

First Book Ever Written On The History of Garden Irises

Irises are one of the world's most popular garden plants. That was not always so. The story of how several men and women transformed relatively unimpressive iris species into the plants with flowers of diverse forms and colors so beloved by today's gardeners has never been told until now.

This book represents years of research in French, British and American primary and secondary sources. It challenges taxonomists' designation of *Iris germanica* as the type species for genus *Iris* and the generally accepted status of *Iris albicans*. It is also the first book containing extensive information on the native iris species of Florida and the deplorable state of taxonomy of these species. This scholarly work was written to appeal to the lay reader as well as to the specialist. Many beautiful and original pictures of irises are included along with pictures of some of those whose stories are told.

Clarence Mahan is an internationally recognized authority on irises. A past president, honorary life member and emeritus judge of the American Iris Society, he has written many articles and papers on irises. He has given many programs and lectures on irises to horticultural societies, garden clubs, and iris groups. He is the past president of the Historic Iris Preservation Society, the Society for Japanese Irises and the Reblooming Iris Society. He was president of the panel of judges at the International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy in 1999. The American Iris Society honored Mr. Mahan with its Distinguished Service Medal in 2004. He is also an honorary life member of the Society for Japanese Irises and a recipient of the Historic Iris Preservation Society's Distinguished Service Award.

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Acknowledgments

Preface

- Chapter 1. Buriensis: The Search for Monsieur de Bure
 - Chapter 2. Aurea and the Man Who Built an Iris Garden for a King
 - Chapter 3. Madame Chereau and Monsieur Lémon
 - Chapter 4. Uchu and the Samurai Who Loved Irises
 - Chapter 5. Queen of May, John Salter, and the Secret of a Happy Life
 - Chapter 6. Sans Souci, the Iris That Lost Its Name
 - Chapter 7. Dalmatica and English Nurserymen
 - Chapter 8. Mrs. Horace Darwin: The Story of Sir Michael Foster
 - Chapter 9. Ivorine and an Artist Who Painted Irises
 - Chapter 10. Black Prince and the Potted Plantsman
 - Chapter 11. Nuée d'Orage: The Verdier Family, Old Roses, and Irises
 - Chapter 12. Oriflamme: The Lévêque de Vilmorin Legacy
 - Chapter 13. Fairy, the First American Garden Iris
 - Chapter 14. Ma Mie and Ferdinand Cayeux
 - Chapter 15. Loreley: Irises on the Rhine
 - Chapter 16. Quaker Lady, Bertrand Farr, and a Pennsylvania Legacy
 - Chapter 17. Ib-Mac: Plant Hunting, Iris Breeding, and C.G. Van Tubergen Jr.
 - Chapter 18. Lord of June and the Schoolmaster Who Made the World More Beautiful
 - Chapter 19. Demi-Deuil: The Story of Ferdinand Denis
 - Chapter 20. Souvenir de Madame Gaudichau and the Language of Irises
 - Chapter 21. Fulvala: The Story of William Rickatson Dykes
 - Chapter 22. B.Y. Morrison and the World's First Woman Plant Hybridizer
 - Chapter 23. Dominion and the Deaf Engineer from Morwellham
 - Chapter 24. Lent A. Williamson: Dragonflies and Irises in Indiana
 - Chapter 25. Mrs. Andrist and Willis Fryer
 - Chapter 26. Ann Page: The Story of Sir Arthur Hort
 - Chapter 27. Dusk and the "Last Universal Man"
 - Chapter 28. Aintabensis and the Man Who Climbed Mountains
 - Chapter 29. *Iris germanica*
 - Chapter 31. *Iris florentina*
 - Chapter 31. Ghost Irises
- Glossary
Bibliography
Index of Persons
Index of Iris Cultivars and Species

