

THE MEDIANITE

Quarterly Publication of the Median Iris Society

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All announcements, reports, articles, etc. should be in our office the first of the month prior to the month of issue in order to be sure of publication at the desired time.

WANTED!

Good, clean, contrasty black-and-white photos of irises, people, shows, or gardens of interest to median iris lovers.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS - If you are moving, please notify your MIS Membership Chairman directly. You will then receive your copy of MEDIANITE without delay besides saving the Society money for Postage Due on returned, undeliverable copies. The U S Postal Service no longer furnishes the new address, so we cannot even get in touch with people to find out where they are. Help yourself (and us) by sending both old and new addresses to Connie Russell. Thanks!

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The Median Iris Society



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It is customary, at the beginning of a new administration, for the incumbent president to introduce himself to the membership for the benefit of those who have not met him. My wife, Elinor, and I live on an acre of ground in Littleton, Colorado (a suburb of Denver). Elinor is a retired teacher of the romance languages, and I work as Director of Employee Policies at Johns Manville—one of the Fortune 500 corporations that recently moved its world headquarters from New York to Denver. I moved about 100 irises from my convention display garden on Long Island in 1971 and they have multiplied tenfold. I gave away hundreds of irises when I left, and somehow they have returned since the move and multiplied. I am interested in all kinds of irises, bearded and beardless, species and hybrids, but medians have always been in the forefront. They do much to extend the season, and when spring comes I can hardly wait to see the first flowers burst forth. In Colorado they literally start to pop up right through and between the snowstorms. These are short-lived blossoms, of course, but most medians have hybrid vigor and are ready to produce many more blossoms again and again as the early blossoms fade. I can recall a two-year clump of Gingerbread Man. It started in early May and from two small rhizomes planted in August of 1971, produced a tremendous clump of more than fifty blooms, and it was still blooming when I returned from the AIS convention in Philadelphia a month later.

At this time I would like to express the appreciation of the Society for the leadership and excellent work done by Tony Willott, our past president. Tony and his wife, Dorothy, did a great job bringing us up to date on many new medians at our annual meeting in Philadelphia. They have also introduced some fine new dwarfs that are welcome additions to the earliest bloomers among our four major classes.

One of our goals for 1974 is to have a Median Iris Display Garden in each of the AIS Regions. Check on page 26 of the April, 1973, *MEDIANITE*. If your Region does not have a MIS Display Garden yet, we urge you to write to Betty Wood, our new Display Garden Chairman, telling her about your medians and how you can help.

Our Society is healthy, it is still growing, and we urge all our members to share their enjoyment in median irises by asking other gardeners to join us. Let each one reach one!

The President's Patch



Harry B Kuesel, President

Sincerely,





YEAR in and year out our society has been extremely fortunate in its officers and directors, attracting the cream of talent, energy, and leadership. It has been a very rewarding experience to work with and for our good friend, Tony Willott, and we congratulate him for having done an excellent job as President. We wish both Tony and his charming wife, Dorothy, a successful future as hybridizers of median irises.

We regret the fact that Tony was unable to remain in office for another term, due to the press of business, but we feel that our Nominating Committee, consisting of Ken Waite, Alta Brown, and Gene Tremmel, have come up with a slate of officers and directors that is truly inspired. Anyone who has ever come in contact with our new President, Harry Kuesel, knows him for a human dynamo—a man who gets things done! We look forward to an exciting year ahead under his leadership. First Vice President, Earl Roberts, is one of the most knowledgeable of medianites, growing what is probably the largest collection of species irises in the world. Second Vice President, Betty Wood, is well known for her excellent photographs of our favorite flower. Betty has consented to take over Harry's job as Director of Display Gardens, and her well-organized report in this issue is indicative of her fine scientific mind (which does not detract a bit from the warmth of her personal charm!). Your editor has not yet had the pleasure of meeting Grace Carter, our new Secretary, but she comes very highly recommended. Lastly, Paul Hoffmeister has consented to remain as our exemplary keeper of the treasure chest. We wish all of our new officers sincere congratulations on their election and look forward to 1974 with eager anticipation.

We are pleased to note several very fine articles in various regional and local bulletins and newsletters on the subject of median irises. We especially wish to congratulate Hooker Nichols for the excellent issue of the Sooner State Iris News for which he was Guest Editor, and which we are pleased to reprint in part in this issue of THE MEDIANITE. These local and regional publications are doing great service to the cause of median irises by spreading the good word about early and little irises to irisarians who may not have read this publication—indeed, who may never have seen anything but tall! We sincerely hope this trend continues, not only in the United States but in publications of iris societies all over the world.

Finally, I guess I can take a hint as well as the next person! Only one reader took the trouble to write to us concerning the two-column vs. one-column format—and he favored keeping only one. So, in this issue we have returned to our old style. Now does anyone wish to make a comment?

Robbie



Review: "The Iris Book"

by Molly Price, revised paperback edition,
Dover Publications, Inc., \$3.00



OW fortunate are new irisarians, and old ones too, to have available this beautiful revised edition of Molly Price's superb Iris Book at such a reasonable price! Here is the complete text of the 1966 edition with up-to-date lists of more recent irises, and without a doubt this is the best book available for the general gardener who wants to learn all about irises, and with information of interest and value to new specialists and experienced irisarians who are eager to learn about the rarer members of our fascinating genus.

It is a wonderfully complete book with discussion of all sorts of irises and all angles of interest in irises, culture, garden pictures, various types of bearded irises, colors and patterns, arils and arilbreds, beardless types, native American irises and the bulbous kinds, diseases and pests, hybridizing, people and shows, with various appendixes telling about species, sources of plants, awards, and the societies open for further interest and information. There is a good glossary, and a list of references, which could have been improved by being brought up to date. Unfortunately, some of the sources listed are no longer available, but these are small flaws in a superb production.

The book itself is well made, with high quality paper and binding, and should be a permanent addition to the iris library, of which it is sure to be the star.

—BAW



Mid-America Median Iris Society

Mary Helen Jarrell



THE second meeting of the Mid-America Median Iris Society was held in Sioux City, Iowa, on May 11 and 12, 1973. Friday arrivals met in the lobby of the Aventino Hotel, enjoyed dinner together, and reconvened at the Hotel for a discussion, led by Sam Street, on judging practices and ethics. We were then entertained with a slide program. We were especially pleased to have Mr and Mrs J Arthur Nelson drop in for this meeting.

Saturday morning we were treated to a continental breakfast and then started our tour. We were guests in the Sioux City gardens of Vera Ludden, Ethel Ricker, and Rose Parsons. Some newer irises were seen as well as some un-introduced seedlings, but we were at least a week early for peak median bloom. Then back to the cars for a visit to the garden of Larry Harder at Ponca, Nebraska. This garden is only five years old and was absolutely fascinating. Not just irises, but everything. This writer found the dwarf *Albertii* spruce particularly enchanting, and companion plants were lovely—bleeding heart, dwarf coreopsis, etc. All kinds of irises were seen. The ones I liked best were Little Chestnut, Wee Lad, Puppet, Three Smokes, Baby Baron, and one of Mildred Brizendine's seedlings, #30-66. Baby Baron was outstanding everywhere it was seen. Then back to Sioux City for a lovely luncheon at the hotel, followed by our business meeting. In the afternoon some of us visited the Smith Nursery at Vermillion, South Dakota, to see commercial plantings. I was stopped cold by three 50-foot rows of Cup and Saucer in full bloom. Also, some of the most beautiful lilacs I have ever seen. Back to Sioux City for iris talk and dinner. Sunday morning the remaining seven of us had breakfast together then started our separate journeys homeward.

All attending thoroughly enjoyed this meeting and we want to express our thanks to the persons who so graciously opened their gardens to us, and to the hard-working committee for making this meeting such a success. See you in Topeka in 1974!



Philadelphia Convention 1973

Penny Chism



LOOKING back on a convention as nice as this spring's will provide many happy recollections in the future. I saw beautiful gardens of many types and equally beautiful irises from almost all of the different classes of bearded irises, but I especially enjoyed meeting and getting to know irisarians from all over.

Since the convention was late for standard dwarfs, the only ones noted were Stockholm (Warburton '71), a blue-bearded yellow with nice flare, and Orchid Raye (A Brown '69), just the last bloom left at the Newhard garden, as the name describes, an orchid self with a darker ray pattern around the beard. I'd also like to mention Gingerbread Man (B Jones '68) as seen at the Southern California Aril Trek, a golden brown with a violent violet beard—really an eye catcher.

We had much more to see in the intermediate class. My favorite new one here was Red Tempest (A Brown '73), an absolutely smooth red with a self beard and lovely rounded crisp form. A real honey! Azure Echo (Durrance '69) is a pastel blend of blue and yellow, the yellow rimmed falls flaring nicely. Several golden yellows were in bloom; Gold Buttons (Hamblen '64), Posy Parade (Plough '70), and Golden Frost (A Brown '72), the last looking the best to me with lots of bloom and ruffled flowers. Apache Gold (A Brown '70) and Butterscotch Frills (Hamblen '70) were of similar coloration, yellow with deeper washed falls, both very nice. Dinger (Schreiners '71), white with a blue patterned fall patch, was different although the flowers seemed a bit large for good proportion in the Newhard garden. Not far away in the same garden Lillipinkput (Douglas '59) was showing its glowing orange apricot color. Here also was Swizzle (Hager '72), a yellow and brown plicata with very nice flare.

