

CONTEMPORARY VIEWS – 1989

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Last year's positive response to my first formal review of the bloom season confirmed the need for such a writing in this part of the country and has encouraged me to make it an annual endeavor. There will be one major change: The "Return to Sender" Award will no longer be given.

This year's bloom season was hardly the quality of last year's. But then last year's was the best I have seen in my 20+ years of growing irises. A series of late freezes took its toll, especially in the Louisianas. Fortunately, most of my plants survived, but many friends (especially in the Tulsa area) experienced major losses, even in established clumps.

As with last year, the award winners will be reviewed first, then Tall Bearded by color group, then medians, and finally, Louisianas. In each category, the best will be listed first.

AWARD WINNERS

1. The **CONTEMPORARY AWARD**, given to the Best New Iris seen. "New" throughout this review is defined as the last 3 years inclusive (i.e., this year, an iris introduced in 1987, 1988, or 1989): **GRACE DUHON** (Haymon 1988). Of all the bearded viewed, and in spite of a subpar bloom season in the Louisianas, 'Grace Duhon' beats them all out this year. This magnificent new child of 'Ann Chowning' (Chowning) combines its vigor, show stalks, bud count, and intense signal with the luster and richness of the pod parent, 'Full Eclipse' (Hager). The result is a lightly ruffled and fluted intense dark red-violet, with falls slightly deeper. Especially impressive is that this is Dorman's very first introduction. Watch for more great things from this new hybridizer in the future.

Runnersup:

MACUMBA (Hager 1988) sets a new standard in MDBs. A rich, shiny red-black, with standards deep wine-red, and the falls deeper black-red, edged the color of the standards. The form is impeccable, and the plant habits and bloom/increase ratio commendable. **BOLD GOLD** (Gatty 1987) is a glowing burnished deep golden yellow that is markedly improved over its parent, 'Gold Galore' (Schreiner), with better placement of branches and increased bud count. Completely sunfast under the brilliant Oklahoma sun. **HONKY TONK BLUES** (Schreiner 1988) performed in the same positive manner as I viewed it while still a seedling in the Schreiners' patch in 1984. A rich deep blue, but unique in that it has a "wash" of white in the falls. Broad petals, but not gaudy or overstated. The description may suggest a coarse appearance, but just the opposite is the case: It is an elegant, appealing iris.

2. The **L'ELEGANTE AWARD** is given to the New Iris with the most beautiful individual flower seen this year. This does not necessarily address the overall plant habits, but all other features must be acceptable to merit the variety receiving this award. This year's winner breaks tradition, in that it has not been officially introduced yet, although it has been registered: **ANN BLOCHER** (Blocher 1990). Clarence has named this in honor and memory of his late wife. 'Ann Blocher', entered by Dale Satterwhite for Mr. Blocher, won Best Seedling at the Tulsa show. It was such an incredible show stalk that it would have easily been a contender (or winner) of the Queen of Show honors, had it been introduced. It is a big, full formed cold white with a self beard, completely adorned with light ruffling and heavy lace. In spite of the intensity of the lace, the flowers open with ease with no "assistance" required. From totally different bloodlines than the Schreiners' laced whites and last year's L'Elegante recipient, 'Bubbling Lace' (Black). It comes from the laced blue classic, 'Charisma' (Blocher), and should not even be compared, for it is a totally different style than 'Bubbling Lace' and the others. It also inherited 'Charisma's' candelabra show stalk branching.

Runnersup:

VICTORIAN FRILLS (Black 1988) is the ultimate in smoothness in light peach-apricot tones. The broad flowers have perfect symmetry, and as with 'Ann Blocher', open easily and gracefully in spite of the heavy lace. A shorter variety from strong Kegerise bloodlines; I have no problem with its height. The branching is perfectly spaced. I

usually find those with triple sockets to be objectionable because the third bud in the socket rarely develops to a representative flower. Such was not the case with 'Victorian Frills'. **SHEER CLASS** (L. Miller 1988) is a new SDB that took us by storm. A rich rose-pink that is actually approximating watermelon in color, with a hint of a ray pattern in the falls surrounding bright coral beards. Although from "mixed" breeding -- the small-flowered IB, 'Pink Kitten' (Wood), crossed by the great SDB parent, 'Inscription' (Boushay) -- I found the flower size, foliage, height, and thickness of the stalks to be at the upper range of the SDBs, but still well within the class requirements, and the specimen viewed was grown in rich soil. The substance and texture are especially noteworthy. A perfect name for a median that will remain popular for years to come. **CHURCHILL DOWNS** (K. Mohr 1988) is a clean, pleasant, medium lemon yellow with a patch of lighter color (near white) in the center of the falls around yellow beards. The emphasis here is on the form and the diamond dusting of the flowers which aid it in remaining colorfast here. Moderate lace on all parts. Average branching and bud count that is a bit lean (5 buds this year), but the length of time the flowers remain open compensates. The flowers also retain their substance until they fold, which is most commendable in this color.

3. The **9-1-1 AWARD** is given to the New Iris that is the most significant hybridizing achievement or color break. This year's winner is the new Space Age iris, **CONJURATION** (Byers 1989). As viewed in Memphis at the master planting at Ketchum, it was a tall, commanding "amoena" in the tradition of its parent, 'Alpine Castle' (Blyth), but with drastically improved form. The stalks were somewhat thin, but tall and stately, and holding up average sized flowers with no problem in light rain and wind. Exceptionally vigorous and floriferous, it makes a smashing clump, but I feel it will also consistently produce show stalks. The color scheme is basically a white infused lilac-lavender, with the falls heavily washed on the edges in amethyst in the style of 'Planned Treasure' (Burger) or 'Fuji's Mantle' (Schreiner). All of this is capped with consistent, bright tangerine beards and horns! A great breakthrough.

Runnersup:

DANCE AWAY (Hamblen 1988). Although the henna/sienna bearded burnished look is becoming more common now, 'Dance Away' still deserves attention as a color break. Rich cocoa-pink is infused with violet undertones. Complementary warm ivory white falls are then banded with the principal color. All this is capped with sizzling deep sienna beards. You just won't believe it until you see it. Of course the form, substance, and plant habits are up to contemporary standards -- it's a Hamblen iris! Another Byers Space Age introduction receives the next runnerup position: **LOVEBIRD** (1988), my personal favorite of Monty's Space Age releases so far. It is a short, small-flowered, delicate pink based plicata, stitched in harmonious light red-violet, with fuzzy red-violet horns. The flowers are laced and have exceptionally good form and substance. And **PURGATORY** (Moore's 1987) is technically a variegata, but unlike anything on the market. Average plants and stalks produce flowers that are smoldering, with shades of deep bronze in the standards and deeper, even richer falls. The whole flower is underlaid with tones of bronze, mahogany, and burnished reds and bronzes. The substance and resistance to inclement weather are especially noteworthy in this completely sunfast new iris.

