

HIPS: Editor's 2015 Year-End Report

This was my first year of editing *ROOTS*. Both issues came out on time; we are still adjusting the timing, but in both cases I met our chosen goal. We received many compliments on the proportion of text to photos. Readers seem to enjoy the varied content and types of articles and columns.

After the Fall 2015 issue was published, I began looking for a different printing company. We experienced some difficulties in communication with AG Press and also their prices are high. We chose Sundance Press to print *ROOTS* in 2016 on an experimental basis.

My goals for future issues include:

- Continued emphasis on a good balance of text and photos.
- A mix of articles and columns that allows all readers to find something they wish to read; avoiding the overly folksy and the overly ponderous. From members' comments, I gather our readers vary widely in education level and taste. I firmly believe that even a conversational article can be thought-provoking and amusing to read, and even a scientific or historically accurate article can be lively and fascinating.
- I'd like to find someone to write about the science behind irises and their culture, in terms that ordinary gardeners can understand. I envision one- or two-page articles that would help iris gardeners understand more about soils, diseases, etc. While our focus is on history and preservation, it is best if our members also understand how to grow healthy historic irises. These articles could then go on our website, perhaps.
- Tall bearded irises are wonderful, but there are many other classes of irises. We will continue to publish at least one article about some non-TB class in every issue.
- It is important to help members understand that they, too, can participate in or even organize an iris rescue. I hope to feature at least one rescue or facilitated sale in each issue.
- Although society business, the vendor list, and the like are vital, they do not need to take up space in our color glossy bulletin. I will explore other options for the publication of those items.
- *ROOTS* is for and about members. HIPS is active and vibrant; in order to stay that way, members must hear about our projects.

PLEASE tell me what you think of each issue. While it's lovely to hear comments like "Nice issue!" a bit more detail would be helpful. Constructive criticism is welcome. Very few people comment at all.

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