

## THE SIBERIAN, SPURIA AND JAPANESE IRIS GROUP.

of the British Iris Society.

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NEWSLETTER No. 14.

February 1984  
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### THE OBJECTS OF THE GROUP.

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

### Editorial.

1984..... George Orwells' dreaded year, thank goodness gardeners travel 'hopefully', always looking to the soil for salvation... the seed time and the harvest... I found this verse recently, written, I think by Francis Gay....

'Dark days there'll be for you and me;  
No doubt we'll grouse awhile.  
But courage and a bit of faith  
Will help us all to smile.  
Be strong; let not your spirit fear,  
And you will have a happy year.

Now for news of our Group.... Regrettably, our Chairman has decided to retire from the post, due to pressure of work. We thank Hilda, most sincerely for her generous effort and support since June 1979. However, it is not altogether good-bye, because we have created a new post of Vice-Chairman, and Hilda has kindly agreed to stay on, taking on this roll, and giving us the benefit of her expertise whenever possible.

Jack Venner has 'taken over' as Chairman (I must apologize to him for mis-spelling his name all this time... sorry Jack...). Although well-known in the Tall Bearded Iris world, he has, for some time now, turned his attention to Species Iris. Jack has been our Show Reporter and Regional Reporter since 1982, for the time being he will keep both of these jobs. I know that Jack will bring his extensive knowledge to our Group, and, no doubt, widen our horizons. Also with this in mind, we have co-opted Adrian Whittaker on to the Committee, to bring with him his wide experience and interest in Spuria Iris. We welcome him and thank him for his continued support and enthusiasm. He will also keep the Southern Region Reporters' job.

You will find a full list of the Committee towards the end of this Newsletter.

We extend a warm welcome to our new Members.... Bill la Bach who lives in Nicholasville, Kentucky, U.S.A. Edward Meakin from Halam Nottinghamshire, who has a fairly new garden and wants to start an Iris collection. Maureen and Harry Foster of Crickhowell, Powys, N.Wales. Maureen, as many of you will know is the most accomplished Slide Librarian of the British Iris Society. We hope that you will enjoy belonging to our Group, and, in due course tell us of your gardens and the Iris you grow.

Support for the 'Members Sales and Wants' section has 'picked up', you will find it at the end of the N/L, together with a new venture 'Members Hints and Wrinkles'... Send in your 'pet ideas', things which have helped you to grow Iris more successfully. Re-cycling of unwanted items which you find useful. Send them in for the July and later Newsletters please.

Take a look at the Seed Distribution List, we have had some very interesting contributions from Members, to whom we say 'many thanks'. Sorry to tell you that 'Holden Clough' did not produce seed, but there may be plants next year, if it grows well.

The July Newsletter will cover Sibirica, Spuria and Japanese Iris, a sort of 'free for all', already items are coming in, you send them I'll print them....

This only leaves me to say a Very Happy New Year to you all. Many thanks for the good wishes you kindly sent...

Good Gardening when the snow has gone. J.T.

### Chairman's Letter.

..... I am only too pleased to become the Chairman of the S.S&J. Group, although I feel sad that ~~HILDA has had~~ to relinquish the post, which she has filled so competently for most of the pioneering years. I am glad that she is going to stay on as Vice-Chairman, I know I will need her help in taking over the 'reins'. Your Secretary/Treas. tells me of her quiet advice and guidance in her own task, without which she could not have 'carried on'. It is good to welcome Adrian on to the Committee. He has been an enthusiastic Member from the start. His Spurias in the 1982 Show were really beautiful, and his continued work, will bring them more into focus in our Group.

Some years ago, on finding that the Tall Bearded Iris in my garden were becoming 'disease prone', I turned my attention to Species Iris. I found that they grew very well in my soil and heartily wished I had turned my attention to them earlier. The Revolution caused by the introduction of Tetrapioids was just beginning to explode on the scene, increasing my interest. Now I would not be without them in my garden, and I am always on the 'look out' for new varieties, to extend my collection.

As a contemporary of the late Alex Back, I am sure he would be very pleased that his vision of Members of the Group in contact throughout the World is actually coming to fruition.... Long may this continue.... As your Chairman I will do my best to further this aim. I wish you all good Iris growing in 1984.

Jack Venner.

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### A Moving Story

Ian Smith.

Way back, at the beginning of 1983, it was decided that a move was called for... from Orpington in Kent to somewhere in sunny Dorset, So.. last February the 'Desirable Residence' was put on the market. Estate Agents started sending along the seemingly endless stream of prospective purchasers to view.... In the midst of all these preliminaries my thoughts were on Irises.... I could'nt leave them behind... That would be absolutely unthinkable. Some T.B.'s, old timers such as 'Gaylord', 'Staten Island' and 'Solid Mahogany' I'd had for 30 years or more. These are quite recent introductions when I first had them, but they still continue to give me pleasure.

So, one or possibly two rhizomes of everything had to be taken. Thus began the job of potting them all up..... T.B's, I.B's, B.B's, S.D.B's, Spurias, Sibiricas etc., etc.... Big pots, small pots, clay pots, plastic pots, old margarine pots... anything I could lay my hands on, were all filled with Irises of one sort or another.

April came, a suitable purchaser was found and the legal proceedings began. Weeks went by and as the completion date neared, the inevitable happened.... someone dropped out of the chain of buyers. So off we went again, with a new 'chain'..... Once again as completion date neared, someone dropped out..... During all this time, the Iris Season came and went. Despite the cramped conditions, I was still treated to quite a few decent spikes, although they were a bit later than usual.

It is now September, I am on the verge of the actual move... The removal firm have told me that it is possible I will need a separate van for all the plants. At the final count I have got about 400 pots of Irises, together with about 50 pots of other 'bits and pieces' and about 40 shrubs in tubs or sacking.

I am leaving behind about 150 rhizomes of bearded Irises together with a few Sibiricas for the incoming people, so I hope they will be appreciated..... Where I am going there is a back garden about 50 feet wide and 165 feet long. At present it is wholly grassed over, so.... there has got to be a lot of turf 'stripped off', a lot of manuring and a lot of hard work to be done this Autumn.... so wish me luck!!!!!!

(We do wish you luck Ian and hope that things are going well for you, let us know how things are for the July N/L. Ed.)

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### Some Dates for Your Diary.