4. The **SUN BELT AWARD** is given to the Best Proven variety, i.e., one that has been on the market at least 4 years. This year's selection was the most difficult of all awards to decide, with the nod finally going to **HOUDINI** (Maryott 1985). It resembles its pod parent, 'Midnight Special' (Sexton), in basic color scheme, being a rich deep violet with even deeper falls. The whole flower has gloss like nail polish, and the falls very nearly approach a shiny black. The branching is somewhat variable, but it has stronger plants that are more resistant to late freezes and less prone to rot than 'Midnight Special'. It is gratefully an earlier bloomer than most of the blacks on the market. It is simply smashing both in the garden and on the show bench.

Runnersup (and boy was it close):

HOLY NIGHT (K. Mohr 1983) reigns as king of the iris patch. The stalks are extremely tall (easily 40"), but so thick and strong that they hold up the large, tightly structured rich violet flowers with absolutely no staking required. The intensity of the color is close to 'Titan's Glory' (Schreiner), whereas 'Houdini' is deeper, in the range of 'Dusky Challenger' (Schreiner). The lush, vigorous plants produce an array of stalks that time themselves so that the sequence of bloom is spread out through the entire bloom season. Overall, the best garden iris on the market today. **SOPHISTICATION** (Hamblen 1984) is, in my opinion, Melba's most beautiful iris and worthy of highest honors. A caressing shade of soft pink, with diamond-dusted white falls banded in the elegant pink. The *piece de resistance* is a harmonious soft blue-violet beard. Pure class, and I hope to see it go further in the AIS

awards system. And **CRYSTAL GLITTERS** (Schreiner 1985), from a wild parentage which includes red (!), I'm expecting this to be an incredible parent, giving a full gamut of variety in its children in the future. Slender graceful show stalks are amazingly strong, supporting 3 open blooms consistently. A unique, soft blending of palest peaches, creams, and pink tones, all capped with diamond dusting that gives the color an unexpected carrying power, both in the garden and on the show bench. All petals are moderately ruffled, and in spite of the finish, the texture of the flowers is very waxy.

5. The **DARK HORSE AWARD** is given to the variety introduced within the past 10 years that I feel has been overlooked by AIS judges, and deserves/deserved higher awards: **PLANNED TREASURE** (Burger 1985) is a bit new to be appearing on this list, and it did win an HM last year. But it is worthy of far more praise. In my opinion, the most significant color break of this decade. It has smooth clean pink standards, and then slightly lighter falls with a harmonious 'Fuji's Mantle' wash along the edge of the falls. The key word is consistency. Even in mediocre years such as this year's bloom season or disastrous years such as Oklahoma experienced in 1987, it comes through and performs with tall husky stalks with candelabra branching, double-budded sockets, and large, well-substanced, nicely shaped flowers. Additionally, it has strong, healthy plants. It is already producing some exciting seedlings and is very fertile both ways. I hope to combine it with the rather temperamental Shoop bloodlines to produce some entrancing new color combinations with good vigor.

Runnersup:

BELLEVUE COQUETTE (Bertinot 1984) is one of the highest quality 'Clara Goula' ('Arny) children I have seen, and there are dozens of superb offspring on the market now. This shimmering light blue has strong undertones of light lavender which intensify the translucent appearance. This Louisiana is then adorned with the classic form and heavy ruffling that 'Clara Goula' so graciously passes on to its seedlings. My favorite of several fine releases from Neil Bertinot. Had **BLACK WATCH** (Rosenfels 1982) been released by a more "famous" hybridizer, I contend it would have gone all the way to the Sass Medal. This IB is the blackest iris on the market – of any class. Rather simplistic flowers are borne on incredible show stalks. I have personally exhibited it and, in other years, also judged it at shows in the past where it had 3 open flowers with perfectly spaced branching. The falls are soot black, and the standards are nearly as intense, which is rare in any "black" iris. Another Bertinot Louisiana rounds out the list of runnersup: **JERI** (1985). That this iris (and 'Bellevue Coquette') has not received even an HM from judges of the American Iris Society is an absolute disgrace! 'Jeri' is a larger version of its parent, 'Full Eclipse', on taller, stronger stalks, and is an even more floriferous bloomer. The saturation of color in this deep violet (which approaches black) is intense, and the signal is virtually nonexistent.

6. The **CREAM OF THE CROP AWARDS** go to the 5 varieties on the Dykes Medal eligibility list that I consider the most worthy, in order of preference. The list for this year is virtually the same as last year – unfortunately, including the #1 spot. I considered it a tossup last year between my choice, the BB, **PINK BUBBLES** (Hager 1980) and the Dykes winner, 'Titan's Glory' (Schreiner). 'Titan's Glory' is one of my favorite irises, and I'm very pleased that it won. Talk about consistency! And proving to be a marvelous parent, too. This year was a virtual tie for me again, and I once more give the nod to 'Pink Bubbles' one of the most beautiful and most consistent BBs ever. It is simply charming. However, close behind: **TIDE'S IN** (Schreiner 1983). I won't be the least bit upset if the Schreiners pull off back-to-back honors by winning with this shimmering, diamond-dusted light blue. The others: **CLARA GOULA** (Arny 1978, LA) is the most worthy eligible beardless contender and can hold its own with the best of the bearded, not just for its sheer elegance and beauty but also for its garden production. This ruffled white Louisiana sets the standard to judge modern Louisianas by. **ANN CHOWNING** (Chowning 1977, LA), in its own right, is worthy. It is perhaps a stronger overall plant than 'Clara Goula', and has show stalks supreme. Even in wretched years such as this, it came through and bloomed with good bud count. The rich red color with the huge, now-famous bright golden-yellow spear shaped signals scream at you from across the garden. "Carrying power" is an understatement. And, again this year, **BRANDY** (McWhirter 1981), a wide, unique coloration of champagne to brandy tones with just the right amount of ruffling and lace to complement its broad form.

7. The **PICK OF THE LITTER AWARD** goes to the most outstanding seedling viewed this year. For 1989 we have a dual winner: **ANN BLOCHER** (Blocher 1990), which also won the L'Elegante Award. About the only other thing about it I can say is that you will be able to purchase it next year through Roger Nelson at his new garden in Oregon.

