

Report No. 10Library and Lantern Slides.

At the organization meeting the promotion of popular interest through popular articles, bulletins, photographs, lantern slides and lectures was discussed. It was felt that not only would these be good publicity for the Society, but that for development of the flower a permanent library must sooner or later be established.

The matter was often considered by the officers and on March 17, 1921, the Board of Directors authorized the establishment of a library of books, magazine articles, photographs and lantern slides. An appropriation of not more than \$100 was voted towards the purchase of lantern slides. No appropriation was made for the other items but Mrs. Peckham, Mr. Wister and others collected the Iris Society pages from the Flower Grower and these with other Iris articles in the Flower Grower and other current magazines were later bound in two volumes which were placed on the shelves of the library of the New York Botanical Garden. To these later were added many Iris catalogs, photographs and other illustrations but no bookswere purchased.

When Mr. Farr died it was the wish of the officers to establish a suitable memorial to the man whom they considered the great American pioneer of the Iris. The matter was discussed in many meetings and at one time a vote was even taken to establish a Farr Memorial Medal. This idea, however, was almost immediately abandoned and in February, 1928, the Directors finally decided that the memorial would take the form of a library. A committee was appointed to consider this matter and on March 15th the following notice was sent to all members:

"The Directors of The American Iris Society have decided to establish one or more traveling libraries as a memorial to the late Bertrand H. Farr. These libraries will contain all books on Iris, bound magazine articles, bulletins, catalogs, colored plates, photographs, etc., and will be made available for the use of organizations or individuals in all parts of the country.

"Friends of Mr. Farr, whether members of the Society or not, will be asked to subscribe to a fund to make possible this work.

"All available books, bulletins, photographs, etc., will be purchased immediately, and it is planned to invest a part of the fund and to use the income for future purchase of such new books and editions as may be published, or if the fund is large enough, to help in the publication of useful books or editions in the future.

"Mr. Farr was a unique character among American horticulturists. He did more than any other one person to place the Iris, Peony, and many other hardy flowers in their present day position of importance in American gardens. He was the first person in this country to have a comprehensive, modern collection of Iris; the first to catalog and to describe these; the first to produce and introduce American seedlings, among which were such popular varieties as Mount Penn, Juniata, Quaker Lady and Wyomissing. He was one of the first to see the need of a society devoted to Iris; was one of the organizers of The American Iris Society; was elected a Director at the organization meeting and continued in that office until his death without missing a single meeting, either of the directors or of the members.

"What more fitting tribute could we pay to the memory of the man who, with his visions and dreams, followed the rainbow path to the end, than by making available to those who come after him the knowledge the pioneers in the Iris world gave us through their books?

"Will you help make this memorial possible by subscribing to this fund?

Yours truly,

FARR MEMORIAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE

A.P. Saunders
Mrs. J. Edgar Hires
Richardson Wright, Chairman"

The subscriptions which came in from Mr. Farr's friends were so liberal that it was possible before the end of 1928 to buy three identical traveling libraries each containing all the books on Irises that were then available, together with bulletins of the American Iris

Society and other publications. Heavy shipping boxes were built so that these could be sent from one part of the country to another for the plan was not to have these libraries kept in one place but to have them used as traveling libraries for the use of garden clubs and horticultural societies. The subscriptions received were more than was necessary for the purchase of these books and the surplus was invested as an endowment to be used for upkeep, and the hope was expressed that this fund might some day grow large enough even to allow for the Society to make some special publication. The following is quoted from Mr. Wright's article in Bulletin No. 30;

"The Farr Memorial Library consists of a shipping box in which are packed the following:

The Genus Iris - W. R. Dykes
 A Handbook of Garden Irises - W. R. Dykes
 Irises - W. R. Dykes
 Bulbous Irises - Sir Michael Foster
 A Book of the Iris - R. I. Lynch
 Les Iris dans les Jardins - Correvon et Masse
 The Iris - John C. Wister
 Iris in the Little Garden - Ella Porter McKinney
 Irises - F. F. Rockwell
 The Iris - Walter Stager
 Addisonia, December, 1924 and March, 1927.
 Bearded Iris; and A Study of the Pogoniris Varieties -A.W. Sand
 Bulletins of the American Iris Society - Nos. 1 to 29
 Bulletins of The Iris Society (England) - Nos 1 to 5.
 Garden Irises - B. Y. Morrison - Farmer's Bulletin 1406

