

# The Franklin Cook Memorial Cup

W. F. SCOTT, JR.

In 1947 the late Dr. Franklin P. Cook, then President of the Society, donated a Cup to be known as the "President's Cup." It was to be awarded annually to the originator of a duly named and introduced iris, seen in a garden included on the regular program of the Annual Meeting, and judged by popular vote to be the most outstanding such iris seen at the Meeting.

Each winner holds possession of the Cup for one year, and then receives a small replica to keep permanently. The names of winners are inscribed on the base of the Cup, and they have been:

- 1947 Chicago, Mr. Orville Fay, Zantha
- 1948 Nashville, Mr. Geddes Douglas, Amandine
- 1949 Portland, Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge, Sunset Blaze
- 1950 Sioux City, Mrs. C. G. Whiting, Blue Rhythm
- 1951 Shreveport, Mrs. Alex Smith, Royal Gem
- 1952 St. Louis, Mr. Clifford Benson, Bellerive
- 1953 Boston Mrs. F. P. Lowry, Violet Harmony
- 1954 Salt Lake City, Mr. Tell Muhlestein, Pink Fulfillment
- 1955 Hamilton, Mrs. Harry Bickle, Agliers

Following the death of Dr. Cook, the Board of Directors changed the name of the award to The Franklin Cook Memorial Cup, by which name it is now known.

Only the most cursory inspection of the above record is needed to discover that the Cup has always gone to a local iris. This was not the wish or intention of Dr. Cook, nor is it the wish or intention of any member of the Board of Directors. It is the result of two very natural things, which no reasonable rules could eliminate. It is natural that the local people want a local iris to win. It is also natural that a local iris should grow well, and be in plentiful supply, on its home grounds. The combination of these two factors is almost unbeatable. Some day an outside iris may win, but 1956 was no different from the earlier years. A local iris won, and well deserved to win, for it put on a lovely display in nearly every garden on the regular program. The iris was Mrs. Douglas Pattison's WHITE PEACOCK, and the balloting was decisive:

|                            |           |                             |    |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----|
| White Peacock . . . . .    | 122 votes | Frances Craig . . . . .     | 36 |
| Gold Cup . . . . .         | 39        | Swan Ballet . . . . .       | 20 |
| Char-Maize . . . . .       | 38        | Next 21 varieties . . . . . | 44 |
| Total votes cast . . . . . |           | 299                         |    |

Congratulations to Mrs. Pattison on an extraordinarily fine iris!