21st-22nd February..... Early Spring Show.  
20th-21st March..... Decorative Show.  
1st -2nd May..... Late Spring Show.  
2nd June..... Early Summer Show\*\*  
12th-13th June..... Late Summer Show.

see over..

Note \*\*\* The Early Summer Show, which is a new venture, is to be held at MOULTON near NORTHAMPTON.... Mr. Brett Tussler is organising it at his School in Pound Lane. The date is Saturday the 2nd. June. Approximate times 10am. to 5pm. Refreshments will be available and accomodation can be arranged..... If you want more information, please contact Brett, his address is:-

Mr. B.Tussler, 123, Gold Street, Wellingborough. Northants. NN8 4EG.

Although, Tall Bearded Iris are his main interest, as a grower and collector, rather than a hybridiser, Brett has lately been 'branching out' into the Species area. He will be very pleased to send you directions of how to arrive at MOULTON, which is quite near to NORTHAMPTON (off the A.43), also details of the Show.

We are in the process of organising a stand for the S.S&J. Group. I do hope you will come along and give your support.... Do'nt forget the date 2nd. June....

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#### Obituary.

We, in the Nottingham area. are mourning the death in the Autumn of Mrs. E.A. Leverton.. 'Betty' was well known in the Alpine Garden Society, having organised the local Rock Garden Club's Show, very successfully, for many years. 10 years ago after a serious illness, Betty fought back, with great courage, to tend her garden and even to journey to Norway and America, to meet other Alpine enthusiasts. She joined our Group in 1979, and was in the process of building up a rather nice collection of Species Iris... We send our sincere sympathy to the Members of her family and hope that they will derive comfort from knowing that, her name will long be remembered for her generous and kindly nature, and her love and understanding of her beloved plants. She will be sadly missed..... (Ed).

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#### Trevor Nottles Letter from Australia.

Following our bush fires and drought, we have had a mild Winter, with lots of rain, but, thank goodness, no hail to spoil the daffodils. The Spring was cool and also mild, but we had a freak snow-fall on Nov. 12th.; the latest ever recorded..... Mostly our Iris came through rather well... The flowering has been rather patchy, particularly the water-loving Species. Iris Gracilipes and I. Cristata flowered well, also the larger Evansias,, Tectorum and Tectorum Alba, Queen's Grace, Darjeeling, Japs Watt, 'Fairylane' and I. Milesii.

Spuria seedlings were fairly good, with some especially fine dark blues, deep browns and smokey reds.

The Siberians were less good, except for long established clumps of I. x Ottawa, I. Tenuifolia, I. x Tycoon, and I. x Son of Star. The seedlings which flowered well last year, did not perform well, so I was not able to evaluate many.

I put out a seedling of I. Hookeriana, this has grown well and also a division of I. Pseudacorus Variegata, which is rare here, is happily growing well. A big batch of Iris Sanguinea 'Kobana' turned out to be mixed Siberians and rather ordinary. My dwarf Siberian Seedlings did not flower at all....

I am putting all these failures down to excessively salt water, last Summer, also the loss of roots, due to drought.

My Pacific Coast Native Iris did very well. A box of stems taken to the Main Australian Iris Show in Melbourne won a first. I was'nt able to go, but a friend took them with her on the overnight train.

My book has sold out, we are expecting the 2nd, Edition at Christmas.

( Dear Trevor, thank you for your letter, we are so sorry to hear of your 'patchy' results, following on your terrible ordeals. Let us hope that nature will help to put things right, next year. Congratulations on your 1st, at the Show, also on the sale of your Book.... I do like the sound of those Spuria seedlings of yours, particularly the 'smokey reds', perhaps you will let us know more for July. Meanwhile, all the very best for 1984. Take care. Ed.)



Paul Richardson's Letter from New Zealand.

Paul writes that he has a  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre plot on which he grows Tall Bearded Iris, which he exhibits at the local Rose Show. Of the Species that he grows, an improved form of *I. Pseudacorus* is bright yellow with a few spots, this grows to 5 feet and makes a fine display each Spring. At the time of writing (August/September) 'Sindpers' is well through, but not showing any buds... 'Magnifica' and 'Bucharica' are on the way. These two, together with 'Hoogana' are difficult to grow because of the high rainfall... Paul is experimenting by growing them in plastic tubs, in order to give them some protection against very bad weather.. A clear plastic lid is added in excessively rainy weather.....

'Minutoaurea' should bloom at any time. Tiny Evansias ( apart from Lacustris) are anxiously being watched, because they tend to be 'iffy'. The smaller Spurias are not too permanent.. Paul is trying 'Sintenisii' and 'Kernerana', which, unfortunately keeps coming up as something else.....

(Thank you Paul, you say that the double 'i' is now reduced to one, or so you understand, also I have noticed that 'Kernerana' is sometimes spelt with an 'i' thus 'Kerneriana', two very interesting points, I think, perhaps Members would like to send in their comments.)

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Mr. Bill Ouweneel's answer to Eberhart Schuster's article 'Break a Lance for Iris 'Ensata', printed in the July 1983 Newsletter.

In Eberhart Schuster's article the following statement appears regarding Japanese Irises... 'They will die if you grow them all the year round in wet soil or shallow water'.... A similar statement has cropped up, over the years in the U.S. Both are contradicted totally by my 26 years of experience.... For the last eight years you undoubtedly know from reading the Review, I have tried to find someone, able and willing, to defend the statement with... explicit facts.... I have used the Review The Bulletin of the American Society and personal correspondence and have been unable to find anyone willing, let alone able, to do it.

My experience, which has now extended to 26 years, is described in the following article, published in the A.I.S. Bulletin of January 1981, quoting from two articles previously published in the Review...

...First from the April 1977 issue of the Review (the Journal of the Society of Japanese Irises, Editor:- Mr. W.E. Ouweneel RR31, Box 206, TERRE HAUTE, In. 47803.)

' My pond is a small artificial one, lying in a ravine that runs East and West, with the dam at the West end. It was built originally to hold water for Farm Stock and had a maximum depth of about 3 feet. Over the years, leaves from my trees and silt from a neighbor's field have accumulated in the ravine reducing the size of my pond and depositing about 18 inches of muck in the bottom.

