THE NEWSLETTER of
THE SIBERIAN, SPURIA and JAPANESE IRIS GROUP
of the British Iris Society

No. 8. January 1981.

THE OBJECTS OF THE GROUP

1. Communication between members in Great Britain and Overseas.
2. A means of exchanging ideas, plants, seeds etc.
3. To assist beginners in growing Iris and to offer help with problems.
4. To report on Hybridisation.

EDITORIAL

In wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year, I would like to say thank you to Members who have sent their Good Wishes to the Group.

The emphasis in this Newsletter is on seed sowing and hybridizing. We have a good seed bank, so it seemed appropriate to have some ideas on the methods used by Members when sowing their seeds. The response has been very good, so we will continue this theme in the June issue. Oh! by the way... please make a note of Eric Elliott's new address, when you send for seed.

I think one of the unexpected pleasures in growing from seed, is to find a new and often unusual Iris in a batch of seedlings, who knows! it could be a new plant of the future. Has anyone tried the new 'gel' method of sowing seed, or perhaps you have your own 'pet' medium?

At long last, we have started the 'Glossary', a list of terms used in Iris growing. We will be adding to it as time goes by. This one is by kind permission of the Species Group, and Mrs. Maynard, who compiled it.

It is a great joy to me, after years of being a Member of the British Iris Society, to look down the List of Show Awards, and not only know the name of many of the recipients, but also to know them in person. The names of the President and Secretary of the B.I.S. appear high on the lists, also that of our own Chairman. Many of our Members have received Trophies and Awards too. Please accept our most sincere congratulations on your achievements, and Best Wishes for 1981.

Happy Gardening, take care! J.T.

P.S. Very sorry about the increased Subscription, hope you will all understand. J.T.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Members,

You will see by the Treasurer's Report in this Newsletter, that we have at last been reluctantly compelled to raise the subscription rate as from June 1981. We have worked to keep the expenses down as much as possible, but rising costs have proved too much for us, and we have had to follow the general trend. I do hope you will all feel it worth while to afford the little extra. It is the first increase since the Group's inception in 1976.

On a happier note, it is cheering to walk round the garden and note the signs of renewed life. We have had an exceptionally mild Winter so far, in this area, and many plants are already starting into growth, it is to be hoped that they will not suffer unduly, if we do get some bad weather, in the next few weeks. However, that is one of the hazards to be faced in gardening.

My very best wishes to you all for 1981.

Hilda Goodwin. Hon. Chairman.

MY IRISES - Jennifer Hewitt

With a title like that, it's a job to know where to start. Not because I have few irises - quite the contrary - or because most of my irises are bearded ones. They aren't. This is mostly an Apogon garden and I'm entirely happy that it should be so, as there is so much beauty and variety among the species, hybrids and cultivars, and such potential for interesting experiments in breeding. Many of my plants have been grown from seed, from the BIS Seed Exchange and other sources; this can be anything but true, and I have learnt not to believe the name on the packet until I've seen the plant in flower and checked it against a description or a plant I know to be true. This can be frustrating if a true species is what is hoped for, but it can also give delightful surprises.
The Editor has asked me to say how I deal with seeds. I'm sure other people have far more reliable methods than I do, but here is my way -
If possible, i.e. when I'm sowing seed from my own plants or have been given it as soon as it is ripe, I sow it fresh. Not in rows in the garden, which seems to me to be a recipe for disaster. Cats, birds, moles and humans (even, or especially, the person who sowed it in the first place) can easily ruin its chances. Mine go into pots, proper flower pots if I have enough, but usually there are also plenty of re-usable plastic food containers. A few holes in the bottom with a hot poker and the yoghourt carton, margarine tub or whatever is ready. The next step is to fill it with compost. I use a mixture of good topsoil, peat, and silver sand, in roughtly equal quantities, and this seems to give a reasonably-textured mixture in which seedlings grow well. After being firmed and labelled, the compost is thoroughly soaked from below and excess water allowed to drain out, and the seeds are sown, evenly distributed over the

