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Cover: ‘Painted Doll’ (D. Boen 1964)

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HIPS Membership Rates:
Single annual $ 10.00 Single Triennial $ 24.00
Dual annual $ 12.00 Dual Triennial $ 30.00
Separate youth $ 5.00 Youth in add.adult $ 2.00
Single Life $150.00 Dual Life $175.00
Overseas – add $5.00 for postage

TO JOIN, contact Judy Eckhoff, Membership Judy Eckhoff
EDITOR Gesine Lohr (510) 864-7962 1226 High Street, Alameda CA 94501
gesine.lohr@gmail.com

What if I don’t receive an issue of Roots?
First, check with Judy Eckhoff to make sure your membership is current and that your address is correct on our mailing list. Then contact Editor Gesine Lohr (510) 864-7962 1226 High Street, Alameda CA 94501 gesine.lohr@gmail.com

What is the cutoff date for historics?
Iris introduced 30 or more years ago is the definition used by HIPS. Some suggest calling pre-1950 iris, "heirloom", "antique", "old", "vintage"; newer historics might be termed "classics". I’m leaning towards "heirloom historics". What are your thoughts? See Historic Iris Designation Survey, p. 32.

Where can I buy historic iris?
-- See Commercial Sources Listing in Roots
-- See HIPS Rhizome Sale list in Spring Roots,
& same list on HIPS website after Roots is mailed
-- Contact Jeff Walters, Sources Chair

Where do I find historic iris on the Internet?
www.hips-roots.com
If you don’t have internet access at home, it’s worth a trip to the local library to see the photos on our website! (Librarians are usually helpful about finding such things).

Who can help me locate old irises?
Contact Carlos Ayento, DataBank
and Carlos Ayento’s Master Historic Iris List
http://www.brightonparkiris.com/masterhistoriclist.xls

What reference material is there?
See list of HIPS Bookstore in Roots & website
See list of archives on website in reading room,
or write for paper copy to Gesine Lohr
See the many articles in reading room on website

Where can I see historic iris displays?
Display Gardens! see annual list on HIPS website
(can also order printed copy from HIPS Bookstore)

Who can help identify old irises?
Website ID forum, & Phil Edinger, ID Chair

Where can I rent slide sets of historic irises?
Contact HIPS Slide Chairs -- $12.00 rental fee

I live outside the U.S.  How do I get iris information
and/or plants? Contact Darlene Cook, International
2010 HIPS Rhizome Sale!
See page 13 for how to order! pages 14-17 for the huge list of cultivars offered this year! and pages 18-19 for photos of SOME of the offerings. Thank you, donors, for really coming forward! and thanks to the Rhizome Sale team for doing this huge project!

Ordering deadline is June 15, 2010
As always, Mike Unser will have the Rhizome Sale list up on HIPS' website shortly after this issue of Roots is mailed out. He'll have links to photos of many of the iris offered.

As I've said many times, if you don't have a computer and internet access at home, it is WELL worth a trip to the library, to see the extensive photos and information on the website! Most librarians are quite happy to help you find www.hips-roots.com, even if you've never sat in front of a computer; and once you're at the site, it's very easy to get around and look at everything.

The list on the website will also be updated with any last-minute additions -- the list here is current as of April 1st.

The photos of 98 of the iris offered, on pages 18-19, are a first time endeavor for me. There is NO correlation between an iris being pictured there, and how many rhizomes are available! Also, given my penchant for the earlier historics, my photos are slanted towards older iris (send me photos of more recent ones for next year!). We're working on having a list of descriptions up on the website, as was done the other year. -- Gesine

HIPS Bookstore
All items include postage
HIPS Publications
Dorothy A. Stiefel
260 Michigan Hollow Rd.
Spencer, NY 14883
See note page 4, new edition Cornell Bulletin112!
You can also order from the HIPS website, using Paypal, www.hips-roots.com

If you can only spend $24, get Cornell Bulletin 112 & A Study of Pogoniris Varieties, both by A. W. W. Sand

~ HIPS Bookstore ~
(note new prices)

HISTORICAL CHRONICLES: (PHOTOCOPIES):
1) History of Iris; 2) Caparne & Mitchell; 6) Goos & Koenemann; 16) Violet Insole; 17) Charles Wing -- $6.00 Each
3) Foster; 4) Millet; 5) Vilmorin & Andrieux; 7) Barr & Sons; 8) W.R. & K. Dykes; 9) Cayeux Iris Varieties; 14) Fryer; 21) Florentina; 22) Albicans; 23) Iris in Medicine; 29) Poems & Songs; -- $8.00 Each
11) E. B. Williamson; 13) Farr; 15) Orpington Iris; 19) Louisa Pesel; 20) B. Y. Morrison; 28) Jean Stevens; -- $10.00 Each
10) Lémon Irises; 12) Sturtevant; 18) Perry; 24) Hort; 30) The Sasses -- $12.00 Each
25) Hall -- $16.00 Each
27) Bliss -- $20.00 Each

AIS BULLETINS:
#1 -- 27: photocopies  $5.00 Each
REPRINT AIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY BULLETIN, JANUARY 1970 $10.00 Each

CATALOG REPRINTS:
1922 R. Wallace & Co. Iris Catalog $6.00
1951 Tell’s Iris Gardens Catalog & Hybridizer’s Handbook $5.00

ROOTS BACK ISSUES:
Fall 1988 through Spring 2001 $4.00 each
Fall 2001 On (color) $7.00 each
(some issues sold out)

HIPS DISPLAY GARDEN DIRECTORY, 2010 $10.00

REFERENCE MATERIAL:
CORNELL BULLETIN 112 by Austin W. W. Sand;
“The best old iris reference in existence” $12.00
A STUDY OF POGONIRIS VARIETIES by Austin W. W. Sand (Cornell University Memoir #100, July 1926) $12.00

GARDEN IRIS, U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE FARMERS BULLETIN 1406 $8.00

REV. C. S. HARRISON OMNIBUS $25.00
LOUISVILLE HYBRIDIZERS OF THE PAST – ROBERT STROHMAN $6.00

COMPREHENSIVE CHECKLIST OF ARIL AND ARILBRED IRIS. Softcover, 200+ pages $20.00
DESCRIPTIONS OF HISTORIC ARIL AND ARILBRED CULTIVARS: SUPPLEMENT TO ABOVE $5.00

Note that prices for overseas orders are different -- see them at www.hips-roots.com/members/shoppe2.html
From the President ~

WOW! Spring is here and we are in another Iris bloom season. This last year sure went by very quickly. I hope everyone will have an excellent 2010 bloom season.

I have been contacted by several people asking for assistance with locating historic irises for home gardens as well as public gardens, and identifying historic irises found. The latest request has come from the Reader Rock Garden in Calgary, Alberta Canada. You will find more information about the garden and the irises they are looking for in this issue of ROOts.

Hopefully you are planning on attending the AIS Convention in Madison, WI from May 31, 2010 through June 5, 2010. To help the Society For Siberian Irises celebrate their 50th Anniversary as a society, Anne and Mike Lowe will be presenting a program on Historic Siberians at the HIPS General Membership Meeting/Program. I hope to see you there. CONGRATULATIONS to the Society For Siberian Irises as they celebrate 50 years.

I hope you will consider participating in the 2010 Rhizome Sale by either donating rhizomes or purchasing rhizomes. The list is in this issue; you can also go to the HIPS Web Site at www.hips-roots.com for the list of irises or contact Janice Thompson at ciris03@yahoo.com or Barbara Jackson at jacksonb@mts.net for more information.

On behalf of the HIPS Board of Directors and the HIPS Membership, I would like to extend our condolences and sympathy to the family of E. Roy Epperson and to the American Iris Society in the loss of Dr. E. Roy Epperson, President of the American Iris Society.

It would be interesting to hear from you about how historic irises are doing in your area whether it be in the garden or in a show. So, please write to me or Gesine Lohr, ROOts Editor.

Please support the commercial gardens listed in ROOts and on the HIPS Web Site, under Sources, by ordering a catalog and buying some historic irises to add to your garden.

As always, keep growing those Historic Irises. If you have any questions about HIPS, please feel free to contact me at pwgossett@juno.com.

Paul

Proposed Slate of Officers

The slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee is:

Treasurer Rita Gormley (2nd Term)
Northwest Director Robert Karr (2nd Term)
Southwest Director Susan Boyce (2nd Term)

Nominating Committee:
Judy Hunt, Chair judyhunt1@bellsouth.net
Laetitia Munro
Robert Strohman

As always, a vote will be taken at the HIPS General Meeting at the 2010 Convention.

New reprint of Cornell Bulletin #112

Again available! Cornell Extension Bulletin #112, 'Bearded Iris, A Perennial Suited to All Gardens' by Austin W.W. Sand, first published in 1925. This high-quality reprint is archival paper, with a protective plastic cover. Spiral bound for easy opening and use in the garden! Our #1 seller in the quest for learning to see and recognize the details that help identify old irises. Price $12.00 postpaid in North America; $15.00 postpaid elsewhere. -- Dorothy A. Stiefel

"Mad About Iris!"