Weirdo (Schmelzer '69) was aptly named, I thought, being blue-violet with brown covering the haft. A very unusual color was Turtledove (Moldovan '69), a pastel blend with a mother-of-pearl look about it. Brooklet (A Brown '72) was a cute blue and looked very nice at the Zdepski garden. I'm afraid I spent too much time there at the iced tea table and neglected my reporting duties! So I'll mention two irises in this

class that were putting on a nice show in Southern California—Sea Patrol (C Palmer '70), a frosty sky blue on a nice stalk on the aril trek, and in my own yard, Vamp (Gatty '72), brilliant burgundy maroon with darker fall patch, adding a lot of color to the garden.

On to the border bearded. Perhaps the most memorable sight for me was a bank in full bloom of three Knowlton Medal winners in the Hixson garden. Yellow Dresden, Tulare, and Frenchi—what a color combination! Here also was Jungle Shadows, that oddity that one recognizes anywhere.

Another favorite of mine was Tanya Elizabeth (Wolff '72), a perky blue-violet flower, ruffled and flared, the lovely clump looking almost navy blue in the shade. So Chic (Hamner '73) is a lovely pastel pink over white with good substance and ruffles. Standards are open but firm, and the bright red-pink beard adds just the right touch. Botany Bay (B Jones '67), a deep blue self, was a nice clump in the Kegerise garden, and a magnificent clump in the Hixson garden. Raspberry Sundae (Niswonger '72) has rounded form in red-violet with a red beard—bright. Dream Date (E Kegerise '73) is a nicely formed white border with ruffles.

Being partial to blue amoenas and reverse amoenas, I was particularly taken with J. Tucker's Pebbles ('64) and Blue Warbler ('71). Both have nice rounded form, the latter showing a very nice clump in the Chariott garden. Oracle (Ghio '71), a light blue with deep blue blot pattern from balkana breeding, was different. Both Miss Petite (Wright '71) and Miss Ruffles (Wright '67) showed quality and lovely flower form in light yellow and light blue respectively, both doing very well in the Snyder garden. In the "something different" class were Brown Rings (A Brown '65), a small Punchline, and Olive Cocktail (A Brown '69), and olive it was—both irises to add the unusual to your garden. Two nice plicatas in the Newhard garden were Mexicali (Keppel '70), a lilting yellow and white with reddish peppering, and Little Mark (Quadros '66), a nicely branched red-violet on cream. In my own garden the outstanding border iris was Embroidery (Keppel '71), a plicata with blue stitching on white ground, good branching, and lots of substance. It was a favorite with garden visitors.

And, finally, the miniature tall. Putting on a real show was Carolyn Rose (Dunderman '71), a veritable forest of bloom in white with rose sanding. The flowers have a porcelain-like quality. This same quality was seen in Opal Imp (Dunderman '71) in iridescent white to blue. Blue Trimmings (Welch '65) has light blue standards and dark violet-blue falls with white haft marks that add a lot of personality. Three of Dorothy Guild's miniature tall were blooming at the Newhard garden: Bit o' Afton ('70), white over violet with yellow beard; Flashing Beacon ('70), variegata coloring on petite flowers; and Lemon Cliche ('71), not up to par but showing the clean lemon coloring.

I had a lovely time and I would like to return some day during iris time and soak up the lush greenness of Pennsylvania. The Convention Committee did a tremendous job.



Experiences in Median Hybridizing

Tony Willott



JHAVE noticed greatly increased interest the last few years in other than tall bearded irises, and believe this is due largely to the fact that there is much more opportunity to originate an iris that is different from anything else if you are working with other than tall. I remember a speech by Dr Cosgrove at an AIS convention in which he told of his experience in breeding tall bearded. He spent many years in an intensive hybridizing program and ended with irises that were inferior to the original parents. Dr Cosgrove is a tremendously witty speaker and has a wonderful way with the English language, however I do think he may have exaggerated how bad his seedlings were. Still, this points out the problem that confronts most small-scale hybridizers. While it is becoming more and more difficult to come up with a tall-bearded iris that is better or different from existing varieties, there is a tremendous area for developing unusual and improved smaller irises.

My wife, Dorothy, and I have just recently become serious hybridizers in the median field with our first introduction, Lemon Spot, in 1968. We have found that a superior seedling or group of sibs can be the beginning of a strain from which you can move in many directions to develop a style of your own. For example, Helen Doriot's Nylon series was from a cross of Snow Flurry x pumila, and crosses with her Nylon Loveliness in particular have carried the attractive Snow Flurry ruffling to later generations of standard dwarfs. Two of our introductions, Baby Dragon and Carousel Charm, show this characteristic from Nylon Loveliness.

Some of these attributes disappear in the first generation of a wide cross, but surface again in the second or third generations. The biggest problem is the ability to recognize these factors in your seedlings and the patience to carry out a program to pair desirable characteristics.

There are many fine medians available with which to start a breeding program. Introductions from Alta Brown, Helen Doriot, Bennett Jones, Steve Moldovan, Earl Roberts, Bee Warburton, Walter Welch, and others are being incorporated into breeding programs of many new hybridizers with fine results.

Earl Roberts' Eye Shadow crossed by our Lemon Spot produced an unusual number of fine seedlings, including the plicata, Carousel Princess. We find that other crosses involving Lemon Spot are also producing plicatas in the first and second generations. Most of its seedlings, however, show a strong spot pattern with good form and ruffling. Our Lemon Spot, itself, seems to be rather tender in our garden. Lemon Spot's qualities are a bit of a mystery as its parents are two Welch seedlings of unknown parentage. Even though it is difficult to find good pollen on it, it is involved in seven of our nineteen other introductions and in several we are considering introducing.

Bronze Medal, an unintroduced tall-bearded seedling of Steve Moldovan's, was in the parentage of our Baby Dragon and our new intermediate, Burning Gold. Bronze Medal is a rather short tall bearded, but it has brilliant golden color and delightful form, which it passes on to its progeny. We are anxious to see blooms from recent crosses of Burning Gold crossed with miniature dwarf bearded irises.

We are trying to develop a greater color range in standard dwarf plicatas and were pleased to find that a cross of our Carousel Princess by Jack Goett's Tiffy produced almost all plicatas in various colors and degrees of markings. The best of this cross looks like a miniature Blue Petticoats.

Another of the Nylon series which has produced good seedlings is white and yellow Nylon Doll, which was never registered or introduced. It has pleasing form and the edges look almost fringed. Crosses of it with Bee Warburton's great Blueberry Muffins have shown a lot of promise. One of these seedlings we have named Celestial Doll and tentatively plan to introduce it in 1974. It is a beautifully formed pale blue self with a light, clear yellow spot and blue beard.

One of our greatest crosses has been Delicate Air X Blueberry Muffins. From this we got Siamese Kitten, a brown bitone with a blue beard, and Fairy Fern, pale green self with olive wash and a pale blue beard. A third good iris, a reverse blue amoena, unfortunately died, but we had set seed on it and by it. First generation seedlings have not shown the reverse amoena pattern, but we hope to regain it in the next generation. A number of sister seedlings show interesting characteristics and are also being used in crosses.

We are getting some unusual color combinations from crosses with Siamese Kitten and with Baby Dragon, and are working with several other lines. In order to develop all these lines to the fullest, we would have to be retired and devote all of our energies to the irises. Since we can't do this, we probably are disposing of parents of potential award winners. I don't know what the answer is yet. However, this is the reason that there are many opportunities for the other-than-tall hybridizer to make a name for himself. The present hybridizers cannot possibly explore all the potentials of these irises they are working with.

(The above article is reprinted from the Sooner State Iris News with permission from the editors and from the author. —Ed.)

1973 Rebloom Ballots

Dick Gibson

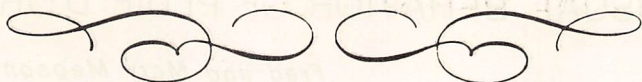


ENCLOSED with this issue of MEDIANITE you will find 1973 Reblooming Iris Symposium ballots and Rebloom Report sheets. Please complete these ballots and return them as soon as your season is frozen out. Our returns were below expectations last year, so why don't you help make this a good year and a good Symposium and Report of Rebloom? It will only take a minute and will be a good alibi, if you need one, to recall the 1973 season.

The results of the ballots will be published in the April, 1974, issue. Returns are received until early January so cannot be part of the January MEDIANITE. The April issue will be published at an opportune time to remind you hybridizers to make some crosses for reblooming medians, too.

The Reblooming Iris Society wishes all of you an excellent fall bloom season.





Display Garden Report

Betty Wood

Display Garden Chairman



TWENTY-NINE Median Iris Society Display Garden reports were received from twenty-eight gardens (explained later) in thirteen Regions. Display Garden owners were asked to rate the best irises in each median class in order from one to ten. The following lists show, in alphabetical order, those irises listed among the top three by more than one garden. The number of each kind of rating is shown. For example, among the intermediates, Annikins was rated first by four gardens, second by two gardens, and third by four gardens.