surface as far as possible, and covered with silver sand. I try not to cover it too deeply (as amateurs often do, we are told) as it seems that seeds may need a certain amount of light in order to germinate. The sand washes down into the compost and some more may have to be added later; it is easy to see if the seeds are exposed. Then the pots are sunk into a bed of soil to within ½" of the rim. They stay outside all winter, watered if necessary (usually there is plenty provided without effort from me) especially in the first month or so whilst the chemicals which inhibit germination are leached from the testas (seed coats). After that it seems likely that germination may be helped by drier conditions being experienced from time to time, alternating with good soakings, but the seed pots should not be allowed to dry out completely. Sinking them in the soil prevents this happening suddenly but I do ensure that there are plenty of poker-made holes so that the pots don't become waterlogged. Seed received in spring is sown as quickly as possible in hopes of some frosts still to come. It is usually completely dry and has to be thoroughly soaked before even the first stage of germination can start. I intend to try dividing some batches of seed in half and sowing one half, in spring, as already described, whilst soaking the remainder in tap water which will be changed daily for about 3-4 weeks. The soaked seed will then be sown in the usual way, or, if it is late and the likelihood of frost is past, it will be given cold treatment by being put in polythene bags with damp peat, and the bags will be closed and put in the salad box in the fridge (the family will have to be persuaded that they can live without salad for a while). As soon as any sign of germination is seen the bag will be removed and the seed sown, but the pot will be given protection and the seedlings hardened off before being put outside. Since this garden is cold, and our greenhouse is fully occupied in spring and I cannot move the seed pots into a warmer place, they have to wait some time for warmer weather. This means that it may be May or later before iris seedlings start to come up and July before they can be planted out. I have found that many seedlings fail to establish themselves sufficiently well in the time available before growth stops, and winter losses have been considerable. All iris seedlings are now pricked out into a frame for their first winter. My aim, however, is to give them the minimum of protection necessary for survival - brought on too early next spring, they'll be ready for planting out long before the soil outside warms up - so my frame is a rectangle of loose bricks (no mortar) with gaps through which the wind whistles. The bricks enclose a patch of garden and watering is normally unnecessary until late spring; the top is covered with a glass light which is removed in late March/early April or when I feel spring is really here. Anyone who wants to try my methods should remember that we are 1,000 feet up and face north-east, in Shropshire. The

majority of other gardens have very different conditions and the timings, and remarks about watering, should be adjusted to suit your garden.
The results so far have been very rewarding; in May I can plant out batches of strong healthy seedlings which do not seem to suffer much setback from this second transplantation and grow away merrily. I am accustomed to waiting a minimum of 4 years for seedlings to bloom for the first time but the frame treatment looks like reducing that by at least a year, and more in the case of seedlings which have previously taken 5-6 years to the first flowering.
In an earlier edition of this Newsletter (January 1978) I wrote of my particular interests among the Apogons: Iris sibirica varieties, both diploid and tetraploid, and remontants; the 40-chromosome species and hybrids of the I. chrysographes sub-series; I. spuria species and hybrids; no Japanese irises. Since then the collection of Siberians has grown considerably both by purchase, including importation from America which is very easy to do, and by the Plant Sales of the BIS and various Groups, as well as through gifts and exchanges with friends. Seedlings from crosses I've made here and from seed also given by friends have bloomed and I have had the thrill of seeing two awarded Seedling Commendations and being selected for the Trials at Wisley. I wish there were many more seedlings being shown and put before the Joint Iris Committee, from many more hybridisers. (Of course there are numerous other seedlings which came to a different end, but I'll draw a veil over them!) There are more Spurias in the garden and a better show of bloom each year. Japanese irises have started to infiltrate: I. laevigata and I. laevigate 'Variegata' are both very welcome incomers and I have just sown seed of a wild form of I. ensata (kaempferi). There are colour forms and hybrids of the Pacific Coast irises; colour forms of I. pseudacorus and the dramatic I. p. 'Variegata'; some Louisianas including a beautiful blue I. brevicaulis from Hilda Goodwin - these have yet to bloom and I hope they will find the garden warm enough. Iris setosa nana was the only success among the Setosas until I grew some from seed sent to the Group by Mr. Akira Horinaka; the blue-violet seedlings are still small and have been left in the frame for a second winter, but the red-violet form has given many very vigorous plants which have been planted throughout the garden.
Iris versicolor and I. virginica are two other species which delighted me with their first blooms this year, and even before it bloomed there was great pleasure from another form of I. virginica which has dark smoky-red young foliage.
I think I may also have I. versicolor var. kermesina, but the flowers on my plant don't quite tally with my recollection of those seen at BIS Shows, so I shall have to wait and see. I can't think what else it could be, but suggestions would be welcome! As for the "40's", they grow like fury and continue to amaze me with their infinite variety of shapes, colours and patterns - but that is true of everything in the iris world.