The first planting of Japanese Iris was made at the foot of the dam, practically at the level of the water... For each plant a hole was dug, about the size of a bushel basket and filled with muck, scooped out of the pond. The planting was successful and whenever the pond dried up during a few dry 'Falls', the bed was extended across the dam and along the North side of the pond. A terrace was first constructed about 3 feet wide... 6 inches above the water. A trench 2 feet wide and a spade deep was then dug into the terrace and filled with muck. Plants were placed 2 feet, center to center.

Eventually the terrace held about 80 plants.... Almost all of them are still there..... the oldest.. 18 years... the newest ... 10 years.... They have never been divided... They have been used as stock for divisions but that has not reduced their increase noticeably.. Plants near the open water are so close that one can barely step between them and the water. Many are now 20 inches or more in diameter and produce 20 or more bloom stalks annually. Most of the plants are in full sun all day.

The muck is black and plastic--- 'goosey' being the common Hoosier word for it. When divisions are dug the first step in cleaning them is to 'squeeze' the soil off the roots. Purdue University reports the muck to contain 300 pounds of Phosphate and 235 pounds of Potash per acre, and a pH of 4.0. I can probably thank my neighbor for the high fertilizer content.

Visitors have frequently wondered at the success of my pond planting, because  
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of the belief that under such conditions, they should not survive our Winters... I can only point to the plants and say that under these conditions they not only survive, but love it. The pond freezes over every year, solid enough for skating, and at least during several Winters has frozen solid into the muck.... One 'Fall', while the pond level was low, I planted one J.I. too far out, when the level was restored, the plant was surrounded with water, during the next few days it became frozen solid in ice... It did not increase, but it did survive. My experience is confirmed by that of 'Ole Melgaard of Trenton, NJ.' who reports that 'freezing the soggy soil' has never done any harm here.

So the conclusion for '76 is that the plants around the pond need... no dividing and ... no fertilizing..... They just grow there naturally..... The only problem is.. 'weeds' they love it too.....

And from the October 1977 issue:-

The Winter of 1976-77 should settle for all time any question about the hardiness of Japanese Iris in the Northern States and Southern Canada. In Terre Haute we had three nights with minus 20degrees Fahrenheit or lower, and at least a week of continuous sub-zero nights. The ground was frozen 3 feet deep. No damage resulted either in the beds, in clay infield conditions or in the muck around the edge of the pond'.

To bring the above record up to 1983, I can only add that it has been more of the same.

If any Member of the S.S&J. Group has any explicit facts on either side of the question I would be pleased to receive them or see them in later NewsLetters.

My address is: Mr. W.E.Ouweneel, RR 31, Box 206, TERRE HAUTE, IN, U.S.A.

47803.

( 'No Lances are broken', just a matter of differing ideas, I understand the two gentlemen are in correspondence with each other. I hope we will hear more about this fascinating subject, which is:-

(1) Growing Japanese Iris in ordinary garden soil, with flooding for aesthetic reasons, as stated by Eberhard Schuster (July/83 N/L), who also goes on to say that they are found in meadows, which are moist in Spring in Japan, China, Manchuria and Korea.

(2) Japanese Iris growing in a pond, as Bill Ouweneel has described so vividly, and about which he has been searching for someone,, 'willing and able' to substantiate his growing methods.

Write directly to Bill (address above) or send in to the NewsLetter. I can certainly support his method as I have stated in previous articles, but one is not enough, so I do hope you will endeavour to 'lend weight' to this very interesting project.)

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This NewsLetter is devoted to Siberian Iris, as much as has been possible.... to this end, I wrote to Currier McEwen. We have been printing his articles and reports for 6 years, by kind permission of the Editor of the 'Siberian Iris' U.S.A. Members have written of how interesting and informative his accounts are, so by 'popular request' as it were... Currier has kindly taken time, in his very busy schedule, to write the following clear and instructive 'notes' for us. We thank him most sincerely.

'Notes on Siberian Irises'

Currier McEwen.

Siberian Irises fall into two distinct groups... those with 28 somatic chromosomes and those with 40. The former are far more commonly seen in gardens and are somewhat larger and more impressive, but the 40-chromosome ones are charming also.

In recent years Tetraploid forms with double the number of chromosomes have become available for both groups... These tend to be larger and have richer colors than the diploids and, because of their firm substance, most have falls which flare outward in an attractive way, although the more traditional form with gracefully arched falls are equally lovely.

Culture of the 28-chromosome cultivars is quite simple.... They do best, of course in good garden loam, but have no fussy demands as to soil and grow well in slightly acid to slightly alkaline soil. They are planted deeper than the bearded Irises with

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the crowns 1½ to 2 inches below the surface. A Spring feeding with a general purpose fertilizer, plenty of moisture and good cultivation will give rewards of improved blooms.... but they also thrive on neglect.

Siberians of the 40-chromosome group are somewhat more demanding and require a slightly acid soil and careful attention to watering... Indeed the primary requirement of both groups is for moisture, until they are thoroughly established.. After that they withstand drought as well as any perennials.

If plants have been received from a distance, it is well to soak the roots overnight in water before planting.

Siberians can be damaged by the Iris 'borer' in the United States, but I am told that this is not a problem in the U.K. They are exceptionally free of diseases and pests.

Joan Trevithick has asked that I mention some cultivars which I believe will grow well in Great Britain. This is easily done, because any of the 28-chromosome group.. or Tetraploids derived from them... should do well.... Of my own introductions, I am especially fond of 'Sally Kerlin' and 'Marilyn Holmes' among inexpensive blue ones... 'Fourfold White', 'Little White' and 'Polly Dodge' among inexpensive whites and reds. 'Butter and Sugar' is a unique yellow amoena... Among the newer ones and hence, more expensive ones, I like especially 'Lady of quality', 'Harpwell Haze' and 'Dear Delight' (a darling!) in light blue.... 'Harpwell Hallelujah' and 'Orville Fay' in medium and 'Dark Circle' and 'Violet Joy' in dark blue-violet... 'Ruffled Velvet', 'Teal Velvet', 'Shirley Pope' and 'Ruffles Plus' in purple.... 'Silver Edge' and 'Dear Dianne' in edged blue-violet... 'Ewen', 'Reddy Maid' and 'Hubbard' in red..... 'Creme Chantilly' and 'Harpwell Happiness' in white..... 'Lavender Bounty' is a marvellous 'repeat bloomer' in lavender pink.

