

Exhibitions Committee Report

J. ARTHUR NELSON, *Chairman*

One hundred and twenty-one shows received the official AIS awards this year, and more than fifty shows had to cancel because of unseasonable spring weather in many sections of the country. This committee has filled 459 orders for show supplies this year. The volume had become so great that it no longer is possible to handle the shipment of supplies on a volunteer basis, and the show supplies will be shipped from St. Louis next year, with the awards being processed out of Omaha.

Many of the statistics are incomplete, for, to our consternation, many of the report forms came in on older forms that did not call for complete information. However, it seems clear that there was a minimum of 35,000 exhibits, and that they were viewed by at least a quarter of a million people. Shows that reported more than 400 exhibits are:

In *Alabama*, Birmingham (both), Huntsville; *California*, Antioch, Live Oak, Manteca, Redding, Sacramento; *Georgia*, Atlanta, Rome; *Idaho*, Boise (both); *Illinois*, Villa Park; *Michigan*, Flint; *Minnesota*, Minneapolis; *Mississippi*, Jackson; *Kansas*, Wichita; *Nebraska*, Crete; *New Mexico*, Albuquerque; *Oklahoma*, Miami; *South Carolina*, Columbia; *Tennessee*, Memphis; *Texas*, Dallas (both), El Paso, Temple; *Washington*, Opportunity, Spokane; *Wisconsin*, Milwaukee.

Antioch, Sacramento, Rome, and Villa Park went around the 750 mark for irises and iris-related entries, with Villa Park reporting 752 entries.

Award-winning shows were held in 41 states this year. Texas led the list with 14 shows, California was in second place with 11, Washington was in third place with 10, and Oklahoma was in fourth place with nine.

BLUE SAPPHIRE replaced VIOLET HARMONY as the top award winner (VIOLET HARMONY had been the leader for the past two years. Eighty-nine different irises won Queen of Show awards, with BLUE SAPPHIRE being picked six times; BANG, FIRST VIOLET, STAR SHINE, and VIOLET HARMONY each being picked four times. BLUE RHYTHM was a three-time winner, and double winners were BLUE SHIMMER, CHARMED LAND, GLITTERING GOLD, MARY RANDALL, NEW SNOW, OLYMPIC TORCH, PIERRE MENARD, and SNOW GODDESS.

Two hundred and ninety-seven judges cast seedling ballots, and 62 seedlings had the requisite five or more votes to win the Exhibition Certificate. Clarence Blocher's B-77 and John E. Goett's 3D-1 led the voting with 14 votes.

This year we had the first dwarf show and the first median show, and we again had a Louisiana show. For the first time we awarded the Section Certificate for sweepstakes in shows that had more than one section of irises shown.

Many of the show chairmen were especially enthusiastic about the educational exhibits, and there were enough junior exhibits this year that we ought to place in stock a special set of junior exhibitor awards.

The report of the show held in Little Rock, Arkansas, was outstanding for its completeness.

If any of the exhibitors have not received the certificates to which they are entitled, please write us, and they will be sent.