(Congratulations on your successes in the June Show)

TREVOR NOTTLE'S LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

Trevor writes of his method of seed-sowing:- My first objective is to plant any seed as soon as it arrives, usually within a day or two. Many, if not all Iris have an inbuilt Dormancy Factor, early planting may beat the onset of this growth inhibitor. When collecting my own seed, I like to catch it at the 'pearly' stage of ripening, i.e. when the green seed turns pearly white before turning brown. Seed planted at this stage nearly always germinate at once. Seed received from Japan, Russia, South Africa, U.S.A. and Great Britain is usually assumed to be in a 'deep' dormant state, but these are planted immediately, on the off-chance it can be tricked into breaking dormancy by the sudden change in climate, season and hemisphere.

I use a widely available seed raising, soil-less mixture, composed of equal parts of peat-moss, coarse sand and compost (usually spent mushroom compost). The brand I use is sterilized and has a small quantity of slow release fertilizer (Osmocate) added.

Smaller seeds I sow in plastic punnets size 8" x 3" x 3". Large seed in conventional pots, barely covering the seeds with the compost.

Louisiana seeds are the only ones I give any special treatment to; I remove the pithy outer husk, not strictly necessary, so I am told, but in nature this pithy coat floats the seed down the backwaters of American rivers until it lodges on a muddy bank and begins germination. A natural dispersal mechanism you might say!

Germination is very variable. Pacific Coast Natives seem to be the quickest and most prolific. Siberians are reasonably quick (my experience is limited). Spurias and Junos are the slowest. Siberians appear about 8 weeks from planting, and give a good percentage of fertile seed. Oddly enough I have not had any success with the early Diploid Hybrids. Having said this I have now found a few of this group with emerging roots - - an important indication of a Cardinal Rule - - NEVER THROW SOUND SEED OUT IF IT DOES NOT GERMINATE IMMEDIATELY.

I haven't any experience of raising seed of Japanese and I. Virginica, but I have raised the following :-

I. Setosa
I. Setosa Rubra
I. Setosa Nana
I. Subbarbata
I. Sintensis
I. Missouriensis
I. Carthalineae
I. Mussulmanica
I. Demetrii
I. Sanguinea
I. Sanguinea Robana
I. Bullyana
I. Sibirica Grandis
do. Morleya

I. Sibirica 28 chromosomes	I. Mirza Citronella
do. 40 do.	Spuria Hybrids
I. do. Diploid Rebloomers	Pacific Coast Hybrids
do. Hybrids (Tetraploid)	Junos and Dwarf Bearded Hybrids.
I. Delavayii	

(I have cut Trevor's letter at this stage. It is most interesting and I do thank him for the detail. He goes on to say about planting out, this we will continue in the June Newsletter.)

USING THE BRUMMITT - SIBERIANS by T. Tamberg

From the German point of view Marjorie Brummitt's Siberian iris cultivars were a breakthrough to a new dimension in the field of this long neglected group of irises. The Cassebeer cultivars with WHITE SWIRL as the most important example had already given an impression, but they never became as popular as the Brummitt cultivars.

The following Brummitt-Siberians came to our garden as gifts from Marjorie Brummitt or were ordered from Orpington Nurseries: CAMBRIDGE, DREAMING SPIRES, SEA SHADOWS, LIMEHEART and ANNIVERSARY. The latter one died after having flowered the first time, but the four others have formed big clumps over the years.

Being interested in hybridizing we have used these outstanding cultivars for numerous crosses during the last ten years and the results were interesting and satisfying:

Following the ideas of McGarvey concerning hybrid vigor we started a number of selfing lines to get highly inbred partners for heterosis crosses. From CAMBRIDGE x self we selected three plants of low and compact growth habit with flowers of CAMBRIDGE type, but slightly smaller. One of them was registered and introduced as CAMBRITA. Another one has bright light blue flowers with a white signal area. From CAMBRITA x self we flowered a group of rather dwarf plants of darker colour and again smaller flowers. The form of the flowers was however not very pleasing. The next selfing generation, which can be described as ((CAMBRIDGE x self) x self) x self is already planted out, but develops slowly - Selfing DREAMING SPIRES was so far done for only one generation. We selected two seedlings of which one, BERLIN VELVET, is a rather low growing, wide petalled beauty with horizontal falls and no signal. The colour is a deep blue with a very pronounced velvety appearance. The other one (SSTT 117) is a plant of normal height and flower size in dark blue. The hafts of the falls are covered with a kind of black velvet, which is an enhancement of the colour distribution shown by DREAMING SPIRES.