Among cultivars of other breeders, one thinks first of Marjory Brummitt's outstanding 'Anniversary' and 'Limeheart' in white, and 'Cambridge' and 'Dreaming Spires' in blue.... Jennifer Hewitt's 'Clée Hills' also is lovely as are many of the late Mr. Hutchinson's.

Other outstanding American introductions are 'McGarvey's 'Egò' and 'Superego' in blue. 'Wing on Wing' in white and 'Augury' and 'Maggi Smith' in lavender-pink. As well as many from Steve Varner and Melrose Gardens.....

Newer on the American scene are excellent introductions of Bee Warburton, Harley Briscoe, Julius Wadepammer and Robert Hollingworth..... all of these cultivars are available through Borbaleta gardens.

Excellent Siberians are also now appearing through the efforts of Eckard Berlin and Tomas Tanberg in Germany.

Leading growers of 40 chromosome Siberians are Doris Hansford-Morris in England and Jean Witt in the United States.

I also have introduced a few... I put out a list of my own introductions of Siberian and Japanese Irises each Spring, which I will gladly send to any who may wish to see it... I ship plants to England with no difficulty, although Postal Rates for Overseas Airmail have become troublesomely high.....

( Currier has kindly enclosed his up-to-date list, so if you want to know more please write in and I will send you a copy (s.a.e.). If you would like to write directly to him, his address is:-

Currier McEwen, M.D.  
South Harpswell, MAINE 04079. U.S.A.

He has also written a very interesting book 'Siberian Irises', which you can obtain from  
Mr. Julius Wadepammer,  
10078, 154th Avenue,  
Elk River, MN. 55330. U.S.A.

Price 7 dollars inclusive postage and handlings.

I found Barclays Bank very helpful when I sent for mine, without giving away trade secrets... I hope.... It is a delightful book and has beautiful pictures, which help in this never ending search for identification.

Once again thank you very much indeed Currier.)



Some thoughts on Irises.

Ben Hager.

Over the years there has been less advancement in the beardless Iris in Europe and America than has happened with the bearded Iris... There are several reasons for this... The beardless Iris have been overshadowed by the great leaps from the old to the modern forms that the bearded Iris have taken, due to the early discovery of Tetraploidy

in this section; fewer beardless Iris were grown for this reason, thus less work had been done by breeders towards any dreams of improvement their imagination might have envisioned. The time period in which the man-handled development of Iris has taken place, is a mere 80 plus years of this century. On the other hand, Mother Nature has worked, for many millenia, toward, what her ideas of what an Iris should be, and the results achieved have come close to an 'exact science'.... Colors, fragrance and form that will please a bee, and adjustments in plant growth that will satisfy the narrow ecological niches... We... the human element, have had quite different ideas... Colors, etc., that are pleasing to bees have little attraction for our romantic eyes and, being travelling creatures... WE want the Iris to go with us and grow where WE decide WE want them to grow.... We have not been altogether successful in these attempts, but we have won a more than partial victory over Mother Nature.... for the time being.

But... can Mother Nature really lose any battle? Considering the seemingly real desire of the Human Race to wipe itself off the face of the Earth .... either by over-multiplication or by less macabre methods... such as the Atomic Bomb... if we do not succeed in taking all other forms of life with us.... Mother Nature will be right back in there, reducing Iris to the least common denomination necessary for survival... without multiplication.....

Facing the other direction.... will we come to a time in Iris development when there seems to be nothing else that can improve the Iris in our eyes and we become bored with it all ??? Every generation brings us close to that pronouncement from some source, but it has'nt come even near to this happening, let us hope that it is the far distant future... or never....

Japanese Iris have been grown and selected, when not deliberately bred, for over 300 years... Sometimes it seems that evrything that could be developed from this Iris has already happened... Hundreds of clones have been grown, named and enjoyed by hosts of gardeners. Perhaps if we could observe all of the many varieties that there are, or have been, we would find close resemblances between some of the cultivars, but it is unlikely that many of us will see but a very few of them, so each one we see has distinction and often appeal.... In the Western World, where fewer of these extravagant beauties have been grown, the excitement increases with each new creation we encounter. Even in Japan, from all reports, where the grand display of these Iris is more common, the appreciation of their intricacies has not lessened.

Probably the greatest innovation is the Tetraploidy in the chromosomes of the Japanese Iris accomplished by Currier McEwen . I understand that Dr Hirao has been working along the same lines in Japan... Gardeners will be disappointed in those presently available, but breeders should take a serious, though , not exclusive, interest in this new direction... Tetraploidy will not revolutionize Japanese Iris, as it did the Tall Bearded Iris, but the class with it's outsize flowers could use the extra substance and vigor brought by the doubled chromosomes, if this does not destroy the grace and elegance of the flowers, but it is too soon to make that sort of statement.. It is up to the breeders and selectors, to find the grace and elegance in their productions. However, the gardener and the connoisseur should both beware..... These Iris with their new genetic structure will present a different personality and possibility of a new direction in the beauty of the Japanese Iris. It should not be approached with 'firm ideas of what should be' in advance of the revelation, to be later regretted when other gardeners, who do not 'know' that they are supposed to be that 'way', have responded with enthusiasm, money from their pockets and a new sense of their own superiority in recognizing a good thing when they saw it.....

The best way to refute the traditionist or the conservative connoisseur with his layers of prejudice and determined resistance to anything mystically new in his field, is to turn a bunch of enthusiastic, but novice Irisarians loose in a well-stocked field and observe their choices of favorites... Primarily their interest will be attracted by COLOR... Secondly, but pertinently, they will delight in large size, ruffling and even laced petal edges.... because it is new and not like the plain, older

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varieties that they are casually accustomed to.. They will not ever, give any attention to bud-count, branching, balance or any of the niceties that we fanatics insist on... That sort of thing falls into the realm of an obligation that the breeder must realize is his obligation. The breeder must breed for the buds and branching also for the novices, whether they know that they want such features or not. Some day they may learn about these things. If provided with it while they are still in their innocence, they will not look back on the breeder with scorn, because he neglected to give them a full product to begin with.... The beauty of the flower, however, in all it's aspects, will remain the novices own choice. Still at this point, unless they tend towards the 'superior' type mentality.. Color will remain their interest and size of flowers, wider petals, and by now, number of buds. All the things that bring larger quantities of color to the display, will be the considerations that influence their choices.... For we must not forget that we are working with garden plants, and the purpose of garden flowers is to furnish color in the garden.... the more the better... Larger flowers, wider petals, buds and branching are the things that give us more color. It is usually only later that we start to appreciate the smaller-flowered types... Show benches may bring fascinations to the 'hobby initiate' and may introduce Iris to many who might otherwise not get a chance to see them, but the Iris is primarily a garden plant and we should not forget it.. even though we grow them in rows, rather than in the landscape... Let us not follow the example of Daffodil fanciers, whose only interest in a new variety is 'how it looks In a Show', disregarding the garden effect entirely.....

