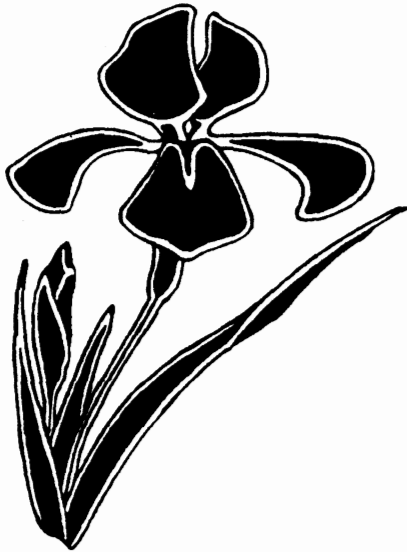


# **SECTION B**



**AWARDS AND HONORS**

## CHAPTER 3

### AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY AWARDS AND HONORS

The responsibility for setting policy, establishing rules and implementing procedures for The American Iris Society's awards for irises rests with The AIS Board of Directors. The Awards Committee of The American Iris Society is delegated the authority to coordinate, conduct, compile and report the results of the national competitions for garden awards, including the Official Ballot awards, the convention awards and honors, and the Symposium. The Exhibitions Committee of The AIS is given the authority to administer and report the results of exhibition awards earned at AIS accredited iris shows.

#### THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY'S OFFICIAL GARDEN AWARDS

Each year the accredited judges of The American Iris Society, by written Official Ballot, cast their votes for the garden awards of the Society and from this balloting, the Society's official garden awards are decided. The emphasis is repeatedly placed on the word **GARDEN** because this system of awards is based entirely on performance in the garden; all evaluations must be made of irises seen growing and in bloom in gardens, over a period of time, in different locations and under varying climatic conditions. The value of any iris variety as a cut flower, its merit as an exhibited specimen or as pleasingly photographed, is disregarded when considering an iris variety for an official garden award.

At the present time, official garden awards of The American Iris Society have been established for the following classifications of irises:

Miniature Dwarf Bearded  
Standard Dwarf Bearded  
Intermediate Bearded

Japanese  
Siberian  
Louisiana

Border Bearded  
Miniature Tall Bearded  
Tall Bearded  
Arilbred  
Aril

Pacific Coast  
Natives  
Spuria  
Species  
Inter-Species

Including all categories of awards in every classification, an AIS accredited judge has the opportunity to cast several dozen votes on the Official Ballot. However, because of the iris season's time limitations and demands, or the lack of opportunities to see, study, and acquire sufficient knowledge of irises in all classifications, few, if any, judges will make all the selections permitted. A judge will probably cast votes for fewer than half those allowed. An American Iris Society accredited judge expects to spend many hours and days visiting not only local gardens, but also private and display gardens in the area and region. If possible, the judge should visit gardens across the country, weighing the merits of eligible varieties.

The Society's official garden awards are listed below with the conditions of eligibility, the number of votes the accredited judge may cast for each award, and the minimum number of votes necessary for entitlement to each award.

## THE HIGH COMMENDATION AWARD

The High Commendation (HC) Award is reserved for seedling irises, viewed in gardens under seedling number or registered name, which have not yet been introduced to commerce. A seedling in any of the established classifications listed previously is eligible for the HC Award. Judges are cautioned not to vote for a first year seedling and to be certain that the seedling being considered conforms to the requirements of its designated classification.

The HC Award is granted to each seedling that receives five or more votes. It is acceptable for a seedling to win the HC Award more than once and as often as the judges award it. A seedling

remains eligible up to the time of its introduction. In any award year, the HC Award is limited to irises that have not been introduced before the deadline date for filing the Official Ballot.

The maximum number of seedlings that the judge may enter on his/her ballot is : Tall Bearded, eight; each of the other classifications, three.

## THE HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

An officially registered and introduced iris in the classification of TB, BB, IB, SDB, MDB, MTB, Aril, Arilbred, and bearded SPEC and SPEC-X becomes eligible for the Honorable Mention (HM) Award the **second** year after its year of introduction to commerce. All other classes, as registered by the introducer, become eligible for the HM Award the **third** year following introduction.

[An introduction is an offering for sale to the public by printed document such as a catalog or printed list, or by advertisement in the *AIS Bulletin*. However, to be eligible for AIS official awards above the level of High Commendation Award, the iris introduction must be recorded with the AIS Registrar.]