<u>SDB</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>IE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>PF</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>MTB</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Candy Apple	-	1	1	Annikins	4	2	4	Botany Bay	-	1	1	Bit O' Afton	4	3	1
Cherry Garden	4	1	2	Azure Echo	-	5	2	Bride's Pearls	2	5	2	Blue Trimmings	-	-	2
Cotton Blossom	7	2	2	Bonus	2	-	-	Crystal Bay	1	3	2	Carolyn Rose	2	1	-
Demon	2	-	-	Brown Doll	1	-	1	Frenchi	-	2	1	Dainty Cloud	-	1	2
Gingerbread Man	2	5	6	Dilly Dilly	2	1	-	Gemini	-	-	2	Dainty Damsel	-	1	3
Knockout	-	2	-	Golden Frost	-	3	-	Lace Valentine	-	2	-	Dainty Dancer	3	4	1
Regards	2	5	4	June Prom	10	1	1	Mexicali	1	-	1	Dainty Dove	1	3	-
Sky Shadows	-	1	1	Light Cavalry	-	-	2	Miss Ruffles	2	3	3	Dancing Gold	2	-	1
Spring Bells	2	-	3	Maroon Caper	-	4	3	Molten Glass	1	-	1	Desert Quail	-	1	1
Stockholm	-	3	-	Ruby Chimes	1	-	1	Olive Cocktail	2	1	4	Glint O' Bronze	-	-	2
Velvet Touch	-	2	3	Sea Patrol	2	-	-	Tulare	11	1	1	Lemon Cliche	1	1	-
												New Idea	1	1	-
												Topsy Turvy	4	-	2

In addition, each garden owner was asked to name a Best Pollen Parent and a Best Pod Parent. In the following lists, the name of any iris named by more than one garden owner is followed by the number naming it, in parentheses:

Best standard dwarf pollen parent: Canary Isle, Cherry Garden, Dove Wings (2), Eye Shadow, Gingerbread Man (3), Knotty Pine, Meadow Moss, Nylon Ruffles, Red Heart, Siamese Kitten, Twice Blessed (2).

Best standard dwarf pod parent: Arrangement, Blue Denim, Blue Ivory, Brassie (2), Carousel Princess, Dear Love, Eye Shadow, Irish Doll, Lenna M, Orange Caper, Stockholm (2), Tolita, Zing (2).

Best intermediate pollen parent: June Prom (2). Best intermediate pod parent: Astralite.

Best border pollen parent: Bonnie Lassie, Native Daughter. Best border pod parent: Bayadere, Wendy's Pretty.

Best miniature tall pollen parent: Clare Louise, Nambe. Best miniature tall pod parent: Desert Quail, Whispering Sprite.

Several garden owners listed one or more Best Seedling choices, but the scatter is too great to make a report useful.

Comments from four gardeners east of the Mississippi River indicated an especially poor season, whereas comments from three gardeners west of the Mississippi indicated an especially good season.

If you have been wondering how come we got twenty-nine reports from twenty-eight gardens, we've been keeping you in suspense so that you'd read the whole report. One garden, owned by a pair of competent judges, sent in two (different) reports. Why not—we need all the good opinions we can get!

The following Regions sent no reports: 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, and 23. We will have more to say about this in the next issue of MEDIANTE. In the meantime, if you grow a goodly number of median irises and would welcome garden visitors during median season, please write to me, Mrs Betty Wood, 37 Pine Court, New Providence, NJ 07974.

Fred and Mary Megson



HIS golden yellow iris, so far the only diploid to have won the Dykes Medal, is proving to be most interesting genetically. It is a well-established fact that selfing a white (or a yellow) iris can not give anything but white (or yellow) offspring. The apparent exceptions to this rule that have cropped up from time to time have never been confirmed. Pluie d'Or, however, is now proving to be a well-authenticated exception.

Jean Witt first reported^b in 1958 that among six seedlings from selfing Pluie d'Or were "three yellows, one pale yellow, one white, and one flower with yellow standards and white falls bordered yellow with the merest trace of plicata dots at the haft." In 1962 Bill McGarvey, summarizing their combined results up to that time, reported^c that among 29 seedlings Jean had two with plicata dots while among ten seedlings of his own he had four with plicata dots. Their purpose was to call attention to the unexpectedly wide range of color and pattern resulting from the selfing of this iris.

We first selfed Pluie d'Or in 1960, subsequently obtaining a number of offspring with anthocyanin "speckling" on the falls. At the same time we did not regard this as especially noteworthy, nor have we been willing to concede until recently that these actually were plicatas. To date (see Cross 1 in the table) among 67 offspring we have found 14 of these dotted plicatas, a ratio of violet-dotted plicatas to whites (and yellows) of about 1:3.8. This is a little high for 1:3 but none of us were consciously looking for these dotted types then and some of the very weak ones, such as the one first described by Jean, may have been missed. Another reason some may be easily missed is that, curiously, the first flowers that open on a bloomstalk may be only very lightly dotted while each subsequent flower is increasingly heavily dotted. Jean brought this striking phenomenon to our attention^d and we subsequently observed it in one of our seedlings from this cross also. What is remarkable, of course, is that any plicatas at all should come from selfing a white (or yellow) iris. Randolph and Sturtevant^e included Pluie d'Or among the w_1 whites, and the correctness of this has been (somewhat indirectly) confirmed, hence selfing it should produce nothing but whites:

$$w_1 w_1 \times w_1 w_1 \text{ should give } 100\% w_1 w_1$$

What do we know about Pluie d'Or that might throw light on this paradox? The table below summarizes the results of some crosses of interest in this connection. All of them were protected from contamination by banding and/or stripping both parents as previously described^f.

	Purple Selfs	Plicatas	Whites
1. Pluie d'Or (Y) X Self	none	14	53
2. Pocahontas (Pl) X Pluie d'Or	10	11	none
3. Pluie d'Or X <i>I. pallida</i> White Mutant	5	7	none
4. <i>I. swertii</i> (Pl) X 134-18 (Pl) ^g	none	9	none
5. <i>I. swertii</i> X Zero (W)	29	none	none
6. Jubilee (Pl) X Zero	none	none	45 ^h
7. Pocahontas X Jubilee	none	20	none

Does Pluie d'Or have a plicata gene? In Cross 2, the old-style lined plicata Pocahontas crossed with Pluie d'Or gave typical plicatas and whites in 1:1 ratio, hence Pluie d'Or has just one plicata allele. In Cross 3, Pluie d'Or with the all-white *pallida* ($pl^a pl^a$) gave purple selfs and plicatas in approximately 1:1 ratio, hence the other allele must be Pl and not pl^a , which would have given whites and plicatas. Therefore, Pluie d'Or must have the genotype Plpl $w_1 w_1$. It still follows, however, that selfing it should give nothing but whites (and yellows):

$$Plplw_1w_1 \times Plplw_1w_1 \text{ should give } PlPlw_1w_1 + 2 Plplw_1w_1 + plplw_1w_1$$

Until evidence is presented to the contrary, it is presumed that the W_1 gene is one of several structural genes for the formation of anthocyanin while the plicata pattern itself is controlled only by the single gene Pl. Hence all $w_1 w_1$ genotypes simply lack the ability to produce any appreciable amount of anthocyanin. Most of the whites and yellows from selfing Pluie d'Or had weak violet haft marks or violet speckles on the claw, or both. So far, of those checked in our garden, 46 had some anthocyanin in the flowers while 19 of

them were "all whites," that is, had no anthocyanin whatever in any part of the flower—a very good 3:1 ratio. (To be consistent, these w_1 all-whites should probably be designated w_1^2 whites.)

Are the dotted types from selfing *Pluie d'Or* really plicatas? Cross 4 of the lined species plicata I. swertii with our seedling 134-18, one of the strongest of these, gave typical plicatas having both lines and dots, hence it is a true plicata and has the "impossible" genotype $plplw_1w_1$. Incidentally, this seedling really looks like a plicata, having a straight line of dots down the center of the falls, which is common among the stronger typical plicatas.

These crosses alone obviously do not solve the problem, but they do give us some solid ground to stand on. Our present "working hypothesis" is that *Pluie d'Or* also has a "suppressor gene," itself effective only in homozygous recessive form ($susu$) which counteracts the effect of the w_1 mutation and allows anthocyanin production to resume, i. e., w_1w_1susu would be a violet self. In *Pluie d'Or* this "suppressor gene" must be closely linked to the plicata gene since when the w_1 gene is suppressed, only plicatas are formed. If *Pluie d'Or* had the genotype $w_1w_1PlSu/plsu$, then 1/4 of the offspring from selfing it would be $w_1w_1plsu/plsu$ and these would be expected to be plicatas.

The chief value of a hypothesis lies, of course, in its ability to suggest tests of its own validity. One test of the above would be to cross one of the "suppressed w_1 " plicatas from *Pluie d'Or* X self with a typical w_1 white (i. e., one with the "suppressor gene" in the normal state $SuSu$). If this hypothesis is correct, the offspring should be 100% white, whereas an ordinary plicata with a w_1 white always gives 100% violet selfs. We made this critical cross this year and are anxiously looking forward to seeing if it yields 100% whites or 100% violet selfs.

Meanwhile, in another corner of the garden, interesting things have been going on quietly which may be important to this problem. We previously reported¹ that Cross 5 of the plicata I. swertii with the ordinary w_1 white Zero (an all-white seedling of *Pluie d'Or* X self previously numbered 136-1) had given the expected 100% violet selfs. Recently, however, we woke up to the fact that Cross 6 of the over-all "sanded" plicata Jubilee with Zero had given no violet selfs whatever but instead 100% whites (and yellows). This is just the sort of result we are expecting from the dotted plicata from *Pluie d'Or* selfed and suggests that Jubilee may also be a "suppressed w_1 " plicata. That Jubilee also is a true plicata is demonstrated by Cross 7 where the lined plicata *Pocahontas* with the sanded plicata Jubilee gave 100% typical plicatas of mixed lines and dots.

