THE MEDIANITE

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CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S PATCH

Various committees are hard at work and there is much to report. I will attempt to hit the high lights and trust that you will be pleased with our progress.

The results of the membership campaign are mentioned elsewhere. This was a good lesson in starting without adequate preparation. Without a reasonable number of regional membership representatives it was not a true contest. We are thankful for the new members we did get and are extremely happy that we learned how valuable the RMRs can be. Keith Keppel is now rounding out the organization and we will be well represented at the regional level. Some of the RMRs are coming up with great ideas and cooperating with the RVPs to put our message across to the full AIS membership.

As more median varieties are registered, more are showing growth patterns that differ from those they showed in their originators' gardens. It is becoming obvious that some means must be found to correct errors in registrations so that only varieties that meet the standards win the named awards. We are not alone in this; the last AIS bulletin makes plain the Aril Society's feelings regarding the White Award. We do not want intermediates winning the Cook-Douglas, or tall bearded irises winning the Knowlton Award. We now have a topnotch committee at work on this problem and hope that all members will cooperate with them. To quote Bennett Jones: "we don't want to appear dictatorial, but will have to be definite."

We are still negotiating with the AIS regarding a third award for the SDB and BB classes and spelling out conditions under which other sections can achieve higher awards. The picture looks promising and in time we may have a favorable report to make.

As a Section, only AIS members may join our Society, yet we have no means of checking other than asking each new applicant and each member who applies for renewal if he is an AIS member. For this and other reasons, we are debating the advisability of asking the AIS to collect our dues as they already do for the BIS. Many of you have told us of the nuisance of small annual payments to each section, and this would be very convenient. At present it looks mutually advantageous.

You will read elsewhere in this issue that Alvin Lauzon, Chairman of our Nominating Committee for the past two years, has died. This committee is probably the most important in the MIS as far as the future is concerned. A good ticket is essential for continued growth and activity. The committee must be able to discuss candidates, to seek out the viewpoints of the candidates themselves and of other active members all over the country. Experience has shown that a six member committee is unwieldy. A ballot for a bylaw change to a three member Nominating Committee, as proposed by your Board of Directors, is enclosed in this issue of the Medianite. Please send in your vote promptly.

Our auction this year should be better than ever. Besides the large number of species we will have a great number of introductions of the last three years. Most of the supporters of the MIS have been heard from, and we expect a flurry of last-minute donations which will be accepted until May 1st at the latest. The MIS can use the funds and we hope everyone will send in a few bids. Up to now we have had no complaints as to quality and we are sure you'll be satisfied. Let's have your bids.

When you read this the median season will be over for a few of you, and just beginning for most. We hope that season '63 will always stand out in memory as one of the best ever.

PERSONNEL

The Board of Directors has appointed William Peck, Jr, to fill the Nominating Committee post left vacant by the untimely death of Chairman Alvin Lauzon. Bill has consented to serve as Chairman of this all-important committee for 1963.

COMMITTEE ON CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS: Bennett Jones has accepted the responsibility of chairmanship of this new committee to study the problem of registration of median irises into classes to which they do not belong, and to make recommendations for the solution of these problems. The other members of this committee are Mildred Brizendine, Joe Gatty, Melba Hamblen, Adelaide Peterson and Keith Keppel.

Edwin Rundlett, Chairman of the Interclub Relations Committee, announces that the members of his committee are the Executive Committee (officers of MIS) and the Past Presidents. This committee is hard at work on new awards proposals and other matters of coordinating with the new office set-up of the American Iris Society.

For this year just address Keith Keppel as "VICE-PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES". Keith has undertaken to fill out our roster of these very important functionaries who serve us as liaison with the American Iris Society's regional officers. In addition to those listed inside the front cover of the January Medianite, the following have been appointed:

Region 2: Mrs Stuart (Jane) Hall, RD #2, Box 256 E, Brewerton, N Y
Region 7: Jake Scharff, 4818 Normandy Rd, Memphis 17, Tenn
Region 8: Mrs Robert (Mattie) Reinhardt, 14151 W National Ave, New Berlin, Wisc.
Region 9: John C Brown, 327 E Park Ave, Collinsville, Ill
Region 11: Robert Jensen, 429 S Ninth St, Montpelier, Idaho
Region 15: Mrs Kenneth B (Polly) Anderson, 4810 Palm Drive, La Canada, Calif
Region 21: Wayne Buchholz, Star Route, Box 44, Lexington, Nebraska

For any problem on the regional level, get in touch with your representative! Be sure to find out from him where you can see new median irises this season.

FOR BEST VIEWING CHECK THE DISPLAY GARDENS ON PAGE ONE, JANUARY MEDIANITE

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

We learned a lot in our 1962 Membership Contest. First of all, it was a complete fiasco. Only eight regional membership representatives were appointed in 1962, and this part of the contest had to be called off. We had forgotten to exclude the "officers and officials" of MIS, who were naturally way out in front.

In view of all this, we will not designate actual 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, but we WILL distribute $75.00 worth of rhizomes to the top five.. Mrs Frank (Kathryn) Pohlemann, Fred Nacke, Gerry Keefe, Kathryn Chambers and Bonnie Dunbar.

Congratulations to our Median-minded winners! We hope you'll all keep in practise for another better organized contest in the not-too-distant future.

RUDOLF HANSELMAYER - COLLECTOR AND HYBRIDIZER OF IRIS SPECIES

L F Randolph*

The collections of iris species assembled by Rudolf Hanselmayer in his garden at Graz Puntigam in recent years have been a source of much valuable material for botanists interested in studies of special relationship and for hybridizers concerned with the improvement of garden irises. During the past decade a renewed interest in the utilization of species as a source of new germ plasm from which desirable characters of garden value can be obtained, has created an active demand for potentially valuable species, and much of this demand has been supplied from the Hanselmayer Garden.

Although limited opportunities to travel extensively were available to Hanselmayer, a highly respected member of the teaching profession, he made important collections of I pumila and other species in Austria, and established contacts with collectors and botanical gardens in neighboring countries which supplied him with plants. The well known Lemperg-Mayr-Melnhof collection at nearby Frohnleiten was an important source from which many interesting iris species were obtained. In this manner and through exchange of plants with others, Hanselmayer built up and maintained one of the most extensive... if not the most extensive... European collection of iris species and cultivars.

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*Professor Emeritus of Botany, the New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, Ithaca, N Y. This documentation of Hanselmayer's contributions to iris breeding has been translated to German by Dr Peter Werckmeister for publication in the Yearbook of the Deutche Iris und Liliengesellschaft. The original draft with a few additional records added is being published by the Median Iris Society to make these valuable records more readily available to iris hybridizers in the United States.

At the time of my last visit to the Hanselmayer Garden in the spring of 1961, only a little more than a year prior to his death from a lingering illness in May 1962, it was crowded with literally hundreds of interesting plants, chiefly but not exclusively irises since he had wide-ranging interests as an amateur plantsman. There were gathered in his garden representatives of all the more important sections of the genus Iris. The earliest blooming bulbous reticulatas had finished blooming when I was there but in his rock garden there were in full bloom fine specimens of I histrioides, bucharica and various miniature dwarf, rhizomatous species including specimens of I attica and pseudopumila sent to him from one of my earlier collecting trips to southestern Europe. There was also a beautiful flower of I bloudowii, a regelia species not very easily maintained in most gardens, and there were specimens of various miniature apogons not yet in bloom.

Elsewhere in his garden at the time of my 1961 visit the larger flowered standard dwarf bearded species were just coming into bloom and there was a sizable group of the recently produced pumila tetraploid tall bearded hybrids from chiefly American sources about to bloom. It was much too early for the tall bearded species and cultivars, represented by large numbers of specimens, and for the arils and arilbred hybrids, for the various apogons such as the Siberians, Spurias and native American species. I was shown many clay pots of species seedlings emerging from the soil in a corner of the garden devoted to propagation. There were also many hybrids of species and garden varieties produced by Hanselmayer himself, for his interests included the production of many kinds of iris hybrids, as well as the collection, maintenance and distribution of species.

My earliest acquaintance with Rudolf Hanselmayer dates from the spring of 1954 when I first visited his garden during an iris collecting trip to Europe and Asia Minor. The cordial hospitality with which my wife and I were received by the Hanselmayer family on this occasion will be long remembered, as will our subsequent visits in 1958, 1959 and 1961.

