

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

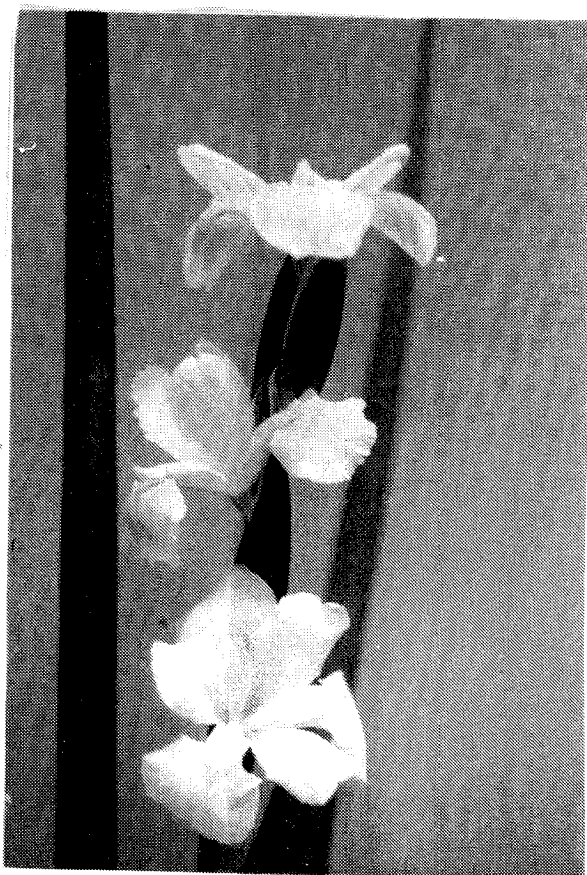
NEWSLETTER

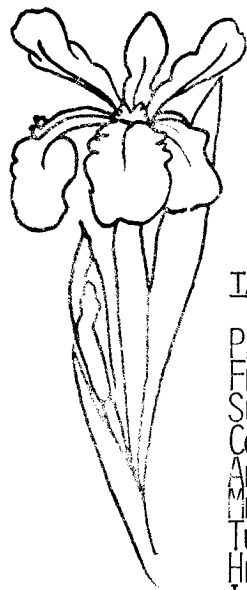
January 1971

IN REVIEWING THE PAST YEAR, AN ITEM WHICH IS MOST GRATIFYING TO THE SPURIA SOCIETY IS THE APPARENT FACT THAT MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER BEFORE ARE HYBRIDIZING SPURIAS. NEW SPURIA REGISTRATIONS IN 1970, FOR THE FIRST YEAR IN SPURIA HISTORY, INCLUDED VARIETIES FROM THREE DIFFERENT CONTINENTS.

THE COVER PHOTO AT RIGHT IS VERIFICATION THAT NEW FOREIGN HYBRIDIZERS NOW ARE DEVELOPING VARIETIES WHICH IN COMPACTNESS, FORM, WIDTH OF PETALS, AND STANCE ARE AS ADVANCED AS THE VARIETIES OF THE LONG-ESTABLISHED HYBRIDIZERS.

THIS PHOTO IS OF A CREAM-COLORED SEEDLING WHICH WAS HYBRIDIZED BY DR. GORDON LOVERIDGE OF AUSTRALIA. IT WAS AIR-MAILED TO WALKER FERGUSON BY DR. LOVERIDGE, AND FROM WALKER FERGUSON IT RECEIVED HIGHEST PRAISE. THERE IS EXPECTATION THAT DR. LOVERIDGE WILL REGISTER AND INTRODUCE THIS SPURIA IN 1971.





SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SPURIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER ----- VOLUME 15 # 48 - - - - JANUARY, 1971

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER-----	ARCHIE OWEN-----	3
FROM BROWNSVILLE TO DALHART-----	BARBARA BENSON-----	4
SUBGENUS XYRIDION-----	LILIJA SOBOLEVA-----	6
CORDON BLEU-----	PAY CHESNIK-----	8
AFRICAN CLIPPINGS-----	S. AFRICA NEWSLETTER-----	10
MEMBERSHIP-----	DR. CLARKE COSGROVE-----	11
TURQUOISE EGG-----	B. BENSON-----	12
HEIGHT OF SPURIAS-----	WALKER FERGUSON-----	13
INHABITANTS OF DISPLAY GARDENS-----	JACK RILEY-----	14
CONVENTION '71-----	ROBERTA TORREY-----	16
NOTES FROM A PRESENTATION BY ARCHIE OWEN-----		18

OFFICERS OF THE SPURIA SOCIETY

PRESIDENT	-ARCHIE OWEN-----	1748 NOMA LANE, LEUCADIA, CALIFORNIA	92024
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	-ELEANOR McCOWN-----	P. O. Box 176, HOLTVILLE, CALIFORNIA	92250
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	-BARBARA BENSON-----	2601 26TH ST., LUBBOCK, TEXAS	79410
SECRETARY/TREASURER	-CLARKE COSGROVE---	8260 LONGDON AVE., SAN GABRIEL, CALIFORNIA	91775
DISPLAY GARDENS	-JOSEPH RILEY-----	4284 HOOKER ST., DENVER, COLORADO	80211
SLIDES CHAIRMAN	-BRYCE PHENIS-----	1673 CALADO COURT, CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA	95008
PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN	-ELEANOR McCOWN-----	P. O. Box 176, HOLTVILLE, CALIFORNIA	92250
ROBINS CHAIRMAN	-BARBARA BENSON-----	2601 26TH ST., LUBBOCK, TEXAS	79410
EDITOR	-BILL GUNTHER-----	740 CREST ROAD, DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA	92014
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	-CLARKE COSGROVE---	8260 LONGDON AVE., SAN GABRIEL, CALIFORNIA	91775
AIS BULLETIN REP.	-ILA CRAWFORD-----	RFD # 2, Box #35, PURCELL, OKLAHOMA	73080

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP: A SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY UNDER APPROVED BY-LAWS. AMERICAN MEMBERS OF SIS MUST BE MEMBERS OF AIS.

DUES:

ANNUAL:	INDIVIDUAL \$2.00	FAMILY \$2.50
TRIENNIAL:	INDIVIDUAL \$5.00	FAMILY \$6.00
SUPPORTING ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$3.00	
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP	\$30.00	

NOTICES OF DUES PAYABLE ARE INCLUDED WITH AIS DUES NOTICES. PLEASE PAY SPURIA SOCIETY DUES TO AIS ALONG WITH AIS DUES. PLEASE INFORM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN OF CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

NEWSLETTER: PUBLISHED QUARTERLY: JULY, OCTOBER, JANUARY, AND APRIL. ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR; IF POSSIBLE IT SHOULD BE TYPED AND DOUBLED SPACED.





SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SPURIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

THE
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

JANUARY, 1971



DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS:

GREETINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR. MAY 1971 BE THE BEST OF YEARS FOR YOU. BEFORE WE KNOW IT IRIS BLOOMING TIME WILL BE HERE. SOON THOSE SEEDS YOU PLANTED LAST FALL WILL BE SHOWING, IF THEY HAVEN'T ALREADY APPEARED. SPURIA DIVISIONS PLANTED LAST FALL IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NOW ARE SEVERAL FEET TALL. THE CHRISTMAS RAINS HERE WERE A GREAT HELP IN PUSHING THEM ALONG. THE FREEZING WEATHER IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY MAY RETARD GROWTH ELSEWHERE. BEING A NATIVE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN AND LIVING IN A FROST FREE AREA, I AM NOT FAMILAR WITH THE EFFECTS OF FREEZING WEATHER ON PLANTS, SO MY COMMENTS MAY NOT APPLY IN OTHER AREAS.

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER YOU WILL NOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW DISPLAY GARDEN. WE FEEL THAT DISPLAY GARDENS HELP INTEREST PEOPLE IN GROWING SPURIAS. WE HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU WITHIN EASY TRAVELING DISTANCE WILL TRY TO VISIT A SPURIA DISPLAY GARDEN THIS YEAR. I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK JACK RILEY, THE DISPLAY GARDEN CHAIRMAN, FOR HIS FINE WORK IN REVITALIZING OUR DISPLAY GARDEN PROGRAM.

WE HAVE A NEW SLIDES CHAIRMAN, BRYCE PHENIS. HE WILL REVISE AND UPDATE OUR SLIDE COLLECTION. WHY NOT WRITE TO HIM AND MAKE A RESERVATION FOR SLIDES TO SHOW TO YOUR LOCAL GARDEN CLUB?

IN THE 1970 LIST OF SPURIA REGISTRATIONS THERE ARE SOME REGISTRATIONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS INDICATES THAT INTEREST IN SPURIA HYBRIDIZATION IS SPREADING. CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPURIA ENTHUSIASTS ABROAD.

IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO BE PLANNING FOR THE 1971 AIS CONVENTION AT WICHITA. THE SPURIA SECTION WILL HAVE ITS SECTION MEETING AT 1 PM ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 12TH, THE OPENING DAY. THE PROGRAM WILL CONSIST OF A DISPLAY OF SPURIA BLOOMS, WHICH WILL BE JUDGED BY A PANEL OF THREE WELL KNOWN SPURIA SOCIETY MEMBERS. THIS WILL BE A PRACTICAL JUDGES TRAINING SESSION. THERE ALSO WILL BE A BUSINESS SESSION. PLAN TO BE THERE.

CORDIALLY,

ARCHIE OWEN, PRESIDENT

NEWSLETTER

MARCH - 1969

REGION 17 AIS

SPURIAS FROM BROWNSVILLE TO DALHART

By Barbara Benson

Spurias are for Texas. They are tough, strong, healthy, sun-loving, long-lived, wind-resistant and like alkaline soil.

Spuria hybridizing is so new that the possibilities have not yet been scratched. However, the new hybrids are unbelievably beautiful and warrant adoption by all iris lovers.

From observing the varieties of hybrids and species I am growing, there seems to be two main types which need to be distinguished in order to understand their habits of growth and performance. The first, which do well over nearly all of Texas are those which are developed primarily from species originating in Turkey, the semi-arid portions of Asia Minor and around the east end of the Mediterranean. These are predominantly yellow, white and combinations thereof. They come into growth early in the spring, bloom fairly early for spurias (in the middle and end of the TB season). They sometimes refuse to bloom at all after winters with very low temperatures, e.g., -10° F or below; they are occasionally damaged by late freezes in the areas up on the Caprock (like Lubbock) but are not bothered by ordinary frosts. They set seed easily and the foliage begins to go to pieces in July. It looks terrible and make you hate spurias until some knowledgeable soul advises you to cut off all the foliage at ground level. It doesn't hurt the plant at all and it certainly relieves the grower. The plants then enjoy a period of drying off, with a reduction of water until September. At that time the new growth appears, and by frost time is 18 - 24" tall again.

Good commercial varieties of this type that I have grown are GOLDEN LADY, WADI ZEM ZEM, SUNNY DAY, INTENSITY, ELIXIR, PLENTY OF SUNSHINE, DAWN CANDLE, LARK SONG, WINDFALL, WAKEROBIN, WHITE HERON, and the browns, such as BARITONE and DRIFTWOOD.

The second broad group is comprised of species found all the way from Leningrad, U.S.S.R. down into the Balkans, across the Ural basin, over to the Himalayas, then north and east to the west slopes of the Altai Mountains of Tibet. It is from these varieties that the best of the blue colors are developed.

These plants seem to be quite different, and I am growing a number of the species, none of which have bloomed (too young) but some of which should do so this bloom season. The blues are much later coming into growth in the spring and are nearly three weeks later than the first group. The foliage stays green and strong until fall, and many of the species and close hybrids retain excellent foliage until frost. Increase on these is observed occasionally in mid-summer, but it stays small and tucked down behind the big fans. Most of them however, simply start growing in mid-spring with all new foliage. These spurias rarely need cutting down until demanded by winter or early spring aesthetics; and they seem to appreciate fairly steady moisture all season long. Some of mine grow in and around rose bushes and the plants that receive the side benefits of supplemental rose feeding do the best of all. These always have bloomed for me, no matter how cold it got in winter nor how late we had frosts and freezes.

All have rather narrow bloom, ranging from small to large. Commercial garden hybrids available now, but still close to the species are the pioneer hybrids A. J. BALFOUR, PREMIER, CAMBRIDGE BLUE, and the Washington hybrids HAZY HILLS, BLUE ZEPHYR, BLUE ACRES, and a derivative, ROYAL TOGA.

But the story only begins here. The hybridizers have madly scrambled pollen and varieties, and now the real glory of the spurias becomes apparent. When you mix the basic types there is literally no telling just which characteristics will be exhibited by the hybrid. Therefore many of the blues now have the best qualities of both varieties, such as THRUSH SONG, LANDSCAPE BLUE, ARBITRATOR, ALLEGORY, RUFFLED MOTH and the like. The COUNTERPOINT line marks the beginning of plicatas in spurias. There is one, to be introduced this year by Walker Ferguson, which will go under the name MINNEOPA. For the Lubbock area this is one of the loveliest spurias we have seen. It has ruffled violet-blue standards, broad butter-cream velvet falls with a narrow blue border. For me it bloomed with a terminal and 4 lower buds, will take sun, wind and water, and will often have 4 open flowers at once. This was the first iris in my yard (growing under number at that time) of which a bloom stalk was stolen. When I went out to see it, the stalk was gone, cut cleanly with a knife, and by whom I do not know.

