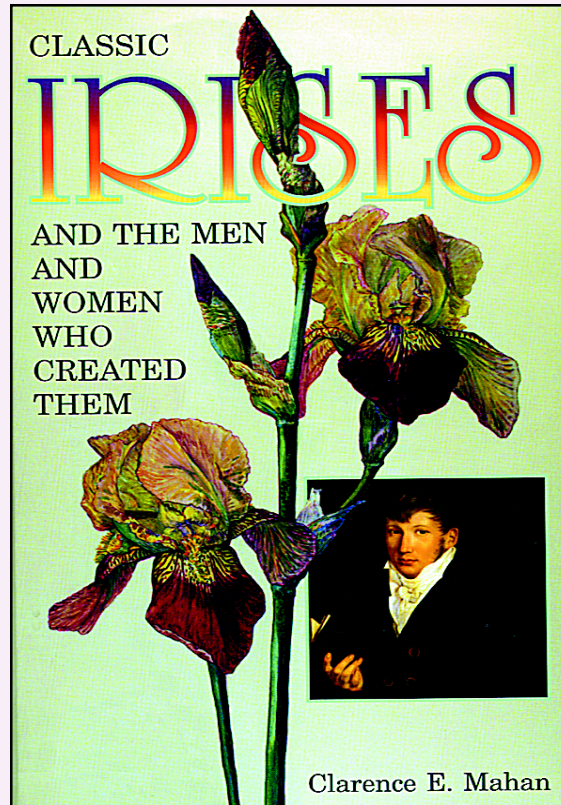


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On The

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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.

60 Color Photographs, 8 Black/White Photographs
 Orig. Ed. 2007 418 pp. ISBN 978-1-57524-281-1 \$101.75

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"If you, too, are curious about your irises, welcome Clarence Mahan's Classic Irises and the Men and Women who Created Them; it fills gaps in our knowledge with surprising technical and fascinating personal detail, much of it gathered from primary sources and worldwide correspondence assembled over several years of patient study."—American Iris Society Bulletin

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