Helpful discussions of this problem and of the above "working hypothesis" over the past two years with the other members of the Genetics Study Panel—Bee Warburton, Chmn., John Tearington and Jean Witt—are hereby gratefully acknowledged

References: a. The previous articles in this series may be found in THE MEDIANITE, Section I in 10:38-41 (1969); II in 10:55-57 (1969); and III in 11:18-20 (1970). b. J. Witt, Bull. Am. Iris Soc. 149:25-31 (1958). c. W G McGarvey, THE MEDIANITE 3:78 (1962). d. J Witt in the Genetics Study Panel Robin, Fl 4, October 1970. e. "Garden Irises," Ed. by L F Randolph, A. I. S., p 343 (1959). f. THE MEDIANITE 9:9-10 (1968). g. One of the plicata seedlings from *Pluie d'Or* X self. h. Three of these had strong violet streaks on the falls like extended haft marks. i. THE MEDIANITE 11: 18-20 (1970).

MIS SLIDES PROGRAM

Well another season is over. Time to put the tools away and begin to relive the past bloom season by showing your slides to anyone who will watch them. No takers? Then look them over yourself and see if there aren't a few you can donate to the MIS Slides Program. Chairman Gene Tremmel, 5613 Wallings Road, North Royalton, OH 44133, will be grateful for all donations. He will also have copies made of any slides you wish to keep AND share with others. Gene is the man to contact for a loan of slides for a program on median irises, too, in case you feel like educating some TB nuts to the virtues of medians.

MIS LIBRARY

Before we know it, almost, we will look out the window and see those first snowflakes that signify the end of the growing season and the beginning of winter. In that relaxing period between mulching and removing same, why not settle down by the fire and read up on genetics, on pedigrees, on species, or whatever piques your curiosity about our median irises. A postcard will bring you a copy of the MIS Library listing of books and publications which can be borrowed for the cost of postage only—and Library Rate is a real bargain! Write: MIS Library, 158 West Bacon Street, Plainville, MA 02762.

Reports from Overseas

Lucy Delany. *New Zealand*



NEW Zealand irisarians have given dwarf and median irises a hearty welcome, and in 1961 at the annual convention, they sat down and established The Dwarf Iris Group which is very enthusiastic, holding tours, meetings, and publishing its own newsletter. We quote from this newsletter with thanks to Lucy Delany, Convenor.

OUR TENTH BIRTHDAY

LAST November (1971), our Group was just 10 years old. We began with 24 members who joined that evening at the 1961 Convention held in Nelson. We have had more than 100 members "on the roll," but the average membership stays around the 60 - 70 mark.

We soon had letters of congratulation from Walter Welch of the Dwarf Iris Society of America, and from Charlotte Gantz of the Median Iris Society, also of the U. S. A. Their good wishes extended to practical help by means of valuable gifts of seed to make dwarfs and medians more quickly available to us. Later, David Saunders of Smithers, in British Columbia, provided us with seed, too. When irises from this seed increased enough, they were distributed to our members.

Later, Alta Brown of Washington added to these gifts with plants of her own introduction and has continued to do so nearly every year since. These, too, have been distributed to our members. We have tried every year to vary the irises going to the same area, so that they could be shared again, and we have kept a list of the named ones sent so that we did not duplicate them.

For some years we sent seed to every member, but have discontinued that, and now send only when requested to. We try to supply plants or seed at any time it is required.

Four years ago we had a small invasion from the Wairarapa in early October to view the dwarfs and medians and to talk irises. The next year the Wellington Group came. This "invasion" is beginning to become an annual affair. Sometimes the weather has not been very kind, but in spite of rain or frost, the weekend has been fun, meeting old friends and making new ones. I hope it continues. To me, the last ten years have meant so much because of the host of friends I have made.

Many people have helped us to keep the Group going—too many to mention personally. Our aim in 1961 was to make dwarfs and medians known in New Zealand. Have we accomplished this? I think so. So now on to the next ten years. Let us hope we can progress just as much.

LUCY adds that while she, herself, has been an ardent hybridizer of medians for several years, more are joining her in creating new dwarf and median irises, so we may expect some fine new beauties from New Zealand in the near future.



Barry Blyth *Australia*

MEDIAN irises are hardly known here as yet and they more or less only revolve and are seen to any extent here at Sunnyside Gardens in Victoria, the only commercial garden currently offering them for sale. A few people like Syd Lawrence and a couple of other friends are trying their hand at crossing them, but that is all. I managed to get a section set aside in the Australian Iris Society's trial gardens last year to try a few, but apart from myself there are only two other people who have entered seedlings because as yet few breeders have any to enter. Mind you, I think this situation will change in a couple of years as members of the society see what is being done here at Sunnyside and see the newer introductions from the United States as they make their appearance.

An article published in "Your Garden" magazine and illustrated with colored pictures of some of my own standard dwarfs, both seedlings and named varieties, has resulted in more orders for medians this past year, and as these are dispersed around Australia, I am sure they will be able to "sell" median irises as no catalog descriptions or ads in magazines can ever do.

International Competition for Low Irises in Vienna

Dr Franz Kurzmann, Director



BEE Warburton's Laced Lemonade won top honors at the judging at the International Competition for Low Irises in Vienna this year. The Prize of the Ministry of Agriculture was awarded to this free-flowering lovely lemon yellow standard dwarf iris because it introduces something new to the class—lace.

The Special Prize of the German Society for Irises and Lilies (Deutschen Iris- und Liliengesellschaft) was awarded to Vim, another standard dwarf. This lilac-rose bicolor with blue beard was introduced this year by Schreiners.

Other irises winning awards in Vienna this spring were:

GROUP I, MDB

1. Raisin Eyes	Bonnie Dunbar (USA)	Variegata type	Medal
2. Canary Caper	Earl Roberts (USA)	Lemon self	Medal
3. No prize			

GROUP II, SDB

1. Saltwood	John Taylor (Eng.)	Citron, white border	Medal
2. Pixie Princess	Bob Schreiner (USA)	Blue on white plicata	Medal
3. Hallo	Eckard Berlin (Ger.)	Variegata type	Medal
4. Morning Dew	Alta Brown (USA)	Bluish white	H. M.
5. Mandarin Jewel	Earl Roberts (USA)	Orange with tangerine beard	H. M.
6. Lady	Bee Warburton (USA)	Clear blue self	H. M.
7. Bembes	Eckard Berlin (Ger.)	Red, like cedar wood	H. M.
8. Irish Sea	Earl Roberts (USA)	Yellowish green	H. M.

GROUP III, IB and BB

1. Isle of Dreams (IB)	Alta Brown (USA)	White, waved	Medal
2. Solo (IB)	Bob Schreiner (USA)	Yellow pattern on cream	Medal
3. Snow Fiddler (BB)	Bonnie Dunbar (USA)	White/violet amoena	Medal
4. Taylor H75/1	John Taylor (Eng.)	Honey yellow and brown	H. M.
5. Dinger (IB)	Bob Schreiner (USA)	White with blue lines	H. M.

GROUP IV, Oncobreds

1. Mint Parfait	Doris Foster (USA)	Grayish yellow with brown veins	Medal
2. Hidden Violets	Doris Foster (USA)	Pale yellow with red-brown veins	Medal
3. Fairy Goblin	Doris Foster (USA)	Yellow with red spot on falls	Medal

(All three oncobreds also received a diploma)

The year 1974 will be the year to visit Vienna, site of an International Horticultural Exhibition which will offer not only the usual competition for low irises, but a year of exhibits to enthrall anyone to whom gardens and gardening are a joy. If you are planning to take that long-planned European Tour in 1974, be sure to include Vienna in your itinerary so you won't miss a thing!



Ron Watkins *England*

IN 1950 I grew my first tall-bearded irises. In 1951 the wind blew them flat. I then had what I thought was an original idea: namely, that shorter irises were in order. Catalogs were not helpful. Referring to the British Iris Society lists, I discovered the existence of some small species. Innocently I thought all I'd have to do was cross them with the tall. Laurence Neel, on consultation, referred me to John Taylor who gave me much sage advice... how to preserve pollen till I needed it, the virtues of *I. pumila* X tall bearded, and why didn't I get THE MEDIANITE, which had just started. (You will note that thus far covered eight years.) This led me to Bee Warburton and the Median Iris Society. They, bless them, made me a member for free for the first few years since in those days currency exchange was near impossible. I learned of Paul Cook, the medians, and the secrets of *pumila* chromosomes.

Having joined the MIS, on the principle that if you can't beat them, join them, I started breeding standard dwarfs. Now, fifteen years later, where has it got me? A garden full of irises, a few selected for trial at Wisley, a few awards, and a rather odd hobby, since most people think I'm either mad or Irish when I say I belong to the Median Iris Society. Finally, a group of rather special friends spread across the globe and a somewhat better understanding of genetics than I had when I started.

