

Report of the Registrar-Recorder and Registrations Committee

The 2010 Registration year ended with 1342 registrations and 831 recordings of introduction. Our somewhat brash statement in the last Board report that “Historically the first year of a new decade has seen a drop in registrations” seems to be going awry judging from numbers to date which on 15 April stand at 421.

Complicating a very busy time in the yearly and decade registration cycle was the receipt of over one third of 2010’s registrations in the last month of the registration year. There has been a growing dissatisfaction with North American hybridizers supporting free overseas registrations. This was perhaps tenable when North America was the ‘big dog’ but with 56 percent of last years registrations coming from overseas it is time to revisit the free overseas policy.

The 2010 R & I went to the printer at the end of February and was shipped to the store front 7 March. The 2009 Check List is proofed and remains only to enter corrections and be sent to the selected POD/printer.

The most confusing and misinterpreted section of the Registration form: “Color of Beards” is that section dealing with “By Hairs” and “By Section.” A Bulletin article or expanded explanation on the Registration form would help greatly. From Registrations we receive it would seem that many registrants believe “Tip” is the section of beard furthest down the petal. We receive a number of registrations in which every blank in the beard section is filled out. A possibility – but improbable, although we have a registration in which the three sections of beard, end, middle, throat were different colors and the beard hairs were tricolored from bottom to middle, to tip and varied also section to section. Beard description covered nearly every inch of free space on the form. We simplified.

AIS policy should provide for a permanent “pass along” reference library for the Registration office. Material can be provided by the Store Front and the AIS Library. A few items such as, Ridgway, 1912 and Maerz & Paul, 1930, 1950 will have to be acquired in antiquarian sales and auctions. The current RHS is available commercially. Keppel and the Lowes have worked entirely with personal references, assembled over decades of acquisition, but such cannot be expected to be the norm for future Registrars.

AIS is increasingly dependent on complex software suites to operate vital departments such as Membership, Electronic Services, the Wiki and Registrations. The skill sets and desire required to maintain and upgrade ‘gratis’ these in-house programs is not dense on the ground. Complicating the situation is that competent volunteers must have broad based horticultural knowledge in conjunction with the programming expertise to craft and maintain solutions to operate our organization. We do not have a ‘fix’ other than: Recruit, recruit, recruit!

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Registrar/Recorder
20 May 2011