Runnersup:

Marvin Granger 82-6 is an imposing Louisiana – with flowers perhaps even larger than ‘Elusive Butterfly’ (Ghio), but done in soft, feminine colors of lilac-lavender with hints of pink. The upper part of the falls has an attractive diffused cream sunburst ray pattern spraying out from the unobtrusive light yellow signal. The stalks are tall and strong with 5 well spaced bud positions, with the branches’ buds placed away from the stalk enough to ensure proper opening. The whole flower is then polished off with moderate ruffling and even a lot of lace and crimping. To be released in 1991 through Albert (Bobo) Faggard of Beaumont, Texas. [NOTE: It was named **DEIRDRE KAY**]. And **Paul Black 85254AA**, a TB that won Best Seeding at the Sooner State show this year, against tough competition. From an unusual cross of ‘Divine Guidance’ (Roderick) X ‘Miss Personality’ (Sexton), it is basically a ‘Fuji’s Mantle’ type amoena. White standards have just a blush of lavender. The falls are also white, but heavily saturated on the edges with medium lavender, going so far into the heart of the falls that it almost creates a “zonal” effect. A very tasteful color combination. To be released in 1990. [NOTE: It was named **SIGHS AND WHISPERS**].

TALL BEARDED BY COLOR GROUP

REDS TO MAROONS:

WARRIOR KING (Schreiner 1985) continues to dominate this category. There is no way even the most imaginative hybridizer could have envisioned such quality even 20 years ago. This clear, sunfast garnet to cherry red has consistency in branching, bud count, and vigor never before seen in reds. That it blooms earlier in the season than many of the others is an important asset. **CLEARFIRE** (Stevens 1981) continues to impress with its bud count and vibrant of color. The stalks aren’t quite as strong as ‘Warrior King’ nor are the branches presented on the stalk as well, but is still worthy, and outperforms its contemporaries (except for ‘Warrior King’). The successor, if it continues with its performance, will be **HEAT PUMP** (Stevens 1986), a wider formed, brighter, even more glossy red. The branching perhaps even rivals ‘Warrior King’. **MARAUDER** (Ghio 1984) is different, in that it is more of the wine red, but contrasted with most attractive bright gold beards. Proving to be a fascinating parent, too. Please note that, in each of these varieties, the vigor once missing in this color range is now present. This advancement is most noticeable in the garden. Gone are the days when we had to “endure” finicky growers such as ‘War Lord’ (Schreiner) or ‘Pride of Oklahoma’ (Dyer)!

CLASSICS: DEEP FIRE (Schreiner 1979); **CHIEF WAUKESHA** (Blodgett 1978); **TAMPICO** (Luihn 1978).

APRICOTS TO ORANGES:

VICTORIAN FRILLS (Black 1988) leads the apricots, and has been reviewed under the L’Elegante Award. **ELEGANT ANSWER** (Hager 1987) is a deeply ruffled and fluted peach with even broader form and stronger stalks than its parent, ‘Beverly Sills’ (Hager). Exceptional, healthy plants. **GOOD SHOW** (Hager 1988) is probably overall the best of several fine new oranges that hit the market at the same time. Large, broad, clear medium orange flowers are well held on strong, thick, well-balanced stalks that take inclement weather well. That the stalks don’t come crashing down, or worse yet, snake along the ground, is a marked improvement in this color class! **FUN FEST** (O. Brown 1988), on a first-year plant in Blanchard, looked different from what I remembered in Opal’s garden after the 1984 Seattle convention. But then, by the time I got to Opal’s, my poor mind was pretty well numbed out from seeing so many irises! ‘Fun Fest’ is a late-blooming (of course!) light to medium apricot, slightly deeper at the shoulders, which surround an even deeper apricot-orange beard. The waxy substance was appealing, and an important asset for a late blooming variety. **CORAL COAST** (Vizvarie 1989) has solid medium coral standards, topping chalky white falls (this is a new one on me!), then gently banded the standards’ coral color. The band is really more like a halo, and the substance matches the chalky look of the falls. Most impressive.

CLASSICS: TANGERINE QUEEN (Marsh 1977); **FRESNO CALYPSO** (Weiler 1978); **MARMALADE** (Keppel 1979).

PINKS:

This was probably the strongest color class this year. Dozens were noteworthy, but I’m limiting the review to only 5: **SOPHISTICATION** (Hamblen 1984), the most beautiful of all, has already been reviewed under the Sun Belt Award. One of the more impressive garden effects was **ANNA BELLE BABSON** (Hager 1985). It is very similar to its parent, ‘Beverly Sills’, with perhaps a clearer tone of pink and just a hint deeper. But the famous qualities of

vigor, floriferousness, branching, and carrying power in the garden were passed on from ‘Beverly’. **GIFT OF DREAMS** (Hamblen 1987) was one of the very few that was actually better this year than last year. A simple description would be that it is a deeper version of ‘Sophistication’, with even deeper blue beards that have a sienna base, creating almost a purple (or, more accurately, raspberry) effect! The colors weren’t as “smoky” as last year, and there was more of a satin texture that gives elegance to the flowers. **ELSIEMAE NICHOLSON** (Corlew 1988) continues to surprise me. Rather than the traditional “cold” pinks (i.e., blue-based) we’ve come to expect and cherish in the Corlew line, ‘Elsiemae Nicholson’ is a warmer pink (i.e., yellow to apricot undertones). Blocky form makes the lighter area around the beard to predominate the falls. This in turn causes the near-orange beards to shout from the heart of the flower. I love it. And dragging up the rear (you would think it were an Opal Brown iris, it blooms so late) is **IRIS IRENE** (Gatty 1985), a delicately laced pink (almost close to apricot sometimes) with simply impeccable form. It has never been better. There is a hint of a band around the somewhat lightened falls, which just emphasizes the precision of the lace all the more. Beautiful, shorter show stalks. One of these days, we’re gonna have a real early season, and someone will walk in and take the show with this one!

CLASSICS: THELMA RUDOLPH (Rudolph 1976); **PLAYGIRL** (Gatty 1977); **SUNDAY CHIMES** (Hamblen 1978); **EVERLASTING LOVE** (Dyer 1979).

LAVENDERS TO VIOLETS:

The hot class this year, with several new, unexpected surprises. Last year’s Contemporary Award runnerup leads the group: **THRILLER** (Schreiner 1988) is a sensuous claret to cerise self that is technically called doge purple. The turn-on is the deep purple – indeed almost black – beards in the midst of absolutely clean hafts. A solid self without the traditional lighter patch in the falls around the beard. I am also impressed with its plant habits, with beautiful blue-green foliage. It is from a “mixed bag” of breeding, and I just have this funny feeling that it will be a wild, quality-packed parent. **NEIL DIAMOND** (R. Nelson 1987) is a resounding dark violet, with hints of deep blue undertones -- not unlike what ‘Star Wars’ (Roderick) has -- that enliven the flower. Heavy but not fanatical ruffling, all on a stalk and plant that you would expect from such a perfectionist as Roger Nelson. Smooth and suave.

Two new Opal Brown releases were most promising: **DRIFTING ALONG** (1988) is the palest lavender (virtually white), accentuated with delicate poppy red beards. Tightly formed flowers are ruffled and lightly laced. **SANDY ROSE** (1988) shows a lot of potential as a breeder, but beautiful in its own right. No mistaking the color – the name is the color. The mood of the burnished blend of colors is interrupted with large fat deep coral beards that have a violet base, again, adding to the intensity of their effect.