Beginning in 1954 Hanselmayer sent me from time to time lists of the irises in his garden and of the crosses he had made in different years. We frequently exchanged species material, garden varieties and hybrids of special interest. His many letters from 1954 through 1961 have included much valuable information concerning his activities as a collector, as a hybridizer and as a careful observer of the iris plants he loved so dearly.

It is from these sources, supplemented by chiefly unpublished reports of their hybridizing activities kindly furnished by American hybridizers who have utilized species obtained from Hanselmayer. that the following records of his iris collections, and of the use made of them in America, have been compiled. Also included are records of iris crosses made by Hanselmayer which were received directly from him. No attempt has been made to include here a comprehensive review of published records from American and other sources readily available in the publications of various iris societies.

Irises Grown in the Hanselmayer Garden

After my first visit to the Hanselmayer Garden in the spring of 1954 the following list of the species growing in his garden was received in November of that same year. These species were designated "Wild forms... collected natives" and, except for a few corrections of typographical errors, are recorded here as they appeared in his list. No attempt has been made to add authorities for, or otherwise modify, specific, varietal or other epithets, since to do so might confuse the record.*

I aphylla
I aphylla bohemia
I aphylla Coerulea
I aphylla germania
I aphylla gracilis
I aphylla hungarica
I aphylla polonica
I aphylla whitish
I arenaria
I attica (6 forms)
I aurea
I bosniaca (B white)
I bosniaca (B yellow)
I bosniaca (B dark yellow)
I bloudowii
I bucharica
I bulleyana
I chamaeiris (coll. Crimea)
I chrysographes (4 forms)
I cristata
I cristata alba
I dichotoma
I ensata
I ensata var chinensis
I ensata var hyacinthina

*Fitz has given us permission to omit in these lists the underlining of species names which is customary in typescripts as the equivalent of italics in print, but which gives a confused look to such compact material.

I ensata var lactea
I foliosa
I graminea
I graminea var pseudocyperus
I foetidissima
I histrioides major
I innominata
I italica (3 forms)
I kharput
I kamaonensis
I lacustris
I laevigata
I macropode
I mellita (4 forms)
I mellita sulphurea
I minuto-aurea
I monnieri
I monspur (2 forms)
I notha
I ochroleuca (3 forms)
I pallida
I pallida aurea variegata
I pallida illyrica
I pseudacorus
I pseudacorus bastardii
I pumila (30 forms)
I reichenbachii (2 forms
I reticulata
I rubromarginata
I rubromarginata lutescens
I ruthenica (2 forms)
I sibirica
I sibirica alba
I sikkimensis
I sintenisii
I songarica
I subbarbata
I talyschii
I taochia
I tectorum
I tectorum album
I urumovii
I variegata
I violacea (carthalinae)
I virginica
I versicolor var kermesina slide
I spuria
I spuria alba
I pseudopumila (2 forms)
I versicolor

In commenting on plants included in this list Hanselmayer mentioned in an accompanying letter that I rubromarginata was obtained from Innsbruck (Tyrolia, Austria) in 1953, but whether from the wild or from a garden was not stated. The identity of I graminea var pseudocyperus, described as a light blue form of the species, was questioned and it was stated that an apparently similar plant in the Lemperg collection at Frohnleiten was labeled I humilis, although it had a stem and this species typically is stemless. Dr Lemperg was quoted as having said he had received several times before the war from Rumania and Hungary so-called I humilis, but these were always I ruthenica. Hanselmayer commented further that he had seen at Frohnleiten labeled as I humilis, a form of I ochroleuca 20-25 inches in height with cream-colored flowers, and in explanation of the uncertainty involved stated that problems of identification in this garden were to be found in other botanic gardens as well.

Appended to the first list of species issued by Hanselmayer in 1954 was a notation indicating that he had in his garden at that time, in addition to the species, 40 named garden varieties of the I chamaeiris group of species, 4 selected color forms of I chrysographes, 300 tall bearded garden varieties, 10 named garden varieties of I kaempferi, 12 siberians, 8 spurias and 4 reticulatas. A listing of these was received in December, 1954 with a few additions in most categories, presumably of plants added during the interim. Most of these garden hybrids were of the sort commonly listed in the catalogs of European and American nurserymen of the period.

In Hanselmayer's list of species it was noted that he had 30 "forms" of I pumila, and in his 1953 and 1954 lists of crosses plants of I pumila were identified by number. Different color forms of I attica also were included in the list of crosses made in 1953. In November, 1954 the following annotated list of nearly 50 clones of I attica and I pumila, apparently including those in his garden in 1953 plus additional specimens acquired more recently, was received from Hanselmayer. It is included here as a record of the plants of those species in his garden and where they came from, and as documentation of the wide range of variability in clones of these species obtained directly from their native habitats. Following the number assigned to each clone by Hanselmayer was a letter in parentheses identifying the source from which the plant was obtained.

1954 List of Pumilae in Hanselmayer Garden

The letters in parentheses following the species name designate the source from which it was obtained as follows: B, Bisamberg; Be, Belvedere Garden; C, Crimea; D, Donez; F, Frohnleiten Garden; G, Giesshübel; H, Hainsburg; R, Randolph Garden; V, Vienna. In the species descriptions the parts of the flower are abbreviated as S, standards; F, falls; B, beard.

1. I attica (F). S cream, F brownish flushed, light yellow edge, B white.
2. I attica or pumila from Crimea (F). S 40 x 30 mm, midrib green, haft brown veined; F light yellow, red-brown spot, haft green veined.
3. I attica (F). Similar to above but color not so deep, flower very small; anthers very long.
4. I attica (Dr Lemperg's species Yu). S 40 x 18 mm, violet; F reddish, 14 mm broad; B clean blue.

4a. I attica P-2 (R). Dull red-purple.
4b. I attica P-5 (R). Bright blue purple.
4c. I attica P-9 (R). Reddish brown.
5. Similar to attica but much larger, as a little pumila.
6. I pumila (C). Very early; S open, erect, light violet. F nearly horizontal, the outer half curved downward, blade darker reddish violet at the center; B blue tipped yellow.
7. I pumila (D). Red violet; S 50 x 18 mm, erect, F dark red-violet, velvety 18 mm wide; B white tipped yellow.
8. I pumila (D). Yellow, height 15 cm; S 60 x 22 mm, open, erect, light lemon; F 14 mm broad, biscuit-yellow, haft dark yellow veined; B white tipped yellow.
9. I pumila sulphurea. Clean light sulphur; S closed, 40 x 20 mm, F 14 mm broad; B white tipped yellow.
10. I pumila sulphurea. Large flowered, similar to above but much larger
11. I pumila (B). Light yellow, olive veined.
12. I pumila (B). Cream yellow, nearly white; S erect; F olive veined; B white-tipped yellow.
13. I pumila lutea (F 1204). Early; S domed; F striated with lilac.
14. I pumila (B). Similar to lutea; but F dirty brownish flushed.
15. I pumila variegata (G). S yellow; F red-brown.
16. I pumila (B). F with a reddish spot. B blue, inwards yellow.
17. I pumila (F 156). Light violet; S almost closed; B light blue, inwards yellow.
18. I pumila (F 1962). Violet; early; S slightly open; F velvety, a little darker than S; B blue, inwards white, brown tipped.
19. I pumila (V). Red violet; flower a little smaller but of better form than others.
20. I pumila (B). Red violet; S open, 55 x 25 mm; F 20 mm broad, tucked as most wild pumilas.
21. I pumila (G). Garnet-red; S open, 30 x 18 mm; F 17 mm broad, velvety; B blue, inwards yellow.
22. I pumila alba (Be). S 50 x 22 mm; F 20 mm broad, blue flushed, greenish veined; B yellow tipped white; anthers white.
23. I pumila (B). Blue violet; S blue; F violet; B light blue inwards brown tipped.
24. I pumila (H). S 55 x 75 mm, closed; F 24 mm wide; B blue, inwards yellow.
25. I pumila (F). Deep red violet; S 45 x 20 mm; F 19 mm wide, velvety; B blue, inwards white.
26. I pumila (F). Reddish violet; S nearly closed; F with lighter edge.
27. I pumila (H). Red violet; S red violet; F darker with garnet spot; B bluish white.
28. I pumila (F). Red violet; S closed, waved; F blue flushed; very floriferous.
29. I pumila (G). Red violet; S nearly closed, 54 x 26 mm, satiny; F 21 mm wide with darker velvety spot; B nearly white.
30. I pumila (G). Similar to preceding but B very blue.
31. I pumila (B). Border red; S 50 x 20 mm, closed waved; F 18 mm darker.
32. I pumila (F). Reddish; S 50 x 24 mm, F 25 mm, velvety; B violet, inwards dark yellow.
33. I pumila (F). Garnet red; S open, 40 x 20 mm; F velvety; B blue.
34. I pumila (H). Lilac; S 50 x 20 mm; F darker, nearly red with lighter edge.
35. I pumila (H). Dark violet; S 55 x 25 mm, erect; F 22 mm; B light blue.
36. I pumila (R). No description.
37. No description.
38. I pumila (F). Blue violet; S 55 x 28 mm, waved; F 20 mm, deep blue, lighter edge.
39. I pumila (F). Red violet, similar to preceding but light reddish violet.
40. I pumila (F). Dark red violet; like preceding but S clear deep violet, waved satiny; F velvety black violet, B blue, inwards yellow.
41. I pumila (F). Blue violet; F velvety dark purple.
42. I pumila (F). Red violet.
43. I pumila (B). Yellow; not seen in flower, should be the finest yellow.
44. I pumila (B). White; not seen in flower, should be more milk-white than No. 22.