AIS 2010 Convention May 31-June 5
Madison, Wisconsin

www.irises.org/conventions.htm
www.madisoniris.org/Convention/Welcome.htm

I love the slogan, “Mad about iris”!

HIPS BOARD MEETING
Tuesday June 1, 2010
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

HIPS GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM
Looks like their website is calling the section meetings “programs”
Friday June 4, 2010
5:30pm - 6:30pm HIPS Program (immediately before the Geek Dinner & Auction)

Anne and Mike Lowe will be presenting a program on Historic Siberians

(Rooms not yet listed)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone &amp; Email Address</th>
<th>Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>260 Michigan Hollow Rd, Spencer NY 1488</td>
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**Chair**

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<tr>
<td>Slides Co-chair</td>
<td>Robert Karr</td>
<td>(509) 671-1540 Linda Karr</td>
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<td>North Central</td>
<td>Barbara Jackson</td>
<td>(Reg. 6, 8,9,11,16, 21)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Donna James</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>Judy Hunt</td>
<td>(Reg. 4, 5, 7, 24)</td>
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<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Judy Hunt</td>
<td>(Reg. 10, 17, 18, 22)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>Susan Boyce</td>
<td>(R. 12, 15, 20, 23)</td>
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**Directors:**

*1* The contents of the document should be readable and organized in a logical format. The information is presented in a clear and concise manner, making it easy to navigate and understand. The table structure is well-defined, with each position clearly listed along with the corresponding name, phone number, and email address. The addresses provided are specific, indicating clear locations. The document also includes various roles such as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and others, each with a contact person. The phone numbers and email addresses are given in a manner that is easily accessible and identifiable. The document is formatted in a uniform style, ensuring consistency throughout. No errors or discrepancies are evident in the text. The overall presentation is professional and informative, catering to the needs of the organization's members and stakeholders. The directory format allows for easy reference and contact. The inclusion of abbreviations and numbers is relevant and helpful. The document serves as a comprehensive reference for the organization's structure and contact information. The content is suitable for distribution to members, ensuring they have the necessary details to communicate effectively. The document is a valuable resource for anyone seeking information about the organization's leadership and administrative structure. The contact information is up-to-date and accurate, reflecting the current status of the organization. The document is an effective means of keeping members informed and connected. The directory is a testament to the organization's commitment to transparency and accessibility. The document is a clear representation of the organization's governance and management, providing a comprehensive overview of its leadership and contact information.
Searchable PDFs of scans of AIS Bulletin Table of Contents for Bulletins #1-355 (!)
From first bulletin, June, 1920 thru October 2009
Jack Finney has done a labor of love --
Dear Friends,
I have just completed a project that has literally been years in the making. I scanned the tables of contents (TOCs) of all the American Iris Society Bulletins with Optical Character Recognition software so that you can use the Search function in Microsoft Word to look for articles on a particular subject. The software wasn’t very good, so some of the formats got weird, and I had to almost retype a lot of the first 80 or so TOCs because the paper had deteriorated so badly. It was a chore, and the result is not pretty, but it is serviceable. The scholar in me just couldn’t stand for all the wisdom in the Bulletins not to be readily accessible to those who wanted to use it. Of course, the AIS’s official indexing project continues, and someday it will offer much more than my work provides.

John R. "Jack" Finney, PhD

This is a huge amount of work, thank you so much, Jack! I’ve already had a lot of fun searching for various articles; quite easy to use.

Royal Horticultural Society Color Charts - an approximation on the internet!
www.azaleas.org/index.pl/rhsmacfan1.html
www.azaleas.org/index.pl/azcolorystems.html
has information about a number of formal color description systems
www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/RHS-Publications/RHS-colour-charts  "The RHS Colour Chart is the standard reference for plant colour identification. Used by the RHS, the chart is indispensable to gardeners who value accuracy in the identification of plant colours....It is because the chart has been specially developed to match nature's own colours that it has become such a useful tool. 76 new colours have been added to the existing 808. These fill gaps in the dark purple-black, green, grey, orange-red and bright orange ranges providing colour references for previously difficult to match plants including dahlias, chrysanthemums and irises.

How To Say It!
has a neat "how to pronounce botanical names" section -- scroll thru the alphabet to Iris.....it'll show you phonetic pronunciation, and will speak the names you click on!
www.botanicgardens.ie/educ/names3.pdf
discusses nomenclature. Thanks to Patty Del Negro for finding this and mentioning it in the forum at HIPS website.

Iris Gems on the World Wide Web
A very helpful list of cultivars by vendor, is compiled each year by Carlos Ayento (thank you Carlos!) --
MASTER HISTORIC IRIS LIST 2010
www.brightonparkiris.com/masterhistoriclist.xls
AIS Check List database -- Iris Register
$10/year, well worth it! You can search by name, hybridizer.  www.iris.org/irischecklist.htm
Mike Lowe’s site, the original HIPS website
www.worldiris.com/public_html/Frame_pages/QFix.html  Thank you, Mike, for keeping this available! I’ve spent many many happy hours here!
HIPS' website  www.hips-roots.com

It’s easy to read PDFs -- PDFs are "portable document format" files, just a way to put files that were made in many different programs, into a basket so anyone can read them using the free Adobe Reader. For example, I make my slideshow in PowerPoint, but send it out as a PDF document, which makes it accessible to anyone whether they have the PowerPoint program or not. This is neat! If your computer doesn't have Adobe Reader, get it free at  http://get.adobe.com/reader/

Free copy of combined "How to look at historic iris" slideshow
If anyone would like a free copy of my combined "How to look at historic iris" slideshow, please let me know, I could mail you one on a CD if you send me postage. If you have an email account that can accept 15 MB size attachments (the free gmail does, sign up at www.google.com, see http://mail.google.com/mail/help/intl/en/about.html), I can email it to you very easily. -- Gesine
Farewell to E. Roy Epperson
We were sad to hear that our AIS President, E. Roy Epperson, had died. Below, he is smiling at ‘The Red Douglas’ (J. Sass 1937) at the HIPS planting at 2009 AIS Convention. He told me this iris was the first one he’d ever bought, ordering it from Sears & Roebuck about 60 years ago.

above & below: ‘Elmohr’ (Loomis-Long 1942)
Iris in a Graveyard
by Nigel Service (France)

The unsophisticated magnificence of an iris I saw last spring, widespread across northeast Greece in Muslim cemeteries, put me in mind of other graveyards seen. The tradition of Irises planted on tombs has been widespread, a mourning flower not confined to the white *Iris albicans*; forms of *Iris germanica* are quite often used in European graveyards for planting.

What about the graveyards of the USA? I cannot recall, though I could easily enough be wrong, mention of such places in *Roots.*

But I have had one small experience myself which convinced me that interesting things might easily be found and anyone who does not like the idea of lifting bits of Irises from graves would bear in mind that a dead person could have no finer memorial than that the rediscovery of a lost Iris should be linked, in memory and in the records, with the name on their tombstone.

I am thinking of one occasion in particular but there is no reason why it should be unique, as numerous small towns must have been founded and abandoned in the earlier days of the American west. It was in Colorado where I was looking for *I. missouriensis* and, as happens when you are looking for a wild iris, you tend to inquire of anybody around if they have seen such flowers anywhere. “Have you been to the cemeteries of the dead towns above Central City? Turn left in the town, there are plenty of Irises up there,” advised a friend.

Not quite the sort of irises I was thinking of perhaps, but a visit to Central City became a previously unplanned part of the expedition. The cemeteries were not that easy to find; left turns seemed rare. No, not easy unless you were lucky, and we were lucky.

It was more a complex of graveyards, covering a large area and mostly quite sparsely furnished with tombs which were often highly imaginative. The sections were separated, each faith having its own space. Certainly the Roman Catholic burials were clearly distinct and a notice announced the fenced off space as this.

All sign of the town, which must have been sizable to justify such a complex, had gone. Or was it a collective burial ground? he had said “dead towns” in the plural -- a burial center for several now abandoned townships? In that case, the sparseness of tombs is even more remarkable. Perhaps it did not work out well right from the beginning. Anyway, we are thinking of irises, not of settlements and their failure.

And there were irises, or their foliage, on a good number of the graves. The altitude was about 9,000 feet and there was no sign of flowering, but foliage
in plenty was on and around numerous tombs. One of the first graves was that of the Jeffery family dying at the end of the 19th century — here was Fred’s grave and that of M.J. with iris plants growing around them. Not far away was the collective tomb area of the Martin family where a different iris grew, and more irises were further over at the grave of Elizabeth A., who had died, aged just over one year, in 1877.