By way of further introduction, spurias are beardless. Most range from 36" to 60" tall. They are divided and set in the month of September. The roots should not be allowed to dry out. Rhizomes are planted 1 - 2" below the surface of the ground. They require good moisture from the time of planting through the winter the first year. Most will bloom the first season, but if they do not do so it may be either because of the variety or the rhizomes not being completely ripened (ready for transplanting). They are gross feeders in the spring. In this area we use cotton seed meal, phosphate and potash as food supplements. They like either a slightly alkaline, neutral or slightly acid soil. That ambiguous statement merely means they do well on any good garden soil. Probably the most important growing requirement is full sun. Spurias must receive as much sun as possible. Light shade is tolerated but they draw the line at shade pretty quickly. Once set, they may be left indefinitely and divisions whittled off the clump every now and then. They like water up to the bloom season. After that they can take it or leave it alone. The biggest reported trouble with them is mustard seed fungus. However, I have had only one clump that I thought was attacked in 1967. I have not seen it again, nor am I positive of that diagnosis. I did sprinkle rose fungicide around the clump at that time and the recovery was immediate and complete. Ila Nunn of Houston recommends dusting the clumps with Terrachlor if this does appear. However, with clean culture it has not been a problem here.

So far, all spurias with the exception of QUIET CREAM (which I have not seen) have signals of some sort. Some are huge, covering nearly the whole fall, some are medium sized, some are thin gold lines down a short stretch of the fall. Nearly all spurias exude nectar at the base of the corolla and therefore are great drawing points for bees, wasps and other honey-loving insects. The nectar produced is delicious. We have noticed that a hornet, saturated with spuria nectar is quite stupified and can be picked off the bloom without stinging. The rub to this is telling whether he is full of nectar or just good and hungry. Some of the spuria species are quite fragrant. *I. halophila alba* has a rich, heavy, exotic fragrance quite unlike any fragrance I know, but in the gardenia-type class, although not as penetrating. And last but not least, new colors are being developed in spurias, notably the reds.

If you are looking for adventure, try spurias. Join the Spuria Iris Society A.I.S. (only \$1.00) which has an outstanding news letter published 4 times a year, and with just a little interest and enthusiasm, my own belief that Texas can grow bigger, better, and more different kinds of spurias than California may be born out. Spurias are exciting, new, surprising, and wide-open for development.

БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ
ГЛАВНОГО
БОТАНИЧЕСКОГО
САДА

А К А Д Е М И Я Н А У К С С С Р

вып. 76

МОСКВА 1970 г.

ОТДЕЛЬНЫЙ ОТРИСК

КАСАТИКИ ПОДРОДА XYRIDION В АШХАБАДЕ

Л. Е. Соболева

(Extracts from a paper titled "Iris of the Sub-Genus Xyridion in Ashkhabad", by Dr. L. E. Soboleva, which was published in Botanical Bulletin # 76, 1970, of the Academy of Sciences USSR. Translation by Edith Roden, University of California at San Diego.)

While searching for new plants appropriate for ornamental use in the deep south of the USSR, our attention was drawn to a group of irises of the subgenus *xyridion*. In foreign literature these plants are known as "spuria irises". Their great advantage in comparison to other irises lies in their ability to resist the summer heat, to maintain the dark green leaves during the entire season of vegetation or, in some cases, throughout the entire year. They also are known for their late bloom, for their easy adaptation to various growing conditions, and for their resistance to fungus and bacterial diseases. There are about 20-25 species growing in the steppes and forests of Spain, France, Austria, Kashmir and at the north of Africa along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, whereas in the USSR they are encountered in the Caucasus, Ukraine, Moldavia and Middle Asia. All have attractive flowers which somewhat resemble the blossoms of the subgenus *xiphion* (sometimes referred to as Spanish or Dutch irises).

A third of all the species of this subgenus are native to the USSR. They are especially abundant in the Caucasus; such species as *Iris musulmanica*, *klattii*, *carthaliniae*, and others have been extensively collected in there during recent years. The study of numerous irises in nature, as well as the study of herbaric samples, and of plants moved to botanical gardens, confirm the belief of some of our biologists (Dr. G. I. Rodionenko) that some of these irises should not properly be designated as separate species.

Live plants which were brought to the botanical gardens from Azerbaidzhan, Gruzia, Armenia, Dagestan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, Kirgizian and Tadzhikistan enabled us to isolate and study numerous samples of such species as *Iris klattii*, *I. notha*, *I. sogdiana*, *I. musulmanica* and others. Among these samples there is great variation in form and size as well as in the color of the leaves, blossoms, stalks, and seeds. Some of them which are grown in the Botanical Garden of the Academy of Sciences of the Turkmenian SSR are highly appreciated as ornamental plants. Among them we would particularly mention a plant of *Iris musulmanica* collected near Barda (Gruzian SSR) which has slender flower stalks which hold large blue blossoms well above the foliage. Another outstanding example is a plant of *Iris carthaliniae* which came from the Poila area of Azerbaidzhan; it is so floriferous that the clump simply bursts with violet-purple blossoms. Also a desirable plant is another clone of *Iris carthaliniae* with white blossoms, which comes from the vicinity of Gori (Gruzian SSR).

Three other species studied in the botanical garden, but not native to the USSR, already are widely used for ornamental purposes in the horticulture of Turkmenia and other southern areas. These are *Iris ochroleuca*, *Iris monnieri*, and *Iris aurea*.

Iris ochroleuca grows wild in the western portion of Asia Minor. It was introduced into the USSR via the garden of the Botanical Institute (Leningrad). The leaves are up to 70 cm long, the flower stalk is either at the same level with the leaves or exceeding them. The blossoms are of medium size; the outer lobes of the perianth are white with a deep yellow spot in the center; the inner lobes are white. It blooms in May.

Iris monnieri is a natural hybrid which probably results from a crossbreeding of *Iris ochroleuca* and a yellowish-gold iris which grows in Asia Minor (Anatolia), but which has not yet been fully studied. It was introduced into the USSR via the Nikitsky Botanical Garden (Valta). From there, in 1952 it was transferred to the Botanical Garden in Leningrad and to other locations. The color of the large blossom is yellowish. It blooms at the end of May or early in June.

Iris aurea is a native of Kashmir. It was raised for many years by the Main Botanical Garden (Moscow), where it also was crossbred with *Iris ochroleuca*. In 1964 it was planted in the Botanical Garden of the Academy of Sciences of the Turkmenian SSR. The length of leaves is up to 100cm, with the flower being somewhat lower than the leaves. The color of the rather large blossom is a continuous golden-yellow; it blooms from the third week of May to the first week of June.