For our deep blue KOBALTBLAU (HC, Wisley) our records give CAMBRIDGE x unknown as parentage. Considering the other possible parents flowering at this time in our garden, we assume that the pollen parent was DREAMING SPIRES in this case. The first home-made tetraploid Siberian in our garden was an exciting, large and wide flowered plant from CAMBRIDGE x WHITE MAGNIFICENCE. Later on it was registered and introduced as WIDE WHITE and is still unsurpassed as far as the single flower is concerned. It seems to be a periclinal chimaera with diploid reproductive parts and has until now produced progeny only at the diploid level. Crossing it with DREAMING YELLOW has given us at least one beautiful wide petalled cream yellow flower.

Another line of breeding started with a cross of TYCOON x LIMEHEART. There were two wide petalled plants among the seedlings, which however did not have flaring, but drooping falls. So one of them was backcrossed to LIMEHEART as the pollen parent. The resulting group of seedlings (Pausback-hybrids) had wider petals of better, flaring shape and much more vigor. One of them was crossed with CAMBRIDGE in the next step and from this cross we flowered two plants with flowers of unbelievably wide and compact parts. One of them will be registered as "BLUE ROSEBUD" because the width of both falls and standards creates a "rosebud" effect when the buds open. In the meantime we have repeated the cross and have used "BLUE ROSEBUD" for numerous crosses with other Siberians. It will be interesting to see, how seedlings of this type will look like at the tetraploid level.

A quite different use of LIMEHEART was made, when we tried to produce 40 x 28 chromosome Siberian hybrids. Until now the only result of these efforts is a seedling from BERLINER RIESEN x LIMEHEART, which is sterile so far. It is very much in between the parents as far as colour and form are concerned. A chromosome count of 54 suggests a triploid structure (2n=40)+(n=14) of this unusual plant, which will be registered as "TWO WORLDS".

We have not grown seedlings from SEA SHADOWS until now, but should have done so, because it is the best branched of the Brummitt Siberians. A the Osnabrueck Siberian Trial it was the most vigorous and free flowering variety among the modern cultivars of Siberians. - This year we have used SEA SHADOWS as seed parent for a Sibirica x Setosa cross, which is an idea of Eckard Berlin. We got three capsules filled with many small, but healthy looking seeds.

Looking to the USA we find an increasing use of the Brummitt Siberians, too. To mention only a few of the descendants: the creme yellow DREAMING YELLOW, FLOATING ISLAND and STAR CLUSTERS: the light blue AVON, SEA GATE and BLUE BRIDGE; the dark PIRATE PRINCE. The first two cultivars were however grown from seed sent to the USA by Marjorie Brummitt.

(Congratulations on your successes in the June Show. Tomas asks if anyone has plants of DORIS HANSFORD-MORRIS BULLEYANA-HYBRIDS. He would be interested to buy one plant of each)

GOALS IN HYBRIDIZING SIBERIAN IRISES by Currier McEwen

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Many months ago I told Peg Edwards that I would write an article for TSI on my particular hybridizing interests. Since then Bee Warburton has written her generous account of my efforts in her article in the Fall 1979 issue (1). This simplifies my assignment and changes its scope somewhat. Hence, in this article I will combine comments regarding hybridizing goals in general with some observations about experiences in my own garden. The order followed here is roughly that of one on Hybridizing Goals for Siberian Irises which appeared in the Bulletin of the American Iris Society in 1976(2). In that article I discussed each of the various characteristics separately for diploids and tetraploids. That arrangement is not followed here since principles are the same.