Irises of each classification remain on the ballot for a period of three years. Although eligible iris varieties are listed on the ballot for only three years, a variety remains eligible until such time as it might receive the HM Award. An iris variety may win the HM Award only once.

Any iris that has been properly registered and introduced, regardless of classification or age, that has not won an HM may be placed on the HM Award ballot for an additional period of three years. Eligibility is subject to certification by the AIS Registrar. A combined total of ten accredited judges from at least two regions of the AIS that are eligible to vote the Official Ballot must request in writing to the AIS Awards Chair that a variety be placed back on the HM ballot. The requests must all

be received within the same calendar year to be considered valid. The iris will then be placed on the following year's ballot and remain eligible for a period of three years. An iris may be placed on the HM ballot no more than once by this method.

The maximum number of varieties for which the accredited judge may cast a vote is ten percent (10 %) of the irises eligible to be voted in each classification rounded to the next higher number.

The HM shall be awarded to the top ten percent (10 %) of the irises in each classification rounded to the next higher number.

The FRED AND BARBARA WALTHER CUP is awarded annually by The American Iris Society to the originator of the iris variety that receives the greatest number of votes in the HM Award balloting, regardless of classification. All classifications of irises are eligible.

## **THE AWARD OF MERIT**

One of The American Iris Society's most coveted awards is the Award of Merit (AM). The award is given each year to a limited number of iris varieties in each of the classifications of iris listed above and only after the eligible varieties have been marketed over a period of time. This assures wide distribution and thus affords the judges sufficient opportunities to properly evaluate the eligible varieties as worthy of the award. Judges are again reminded that it is the responsibility of the individual judge to determine that the iris variety conforms to the requirements of the classification in which it is registered.

Eligibility for the Award of Merit begins the second year after the iris variety has received the HM Award, and eligibility continues for three years. All eligible varieties are listed on the Official Ballot during the three years of eligibility. An iris may win an Award of Merit only once.

The judge is permitted to cast votes for ten percent (10 %) of the irises eligible to be voted in each classification, or a minimum of two for each classification.

In each award year, the AM is awarded to the top ten percent (10 %) of the irises in each classification rounded to the next higher number, or a minimum of two.

In any given year in which there are fewer than three eligible cultivars for any Award of Merit, that Award of Merit will not be placed on the Official AIS Ballot for vote until there are at least three eligible cultivars for that specific Award of Merit. Each eligible cultivar will continue on the printed Ballot for the full three years of eligibility.

## **THE SPECIAL MEDAL AWARDS**

The Special Medals are as follows:

The CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL is restricted to Miniature Dwarf Bearded irises.

The COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL is restricted to Standard Dwarf Bearded irises.

The HANS and JACOB SASS MEDAL is restricted to Intermediate Bearded irises.

The KNOWLTON MEDAL is restricted to Border Bearded irises.

The WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL is restricted to Miniature Tall Bearded irises.

The CLARENCE G. WHITE MEDAL is restricted to irises of one-half or more aril content that clearly exhibit at least three readily recognizable aril flower characteristics as defined and approved by the Aril Society International.

The WILLIAM MOHR MEDAL is restricted to irises of one-quarter or more aril content that do not meet the more restrictive requirements of the C. G. White Medal and that clearly exhibit at least two readily recognizable flower characteristics as defined and approved by the Aril Society International.

The JOHN C. WISTER MEMORIAL MEDAL is restricted to Tall Bearded irises.

The PAYNE MEDAL is restricted to Japanese irises.

The MARY SWORDS DeBAILLON MEDAL is restricted to Louisiana irises.

The SYDNEY B. MITCHELL MEDAL is restricted to Pacific Coast Native irises (Californicae)

The MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL is restricted to Siberian irises.

The ERIC NIES MEDAL is restricted to Spuria irises.

The FOUNDERS OF SIGNA MEDAL is restricted to species irises.

The RANDOLPH-PERRY MEDAL is restricted to interspecies irises.

To become eligible for a Special Medal, an iris must have received the Award of Merit in its class. Eligibility begins the second year after the variety has received its AM and continues for a period of three years. Qualified varieties are listed on the Official Ballot during the three-year period of eligibility. Judges may vote for just one choice for each of the Special Medals, except for the John C. Wister Memorial Medal, where a judge may vote for three choices.