A study of various species of hybrid irises showed that they do not yield an equal abundance of seeds. In all species we found many seed pods which did not contain high-quality seeds. While investigating the causes, it was found that the percentage of fertile pollen grains in *Iris ochroleuca* is comparatively small (approximately 35-40%) whereas the other two (yellow) species had a much higher pollen fertility. Apparently in the latter case, any absence of seeds is due to the specific structure of the female generative organ of the blossom, and/or to the conditions under which the pollination took place.

The ripening of the seeds occurs around the end of July. If the seeds are sown right after collection, they germinate in September rather abundantly, whereas aging of seeds reduces their ability to germinate (up to 10%) and reduces their speed of growth. The seedlings begin to bloom in the second or third year. When different species are crossed, the characteristic features of the parent plants often are not inherited by the new hybrid seedlings. Therefore, upon bursting into bloom, they yield a spectrum of dark-brown, light-blue, bluish-violet, yellow and iridescent colors. This phenomenon is widely and skillfully used by American growers, who have developed as many as several hundred garden varieties of spuria iris hybrids.

The final goal of the study of the intraspecific variety and biology of irises of the subgenus *xyridion*, which continues in Ashkhabad, is the utilization of experimental data for the breeding of hybrids of "spuria irises" of local selection.

С глубоким уважением и добрыми пожеланиями
With best wishes and most sincerely,

Лилия Соболева

Лилия Соболева

Lilija Soboleva

CORDON BLEU FARMS

A NEW SPURIA DISPLAY GARDEN

by Ray Chesnik

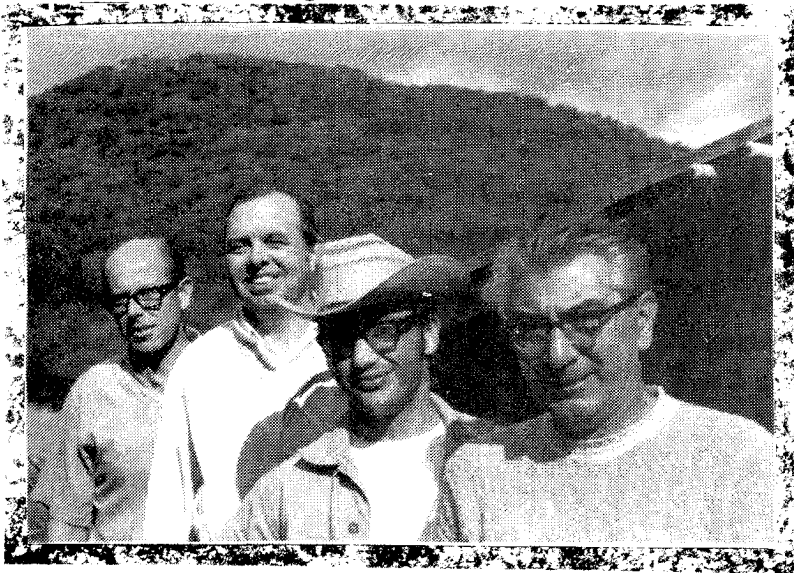
THEY: Cordon Bleu?

WE: Yes....NO, we don't COOK spurias!

Having this opportunity to write about our new spuria display garden, I find it impossible to resist explaining the name. Most people, when hearing the phrase, "cordon bleu," think of gourmet cooking. The term is, of course, French, and means "blue ribbon". Way back in once upon a time a French king created a new order of knighthood which was designated by a blue ribbon. Those guys receiving the gauze were considered A-number-one type good citizens. Naturally the Cordon Bleu was soon awarded to an A-number-one type anything; particularly when fellows no longer wore ribbons.

Now some mean person might say that's a sneaky way of presumptuously calling yourselves a blue ribbon farm. Honest, the thought hardly even crossed my mind. What we ARE named after is a pretty little blue and buff colored african wax bill finch. The Cordon Bleu is an A-number-one type bird.

Bob Brooks and I as partners in this enterprise have relegated responsibilities. He has sole charge of the tall bearded irises and I of the spurias, cymbidium orchids, and birds. In practice, he tells me what and how to do for the spurias, etc., and I ignore his T.B.s also.



Recent visitors at Cordon Bleu were TB hybridizers, Joe Gatty and Keith Keppel. (l-r) Keppel, Brooks, Chesnik, & Gatty.

There are at present sixty-five different spurias being grown at this new Display Garden. Included are five species, *Irises crocea*, *halophila*, *colchica*, *ochroleuca* and *musulmanica*. In addition, we have just received seed from the AIS Seed Exchange of spuriae *brandzae*, *notha*, *klatti* and *gueldenstaedtiana* (*halophila*). The plan is to grow every species of spuria.

We moved to this location on the first of October last. It was a little more than a month before the spurias were lined out. In my enthusiastic desire for a great display, I'll admit to having gone a bit overboard. The clumps were torn into the smallest pieces and lined out in six rows. Each

row being about one hundred feet long. The longest new clump, roughly twenty feet, is ESSAY, Hager '63 (one of the most prodigious multipliers for us). Now that the tiny rhizomes have taken hold, I'll start using liquid fertilizer, at half strength, applied through a hose siphon at every watering. As soon as the danger of frost is past, on goes the solid fertilizer. I didn't know when planting these decimated rhizomes that they'd be part of a display garden. Display there will be if they don't keel over from too much food and water.

It's interesting to note the growth variation of varieties dug, replanted and cared for in the same way and time. For instance Ferguson's DAWN CANDLE '65 and BARITONE '65: the former is up five inches at this writing while the latter is little more than half as tall. The Nies-Walker spurias BLUE NIGHTSHADE '56 and KATRINA NIES '55 are both vigorous looking and about seven inches. Ben Hager's things have run the gamut here. SUSPENSE '66 succumbed in the rain (probably planted too deep). CONNOISSEUR '65 is coming up through the pack after a very slow start. PORT OF CALL '65 is a healthy six or seven inches. FAROLITO '65 (my favorite iris name) is doing spectacularly. Although planted later than the others, it did have a good sized rhizome with increase that are flourishing. Since Eleanor McCown's spurias are mostly new to me this year, there is nothing to compare with IMPERIAL SONG '65 which was among the decimated. I will say that if her newer things can take the mangling that IMPERIAL SONG did, and come back as well, she has a good thing going. As noted, these spurias were severely divided and set out quite late, even by southern California standards. It will be interesting to see if and how much bloom appears on these varieties that would, in undisturbed clumps, be two or more feet tall by now.