Two varieties that have been on the market for awhile now tried to steal center stage: **EXTRAVAGANT** (Hamblen 1983) is a well-named burnished amethyst-violet with bright red beards and heavy lace. Wide, show-stalk, candelabra branching. **PLUM NEWS** (Rudolph 1985) is a rich plum-violet, and although from his traditional line which emphasized muted or pastel colors, is deeply saturated. The lighter area in the falls yields to a most distinctive deep plum band. Again, another variety with superb, consistent branching. One of the more beautiful flowers was **NEWLYWED** (Ghio 1988), and it will be a strong contender for the L’Elegante Award in the future if the branching, bud count, and plant habits improve. In all fairness, the specimen I critiqued had not been grown well, so judgment in these areas is being postponed. ‘Newlywed’ is a medley (not blend) of colors somewhere between orchid, light violet, or pink, but possibly closer to a fuchsia – in a color I have never seen before in a Tall Bearded iris. All this luscious color is set off with diamond-dusting and heavy lace.

CLASSICS: MARY FRANCES (Gaulter 1973); **GRAND WALTZ** (Schreiner 1970); **LILAC TREAT** (Niswonger 1970).

DEEP VIOLETS TO BLACKS:

Amazingly, this is the class with the most competition these days. As with the reds, who would have thought it, just a few years ago. **HOUDINI** (Maryott 1985) and **HOLY NIGHT** (K. Mohr 1983) were reviewed last year under the Sun Belt Award. Last year’s Sun Belt winner, **DARKSIDE** (Schreiner 1985) is just as worthy, and continues to flabbergast me with its solid good health – from its blue-green, disease-resistant foliage to its sturdy, consistent, husky show stalks. Ah! That good ‘Titan’s Glory’ (Schreiner) blood! **DUSKY CHALLENGER** (Schreiner 1986) really shook ‘em up this year. And it surely set some kind of record. I hurry home from judging the Tulsa show on Saturday to see the Oklahoma Iris Society show in Oklahoma City before it closes. Jimmy Wage has entered one specimen and won Queen of Show – ‘Dusky Challenger’. I visit the Norman (Oklahoma) show the next day. The Spences have won Queen of Show – ‘Dusky Challenger’. The next Sunday I drive all the

way to Amarillo to help judge their show. Their President wins his first Queen of Show – you guessed it, ‘Dusky Challenger’! Actually, the falls aren’t as wide nor the overall form as finished in appearance as ‘Darkside’. However, the flowers of ‘Dusky Challenger’ are so huge that, if they were that wide and overlapping, they would be simply gross. The iris has a charisma about it that can’t really be described. I have yet to figure out the cause, but suspect it may be a satin underglow of deepest navy blue that makes the flower come alive. Officially, we don’t know the parentage, but you and I both know it had to have been a direct descendant of ‘Titan’s Glory’....Not quite as boldly stated, the Schreiners’ **BLACK DRAGON** (1982) is probably still the variety with the best saturation that most closely approximates true black. **EVENING GOWN** (Ghio 1987) was one of my surprises this year. I saw it last year, and it was nice, but this year (on established clumps), this velvety royal violet had more personality. The broad, blocky flowers are held up on stalks that are a bit more slender than the ‘Titan’s Glory’ children, yet strong enough to support the flowers. Impressive enough that it received one of my HM votes!

CLASSICS: **RAVEN HILL** (Carr 1975); **SUPERSTITION** (Schreiner 1977); **SWAZI PRINCESS** (Schreiner 1978).

BLUES:

The producers of the great ‘Blue Sapphire’ continue to dominate this color class, releasing worthy advancement to grow and enjoy. It’s hard to choose one to lead the group, but this year the older **PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE** (Schreiner 1984) was the best iris of the entire Blanchard garden. It is a royal blue, deeply saturated, but with a “mink” texture that gives it a rather mysterious look. Superb branching and bud count, but more impressive was the way it timed its stalks, causing the clumps to be in bloom for virtually the entire TB seasons. **HONKY TONK BLUES** (Schreiner 1988) was reviewed under the Contemporary Award. **BREAKERS** (Schreiner 1986) continued to impress me with its rich full blue tones on broad flowers that are heavily ruffled and have a leathery texture. My fears that the graceful, rather slender stalks of **ALTRUIST** (Schreiner 1987) would not be strong enough to support its flowers in Oklahoma weather have been alleviated. Hardly just another blue, it’s closer to a light azure blue, diminishing gracefully in intensity to virtually a chalky white in the heart of the flower. Its light, airy look is in perfect harmony with its slender stalks. The surprise for me in this group had to be **PEACEFUL WATERS** (Schreiner 1988), as viewed in the Oklahoma Iris Society planting at Will Rogers Park in Oklahoma City. The catalog shot is quite accurate in depth of color – it is a simple, clear medium blue that is deeper than ‘Tide’s In’ or ‘Loyal Devotion’ and lighter than ‘Breakers’. It is close to the Schreiners’ ‘Sea of Joy’, but has a lilting flaring form rather than the globular look of ‘Sea of Joy’ (which is itself very attractive). However, the form of ‘Peaceful Waters’ is much prettier than the catalog shot. Two red-bearded blues are most worthy, and quite competitive with each other. You choose, or better yet, grown and enjoy both. **SKYBLAZE** (Keppel 1987) made stunning clumps in Memphis, and was a runnerup for the Cook Cup. It is the bluest so far, with deep tangerine beards approaching red. **SUPERMAN** (Maryott 1986) has even better, broader form, but has just a bit more lavender undertones in its makeup than ‘Skyblaze’.

CLASSICS: **NAVY STRUT** (Schreiner 1974); **DEEP PACIFIC** (Burger 1975); **CHARISMA** (Blocher 1976); **FIREWATER** (Keppel 1977).

WHITES:

ANN BLOCHER (Blocher 1990) has already been reviewed, winning both the L’Elegante and the Pick of the Litter Awards this year. If ‘Ann Blocher’ is the most beautiful iris in the kingdom, last year’s Contemporary Award winner, **SILVERADO** (Schreiner 1987) is the most perfect. Broad, icy white flowers have heavy, waxy substance. The branching is well spaced candelabra to modified candelabra, making ‘Silverado’ both a great garden it is in the clump and a Queen of Show contender on the bench. Those who attended the national convention here last year won’t believe it, but **BUBBLING LACE** (Black 1986) was even more beautiful this year! It has more icy blue infusions than ‘Ann Blocher’, giving it a totally different look. Holding its own with the newer things is **PRAY FOR PEACE** (Plough 1982), one of the best of the ruffled whites. Wide, overlapping falls have starchy substance. I feel it has been overlooked.