FORM: I believe one of the most important decisions made by the Society for Siberian Irises is its judgment that all forms of Siberians are equally desirable so long as they have the normal number of segments and the total impression is one of grace, harmony and balance. Because of the impact made by WHITE SWIRL and its use in breeding, there has been a tendency for more and more of the newer introductions to have the round flaring form it gives its seedlings. This form is extremely attractive but so, too, are flowers or the more traditional arched, vertical and semi-flaring forms. It would be sad indeed if all Siberians should tend to look alike in form as has happened with some other flowers. Fortunately I believe one may hope that the trend to only the round flaring form is waning. Of my own introductions in 1979, for example, one was of the very round, flaring form, and the other two were of traditional type. I hope our judges will show equal interest in all attractive forms. I must add my personal opinion that, although ruffling is a charming characteristic, there is a very definite place for flowers of tailored form also.

COLOR: Blue is, of course, the predominant color one sees in Siberian gardens, but let this not blind us to the fact that there are not as yet any in true blue shades. In our garden DEAR DELIGHT comes closest but if one compares it with a blue delphinium, the need for further effort is apparent. Each year I cross the bluest I find in the seeling beds and some progress has come, but it is slow. The situation is the same for red, pink and lavender. Again, progress is being made for all, especially in the pink tones by McGarvey, but these goals, too, need hard and patient effort. Strange as it may seem in view of its very recent appearance, yellow is progressing rapidly. The cross of FLOATING ISLAND and DREAMING YELLOW that produced BUTTER AND SUGAR gave some that were more cream than yellow, but all the seedlings from BUTTER AND SUGAR with its sibs or offspring have had distantly yellow falls, and yellow is appearing in the standards, too.

I have had yellow tetraploids of deeper color than the diploids since 1972, but their form was poor. In 1979, combining rich yellow color with BUTTER AND SUGAR form two bloomed and are, I think, promising. Such lovely whites are now available that one is tempted to wonder if greater improvement is possible, but, of course, it is. My own special interest in white breeding is to develop whites with green tones. Some whites with greenish tints and with distant green lines instead of a signal give a lovely cool effect and I am confident that light green flowers are on the way. As for new colors, orange is, I suspect, not unlikely through further work with yellow and perhaps with red. To my surpise a series of seedlings related to DEAR DIANNE, which bloomed first in 1979, showed distant brown tones suffusing their base color of blue-violet. I found them attractive. Whether this approach will yield actual brown in time remains to be seen.

PATTERN: Pleasing blue-violets with silver edging are now numerous in our garden and several show gold edging. Thus far, however, the gold has faded to silver by the second day. For the first time, two red Siberians in 1979 showed slight but definite white or silver edging. Certainly these are avenues to follow. I believe greater effort is needed also to develop amoenas. They now exist in yellow and pinkish flowers, but I know of none in red or purple, nor any since SUMMER SKY in blue. Since they have appeared so readily in the yellow and pink classes, it seems strange to me that they remain lacking in the other colors. As to other patterns, we need more bi-colors and there is always a place for flowers with sharply contrasting signals. In my beds the best example of this is SHIRLEY POPE with start white against velvety red-purple. I have been so enamored of the flowers without visible signals that I have tended to overlook the beauty of these contrasts. I mean to work harder at that. The success of Bee Warburton and Steve Varner in developing the dappled; mottled or ATOLL pattern represents another interesting new line of breeding and surely there will be others.

TEXTURE: This requires only a brief comment. I like particularly flowers of velvety texture like that of TEALWOOD, POLLY DODGE, SHIRLEY POPE and many others, but again, one wants contrast in the garden bed, and Siberians of matte texture are needed, too. Diamond dusting probably belongs under the heading of texture, too. It is a delightful feature, as are also the more common satiny or silky textures.

SUBSTANCE AND DURABILITY: Fortunately most of the modern Siberians of both the 28-chr. and 40-chr. groups are quite good in these features. I think, therefore, that the hybridizer need merely avoid using plants which are lacking in them. Certainly a seedling would have to be extraordinarily different, exceptionally outstanding in some feature to warrant using it as a parent if it lacked substance to maintain proper form, or wilted unduly under heat or rain.