The new varieties to be seen in this garden are HIGHLINE BLUEBIRD, McCown '71, and ARCHIE OWEN, Hager '70. Of the '69s, there are Ferguson's REDWOOD FALLS and McCown's RUFFLED CANARY. The only '68 is the McCown HIGHLINE LAVENDER which is sprouting all over the place. In addition there are a few varieties not to be

seen in other Display Gardens such as BLUE EARTH, PORT OF CALL, CANARY CAPRICE, and the species colchica, crocea, and halophila.



They may look like HIPPIES IN IRISLAND--but it was only a gathering of the Spuria Clan. (l-r) Ben Hager, Bob Brooks, Ray Chesnik, Jim La Master, Ralph Conrad, and Dr. Clarke Cosgrove. At far left are plant markers which identify the spurias which were just beginning to sprout at Cordon Bleu Farms.

And how do you become a SPURIA DISPLAY GARDEN: First find another Jim LaMaster of Del Mar. It was his idea. He started the ball rolling with a letter to Jack Riley, the Display Gardens Chairman. Then contact our editor, Bill Gunther. (I can still hear him repeating, "They planted them right in front. Nobody's ever planted them right in front of bearded before!") He'll intercept and carry the ball by bringing droves of SIS officers by and off-handedly suggest that this might make a good Display Garden. Since all SIS officers are the nicest people, they'll not contradict him. One or two might even say "Yes". Then Mr. Riley will get a letter saying that a majority of the officers and past thirty two hundred presidents have voted for it. AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT. (I think that in order to get by the editor's blue pencil, I'd better say that the foregoing was a tongue-in-check rendition of what actually happened.)

EXTRACTS FROM SPURIA ROBIN # 2

CELESTE HAMNER, 1040 Perris Blvd., Perris, Calif. 92370

Our established spuria bed looks good, with foliage from one to two feet high depending on the varieties. We added eight new named spurias last fall--including MONTALVO, Walker; WOODWIND, Hager; and PINK CANDLES (not introduced) Ferguson. All these were set late in October and the growth is slow. It takes two years before the re-set spuria reaches its full potential. Most of the first year plants do bloom, but the flower is usually of poor quality. With the addition of these new ones our spuria bed now numbers fifty-seven named cultivars plus a few of Walker Ferguson's selected seedlings. We apply super-phosphate lightly twice each year, late fall and early spring. Our spuria bed is planted in rows far enough apart to allow for increase for several years. A top dressing of dairy manure each winter and plenty of water during the growing season is all that is necessary to produce top quality spurias in this area.

BRYCE PHENIS, 1673 Calado Court, Campbell, California 95008

If anyone is interested in breeding there is no better place to start than with the COUNTERPOINT line; I think that we are going to see a whole range of patterns coming out of this line--stippled plicatas for one example; then also Ferguson is getting pink toned things now.

I totally replanted the garden this year and most of the spurias look really quite well, all things considered; I had sprayed with Dowpon in the front yard to kill the bermuda grass, but some got on the spurias. As a result some of the things have been stunned and not growing too well. Now that we are getting quite a bit of rain, the rain should leach the Dowpon out and they should start to grow.

ILA CRAWFORD, RFD #2, Box 35, Purcell, Okla. 73080

This is my first real serious problem with rhizome rot. I lost MONTALVO and WOODWIND before I noticed the condition existed. I never had this problem in Oklahoma City; perhaps it was my sandy soil there. This soil is very heavy and just after my fall planting we had several days of heavy rain. Evidently the drainage is not the best and that is a must for spurias. The older established planting escaped this problem and I am at a loss to determine what made the difference. We should always use terrachlor at planting time as this will insure against this infection. I gave this treatment to all the new planting after I discovered the extent (Carco X just did not do the trick) of the damage. I think I have lost three plants--the other one CONNOISSEUR. All three are favorites, and of recent introduction, and I plan to replace them.

I think that Eleanor McCown's HIGHLINE LAVENDER will be in strong contention for the Eric Nies Award. The color is delicate and appeals to the feminine eye. The form is wide and compact with nice strong foliage. We hope to see it flower in its fullest glory this year on a second year plant.

M E M B E R S H I P, by Clarke Cosgrove

The new year begins with thirty-five Life Members in the Spuria Iris Society. The sudden spurt in this type of membership may have resulted from the rising dues structure and from the problems arising from dues billing by the national office of the American Iris Society. A Life Member of the American Iris Society is not sent dues notices for the sections by the national office and as the section treasurers are not always aware of the status of the individual's AIS membership some members may be lost in the shuffle. The inclusion of sectional dues with the notices for the national society's dues and the collection of sectional dues by the national office has been of tremendous help to the sections, but has complicated the bookkeeping accounts of the treasurer and has left the current status of some members in doubt. The Spuria Iris Society has been carrying possible delinquent members for from six months to a year in order to allow time to reconcile the national and the sectional records, but this financial drain is beginning to be felt. A more rigid stand may have to be taken.

Other than recognizing Mrs. J. N. Cox as the first Life Member of SIS, no attempt has been made to number the new life memberships. The list now includes four foreign memberships from Australia, England, and Germany; and two family memberships.

A salute and an expression of thanks to those who believe strongly in the Spuria Iris Society and its purposes--the LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. Walter J. Abraham-Arlington, California
Herr Eckard Berlin-Markplatz, Germany
Dr. and Mrs. George W. Bremner-San Diego, California
Mr. H. B. Briscoe-White Hall, Illinois
Mrs. Walter Bunker-San Diego, California
Mrs. N. R. Carrington-San Diego, California
Mrs. C. C. Carson-San Diego, California
Mr. Raymond J. Chesnik-San Marcos, California
Dr. Clarke Cosgrove-San Gabriel, California
Mrs. J. N. Cox-Norfolk, Nebraska
Mrs. Joseph P. Crawford-Purcell, Oklahoma
Dr. D. A. Dixon-Durham, England
Mrs. Hazel Grapes-Big Springs, Nebraska
Mr. William J. Gunther-Del Mar, California
Mr. Ben R. Hager-Stockton, California
Mrs. Johnson B. Hale-La Grange, Georgia
Mrs. J. R. Hamblen-Roy, Utah
Mrs. Mac W. Holloway-Sacramento, California
Mrs. Mary Hoskins-Bakersfield, California
Mr. Ralph A. Johnson-Phoenix, Arizona
Mr. William D. Lee-Houston, Texas
Dr. G. B. Loveridge-New South Wales, Australia
Mrs. C. B. McCaughey-Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mrs. Frank McCown-Holtville, California
Mrs. Ruth I. Messer-West Chicago, Illinois
Mrs. Stayton Nunn-Houston, Texas
Mrs. Jocelyn O'Neil-New South Wales, Australia
Mrs. Edward Owen-Leucadia, California
Mr. Edward Pasahow-San Diego, California
Mrs. B. D. Pilley-Valley Center, California
Mrs. Barbara Serdynski-Los Angeles, California
Mrs. Cyrus Stanley-Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mr. and Mrs. Marion Walker- Ventura, California



Dawn Candle, in silhouette view, shows how very fitting is its name.