But, much more important, where has it got the median irises from those far off days of Baria, Fairy Flax and the eternal Green Spot? I am happy to state that the Median Iris is alive and well, and living in England. They are becoming known amongst those knowledgeable about irises as a class distinct from the tall-bearded irises, and they are slowly becoming more popular. I cannot honestly say that they are yet as well known to the general gardening public as say the daffodils or the Dutch tulips or the modern garden rose, but time will tell and these things can not be rushed. At this stage every new grower is a convert because no one can grow them and not like them.

The number of hybridizers in Britain is quite a small and select band. The immediate post-war years of the British Iris Society were dominated by the tall-bearded iris breeders such as Sir Cedric Morris and Harry Randall and only Gerald Darby bred the small ones. Now all these have passed on and the flag (no pun intended) was carried by that doyen of the medians in England, John Taylor, aided and abetted by Don Patton, our lover of interspecies hybrids, and latterly myself. Now things are changing again. A new generation of younger men and women are taking up the challenge, Nora Scopes, Barry Jay, and Max Davies, to name but a few.

There are a number of commercial nurseries which specialize in irises and list the medians. Laurence Neel of the Orpington Nurseries, Guildford, has always carried a good list through the years, and now Sidney Linnegar of Twyford, Reading, has started up and has a comprehensive list of all the different median classes.

Acceptance would be faster if we had the system of display gardens such as you have in the USA, but the idea hasn't transplanted too well here. To put an iris before the public one has first to display a bloom before the Joint Iris Committee. who, if they think it worthy, select it for trial at the Royal Horticultural Society garden at Wisley in Surrey. There it is judged after two years and may get a Certificate of Commendation, an Award of Merit, or a Highly Commended. It is then eligible to go into test gardens and is also in the running for one of the major awards such as the "Souvenir de M Lemon" trophy. So you see, we use a much tighter sieve at the early stages than is practiced in the United States. This eliminates a lot of second raters early on, but it does make acceptance of a new cultivar a slow process. What you gain on the roundabouts you lose on the swings.

So here we are today, poised on the brink of greater things for median irises. No sudden breakthrough into the gardening world, but a steady and ever-growing infiltration into the gardens of those with a discerning eye. I think it is better this way. We have a saying in England, "soon ripe, soon rotten," and such a fate is not for the medians. I like to think that medianites follow in the footsteps of that crafty Greek who must have made the first median cross to produce what we now call *I. florentina*. If our creations are as worthy, they also may last two thousand years and more to delight the gardener's eye.



More on Shows

Roswell, NM

THE Roswell, New Mexico, Iris Society held its 13th annual show, "Iris—Day 'n' Night," on May 6, 1973, in the Wilshire Mall. There were 162 horticultural entries in the combined show. Of this number 53 were in the three median classes. There were no standard dwarfs entered. To be named Best of Section, the specimen had to have a score of 95 or better, with the following being so rated: Intermediate—Sing Again; Border—New Dew; Miniature Tall—New Idea. These were all exhibited by Mrs W H McKinley. Little Sheba, shown by Kay Kilgore, was named Best of the Junior Section.

There is a growing interest in medians in our society as the above shows. The show was held early to accommodate our bloom.

The Adult Arrangement Section had six DAY classes. The three NIGHT classes were set aside for the Junior Section and were as follows: Moon Dancer, Night Owl, and Starshine. The iris is the only flower allowed in the arrangement competition.

—Lucille McKinley



WENTY-TWO exhibitors showed 266 exhibits at the 1973 Early Show of the Northern Illinois Iris Society, May 12, at the Yorktown Shopping Center in suburban Lombard, IL. This was the first all-day Early Show held by the NIIS. Previous early shows were held in conjunction with the regular meeting on the first Thursday in May. Queen of the Show was Pale Cloud, the Intermediate section champion, exhibited by Julia Kupstis. Other section champions were Cream Supreme (MDB) exhibited by Muriel Milsted; Fine Print (SDB) exhibited by Len Jugle; and I. sofarano (Pure Aril) and Radiant Smile (Arilbred) exhibited by Jackie Buntin, granddaughter of Henry Danielson. Other varieties winning blue ribbons were:

Miniature Dwarf—Crispy, Heart's Content, Fashion Lady, Pastel Dawn, Black Baby, and Promise
Standard Dwarf—Lilli-White, Boo, Green Spot, Moonspinner, Circlette, Lemon Flare, Golden Fair, Orange Caper, Brassie, Bright Eyes, Laughter, Irish Sea, Zing, Lenna M, Sky Baby, Angel Music, Lilliput, Little Imp, May Troll, Myra, Shine Boy, Little Blackfoot, Desert Haze, Rosy Treasure, Cherry Garden, Regards, Knotty Pine, Gingerbread Man, and Bronze Babe
Intermediate—Little Angel, Ohio Deb, Lillipinkput, Zua, and Light Cavalry
Tall-Bearded—Snow Flurry
Pure Aril—I. hoogiana and Bocena
Arilbred—Balroudour and Miss Mid America
Potted—Shine Boy and a collection of Dutch irises

The AIS Silver Medal was won by Julia Kupstis with nine blue ribbons; the AIS Bronze Medal by Muriel Milsted. Others winning four or more blue ribbons were Richard Sloan, Karl Jensen, Jackie Buntin, and Mary Drake.

The theme of the arrangements was "The Wild Homelands of Early Iris Species." Section champion, Isabelle DuJardin, interpreted the class entitled "Turkestan: remote, distant, and mountainous—home of Iris bucharica and Iris hoogiana." Three other blue ribbons were won by David Sindt in classes entitled "Romantic France, legendary for love and fine wines—home of Iris chamaeiris and Iris graminea;" "Classic Greece, cradle of western civilization—home of Iris attica and Iris balkana;" and "The Holy Land, sacred to Jew, Christian, and Moslem—home of Iris nazarena and Iris susiana."

Show chairperson was David Sindt. Judges for the specimens were Robert and Mattie Reinhardt of New Berlin, Wisconsin, and Roger Miller of Markle, Indiana. Judge for the arrangements was Mrs A J Vasumpour of Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

—David B Sindt

Salt Lake City, UT



THE littlest irises make the largest show, and we can attest to that in the Salt Lake Valley. For many years we had all discussed the idea of a small-iris show, but no one took the initiative until Miss Charlotte Easter, with her bubbling enthusiasm, convinced us the time was ripe, and why not have an early show the middle of the month of May? And so we did—our First Annual Early Iris Show. It was rather interesting to see the number of people who grew the little guys, bringing an entry or two along with some arils and other-than-talls.

Lack of advertising in the newspapers proved that the public has to know the show is there, and the first-year "crowd" was a bit sparse. Luckily, we had the foresight to schedule a judges session for the Region, so we had a good many judges seeing irises with which they were not as familiar as they were with the tall bearded and their like. Half of the Garden Center room sufficed for this show. But the Second Early Iris Show in 1973 was quite another matter. Tables filled the entire room, varieties filled the tables, and it was a yummy show! We had a lot of fun bringing entries and winning ribbons and prizes and whetting our appetites for other-than-tall-bearded irises.

On May 12, 1973, in our own Garden Activities Center Building, 135 entries sparkled from 14 exhibitors. Seventy scheduled classes gave plenty of area for entry, and the show was "on!" Queen of the Show, Lemon Flurry, also was the Best Intermediate and was shown by Charlotte Easter, who also garnered tops on Best Collection, three stalks of Sky Baby; Best Miniature Dwarf, Mini-Plic; and Sweepstakes for the most blue ribbons. Her garden is loaded with interesting irises other than tall bearded, and it is to her credit that

she brought them for us to enjoy. She earned the awards by being a great gardener, show chairman, and exhibitor.

Mildred Johnson, our Siberian enthusiast, also grows other kinds of irises and brought her best ones to compete—and cornered the Runner-Up to the Sweepstakes.

Best Standard Dwarf, Marinka, was shown by Venetia Pollard, an upcoming iris grower who later in the month won Queen of the Show at the Annual Show. Dr. Boyd Squires' entry of Imam Salah was judged Best Aril/Arilbred.

It was interesting to note that each exhibitor who had not previously grown it was awarded Gingerbread Man, top standard dwarf in the 1972 Popularity Poll. Now every one of those fourteen exhibitors can bring the little "man" in next year, and won't that be an interesting class!

In addition to those who came specifically for the show, there were a number of people who were in the building for the Beehive State Chrysanthemum Society's plant sale. Many of them remarked that they had no idea there were so many different kinds of irises and so early in the season. And after all, isn't this what a show is all about? To have fun showing our "goodies" to those who do not know? The one-day show ended at 5:00 PM when slides were shown of the newer medians and dwarfs.

The Third Annual Early Iris Show is already running through our minds, and those of us lucky enough to win premiums should have an abundance of bloom from which to choose. It would be exciting to double the number of exhibitors next year and get some choice publicity so we could more than double the visitors' list. In that vein, the second Saturday in May, 1974, is already set aside for us. So why not come and see the result of our efforts?

We are all happy that our "Easter in May" gal got us started on these shows, and we hope you each find someone who will persevere and get your area enthusiastic enough to try one show. We guarantee that it won't be a little iris show, 'cause there just "ain't no such thing!"