This collection of I pumila had an extraordinary color range from white to dark blue-purple, red-purple and deep violet; beard color was extremely variable and the flowers differed appreciably in size and shape. But Hanselmayer was interested in obtaining additional variants, and in less than a year after the receipt of the above list of 44 numbers, a second list exclusively of pumilas, including numbers 45 to 170, was received from him. In this list were plants from Bisamberg, Braunsberg, Hainsburg, Eichkogel and Giesshübel, all of which are localities in northeastern Austria near Vienna.

Iris pumila Collected in Austria, 1956

(B, Bisamberg near Vienna; E, Eichkogel near Mödling; G, Giesshübel near Mödling; KP, collected by Kurzmann in Podersdorf; KR, coll. Kurzmann in Rust; Br, Braunsberg near Hainburg; HS, Hainburg, Schlossberg)

45 B whitish
46 E cream, mahogany spot
47 E whitish
48 B greenish-white
49 B grey-white
50 B brown-red
51 B dark red
52 B brown-red, a little lighter
53 E very dark red, B blue
54 E red with spot
55 E red with gold-brown throat
56 E garnet, B violet
57 E reddish
58 E bluish-red
59 E blue-red
60 E whitish
61 B cream, olive flush
62 B lemon, blue flush
63 B yellow, brown-olive flush
64 B light yellow, green flush
65 B light yellow, brown spot
66 B light yellow, reddish spot
67 B not so clean as 66
68 B clean yellow, S closed
69 E S light, F dark yellow
70 E white-yellow, blue grey flush
71 E white-yellow, green flush
72 E lemon, olive flush
73 E yellow with spot
74 E lemon, small brown markings
75 E dark yellow, ochre spot
76 E cream, dark brown spot
77 E clean cream, S closed
78 E yellow with spot
79 E yellow, S erect open
80 B light lilac
81 B light blue
82 B blue, purple spot
83 B blue, B whitish
84 B violet
85 B dark violet, narrow petals
86 B purple
87 B purple
88 B rich violet, S nearly closed
89 B red-violet
90 E clean violet, B dark
91 E
92 E red-violet, narrow petals
93 E red-violet
94 E red-violet
95 E dark violet, narrow petals
96 E lilac, small red spot
97 E blue-red with spot
98 E darker than 97
99 E red-violet
100 KG near white
101 K Belv. cream, reddish markings
102 KP light yellow
103 KP yellow
104 KP honey-yellow
105 KP variegata
106 KP purple
107 KP purple, S erect
108 KP light brown-purple
109 KR light yellow
110 KR lilac
111 KR blue B white
112 KR
113 Balz. yellowish, small
114
115 K S lemon, F brown-red
116 K S lemon, F brown-red
117
118 K light blue
119 K lilac-rose
120 HS light lilac-rose, F with spot
121 HS light yellow, large
122 HS near white, small yellow spot
123 HS soft lilac-rose, F dark spot
124 HS lilac-rose, F dark garnet spot
125 HS purple, F garnet spot
126 HS light blue-lilac, dark spot
127 HS blue-lilac
128 HS blue-lilac, F garnet spot
129 HS lilac-rose, F dark spot
130 HS rose-purple
131 HS blue-violet
132 HS violet, F reddish spot
133 HS purple F, " "
134 HS lighter than 133
135 HS violet B dark
136 HS violet, large, F white veins
137 Br dark blue
138 Br light blue
139 Br light rose-purple
140 Br white-yellow, S closed
141 G cream, greenish flush
142 G light cream
143 G " " grey-white
144 G light yellow, grey-brown flush
145 G white-yellow
146 G light blue
147 G blue
148 G blue
149 G clean violet, B blue
150 Br variegata, darkest of all
151 Br variegata, a little lighter
152 Br yellow, darkest of all
153 Br variegata
154 Br " small spot
155 Br " S yellow, F light brown
156 Br similar, S yel F light brown
157 Br light yellow F with markings
158 Br a little darker
159 Br violet with dark spot
160 Br white-yellow, open, F olive flush
161 Br light yellow
162 Br yellow
163 Br light blue
164 Br blue
165 Br dark blue
166 Br rose-purple
167 Br violet bitone
168 Br red-violet bitone
169 Br grey lilac with garnet spot

Hanselmayer spent four days in mid-April, 1955, during the blooming season, making these collections. In a letter received from him in July 1955 he reported that he had seen thousands of pumilas at Bisamberg and hundreds near Mödling and Hainsburg, where they were growing on open wooded hillsides or steep, barren slopes. From the brief descriptions of the flowers accompanying this list it was apparent that there was much the same range of variation in these plants as among those included in the earlier list.

From these and other species collections Hanselmayer supplied many plants to various hybridizers in America and elsewhere, and reports on the use made of them will be discussed later.

Included with Hanselmayer's second list of pumilas was a revised copy of the first list with names assigned to several clones. The name "Crimea" was given to No 6, a very early clone from Crimea. No 7 from the Donez region of the USSR was named "Ukrainia", and No 8 also from Donez was named "Sarmatia". No 22, a bluish white clone obtained from the gardens of the Belvedere palace in Vienna was named "Belvedere". From his second list of numbered clones of I pumila (nos 45 to 170) Hanselmayer selected No 53, described in his notes as a very dark red with a blue beard, and in 1958 named it "Vindobona". No 124, described as lilac rose with a dark garnet spot on the falls, was named "Noreia" in the same year.

A clone of I pumila not included in either of these lists was collected by Hanselmayer near Gros Hoflein, Austria and sent to Walter Welch at Middlebury, Indiana, USA, by whom it was named "Hanselmayer" in 1955. The name "Dr Lemperg" was given clone No 4, listed as I attica and designated "species Yu" by Dr Lemperg. A chromosome count of 16 by Professor Straub for this plant was reported to me by Hanselmayer in a letter dated July 9, 1957, thus confirming his opinion that it was a form of I attica. On July 9, 1957, he wrote me that he had given the name "Bernd" to a clear, deep variegata clone of I pumila (No. 201) from Kuban.

With respect to the name "Dacia", referred to by Hanselmayer in a letter dated July 12, 1959 as "the I aphylla which I formerly had labeled as 'aphylla Taochia'", there is confusion due to the latter being from Frohnleiten, where there was uncertainty about its identification. I taochia is a species described by Woronov from the Caucasus, as having bloomstalks of about the same height as those of typical I aphylla, but with flowers either yellow, violet, or whitish. I aphylla as it occurs in the Balkans, rarely if ever has yellow flowers. A clone of I aphylla larger than typical plants of this species was named "Prodan" by Hanselmayer, and later distributed to American hybridizers who have used it extensively in breeding.

During the period from 1954 through 1957 Hanselmayer made many important additions to his iris collections. In pumilas, he added others from Serbia, from the Crimea, the Donez and Kuban areas of the USSR. It was chiefly on these plants of I pumila from the USSR that Randolph and Mitra based their comparison of the karyotype of the 32 chromosome forms of this species from Austria and the Crimea with the karyotype of other plants of this species having 30 chromosomes from the Crimea, Donez and Kuban (Amer. Journ. Bot. 46:93-102. 1959).