CLASSICS: **WEDDING VOW** (Ghio 1972); **CARRIAGE TRADE** (Gaulter 1977); **CHRISTMAS RUBIES** (Hamblen 1978).

CREAMS TO YELLOWS:

BOLD GOLD (Gatty 1987), **CRYSTAL GLITTERS** (Schreiner 1985), and **CHURCHILL DOWNS** (K. Mohr 1988) have already been reviewed in the awards section. **LACED DAISY** (Black 1987) is a different, late-blooming burnished lemon (not gold) with very heavy lace. The falls are lighter, and then banded with the principal color, which the lace emphasizes. It's a color that grows on you. Broad, classical form, and excellent plant habits, too. **SUNKIST FRILLS** (D. Palmer 1987) was the last variety to open and finish blooming in Blanchard this year. It is a waxy reverse yellow amoena in the style of 'Debby Rairdon' (Kuntz), but with more the texture and infusions of 'Gold Trimmings' (Schreiner). Stalks with average branching were deficient in buds (2 of 3 stalks only had 4 buds each), but the heavy substance and timing of the blooms allow for a respectable season of bloom. **HERITAGE LACE** (Schreiner 1986) was a pleasant surprise, for I was expecting it to be similar to the very disappointing 'Lady Madonna' (Schreiner). Rather, 'Heritage Lace' is a rich cream with chalky white falls banded in cream. Beautiful form, with florets lightly laced. The self texture veins in the falls add to the crispness of the overall effect.

CLASSICS: **LEMON MIST** (Rudolph 1972); **TEMPLE GOLD** (Luihn 1977); **MONEY** (Roe 1977); **LEMON LYRIC** (Meek 1978).

PLICATAS:

SNOWBROOK (Keppel 1987) is the new star. Cold pure white standards are matched in the falls, but then only the falls are finely edged with a clean blue narrow plicata band. A whole new era of amoena plics has arrived! The blue is more blue than violet. Crisp. **PRIZE DRAWING** (Plough 1988) was viewed on an aborted stalk, but the individual flower showed great potential. Standards are rich old gold to tan. The base color of the falls is the same, but is then heavily striated and sanded a pleasing sandy brown over the entire petal. Very tightly constructed, and appeared to be sunfast. A muchly improved version of 'Pencil Sketch' (Plough). **MOMENTUM** (Dunn 1986) is one of the tallest irises I've ever seen – that is, and still be in an upright position after a day of Oklahoma winds. One of the best offerings from 'Spinning Wheel' (Nearpass), and very similar in appearance, with the attractive spoke pattern of plicating in the falls. The white base is very clean and a colder white rather than cream. The contrast between the pale blue stitching of the standards versus the medium violet stitching in the falls is most pleasing. Unbelievable stalks, easily with 4 branches and some lower rebranching. **PURPLE PEPPER** (Nearpass 1986) possesses that all-too-elusive trait of distinctiveness. You won't mistake it for any other. White to light blue base is then peppered (not streaked, stripped, or sanded) deep blue-violet throughout the entire flower. Zany but not gaudy. Respectable form. Marvelous branching. There were 2 stalks sitting side-by-side at the Tulsa show, so symmetrical they looked as though they could have been from the same clump. And yes, it's another 'Spinning Wheel' progeny.

CLASSICS: **RANCHO ROSE** (Gibson 1975); **MODERN CLASSIC** (Knocke 1975); **SKETCH ME** (Plough 1976); **BLUE STACCATO** (Gibson 1977).

VARIEGATAS:

The 9-1-1 Award runnerup, **PURGATORY** (Moore's 1987) has already been reviewed. **SPICED CIDER** (Sexton-Black 1989) is a broad, huge bitone that, as with 'Purgatory', is technically a variegata. Standards are a solid golden yellow to light brown. The falls have the same base color, but are almost completely covered with varying degrees of intensity of a wash in colors of rust, copper, and cinnamon. Then there's a halo of the base color around the edge of the falls. So wide that the hafts virtually overlap. In the tradition of her 'Thanksgiving', but a far superior advancement. Thanks to Paul Black for rescuing this fine tribute to Neva's great breeding program from extinction and making it available for all of us to enjoy. And a great name, perfectly fitting the iris. Sounds like one that Neva herself would have come up with! I've had mixed emotions about **SUPREME SULTAN** (Schreiner 1988). Selectors who continue to lean towards such mammoth flowers apparently have never had to deal with adverse weather conditions such as we experience in the Midwest. The first terminal flower was floppy (the polite term is "informal"). However, rather than shut my mind and write it off, I continued to observe it throughout the rest of the season, and I must say, I was impressed. Bright clean golden yellow standards sit atop fiery garden red falls. A harmonious yet shocking combination of colors. The standards are strong enough to hold together, in spite of the flower's large dimensions, and the falls are wide, well shaped, and most definitely smoother at the hafts than predecessors. A light sprinkling of lace does not take from the very masculine look.

CLASSICS: **ORITAM** (Hoffmeister 1977); **GYPSY CARAVAN** (Moldovan 1978).

NEGLECTAS AND AMOENAS:

The leader in blue amoenas continues to be **DUTCH GIRL** (K. Mohr 1981). I respect this iris more and more each passing year. Closed standards are sparkling white. Smoothest light blue falls glisten and have touching hafts. The whole flower has just the right amount of moderate ruffling to complement the broad, full-formed flowers. Quite a show iris, often opening 3 at once. But its major impact is in the garden. It has all the garden qualities the Mohr family insists on when introducing. Fat husky plants are disease-resistant and are vigorous. A good companion for 'Holy Night' (K. Mohr). **CRANBERRY CRUSH** (Aitken 1986) is my favorite of many fine 'Mystique' (Ghio) offspring on the market. This neglecta has light blue standards that are heavily infused with a surprisingly rare shade of cranberry violet in the midribs. This cranberry coloration is the solid color of the falls. The heavily ruffled, leathery flowers have an underglow that gives strong carrying power in the garden. The branching is inconsistent but acceptable. **IN TOWN** (Blyth 1988) continues the tradition of 'Magic Man' (Blyth). It is your basic neglecta, but with a band around the falls in the lighter standards' color. All this is then set off with a bright tangerine-red beard. Fairly smooth hafts. So far, a very weak grower in the Blanchard garden, with poor increase, but I'm willing to give it another year or 2 to kick in and grow properly. From the same bloodlines is **WITCH'S WAND** (Blyth 1988), but much, much deeper and more intense. Technically a neglecta, but the contrast between the saturation in the standards and falls is minimal, although more so here than on the West Coast, where it almost looks like a dark violet approaching black self. The bright red beards are a breakthrough. Excellent form, and has smoother hafts and far better plants than 'In Town'. Watch for this one! **SPARKLING FOUNTAIN** (Black 1989) is not from traditional blue amoena breeding, and you can see it in subtle differences in the flower. The standards are warm creamy white rather than the usual cold white such as 'Dutch Girl'. The smooth light to medium blue falls possess diamond-dusting to give the flower carrying power, but the substance is as thick as leather. Elegant form.

