

Report of the Registrar-Recorder and Registrations Committee

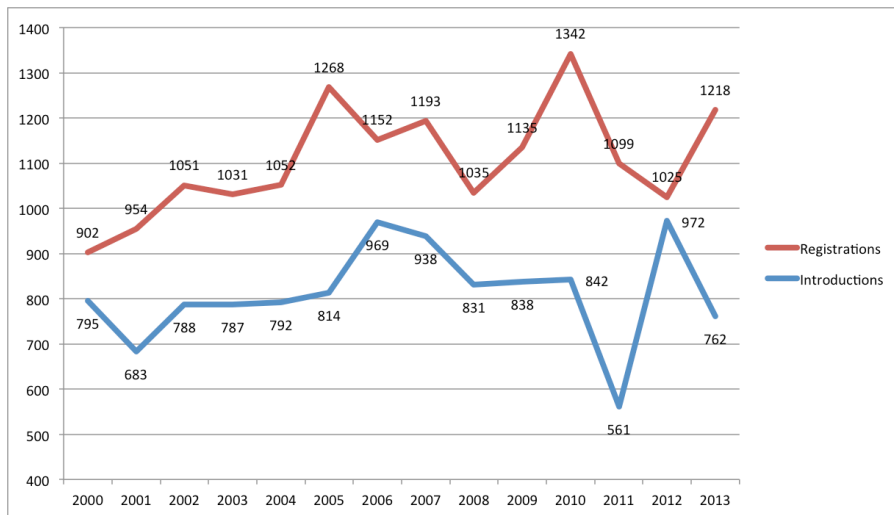
24 Mar 2014

Registrar-Recorders — John Jones & Joanne Prass-Jones

Status

I have developed and am beginning to test a fillable PDF iris registration form that can be filled out electronically with Adobe Reader and emailed to me. At some point we should be able to extract the data and add it to the database electronically, but that is a ways away and has several hurdles to overcome.

To date we have received 581 registrations and 168 reserves. The numbers have decreased slightly from the 633 Registrations and 186 Reserves reported this time last year. Considering the variability from year to year I do not find these differences significant. We have a backlog of about 200 registrations. Below is the chart presented at the 2014 Spring Board meeting showing the annual registrations and reserves.



To date we have received about \$6000 in North American registrations and reserves and about \$4200 in foreign registrations and reserves. (The Registrar's fiscal year differs from the AIS Treasurer's fiscal year.)

At the Spring AIS Board meeting the Board enacted a seasonal registration fee. (\$15.00 from Dec 1st to June 30th each year. From July 1 through Nov 30th each year a fee of \$20.00. BUT NOT going into effect until July 1st 2015). The intent was to encourage hybridizers to get the registrations done earlier in the year.

In looking at this through the lens of reality, hybridizers either get their registrations and reserves done in the winter or early spring, or after the bloom and shipping seasons are over i.e., late summer or fall). They are too busy during pollination and shipping seasons to pay attention to registrations or reserves for the following year.

I have already received comments like:

(From a hybridiser in Europe) *"I do always read the two yearly AIS board meeting minutes, except that I got the deadline wrong because I thought it was end of July. Mustn't spoil summer holidays, after all. I can't see how anyone expects us to get our act together over here before mid-June, which comes right on the heels of the bloom."*

(Also from Europe) *"There might be less (sic) registrations this year, since I forwarded the info about the change of the registrations fees next year, some have asked me to hold them till December .*

I personally will also wait for December for the names reservations."

One might say the concept is working. Well yes, fewer registrations in October and November, except that the unintended consequence is that all these registrations will arrive in early December at the prime time for next years reserves and registrations and there is a hue and cry for "I need this right away fro my catalog please get back to me in a week" (or days or whatever). The catalogs are the lifelines of our hybridizers and in my mind have a higher priority than getting the R&I published in an earlier time frame.

It is useful to point out that in both quotations above people paid so little attention that they misinterpreted the timeline.

Additionally, I am concerned that this policy will just cause a lot of confusion and administrative work refunding money (which I don't really have a process for). I will have to ask for checks to be reissued and keep track of all that.

The previous Registrar comments:

"I am not in favor of seasonal switches. I presume it is to encourage people to get their paper work in sooner than later, but it also will cause problems. Most people don't read and you're going to get things at the "old" rate, which is going to engender more needed communications and dis-satisfaction when they find out they have to pay more. How is the cut-off date to be decided? By postmark (not always legible) or by arrival date (not always predictable). If they send at old rate and don't want to pay the extra \$5, what are the provisions for holding (or re-submitting) applications when the rates go down? How will foreign registrations fit in? Will the dates apply to applications originally made by hybridizer, applications submitted by the foreign registrar, or applications delivered? Don't be surprised if more "customers" invoke the GTH wish!"

I am already getting checks for \$20, and having to send them back to be reissued. After next July 1st I am sure I will be getting checks for \$15 and have to deal with them.

With people saying they will wait until Dec 1st to request names and, in the case of the Soviets especially, putting off registrations until Dec 1st despite having introduced the iris already (which causes me additional work backdating introductions), I think the Spring board action (Motion 14) should be recinded.

I understand that people want the R&I in time for Spring shows. There are very few shows prior to April and I have been making good progress getting the R&I out earlier each year. I

have been looking at ways to get proofreading done earlier so I can make earlier publishing deadlines.

I am looking at ways I could have other individuals at remote locations (meaning not at my house) help with this process and there are some possibilities, BUT the integrity of the master database is my responsibility and I need to be sure that whatever I do that database is secure, and that whomever might have access to it understands the very complex set of guidelines, procedures, and procedures that are associated with it.

All that said, I request a motion: "That Motion 14 from the Spring 2014 AIS Board meeting be recinded."

We have established a Registrations Committee to advise us, and the AIS Board, on issues concerning registrations, reserves and transfers. The committee currently comprises:

Keith Keppel
Phil Edinger
Judy Keisling
Jim Waddick
Marky Smith
Jan Sacks and Marty Schaffer
Others may be added as the need arises

Respectfully submitted,
John Jones & Joanne Prass-Jones
Registrar-Recorders