"While these volumes do not exhaust all the available literature on the Iris, they are the books necessary to that thorough working knowledge which is desirable for intelligent gardeners and garden clubs. They have been so selected as to meet the needs of the beginner, the sophisticated Iris devotee and the botanist alike. The Committee suggests that the volumes be classified in interest as follows:

For the Veriest Iris Beginner:

American Iris Society Bulletins Nos. 10, 11 and 28
The Iris - John C. Wister
Irises - W. R. Dykes
Irises - F. F. Rockwell
Iris in The Little Garden - Ella Porter McKinney

For the Iris Devotee and the Botanically inclined

The Genuie Iris - W. R. Dykes
Handbook of Garden Iris - W. R. Dykes
A Book of the Iris - R. I. Lynch
Addisonia
Bulbous Iris - Sir Michael Foster
Bearded Iris and Pogoniris Varieties - A. W. Sand

"The societies using these libraries should make an event of their arrival and devote one meeting to the discussion of Irises. This might profitably be done after the members have had an opportunity to read the books.

"The Committee has divided the country into three sections, furnishing one complete traveling library to each.

(1) The Atlantic Seaboard and west to the Alleghenies. Apply for it to the Horticultural Society of New York, 598 Madison Avenue, New York City.

(2) The Middle States - from the Alleghenies to the Rockies. Apply to Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri.

(3) The Pacific Coast. Apply to Sydney B. Mitchell, School of Librarianship, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.

"In offering this valuable library of Iris lore to American Gardeners, the American Iris Society feels that in a unique way it is carrying on the aspirations of him in whose memory it had been established.

'Iris everywhere and better Iris every year' was the ideal of Bertrand H. Farr. May it find abundant accomplishment in our gardens."

This announcement met with an immediate response and all three libraries were kept very busy. I have not been able to get a complete list of their travels but the following are some of the places which had the library for a monty during the years 1929 to 1932:

New Hampshire - Bristol.
 Massachusetts - Fitchburg; Harvard.
 Connecticut - New Haven.
 New York - East Hampton; Hillsdale; Poughkeepsie; Riverdale.
 New Jersey - South Orange.
 Pennsylvania - Kane.
 Maryland - Baltimore; Glennville; Havre de Grasse; Hyattsville.
 Virginia - Staunton; Warrenton.
 North Carolina - Biltmore; High Point; Mebane; Raleigh; Wake Forest.
 Georgia - Columbus
 Tennessee - Chattanooga (twice); Knoxville (twice); Memphis; Nashville.
 Kentucky - Paducah.
 Michigan - Fennville.
 Ohio - Akron; Concinnati; Columbus.
 Indiana - Goodland; Terre Haute
 Illinois - Bloomington; Peoria; Waukegan.
 Wisconsin - Delavan.
 Nebraska - Lincoln; Omaha.
 Missouri - Independence.
 Kansas - Newton; Topeka; Wamego.
 Oklahoma - Norman; Oklahoma City.
 Idaho - Hazelton.
 Washington - Clarkson.

There can be no doubt that the Farr Traveling Libraries have brought knowledge of Irises to many garden groups who could not get such information from their local libraries and that in this way the knowledge of Iris has been greatly extended. In recent years, however, there has not been as great demand. Perhaps in future the traveling feature will be modified and one of the libraries will be permanently established in some central place as a foundation for a great future Iris library. We cannot imagine any form of memorial that would give greater pleasure to Mr. Farr than these libraries which bear his name.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FARR MEMORIAL FUND

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In 1921, it was proposed that lantern slide collection, when established, be loaned to garden clubs and other similar organizations without charge except for transportation or breakage and that they be rented to professional lecturers with the understanding that a slide bearing the legend "Shown through the courtesy of the American Iris Society" shall be shown upon the screen. I do not find record of the first use of these slides but a 1926 note states that the slides have been used more than twenty times during the past year by members in the middle west and on the Pacific Coast. There is also reference to a set of posters and a syllabus for an Iris lecture to explain them, which has been prepared and which at this time was placed in charge of Mrs. Silas B. Waters, of Cincinnati. Mrs. Waters' 1928 report shows that the slides during that year were used in Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, and New York.

In January, 1931, the following announcement was published:

"Through the work of Mrs. Peckham our collection of slides has been increased and brought up-to-date. Each has been duly labeled and the collection has been arranged in sets of 60 to 100 slides to accompany printed lectures if such are desired.