SIZE: I believe no effort is currently desirable to increase the size of flowers over 5½ to 6" diameters now readily available in the tetraploids. On the other hand, I believe there is far too little effort being made to develop more miniatures. Starting with LITTLE WHITE which was a lucky break, I have now a number that have 2½ to 3" flowers on 8 to 10" stalks. As Bee has said in her article (1), these smallest ones of mine are on stalks perhaps an inch shorter than the foliage. She thinks that in such low ones that does not matter. However, I still would like to see the flowers at foliage level or an inch or so above. I am sure that these will come. Thus far I have many whites and blues but very few in red and none yet in purple, pink, or yellow. These are challenges to the hybridizer. LITTLE WHITE, ORIENTALIS NANA(blue) and a white Nana have all been excellent parents but I have not yet been able to understand some of the differences encountered. Crossed with some seedlings derived from LITTLE WHITE all three have given plants 8 to 12" in height. Crossed with siblings of similar height, plants 24" tall result, although with the smaller flowers. FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES has been especially baffling. Thus far in crosses spanning three years I have obtained no plants less than 24" in height, even with such shorties as the blue and white Nanas. I suspect that FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES may be a short sport of I. sibirica because when selfed or crossed with LITTLE WHITE it has thus far given only tall seedlings which resemble my collected specimens of I. sibirica.

BRANCHING, BUD COUNT AND DURATION OF BLOOM: Branching and bud count are obviously important virtues so long as the branches do not interfere with one another. Since the chief advantage of both is to provide an abundance of flowers over a long period of time, plants which lack branching and may have only three buds, but which send up a continuing succession of stalks are equally good. The ultimate advantage, of course, is seen in the rebloomers. ILLINI ENCORE which has two or more branches and up to nine buds gives an abundance of bloom, and EARLY BLUEBIRD, of similar branching and bud count blooms about a week longer than any non-rebloomer I know. However, SOFT BLUE, WELCOME RETURN, BLUE ENCORE and WHITE ENCORE which have good branching and bud count, and also rebloom, can give six weeks or more of flowers. When all the other lovely ones are finished for the season and the rebloomers are still putting on a fine show, one cannot help being impressed with the value of this characteristic. My experience now shows that crosses of what I call preferential rebloomers (3) will give almost one hundred percent of reblooming seedlings. Thus far most are blue and white, and rebloomers in other colors and in a variety of forms are needed. LAVENDER LIGHT and DREAMING YELLOW rebloom well and in '79 two red rebloomers appeared, but much more can be accomplished, I am sure. This, I believe, is an especially interesting and promising area of hybridizing.

SEASON OF BLOOM: Anyone with an interest in Siberians who attends AIS conventions must be all too aware of the need for ones which start blooming early. In Huntsville the showing was quite good but most Siberians are a bit behind the TBs and are apt to be merely in bud at convention time. Hence, the value of Siberians which start early is apparent. Actually, this subject is related to that of rebloom because most rebloomers start their first bloom early. Thus, efforts to achieve both these objectives can be carried out together.

THE SEED DISTRIBUTION

The following seeds are available :-

Section Laevigatae

I.Laevigata	31 pkts. at 5p.
I.Pseudacorus Bastardii	8 pkts. at 5p.

Series Sibirica

I.Sibirica (Mid Blue)	8 pkts. at 5p.
I.Sibirica Small Dwarf Form (Sanguinea)	2 pkts. at 5p.

Series Chrysographes

I.Chrysographes	10 pkts. at 5p.
I.Mirza Citronella	10 pkts. at 5p.

Series Kaempferi

I.Kaempferi 'Ruby Red'	20 pkts. at 5p.

Series Tripetalae

I.Setosa (Blue Violet)	4 pkts. at 10p.
I.Setosa (Red Violet)	2 pkts. at 10p.

Sub-Genus Xyridion

I.Spuria (Parentage includes, Dawn Candle, Kyah Gold, Jacquinet Boy, Russet Flame, Violet Veil and Capri Girl)	40 pkts. at 5p

Please add Postage when you send for Seeds to :-

Mr. E. Elliott, 5 Braefield Close,
KIRK HALLAM,
Ilkeston, Derbys. DE7 4TS.

(PLEASE NOTE - NEW ADDRESS)

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Chairman ..... Mrs. H. M. Goodwin, 42 Tycehurst Hill, LOUGHTON, Essex.

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Hon. N/L Editor ..... as above.

Hon. Seed Distribution Officer ... Mr. E. Elliott, 5 Braefield Close, KIRK HALLAM, Ilkeston, Derbys. DE7 4TS.

Hon. Librarian ..... Mrs. J. Hewitt, Haygarth, Cleeton St. Mary, CLEOBURY MORTIMER, Kidderminster, Worcs.