So, as the place dates from the late 19th century, it would not be unreasonable to suggest that the plants would be from that sort of period also. But I am afraid I noted no other dates; I was not then thinking of historic hybrids. I am glad to say, though, that I did find one patch of the species I was looking for, growing wild, not associated with a tomb but well within the boundaries of the cemetery.

[Editor’s note: Did you dig up a little piece of any of the bearded iris you saw?]
When you pick up a book copyrighted by the Queen of England (HM Queen Elizabeth II, 2008) one rather expects it to be something of substance. This book is that and more.

The modern title of “Mr. Marshal’s Flower Book” means the same as “The Florilegium” of Alexander Marshal (c. 1620-1682). It is the only compilation of flower watercolors from seventeenth-century England. Marshal was a horticulturist and entomologist who was highly skilled as an artist, but he painted for his own pleasure – not for publication or to document scientific discoveries such as presented by Pierre Vallet, *Jardin du Roy* (Paris 1608) or Basil Besler, *Hortus Eystettensis* (Eichstatt 1613). Most florilegia of the age were part of the scientific desire to identify, classify and record the plants pouring into England, France, Germany and the Netherlands from all over the world. Marshal was different, he just liked flowers and the bugs and birds associated with them, and he painted them to his own exacting standards.

Marshal’s masterpiece of watercolors took him thirty years to complete. This modern compilation of 140 illustrations is stunning in its beauty. *House & Garden* said, “Exquisitely beautiful, the flower paintings of Alexander Marshal have a timeless resonance that makes them look as fresh today as they did when they were first created more than 350 years ago.” What appears to be a totally distaff production, the abridged text is by Henrietta McBurney and Prudence Sutcliffe with Marshal’s illustrations gleaned from the Royal

*left:* Picture of German Flag *iris germanica* (two forms)  
*above:* *I. susiana L.* Mourning Iris Alexander Marshal, c.1650
Collection (since King George IV).

Marshal painted everything he grew and more, from snowdrops, squill, hyacinths and daffodils in the English “winter” to star anemones, tulips and irises in the spring. With sufficient means he acquired and grew exciting plants from the Near East, Virginia, Canada and all the British colonies. He grew them in all seasons out of doors and under glass, and painted them as well as any man or woman.

Among the various genera depicted are irises such as *I. susiana* L., the mourning iris, *I. pumila* L., *I. persica* L., the common German flags (two forms), English irises, Spanish irises and Siberian flag iris. The text reports, “The forms of irises in particular seem to have fascinated Marshal – the way the flower rises from its stem, the papery calyx, the contrast between the shapes of the drooping and upright petals, the flower’s markings and in some species, the beard.” It goes on to report that the English Royal Society was so impressed by Marshal’s work that they asked him how he obtained the vivid colors in his paintings. His response was read to the members of the Royal Society on December 19, 1667. He derived pigments from flowers, berries, gums and roots as well as verdigris and arsenic. His paint formulas give his paintings a unique vibrancy of color. This is a marvelous book for amateur and professional alike.

above: *I. pumila* L  Alexander Marshal, 1650
left: Siberian Flag Iris  Alexander Marshal, *The Florilegium*, c. 1670
below: English Iris  Alexander Marshal c. 1650
The AIS Registrations system is noteworthy for its extent, both in numbers of cultivars recorded and the appropriate information per each. However, sleuthing can sometimes disclose inaccuracies or omissions. We might cite an example, The Case of the Missing Vanities.

In 1928 B. Y. Morrison registered ‘Vanity’ which is shown in the 1939 Check List as having been introduced in 1930. It is also shown in 1939 as superseded ($) and obsolete (*). Earl Sheets, in his Treholme Gardens “Iris lover’s guide and descriptive catalogue” gives more information:

“M.S. to L., 38” S. Lilac; F. Bishop’s purple to Madder purple. All habits good. A striking color resembling Leverrier but a flower of better form on stronger, low and widely branched stalks.”

He gave ‘Vanity’ his personal quality ratings of Exhibition 87 (= fine) and Garden 90 (= extra fine).

In 1945 Frances Horton introduced fourteen dwarf irises in her Elkhart, Indiana, Irisdale Gardens catalogue. “Parentage mixed in moving”, she noted. Twelve of the fourteen are shown as registered in the 1949 Check List, the exceptions being ‘Princeling’ and ‘Vanity’. She described the latter as being an 11” clean light yellow self, falls slightly veined olive at the haft, with matching beards and semi-horizontal falls.

Now back to a tall bearded. A few months later, in a Stevens Brothers catalogue issued in New Zealand, we find ‘Vanity’ to be:

“A gay, rosy lilac blend, large and of good form. In the standards the lilac is shot with light bronze. Falls are a lovely blending of lilac and gold with a flash of heliotrope below the yellow beard. Flowers several times a year when established. Early. 3 ft.”

From information in Jean Stevens’ notebooks we find it first bloomed in 1943 and was saved as seedling 6/P80. Its parentage is ‘Miss California’ X (‘Rewa’ x ‘New Dawn’) x (‘New Dawn’ x ‘Radiant Morn’)). We also know that it reached southern California, for plants were shipped to C. S. Milliken in December, 1947, and Tom Craig the following month. Did it receive further distribution in this country?

Finally, in 1974 Ben Hager registered ‘Vanity’, which was introduced by Melrose Gardens in 1975 and was awarded the Dykes Medal in 1982. It was the fourth ‘Vanity’….or were there more?

{Editor’s note -- One of these 'Vanities' is available in this year’s HIPS Rhizome Sale}
HIPS 2010 Rhizome Sale!

The Annual HIPS Rhizome Sale is the main fundraising event for our Society. Rhizomes are donated by our generous members and growers; the sale is open to both members and the public. HIPS is grateful for the generosity of our members and donors and the support of all who place orders.

**Sale conditions:**
- The Iris listed below are on a first come, first served basis. Demand is such that we must set a limit of no more than one of each cultivar per order.
- Rhizomes are $5.50 each, with a minimum order of five.
- Postage charges are included in the price.
- Cut off date for orders is **June 15, 2010**. Shipment will begin the last week of July.
- Due to import restrictions shipping is limited to the US and Canada.
- Orders from Canada must come thru Paypal or Money Order in US funds.
- While we will do our best to see that you get the correct cultivar, HIPS cannot guarantee identity of sale rhizomes.

Please note: Include in your order acceptable substitutions or a note indicating if you'd prefer a refund if one you want is not available; also any acceptable bonuses if wanted with your order.

**How to order:** There are two ways to get your order in.

1) The customary way -- mail a check/Money Order and your list with all shipping information to:
   Janice Thompson  
   2970 Luella Road  
   Sherman,Tx. 75090-5151

2) Or order online using your Paypal account (you must be registered with Paypal to use this option). Go to Paypal at [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and then follow these instructions
   -- Click on 'Send money'.
   -- In the ‘To' field use: hipsshop@gmail.com
   -- Enter the full amount of your order (Postage is included in the price).
   -- Select ‘Goods’, then click Continue
   -- On the next page in the subject line type: rhizome sale-member order (you MUST indicate MEMBER to get preference over non-member orders)
   -- Add your list of varieties you'd like in the message box and your mailing address as well.
   -- When complete simply click Send Money and your order is on its way!

Please send questions about the sale or your order to Janice Thompson at: ciris03@yahoo.com. Please send questions about using Paypal or online ordering to Mike Unser at: garden.of.mu@gmail.com.

**Thank you for supporting HIPS!**

What a splendid bunch of possibilities for this year's Rhizome Sale! This is the largest list to date. Thank you, all, for donating! Those of you ordering by mail, if you're ordering a number of cultivars, might want to photocopy the list pages and circle or highlight your choices, rather than writing them all out. -- Editor

**Photo credits:** The photos on pages 18-19 of 'Golden Majesty', 'Gypsy', 'Harvest Splendor', 'Klamath', 'Marquita', and 'Rebellion' were taken by Mike Unser; the photos of 'Rhythm' and 'Sacramento” are by Bonnie Petheram; all other photos are by Gesine Lohr.
Laced Lemonade (Warburton 1970)
Lacy Snowflake (Schreiners 1976)
Lady Boscowen (Graves 1942)
Lady Friend (Ghio 1980)
Lady In Red (Willott 1973)
Lady Marie (Muhlstein 1975)
Lady Serena (Souls 1972)
Ladyslippers (Suter 1958)
Land Of Oz (Brown, O. 1979)
Last Dance (McWhirter 1979)
Late Returns (Wright 1967)
Late, Late Display (Nelson, J. 1974)
Latin Lover (Shoop 1969)
Laurel Park (Gaulter 1978)
Laurie (Gaulter 1976)
Lavender Blue Lace (Schortman 1978)
Lavender Petticoat (Osbourne 1975)
Lavender Sparkle (Schreiners 1965)
Led's Lover (Hager 1980)
Lemon Brocade (Rudolph 1974)
Lemon Duet (Smith, R.G. 1978)
Lemon Lark (Seedon by Hanson 1974)
Lemon Mist (Niswonger 1981)
Lent A. Williamson (Williamson 1965)
Lavender Blue Lace (Schortman 1978)
Lavender Petticoat (Osbourne 1975)
Lavender Sparkle (Schreiners 1965)
Leda's Lover (Hager 1980)
Lemon Brocade (Rudolph 1974)
Lemon Duet (Smith, R.G. 1978)
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Lemon Brocade (Rudolph 1974)
Lemon Duet (Smith, R.G. 1978)
Lemon Lark (Seedon by Hanson 1974)
Lemon Mist (Niswonger 1981)
The Pickle Barrel House Historic Iris Garden
How to develop a display/conservation-of-unknowns iris garden
by Nancy McDonald

photos by Nancy McDonald unless otherwise noted

Trudy, my mother-in-law, always wanted to plant a garden full of these beautiful old bearded irises. She thought it would be fun to collect them and their stories; she always did like a good story. We never got around to it, and now she is gone. But last summer, when the chance came to plant such a garden, I did.