In each classification, the Special Medal is awarded to the one iris (three for the Wister Medal) receiving the most votes in each

classification. In case of a tie, those irises tied shall receive duplicate medals.

In any given year in which there are fewer than two eligible cultivars for any Special Medal, that Special Medal will not be placed on the Official AIS Ballot for vote until there are at least two eligible cultivars for that specific Special Medal. Each eligible cultivar will continue on the printed Ballot for the full three years of eligibility.

The Knowlton, Hans and Jacob Sass, Cook-Douglas, and Williamson-White Medals are provided by the Median Iris Society for awarding by The American Iris Society. The Caparne-Welch Medal is provided by the Dwarf Iris Society. The Mary Swords DeBaillon Medal is provided by the Society for Louisiana Irises. The Morgan-Wood Medal is provided by the Society for Siberian Irises. SIGNA provides the Founders of Signa and the Randolph-Perry Medals. The Eric Nies Medal is provided by the Spuria Iris Society. The Payne Medal is provided by the Society for Japanese Irises. The Clarence G. White and William Mohr Medals are provided by the Aril Society International. The Sydney B. Mitchell Medal is provided by the Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises.

## THE DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

The Dykes Memorial Medal is the highest award an iris can receive. The medal honors William Rickatson Dykes (1877-1925), the English botanist and author of the great monograph The Genus Iris. The Dykes Medal for America is awarded annually by the British Iris Society through The American Iris Society, and is restricted to irises first introduced in the United States or Canada regardless of origin. The first Dykes Medal for America was awarded in 1927.

To become eligible for the American Dykes Medal, an iris must have received a Special Medal.



The Special Medal winners become eligible for the Dykes Medal the first year after receiving the Special Medal. The period of eligibility is three years. All eligible varieties are listed on the Official Ballot during the three-year period of eligibility. To ensure that there will always be three cultivars of each classification of iris on the eligibility list for the Dykes Memorial Medal on the Official Ballot, the iris which wins the Dykes Memorial Medal will be replaced on the list by the Special Medal winner and the first runner-up (and second runner-up, if necessary) for that classification of iris (excepting tall bearded where three Special Medals are awarded each year). Any iris deemed eligible for the Dykes Medal which has not won the Special Medal for its classification will retain its normal eligibility for its classification Special Medal.

Each judge may cast one vote for the DM award. The iris which receives the greatest number of votes regardless of classification is designated the winner. In case of a tie, a run-off ballot shall be made for those varieties that have tied.

## **THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY'S OFFICIAL EXHIBITION AWARDS**

### **THE EXHIBITION CERTIFICATE**

The Exhibition Certificate (EC) may be awarded to outstanding seedlings exhibited at accredited iris shows. All seedlings entered in competition in the seedling division of AIS accredited iris shows are eligible for consideration. To receive an EC, a seedling must receive the votes of at least five AIS accredited judges. However, the one seedling judged to be the Best Seedling of the Show by the show's official judges will also receive an Exhibition Certificate regardless of the number of official judges assigned to the show.

All AIS accredited judges, either visiting a show or acting in the capacity of official show judges, have a responsibility to consider every exhibited seedling and to cast votes for those seedlings

deemed worthy. All EC ballots must be filled in at the show and given to the proper show official, as these ballots must be returned with the show report to the AIS Exhibitions Chairman. There is no limit on the number of EC votes a judge may cast, nor is there any limit on the number of Exhibition Certificates awarded in any year. A seedling may win an EC more than once and as many times as the judges award it.

## **IRIS SHOW AWARDS**

The highly prized show awards of The American Iris Society are awarded by AIS accredited judges acting as official show judges of AIS accredited iris shows. Only AIS accredited shows which conform to the exhibition rules of the AIS and which have been approved by the AIS Exhibitions Committee are eligible for AIS awards.

AIS show awards range from the traditional ribbons and rosettes to the youth division silver and bronze medals and the AIS silver and bronze certificates and medals. The show awards and the conditions under which they are awarded are presented in detail in Chapter 4.

## **THE NELSON AWARD**

The Nelson Award was first given in 1966. This award is made annually to honor the iris which has most often been selected Best Specimen of the Show in AIS accredited iris shows during the calendar year. In case of a tie more than one award may be given and the same variety may win more than once.