(This is the first of three parts; the paper will be complete in the Medianite, Volume 4... Ed)

SPECIES IRIS RECORDS

Edwin Rundlett

While on the subject of species irises, I wish to point out some confusion that we can head off if we all get our records and labels straight. We are going to hear more and more about species irises and the possibilities they contain for breeding. There will be more scientific breeding and less bee pod stuff. Hence, actual clones should be identifiable by the numbers assigned to them by those who collected them in the wild or imported them from foreign collectors.

What we have been through regarding the pumilas should not be repeated with the median wild species. I am especially anxious that the many importations from Hanselmayer be kept accurately separated from each other and from all other importations of wild iris species and their natural hybrids. If this is done, conversations and written communications about them will be meaningful. Otherwise not.

A good way is to make a diary or journal entry with serial number for every iris received. This serial number should appear on every garden label and on crossing tags and in future breeding records.

Aphyllas are already mixed, as aphylla hybrids are quite often being called aphyllas. It is my feeling that most of the so-called aphyllas that are evergreen or nearly so are hybrids with tall beardeds. It is my feeling, also, that the so-called reblooming aphyllas are hybrids and not pure species.

COMMENT ON MEDIANITE

Elizabeth Adams, New Zealand

10 to 15 inches, huh?

If I may make some constructive criticism about the stuff in the Median publications, it all suffers from this fault (i. e. classification muddle) and the even worse one of not even giving the colour. The statement that "the lovely iris SUPERB is fine in every way", period, might just as well not be given at all. I do know that it takes space to say "the lovely intermediate iris SUPERB, pale blue self (spot pattern, plic, or what have you), 16 inches with two branches, has a flower with fine form and flared falls". But it does tell the reader something, and even without parentage, one has some clue as to what the parents might have been. In the case of an unusual parentage, which goes to prove one of the many theories which are being advanced in this dwarf and median field, I think it should, without exception, be given....I love to get my Medianite regardless, but it would be even better if some of it was not so frustrating. Let me hasten to add that AIS and most bulletins are equally guilty, but I have had longer with the TBs and can, perhaps fill in the gaps.

(Recommended reading...Dawson's delightful VC in AIS Bulletin 167, page 56. We try!...Ed)

COLOR CLASSIFICATION

J Arthur Nelson

In our efforts to make the services of the American Iris Society useful to all sections and specialties, we have done some limited experimentation in dividing irises into the proper sections and in giving proper color classification symbols and class numbers to other sections than tall bearded. Although this effort has been time-consuming, it has not been particularly troublesome except for one grouping which involves several sections. I refer to those irises with signals, thumbprints or other markings which occupy less than half of the surface of the fall.

To make the problem clear, let us take the example of an iris which is white-white except for a conspicuous thumbmark or blaze on the falls. If that mark covers more than half the area of the falls, under our arbitrary standards it is listed as a bicolor. If the mark is blue, it is symbolized as W4B.

But suppose, and this is often the case, that the mark, while immediately conspicuous, occupies considerably less than half of the surface of the fall. It seems conceivable that we could go in three directions. If the mark is blue, we could call the iris W1B. We might even call it a white bitone, standards of one color (white) and falls with a touch of another color (blue) and symbolize it W3. But that does not seem to us an exact or honest description. Finally, for purposes of experimentation only, we hit on the symbol cm (conspicuous marking), and thus we would symbolize this iris colorwise as W1Wcm.

We are fully aware that any extension of symbols can get heavy and burdensome, and we are studying carefully some shifts that will eliminate such terms as DD, C and T in the present classification; but we have tried "cm" this year with the idea that out of the discussion of its use might come either approval of the idea or a more satisfactory solution. We did borrow the term shamelessly from our gladiolus friends.

It is our hope to have time enough this summer to study carefully the entire gamut of problems the field of color classification involves, make the shifts toward simplicity and accuracy that are needed, add other items of information that are needed, and present finally a carefully edited book that answers most of the problems all of us face in color classification.

COLOR CLASS POSTSCRIPT

Harry B Kuesel

I think Art's suggestion of using the "cm" symbol after the fall color letter for irises with markings on less than half the area of the falls is a good one. I would go one step further, though and indicate after the "cm" symbol a letter to designate the color of the conspicuous marking. For example, for spot patterns we might use YlcmB for Brown-Eyed Katie, or BlcmBD for Tinkerbell, BlDcmW for a variety with a white blaze on top of falls like Utah Valley. As we said in our Interim Color Classification in the January Medianite, we'd welcome your suggestions for changes in the Median Iris Society's color class list, based on your observations at shows and in gardens during the bloom season. If you think well of the "cm" idea be sure and point out which varieties you think should be reclassified from a bicolor to a self with a "conspicuous marking", and what the color of the "cm" is. Send a postcard or a short note while you think of it during the season, don't wait until after the TB season and try to remember then! Your suggestions should all go to me at 19 Mary Lane, Greenvale, LI, N Y.

(Ed Note: Harry Kuesel is the Median Iris Society's Exhibition Chairman. Art Nelson is the Exhibition Chairman for the American Iris Society, of which the Median Society is a Section.)

CORRECTIONS FOR THE SHOW CLASSIFICATION

GREEN OLIVE: SDB, move from class 16 P & L (Pale to Light Yellow Self) to class 4G (White and green bicolor class.

SKY FLECK: IB, in class 2B, change name to SNOW FLECK.

MERRY MAKER, SDB in class 26L. Registered under 10 inches but not classed as MDB by the Dwarf Iris Society.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF THAT POLLEN!

Earl Rider

After many failures in the use of pollen, I began to realize that something must be wrong with my method of storing...It seemed that it became a question of keeping the pollen dry and cool; so some envelopes were made by me to hold doubled four-inch squares of paper toweling (2 x 4 inches when doubled). They were open on one side and this had a flap much like a regular letter envelope, in fact it was a miniature of the regular envelope. I like the flap as it helps to keep the pollen from falling out. When the flap is turned back it is easy to get at the pollen in the enclosed toweling.

On the envelope I write the name of the pollen parent with a number. For instance, White Mite #1, Wee Blue #2, Atomic Blue #3. When a cross is made the tags have numbers only on them. All this information is in a small notebook. If I forget the name that goes with a number when the seed pods are being catalogued after harvest, that little book soon refreshes my memory.

If the stamens are too "fat" with moisture, they are dried at room temperature, then placed in the folded toweling. This drying may take from 12 to 24 hours. The envelopes are then put into wide-mouth jars and these jars sealed tightly and placed in the refrigerator. One could use the gallon type which has a 4 1/4 inch opening. I like the smaller size and use several of them. No silica gel or calcium chloride, etc, has been used.

These jars are kept in a small basket when doing the pollinating. I remove the jar I want (a piece of paper with pollen parents listed is glued onto each jar). This makes it easier to find the pollen I want. The pollen is taken out and the jar sealed at once to keep the water from condensing on the cool inside of the jar and the cool envelopes. This I feel is important. At no time is basket with contents or jar left in the sun. I either put them in the shade or take something along to make shade.

By using the above method I found that the pollen from the dwarfs... pumila, reichenbachii, mellita, etc, was just as potent at the end of the tall bearded season as during the dwarf season. I have catalogued 1116 crosses and many more stored away for future use. Most of them involved dwarf pollen. Some of this pollen came from the middle west and far west done up in paper toweling. It too was just as potent as what I collected here. Five days in the mail did it no harm.

CLASSIFICATION AND STANDARDS
or
THE TIME HAS COME

In a field of endeavor as new as the Median program, it is only natural that problems will arise despite the intentions and careful planning of the founders. When they do, they must be faced and dealt with positively if the program is to be progressive or even to survive.

It has been apparent for some time that we have a problem in the registration of median irises into classes to which they do not belong. In time these wrongly registered irises will receive awards "out of class". Equally as serious is that when wrongly registered irises win awards, such irises will be considered by judges as standards for that class, creating chaos in the education of judges.

It seems necessary, then, that a study be made to learn why some irises are incorrectly registered and what measures might be needed to insure a trouble-free future. Your president, therefore, has appointed a committee to make such a study. That committee is now at work.