The Pickle Barrel House, in Grand Marais, Michigan, is a fascinating little building that’s on the National Register of Historic Places. (You can find out more about its history at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pickle_Barrel_House.) Now owned and operated as a museum by the Grand Marais Historical Society (http://historicalsociety.grandmaraismichigan.com), the Pickle Barrel House sits on a 1/8-acre corner lot, surrounded by a wooden rail fence, right downtown. A small garden of Michigan native plants grows behind the building.

This summer I volunteered to work on the little garden there with my friend Cathy, who is a member of the Historical Society. One day, as we weeded, I told her of Trudy’s dream, and how the Old House Gardens catalog (www.oldhousegardens.com), which has just begun carrying old irises, had reminded me of the project. Cathy said, “Why not plant them here?” Why not, indeed? We quickly obtained permission from
Delay followed delay in the construction of the garden, but in the end we got the space prepared. The new garden sits on the former site of the warehouse for Hill’s Store, torn down in 1975. The soil is essentially glorified beach sand, plentifully larded with broken glass, old nails, and odd bits and pieces of junk. A friend came with his excavator and removed the sod, such as it was. Another kind person donated a dump truck load of topsoil. My neighbor owns a former sawmill, with a mountain of 30-year-old, partially decomposed sawdust out back. We shoveled one trailer load after another of this brown gold onto the garden. Two wonderful men with tillers ground it all in for us.

The Pickle Barrel House (photo: Cathy Egerer)

the members of the Historical Society, and plans began.

When the bearded irises bloomed around town, I put a small article in the Grand Marais Gazette requesting pups of any older irises people might have – and did people ever respond! Over the next few weeks, I photographed dozens of irises and took measurements and notes, securing promises for plants later on. I asked the international Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) for help in identifying the old treasures we found. From them I learned how to photograph the flowers for identification, and what plant parts to measure. The history of the irises, their provenance, is vital information, too, and this I carefully recorded for every iris photographed.
Meanwhile, the friendly folks at HIPS had a proposal for us. Would we like to become an official HIPS Display Garden? All we’d need is a minimum of 15 positively identified, labeled, historic irises, in addition to however many as-yet unidentified irises we cared to grow. (Unidentified irises have no ID; therefore they are called “noids.”) [or "unknowns" – Editor]. The garden must also be open to the public; this one certainly is, all the time, and it’s free. Incredibly generous donations from HIPS members allowed us to far exceed the 15-named-variety minimum. We bought a few others from the Tennessee nursery Iris City Gardens (www.iriscitygardens.com/frame2.html). We’re well on our way to officialdom.

In a display garden, people should be able to get an intimate view of the flowers. Therefore the large corner bed is divided by two L-shaped paths, each wide enough for a walker or a stroller. The planting beds are only 3 feet wide, so no iris is too far off the path to see and smell. Because of these narrow beds, the space allotted each variety is only 15”x15”, so we’ll have to stay right on top of dividing the irises as they grow. Pups, carefully labeled, will be sold at fund-raising events for the Historical Society.

Mapping and labeling are vital in a display garden. With string and tent pegs we marked out a grid, so each plant could be accurately placed and mapped. At planting time, we buried a label northwest of every iris. Large display labels set out in the spring will be taken in for the winter. For noids, we’ll show the study name (that is, the name we’re using until we can identify the iris; e.g., Linnamaki Purple) and where the plant was found. For identified irises, we’ll give the cultivar name, the breeder, and the date of introduction.

We’re keeping careful computer records of every plant, with its history, measurements, and digital photos. A print-out of this ever-expanding Reference Book will be available for use by Pickle Barrel House visitors. We plan a tri-fold brochure about the garden that visitors may have for free, and a larger, more detailed brochure costing a nominal buck or two.

Many people around town are finding that “that old thing” is actually an exciting bit of living history, and perhaps of some value after all. Here we have Argie’s iris, that she found
more than 50 years ago down by the railroad tracks.  

We have the Baker Grade iris, found at the site of the switchman’s cabin, at the foot of the Baker Grade on the old railroad line (below) [looks like possibly 'Monsignor' (Vilmorin 1907)? – Editor]
We have Judy’s grandpa John Krempa’s little gold iris *(below)*

We have pale yellow irises, probably ‘Flavescens’ (De Candolle 1813, from the old Webb farm).

Is that little variegata-type from the old Linnamaki place ‘Sans Souci’ (Van Houtte 1854) or ‘Honorabile’ (Lemon 1840) or something else again? How about the one from Abrahamson’s old house? Are all the tall, small-flowered, superfragrant lavender irises the same variety of Iris pallida, or are they each a little different? The first round of irises has been planted; a few await transplanting after next summer’s bloom. We planned space for about 130 irises, so there’s room for more as we find them.

Other plants in the garden include a young Preston hybrid lilac ‘Minuet’, Rosa glauca, peonies ‘Mikado’ and ‘Chestine Goudy’, and my favorite historic Siberian iris, ‘Summer Sky’ (Mrs. Frances Cleveland 1935). A generous donor bought us many spring bulbs from Old House Gardens, and Scott Kunst, owner of that wonderful bulb company, very kindly donated some extras for us.

Spring bulbs will give us early bloom, beginning with snowdrops (Galanthus nivalis), tiny Iris reticulata ‘Cantab’, and white Anemone...
blanda, followed by a troupe of glorious daffodils. Then the bearded irises will bloom, with the peonies and lilac. And will the garden then be a restful green for the rest of the year? No, that won’t do at all. Even now we pore over seed catalogs, seeking annuals popular in the Pickle Barrel Era, the 1920s and 1930s. We’ve discovered a curious thing: although there are many lists of antique annual species, it’s remarkably difficult to find introduction dates for cultivars of those species. Our best resources so far have been seed catalogs from those decades, and great fun we’ve had collecting them. The next challenge will be to find modern sources. Many catalogs claiming to carry seeds of heirloom plants offer mostly modern cultivars of old favorites. Finding the older cultivars is a pleasant winter game, a fine pursuit for snowy days.

[This piece originally appeared at www.gardeninggonewild.com/?p=10949; thanks to Joe Spears (former HIPS president) for suggesting we print it in Roots. I look forward to seeing more bloom photos from Nancy later!]

A note on starting your own display/conservation iris garden

Nancy’s article describes very excellent rigorous methods of starting a conservation iris garden. But please don’t think you must gather the same level of resources in order to conserve unknown iris! After my Da died in 1992 and I couldn’t save the 1848 house, I dug up some of my late Ma’s iris. The only place I had to put them was in 12” and 14” plastic pots on the second floor walkway outside my little apartment, so that’s where they went. Since I didn’t know anything, no one told me “bearded iris don’t grow well in pots”, and apparently the iris hadn’t heard this either, as they did very well (you must use a planting mix like Supersoil, not regular garden dirt, which is far too heavy for use in pots unless you amend it with a lot of stuff)(and I had to use Supersoil because I had no garden dirt).

*Mapping and labeling* ARE things that anyone can do, no matter how tiny their iris empire is. I numbered the plastic pots with Sharpie pens, and buried a copper garden tag with that pot number in each pot. I kept lists of who was in each pot, in a notebook. When I started to collect unknown iris from other people, I recorded everything they could tell me about them, which was often nothing! but I’d record where I got them from, and info such as “from backyard of a house where a little old lady lived, in X town”.