Blue Ribbon Winners: Standard Dwarfs—Orange Key, Myra, Myra's Child, Golden Fair, Marinka, Blueberry Muffins, Gingerbread Man, Knotty Pine, Cherry Garden, Lenna M, Lady, Shine Boy, Velvet Caper, Moon Step, Bronze Babe, Pixie Plum, Fi-Lee, Gay Katy, Pixie Pastel, Pansy Top, Pansy Raye, Green Spot, Lilli-Var, Spring Fairy, Duplex, Hooray, Doll Apron, Circlette, Purple Fringe, and Ginger Tart; Intermediates—Lemon Flurry, Lillipinkput, Pixie Skies, Azure Echo, Vamp, Butterscotch Frills, Pale Cloud, Raspberry Acres, Clique, and Swizzle; Arilmedians—Wee Scot, Border Queen, and Moonchild.

There were also classes for miniature dwarfs, arils, species, and other early blooming types as well as for collections, potted plants, and seedlings.

—Mildred R Johnson

Iris Society of Minnesota



ON May 12-13 the Iris Society of Minnesota held its fifth Annual Early Show. There were 353 entries from 29 exhibitors in the horticultural classes plus 38 arrangements in the artistic division. The Silver Certificate was won by Riverdale Gardens (Glenn and Zula Hanson) and the Bronze Certificate was won by Mr & Mrs Jim D Seeden. Queen of the Show was Emerald Rays (SDB) from Riverdale Gardens. Best miniature dwarf was Blue Whiskers, entered by R W Dalgaard. Best standard dwarf was Emerald Rays from Riverdale. Best miniature dwarf in the novice class was Blue Frost, from S Dalgaard. Best standard Dwarf in the novice class was Cherry Garden, entered by Laura Sutton. Best in the section for bearded species was Carpathia, entered by Jim Seeden. Best of the non-bearded species was a Dutch iris submitted by R Dalgaard. The best of the potted specimens was entered by Mr & Mrs W G Sindt. Best seedling award was presented to M Wright for a stalk of a seedling of Cleo Palmer's. In the arrangement classes, Grand Champion was Mrs Pat McCallum and Reserve Champion was Mrs Charlotte Sindt.

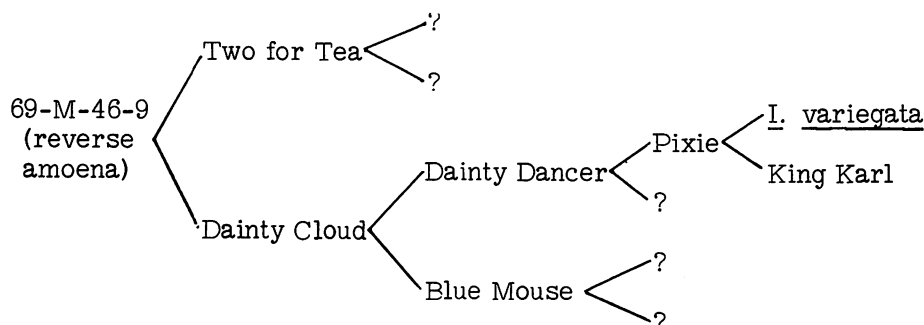
Varieties winning blue ribbons were: Miniature Dwarf—Ablaze, April Accent, April Charm, April Rose, April Sun, Atroviolacea, Bee Wings, Bimbo, Black Top, Blazon, Blue Frost, Butch, Blue Doll, Blue Whiskers, Bright Spring, Bonnie Babe, Cherry Spot, Cream Ruffles, Crispy, Cup Cake, Dizzy Dame, Doll Fashion, Doll House, Ducky Lucky, Dream Stuff, Garnet Gleam, Garnette, Green Sprite, Gay Lassie, Grandma's Hat, Green Pixie, Hula Doll, Honey Bear, Jelly Bean, Knick Knack, Little Joe, Little Mohee,

Marmot, Mumbo, My Daddy, Nancy Maria, Navy Doll, Orchid Flare, Path of Gold, Red Gem, Red Pixie, Sharp Contrast, Spring Joy, Sun Sparkle, Tear Drop, Vari-Bright, Veri-Gay, and Wee Blue; Standard Dwarf-Blue Sparks, Blood Spot, Cartwheel, Cherry Garden, Dark Spark, Emerald Rays, Green Spot, Just So, Lavender Lass, Lenna M, Moon Shadows, Orange Blaze, Orchid Bouquet, Plum Dandy, Pygmy Gold, Royal Fairy, Ruby Contrast, Speckles, Sun Clipper, and Tippy.

Well Bred

JHAD a reverse amoena (blue-violet standards and white falls*) appear this spring among eleven seedlings that bloomed from a cross between Two for Tea X Dainty Cloud. One of its sibs was a low-contrast reverse neglecta; the others were mostly pale lavender or orchid bitones, very pale amoenas that faded to white, and light blue selfs.

It seems unlikely that a recessive pattern would be so easily come by. On the other hand, there are gaps in the pedigree of these seedlings:



There have been occasional references to bearded irises, other than those from *I. imbricata*, that are reverse blue and white amoenas, but I do not recall having seen anything about the pattern's occurrence among miniature falls. And it is not uncommon, I believe, to have plicatas with more color in the standards than in the falls. The reverse amoena seedling has solid color standards. The color fades some, although even by the third day it is still quite obviously blue-violet and white.

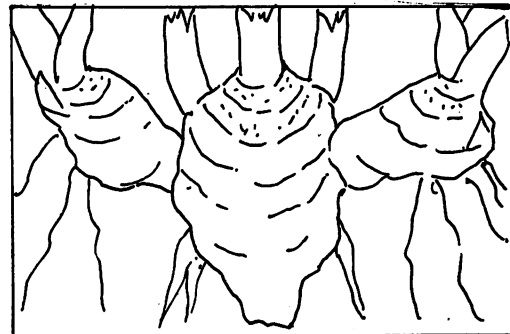
I hope I'll find time to search through the varietal descriptions in the Historical Chronicles next winter to see how often the reverse blue and white or lavender and white amoenas showed up. Thistledown (Sturtevant '33), which may for all I know have been a tetraploid, is described as "unique effect of white falls and standards of delicate lavender." In the meantime, could we please have some discussion in THE MEDIANTE about this? I wish I had the space for significant work with irises, but since I haven't, I can make only a few crosses. Perhaps someone with a larger garden than mine could repeat this cross and raise a larger progeny, or possibly others have found reverse amoenas of this type among other miniature tall bearded crosses. If so, it would be interesting to hear about their results.

—Marjorie Barnes

*Falls are faintly washed blue when flower opens.

SPACE Cadet, Moldovan, surprised me this year with its long period of bloom. It just didn't seem to have that many buds, so I took an intimate look and found that instead of the one bloomstalk at the center of the old rhizome it was putting up three, the one at the center and another at each side of the center. This seemed an unusual way of making more flowers per clump, and I couldn't find any others that did this, but because of leaving for convention I never did make a careful inspection of others. It is a beautiful flower, in shadings of clear blue-orchid with beard white to shocking pink, and it is shapely. All this and two good solid increases on each such toe, for next year.

—Bee Warburton



Symposium Ballot Comments

REGION 1

✿ Demon was a marvelous SDB this year, shapely, with super substance, and closer to truly black than any iris I know.

Vamp was the super IB with everything, colorful, with excellent form, so perfect it looks like a good TB when blown up on the screen (how's that for a compliment?) and with good foliage, perfect stem and branching, good bud count, and when seen at convention had three pods set on it... all this and fertile, too?

—Bee Warburton

REGION 2

✿ Best bloomers, growers, and increasers for me: SDB—Knotty Pine, Serenity, Green Spot, Cherry Garden, Brassie; IB—Arctic Fancy, Barbi, First Lilac, Lillipinkput; BB—Bayadere, Amigo, Pink Ruffles, Tulare; MTB—Brown Crown, Widget, Pewee, Tom Tit, Daystar.

—Mrs Edwin C Dunbar

✿ I was particularly impressed at the convention with the large floriferous clumps of Carolyn Rose (MTB) If these were two-year plants, it has to be a terrific grower.

—Peg Edwards

REGION 4

✿ A step in the right direction—a number of new additions to the limited class of brown dwarfs, such as Mildred Brizendine's charming Little Chestnut and Alta Brown's Indian Pow Wow, Jolly Fellow, Java Girl, Love Note; Gatty's Hooray, while not strictly a brown, was refreshingly different with a pumpkin flush. Brizendine's lime amoena, Lime Freeze, was graced with minute picoting. Tremendous vigor was evident from the incredible number of bloomstalks on Blue Pools, Bennett Jones' white dwarf with bright blue spot, and Bee's golden Laced Lemonade. The best of the yellow amoenas remains Greenlee's Gay Katy, with brilliant mustard-gold falls and blue beard. Street's arilmedian, Southern Clipper, was one of the prettiest things in the garden this year—blue with deeper blue spot. Two new IBs from Alta Brown were outstanding, crisp Golden Frost and Ruby Chimes. Seen in New Jersey was Moldovan's Turtledove, with blue-white standards edged pale blue, blended green and pink falls with blue beard. Noyd's BB, Knee High, was a beauty in white with red beard. An attractive border neglecta which does not seem to be widely distributed is Beattie's Horoscope. Quirk, of Alta Brown's, brings an uncommon brilliance to the MTBs—bright yellow standards, white falls lined red-brown, almost solid brown at tip of falls.