THE GROUP LIBRARY

Copies of the following American publications are obtained from the Hon. Librarian, Mrs. J. Hewitt, Haygarth, Cleeton St. Mary, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster :-

Newsletter of the Spuria Iris Society

Reviews of the Society for Japanese Irises

Journals of the Siberian Iris

The Genus Iris .... subsection Sibiricae - B.I.S.

Alphabetical Table and Cultivation Guide to the Species ... B.I.S.

Please include postage when requesting items.

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Mrs. G. J. Trevithick, (Hon. Secty/Treasurer), 86a Grantham Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham

Mr. J. Vennor, Raven's Croft, 120 St. Osyth Road, Little Clacton, Essex

Mrs. G. Watkins, 9 Sherbourne Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham

Mr. A. E. Whittaker, 'Chestnuts', Hidden Way, Littleton, Winchester, Hants

Dr. R. I. Woods, 8 Copiice Avenue, Gt. Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5AQ.

Overseas

Frau M. Ahlburg, 3171 Rotgesbuttel, Hohes Feld 22, West Germany

Herr E. Berlin, 795 Biberach/Riss, Marktplatz 5, West Germany

Dr. T. Tamberg, 1000 Berlin 45, Zimmerstrasse 3, West Germany

Mr. Akira Horinoka, 17 Kitamonodani, Minami-Ku, Osaka, Japan

Dr. R. H. Egli, Avenue de Sully 67, CH 1814, La-Tour-de-Peilz, Switzerland.

Dr. D. Koza, 1171 East Idaho Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106, U.S.A.

Mr. T. Nottle, 5 Walker Street, Stirling 5152, South Australia

Mr. Ben R. Hager, 309 South Best Road, Stockton, California 952-6 U.S.A.

CONTACTS IN SOCIETIES

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Secretary of the B.I.S. Mr. G. E. Cassidy, B.A., F.R.I.B.A., J.P., 67 Bushwood Road, Kew, Surrey.

Secretary of the Species Group: Prof. M. E. A. Bowley, 'Brook Orchard', Graffham, Nr. Petworth, Sussex.

Editor 'Spuria Iris Society Newsletter' Floyd Wicken-Kamp, Spuria Iris Society, 10521 Bellarose Dve, Sun City AZ 85351

Editor, 'The Siberian Iris':	Mrs. H. L. Edwards, 235 Koehl St. Massapequa Park, New York 11762 U.S.A.
Editor, 'The Review Society for Japanese Iris'	Mr. W. Ouweneel, R.R. 31 Box 206, Terre Haute, Indiana 47803 U.S.A.
Editor of Kent Group	Mr. J. Vennor, 'Ravens Croft', 120 St. Osyth Road, Little Clacton, Essex.

NOTICES

Anne Blanco White has the following Iris from Wisley for sale at £1 each, inclusive of P. & P. (proceeds to the Group). Available on a first come first served basis.

Doris Hansford's 'ROB' and 'SPLASHDOWN'
Alex Back's 'VALDA' and '.V.I.' (VeeOne)
also 'BOURNE GRACEFUL' at £3 inclusive.

Please send your order direct to :-
Mrs. A. Blanco White, 72 South Hill Park, London NW3 2SN

(Anne is looking for a supply of I. 'Monsour Blue', can anyone help please)

Some SHOW Dates for your Diary

Early Spring (Reticulata) Show	February 17 and 18
Spring (Decorative) Show	March 31 and April 1
Late Spring (Dwarf and Median) Show	April 28 and 29

All at the R.H.S. New Hall, Greycoat Street, London S.W.1.

The Grange 'Jubilee' Garden, Radcliffe-on-Trent

I would like to say a very big thank you to the Members who kindly sent Iris, to be planted in the Grange Gardens. They are looking very well indeed. We still have a space at the back, if anyone could spare one or two, when they come to dividing time. I may tell you we have started something, the local Rotary Club are now building a Garden for the Blind, and Mr. George Roe, a specialist in Fuchsias, has, on his retirement given a lot of his plants for the Parks.

An Offer

I have a lot of seed of 'Piptanthus Laburnifolius', which you make like to send for. 15p (stamps) per packet plus a S.A.E. I know they are not Iris, but all the proceeds will go into the Group Funds. Joan Trevithick.

P.S. P.Laburnifolius Syn. Nepalensis comes from the Himalayas and is a magnificent shrub, bearing large bright yellow, sweet-pea like flowers in May.