A study of class descriptions will be made to determine whether they might be more clearly written. The human element will be considered for it is possible that some of us do not take the time to thoroughly acquaint ourselves with the specifications of each of the four classes. Suggestions will be sought to encourage commercial growers to correctly list the median irises they offer in their catalogs. These are but a few of the factors involved. The assignment is a difficult one. It will require time to reach conclusions which, it is hoped, will eliminate the problem once and for all.

Bennett O. Jones
Chairman

NAMED OR NUMBERED PUMILAS WHICH HAVE SIRED REGISTERED LILLIPUTS

APRIL MORN: April Blue, Charming Morn, Dawn Favour, Fairy Frolic, Jaylet, Sky Torch
CARPATHIA: Coreop, Just So
CONTENTMENT: Fairy Song
COOK 1546: Dainty Delight, Zing
CRETICA: Dale Dennis, Filee, Little Dogie, Patretica, Patsy Jo, Plickadee, Wee Reggie
DENNIS D-551: Knotty Pine
DORIOT (Nana x pumila): Nylon Charm, Nylon Loveliness, Nylon Rose
FLAXEN: Nylon Blue
HANSELMAYER: Honeytone
HANSELMAYER 10C: Blonde Doll
26: Eye Shadow
LITTLE CHARMER: Orange Blaze
NANA: Tangarose
SULINA: Dark Fairy, Forest Glade, Jersey Lilli, Little Sapphire, Kewpie Doll
WEE TURQUE: Lilaclil
WARBURTON RV: Emma Frances, Red Dandy, Royal Thumbprint
AM-3: Truce
AM-5: Blue Denim, Dessert
WELCH H-503: Austrian Sky, Baby Snowflake, Bouffant Baby, Brown-Eyed Katie, Golden Fair, Pastel Gem, Pretty Pinafore, Snow Elf, Spring Tan
M-549: Blue Ivory
K-505: Allah

THE SPECIES AT NEW PALTZ

Charlotte Gantz

"What do you do with the species? Where do they come in in median hybridizing?" This is the question everyone is asking today, and Jack Goett did a good job of answering it last November at New Paltz.

"The TB people" he said, "feel that species hybridizing is finished. They point to Dominion, Purissima and the Mohrs and think you've had it. But it isn't the end for a moment.. Take aphylla. Bob Schreiner says that's back of the very dark TBs". And Jack illustrated with slides

of Black Swan and Aphylla Hungary or aphylla Dark Violet. (It was suggested that they may be one and the same.) "Blue Boy, of course, was the source of most of the early aphylla blood. The F_1 cross with aphylla often gives something that's not too bad at all."

"Then" he went on, "look at Paul Cook's Whole Cloth from Progenitor...the latter, of course, coming from I. reichenbachii." And he showed Whole Cloth, and the IB Progenitor (which he called "a measly little 16 inch yellow") and in the same line, Miss Indiana, having Whole Cloth as one parent.

The species variegata was behind many of our yellows. This was illustrated by Orange Parade, Golden Masterpiece, Doctor K and Marilyn C. The red Jean Boyd Fittz is probably due to variegata as well.

Pseudopumila comes into the picture, too (showing the species and a rather good F_1 seedling from Snow Flurry x pseudopumila) and attica (with two examples of the species and a reddish seedling from Ola Kala X Attica Parnes.

Mellita has both yellow and purple forms. Lovely ruffled white Mellite is Jack's own seedling from Mellita Vandee crossed with a TB white. A Whole Cloth type has come from this same cross and it would seem that mellita must have the same inhibitor as reichenbachii.

The species imbricata, a pale yellow, should have some value, and the arils such as susiana show other patterns that can be worked in. As illustration, we saw korolkowii (44 chromosomes) which might get these genes into the tall-bearded pool more easily than some of the others; also the lovely arilbred, Wind Shadow, and With Love, one of Jack's favorites. The delightful little Kum-On showed onco blood in a miniature dwarf, and Wee Scot in a standard dwarf.

Finally there is pumila. We saw the RV-2 pumila, an Austrian red-violet, and such dwarfs as Spring Joy and White Mite with pure pumila blood, followed by Veri-Gay, a pumila hybrid with chamaeiris added.

"All of this is ample proof", he concluded, "that medians can benefit by the addition of a wide variety of species blood, and so, most certainly, can TBs; for after we've worked the species into the medians, we can then bring those genes up into the talls."

PREPLANNED CROSSES FROM A HYBRIDIZER'S NOTEBOOK

Earl Roberts

For a blue table iris: Pewee X I pallida I-60A, a very vigorous form from Italy.
Daystar X "

For a possible pink table iris: Daystar X Lillipinkput, F_1 cross, then sib-cross.

To check which of the 24 chromosome species carries the plicata distributor factors:

Widget X pallida, illyrica, cengialti, kashmiriana 24 chromosome.

Possible new combinations for 40 chromosomes:
(aphylla x tall bearded) X pumila
(croatica x tall bearded) X pumila
(balkana x tall bearded) X pumila
(croatica x aphylla) X pumila
(croatica x balkana) X pumila
(aphylla x balkana) X pumila

Possible new combinations for 44 chromosomes:
(aphylla x pumila) X tall bearded
(croatica x pumila) X tall bearded
(balkana x pumila) X tall bearded

Ditto for possible 48 chromosome Border irises:
(aphylla x balkana) X tall bearded
(croatica x balkana) X tall bearded
(aphylla x croatica) X tall bearded

FAIRY FLO

Elsie Henke

I received Fairy Flo direct from George Reese in 1954. It was a guest in Fisher Harris' gardens in Salt Lake at the AIS Convention. It was in the same row as Swan Ballet and looked so dainty and small I fell in love with it, so wrote him and he sent three rhizomes. There was

a large clump in one of the gardens in Oklahoma City and it was MTB there. In my garden it varies from year to year depending on the season, but think it should be included as MTB. It is a blue needed in this class.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON HEIGHT OF VARIETIES

John E Goett

One of the biggest problems at present for an iris hybridizer is to make certain he is registering his baby correctly. Basically it is a personality problem. Most of us are convinced we are growing them properly and therefore the way they grow in our own garden is how they should be registered and grown by others.

The first time I was aware of this was with the varieties Blazon and Whitone. They were registered as miniature dwarfs, and from my understanding they grow about eight inches high in the originator's garden. In mine they went up to 12 to 15 inches with a few stalks up to 18 inches high. So I changed the location of the clumps to no avail. Two years ago I found a sandy spot under a maple tree where the soil is exhausted and I can grow those varieties only six inches high.

For several years I have carried on a verbal skirmish with Bee Warburton as to the height of Knotty Pine. I cringe when I see it in bloom on the spot where the wood chips have caused a nitrogen deficiency (I say!) Several other registered varieties are equally small and stunted compared to the way they grow in Monroe. Yet with equal fervor Bee shows nice lush clumps of other SDBs growing better than in my garden.

I registered an amoena which I called Honeytone. I never formally introduced it since I often found early stalks four to six inches high with one terminal bud and a flower almost TB size. Later stalks 12 inches high with three or four buds were as I would like them. Various friends in other parts of the country have reported back to me that it was my best. Earl Roberts in the AIS bulletin called it the best of its type. I am certain it must be growing better for them. As it is in commerce and listed in several catalogs, conceivably I could receive an HM for it although I did not think it worthy of introduction!

At the Median Show in Bronx Botanical Gardens last year, the judges asked me to settle a dispute. In the yellow MDB class were two entires of Path of Gold. One judge thought the first of these was untrue, another judge thought the second was untrue, and the third judge was sceptical about both. Fortunately for my reputation I was able to settle the dispute. The five inch one with the small poor blossom was mine, growing in my sandy spot under the maple tree. The other was also true, but grown in good soil it was 9 1/2 inches tall or maybe more before the stalk was cut, and had wonderful substance and better finish. One was subnormal, the other better than normal.

Last week a robin arrived with the report that seedlings from some seeds I had sent of Knotty Pine X Brassie had bloomed at 4 and 5 1/2 inches. In my seedling plot I have bloomed over 100 of this cross without a single one under 10 inches high. I am fairly certain that in my garden (don't forget mine is normal) these will be 10 to 12 inches high.