The Siberians have also been introduced into, some will say infected by.. Tetraploidy and by the same hand,, Currier McEwan, and again the earlier introductions were not as satisfactory, in form, as we would have wished, but succeeding generations have rapidly 'caught up' to what we consider the modern form.. rounded petals with compact structured flowers. Of course the substance and size of both plant and flower has been substantially increased, colors fuller and a velvety texture more prominent. 'Dark Circle', 'Dear Delight' and 'Ruffled Velvet', all McEwen introductions, are good examples of Tetraploid Siberians that have arrived!

It is legitimate to consider the introduction of Tetraploidy as the most important step in the development of Siberian Iris since the original crosses were made of the Species.. In my opinion, it is'nt..... again the difference is not as dramatic as it was in the Tall Bearded, nor are the Tetraploids as likely to completely eclipse the Diploid forms... Tetraploidy will be useful in our search for new Siberian Iris.. The real revolution happened with the advent of yellow petal color, in a group that hitherto showed no signs of that color, except in signal areas, which are inherited separately from petal color.. We must turn again to Currier McEwen with our congratulations... 'Butter and Sugar' is the variety and it's falls are true yellow..this color really holds... strangely, the backgrounds of the yellow color is mostly blue. The parents of 'Butter and Sugar' are... 'Floating Island (Cambridge x unknown) X 'Dreaming Yellow' (Dreaming Spires x unknown). Another Iris which shows some yellow in the falls, and produces yellow fall-color when crossed with 'Butter and Sugar' is 'Star Cluster' (Cambridge x Swank)... Of course, all of these blues go back to 'White Swirl'... but through the 'blue' color.

Also revolutionary, but more predictable, are the clear pinks achieved by William McGarvey... 'Augury' (for us a consistent rose-pink) and 'Pink Haze' (a clear pink), both dressed in colors that have not been even closely approached in Siberian Iris before... The color range in Japanese and Siberian Irises is quite limited.. any new color is rapturously welcomed.. Fortunate we are, when these new colors arrive in the form of critically fine Iris.... Yellow has been introduced in a Japanese type Iris but by way of a completely sterile cross of I.Pseudacorus by a white Japanese Iris... So much for that innovation...The variety of the yellow Japanese Hybrid that we grow 'Kimboshi', is, however, an interesting garden subject and grows well enough, when established, but appears quite chloritic when it begins it's Spring growth.

Spuria and Louisiana Iris have a wider range of Color at the Species level it is to be expected that the progeny should be pretty well endowed with color variation... Indeed, Louisiana Iris have as extensive a range of colors as the Tall Bearded with one actual extension.. Red.. This is the only section in the Iris Genus that can boast a true red color.. The base colors of Louisiana Species are:- Blue, violet, white and brick-red, with a yellow form of the latter. From such a base almost any color can be achieved... The Spuria Species are basically:- Blue, violet, white (and

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yellow... lacking an approach to red... The colors in Spurias have come as close as wine-red or brown-red and orchid tones, but no red or clean pink... Most other colors are represented, including true brown, which is this section's most individual contribution. Brown should eventually lead to reds, but the wine-reds have gone into clear, deep purples.

We know a lot about Spuria Iris, but there is much we do not know... There has been no cytological investigation of these Irises... There is an elaborate number of Species in this one section, ranging from Dwarfs to very tall, large flowered Species and we know the chromosome count of every Species that has been collected and grown... Most of the garden types have also been counted.. Yet... and this is a curious paradox.... we do not know the ploidy of any Spuria Species or Hybrid. In other words, we do not know if they are Diploids, or if part are Diploids and some are Triploids or Tetraploids or whatever.... Without the cytological work needed with the Spurias, we do not even know the relationship between the Species... However, a recently published book, lumps the 44 chromosome Spurias as subspecies of Iris Spuria, a 22 chromosome Species; and that is, on the face of it, ridiculous.. and including the 38 chromosome Iris Maritima as a subspecies of Iris Spuria, just does not make sense in any direction... If the 44 chromosome Spuria Species are Diploids, it would seem that at our present state of knowledge, there could only be a distant relationship. If they are Tetraploids, then they could be natural Tetraploids from the doubling of Iris Spuria, and precedence for giving specification to both is established in the example of the Tetraploid Iris Pumila, which is the form derived from the Diploid Iris Attica; according to cytological proof...

These criticisms are minor, however, compared to what the author tries to do in the section on Bearded Iris... The attempt to re-establish the complete misnomer 'German Iris' for the Tall Bearded cannot be excused on the grounds of ignorance, considering the work that has been done in recent years on this section of the Genus. Linnaeus cannot be blamed for his lack of knowledge (he was a very busy man) since the pertinent points that in his choice of a 44 chromosome Hybrid to use as the type Species for Bearded Iris, were discovered much later... More investigation (for which he, undoubtedly, did not have the time) would have enlightened him on the fact that, Iris Germanica is very nearly sterile (even in Mediterranean climates) and is unable to reproduce itself, sexually, as a good Species should... Certainly none of our present garden Tall Bearded Iris can be traced back to Iris Germanica....

Louisiana Iris have the widest range of any Iris, culturally... These Iris will grow well in shallow standing water the year around or in the garden with the moisture needs of Annuals... if the soil is acid, which is essential, but easily managed in alkaline soils by the addition of sulphur. Both Louisianas and Spuria Irises have proven hardiness in Northern gardens in this country, where temperatures fall well below zero degrees Fahrenheit in the Winter months, but where the Summer temperatures rise into the 80 to 100 degrees range. Tetraploidy has been introduced in the Louisiana Iris, though, as yet, limitedly, and it holds great promise for the future, but again, not to the elimination of the Diploids... or not for a long time to come.