## POPULAR SELECTIONS

### SYMPOSIUM OF 100 FAVORITE IRISES

The Symposium of 100 Favorite Irises is conducted annually by The American Iris Society, and all AIS members are entitled to participate in the balloting. Often referred to as the "Popularity Poll," the Symposium has existed in its present form since 1952. Prior to that time, from its beginnings in the early 1940s, symposium voting was restricted to accredited judges, but in 1952 the Symposium was opened to all AIS members. With only minor changes, the rules have remained essentially as we know them today.

Symposium balloting is limited to tall bearded irises. Varieties eligible and listed on the ballot include the following:

- 1) The top 100 varieties of the previous year's Symposium.
- 2) TB irises included in the current year's Dykes eligibility list.
- 3) TB irises included in the current year's AM eligibility list.
- 4) TB irises included in the current year's Wister eligibility list.
- 5) TB Award of Merit winners of the previous year.
- 6) TB Honorable Mention Award winners of the previous year.

Each member may vote for no more than twenty-five varieties. If a member votes for more than 25 varieties, then the entire ballot is voided.

The Symposium ballot is mailed to AIS members along with the July AIS *Bulletin*, and completed ballots must be returned to a member's Regional Vice President by the date stated on the ballot. Each RVP is responsible for tabulating his/her region's ballots and the totals for the region are sent to The AIS

Symposium Chairman for final compilation. Overseas members should return their ballots directly to The AIS Symposium Chairman. Results of the Symposium are published in the January issue of *The AIS Bulletin*.

Sections of The American Iris Society conduct polls similar to the Symposium for the different classifications of irises. Section members participate in selecting the favorite irises for those classifications.

## **CONVENTION AWARDS AND HONORS**

The American Iris Society's national meeting, popularly known as The AIS national convention, is held annually in the spring of the year. Everyone attending the national meeting who has paid the convention's registration fees is entitled to cast ballots to honor outstanding irises seen in the convention's official tour gardens. The privilege is extended to all registrants without regard to status as an AIS member.

## **THE FRANKLIN COOK MEMORIAL CUP**

The Franklin Cook Memorial Cup is awarded annually during The American Iris Society's national meeting. All introduced irises seen growing and in bloom in the official tour gardens of the meeting are eligible for the Cook Memorial Cup, except irises originated within the host region for that year's national meeting or originated by a hybridizer whose garden is included on the official garden tour, regardless of its location. Irises considered may or may not be official guest irises.

[For the convention ballots, introduced irises will include all irises properly registered and offered for sale prior to or in the April *AIS Bulletin* of the year of that national meeting.]

Each registrant may vote for only one variety and the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup is awarded to the iris receiving the greatest number of votes.

### **THE PRESIDENT'S CUP**

The President's Cup is awarded annually during The American Iris Society's national meeting. Eligibility is restricted to introduced irises originated within the host region for that year's national meeting or originated by a hybridizer whose garden is included on the meeting's official convention tour, regardless of its location. Irises must have been seen growing and in bloom in the meeting's official tour gardens, but need not be official guest irises.

Each registrant may vote for one variety, and The President's Cup is awarded to the iris with the largest number of votes.

### **BEN R. HAGER CUP**

The Ben R. Hager Cup is awarded annually during The American Iris Society's national meeting. Eligibility is restricted to introduced median irises (SDB, IB, BB, MTB) seen growing and in bloom in the meeting's official tour gardens, but need not be official guest irises.

Each registrant may vote for one variety, and the Ben R. Hager Cup is awarded to the iris with the largest number of votes.

## **FAVORITE GUEST IRISES**

The annual meeting's ballot for favorite guest irises allows each registrant the privilege of voting for up to fifteen guest irises he/she considers outstanding. Eligibility is restricted to registered irises, introduced or not introduced, which are official convention guest irises. They must be listed in the meeting's program book and must have been seen growing and in bloom on the meeting's official garden tour. The meeting's official list of Favorite Guest Irises (usually 25) is made up of the varieties receiving the highest number of votes.

## **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARD**

This distinctive award is neither a garden award nor an exhibition award. This award is made by The American Iris Society's Board of Directors to honor an iris which has not won a Dykes Medal, but which shows clearly in its progeny that it is among the greats of irisdome. The Board of Directors Award, which is not an annual award, was established in 1972 and first awarded in 1975.