My tentative conclusions are that most medians and dwarfs, particularly those of hybrid nature involving pumila and talls, are particularly responsive to various climatic and food growth factors, which affect not only height but also branching and substance. What is apparently normal soil for some cultivars is not normal for others and the only way we can be sure is to get reports from other growers.

PROJECTS AND PROGENIES. . . . . CLEAN-UP OF THE 1962 SEASON

ROBIN COMMENT

We had more fun watching the very small patch of little ones open this year. There were some interesting ones from How Now and Tolita X Dainty Delight, a cross Jack suggested. The best one was a creamy white, beautiful form and substance. Ruth Stephenson

Is anyone interested in dwarfs that bloom with the talls? I have a dark purple seedling that does just this. It is about 8 to 10 inches tall, not bad as I remember it. I have no parentage but think it was a seedling I found under my Paltec plant. Polly Bishop

This season I had a group of seedlings that were so fragrant that your nose just led you to them. They were from the following cross: (Pink Formal x Baria) X (Mary Randall x Pink Enchantment). They were all light yellow, all short, and all fragrant. When you consider that three of the grandparents were TB pinks, you see that Baria had an awful lot to say for itself. I wonder where the lovely fragrance came from? Irene van de Water

The nice surprise was (Lady Ilse X Sulina). I do like the form of Lady Ilse, but I wondered if it would bring outsize blooms. The first was a dirty cream, big and blowsy. The next an overblown purple, and I was all for yanking the bunch; but seven others were beautiful, excellent form and proportion... white and blue selfs. The first dirty cream had a strong odor of Lily of the Valley.

There was one real lovely from (Lovelace X Welch H-513... mustard, both standards and falls, with the base of the standards edged with light chocolate, and lavender beard.
Dorothy Dennis

The row of seedlings (Whole Cloth X blue Cute Capers sib) was one of the prettiest rows of seedlings I have grown. All were of near dwarf stature, 8 to 11 inches, with very dainty flowers and foliage. There were 37 seedlings, all blues and whites. They had the height of stem to put them in the SDB class, but the size of flowers was smaller than any of the SDBs and more like the miniatures. Alta Brown

I made the Connecticut median tour and had a wonderful time, even if I thought I would melt in the heat. Jack Goett had some very nice things; among them was a seedling #5D-1. This was a cream self with a blue beard. I also liked a violet plic from Knotty Pine, #9D-1 (since registered as Circlette) and a yellow seedling that Jack said he would call Blonde Baby (since registered as Blonde Doll) Patricia Parzick

An interesting pair of seedlings was donated to my research by Alta Brown. These were the result of selfing a seedling from ((Spindrift x Pink Cameo) X April Morn x ?)) which was a queer little mauve blend. Some of the selfed progeny resembled the parent, others were essentially little liney-hafted plicatas. One of the mauves had some falls which had sported, so that part of the petal was exactly like the plicata sib. Jean Witt

I find that more people are expressing an interest in the smaller irises. They are interested in a kind of iris that has some of the finer perfections of their taller brethren, branching, number of buds per stem. I think pumila contributes two good points, a flaring type of flower that is pleasant to look down upon, plus fragrance in many cases, and it also has that pulsation of bloom... sort of waves of bloom. This freedom of bloom plus continuing bloom, plus hardiness seem to me to liken them to a type of iris with the freedom of our polyanthus primroses only in a flower much more graceful. Let's see if we can make them as colorful; primroses have their eyed types, but we in our irises have the pumila spot types... who could ask for anything more!

About pumila spot... have you noticed that in crosses even with a pale light variegata pumila when you cross it with a TB self you may get F_1s that have the spot greatly magnified over the parental pumila? Some almost completely cover the fall with just a margin of good size around the edge of the fall of yellow. Others have the center color about 50% of the falls, still other types have about 30% of the fall with a spot like that of Green Spot. And then there are some that have just a wee bit of a spot alongside the beard like, for instance, Bee Wings. This looks to me like a dosage or cumulative factor, but why the greater intensity in the F_1 over that of the pumila parent? One can see the pumila spot even in Baria if one looks close enough.
Robert Schreiner

I had a first this year... a border iris. Back in '48 I crossed Claribel x Spindrift, along with a lot of similar plic-pink crosses. One seedling was a low pink with purple stripes on the falls, which I crossed to New Adventure and got Oddball, a three foot white plicata with tangerine beard, with both plic marks and variegata lines on the falls. Oddball, back-crossed to New Adventure, bloomed four this year, of which the best was about 26 inches high, with clear peach pink stands and greenish ivory falls widely flared, with brownish-purple peppering on the top part of the falls set off by a light tangerine beard. Wilma Vallette

One of the points discussed at the New Paltz meeting last fall was that new patterns from the species are still lurking in wait for hybridizers with patience to carry species crosses into advanced generations. This to me is graphically illustrated by the series of seedlings from Ballet Girl, a pale orchid pink diploid, X pseudopumila Y-1C. Half of this progeny showed a reverse amoena pattern that I hadn't seen elsewhere. These seedlings had the lovely soft orchid pink of Ballet Girl in the stands, but their falls were a velvety white. I have always intended to repeat this cross and treat the seedlings with colchicine, but have never managed it; in the meantime, the same pattern has come along in the ordinary seedling patch, in the advanced generation pumila-tall crosses, showing that if it is inherent in pseudopumila, it is also inherent in pumila. It seems as though a new type of inhibitor which affects only the falls (whether or not it is the same one projected for the imbricata hybrids starting with Wide World), would be a welcome addition to the hybridizer's potentials. Bee Warburton

ANENT FAIRY FLAX — Alta Brown

Fairy Flax surely does have good color and shape and is a proven breeder. It is too bad that it does not grow well in all areas. Even here in Seattle some folks have difficulty growing it. Some of the finest seedlings I have grown have had it as one parent. I have wanted to grow some intermediates from it, but as yet have had no takes on it by TB blues. The nearest that I have come is (Fairy Flax x blue pumila sib of Cute Capers) X Whole Cloth. Several seedlings of this cross were pollinated with Whole Cloth and it will be interesting to see what comes of them.

Another excellent cross was the one that produced Sky Baby (Fairy Flax X Snow Elf). The latter added width of petal and some ruffling. Fairy Flax isn't an easy pod parent for me, but I have worked at it a lot. Last season about 15 pollinations were made and all I got was one bee pod. It surely is frustrating when one cannot go ahead with one's breeding program as planned.

MORE ANENT FAIRY FLAX — Adelaide Peterson

Everybody told me Fairy Flax NEVER had pollen, but I kept watching and one day I found an anther with some pollen. I put it on Green Spot, purposely, to try to find out if Green Spot could have been the pollen parent of my Fairy Flax X unknown seedlings. A pod was formed and I got some 14 seeds and ultimately 8 seedlings. All bloomed this past spring, six exactly the same blue as Fairy Flax, two whites with greenish markings... now I know two things. First, Fairy Flax did have pollen at least once, anyway; and Green Spot couldn't have been the parent of those 1958 Fairy Flax babies that seemingly have nothing in common as to type or character with these new seedlings.

GOOD PARENTS — Bonnie Dunbar

First, the use of Allah is good with tall beardeds or other things with blue or violet beards; violets give interesting strange combinations of color and beards, especially if used to tall bearded violets with self or blue beards. This would give you 44 chromosome intermediates. Used back to pumilas or reverse, rosy-violets with self beards also give interesting progeny with beards of smoked tints and darker shadings.

The use of Fairy Flax has never given us any outstanding results; could be our selection of parents with this one. Green Spot and Baria are both fine parents; our choice would be Green Spot, used either way, and on almost any color combination it gives some very nice seedlings. Baria, if podded, gives seedlings with fine flaring form and good substance. If you're working for good yellows, Brassie works wonders also, with its two shots of pink genes; if tried with tall pinks it gives pinks and yellows. We have tried it this year with talls out of pink lines, hoping to come into those luscious color breaks almost matching the coloration of the California navel orange.

Lilli-White should also give interesting progeny when used with Green Spot. Dark Star has given us some very fine darkies with self beards and very fine form. Used on or to Garnet Treasure, it imparts that elusive slight differentiation of color shadings in the falls.. Louvois types. Seedlings from this type cross almost always give very interesting progenies.

SEEDLINGS — Alta Brown

I had quite a lot of nice plics this past year involving Dale Dennis and Little Dogie crossed with Captain from Castile. Also some fair SDBs from (Firecracker x Tabasco) X Cretica. There were some fairly good reds in the group, too.

