCOON, STEVE VARNER.
3. ERIC THE RED, WHITE SWIRL, EGO.
4. ERIC THE RED, CAESAR'S BROTHER, ORVILLE FAY, STEVE VARNER.
5. WHITE SWIRL (1962), SNOW CREST (1963).
6. VI LUIHN.
7. ERIC THE RED.
8. ORVILLE FAY
9. Trick question--Cassebeer, McGarvey and McEwen each have four.
10. ERIC THE RED, WHITE SWIRL, VIOLET FLARE, BLUE BRILLIANT, SILVER EDGE.
11. The art or practice of foretelling by omens.
12. Steve Varner won for TEALWOOD, and the 1982 winner was named after him.
13. Morgan, 1953-54; Cassebeer, 1967-68; McGarvey, 1970-71-72; and McEwen, 1980-81.

Hope you enjoyed them--I think I got about 30% right.

Back Talk

Before I do anything else I must apologize for moving Seattle to Oregon in the last issue. I do and did know better, and what's more, I wrote that with the atlas right there beside me. I knew as I wrote that it's Seattle, WA, and now I make it official: Seattle is just south of Canada.

It was almost fun to sit down and start typing this issue--so many nice people sent material. To all who contributed, my heartfelt thanks. Now, could I inspire a few people to send along something for the next issue? I hope to be able to include an updating of the membership list, but there's a long, long space between page 4 and 20. HELP!

I was particularly glad to have Calvin Helsley's piece on the 40-chromosome ones; I think many of us are inclined to forget they are there, because they are not quite as easy to grow in some parts of the territory--though with Cal's advice more of us may be doing it from now on. What I'd like to have sometime in 1984 would be an article on the Cal-Sibes. I know they can be grown in a lot of places besides the West Coast--I have grown several species of the Californicae here on Long Island and where they can grow, the hybrids can do so also. The real problem is obtaining them. My own experience is that they do not survive the first winter when they are shipped in late summer. Jean Erickson and I have been trying spring shipment and so far none died from the trauma of fall planting, and all survived into their first fall. Unfortunately, two died in late winter because the dag-nab squirrels dug them up when the back lawn was so soggy from the thaw that we couldn't get out there to see how they were doing (along with everything else out back). By the time the grass could be walked on, they were lying on the ground with their roots in the air, gnawed foliage brown as old straw, quite dead. The survivor, however, has multiplied over the summer and should bloom come spring. So it can be done.

As you can see on page 2, we finally have a Publicity Chairman. We don't need to run a want ad on that line any more. I suggest that anyone who needs publicity and doesn't know how to get it for a local Siberian affair get in touch with Carolee for advice.

There have been other changes on page 2; do study them! And there's also been a change on page 1. From now the Publication Office is in the charge of our Secretary, Ruth Wilder, so when you want back copies, don't send your order to me, send it to Ruth.

Wasn't that wonderful news from the Region 1 Apogon Auction? I remember when the AIS Convention in 1970 was in and around New York City we were blessed with many fine varieties of irises for our Long Island auction and sales were exceptionally good; but nothing like this, though perhaps when one considers how prices have

risen since then...but not that much! The New England Auction is usually well organized and draws a 'spending' group and perhaps the combination accounts for the high sales. I do wish that other areas would try running an auction. If you ever get to one you'll know it isn't just a fundraiser--it's a lot of fun, too. The keys to a good successful auction are--good publicity, good eating, and a good auctioneer--plus, of course, a good variety of old and new irises. A bargain table will draw people who are not AIS members, and quite a lot of these will stay to watch the auctioning of the best stock. Some will risk a few bids, and you might get a few new members for AIS--and possibly for us, too. Try it a couple of times! you'll get hooked!