All of the Iris in the four Beardless sections discussed require acid soils, except the Spurias... I continue to be amazed when I find recommendations by growers.. 'do well in acid soils! Southern and Central California, where Spurias grow most luxuriantly, the soil and the water with which we irrigate is definitely alkaline. It is possible that I. Spuria (Subbarbata) and I. Maritima, the natives of Europe, grow naturally in acid soils, but the majority of the wild forms from the Near-East certainly grow in the alkaline conditions that usually result from low rainfall.... in fact, unbelievably, all the way into saline conditions, it is reported. The name of I. Halophylla actually means 'salt loving'. So I do suspect that additions of dolomite to acid soils will improve the growth and flowering of the modern Spuria varieties, since they are developed from the Near-East Species... Or, is it that Spurias have a wider tolerance of soil conditions than we know????

I hope to live long enough to see some serious breeding work with the two closely related American Species.. Iris Virginica and Iris Versicolor. These hold great promise as garden plants in wet acid conditions. 'Kermisina' can produce gorgeous, floriferous clumps in the right conditions. The Iris Virginica 'Giant Blue' has foliage and flowers even larger than Pseudacorus and is spectacular. Bee Warburton is beginning to work with these Iris, and the appearance in England of the

(cont)

clones Gerald Darby and Iris Virginica De Lux, hold promise and should be an inspiration to further activity. A few Hybrids between the two can be fertile in spite of the wide chromosome difference, but what will be produced is still in question.

I won't go into discussion of 'Holden Clough', other than to repeat what I have already said... 'If 'Holden Clough' sets seed (and we have open set seedlings of it growing, which should bloom this year) then it is a product of a cross between Pseudacorus (unquestionably) and another Laevigata, perhaps 'Virginica'... If Iris Foetidissima is the other parent then Foetidissima must be re-examined, for it must also belong to the Laevigata group, or there would be no fertility in the Hybrid... Botanists might save a lot of time, in grouping closely related Iris into 'sections' if they considered Hybrid crossing a more important source of information... However, new crosses should be made and photographs or other first hand observations made. Don't depend on old records of 'wide' crosses, as there is seldom any recorded proof other than the report... The reputation of the breeder doesn't mean a thing... the Hybrid itself must be examined for the certain traits of both parents!!!

Due to the determined deep green color and the fact that it is evergreen, I can possibly consider that Iris Foetidissima is a contending parent of our Holden Clough Seedling (Pseudacorus and Virginica have yellow-green or light green foliage with us), but not as a contending parent with its present status in the Genus.

Attempting to hand-pollinate Holden Clough to establish fertility patterns, may take many, many hands.. From a 30 feet, two year old row (it is a weed here) we collected just over 30 seeds (mostly one seed to a pod) of which 9 germinated.....

(Thank you Ben for such a comprehensive, interesting and informative piece of work. we are very grateful to you. I think you can put me down as just about 'One of your novices', but add a few 'aah's' to the comments. I most certainly do not look with 'schm' on the breeders, their work is far too valuable... I feel that your generous account will go a long way in helping Members to appreciate and understand, growing Irises. Our Typist, who is also a Novice, but Honorary, hopes you will forgive any shortcomings... J.T.).

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#### Regional Report for the West Midlands.

Jennifer Hewitt.

The West Midlands Group's Show was held on the 11th June 1983 at Cleeton St. Mary, but unfortunately, due to the late season, there were very few entries in the class for Iris Sibirica Hybrids. Cy Bartlett won with spikes of 'Apfelblüte', 'Clee Hills' and two Hewitt seedlings. Harry Foster's entry of two spikes of 'Cool Spring' plus 'Emperor' and an unknown Sibirica, probably a seedling, was second and four spikes of 'My Love' gained third place for Marilyn Howells.

Cy also won the class for a vase containing 5 spikes of Species Irises and he included two Spurias I. Sogdiana and I. Halophila, the only Spurias to appear at the Show. Other beardless Irises in his exhibit were I. Pseudacorus var. Bastardii and Iris Setosa, and Harry Foster, second again, showed I. Versicolor var. Kermesina.

One of the best classes, however, was that for beardless Iris Hybrids, other than Sibiricas and all three successful entrants showed Pacific Coast Hybrids... John Taylor's seedlings of the Har Graves strain was first and one, MM3/B was awarded a Seedling Commendation.. We are coming to expect the rich colours from this breeding. The MM3/B is deep yellow with red-brown veining on the falls, probably from Innominata breeding. Maureen Foster was second with seedlings, plus two named varieties, imported from America and bred by Joe Ghio: 'Councilman' and 'Pescadero', which is a lovely deep velvety-purple. I was third using mainly 'Broadleigh' named varieties.

The only other B.I.S. Seedling Commendation to be given to a beardless Iris went to a Sibirica seedling of Cy Bartlett's.. C/W01, a medium violet-blue of a good shape with green hafts... Pacific Coast Irises and Sibiricas, both featured in quite a number of flower arrangements....

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Regional Report for the East.

Jack Venner.

I am still continuing my search for the newer Sibiricas, which will grow well in my garden.. Particularly good wine-reds and paler blues. Last year Sibirica 'Orville Fay' and 'Blue Pennant' flowered exceptionally well, as did 'Yankee Consul' and 'Snow Bounty'. I have yet to see 'Navy Brass' flower.

Ben Hager's 'Swank' was a real beauty, with it's dazzling blue flowers. The earliest flowering Sibirica is 'Lavender Light', it has masses of 'butterfly-type' flowers, very beautiful...

If possible, I hope to be able to visit the Early Show at Moulton, Northampton, and send Brett Tressler best wishes for a most successful day....

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Regional Report for the South.

Adrian Whittaker.

Most of the Sibiricas have been disappointing this year (1983). Weather patterns are an obvious major factor, but I am not too sure that the prime cause may not be my cultural methods... also the failure to observe the old rule of 'crop rotation'...

Looking back to our arrival here in 1970, when the Sibiricas were hurriedly planted in mid-winter, in ~~virgin~~ ground, with little fertilizer, followed by the magnificent bank of blue flowers the next June... I begin to wonder. The display has never been excelled and the same patch has been used continuously since then..... Perhaps, when the plants are due for splitting and replanting, a new home should be sought each time...

The growth of the plants with known Remontancy in their background, continue to be much better than the 'normals'... even though they may not show obvious remontan behaviour... It may well be that these plants will prove to be superior garden varieties because of their vigorous habit...

Some of my 28 chromosome seedlings appear to resent the alkaline soil, particularly those derived from 'Cambridge'... I think there is a good case for growing from seed, if you have the patience, since the best of the survivors are obviously adapted well to the local conditions, and can be used for further breeding.