—Rena Kizziar

REGION 6

✿ Our irises did remarkably well in spite of bad weather—no snow from January until March when we had a rugged storm on March 17th and a lighter one early in April with many cold nights in early May, and a couple of hard frosts. About 50% bloomed.

—C Harold Blackmer

✿ Many of my newer medians did not bloom, so I couldn't list them this year. Little Easter Holiday and Moonchild are old, but I still find them very appealing.

—Mrs Dale Martin

✿ Arilmedians which I saw and liked are: Saletta, Kelita Zipporah, Wee Scot, Loudmouth, and Kelita Jethro.

—Virginia McClintock

✿ Moonday (Warburton '69): pearly off-white, S closed and F held out nice. Good substance. Three Smokes (Warburton '71): unusual blend, nice form. Have two pods on it now. Quail (L Craig '67): S brownish and F white with brown stitching. S open, but nice. Pale Suede (Greenlee '71): white tinted blue-orchid this year. Heavy substance, nice form. I must have 12 pods on it with everything. Extra nice. Black Bit (A Brown '69): pretty red-black, F velvety, 16 stalks on a two-year plant. Grows miniature dwarf size in our garden two seasons now. Wilma's Choice (Briscoe '71): very nice black, growing only 8" tall. Second season, but first time to bloom.

—Irene Wilhelmsen

REGION 9

✿ Very poor bloom season. For the past three years late freezes have stopped bloom stalks deep in the fans, which was conducive to rot. My votes for borders were decided only after visiting three other gardens

where I saw all but Jungle Shadows, which performed quite well on a short stalk for me. Sky Baby is one of the prettiest shades of blue I've seen in the medians. Quail, a late bloomer, is a perky little striper (I call it)—not pretty, but cute! And it also does bloom each year, which is unusual for me as our spring weather causes much damage and lack of bloom. Gingerbread Man always blooms and is a hit with all who see it. Pamela Ann and Serenity were the best bloomers for me in 1973. —Georgia Legner

REGION 11

✿ I particularly like Butter Bit, Little Bit Blue, Junior Prom, June Prom, and Light Cavalry. All of these did particularly well for me this year. —Mary Schilling

✿ Blessed be the Medians! Winter wiped out most of the tall in most gardens in this area, and the medians came through for the most part with flying colors—in fact, about the only color there was were the medians. It was a most mixed-up season, with intermediates blooming before pumilas, some standard dwarfs lingering on into the tall-bearded season. Those that did bloom really outdid themselves, and although there were few new friends among the blooms, old friends were most welcome. The first blooming on Bonus showed it to be a delightful, dainty, yet very sturdy flower. Apache Warrior has a marvelous glow and brightness to it. Wow perhaps wasn't as bright this year as last, but still the brightest I've seen in its class. The old-timers say the last time it was like this was in 1912, so I guess I don't have much to worry about for the next 60 years! —Phyllis J Holtz

REGION 13

✿ Heavenly Star was clean, crisp, and had about the best bloom placement on stalk of any iris in the intermediate class, with June Prom a close second in all respects. Light Cavalry was great. Tulare was beautiful but dropped down on my listing because it isn't as frost resistant as one might wish for, as was the case with many borders here this year. Bit O' Afton, Carolyn Rose and Ring Bearer were all star performers despite the severe winter. Dancing Gold was very short in its heavy foliage. Lemon Cliche was a mass of bloom. Purple Heather and Topsy Turvy were all but frozen out. —Dorothy Guild

REGION 14

✿ Crystal Bay has always grown IB for me.

—Mrs Sam Burnett

✿ This was not a good year for bloom on standard dwarfs and intermediates, but a few prospered. Laced Lemonade—such a clean and bright color on perky flowers with some lace. Mint Ice—a different color, sort of a grayed blue with a turquoise line up the center of the falls. Beautiful form. Ruffled Sprite—a subtle yellow and white blend with a picotee ruffled edge. A good show flower. Blue Vision—great, clean blue on a beautifully formed flower, but the branching is minimal. Vamp—outstanding branching on a brilliant red-violet with a deeper spot. Swizzle—a lovely brown plic of good form. Little Rainbow—a subtle blend of tan, violet, yellow on a good flower. Annikins—nice as always, and our choice for the Sass Medal. —Joe Ghio

✿ Girl Guide—excellent proportion for a border iris, clear medium blue color. It won Best Median Iris at the Stockton show. Gorgeous color, rich and deep, in Joe Gatty's Vamp and Voila (the latter a somewhat brighter red-violet)—a pair of well-formed and properly sized intermediates. Gingerbread Man, running all over the place and winning most of the races for attention (and what a swath he's making through the seedling patches!) Ben Hager's Ornament—a ruffled medium blue showing off its darker purplish spot in a graceful group of three at the Modesto show. Arabi Treasure—still a treasured clump in my garden and deserving of more awards for its perfect IB proportions. —Mrs R Nelson Nicholson

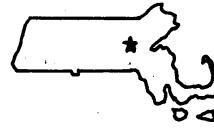
✿ With all our California rain this year, Orinda showed little bloom in the medians. The best, however, was Vamp (Gatty '72). A first year plant produced two beautiful bloom stalks, well proportioned flowers of a deep red-purple, good size and well spaced, and leaving good increase for next year. Others which did well were Demon (Hager '72), Canary Isle (Hamblen '72), Hooray (Gatty '72), Ornament (Hager '71), Laced Lemonade (Warburton '70), Sweet Suzanne (Hansen '71), Tumwater (Plough '72), and last but not least, Apache Gold (A Brown '71), which I liked especially well. —Mrs Sven I Thoolen

(More Symposium Ballot comments in future issues. —Ed.)

Plans are now being worked out for another mail auction of median irises and species irises, to be held in 1974. Watch future issues of THE MEDIANITE for further details.

Varietal Comments

from Massachusetts



Bee Warburton



NY comments made in New England this year on performance would be unfair. If there be such an entity as a "typical" or average season, this was not it. Performance was wildly variable throughout the extremely long season... and we even heard one exhibitor at the Region I show complaining about the brevity of the season. This gave us long thoughts about the sensitive reactions of individual iris cultivars to microclimatic conditions in single gardens, let alone in gardens within the same county.

The standard dwarf season was great, but gave us a lesson on what mixed chromosome breeding can do to them. Helen Stevens' Gilt Complex was a good illustration, in a fair-sized clump starting early as a typical SDB and ending up with 18-inch stalks, oddly branched, blooming so freely that it has left only one small fan. Its flowers increased in size in relation to its height, too. A small pink seedling I use for breeding, of 44 x 40 chromosomes, kept putting up taller and taller stalks with the same tiny flowers, ending up with a few stalks at 24 inches and multiple branched. These did not look over-tall because the foliage kept growing also. Most of the short-stemmed intermediates (44s) grew taller stems, but Dandelion stayed down in its foliage. Almost everything after the standard dwarfs came up one branch and one or more buds short.

Seed germination was super, with many crosses above 90 percent and several germinating 100 percent. In spite of the long, cold, wet May, some key crosses have taken in the standard dwarfs, and their pollen is still setting on the tall bearded in the middle of June, so we can look at the future with good cheer.

All the following comments were made on one day, at the height of the standard dwarf season, with thought of our new editor's needs for copy, and are just about what a visitor could have written on that one day.

Barely Verde (Cromwell '72) IB: beautifully shaped white with green etching at shoulders, and has indeed a bare hint of green in the blade of the falls.

Gatty M684, SDB: has a lovely blue hatching around the end of its white beard on very white, three buds but short stem and long falls.

Plough 2-217-2: nicely shaped intermediate, blue with wide falls of palest blue marked green at the shoulders, beard blue at front to perhaps tangerine in the haft, hint of lace and crisp substance.

Oriental Baby (Guenther '63) IB: its bright brown-red falls and sandalwood blended standards made a hit with visitors who spied it from across the garden.

Benson J28-3, SDB: tan with gold hafts and white beard, small flowers and foliage, 10 inches with three buds.

Benson J8-7, SDB: like Blueberry Muffins but more blended, looking quite green with very bright blue beard. Three buds and has pollen, and should make a fine breeder to carry forward this line.

Snow Gnome (Stuart '71) IB: has delightful shape and substance, wide and ruffled, a cool white with yellow beard. Two stalks on first-year plant, one with 3 and one with 5 buds.

Song I & II, SDB: saddest tale of branching for the year. Song I had three buds, and Song II had only 2 but as I liked it better than Song I, I couldn't make up my mind between them... so this year they solved my problem. Song I had two buds, and Song II had only one.

Dache Model (Roberts '68) SDB: lovely orange to flesh blending, tangerine tips on white beard. Two buds this year. Stands closely held, falls long and narrow, flaring.

Tornado Capers (Roberts '70) SDB: smoky blue-tan standards shading deeper at base; mustard brown shoulders and very dark blue-violet beards. Fine flare, slightly open stands turning back at the rib, three buds and pollen.

Garnet Star (Roberts '70) SDB: also first year, one stalk, three buds. Color a rich medium violet with large maroon velvet spot leaving only a quarter-inch of violet edging, and highlighted by a pale violet beard.

Melon Honey (Roberts '72) SDB: long narrow falls and closed standards, three buds. Foliage was taller than the first-year stalk, but is neat. A lovely color of soft and smooth light melon.