REPRINTED BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE SPECIES GROUP AND MRS. MAYNARD

GLOSSARY OF BOTANICAL TERMS by Mrs. Maynard

Amoena	An iris with white standards and coloured falls
Aril	An appendage formed on the outside of a seed
Beard	A zone of hairs on the falls of some irises
Bifid	Cleft in two no further than the middle
Bifurcate	Forked, with two equal branches
Bract	A leaf or scale-like structure from the axil of which a flower stemp often arises
Bulbils	A small bult arising from the axil of a leaf or among the flowers from which a new plant can arise. Used here to describe the tiny bulbs into which some bulbous irises split themselves after flowering.
Capsule	A dry fruit formed from two or more carpels which splits open when ripe
Carpel	One female, seed-bearing unit of a flower
Cauline	Belonging to the stem
Clone	Plants which are derived by vegetative propagation and so identical in all respects
Crested	Having a ridge like the crest on a helmet
Deflexed	Bent sharply downward
Deltoid	Broadly triangular like the greek letter
Diploid	Having the full number of chromosomes characteristic of the species
Divergent	With the tips wider apart than the bases
Elliptic	Oval and narrowed to rounded ends
Emarginate	Shallowly notched at the apex
Ensiform	Sword-shaped
Falls	The outer perianth segments of irises
Foliaceous	Leaf-like
Glabrous	Smooth, not hairy
Glaucous	Covered with bloom, often waxy, hence appearing grey
Haft	The narrowed portion at the base of the perianth segments
Herbaceous	Non-woody. Of a plant organ, having the texture and colour of leaves
Keel	A sharp central ridge on an organ
Lanceolate	Shaped like a lance with the broadest part nearer the base, narrowing regularly to the tip.

Membraneous	Thin, dry, flexible paper-like. Not green
Nerve	Prominent vein in a leaf or petal
Oblanceolate	Shaped like a lance but with the broadest part nearest the tip.
Ob-ovate	Egg-shaped but with the broadest end above the middle.
Orbiculare	Rounded in outline with the width and breadth about the same
Ovary	The part of the flower containing the ovules and, later, the seeds.
Panicle	A branched, usually conical, cluster of stalked flowers, the youngest of which are at the top
Pedicel	The stalk of a single flower in a compound inflorescence
Perianth	The outer non sexual parts of the flower, usually composed of two whorls, often with the outer sepals green and the inner petals coloured
Perianth tube	The portion of the flower where the free segments become joined into a tube
Raphe	A seam-like junction, a ridge on the side of an ovule
Recurved	Bent backwards or downwards in a curve
Reflexed	Bent abruptly backwards or downwards
Reticulate	Netted
Rhizome	A creeping stem capable of producing both roots and shoots; may be above or below the ground
Scarious	Membraneous, not green
Spathe	A modified leaf, often much reduced and papery, enclosing the inflorescence in bud.
Standards	The inner perianth segments, which in many species are erect
Stolon	An underground stem which gives rise to a further bulb or plant
Striated	With fine longitudinal lines, grooves or ridges
Style	The more or less elongated projection of the ovary, bearing the stigma
Tetraploid	Having twice the normal diploid number of chromosomes
Valve	One of the segments into which a seed capsule splits

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st DECEMBER 1980

		£		£
14.1.80	Newsletter & Postage	22.00	Subscriptions	13.50
31.7.80	Newsletter & Postage	27.00	Donations	2.04
			Sale of Seeds and Plants	4.91
			Deficit	28.55
		49.00		49.00

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 1980

	Accumulated Fund	58.94	Deficit	28.55
			Interest for 1980	3.56
			Cash in Bank	26.83
		58.94		58.94
			Total Cash in Bank	30.39

TREASURER'S REPORT

Despite every effort to maintain the Subscription at 50p, as you will see from the Balance Sheet above, this will not be possible in 1981. From June, the Subscription will be 75p, I will do my level best to bring you all the information I can, and also make it interesting reading.
Below you will find a subscription form to save time when sending in.
My thanks to those of you who have given donations and seeds, without which we would not have managed to come so far.

The Hon. Treasurer, S. S. & J. Group,
86a Grantham Road, RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT, Nottingham.

Herewith my Subscription for 1979/80 and 1980/81 (cross out if not applicable)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

Signed . . . . . Date . . . . . .