SHORT OR TALL?

by Walker Ferguson

In previous issues of the Spuria Newsletter, there have been several comments from people who wish that spurias were not so tall. And at the last San Diego iris meeting, a young man talked to me about the "excessive height" of spuria cultivars; he expressed the wish that they would grow no taller than a gladiola. Through the years, many other people have expressed similar wishes.

I do not feel that I personally have made much progress toward shorter spurias, but PLENTY OF SUNSHINE is shorter than GOOD NATURE, and FROST is shorter than WAKEROBIN. The species generally are not so tall as the hybrids. I have had *Iris halophila alba* for eight years, but was successful only recently in obtaining hybrids from it; a few of them are the height of their parent; most are taller. When I crossed the short BLUE ACRES with medium height THRUSH SONG the seedlings were about evenly divided between blue and white, with the blues being much the taller. As I was looking for blues at that time, I did not save any of the whites.

During my first few years with spurias the tall ones seemed most attractive, but now I wish nothing would be over four feet and that most would be nearer three feet in height.

However, some people prefer their spurias tall.

Dr. Gordon Loveridge recently mentioned, with obvious approval, of having seen a clump of SHELFORD GIANT seven or eight feet tall while on a trip to New Zealand. He also wrote of his introduction, SURF BEACH, as favorably characterized by "having taller bloomstalks than most other cultivars".

Bill Gunther was looking for a spuria six feet tall, so he was elated last year when he saw WHITE HERON in my garden at six feet and two inches.

Eleanor McCown had a seven foot seedling in her garden last season, despite the fact that her garden is located in the desert (near Holtville, California) where garden spurias usually do not grow so tall as in many other locations.

DAWN CANDLE and BARITONE, both of which are Eric Nies winners, are both tall, so there apparently are many judges who like tall spurias and who will vote for them when they are that way.

Quite evidently, there is great variation in preference among different people regarding whether spurias should be short or tall. But also, it is logical that there are appropriate situations in most gardens for spurias of different height. So I conclude that in selection of seedlings, height of bloomstalk should not be considered as a decisive factor. If it is a good spuria, there will be people who like it whatever the height. And whatever the height, there will be garden settings in which it will be beautiful.

Regards,
Ferguson

SPURIA VARIETIES IN AUTHORIZED DISPLAY GARDENS

		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
A. J. BALFOUR	Barr 1889	x		x			x					
ALICE EASTWOOD	Brannin '29	x	x									
ANACAPA	Walker '64		x	x		x						x
ARBITRATOR	Ferguson '66					x						x
ARCHIE OWEN	Hager '70					x						x
AUTUMN GLOW	Nies-Walker '59	x		x							x	
AZURE DAWN	Nies '42	x		x		x	x					
BANNERS OF BLUE	Ferguson '61						x					
BARTONE	Ferguson '65					x		x				x
BATHSHEBA	Washington '35	x										
BFLISE	Simonet '64			x				x	x	x		
BIG CLOUD	Craig '50			x								
BIG GOLDEN	Wuhlestein '62				x	x						
BLACK POINT	Nies-Walker '55	x	x	x							x	
BLUE ACRES	Washington '38			x		x						
BLUE CORSAGE	Corliss '55	x										x
BLUE DISPLAY	Nies '47	x		x								
BLUE PINAPORE	Craig '50		x									
BLUE SPIDERWEB	Ferguson '66					x						x
BLUE VALENTINE	Craig '50		x									x
BLUE ZEPHYR	Washington '43	x		x			x					
BRONZE BUTTERFLY	Brennan '50	x		x	x							
BRONSPUR	Nies '40					x						
BROWN GLORY	Corliss '58	x										
CAMBRIDGE BLUE	Barr '10	x	x	x			x					
CANARY ISLAND	Walker '48	x	x	x			x					x
CHEROKEE CHIEF	Nies '49	x	x	x			x					
CHUMASCH CHIEF	Walker '64					x			x			
COAL DUST	Ferguson '64							x	x			x
COLOR GUARD	Nies '48					x						x
CONNOISSEUR	Hager '65			x		x	x		x	x		
CONTRADICTION	Ferguson '63					x			x			x
COUNTERPOINT	Ferguson '61									x		x
DARK & HANDSOME	Ferguson '66						x			x	x	x
DARK SILK	Ferguson '61		x						x			x
DAWN CANDLE	Ferguson '65			x		x			x	x		x
DOROTHY WARFENSKJOLD	Corliss '55	x							x			x
DRIFTWOOD	Nies-Walker '56	x		x					x		x	
DUTCH DEFIANCE	Nies '42	x	x			x			x		x	
EL CAMINO	Walker '58	x		x								x
ELIXIR	Hager '63			x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
ESSAY	Hager '63			x		x		x	x	x	x	x
FAIRFIELD	Ferguson '67									x		x
FATRY LANTERN	Nies-Walker '55	x	x	x								
FATRY LIGHT	Thorup '43	x		x			x					
FATRY WAND	Washington '31							x	x		x	
FAROLITA	Hager '65			x		x	x		x			
FIFTH SYMPHONY	Nies '42	x		x		x						x
FIREPLACE	Ferguson '67					x				x		
FIRST VOYAGE	Walker '64		x			x		x	x			
FLUTED BUTTERCUP	Wuhlestein '61					x						x
FLUTED OPAL	Wuhlestein '63				x	x						
GAY LARK	Walker '58	x		x				x	x		x	
GOLD NUGGET	Dean '38	x		x	x							
GOLDEN AGATE	Nies '44	x	x			x						x
GOLDEN BRANCH	Corliss '55	x										
GOLDEN LADY	Combs '57	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
GOLDEN SCEPTRE	Washington '48	x										
GOLDEN STATE	Branin '28	x										
GOOD NATURE	Ferguson '58			x				x	x			x
GOOD THUNDER	Ferguson '66										x	
GRAY TREASURE	Corliss '56	x								x	x	
HAZY HILLS	Washington '31						x		x			
IMPERIAL BURGUNDY	McCown '67									x		x
IMPERIAL SONG	McCown '65			x						x	x	x
INDIAN PUEBLO	Walker '67					x						x
INTENSITY	Ferguson '68									x		
INVESTMENT	Craig '51				x	x						x
Iris crocea		x										x
I. Lilacine	Borges 1882	x										
I. Musulmanica	Ker.		x									
I. Ochroleuca	Linn. 1771	x		x						x		x
I. Sogdiana	Fomin		x									x
I. Notha	Bieb. 1819	x	x	x	x							
KATRINA NIES	Nies-Walker '55	x		x	x						x	x