CLASSICS: MYSTIQUE (Ghio 1975); **DOVER BEACH** (Nearpass 1972); **LIGHTED WITHIN** (Blodgett 1980).

BICOLORS:

Oh, the star is **EDITH WOLFORD** (Hager 1986). The harmony achieved in combining these 2 colors that would normally clash has to be seen to be believed. Medium yellow standards have a hint of blue infusions that create perhaps even a suggestion of green in the heart of the flower. Gentle medium blue shades make up the falls, with an underglow of lavender that helps unite the two colors. The flowers have a billowing form, with a moderate but not overstated degree of ruffling. The shade of blue will vary, depending on temperature, humidity, the amount of moisture in the soil, time of day, and of course, mineral content of the soil and the grower's cultural habits. Rather than a defect, this variance adds to the aura and mystique of the iris. It won Queen of Show in Oklahoma City this year. In this show-crazy state, I have seen dozens of shows the past 20 years, and the specimen of 'Edith Wolford' was the most perfect Queen of Show I've ever had the privilege of viewing. Second only to 'Archie Owen' (Hager, Spuria), 'Edith Wolford' is the finest release ever from Ben Hager. The surprise bicolor for me this year was **SWEET MUSETTE** (Schreiner 1986). A magnificent stalk won First Runnerup at the Norman (Oklahoma) show, and it shimmered under the artificial lights. A gentle combination of colors, with flamingo pink standards and soft rose-pink falls. The flowers have virtually no ruffling, yet are lightly laced. The Schreiners' picture fails to capture the true colors and form. Needless to say, it has fine branching, with the specimen in Norman having 3 blooms open with perfect placement.

Similar in the basic color pattern is **ROLE MODEL** (Denney 1988), but the flowers are more opaque and have an overall burnished look. Standards are smooth melon-peach with some pink blended in. The falls are a combination of a deeper version of the standards, with old rose blended in. Harmonious tangerine beards. Most impressive show stalk branching and bud count on a first-year plant. Completing a trio of new offerings in this color pattern is **WINIFRED ROSS** (Hamblen 1988), a refined extension of the pink-blue bicolor pattern begun 20 years ago with the release of 'Touche' (Hamblen). The standards of 'Winifred Ross' are peach-pink and the falls are rose-purple, with a lighter area in the center, allowing the accenting orange-red beards to be more predominant. Leathery substance and blocky form. Begins blooming in the last half of the season.

I consider **SPRING SATIN** (Black 1989) a breakthrough in the quest for haloed irises that began with 'Bride's Halo' (Mohr) in the early 1970s. 'Spring Satin's' standards are similar to 'Bride's Halo' – a glistening white, very finely edged in a gold halo of lace. The falls are pastel to light orchid-lavender, finely edged in a gold halo of lace. The falls are pastel to light orchid-lavender, even lighter around the harmonious yellow beards. The falls then have a laced halo of tan to gold, slightly wider than the standards' halo. Elegant is an understatement. Ironically, 'Spring Satin' does not have 'Bride's Halo' in its background. The merging of it with 'Bride's Halo' and its progeny such as 'Exuberant' (Mohr) and Niswonger's 3 new halo irises should be quite an event! **SWEETER THAN WINE** (Schreiner 1988) was seen only once on a quick trip through Ketchum Garden in Memphis, but

shows good potential. A glorified ‘Ringo’ (Shoop) or ‘Latin Lady’ (Shoop), it has light pink (approaching white) standards and deep, vibrant wine falls with a narrower band of the standards’ color than ‘Ringo’. The hafts are a bit noisy, and the flowers are narrower than desired, but it is still a rich, appealing color combination.

CLASSICS: **PIPER’S FLUTE** (Blyth 1974); **VERBENA MOON** (Blyth 1976); **HEATHER BLUSH** (Hamner 1977).

POTPOURRI:

Jewels such as **PLANNED TREASURE** (Burger 1985), **DANCE AWAY** (Hamblen 1988), and **SIGHS AND WHISPERS** (Black 1990) have already been reviewed in the awards section. **VIDA** (Daling 1987) wasn’t nearly as good in Oklahoma this year, but still looked fine in Memphis. A glorious confusion of pastel colors, including rose, lilac, buff, light yellow, and pink. It all comes together in a distinctive band of golden-bronze that makes the tweezers click. Most promising. I am pleased to see that the hybridizer has changed the classification from BB to TB on **WHO’EE** (Stevens 1986). I could not vote an HM for this last year in the BB class with a clear conscience because of the size of the flowers. But now, one of my favorite newer irises is again eligible for an HM, but in its proper classification. A shorter TB (28-30”), it is the most unusual blending of cinnamon and rust-browns layering an amber base, with amber edges. The broadly formed flowers are tailored to give the full impact of the blending. This derivative from red breeding is unlike anything on the market today. It glows! The craziest thing on the market still has to be **FANCY TALES** (Shoop 1980). It is rather infamous for being a bitchy grower, and you have to stake it if you want to see it in an upright position (!), but there’s just nothing like it. White standards with a hint of a gold halo. Pansy purple falls, with orange on the upper third of the falls. And a bright orange beard. I think it’s sexy, and one of the few varieties I will gladly stake each year without complaining too loudly. One of Nate Rudolph’s last introductions that has not received the praise it deserves is **RUFFLED SURPRISE** (1981). It is a smoky (but not muddy) blending of buff to tan, with palest lavender to white falls, banded the principal color. The standards are heavily infused smoky violet in the midrib, and then the beards are also smoky violet. Unlimited breeding potential from the ‘Chartreuse Ruffles’ (Rudolph) bloodlines. Minimally acceptable bud count, but makes a floriferous clump, and the flowers have good substance.

CLASSICS: **CHARTREUSE RUFFLES** (Rudolph 1976); **FAR CORNERS** (Moldovan 1978); **SHEER POETRY** (D. Palmer 1979).

SPACE AGE:

The one class that has made the greatest strides this decade. The 9-1-1 Award winner, **CONJURATION** (Byers 1989) and runnerup **LOVEBIRD** (Byers 1988) have already been reviewed, and lead the class for innovative additions in breeding. The most beautiful and promising advancement is **ART SCHOOL ANGEL** (Vizvarie 1989). As you can see from the color ad in the April AIS Bulletin, we have arrived at a whole new era in Space Age irises. The picture is most accurate. As with any adorned iris, the appendages will vary in degrees from horns to the full-blown flounces. And you must take care to grow them culturally well to receive full benefit from the appendages. In some years, the flounce on ‘Art School Angel’ will approach blue. Branching and bud count are suspect and will have to be evaluated on established clumps under reasonable weather conditions. But the individual flowers are surreal, with substance and texture like carved wax. Also very fine was **BLOWING BUBBLES** (Byers 1988), a broad, bubble ruffled white with a warm infusion of yellow in the heart of the flower. Spoons/flounces are yellow to white. Very vigorous, and a good bloomer, but stalks are weak and do require staking. **TWICE THRILLING** (Osborne 1984) is older, but still most competitive with the newer Space Age releases. A heavily subtended medium pink with tangerine beards that turn into purple horns, and then sometimes end up with pink flounces infused purple! A parent of ‘Art School Angel’.

