

Short History of the International Plant Propagators' Society

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History is important – what has happened in the past can guide us in the future.

I.P.P.S. is based on the sharing of ideas and experiences that can help us all in our work in the future.

Mr. Jim Wells of New Jersey, U.S.A. was responsible for the early development of I.P.P.S. Jim, now 82, was the first President and it was his enthusiasm that saw new Regions develop in England, New Zealand, and Australia.

1951. The first meeting of the Plant Propagators' Society was held in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. About 80 people attended and a number of interesting papers were presented, including the first written paper on rhododendron propagation. Rules and guidelines were set down—many are still with us today. The most important is not “where you work or where you come from; it is you the propagator who is important. It is what you do, what your knowledge is, and how much you are willing to share your knowledge that counts”. The motto is important, “Seek and Share”. We can all learn from and share with each other.

DEVELOPMENTS OF I.P.P.S.

1960. Western Region formed for West Coast of U.S.A.

1961. Name changed to “International” Plant Propagators' Society.

1968. Region of Great Britain and Ireland formed.

1972. New Zealand Region formed.

1973. Australian Region formed.

1976. Southern Region of U.S.A. formed.

1992. Danish Region formed.

1993. Potential Regions of Japan and South America initiated.

1997. Japan gains regional status, Potential Region of Southern Africa formed.

The last decade of this century is an exciting time for I.P.P.S. and we are becoming truly international with the acceptance of non English speaking regions. We can all benefit from the exchange of ideas.

Although the secretariat for I.P.P.S. is in the U.S.A., annual meetings of the Board of Directors are held in a different region each year. Each region has a director on the Board, usually a past-president of a region. The Japanese Region will host the Board meeting in 2004.