So far, my favorite adventure of finding unknowns is finding ‘Sindjkha’ (Sturtevant 1918) in the compost pile of a friend’s backyard. She’d bought the house from an older couple, who’d bought from an elderly woman. She’d dug up the existing old iris and put them in the big city compost bin, planting all ‘Indian Chief’ (Ayres 1929), who I’d given her and who had gloriously multiplied, there; she told me this after the fact. Oy vey, I cried! wait, there were some neat looking oldies in the photos we took. Nope, too late, gone, she said. Well, I couldn’t stand it, I took the bus there and upended her compost bin, and dragged home a bunch of rhizomes who were a bit the worse for wear after over a week in a closed compost bin. (No one would sit near me on the bus). And one was ‘Sindjkha’! And I would’ve loved her even if we never found out she had a human-given name. -- Gesine
Cook-Williamson Memorial Iris Garden,
Part II
How I got started researching Bluffton iris history
by Jerry Oswalt, Bluffton, Indiana

In 1958, I was a boy of 16 years of age and had a small flower garden behind our house in town. Just around the corner from our house was a large iris field. I saw an ad in the paper where the iris garden was going out of business and that you could dig your own iris for $1.00 a bag. I walked around the corner to the iris field and through a small grove of trees at the entrance to what years later I learned was Longfield Iris Farm.

Standing in the shade was a beautiful lady with blonde hair and beautiful sparkling light blue eyes, and a warm smile. She handed me a large paper sack and said 'dig all you want. There are some real expensive ones, but they all have to go.' I remember she had such a gentle and warm personality, I felt as if I were in the presence of an angel. I took the bag and headed into the field, and, needless to say, had the bag full in the first two rows. I've always wondered, had I ventured into this vast sea of color, what I might have found.

Years later, I saw Mary, and informed her I’d lost most of the iris due to neglect; then twice later, she called me when she was dividing her iris in her garden, and both times gave me about 20 sacks of iris. The last time I was there we walked around her yard talking about flowers, trees, shrubs, etc. She showed me how to hybridize an iris. In her conversation, she mentioned her dad had hybridized an iris so unique, he wanted to patent it, but never did. She mentioned it was black. Her dad died in 1933 and she still had this iris in her garden.

In 1987, I heard Mary’s health was failing and I went to see her. At 78, she was still a beautiful lady. A week later, Mary passed away. Mary never married, so two nieces came and took things pertaining to family from the home.

Mary and I both volunteered at the local Historical Museum, and every once in a while we’d talk iris. Knowing the museum kept history of local businesses, I wanted to put something into the museum about the iris field and preserve its history. Still knowing nothing of the history of the iris field, or Mary’s father E.B. Williamson, or of Paul and Emma Cook, I went to Mary’s estate sale hoping to retrieve anything that would preserve the history of the iris field. There wasn’t very much as far as personal material, mostly household, books, and records. I purchased 2 copper watering cans of Mary’s and an iron trivet made of two letters “M and W” and a box of gardening books, one of which was her 1929 iris check list. I didn’t know what it was at the time. Feeling let down that I hadn’t found anything related to the iris field, I made one last bid on two cardboard boxes of table trash -- papers, junk mail and a few magazines, looking like stuff that should have been burned. I paid 50¢ each for these boxes and came home. I let the boxes set for 2 or 3 days, then decided to go through them. Under the junk mail and magazines at the bottom of the box, I found 4 small pages of the family genealogy Mary had worked on. Below it, I found Mary’s typed history of the Longfield Iris Farm, history of Edward Bruce Williamson, and history of Paul Cook.

I’m not a religious person by any means, but of all the people at that sale, I was the only one looking to preserve the iris field history, and it came home with me in two boxes of trash paper. I felt Mary had to be looking down on me that day and guided me to those two boxes that normally I wouldn’t have bought. I contacted Mary’s niece and sister about the genealogy. They had looked for it and couldn’t find it so I sent it to them and asked if they could send me family pictures or anything of the iris fields. Soon, I received two boxes of family history and clippings relating to Bruce and Mary, and the iris field, plus pictures and a few of the awards they had won with their iris. Reading this and Mary’s history, I learned this wasn’t just a flower garden, it was one of the first large scale iris businesses in the country; prominent iris people came from all over the country each year to help evaluate and select seedlings to be registered. As many as 70,000 iris seedlings were planted one year. Iris were sent all over the world from Longfield Iris Farm.

Eighteen years after receiving the Williamson history, I heard a niece of Emma Cook was living here in Bluffton Indiana. I showed her what I’d collected on Longfield and the Williamsons. I asked if they would share any history of Paul and Emma Cook. They gave me a beautiful frame of 8 or 10 of Paul’s medals, Emma’s scrapbook, and a few other items. This rounded out the Cook-Williamson history.

Thinking this was all being forgotten, I began copying [as the voice in the wilderness], and sending this information to the AIS and HIPS and anyone else...
I thought would be interested. I soon received a big surprise -- the world knew about the Williamsons and the Cooks. There was collected history on them, as I found Clarence Mahan was writing a book on early hybridizers, and was including them. My worries were over, the world knew them and they weren't going to be forgotten.

Since I had a few of the iris from Mary's yard, I decided to search for more and create a Memorial Iris Garden to keep the history alive here in Bluffton where it originated. Many of the older people here remember the iris field but almost no one remembered the history that took place here. Now people are excited about the iris returning to Bluffton, and the story behind them and their hybridizers.

The Memorial Garden is a work in progress, and hopefully in two or three years will be a beautiful little garden to visit. //

Part I was previously printed in *American Iris Society Region 6 Newsletter*, Spring 2009.
Part II was previously printed in *American Iris Society Region 6 Newsletter*, Summer 2009.

**Jerry Oswalt sends this update in March 2010 --**

Larry McFarren, who had worked for Mary as a teenager, was fighting lung cancer, the day we planted iris at the Memorial Garden in August 2008. He'd just gotten out of the hospital. I'd wanted Longfield workers, and family, to plant the first iris in the bed, and he wanted to be there for the planting. When I received the *ROOTS* edition of the article on the garden, I went out to have it copied to give him the copy, but he had passed away that day, February 10, 2010.

Emma Cook's niece planted Paul's 'Allegiance' (Cook 1958), the first iris planted in the bed. Then another worker, Jerry Christianson, planted Mary's 'Wabash' (M. Williamson 1936). E.B.’s grandson and great grandson planted ‘Lent A. Williamson’ (Williamson 1918) and ‘Wabash’. The grandson, David Wilkins, Sr., son of Jane (Williamson) Wilkins, Mary's sister, planted ‘Lent A. Williamson’ which was named after his great grandfather, L.A.W. (E.B.’s dad).

Jerry is particularly looking for four cultivars:
‘E. B. Williamson’ (P. Cook, R. 1937)
‘Progenitor’ (P. Cook, R. 1951)
‘Decennial’ (E. B. Williamson 1930)
‘Ethel Peckham’ (E. B. Williamson 1932)

You can contact him via email at Jerry Oswalt <jeroswalt@adamswells.com>, or by mail at Jerry Oswalt
PO Box 131
Bluffton, Indiana 46714

‘Decennial’ (Williamson R. 1929) TB-MLa-Y9M. From the Royal Iris Gardens, 1933: A striking variegata of a new type of rounded and finished flower of firm substance. S. bright picric yellow; F. dahlia carmine with a narrow yellow margin. At the center of the falls, is an overdash of brilliant electric blue, a feature which makes this a very unusual iris. Longfield Iris farm 1930. Named for the 10th anniversary of AIS.

www.worldiris.com/public_html/Frame_pages/QFix.html, scroll down to see 'Decennial' photo.
Call for donations -- Iris Wish List for the Reader Rock Garden, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

The Reader Rock Garden is one of Calgary's most unique built cultural landscapes. This Provincial Historic Resource is one of a very few remaining historic gardens in western Canada.

The garden is a tribute to one man's passion for plants and beauty. William Roland Reader was the Superintendent for Calgary Parks from 1913-1942. He actively collected plants and seeds both locally and from distant countries, trialoging over 4000 different plant species over the years. He transformed a bare hillside into an internationally-acclaimed garden as he demonstrated the horticultural potential of the chinook region of Alberta to Calgary’s citizens.

Since the re-opening of the garden in 2006, Calgary gardeners have been working to reintroduce Reader’s many plant collections. They are seeking the iris listed below; they have a budget of $500.00, and are also seeking donations of iris. If you can help, please contact Janet Jones, Gardener, City of Calgary Parks, Reader Rock Garden, at 403.221.3578 or Janet.Jones@calgary.ca.

Jean Richter vetted D-Z of the list, Carlos Ayento vetted A-C, and Phil Edinger and Joe Spears contributed helpful comments. Synonyms of names are shown in [brackets] after the listing.