MEDIANS BY CLASSIFICATION

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED:

CONSUMMATION (Welch 1978) is still the king, with palest blue to white standards and amazingly smooth, rich velvety royal purple falls with a startling band of white. Proving to be an outstanding parent, and its child, **FROSTED VELVET** (Fisher 1989) may be (finally) a worthy replacement. The specimen I viewed had a more blue influence underlying the white/purple combination. **BUMBLEBEE DEELITE** (Norrick 1986) continues to get the rave reviews it deserves. A bright sassy color combo, with golden yellow standards and bright brick red

falls. Similar in style is **STRIPED PANTS** (Fisher 1989), except that the falls are also a gold base, but then wildly striped rich, deep brick red to brown. Very exciting, and has ideal plant habits.

CLASSICS: **CAROLYN ROSE** (Dunderman 1971); **SPANISH COINS** (Witt 1976).

BORDER BEARDEDS:

NAUTICAL FLAG (Black 1989) has the consistency of height and flower size that made ‘Soft Spoken’ (Dyer) a Knowlton winner. This new heavily laced, small flowered lavender blue has a lighter area in the center of the falls surrounding yellow beards. Tight, compact form, and good strong vigor. **CLASSIC TREASURE** (Burger 1984) is an improved ‘Emma Cook’ (Cook), with glistening white standards and falls, and then only the edge of the falls lightly washed a pure medium blue. Slender show stalks. **FIDDLER** (Stahly 1984) is one I have missed over the years. Consistency is the key here with this tight, compact maroon-red. It is slightly bitoned, with the standards just a tone lighter than the falls. I saw it in several gardens this year, and found show stalks in each, with perfect proportion in not only the height and size of bloom, but also in the thickness of the stalk (slender and graceful) and in the plants.

CLASSICS: **JUNGLE SHADOWS** (Sass-Graham 1960); **RASPBERRY SUNDAE** (Niswonger 1972); **PICAYUNE** (Keppel 1977).

INTERMEDIATE BEARDEDS:

BLACK WATCH (Rosenfels 1982) has already been mentioned in the Dark Horse Award. **HELLCAT** (Aitken 1983) continues to give unbelievable, consistent performance, year after year, no matter how adverse the season. Smooth, sultry, lustrous neglecta with the ultimate in form and plant habits. Undeniably the best IB on the market today. **BUBBLY BLUE** (Aitken 1986) is similar to ‘Silent Strings’ (Dyer), but is a slightly lighter, prettier shade of blue, has better form, and much better branching and bud count. Heavy, symmetrical ruffling throughout the flower. **DOLL** (Keppel 1987) is the best of a trio of releases from ‘Gigolo’ (Keppel TB) lineage (the pod parent was a sib to ‘Gigolo’). ‘Doll’ is an apricot ground plicata, suffused and stripped with a mauve-lavender band. Beautiful form and subtle, pleasant colors. I finally got to see **DARK BLIZZARD** (Warburton 1984). It is very nearly black (deepest violet), but then a burst of white around the white beards. A superb, rare luminata.

Two new IBs are being released by Paul Black. ‘Hagar’s Helmet’ (Nichols 1977) was the world’s first median Space Age iris. Now, a dozen years later, we have **ERECT** (Black 1989), an antique gold self with broad, modern form. The “erect” part is a consistent horn at the end of the beards. The color of the adornment will vary from brown to purple. In the tradition of ‘Chubby Cheeks’ (Black SDB), **SHOOTING SPARKS** (Black 1989) is a clean, crisp white based plicata, distinctly edged with a narrow band of blue-violet. Tall stalks are thin and graceful, supporting 3 branches spaced in a candelabra style. Vigorous as a weed, but also a very floriferous bloomer.

CLASSICS: **ANNIKINS** (Warburton 1967); **VAMP** (Gatty 1972); **PINK KITTEN** (Wood 1977); **AVANELLE** (B. Jones 1977); **POT LUCK** (Hager 1977).

STANDARD DWARF BEARDEDS:

The new watermelon pink, **SHEER CLASS** (L. Miller 1988) was reviewed under the L’Elegante Award. The star of the SDB season this year was **JAZZAMATAZZ** (Heidi Blyth 1986). Barry’s daughter has produced one of the most outstanding SDBs on the market today! The standards are lemon yellow, softly toned and clean. The falls contrast with a bright ruby to brick red, then distinctively banded with ¼” of the standards’ yellow. The advancement is the leathery substance and ruffling as heavy as any dwarf – a first in this color pattern. **DELICATE PINK** (C. Palmer 1984) is my favorite pink SDB. It is an eloquent shade of baby pink (light but not pale), with the falls infused somewhat with ivory tones. Most acceptable form and superb substance. It baffles me that it hasn’t received more attention. The purest pink today is **PINK CRYSTAL** (Willott 1986). If you remember the shade of Corlew’s TB, ‘Cherub Choir’ you’ve got the color. Broad flowers have better than average substance. It is a good grower, but beware that it blooms heavily (some years it has completely bloomed out). This year it had an excellent bloom/increase ratio. Well worth the risk!

Two 1990 SDB introductions from Paul Black should be watched for next year: **Black 86370A** has rich purple standards and deep near-black falls with a well-defined ¼” band of the purple of the standards. The whole flower is shiny, and finished with broadest form and moderate ruffling. The proportion and plant habits are exceptional.

[NOTE: This seedling was named **WELL SUITED**]. For something unique, there will be **Black 86269B**, an SDB version of the TB, 'Pandora's Purple' (Ensminger). The standards are violet approaching grape in color. The base of the falls is white to pale lavender, but is almost entirely covered with a wash of violet and then banded with distinct grape. Tall (14-15") with up to 2 branches and 4 buds. It is quite startling in the garden, and will be a sure hit on the show bench. [NOTE: This seedling was named **PRIVILEGED CHARACTER**]. My two favorites of Paul's

SDB releases for this year are **PATACAKE** and **SASS WITH CLASS**. 'Patacake' is a much improved 'Melon Honey' (Roberts), with smoother color saturation and stronger stalks. 'Sass With Class' is a clean lemon yellow with falls that are heavily streaked and washed with blood red veins, and then haloed in lemon yellow. Much brighter and prettier than the catalog shot.