The season here was quite rewarding. I found interesting things in all classes and was quite successful with crosses. In the new SDB seedlings was a row of whites from Snow Elf X a white lilliput seedling that were the best whites I have yet seen. Some were pure, pure white with the lovely form of Snow Elf. I also had some interesting Pinnacle types from Pastel Gem. I was thrilled to get a small Whole Cloth from one of the (Fairy Flax x pumila) X Whole Cloth, rather nice in shape but some haft veining. I also have a little Mary Randall... good shape, nicely branched and a lovely rose color. It is from (Baria x TB pink) X Mary Randall. From (Snow Elf x sib) X Flyaway came some really nice whites and blues, one special lavender-blue with lacy-edged, wide, flaring falls.

Probably the most exciting seedlings in the garden were the onco-meds.... some lovely things here, especially from (Snow Flurry x Sea o'Blue) crossed with Bali Agha: a real chartreuse green, a wide lovely white, and one with blue stands and chartreuse flaring falls. All had excellent shape and heavy substance. Green Spot X Bali Agha gave different patterns but all quite lovely.

CROSSES OF BB INTEREST — Robert Milner

Party Dress X Porreca's Rose Ballet gave a whole series of delightful pinks and deep mulberry-orchid tones of great width and substance. Golden Flash X Frenchi was a big disappointment... very few t beards in this cross which was not true of other crosses using Golden Flash with t beards... why?

Harder #418-2 pink X Frenchi gave only two blooms with many left over for next year, but these were most interesting... one was pink over bright orchid, a real shocker, and the other was pink with heavy violet lining on the falls... this was a standout in spite of the way it sounds. The pattern is striking and not muddy.

I bloomed over 200 seedlings from various tall pinks crossed by pollen from Zickler's Twilight Sky X Nana and by white pumila... all were yellows except one pink (a horror) from Happy Birthday. A great many of the yellows had pink slips in the petals, and near tangerine beards. I backcrossed one of these to another tall pink so I should get pinks from this, and perhaps BBs. There were some beautiful little IBs in this material.

FANCY PATTERN — Bee Warburton

It is rather odd that plicatas of the "fancy" type are so scarce. I had never seen one in a seedling patch, and except for my own I have never heard of a cross made purposely to produce them. The 40 chromosome parent I used in the cross was a happenstance in one of the tall bearded plicata X Cretica crosses for plicata lilliputs. Two of these "fancies" occurred in the cross of Love Affair X Cretica, and in both the coloring was different from that of any other iris I have seen. Perhaps their lack of popularity is due to the mottled effect, but as this doesn't stop gardeners from growing other sorts of mottled flowers, it is probably just one of those inexplicable matters concerning public taste.

The Love Affair lilliputs were both beautiful in color, one being the color of spring violets and the other a quite pink orchid. The latter proved to have fertile pollen; due to the frustrating non-germination of some of these crosses, out of 33 seeds on Castle Rock just one bloomed last year, but this one turned out exactly right.. the same sort of baby-ribbon orchid pink and a real fancy. I like it even if the color isn't smooth.

INTERMEDIATES — Earl Roberts

Ed Zickler is getting more odd breaks than anybody could imagine. He has an intermediate pink plicata with a RED beard, it is far better than New Adventure in the talls. It came from

that original cross that gave all the odd things with tangerine beards... flesh pink, near plicata, etc. The seedling used was IF-7-7 X Taholah. How the pink came from Taholah I'll never figure out but with Zickler's pinks I've quit trying... he just gets them!

This seedling is numbered IH37-2 and I described it as "stands pink-orchid quite deep and solid, falls widely edged pinkish lavender, 19 inches tall, one branch, 4 to 5 buds, beard whitish tipped deep tangerine-red, deeper red in the throat. In this same cross are two lanky tallish plics, sort of yellowish with purple edge, and one yellowed white plicata quite neat with good contrast.

This same near plicata seedling IF-7-7 X Little Dogie (Mariposa Mia x Cretica) gave nearly all plicatas, I counted 21 with one purple self and two light yellow selfs. Of the plics six were nearly orchid-colored, two yellow with heavy yellow hafts, one yellow plicata, one oddball with stands gray-white sanded at the haft, falls white with heavy yellow flush at the haft extending halfway down the falls. Mostly white beards, one blue-bearded plic. Six plics had the edging all the way around the falls. They ran from 10 to 20 inches in height, some real beauties.

The original IF-7 cross was ((Twilight Sky x cream pumila) X (Desert Song x cream pumila). Pollen of both cream pumilas came from Welch's garden at the time he was breeding for white pumilas and they are different creams. Ed is getting a large number of pink intermediates from that apricot, or as he calls it, flesh-colored seedling with tangerine beard, IF-7-14. It may prove a better breeder than Tangarose which is from (Twilight Sky X Nana).

There is some difference between the two intermediate lines of Greenlee and Zickler and my own line of 44 chromosome intermediates, in size, growth and style. The Greenlee-Zickler intermediates are like smaller versions of the tall bearded irises in branching, stalk, size of bloom. My new intermediate lines are more like lilliputs than tall beardeds, with smaller sized flowers, less branching, blooms more at the top of the leaves, so that a clump of these IBs looks like a larger clump of the lilliputs, with a mass of bloom open at once. Apparently that double shot of dwarf is the cause of this... as you all know, the new 44s come from TB X (Progenitor x pumila). Progenitor is from the dwarf I reichenbachii X TB, so with the double dose of reichenbachii and pumila dwarfs, it tends to pull down the size of both flower and stalk, and makes them quite balanced. for Helen

I still can't understand why this strain of my 44s should be so very fertile, even in germination. Analyzing them doesn't help... they come from (Progenitor x pumila) X TB. Now Progenitor comes from a tetra reichenbachii x tall, so it would have 24 chromosomes from reichenbachii plus 24 chromosomes from tall. Crossed with pumila, that hybrid would carry 12 reichenbachii x tall, plus 8 from pumila PLUS 24 from the tall bearded pollen parent. Total: 12 plus 24 plus 8 equals 44. Obviously the reichenbachii and tall are pairing and maybe some of the pumila as well.

The 1962 season was fair. The best crosses again were in the 44s:

62R7: Dutch Doll X 3355... lavender-blue, deeper blue flush at the light blue beard, 20 inches, excellent form, falls flared with a lilt at the tips.
62R10: sib, medium steel blue self, slightly darker center line on falls, blue beard, 15 inches.
62R11: Dotted Swiss X 3355... smoky grey tipped pale cream, the standards having a purple flush at the lower midribs, the falls a blue streak in the center, blue beard, and flaring form with a lilt to the falls.
62R12: a sib, grey-white stands with a bluish tinge, falls blue with deeper flush in the center, and again that flat flaring form with the lilt to the falls.
62R20: Dutch Doll X 3355... stands slate blue, falls same with deeper blue flush, green-brown hafts, blue beard tipped orange, 19 inches.
62R21: Dotted Swiss X 3355... light blue-grey self, light blue beard, clean.

Somehow I missed numbering a sister seedling that was a smoky yellow with bluish streak in center of falls, very odd and different. These were the first blues I have had in the 44s and almost all were different and nearly good enough to name.

(Note: 3355 is a Cook seedling from Progenitor X pumila, cream with blue blaze in the falls.)

STANDING ROOM ONLY AT THE WESTERN MEDIAN IRIS TEST GARDEN

OR

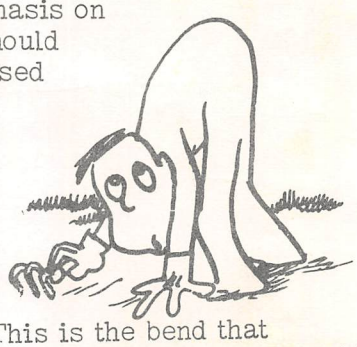
SPRING CAME ROUND THE BEND!!!

On Sunday, March 31st, 1963 the Western Median Iris Test Garden was host to a judges' Training Session for Region 14, AIS. This was the first session in this Region primarily designed to familiarize judges with median irises and the heavy turnout was most encouraging. The Walters' garage had been turned into a classroom with the aid of all available neighborhood chairs and patio benches, but seating had to be extended to stools and apple boxes as a final count of 41 people poured in.