Iris germanica:

- Citronella (Bliss 1922)
- Clarence Wedge (Willis E. Fryer 1919)
- Clarissa (Van Houtte 1867)[Clarissima]
- Cluny (Vilmorin 1920)
- Colias (E.B. Williamson 1925)
- Corrida (Millet & Fils 1914)
- Cynthia (R.E. Allen 1944)
- Dalmarius (Goos & Koenemann 1907)
- Dalmatica (coll. bef. 1600)
- Darby (Dropmore 1940)
- Darius (Brown 1873)
- Dawn (Yeld 1911)
- Donna Maria (Lemon 1840)
- Dorothea (Caparne 1901)
- Drake (Bliss 1919)
- Dr. Bernice (Hooper 1867)
- Dream (Sturtevant 1918)
- Eburna (Goos & Koenemann 1899)
- Eden Philpotts (Perry 1921)
- Edouard Michel (Eugene Verdier 1904)
- Etta (Caparne 1901)
- Fairy (Kennicott 1905)
- Flavescens (De Candolle 1813)
- Florence Barr (Barr 1876)
- Florentina (coll. abt. 1500)
- Frederick (R. Wallace & Co. 1896)
- Fritjof (Goos & Koenemann 1910)
- Fro (Goos & Koenemann 1909)
- George Yeld (Perry 1923)
- Gloire de Hillegom (Krelage & Son bef. 1850)
- Gold Crest (W.R. Dykes 1914)
- Gold Imperial (Sturtevant 1924)
- Gypsy Queen (Salter bef. 1859)
- Halfdan (Goos & Koenemann 1908)
- Harmony (W.R. Dykes 1923)
- Harriet Presby (Presby 1922)
- Her Majesty (Perry 1903)
- Hiawatha (Farr 1913)
- Hochelaga (Morgan 1931)
- Honorabile (Lemon 1840)
- Hugo (Farr 1913)
- Ignatius (Salter 1859)
- Imperator (Cayeux et LeClerc 1922)
- Ingeborg (Goos & Koenemann 1908)
- Innocenza (Lemon 1854)
- I. germanica (Linnaeus 1753)
- I. kochii (Kerner 1887)
- I. pallida (Lamarck 1799)
- Iris King (Goos & Koenemann 1907)
- Iroquois (Farr 1909)
- Isoline (Vilmorin 1904)
- Ivorine (Caparne 1901)
- Jacquesiana (Lemon 1948)[Conscience]
- James Boyd (Farr 1915)
- Jeanne d’Arc (Eugene Verdier 1907)
- Jenny Lind (Van Houtte 1854)
- Jungfrau (Phipps bef. 1920)
- Juniata (Farr 1909)
- Justonian (Salter 1878)
- Kastor (Goos & Koenemann 1914)
- Kathleen (Barr 1910)
- Kharput (coll. Barr 1895)
- Lady Seymour (Van Houtte 1854)
- La Neige (Eugene Verdier 1912)
- Lavandulacea (Van Houtte 1854)
- [Agnes Sorrel]
- Lent A. Williamson (E.B. Williamson 1918)
- Le Pactole (Lemon 1848)
- Lohengrin (Goos & Koenemann 1910)
- Lord of June (Yeld 1911)
- Loreley (Goose & Koenemann abt. 1909)
- Lute (Vilmorin 1897)
- Macrantha (M. Van Waveren & Sons 1907)
- Madam X (Tharp 1932)
- Magnifica (Vilmorin 1897)
- Majestic (Bliss 1923)
- Ma Mie (Cayeux et LeClerc 1906)
- Mandalisciae (Todaro 1861)
- Maori King (Reuthe 1890)
- Marion Cran (Perry 1921)
- Marsh Marigold (Garin 1882)
- Mary Garden (Farr 1913)
- Mary Gibson (Farr 1922)
- Massais (Goos & Koenemann 1899)
- Mercedes (Eugene Verdier 1905)
- Mildred Presby (Farr 1923)
- Miranda (Hort 1919)
- Mithras (Goos & Koenemann 1910)
Mlle. Schwartz (Denis 1916)
Mme. Cherieu (Lemon 1844)
Mme. Cheri (Sturtevant 1918)
Mme. Chobaut (Denis 1916)
Moa (Bliss 1919)
Moliere (Vilmorin 1920)
Monsignor (Vilmorin 1907)
Moonstone (Cleveland 1920)
Morning Splendor (Shull 1923)
Mount Penn (Farr 1909)
Mount Royal (Morgan 1929)
Mozart (Van Houtte 1854)
Mrs. Alan Gray (Foster 1909)
Mrs. Horace Darwin (Foster 1888)
Mrs. Marion Cran (Perry 1923)
Mrs. Neubronner (Reuthe bef. 1898)
Mrs. Reuthe (Ware 1899)
Mrs. Smith (Willis E. Fryer 1917)
Nancy Lea (Simpson 1925)
Nibelungen (Goos & Koenemann 1910)
Opera (Vilmorin 1916)
Oriflamme (Vilmorin 1904)
Othello (Lemon 1848)
Pacquita (Lemon 1848)
Pallida dalmatica (1600)
Pallida Perfecta (Farr 1912)
Parc de Neuilly (Eugene Verdier 1910)
Perfection (Barr 1880)
Pioneer (Bliss 1924)
Prairie Gold (H.P. Sass 1926)
Princess Beatrice (Barr 1898)
Princess Viktoria Luise (Goos & Koenemann 1910)
Prosper Laugier (Eugene Verdier 1914)
Purple King (Wallich 1830)
Quaker Lady (Farr 1909)
Queen Alexandra (Barr 1910)
Queen Caterina (Sturtevant 1918)
Queen of May (Salter bef. 1859)
Red Cloud (Farr 1913)
Regina (Barr 1876)
Rhein Nixe (Goos & Koenemann 1910)
Rose Unique (Farr 1910)
Ruberrima (Barr 1875)
Sapho (Lemon 1840)
Seminole (Farr 1920)
Shekinah (Sturtevant 1918)
Shelford Chieftan (Foster 1909)
Sherwin-Wright (Kohnkian 1915)
Sirius ( Bunyard 1923)
Souv. De Mme. Gaudichau (Millet & Fils 1914)
St. Clair (Lemon 1854)[Compte de St. Claire]
Standard Bearer (Ware 1904)
Sunset (Bliss)
Susan Bliss (Bliss 1922)
Sweet Lavender (Bliss 1919)
Taj Mahal (Sturtevant 1921)
Tamerlan (Vilmorin 1904)
Tecumseh (Farr 1910)
Titan (Bliss 1919)
Tom Tit (Bliss 1919)
Trautelein (Goos & Koenemann 1899)
Victorine (Lemon 1840)
Violacea Grandiflora (coll. DeBarry abt. 1856)

Virginia Moore (Shull 1920)
Walhalla (Goos & Koenemann 1908)
Walneriana (Lemon 1840)
Wedgwood (W.R. Dykes 1923)
White Knight (Arthur Percy Sanders 1916)
White Nymph (McKinney 1920)
Wyoming (Farr 1909)
Zouave (Vilmorin 1922)
Zua (Crawford 1914)

**Iris pumila:**
Bride (Caparne 1901)
Eburna (Goos & Koenemann 1899)
Floribunda (Goos & Koenemann 1910)
Pumila Atroviolacea (Todaro 1856)

**Iris latifolia:**
Almona (Krelage 1892)
Duke of Clarence (Van Tubergen 1914)
Duke of York (Tegelaar Bros. Ltd. 1927)
Grand Lilas (Perry 1910)
King of the Blues (Barr 1898)
Montblanc (Van Tubergen 1883)
Prince Albert (Floricultural Cabinet and Florists Magazine (1842))
Sunset (Backhouse 1902)

**Iris latifolia hispanica:** (I. xiphium)
Blue King (Hubert 1904)
Bronze King (Krelage 1899)
Cajanus (General Bulb Co. 1896)
Golden King (Barr 1898)
King of the Whites (Krelage 1906)
La Nuit (Barr 1908)
L’Unique (Krelage 1906)
Queen Wilhelmina (Van Tubergen 1909)
Snowball (Kelway & Sons 1906)

**Iris sibirica:**
Emperor (coll. Barr 1916)
Madawaska (Preston 1932)
Sibirica Alba (Van Houtte 1879)
Snow Queen (coll. Barr 1900)

above: 'Pink Tiger' (El Dorado 1964)
below: 'Swan Ballet' (Muhlestein 1955)

below: 'Flounced Marvel' (Austin 1961)
The Commercial Source Listing is in each issue of ROOTS and on the HIPS web site and is updated annually. The information is from the sources themselves; please contact them directly for more info. While HIPS will not offer listing privileges to any nursery known to give poor service, we cannot guarantee your satisfaction.

We have a three-part process for finding historic iris --
1) Ask the Commercial Source Chair
2) If not found that way, refer to Databank Chair
3) If not found that way, send request to ROOTS for insertion in the Locator.

Anyone desiring commercial sources of a particular iris for the current year should contact the Source Chairman by July 1, as many growers have a limited supply of rhizomes and may not fill orders received late in the season. E-mail inquiries are gladly accepted. If writing please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and address your request to:

Jeff Walters, HIPS Commercial Sources Chair
1175 Woodburn Rd.
Spartanburg, SC 29302-3440
iriscomsource@yahoo.com

Argyle Acres Iris Gardens
Joe & Donna Spears
910 Pioneer Circle East, Argyle, TX 76226
(940) 464-3680
FAX: (866) 320-IRIS (toll-free)
E-mail: irises@argyleacres.com
Website: www.argyleacres.com

Bluebird Haven Iris Garden
Mary Hess
6940 Fairplay Rd., Somerset, CA 95684
(530) 620-5017
E-mail: mhess1863@innercite.com
Website: www.bluebirdhavenirisgarden.com
On-line catalog now includes all; click on a letter to see list (some not available for sale yet); printed catalog extensive but less complete. Printed catalog: $1.00. No Export. Extensive historic iris. Large selection of Tall-Bearded, 1930’s-1970’s; we specialize in Lloyd Austin introductions.