One of the more elegant SDBs from Mid-America is **SILK PETALS** (Black 1988), a silky white self with the broadest of form and the heaviest substance I've ever seen in a dwarf. **CHUBBY CHEEKS** (Black 1985) remains the pick to beat in the class, and is transmitting its good qualities (especially form, substance, vigor, and bud count) on to its children, and not just in shades of violet or blue. You will find plies stitched in two distinctive bands of color and luminatas in every shade possible. **SMALL RITUAL** (Hager 1988) is an intense bicolor, with ruby red standards and soot black falls. No spot, ray pattern, or halo in the falls, which makes it unique. And, lastly, I finally saw **BLACK STAR** (Warburton 1984), and it was well worth the wait. Intensely deep violet black self with just a peek-a-boo of white luminata pattern right at the white beard. Oh my!

CLASSICS: CANARY ISLE (Hamblen 1972); **BOO** (Markham 1971); **MUSIC CAPER** (Roberts 1975); **PEPPER MILL** (Hager 1977); **SAPPHIRE JEWEL** (Hamblen 1978).

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDEDS

The best new MDB, **MACUMBA** (Hager 1988) was reviewed in the Contemporary Award. Another fine achievement is **TINY CHERUB** (Hager 1988), a smoothly colored apricot self with deeper beards. Very fine form. Extremely vigorous, which is an asset that has been missing in this color. Also very floriferous. The dainty flowers produce a cushion of flowers, just as a good MDB is supposed to. **SPOT OF TEA** (Black 1989) is a compact, lightly ruffled buff-tan with a distinctive spot of tea-brown in the center of the falls. A strong grower, with a good increase/bloom ratio.

CLASSICS: NUGGETS (Sindt 1976); **ZIPPER** (Sindt 1979).

LOUISIANAS

Another promising rising star is a sib to 'Grace Duhon', **Haymon 37-84-9**, a sensuous velvety deep violet with heavy undertones of red in the falls that make the whole flower glow. Different enough to indeed merit introduction. Leathery texture on a wide, moderately ruffled flower that is very flat in form, to give full visual impact of the rich color. To be released in 1990. [NOTE: This seedling was named **EMPRESS JOSEPHINE**]. **KAY NELSON** (Granger 1988) is an elegant lilac-lavender self with a strong suggestion of a pink underglow. Broad, flat flowers are finely serrated on the edges like lace. One of the prettiest new Louisianas, and well named! **DARK IDOL** (Granger 1980) is deepest, rich purple approaching black with smallest yellow line signal that is virtually hidden by the style arms. It has flat cartwheel form, in the style of 'Bajazzo' (Dunn). Graceful S-curved stalks have 4 bud positions.

Charles Arny has three fine new varieties that continue the tradition of quality, unique releases he is so famous for. **OVER FENCE GENEROSITY** (1992) is a smooth classical magenta self with tiny yellow signals almost completely covered by the style arms. Chiffon texture, moderately ruffled, and the ultimate in form and style. **GERTIE BUTLER** (1990) was the star of the Arny Garden this spring. A medium lavender, but so rich in color that it almost approaches raspberry. But then it is capped off with a distinctive sunburst ray pattern in white outpouring from the signal area. **GEISHA EYES** (1990) is a short, small-flowered flat blue to violet with distinctive, large white signals embellishing all 6 petals (hence, the eyes). Very charming. Also fine was **MAY THIBEAUX** (Arny 1986), the richest full medium yellow with even deeper signals. A bold, blowy form, and completely sunfast in Louisiana. Charlie's next door neighbor, Dick Goula, has some marvelous, innovative new things to be released soon, including a pure baby pink diploid and a luxurious rose-pink tetraploid. To be released later this year is **SOUTHERN ACCENT**, similar in color and texture to Granger's 'Dark Idol' (including the

hidden signals), but the form is done in the more traditional flat form. [NOTE: **SOUTHERN ACCENT** was never officially registered or introduced.]

Richard Morgan, now retired and living in Hot Springs, Arkansas, is having his new things introduced by Ed and Rusty Ostheimer of Houma, Louisiana (Bois d'Arc Gardens). Two of his of his new ones were observed in Louisiana this spring and were most impressive: **HEAVENLY GLOW** (1989), a moderately sized terra cotta to rust brown, but with unique, enchanting green (yes, green) style arms and tiny green signals. Very well named, and has excellent proportion, as it will bloom only about 2' tall. **SEA KNIGHT** (1989) is one of the richest blues I have seen, and intense royal blue that is even deeper than its parent, 'Clyde Redmond' (Army). Again, virtually no signals. It is also at the lower end of the scale in size and height, and is a welcome addition, both in the landscape and on the show bench! From Mary Dunn, we have **DELTA DOVE** (1985), a soft, elegant pale to baby blue, with deeper texture veins in the falls that just send me into orbit. Three newer ones showed great promise Down South, and I will watch them closely here in Oklahoma next spring: **PIECE DE RESISTANCE** (1988) is just what they said it would be – a fat, flat beauty done in tones that are new to the Louisiana world and, like her classic, 'Delta Dawn' (Dunn), is going to be very difficult to describe in writing. I'll give it a shot: A soft blending of orange and red, indeed very much like the rose, 'Tropicana'. **FAT TUESDAY** (1988) is a heavily ruffled butter to gold. It looked a bit muddy, but I anticipate the coloring will be smoother in this part of the country. Nonetheless, ruffling and form as good as any in its color class. And **WINE COUNTRY** (1988), one of the most vibrantly colored Louisianas ever seen. It is a shiny burgundy wine, completely self with only a tiny yellow signal. Tight, compact form, with the heaviest ruffling in this color class, so tight and symmetrically placed on the flower that the flowers looked corrugated. Its color is even richer than her great 'Mary's Charlie' (Dunn), and will surely become as popular. Also from Bay View Gardeners, **SOUTHERNER** (Ghio 1983) continues to be a stunner. An old gold, but heavily washed and veined clean brick-red throughout the falls, becoming even more intense on the edges. Imposing stalks and a great color combo make for a fantastic show iris.

And, finally, 3 beauties from Down Under: **HELEN NAISH** (Taylor 1982), the Australasian Dykes winner, is playing to rave reviews here now. Ah! Clara, look what you have done! (Another child of 'Clara Goula'). A cold, icy white (most white Louisianas are a warmer, creamy white) with lime green styles and green signals. Fresh and crisp. **CAMMERAY** (Taylor 1987), seen at the Lafayette (Louisiana) show, was a tall, stately show iris with huge, flat flowers done in a soft, serene shade of pure light to medium blue. And **GERRY MARSTELLAR** (Raabe 1988) is a well-substanced medium pink, more of a bitone in effect. Broad form with a nice lilt and great carrying power in the garden.

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