

Report of the Registrar-Recorder and Registrations Committee

24 Mar 2014

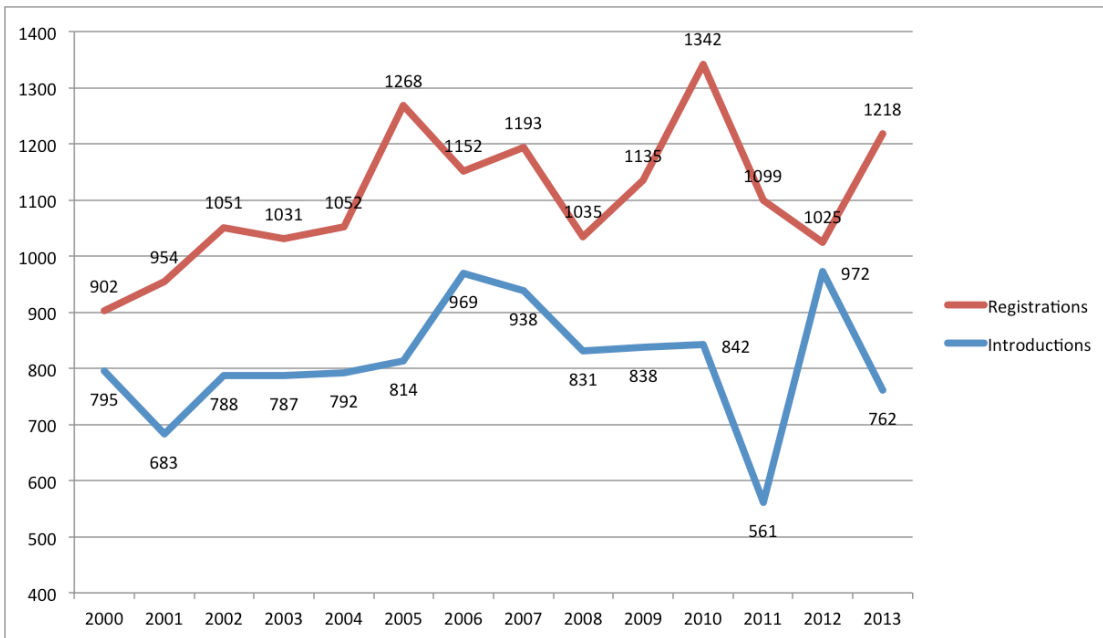
Registrar-Recorders — John Jones & Joanne Prass-Jones

2013 Registrations and Introductions

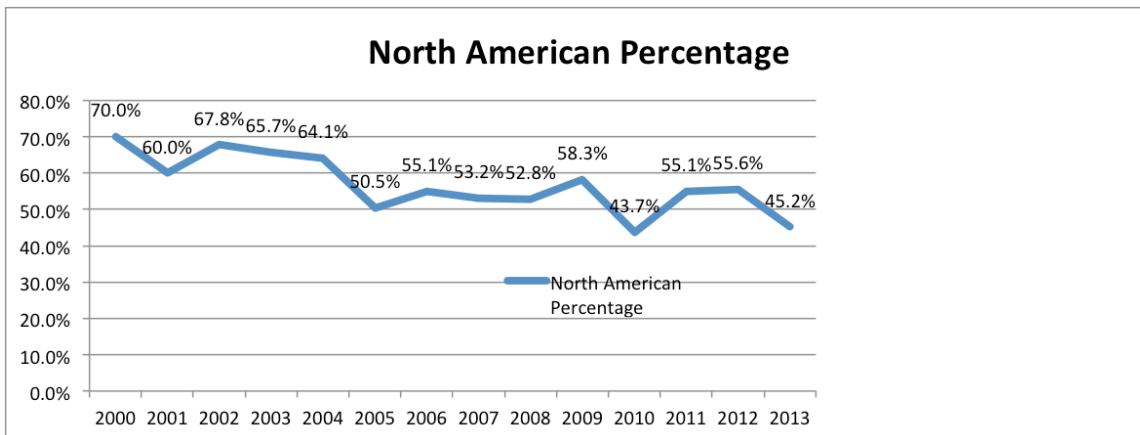
As of this date the 2013 R&I has not been submitted for printing. Proofing continues and hopefully will be finished shortly.

In the 2013 Registration year we had 1218 registrations, up from 1025 last year. We had registrations from 15 countries with 45.2% originating in North America, down from 55.6% last year. We also had 762 introductions, down from 972 the year before. The introductions were lower this year because of the abnormally high number last year

Registrations and Introduction Counts from 2000 to 2013



North American registrations as a percentage of total annual registrations.



Of the 1218 new registrations, 60.7% are tall bearded, 26.4% other bearded types, and 13.0% beardless and species or species hybrids. Totals by class are as follows:

739 Tall Bearded (TB)	60.7%	23 Pacific Coast Native (CA)	1.9%
171 Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB)	14.0%	7 Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB)	1.4%
79 Intermediate Bearded (IB)	6.5%	16 Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB)	1.3%
47 Spuria (SPU)	3.9%	9 Species (SPEC)	0.7%
38 Japanese (JI)	3.1%	8 Siberian (SIB)	0.7%
30 Border Bearded (BB)	2.5%	8 Arilbred (AB)	0.7%
26 Louisiana (LA)	2.1%	7 Species Hybrid (SPEC-X)	0.6%

In addition, introductory data is included for 762 varieties including: 1 introduced in 2006, 15 introduced in 2011, 33 introduced in 2012, and 713 introduced in 2013, none of which were previously included in an annual Registrations and Introductions publication.