Investigating 'Hydroponics', in a limited way, has produced a good root system on both Spurias and Louisianas... Some rhizomes which had been lifted and were without root growth (late Sept.) were placed in shallow plastic seed trays, filled with gravel and small pebbles. The rhizomes were placed on the top of the gravel mix and watered with a weak nutrient solution daily, allowing the excess to drain away into a surrounding tray. In an unheated greenhouse, a strong root system developed, within a month ready for replanting....

I am very pleased to join the Committee of the Group. As you know my main interest is in Spurias... I am quite willing to act as a 'clearing house' for information etc. and hope I can be of service.....

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The Group Library.

Copies of the following American Publications are obtainable from the Hon. Librarian:- Mrs. J. Hewitt, 'Haygarth', Cleeton St Mary, Cleobury Mortimer.

Kidderminster, Worcs.

Newsletter of the Spuria Iris Society.

Review of the Society for Japanese Irises.

Journals of the Siberian Iris.

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

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

Please include Postage when requesting items....



## The Seed Distribution

Packets are priced at 5p unless otherwise stated.. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope when applying. Stamps sent in payment will be quite alright. In some cases seeds marked with \* are in very short supply, so please send your orders in early and include one or two substitutes.....

### Seed Distribution Officer.

Mr. David Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, NOTTINGHAM.

NG12 2HY.

### Section Laevigatae

- |   |                             |                           |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| I.Laevigata (blue)                            | I.Pseudacorus (deep yellow) | I.Pseudacorus (Bastardii) |
| I.Pseudacorus 'Sulphur Queen' var. Bastardii. |                             | (pale yellow)             |
| I.Pseudacorus 'Golden Queen' var. Superba     |                             |                           |
| I.Pseudacorus 'E. Turnipseed'. *              |                             |                           |
| I.Versicolor.                                 |                             |                           |
| I.Versicolor Kermisina.                       |                             |                           |

### Series Kaempferi (Ensata).

- I.Kaempferi (Ensata) Ruby-Red.

### Series Tripetalae.

- I..Setosa.\* I.Setosa (blue-violet)\*

### Series Sibirica

- |                   |                     |                |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| I.Sibirica.       | I.Sibirica (mixed). |                |
| I.Sibirica 'Alba' | 'Marcus Perry'      | 'Orville Fay'* |
| I.Wilsoni *       |                     |                |

### Series Chrysographes.

- I.Chrysographes Rubella.\*  
I.Forresti Remontant.\*

### Section Xyridion.

- I.Kerneriana.\*

I.Sintensi \*

### Series Spuriae:-

- I.Spuria 'Violet Bloomfield.

The following, because of their rarity and scarcity are all 10p per packet.

- I.Ensata 'Dunkelvioletter Saint' \*

### Series Spuriae

- I.Spuria 'Vishenka' pod parent x unknown (ex Russian Wild).\*  
I.Spuria Light purple-yellow pod parent x unknown (ex Russian Wild).\*  
I.Spuria Tan yellow pod parent x unknown (ex Russian Wild).\*  
I. Spuria Ivory-yellow (like Orientalis) pod parent x unknown (ex Russian Wild)\*

Re I.Spuria 'VISHENKA'... raised by Mrs. Eunice Frenkiel, from seed (Oct. 83).

About 6 or 7 years ago some seeds were handed to me by Anne Blanco White as having been collected from the wild by Professor Rodionenko somewhere on the Turco/Russian border... I 'nursed' these (through the drought years) and eventually planted out the resultant seedlings in the only space I had available, which was not a very suitable position... One clump flowered in 1979, but as I was on holiday at the time, I did not actually see the flower... I was told it was 'Brown'... I think! Another clump flowered in 1980. This appears to me to be the usual white and yellow 'Orientalis' type.

In 1981 the 'Brown' flowered again. To give it a more accurate description, it has burgundy standard. its falls are burgundy streaked bright yellow. (Both standards and falls are on the narrow side) The spike was 4ft. tall, and bore 4 smallish flowers.

In 1981 another spike produced a very attractive wide-petalled, pale lavender blue flower, with yellow markings on the falls (two larger flowers only on the spike)\*, and in 1983 a tan/yellow flowering spike appeared. (see note).

In 1982 the burgundy-coloured clump produced two spikes, one of which I took to the 1982 Show.... (It was greatly admired, if I may say Eunice Ed.)

I suspect that the burgundy flower does not produce pollen.

(cont.)

These seedlings have now produced a very mixed-up clump, which I hesitate to dig up and attempt to separate.... I was persuaded, to name and register the burgundy-coloured one, and I chose the name 'VISHENKA'... which is an approximate Anglicised rendering of the Russian for 'Little Cherry'.  
'Note'. some doubt has been thrown on the 'wild' origin of the lavender-yellow flowers... it being very like one called 'Mrs Tait'.  
(Thank you Eunice for your detailed explanation, and the seeds which you kindly sent.Ed)

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Excerpts from your letters.

Mike McCarthy or Flt/Lt. M.McCarthy to be correct, is coming back to England in May. We look forward to hearing from you Mike, and hope that you will find some nice soil in which to grow your Irises...

Marlene Ahlburg already has her seed sowing in progress, some in the fridge, and some already growing under lamps... every success Marlene....

Marion Wood is very busy turning her pond, which has sprung a leak, into a bog garden... hard work, you will agree.... I hope you will have time to write and tell us about it when you have finished....

Eberhard Schuster, who has kindly sent another batch of seeds for the SeedDist. is very busy also with his seed sowing programme. He has asked for one or two items in the 'Members Wants' column. If you send to him, remember a Green Label (for Botanical Purposes) is required.

More of your news in July.....

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1983.

	£		£
9.2.83. NewsLetter and Postage	29	Subscriptions	35
20.7.83. ditto	26.97	Donations	4.96
Surplus	5.93	Seeds & Plants	10.24
		N/L's unsold	11.70
	<u>61. 90.</u>		<u>61.90.</u>

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 1983

	£		£
Accumulated Fund	58.82	Interest	1.84
Surplus for Year	5.93	Cash in Bank	45.21
		N/L's in stock	11.70
	<u>58.75</u>		<u>58.75</u>
		Total Cash in Bank	<u>£ 47.05</u>

Treasurers Report.

