3rd International Violet Contest

Report by Nathalie Casbas

Held on 21st March 2009 – Parma – Italia - during the 9th International Violet Meeting

This third edition organised by the French Association Les Amis de la Violette, got a good participation: 26 violets for 9 participants and 7 countries. England, France, Scotland, Italia, Japan, China, U.S.A.

The contest took place in the Palazzo Eucherio Sanvitale.

On Saturday morning, the jury looked closely to the applications and listened attentively the well-argued speech of each candidate and then went to deliberate.

The members of the jury were:
Elisabeth Farrar (England): Author of – Pansies, Violas and Sweet Violets, representing the Royal Horticultural Society
Sadakazu Takayama (Japan): Member of the Tokyo Violet Society.
Prof.ssa M.A Favali and Prof.ssa Patrizia Fossati (Italia) – In charge of Parma botanical garden.
A first and a second price were given in each category: Wild species, new cultivar and exceptional specimen. A special Parma prize was also offered by the host, Carlo Pioli.
Results are as follow:

**NEW CULTIVAR**

1rst price *Viola odorata* 'Chesapeake Royalty' Thomas Silvers USA

2nd price *Viola odorata* 'Amethyst Witch' Clive Groves ENGLAND

All of the 15 new cultivars exhibited will then enter the official violet registry held by the American Violet Society.

**EXCEPTIONAL SPECIMEN**

1rst price *Viola odorata* ‘La Valade’ grown as a tree-violet Yann Duflot FRANCE

2nd price *Viola odorata* ‘Orchid Pink’ grown as a Tree Violet.
Clive Groves ENGLAND

**WILD SPECIES**

1rst price *Viola dasyphylla* Cyril Lafong SCOTLAND

2nd price *Viola orientalis* wild double form Shuichiro Tagane & Hironori Toyama JAPAN

**SPECIAL « PARMA »AWARD**

*Viola odorata* ‘Duchesse de Braganza’
Nathalie Casbas FRANCE
As the president of les Amis de la Violette, Hélène Vié brought from Toulouse special gifts from the City of the Violets.

Jean Paul Escalette brought a souvenir from the town Saint Jory where the Violets were actively grown.

Nathalie Casbas, holder of the national collection of violets had prepared a special selection of 10 parma violets cultivars given to the botanical garden of the city of Parma.

In the margin of the contest, Maja Flash from Switzerland exhibited an outstanding collection of violets items such as sweet boxes and prints. Sam Takayama too, grated us with an amazing collection of precious violet books.

Reports of previous contests and events were exhibited by Les Amis de la Violette

Warmest acknowledgements to all of those who welcomed us, contributed, participated and worked hard to make this contest and congress possible!