Tropic Babe (Brown '72) SDB: mustard, greener in the falls. Standards touch at tips but turn back at their midribs. First-year plant has four stalks with one bud each. Falls are wide and ruffled, beard pale blue with yellow hairtips. A neat small plant.

Jones M202, SDB: fine blue fall pattern on snow-white with white beard. Two buds on first-year stalks which are shorter than the average.

Trio (Hager '72) IB: large ruffled bluebeard greenish yellow. Beard rather grayed by yellow tips. Three buds, large wide foliage.

Azure Wings (Willott '71) SDB: violet blue, texture veined, darker lines at shoulders becoming solid deep violet 3/8 inches wide below the beard and divided by a line down from the beard. Stands touch, falls flare with a dip at their tips, is short on the first-year plant, two buds, and personality.

Baby Dragon (Willott '71) SDB: pale greenish gray with tan-green at shoulders becoming solid below the beard for about 3/8 inches; beard bluish with yellow tips. Flowers are shapely, but rather large on first-year plant.

Carousel Prince (Willott '71) SDB: purple with deeper spot.

Carousel Belle (Willott '71) SDB: white white with big purple spot leaving only a 1/4-inch border, white beard. Three buds and neat foliage.

Carousel Charm (Willott '71) SDB: soft cream standards, gold patch in falls with 1/2-inch edging, pale blue-white beard. Only one bud this year.

Three Cherries (Hager '71) MDB: burnt red-violet with yellow beard, darker velvet spot, neat shape with standards held apart to show wide style arms yellow with deep red-violet ribs and crests. Three stalks with one bud each on first-year plant.

Curio (Hager '72) MDB: tiny gold and brown variegata, gold beard, one stalk per division with two buds. Neat and bright.

Demon (Hager '72) SDB: darkest yet, almost truly black on the red side, with wide yellow-tipped blue beard. Standards touch and falls flare and round out, three buds. This one has all the advance impact of a future winner.

Tumwater (Plough '71) IB: pearly gray blend, green at the shoulders and with very dark blue beards. First-year stalk with three buds.

Candy Apple (Hamblen '72) SDB: another rich red, deep maroon with velvet in the falls, delectable form and color. Two stalks, two buds each on first-year plant.

Hamblen M69-10A: plicata on gold, standards widely marked tan-gray, falls marked deeper tan-brown across the shoulders and down the sides of the falls, with dotting at the bottom of the falls and inside the banding of the standards. Nice proportion, with two buds.

Space Cadet (Moldovan '69) IB: orchid white blended deeper at the heart with tangerine beard, long-blooming and of nice proportions as it bloomed here. All of Moldovan's Dove Wings intermediates are interesting in color and pattern, but hard to describe. The most interesting new one (to me) this year was Boutique ('70), which is a soft pinkish ivory, well-shaped, with a fascinating pattern of bright raspberry across the shoulders.



from Oklahoma

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Cleo Palmer

MYSTIC Midnight (Sindt '70) - Dark purple with darker spot, purple beard, wide falls and hafts, closed standards. An improved Dark Spark.

Sparkling Cloud (Sindt '68) - Closed standards of lavender suffused tan. Falls are lavender with veined spot of violet-red, and light amber-yellow hafts, pale lilac beard; good form. Name is misleading to me as it would seem to suggest a white.

Boo (Markham '72) - White standards with a tint of violet, open but stiffly held. Falls are white with a medium dark purple spot, large flower of nice form with wide falls and hafts, but not oversized. Yellow beard with white tip. Very nice.

Rangerette (Hamblen '71) - Reddish violet blend similar to Cherry Garden's color, with a deeper spot in the falls. Wide round falls and wide hafts, purplish beard. Good substance. Choice!

Candy Apple - (Hamblen '72) - Quite similar to Rangerette in color, but I believe it is a bit lighter and the falls become paler on the outer edges, but no definite spot effect. Beard is more purplish than in Rangerette. Very nice.

Tomingo (Roberts '69) - Very similar to Rangerette and Candy Apple as to color but more nearly a self, although there is a slight intensification of color around the bronze beard. It is more a matter of personal preference as to which one of the three is chosen as the best one.

Altus (Dennis '73) - Somewhat similar to the above three reds but differs from them by being more of a deep wine purple self with purple beard. Wide falls and hafts, but standards are quite open, at least this past season. Flared and ruffled.

Gingerbread Man (Jones '69) - Standards are a blending of buff-yellow and tan-brown, with infusion of lavender along the midrib. Falls are bronze-brown with light red-violet shoulders, narrow hafts, blue-violet beard. Most unusual as to color, but form could be better.

Blue Canary (Hamblen '67) - Pale ivory-yellow standards, slightly open but apparently stiffly held. The

styles are the same color as the standards. Falls are canary yellow with bronze beard tipped blue. Hafts could be wider.

Wow (A Brown '70) - Closed dark yellow standards. Falls are chestnut red with dark yellow rim. The beard is orange tipped lemon. Hafts could be wider.

Gypsy Flirt (Sindt '69) - Difficult blend to describe but appeared to me to be as follows: standards light red-violet to orchid; falls red-violet to purple blend. Might be described as a blend of shades of mauve and light red-violet. Red-violet shoulders and purple beard.

Demon (Hager '72) - Near self of dark red-black, reminiscent of Edenite. Closed, cupped standards, bronze beard with a violet tip. Wide round falls. Nice, and probably the darkest color to date in the class.

Java Girl (A Brown '71) - Standards are closed and light brown. Falls are yellow tan blend with chestnut brown spot overlaying most of the area in the falls, bronze beard tipped blue. Form not the best as falls are overly long, giving a strappy look, and over-all size of flower appears too big for its height.

Laced Lemonade (Warburton '70) - Closed canary yellow standards and falls deep canary yellow and laced, yellow beard tipped white. Nice.

Spring Bells (Jones '72) - Pale lemon-yellow standards with heavy flush of light yellow. Cream falls, yellow haft veins, wide round falls, yellow beard tipped white. Good form. Very nice indeed.

Ruby Contrast (A Brown '71) - Medium wine-red standards, deep wine-red falls that are near black-red. Rather bushy bronze beard tipped violet.

Kentucky Bluegrass (Jones '71) - Closed standards of grayed yellow with just a hint of green in them. Falls the same, with slightly darker yellow-chartreuse shoulders, hafts, and one-half inch past the yellow-bronze beard with blue tips. Fairly wide as a first-year bloom and hafts moderately wide. Very nice, but hardly as green, at least to me, as most seem to describe it.

Moon Blaze (Peterson '64) - Standards are closed and pale buff-tan. Falls are the same overlaid pale lavender that is deeper in the throat and becoming lighter towards the tip of the beard, and diffuses and lightens from that point as it spreads out in a V over the falls until lost in the buff-tan. Shoulders are a darker tan and the beard is lemon with white tip tinted lavender. Wide round falls with moderately wide hafts, good flare, and good substance. Very good and quite different in color.

Bloodspot (Tim Craig '66) - Medium light red-purple standards that are closed. Falls are light red-violet to mauve with very deep maroon-red spot over most of the fall area. Bronze brown beard with 1/4" violet tip. Wide round falls with light ruffling, good substance. Exceptionally vigorous and a prolific bloomer. Excellent.

Red Heart (A Brown '67) - Closed pale violet standards with just a tint of pale buff-tan at the tips. Falls are the same with darker buff-tan at the tips. Medium maroon-red spot covers most all of the falls except for about 1/4" rim.

Zing (M Brizendine '62) - Light creamy tan blend with hint of violet. Falls yellow brass blend with tint of pale violet and some chlorophyll green showing through from the reverse side. Styles are light yellow to pale chartreuse with light violet midribs. Over-all effect seems to be a brassy green-bronze.

Runaway (A Brown '71) - Light grayed blue and nearly closed standards. Falls are a bit lighter with a chartreuse-olive spot, red-violet veins in the hafts, which could be wider. Wide falls, and bronze beard with blue tip.

Lemon Flurry (Muhlestein '65) - Light yellow self, with mustard yellow haft veining to tip of brown-yellow beard. Wide round and ruffled falls. Very nice.

Butterscotch Frills (Hamblen '70) - Closed deep yellow standards, buff styles. Falls, yellow with an overlay of pale red-brown, giving an orange-brown effect. Ruffled. Very nice.

Little Wonder (Tim Craig '66) - Full deep purple standards that are closed. Deep purple falls that are well flared, semi-round, moderately wide, but with narrow hafts. Yellow beard tipped blue. Heavy substance and a vigorous grower and bloomer. Light purple styles.

June Prom (A Brown '67) - Light lavender standards that are closed and slightly darker at the base of the midrib. Falls are pale grayed blue with a hint of green in the center where chlorophyll green shows through. White hafts veined violet turning olive at the shoulders. Orange beard with pale blue tip. Very wide round, horizontally flared falls with heavy substance. Pale violet styles. Accent on form. Superb.

Le Sabre (Plough '65) - Creamy tan-yellow standards. Falls are medium violet but paler towards the tips. Wide falls, moderate hafts, yellow beard, semi-flared and good substance. White hafts with red-violet to amber veining.



AND so ends another volume of THE MEDIANITE. We look forward to bringing all of our readers more "goodies" in 1974 than ever before. In the works is an issue to be guest edited by our new subsection editor, Dorothy Willott, on the subject of standard dwarf bearded irises, and there will be other special features as we go along. Look for them! Meanwhile, we want to wish all of you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!