I might add that I believe that the Board might take a look at the technique that the Empire State Iris Society has used very successfully to help boost prices and quality of stock (ESIS is the Region 2 organization). Each year a percentage of the auction take is invested in newly introduced varieties--TB, various Medians, occasionally Siberian and Japanese introductions, which are planted in several of the Area's best gardens, grown on for two years, and then sent to the auctions (ESIS has several local auctions spread over 2 or 3 weekends in late summer) to be offered for bidding. Any that don't sell at the minimum price are sent to the next one, until finally all are sold--but few rhizomes get to more than two and most go well over the base price at the first offering. I think the basic idea could be adapted to our auctions, too.

I'd like to say something about the proposed Siberian issue of the AIS Bulletin. This could be the best publicity ever for SSI. We have about a year to gather and prepare material for it. Most particularly I would like to see a good bunch of new pictures of all kinds of Siberian irises. We will need articles on every aspect of growing Siberians in every part of the U.S. and Canada where they can be grown at all. (I am told they don't do well in Hawaii or Labrador and the Yukon). Articles must be in the Bulletin Editor's hands by September, I believe, and as we will want to do our own checking-out before passing material along to Keith Keppel, we'll need to receive them at least a month earlier. Don't fret about spelling--that's what editors are for. But please, if you feel you have something to say that could be useful, say it...ON PAPER. Type it if you can, hand-write it if you can't type--you'd be stunned at the handwriting I've managed to figure out (I get a lot of practice from reading my own shopping lists). And don't forget the pictures.

A few comments on the Registrations and Introductions: most of our hybridizers are still working exclusively with the 28-chr. diploids, but we do have this time one registration of an iris that was bred from two tetraploids by someone other than Mr. McEwen. At that, he registered it naming it for Ira Wood who bred it. There is one Cal-Sibe from Jean Witt which was registered last

year and is being introduced this year. Other than these, there are five more tetraploids and everything else is a 28-chr. variety, for a total of 39 varieties mentioned. I can remember getting quite excited on finding 11 Siberian registrations and introductions back in the early days. Quite a change!

Of the registrations, 13 are blue or blue-violet; five are white, and six are red or pink. Several rather new colorings are listed--Varner's DIANA BLUE is a dappled one, and his DANCE BALLERINA dance offers a border effect, darker on the light standards and lighter on the deeper colored falls. GEORGE HENRY, which Bee Warburton named for her cat (well, one of them), is white with brown-gold hafts and signal. This is certainly uncommon; usually whites have yellow or chartreuse markings, while the brown-gold is rarely seen on the light-blues--and on whites?--I never have. I do associate the coloring with white cats, however! Bee also has another dappled one, TWEED, this one with dappling on velvet. Look'em all over and pick your choose, as we used to say when I was a kid. Altogether 10 hybridizers are on the list as registrants this year--McEwen with 6 of his own, plus the one for the late Ira Wood; Hager with 5, and Varner and Helsley with 3 each. Three overseas hybridizers are represented, too. Now, who's going to be the first with a nice bright scarlet? Firetruck red?

A few nights ago I dreamed up one possible way of getting that red. I mean, it woke me right out of my sleep! All you have to do is find someone who can do genetic surgery, locate the gene for red on a gladiolus chromosome and the gene for blue on a Siberian chromosome, do a little microsurgery to remove the blue gene and replace it with the red one, and repeat as necessary until you get a red seedling. Maybe another 25-30 years? When I dream, I do a good job of it--I produce the best!

Oh yes--jury duty. I was picked for a panel the first morning; for the next two days we waited for a courtroom to be available, on the fourth day a room was available, and by noon of the fifth day we had reached our verdict. The judge invited us into his private office and asked what we thought of the experience--what puzzled us, what we felt could be improved--and answered our questions. We had a delightful half hour discussing the system and then we all went home for lunch. But that is the last time for me unless they provide the juryrooms with an ample supply of of chaise longues. Those marble halls are tough on the legs, and the firm seats are no help to the sitzplatz.

Have a good winter as the weather will allow, and keep looking forward---spring is somewhere up ahead.

Peq