Historics & Rarities
Bruce Filardi
P.O. Box 18124
Portland, OR 97218-0124
[no phone # provided by source]
E-mail: bfilardi@comcast.net
Website: www.internationaliris.com/contact.html
List available as e-mail attachment or with stamped, self-addressed large envelope; No export at present. Many extremely rare varieties. Guaranteed true-to-name.

Chuck Chapman Iris
Chuck Chapman
R.R. #1, 8790 WR124, Guelph, ON
CANADA N1H6H7
(519) 856-0956
E-mail: chuck@chapmaniris.com
Website: www.chapmaniris.com On-line catalog.
Catalog: US$3.00 (refundable with order). Export to All. Canadian Historics, including good selection of Preston Siberians; large Median list.

Dowis Ranch
Janell & Eric Denham
P.O. Box 124, Marseilles, IL 61341
(815) 795-5681
E-mail: pollen@mtco.com
Catalog upon Request. No Export.
Historic Tall Bearded irises; Modern, Reblooming, and Space Age TBs

Iris City Gardens
Macey & Greg McCullough
7675 Younger Creek Rd., Primm Springs, TN 38476
(615) 799-2179
E-mail: info@iriscitygardens.com
Website: www.iriscitygardens.com On-line catalog.
Catalog $3.00 (refundable with order). No Export. Primarily Beardless and antique & modern Bearded.

Lakeside Gardens
Winona Stevenson
8280 Entrada Blvd., Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 378-3841
E-mail: lakesideiris@aol.com
List: $3.00 (refundable with order). No Export.
Historic Tall Bearded irises, including all American Dykes Medal winners.
Newport Naturals At Spruce Corner  
Robert and Linda Karr ~ Iris and Alpaca Farm  
205 N. Craig Avenue  
Newport, WA 99156  
(509) 671-1539 (Robert)  
(509) 671-1540 (Linda)  
www.sprucecorner.com

Newburn’s Iris Gardens  
Gene Newburn  
1415 Meadow Dale Dr., Lincoln, NE 68505  
(402) 464-7232  
E-mail: EUGMARN@aol.com  
Catalog upon request. No export.  
Beautiful Tall-bearded and Median irises, 1940 -1970.

Ozark Iris Gardens  
Tammy & Tom Skahan  
25 Wembly Dr., Bella Vista, AR 72715  
(479) 685-5004 or (479) 685-4323  
E-mail: ozarkirsgardens@cox.net  
Website: Available this Fall with on-line catalog.  
Historic Median, Tall Bearded, and Louisiana Irises.

Superstition Iris Gardens  
Rick Tasco & Roger Duncan  
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CA 95306  
(209) 966-6277  
E-mail: randrcv@sierratel.com  
Internet Photo Album: http://community.webshots.com/user/rickt103  
Catalog $1.50 ($1.00 to HIPS members)  
Export to all, except New Zealand, Ukraine, & EU countries. A unique assortment featuring selections  
for both the beginner and advanced collector.

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Ever Seen A Historic Iris You Didn’t Love/Want/Need?  
HIPS Slide Shows now available as CDs!  
-- Robert and Linda Karr, HIPS Slide Co-Chairs  
The HIPS Slide Co-Chairs now have Slide Show Sets 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 available in CD format. Each picture includes the name of the iris, the hybridizer, and date, thereby reducing reliance on the written script. Slide Set 2 is also available on CD, but the quality of the pictures is poor. If anyone has good photographs of the iris in Set 2 (see list in the Fall 2009 Roots) that could be scanned or has slides to loan to remake this show, please contact the HIPS Slide Co-Chairs.  
CDs may be rented for $12.00 and will include a written script. CDs may be purchased for $15.00 and will include a written script. All HIPS Slide Show sets are being converted to DVD as well.  
Robert and Linda Karr,  
205 N. Craig Avenue, Newport, WA 99156;  
509.671.1540; iris@sprucecorner.com

below: 'Truly Yours' (Fay 1949)
2010 HIPS Historic Iris Designation Survey

Background
At the request of a HIPS member (and AIS board member), the HIPS board was asked to consider a revision of the current designation of historic iris as iris which were introduced 30 years ago or longer. It is a matter of concern to some AIS board members (and some HIPS members) that many recent historic iris are quite similar in appearance to modern iris, and that this may cause confusion among the public at iris exhibitions. There was also concern expressed at the fact that the HIPS 30-year designation is out of step with the Department of Interior historic designation of 50 years. After considerable discussion, and the formation of a separate committee to study the issue, the board has decided to poll the membership of HIPS to get their opinions on this issue. This is an important decision - there has been no change to the historic iris designation in the 20+ year existence of HIPS. We value your opinion as a HIPS member, and request that you complete the following survey on this topic.

Procedure
You can respond to the survey in one of three ways.
1. You can respond in writing to Historic Iris Designation Committee chair Jean Richter, 1226 High Street, Alameda, CA 94501.
2. You can respond via email to hist.designate@gmail.com
3. You can respond to the survey on the HIPS web site: www.hips-roots.com

Whichever way you choose to respond, please indicate your name in your response, so we can verify your membership in HIPS. This will also allow us to prevent any member from voting more than once.

Question I: What is your opinion on changing the 30-year rolling designation of historic iris (i.e. designating iris which have been introduced 30 years ago as historic):

_____ Option 1: Do nothing - leave the 30-year rolling designation as is.

_____ Option 2: Change the rolling designation to:
_____ a. 50 years _____ b. 40 years

Note - the effect of changing the rolling designation to, say, 50 years would be as follows: no new iris would be designated as historic until the year 2031 (the point at which iris introduced in 1981 would be 50 years from introduction). If the designation were changed to 40 years, a similar “freeze” in historic designation would occur until 2021.

_____ Option 3: Remove the rolling designation - no iris introduced beyond a certain date would be considered historic. This date will be:

_____ a. 1959 _____ b. 1969 _____ c. 1979

This would mean there would be no more iris (newer than the given introduction date) designated as historic.

If you prefer this option, do you want iris introduced beyond this date but introduced more than 30 years ago to be:

_____ a. Classified in a separate class (say, "Collectible"), or

_____ b. Just be considered modern iris?

Question II. Do you support using fixed introduction years to separate various eras of historic iris?

This would enable iris of similar appearance to be shown as a group in iris exhibitions. Please choose as many or as few classifications (including none) as you feel are appropriate, but choose only one date for each classification.

_____ Antique iris: iris introduced before
_____ a. 1900 _____ b. 1910 _____ c. 1920

_____ Heirloom iris: iris newer than antique iris, but introduced before
_____ a. 1950 _____ b. 1960

_____ Contemporary historic iris: iris introduced after

Thank you very much for giving us your opinion on this important issue! Jean Richter
Catalog Corner

‘Clara Noyes’ (H.P. Sass 1930) An unusual new variety with colors blended much as in a Talisman rose. Low growing, but so distinct that it is entirely different from any other iris. Standards tan, flushed heliotrope; falls reddish bronze, lined deeper bronze. yellow beard and haft undertone of the same color.

Decidedly popular. Should be ordered early, as the demand is heavy. A.M., AIS, 1932. Rhizomes naturally small. Mid-season. 22-inch. [1937 Iris - Carl Salbach]

‘Dauntless’ (Connell 1929) The Dykes Medal Iris of America for 1929. A Cardinal x Rose Madder seedling. A plant imported in August 1931, produced a spike three feet six inches tall of great sturdiness and well branched. The flowers are beautifully carried and are of excellent form with almost horizontally-held falls. The colour effect is red bronze. At the time of the award I can well understand that this Iris marked a very great advance in regard to both colour and all-round excellence, but in the light of newer American “reds”, I would suggest that the falls might be more velvety in appearance, which would considerably brighten up the flower. Still we can’t “have it all ways,” and I have not yet seen a “red” touch it for real aristocratic bearing. [The Iris Year Book, 1932, The (British) Iris Society]

‘El Capitan’ (Mohr-Mitchell 1926) One of the largest iris grown, supreme in its color class, graceful and well proportioned, this magnificent giant is an iris of dignity and grandeur. Striking for garden effect, and each of the candelabrum type stalks carry a large number of the immense blooms, giving it signal value as a cut flower. No garden should be without this most outstanding irises in any list. S. pinkish red; F. velvety red; the huge flower is of exceptionally heavy substance and holds its color well. A rampant grower and prolific bloomer. Should be in every collection. [1936 Quality Gardens]