		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
LACED BUTTERFLY	Muhlestein '61					x						
LANDSCAPE BLUE	Ferguson '68								x			
LARK SONG	Nies '42	x	x			x						x
LORD WOLSELY	Barr 1889	x										
LUMIERE	Washington '35	x		x								
LYDIA JANE	Walker '64		x			x			x			
MARILYN HOLLOWAY	HAGFR '70					x						
MARJORIE TALLCHIEF	Corliss '57	x										
MEDIA LUZ	Hager '67			x		x						
MINNEOPA	Ferguson '68									x		
MICHIGAN STATE	Nies '42	x			x		x					
MONSPUR	Foster 1890		x									
MONTALVO	Walker '67					x						
MORNINGTIDE	Walker '55	x	x					x	x		x	x
MT. PALOMAR	White '63						x		x			
MT WHITNEY	Milliken '33				x							
MT WILSON	Milliken	x	x	x	x							
NEOPHYTE'	Hager '63					x	x	x	x	x		x
ORANGE MAID	Ferguson '65			x				x	x	x		x
OROVILLE	Walker '67					x						
PASTORAL	Nies '42	x					x				x	
PEACHES & CREAM	Taylor '47	x										
PERKY MAID	Nies '49	x					x					
PLENTY OF SUNSHINE	Ferguson '63									x		
PORT OF CALL	Hager '65			x		x	x		x			x
PREMIER	Barr 1899	x		x	x		x		x	x		x
PRIMROSE BUTTERFLY	Corliss '58	x										
PURPLE KNIGHT	Ferguson '68									x		
RED OAK	Ferguson '65									x	x	x
RED STEP	Muhlestein '64			x								
ROYAL TOGA	Nesmith '54				x							
RUFFLED GOLD	Taylor '47	x										
RUFFLED MOTH	Ferguson '61								x			
RUSSET FLAME	Nies '49	x	x		x	x						
RUTH NIES CABFEN	Nies-Walker '49			x								
SECRETS	Ferguson '58	x										
SPRING PLUM	Ferguson '63						x		x			x
STABILITY	Walker '64		x						x		x	
SUNLIT SEA	Nies-Walker '56	x				x						
SUNNY DAY	Sass '31	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	
SUNNY SIDE	Craig '51			x		x						
SUSPENSE	Hager '66								x			x
SWEET BUTTER	Craig '50	x			x							
THRUSH SONG	Ferguson '58			x					x		x	x
TWO OPALS	Nies '44	x					x					x
VIOLET VEIL	Walker '56			x								x
WADI ZEM ZEM	Milliken '43						x	x	x	x		x
WAKE ROBIN	Ferguson '58	x		x					x	x	x	x
WESTERN LARK	Ferguson '67									x		x
WHITE BALLET	Corliss '56	x								x		
WHITE BRANCH	Corliss '56	x										
WHITE CRANF	Milliken								x			
WHITE HERON	Milliken '48	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
WINDFALL	Ferguson '58								x		x	x
WOODWIND	Hager '67			x		x					x	
YELLOW SWALLOWTAIL	Nies '42	x									x	
YELLOW WINGS	Ferguson '64								x			
ZEPHROSO	Nies '49	x	x				x					x
TOTAL		59	27	46	17	41	26	15	38	26	22	65*

CODE TO GARDEN LOCATION

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Los Angeles, Calif. | County & State Arboretum, Arcadia, Calif. |
| 2. Berkeley, Calif. | University of Calif. at Berkeley |
| 3. Denver, Colo. | Long's Gardens, 3240 Broadway, Boulder, Colo. |
| 4. El Paso, Texas | Grounds of Washington Park Zoo, El Paso, Tex. |
| 5. Roy, Utah | Mission Bell Gardens, 2778 W. 5600 South |
| 6. Memphis, Tenn. | Ketchum Memorial Gardens, Memphis, Tenn. |
| 7. Kansas City, Mo. | C. R. Minnick, 325 N.E. Park Circle |
| 8. Okla. City, Okla. | Will Rogers Gardens, Okla. City, Okla. |
| 9. Phoenix, Ariz. | Bob Staub, 3859 Glendon Ave., Phoenix, Ariz. |
| 10. Upper Montclair, N. J. | Presby Memorial Garden, Upper Montclair, N. J. |
| 11. San Marcos, California | Cordon Bleu Farms, 418 Buena Creek Road, San Marcos, Calif. |

* Additional varieties growing in garden #11 (Cordon Bleu Farms) are: BLUE EARTH, BLUE NIGHTSHADE, CANARY CAPRICE, HIGHLINE BLUEBIRD, HIGHLINE LAVENDER, I. colchica, I. halophila, I. musulmanica, ONE REASON, REDWOOD FALLS, RUFFLED CANARY, SURF BEACH, and TURKEY YELLOW.



Convention '71 Wichita!

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION EIGHTEEN

WELCOME to the Convention here in Midway, U.S.A.! We do hope many of you are going to join in the fun and 'irisin'. The one thing we need most is iris people by the HUNDREDS. Secondly, a typical season--that sometimes demon who is uppermost in the minds of all convention hosts.

Detailed information will be found in the January AIS Bulletin with still more in the April issue. In attempting to relate items our Spuria members might be especially interested in--the section meeting comes to mind. It is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12 at 1:00 PM. We understand a unique judges training session is being planned. Mrs. Owen will have details for you. This session with live spuria specimens being discussed will, we hope, spark more enthusiasm for growing them. (This might be a good place to mention there will be one Judges Training class conducted by Dr. Hugo Wall. He has chosen a most specific subject important to all judges--this will not be a session on judging in general. Sound intriguing?)

Spurias do well in the Wichita area but from what I've observed, flowers per stalk are not as numerous as in some locations. Normally, they do not bloom here until the TB season is definitely over. However, should we experience an early season--you will find Guest Spurias blooming at the John Ohl, Jones and El Dorado Gardens.

We are proud of our Wichita Area Iris Club Shows. Particularly the last two annual ones--entries doubled previous ones. What will happen in '71 with so much time necessary for convention work may be another story. A special effort is being made locally to encourage exhibitors to get entries in, the same as any other year. Divisions are many, including Junor Horticulture; Junior Artistic; Artistic; Seedling; Commercial and separate sections for all types of specimens.as warrants.