FEEES \$10.00, plus transportation and insurance on the value of \$300.

Four Lectures in pamphlet form. \$1.00 to members; to non-members \$2.00.

One subject separate, to members 25¢ each; to non-members 50¢ each.

No. 1. THE IRIS. R. S. Sturtevant.

No. 2 CHRONICLE OF AMERICAN IRISES. Dr. John K. Small, with notes on the western natives by E. A. S. Peckham.

No. 3. HISTORY OF BEARDED IRISES. J. C. Wister.

No. 4 THE WILD GARDEN. R. S. Sturtevant.

In each case Mrs. Peckham has edited and enlarged articles previously printed and has inserted the numbers of the lantern slides in the text, a most valuable contribution.

APPLICATIONS should be made to Mrs. Katherine Leigh, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo."

Report No. 11Bibliography

The bulletins contained from time to time reference to current literature such as the following in January, 1924:

"Sources of Information. For the amateur the bulletins of this Society, or current magazine articles are the best sources of information, but the catalogs of specialists contain a great deal of value and interest. 'Irises' by W. R. Dykes, 'Tall Bearded Irises' by Walter Stager with its wealth of poetical reference and history and 'Bulbous Irises' by Sir Michael Foster are small books, while those interested in botany will want 'The Book of the Iris' by R. Irwin Lynch, 'Handbook of the Irideae' by Baker, and 'The Genuie Iris' by W. R. Dykes, this last a large monograph and the latest authority. Unfortunately 'Irises' and also 'Les Iris dans les Jardins' by M. Correvon are out of print."

The matter of a Bibliography of Iris literature was also considered quite early in the Society, and Mrs. Peckham was appointed chairman of a committee to bring such a Bibliography. For a number of years the bulletin published a yearly current Bibliography which she had compiled. During 1927 about 1900 copies of a form letter were sent out to firms all over the world that may have published at some time an Iris catalog. Replies were received from Poland, Germany, France, Ireland, Scotland, England, Sweden, Holland, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, China, Mexico, Switzerland, Canada, Japan and practically every state in the Union. Catalogs have been received also from these same sources. Among the replies interesting information has been received as to the length of time some firms have been in business---

over two hundred years seemed quite casual to one firm!--as to whether there was a demand for Irises in their particular location--if they thought of going in for Irises in the near future--etc. The Chairman wishes to express thanks to Mr. A. M. S. Pridham of Cornell University and to Mrs. L. W. Hitchcock, Mrs. Theodore I. Coe, Mr. B. Y. Morrison and Mr. Wister, and in relation to the catalogs from the following: Mr. A. R. Bide, of Alma Nurseries, Farnham, England; Mr. Alfred Dawkins, England; Mr. J. T. Dunn, of Trumps, Ltd., Barnstaple, England; The Editors of the Gardeners' Chronicle, London; The Francher Creek Nurseries, Fresno, California; Mr. George A. Green, Dominion Secretary of the New Zealand Association of Nurserymen; Mr. H. M. Harmer, Geneva, N. Y.; Mr. R. N. Johnson, Monrovia, California, California; Mr. C. B. Lewis, Portland, Ore.; Mr. Otto Mann, Leipzig, Germany; Mrs. Olive Murrell, of The Orpington Nurseries, England; Messrs. G. H. Plant & Co., Chester, England; Mr. J. W. Robinson, Cash Nurseries, Sebastopol, Calif.; Mr. Friedrich Repenning, Kiel, Germany; Mr. Henry Schnitzpahn, Dunellen, N. J.; The Sunshine State Nursery, Yankton, S. D.; The Spalding Buld Co., Lincolnshire, England.; Messrs. Sprijt & Co., Utrecht, Holland; Mr. H. B. Tillotson, Minneapolis, Minn.; Messrs. Vorburger & Offenhauer of Meldorf, Germany; Messrs. Vallerand Freres, Asnieres, France; Messrs. Ralph M. Ward & Co., New York City; Messrs. Edward Webb & Sons, Stourbridge, England; Mr. A. Williamson, The Harrison Nursery, York, Nebraska and Mr. Anton C. Zvolanek, Lompoc, California.

During this time the Society continued to hope and plan for the publication of a complete book on Bibliography, but that is still a matter for the future and much work remains to be done, although Mrs. Peckham's references in many instances are most complete.