Please Note..... SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AT THE END OF JUNE.... 75p. per year  
In order to keep the Subscription rate at the present level, it is Important that Subscriptions are paid AT THE END OF JUNE. The interest helps to keep down the running costs, together with the sale of plants and seeds... To Members who kindly send a donation, our sincere thanks.... I am sure that it is an oversight when Subs. are not paid, so where they are overdue, you will find a slip attached to this N/L.

Do not forget, that after THREE reminders, you will not be receiving your NewsLetter. There is a form at the back for you to, just sign your name and show the amount you are sending.... Thank you....

(cont.)

Copies of Alex Back's original Newsletter printed in 1976 are available:-

The cost is 20p. plus 12½p. postage.

Copies of previous NewsLetters are also available:-

The cost is 30p. plus 12½p. postage.

The address to send your Subscription and for these NewsLetters is:-

Mrs. Joan Trevithick,

86a, Grantham Road, RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT. NOTTINGHAM . NG12 2HY.

Please exclude the title of Hon. Treasurer from the address.....

Make cheques etc. payable to S.S&J.Group. B.I.S. please.

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Chairman..... Mr.J.Venner, 'Raven's Croft, 120 St. Osyth Rd. LITTLE CLACTON.  
ESSEX.

Vice-Chairman..... Mrs. H.M.Goodwin, 42, Tycehurst Hill, LOUGHTON. ESSEX.

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Spuria Representative. Mr. A.R.Whittaker, 'Chestnuts', Hilden Way, LITTLETON.  
WINCHESTER. HANTS.

If you would like to get in touch with your Regional Representative their names and addresses, if not already shown, are:-

Eastern Area..... Mr.Jack Venner. (who is also the Show Secretary) address above.

North Western Area... Mrs. Ruth Conley, 17, Udale Close, AINSDALE, SOUTHPORT. LANCs.

Southern Area..... Mr. Adrian Whittaker... address as above.

West Midland Area.. Mrs. Jennifer Hewitt... address as above.

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 Mrs F.Love, 11, Frederick St. CARTERTON. North Island. New Zealand.  
 Herr E.Schuster, Post Gadebehn 2711 AUGUSTENHOF. D.D.R. East Germany.

#### Contacts in Societies.

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<u>Secretary of the B.I.S.</u>	Mr. G.E.Cassidy J.P.. 67, Bushwood Rd. KEN. Surrey.
<u>Secty. Of Species Group.</u>	Prof. M.E.A.Bowley, 'Brook Orchard', GRAFFHAM, Near PETWORTH Surrey.
<u>Editor of Spuria Iris Socy</u>	Helen A.Grier, 4671, Palm Avenue, YORBA LINDA CA 92686 U.S.A. (714) 777-3886 U.S.A.
<u>Editor 'Siberian Iris'</u>	Mrs. H.L.Edwards, 235, Koehl St. Massapequa Park. U.S.A. NEW YORK. 11762. U.S.A.
<u>Editor 'Review Soc for</u> <u>Japanese Iris' U.S.A.</u>	Mr. W.Ouweneel, R.R. 31 Box 206 TERRE HAUTE. INDIANA. 47803 U.S.A.
<u>Contact in Kent Group</u>	Mrs Mary Tubbs, Hon. Secty. 9, Lingfield Rd. Wimbledon Common LONDON. N1 2JH.
<u>Editor of Mercian Group</u>	Mrs. Eileen Wise, 197, The Parkway, IVER HEATH. IVER Bucks.
<u>B.I.S.Publications.</u>	Mr. N.Watkins, 31, Larkfield Rd. FARNHAM. Surrey.

### Members Hints and Wrinkles.

This is a new section, introduced so that ideas can be passed on. I know from my own experience that gardeners are very inventive, infact I have never ceased to be amazed at the uses to which many items, which would be regarded as waste, are put to... To start the ball rolling, I will give you my present 'waste saver'.....

Plastic bottles, particularly large lemonade bottles are usually thrown away... remove the cap, then, with a sharp blade, carefully cut in two... the top half becomes a mini-cloche for tender plants in the Winter, anchored with two small sticks, through the hole at the top. The bottom becomes a plant holder, or pot, if a hole is drilled through it.... You will probably have discovered something like this for yourself... and plenty more as well... Please write in and tell us of your favourites..... Ed.

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### Members Sales and Wants.

Name	Sales	Wants.
Eberhard Schuster. Post Gadebehn, 2711 AUGUSTENHOF. D.D.R. East Germany.		I.Ensaté (Kaempferi) 'Variegata'. I.Laevigata 'Atropurpurea' do 'Benikiren' do 'Colchesteri' do 'Variegata' do 'Monstrosa' do 'Mottled Beauty' do 'Mragumo' do 'Niagara' do 'Perfield Beauty' do 'Regal' do 'Zambesi'

Some of these varieties of ILaevigata are not stocked by Nurserymen any more. My hope is that they may be found growing in gardens.....

### Afterthoughts.

As I said this is a very long Newsletter, I hope you will enjoy reading it.....

May I ask you please, if you write in for the July N/L, will you make the 20 th June the deadline.

I try to keep a check on correct addresses, will you please write in if anything is wrong, also will you add your Post Code Number.

We are still investigating I.Mirza Citronella for the Species Group, do'nt forget if you have a plant and it flowers, we want a description of it's form and how it grows with you. Unfortunately the one I had years ago.. died... but I have learned a lot about Irises since then... I hope my present batch of seedlings will be flowering soon.

You may have noticed I have said very little about the weather, an overseas Member likes to hear about it.... Well I'm sorry.... I had no sooner said 'what a mild Spring we were having' last year than we became 'a frozen wasteland', everything was frosted.... Not too bad this year... to date..... J.T.

Members Sales and Wants.

\*Please will you send a 12½p. stamp with your request.....

Name and Address	Sales	Wants.
.....	.....	.....

.....  
NewsLetter Order form.

I wish to purchase the following NewsLetters.....

.....  
Seed Order form.

To Mr. David Trevithick, 86a Grantham Rd, RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT, NOTTINGHAM.

I wish to purchase the following seeds.

.....  
My pet Hint or Wrinkle is:-

.....  
To the Treas/Secty:- Mrs. Joan Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd, RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT  
NOTTINGHAM.

Herewith my Subscription for 1983/84.....

arrears.....

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My Name and address is:-

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