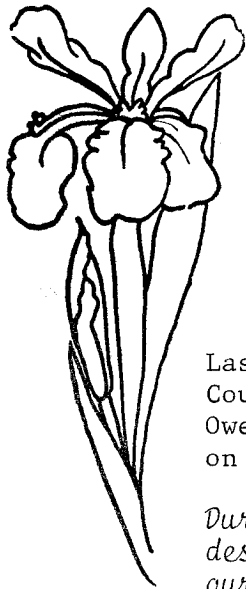
Inquiries have been made as to entries from areas away from the Wichita vicinity. Our shows have always been open to everyone and the 1971 show will be no exception. You are most welcome--no matter where you live. Horticultural entries are limited to twelve, including collections; Artistic limit is seven. The headquarters hotel tells us they have no refrigeration facilities available to store specimen stalks. To those of you who are considering exhibiting--some means will be found to transport them from the hotel to the show room.

On Saturday morning you will tour the El Dorado and Watson Park Gardens. Immediately following lunch--buses will be waiting at the door to take you to the show (only ten minutes away). Shuttle service is to be maintained so you may return whenever you wish. Yes, you will be tired Saturday--but do go see the show anyway--you can still get back to the hotel for a rest before the big Awards Banquet in the evening. Besides that, what better way to finish seeing irises in Wichita than enjoying a display of bloom all collected together in one air-conditioned room?

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SPURIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

S P U R I A S



Last fall, the Inland Iris Society (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California) held a spuria meeting. The speaker was Archie Owen, President of the Spuria Iris Society. Paraphrased notes, based on her presentation, are reproduced below:

During the course of the last few hundred years botanists have named and described almost one hundred different spuria "species". However, in our present perspective, we evaluate most of them as synonyms, subspecies, forms, or hybrids, rather than as true species. The Spuria Iris Society's checklist, and the American Iris Society's book, *Garden Irises*, indicate that the number of true spuria species is no more than fifteen or twenty.

Many of the modern spuria cultivars were developed from three species, each of which has forty chromosomes, and each of which is tall. These three species are *Iris ochroleuca*, *Iris monnieri*, and *Iris crocea*. Individual comment on each of these species follows:

Iris ochroleuca is indigenous to the Near East; it was introduced into England in 1778, and into the USA not long thereafter. It is very adaptable and it is a vigorous grower, for which reason it is perhaps the most common spuria in gardens today. The plant grows up to six feet (or more) in height; the bloomstalks often have many blossoms open simultaneously; the standards of the blossoms are white, the falls are white with a large yellow blotch in the central area. The falls "curl under" to a degree such that the tips of the falls usually cannot be seen in vertical view.

Iris monnieri was first described in 1808; the "type" specimen was collected in Versailles, France, from the garden of Le Monnier (for whom it was Named). The British botanist Dykes, and many others, evaluated it as being a hybrid cross between *Iris Ochroleuca* and a yellow spuria which grows in Turkey. It does not come "true" from seeds, so it very likely is not a true species.

Iris crocea is a native of Kashmir, in India. It was described and illustrated in a botanical journal in 1847. It is yellow, and it is particularly distinguished from other spurias by the fact that the tips of its falls are pointed. The name "*Iris aurea*" is just a synonym for *Iris crocea*.

Cultivars derived solely from the three species listed above will have blossoms which include white, cream, and/or yellow--but nothing else. Hybrids which have other colors include other species in their heritage. The most common source for other colors derives from crosses between *Iris monnieri* and *Iris spuria* which were made by the English hybridizer, Foster, starting in 1890. Hybrids which came from the cross of *monnieri* by spuria were designated as "monspurs". The best known of the monspurs include the varieties PREMIER, MONSPUR, A. J. BALFOUR, and CAMBRIDGE BLUE.

One other spuria species which recently has been important in hybridizing of cultivars is *Iris carthaginea*. This species is a parent of the varieties ESSAY and NEOPHYTE: it notably imparts into its progeny foliage which stays green until very late in the season.



Iris graminea



Iris spuria

Genes from most of the other spuria species have not been used for developing modern spuria cultivars. This is regrettable, because many of the unused species have one or more characteristics which in a cultivar might be attractive.

Small size is one of these characteristics.

Of the small sized species, *Iris graminea* in nature occupies the most expansive habitat. It grows wild across much of southern Europe, the Near East, and the Middle East. This area includes the entire range from Spain thru Italy and the Balkans to the Caspian Sea. This species is about a foot in height, with grasslike foliage. The blossoms are deep violet in color, and are fragrant.

The stems of *Iris graminea* are so short that the blossoms sometimes are hidden amidst the foliage. But several other small sized spuria species have stems which hold their blossoms well up above the foliage. It is possible that a cross between *Iris graminea* and one of the other small species would produce a hybrid small in stature and with qualities to meet the requirements for a border plant.

It is significant to note that very few spuria species have been utilized in developing modern spuria cultivars. Since most spuria species have not been used in hybridizing, it follows that most of the possibilities in this field have not yet even been tried; it means that the field is wide open for new spuria hybridizers.

We hope that during the next bloom season many additional people will begin hybridizing spurias. And we hope that they will be adventuresome enough to try using different species for foundation stock. And we wish them the best of success.

XX

RESURRECTION OF A GARDEN

During the course of years, all the labels have disintegrated and disappeared. The garden was long neglected, but the spurias, with the names lost, still are growing beside the old farm house near San Marcos, California.

Chance and coincidence makes those spurias very interesting at this time.

Years ago, the well known irisarian, Tom Craig (recently deceased) lived near that old farm. He then was hybridizing spurias. He registered and introduced seven spuria varieties, but only a couple of those varieties are commercially available today.

One of Tom Craig's employees was an upcoming young man who then lived at that old farm near San Marcos. The name of that employee was Ben Hager.

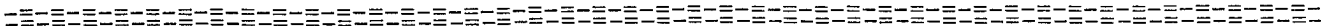
The spurias near the old farm house probably are some of the old Craig varieties, planted there by Ben.

It is very possible that in a few months, when those spurias bloom, they may be identified (by use of the registration descriptions) as Tom Craig's varieties. At least, the new residents of the old farm hope so. They like spurias. They like them so well that they have enlarged the old spuria planting by adding long rows of new spurias: 65 varieties. The old Craig spurias would be a very welcome addition to their collection.

The new residents at the old farm are Bob Brooks and Ray Chesnik; the old place now is called the Cordon Bleu Farms; and Jack Riley (Chairman of the Spuria Display Garden Program) has just designated the Cordon Bleu Farms as an official Spuria Display Garden.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter is an article about this new Spuria Display Garden. In a future issue--after blooming season--will be photos of the spurias in the old patch--with (hopefully) newly replaced identification markers.

We hope that on those markers will be the names of all the Craig varieties.



SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SPURIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Bill Gunther, Editor
740 Crest Road
Del Mar, California 92014



THIRD CLASS MAIL