This year between mid-September and the 1st of November we received over 800 registrations. Many from eastern European registrants, among them over 100 registrations of irises hybridized from 1960 thru 2000 from the Czech Republic. Hopefully a one time event.

There is no software available that provides acceptable results for detecting homonyms. Thus no method for comparing homonyms other than knowledge, experience and intuition yet exists. The best solution at hand is the electronic Check List and the memory of the current and previous Registrars.

The ISHS Commission for Nomenclature and Registration has recertified AIS as the worldwide ICRA for non-bulbous irises. Certification is generally good for 4-5 years

2009 Check List

All of the reported damaged 2009 Check Lists have been replaced at no cost by the publisher.

2011 R&I

Print On Demand continues to work well for printing copies our publications.

Associate Registrars

Sergey Loktev has retired and Fetisov Andrey Vladimirovich has been appointed Associate Registrar for Russian Iris Society.

E Check List (the official electronic registry of the Registrar-Recorders)

The E Check List (subsequently irisregister, the online iris database) has not been updated with the 2011 thru 2013 AIS Awards information yet. We hope to get this information into the database soon.

Irisregister will be updated with the 2013 R&I information shortly.

Registrar's Library

With the help of the AIS Library the Registrar's library of registration publications (R&Is and AIS Bulletins or supplements containing annual registration information) is complete with the exception of the April edition of the 1954 Bulletin.

2014 - 5 Year Check List

The question was raised whether to do a 5 year Check List for 2010 - 2014 and another for 2015 – 2019. The issue was the number of pages in the 2009 Check List.

We could have two quinquennial volumes but reaction I have had floating that idea is that it would just add another book that we have to pull off the shelf in order to look something up. It is pretty easy to guess which decade a particular iris is registered in, but much harder to guess in which quinquennial it would be.

Having two volumes for the decade with the volumes divided at the end of some letter. This would be the usual way

We could reduce the font size to reduce the page count. I did a quick study on a 110 page R&I format document. Reducing the font size by 0.5 pt reduced the page count by 20 pages. Applying the same ratio to the 2009 Check List would reduce the page count by almost 80 pages. We could also use a larger format (taller, wider or both). We could also probably reduce the leading by another 0.5 pt for another 80 pages bringing the page count down to 620 pages reducing the overall thickness by about ½ inch. I recommend that we wait until 2019 to determine whether we compress the font size and leading or publish it in two volumes.

Trademarked Names

The registrar has consulted with the AIS legal advisor concerning indemnification of the AIS vis-à-vis trademark violations by registrants. No workable solution has yet been established and several questions remain to be addressed.

The AIS legal advisor suggests that a wet signature be required to validate the indemnification. In order to be properly implemented there would need to be a signature, printed name, date, and address. This would have to be filled out on every form. The current form only requires signature and address with email address optional.

Could we have each registrant sign a form that covers all names they request in the future?

Over the past several years we have seen an increasing number of registration forms being sent electronically. It is faster, easier to deal with and effective. Several foreign associate Registrars use a custom word document based form that is emailed directly alleviating the vagaries of some mail services. We have begun development of a fillable PDF version of the standard Registration form. Eventually information on this form could be captured electronically into the Registrar's database.

Requiring a wet signature would nullify all the advantages of the evolving electronic world and have a significant impact on the work Registrar's work load.

How long should we accept old registration forms? Many registrants simply copy an old form they have on hand, mark out the price adding the new price, fill it out and send it in. Do we return those forms and refuse the registration? - another impact on the Registrar's work load.

Several foreign Associate Registrar's use forms customized to their society. BIS, and ISA use their own forms. It is unlikely that we will get them to modify their forms. Additionally how do we deal with foreign trademark laws.

Anytime we place an additional requirement on the registrants we risk them not continuing registrations. When we asked registrants to start sending pictures with their registrations, we got essentially no responses. I am greatly concerned that the additional paperwork load will deter registrations.

While I agree that there is a risk, I think that based on past experience, the exposure to AIS is extremely low. There are hundreds and hundreds, probably thousands of names previously registered and AIS has never been noticed (legally notified) concerning any name.

Yes, years ago Disney required that Schreiners take a cultivar off the market and destroy the stock of an iris named after one of the Disney characters. There are a large number of other Disney (as well as other movie character and other) names that have been registered as iris names that have never been noticed.

Yes, a iris seller was told to take Got Milk off their website, and other businesses were noticed about Got Milk, but that was an exceptional case in that the Got Milk advertising campaign was one of the top ten most successful ad campaigns in history.

Most times what happens in any trademark violation is that the offender is told to stop, they do, and that is the end of it. AIS is not making money from iris names. We are not selling irises. We don't impact anyone else's financials. Marks that are in unrelated marketplaces are not trademark violations. Delta Dental does not impact Delta Airlines or Delta Faucet. In the 60 years we have been registering iris names, 93 if you count the years prior to AIS being appointed ICRA, we have been subject of a trademark violation exactly ZERO times.

AIS is not the originator of any iris name, the fact that we register (i.e., make a list of names not used before) does not confer any trademark qualities to the name.

If AIS must take a position then I would hope that a more general statement be placed on our website, in the AIS Bulletin, and in the Registrations and Introductions publications along the lines of a "Notice to Registrants."

We need to be very careful that we do not do something that discourages people from registering irises.

John Jones & Joanne Prass-Jones
Registrar-Recorders