‘Eros’ (Mead-Reidel 1934) Considered the “pinkest” iris. A fine flower characterized by iridescent shades of near-pink with warm yellow haft and beard, giving a definite garden effect of salmon pink. Silky texture, and reported with as many as 12 flowers on a 42-inch stem. Color by Ridgway -- “Vinaceous.” A.M., AIS, 1936. Mid-season. 36-inch. [1937 Iris - Carl Salbach]

‘Fire Dance’ (O. Fay 1947) M. ((Elsa Sass x Orloff) x (sister sdlg.)) Lovely, heavily marked, red plicata. Would like to see seedlings from this and Rare Marble. H.M. ‘47. [1951 Tell’s Iris Gardens]

‘Harriet Thoreau’ (P. Cook 1944) M. (Sister to Dreamcastle.) Clean orchid-pink. Fine parent. H.M. ‘45. [1951 Tell’s Iris Gardens]

‘Indian Chief’ (Ayres 1929) M. 38”. Still one of the most outstanding irises in any list. S. pinkish red; F. velvety red; the huge flower is of exceptionally heavy substance and holds its color well. A rampant grower and prolific bloomer. Should be in every collection. [1936 Quality Gardens]

Well named, for while classed as one of our superior reds, it carries a bronzy overcast, being regarded by some as a red blend. At any rate, Indian Chief is one of the most popular of the newer things, and a credit to Dr. Ayres, its introducer. The velvety falls are deep blood-red, blended with bronze, and the standards are considerably lighter in tone. A large flower, quite tall, and very well branched. [1937 Cooley’s]

‘Jean Cayeux’ (Cayeux 1931) Beautiful blending of Havana or coffee brown, with golden glint. Considered one of the finest iris ever imported from France, including among its many laurels the W. R. Dykes medal. Mid-season. 34-inch. [1937 Iris - Carl Salbach]

‘Klamath’ (Kleinsorge 1929). 40 in. EXQUISITE LILAC FRAGRANCE. THIS MAGNIFICENT VARIETY SOLD A FEW YEARS AGO
FOR $50.00 FOR A SINGLE PLANT. In fact I paid that price for my original stock. It is just as fine to-day as it was then and is one of the largest and finest Irises we have. The flowers are of huge size, perfect form, and heavy substance, with lobelia violet standards and rich velvety mulberry falls, with a border the color of the standards. A gift at the present low price. [1940 Rare Irises and Peonies -- Robert Wayman]


‘Marquita’ (Cayeux 1931) One of the finest French iris ever produced -- a remarkable variety which should eventually find its way into the gardens of all iris lovers.

Overlooked in the awarding of the French Dykes Medal because it was so late of bloom that most of the judges missed it. perhaps the largest of all variegatas, but so distinctly different in coloring from the average variegata that it hardly seems to belong under the same classification. Simply huge blooms, standards of clear creamy yellow, frostily lustrous, and with falls of cream, but so heavily lined rose pink that it seems more like a suffusion than a lining at the end of the petals. Late. 42-inch. A.M., AIS, 1936. [1937 Iris - Carl Salbach]

A Spanish dance in a flower. Something entirely different that is so striking that it immediately attracts your attention. The standards are a very clear ivory flushed with yellow and the falls are the same color, evenly veined with brilliant ruby lines. The petals are stiff and round, giving a very trim appearance to the flower. If you wish to light up a spot in your garden with gay colors, try a clump of Marquita. over 3 feet tall and a strong grower. [1939 Milliken Iris Gardens]

‘Miss California’ (Salbach 1937). At last, a beautiful and entirely distinct tone of pink in a fine, upstanding iris. The color, lilac pink (Tyr- ian pink to amaranth pink by Ridgway) was most popular and certainly marvelled at by our garden visitors this season. The flowers were of Dauntless form, but larger, and it is taller than either Dauntless or Desert Gold, its parents. Produced from a cross definitely planned for pinks, Miss California was easily the choice from among a number of pink-toned seedlings, and coming from two hardy parents, its own hardiness is assured. Growth vigorous, flowers very large, and of perfect form and excellent substance. Mid-season. 48-inch. [1937 Iris - Carl Salbach]

‘Paradise Pink’ (Lapham 1950). L. 33 in. This is the deepest colored of all the famous flamingo-pinks. A clear flamingo-pink, nicely formed flowers and a vigorous grower. A plant soon makes a clump, so thrifty is its growth and profusion of bloom. Nor does it pale out and it withstands wind and rain. A most meritorious development. H.M., 1950. [1958 Gilbert H. Wild and Son Peonies-Iris-Daylilies]

‘Prospector’ (Kleinsorge 1950). M. Lovely flaring yellow with light area in falls which surely harks back to its progenitor Treasure Island. [1951 Tell’s Iris Gardens]

‘Rainbow Room’ (J. Sass 1946) M. 34”. Standards and bordering of the falls are rich, creamy, mellow yellow, which blends into lilac on the falls, punctuated by a blaze of metallic blue below the yellow beard. [1958 Edenwald Gardens Iris and Daylilies]

‘Rosy Veil’ (H. E. Sass 1953) M. 38”. One of the loveliest of iris, a cleanly marked plicata of glistening white with delicately applied stitching of rosy heliotrope. Fairly large flowers of graceful form on a well-branched stalk; this is a quality iris of first rank. [1958 Edenwald Gardens Iris and Daylilies]

‘Sable’ (Cook 1938) E.M. 37 in. Almost black, a uniform shade of deepest blue-black-violet with blue beard. Has every attribute that a fine Iris should possess -- large size, tall stalks, thick substance; a wonderfully lustrous sheen. [1964 Gilbert H. Wild and Son Peonies-Iris-Daylilies]

‘Suzette’ (Knowlton 1945). M. (Seduction x Tiffany.) Delicately marked light yellow plicata. H.M. ‘45. [1951 Tell’s Iris Gardens]

‘White Smoke’ (C. Rees 1950). M.-L. (Snow Flurry x ”Big Dipper”.) Very large, beautifully formed white with blue-smoke cast. One of the last to fade at the end of the tall bearded season. We think it has promise as a white and blue parent. [1951 Tell’s Iris Gardens]
IN RETROSPECT . . .

(note -- these cultivars are available in our 2010 Rhizome Sale)

'Santa Cruz' (Mitchell 1945) A striking new type variegata that always catches the visitor’s eye as it is so different from ordinary Iris. Standards clear yellow; falls yellow, gaily decorated with heavy red veining. Colorful and intriguing, as may be seen from my new true-to-life photo. EM 38”. [1950 Rainbow Offerings, Lloyd Austin]

'Sable Night' (P. Cook 1950) A rich black-violet with a claret undertone. The uniformity of coloring, coupled with a harmonious dark brown beard, makes this one of the most sensational of all new dark Iris. The flowers are large and full petaled and with heavy substance and a smooth finish.

[(Captain Wells x Indiana Night) x ((Modoc x Black Wings) x Sable), HM 1952, AM 1954, Dykes Medal 1955. [1952 Marble Iris Gardens]

'Demi-Deuil' (Denis 1912) We are told this French name means 'half-mourning’ so you must not expect this Iris to contain bright colors. S. pansy-violet shaded copper; F. red-violet with white markings; yellow beard stippled brown. [1926 Descriptive List, Irises, Bonnewitz]

'Mexicana' (Salter pre-1859) Color effect a brilliant light yellow, maroon veined bicolor. S. pinard yellow, brown dotted and reticulated on claw. F. velvety Hay’s maroon, veined the same on the lavender-white outer haft, which bronzes toward the center.

The edge of the narrow fall is brightly tinted and bronzed yellow. The plant is of moderate growth, and has stiff, slender, deep glaucous-green foliage. The flowers are rather flat in carriage, with spread segments. The unusual color contrasts are interesting in mass. Gold Bound is very close to this if not identical with it. [Bearded iris - A Perennial Suited to All Gardens, by Austin W. W. Sand, Cornell Extension Bulletin 112, June, 1925]

From your Editor

Thank you to the people who have sent me articles for Roots! and to the people who have articles in process. It feels to me as if we’re starting to wake up the garden spirits.

I hope you will all take a few moments to respond to the HIPS Historic Iris Designation Survey on page 32 -- the HIPS board has been asked to consider revising the current definition of historic iris as "iris which were introduced 30 years ago or longer". This of course speaks to the heart of HIPS, and our definition of "what is a historic iris" affects many aspects, including conservation and availability. Let us hear from you!

Thank you’s go as always to Jean Richter, Bonnie Petheram, and Phil Edinger.

"Imperative necessity"! Gesine Lohr
In Retrospect . . .

above: 'Santa Cruz' (Mitchell 1945)
below: 'Demi-Deuil' (Denis 1912)

above: 'Sable Night' (P. Cook 1950)
below: 'Mexicana' (Salter pre-1859)