California has weather problems, too, so the garden judging was conducted first, with emphasis on growth differences in various classes of iris and one eye on the clouds. As the morning shower came, the group adjourned to the classroom for a short welcome by Roy Oliphant, RVP, and announcements on the newest AIS judging rules. An extensive workshop conducted by Frank Hutchings, Regional Judges Training Chairman, made good use of the judging handbook questionaire.

Lunch break featured sack lunches well seasoned with iris talk, tours of the TG and trips to the Regional coffee-pot. The afternoon classroom work relied heavily on Crescent Deru's Exhibition Judging of Median Irises, as differences in standards for the classed involved were demonstrated and discussed by Keith Keppel, First Vice-President of the Median Society, with the aid of flowers cut from his own garden. The questions posed by the judges attending showed real interest on the part of many in learning more about the "other-than" irises. Margaret Burnett had graciously dug and brought clumps of seedlings and a few named varieties so that they could be seen in their true proportions, and we all feel that the clump of Dancing Bee she brought tempted many TB buffs to "live a little" and try medians.

To sum up, the plus values of the day were these: repeated emphasis on the fact that a judge contracts to judge all irises, not just TBs, and should learn to do so honestly and well; many judges for Region 14 were exposed to some idea of the standards for the and difference between median classes. A few saw medians blooming in the garden for the first time; and many people learned where the Test Garden is, and we hope will come back again. Many judges drove 200 miles to attend the meeting and it was most gratifying to have the garage-classroom full to overflowing. We hope this meeting has been of benefit to median judging and has perhaps inserted a median wedge into many a TB mind!



This is the bend that SPRING is just around!!

To date (April 1st, 1963) the Test Garden has had a total of 24 varieties in bloom, all SDB except Curtsy (MDB) and Florinda, (IB). In nearly all cases they are blooming very short; probably because of abnormal cold in January, flood the first week of February, and more thunder, rain hail and frost since than the Chamber of Commerce would care to tabulate. Bauble, How How and Orange Blaze, however, are behaving normally and reaching their usual height on the first spikes.

The first variety any visitor sees is Austrian Sky. The color is so clear and so very blue, while the lighter beard and the spot pattern point up the blueness of the balance of the flower. Not many notice that the wide leaves come right up between the flowers and that a flower that size might well use another three inches of stem under it to be in proportion" The one they look at twice before they leave is Dark Fairy. At the time of the "invasion" it had five stalks in bloom, every flower just as perfect in form and as rich and smooth in color as one could wish. This one has been consistently popular with visitors since it opened its first flower March 19th. (TG Supv. note: took one look at this and dug out all the dark SDB sdlgs I'd marked to save!!) Orange Blaze is proving an excellent performer, also It is good SDB height and proportion which stood the hard showers well and the blaze is most attractive, but here the base color is soft deep yellow and the blaze or spot is olive-toned. The perky flaring flower has a lot of personality. Delicate Air's mass of flowers proved not at all delicate to stormy weather; its very heavy bloom is of a coloring that provokes either "ooooh" or "ugh" depending on the reaction of the viewer to that combination of palest porcelain blue and cress green.

In the anticipation department, the first spike is showing on Bob Damoth's 62RB 16/08/1 (Saffron Charm X Pink Formal)..Arctic Ruffles is showing color; Elfin Erin will bloom soon. There are goodies yet to come clear through the middle of May. If you can manage it, y'all come!!

GOOFS AGAIN

This time we missed cutting and gluing Aruba..Aruba..Aruba on page 11. The goof on the next line from the bottom on page 22 should add to the enjoyment of any judging session...but we are really dismayed at having added five points to Crescent's scores for IB and SDB on page 23 so that we require 105 points for perfection. Crescent says:

"The mistake is under CONDITION, Freshness. In SDB the score should be 0 points for this score. I recommend leniency in judging the freshness of SDB when exhibited in a TB show because the exhibitor would have to refrigerate, and I think anyone who goes to that bother for the educational value of SDB in a TB show ought to bet a break. There is a - 5 on grooming if there are faded flowers, which fixes that."

Aruba..Aruba..Aruba..!!!

ON REFRIGERATING

Bee Warburton

Try refrigerating some of your median irises for the shows this year. Some of them will fit into a large crisper and this works fairly well, but they really need to stand up in a container full of water for best results. Pick them a day or so before the buds are due to open, and tie the buds up with wax paper, tissues, saran wrap or such and plant ties, rubber bands or string. I find that the string is best because it can be tied just the right tightness. These are so marvelously easier to transport to the show that I now tie up buds of all the stalks I want to enter. However, it is necessary to take them to the show the night before if they have been tied up for long, as they will spring open when they are released, and take some time composing themselves into their normal beauty. They will sometimes keep for as much as two weeks.

Never mind complaining to me about using all that refrigerator space! My husband is no more patient than yours (or your wife), but I have an extra refrigerator!

LILLI-CHAM FERTILITY

Peg Edwards

Some things seem to be more fertile in one place than in another, and most of us have established our own lines of breeding so that a TB that might be highly fertile and an all-around good parent for some of Bee's breeding lines might give quantities of dogs with Albert's line and refuse to cross with Molly's...and maybe give ME loads of seeds that won't germinate. For an example, I had two seedlings, both of which podded nicely with Brassie pollen and made nice pods ON Brassie, but I tried for three years to cross the two and they would not pod each other. So I would say never condemn an iris as a possible parent on someone else's sayso..it might work out fine in your own breeding line, and someone else's favorite mama could be a mess for you.

I was interested in Bee's comment in her seed list that "so few involve chamaeiris", in line with my remarks about one man's good parent being another's "little stinker". Bee has found the lilli-chams to be rather sterile; my own experience has found them rather fertile. I admit the possibility that I just happened to have some chams to start with that were highly fertile, and crossed them with lil's that were genetically similar enough to be compatible: or it may be the weather! In any case, I've had some very fertile stuff from these crosses, and they come to bloom faster for me than seedlings of either type parent..... Peggy Edwards

WHAT'S GOING TO BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER?
WE HAVE A WONDERFUL LIST OF DONATIONS ALREADY FOR
Have YOU sent in your list? First supporter, DONATE TO
Second supporter, BID!!! You can't lose in the MIS

AuCTion!

Send your list of offerings to President Jack Goett before May 1st!!!!!

help!!!Help!!!HELP!!!HELP!!! PLUIE D'OR.....RESEARCH PROJECT!!!!!!!

If Pluie d'Or is among the varieties of Iris that you grow, won't you find a minute during the blooming season to set one carefully selfed pod on it for research purposes? The limited number of seedlings reported by Bill McGarvey and myself (see The Medianite, Vol 3 p. 78, October 1962) suggest that conclusions of real value might be drawn if we could raise several hundred plants instead of a few dozen. Won't you help? Selfings of other diploid TB yellows would also be useful, as would crosses of yellows and whites.

Jean Witt

FLASH!!!! As we go to press, two more REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES!!

Region 18: Mrs Mildred E Grove, 1452 Lulu, Wichita 11, Kansas
Region 7: Mrs Eleanor Jackson, Rt 7, Box 198, Reidsville, N C

Membership correction: Mrs Agnes E Zerr, incorrectly listed as Zett.

STANDARDS ON THE SHOW TABLE

Crescent Deru

It will be on the show table where standards for the four classes of medians will be demonstrated best. In the border irises, for instance, a variety that is short enough but with flowers of normal TB size will be demonstrably out of scale. The comparative study of the four different classes of medians right on the show table will tell its own story.

BROWNIE

Bob Schreiner

I just wanted to slip in a word about that unusual iris Brownie. This iris is evidently one of those breeder breaks that defies conventions or acts differently from what its parentage suggests. To elaborate a bit further on the parentage of Zwanenburg, Lutescens Aurea, which my Dad grew and which I knew as a boy, was not a pseudopumila. It was a taller, larger type of chamaeiris. Many of these types were distributed by Millet et Fils (France) or Barr of England. It took Fitz Randolph to introduce to us here in the United States the true pseudopumila.

Twyla labeled this SOFT SELL
but we don't consider MIS
membership that sticky! And
incidentally, we've become a
national symbol of some sort...
just look at April Fool page 17
of March 30....TV Guide.
In case you've thrown yours out,
we quote "Tough guys are iris
pollinators in private life....."

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