

BULLETIN OF PEONY NEWS

No. 3.

TOGETHER WITH THE
PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

American Peony Society

FOR 1916.



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PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1916

Fourteenth Annual Meeting and Exhibition Held at New York City — June 9 - 11, 1916

The meeting of the Society was held at the Hotel Astor on the evening of Friday, June 9, and lasted from 8 o'clock until near midnight. President Farr was in the chair. Among those present were L. Barron, L. R. Bonnewitz, James Boyd, Dr. P. Brancato, R. T. Brown, A. H. Chambers, Mr. Dykhuis, A. L. Gifford, Mrs. Edward Harding, S. G. Harris, J. H. Humphreys, P. Owerkerk, G. H. Peterson, A. P. Saunders, E. K. Schultz, A. H. Scott, J. J. Styer, W. H. Thurlow, F. C. Walcott.

The President's address was an informal talk on various matters of interest to the Society. Mr. Farr called attention to the rapid increase in amateur membership in the Society. When it was founded the large majority of the members, almost all of them in fact, were professional growers. Now, the proportion has been so far altered that the amateurs are about as numerous as the commercial growers on the Society's roll.

In the matter of the Peony Manual, Mr. Farr reported progress. The undertaking, however, involves a great deal of labor; the work is going forward, but the end is not yet in sight.

Mr. Farr spoke at considerable length on the proposed planting of a collection of peonies at Washington. Arrangements are now completed and the ground is ready. Several offers have been received from growers within the Society, and it is the intention to send out a list of varieties that have already been promised, so that any who are willing to give may offer others in order to avoid duplication and make the collection as complete as possible.

An advantage in the collection at Washington, when established, is the earliness of the season there, which will give a great opportunity for those interested to make a successive study of various plantings, working northward from Washington.

The Secretary made no address, as there were several matters of business to be brought later before the Society,

and time was limited.

The Treasurer's report was read, showing a balance of \$1,722.42 to the Society's credit. A committee was appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts and report later.

The President reported for the Committee on Registration. The whole subject of registration was debated at length, both phases of the matter being considered: (1) the registration of names merely in order to establish priority; (2) the recognition by the Society, and its approval, of new varieties of high quality. The first aspect of the work involves no great difficulty, but the second is less easy, on account of the peculiarities of the peony plant. The difficult question really boils down to this: Suppose a grower in possession of a new seedling for which he wishes to secure the authoritative approval of the Society, where then must he exhibit, and who shall be qualified to act for the Society in making the award?

Mr. Mulford of Washington, who was present at the meeting, gave some account of the work of the American Pomological Society in this direction, and his remarks were listened to with great interest. Mr. R. T. Brown also contributed to the discussion by describing the methods in use in the American Carnation Society.

It was the general opinion that the responsibility for granting the Society's approval—whether by Certificate of Merit or in some other way—must be placed in the best possible hands, and that it would not be well to have local committees entrusted with the task of passing on new sorts. The question of a couple of years, more or less, is not very serious in the history of a peony; and since our shows move north, south and west in various years, it would generally be possible for the originator to stage his blooms at one of the regular exhibitions of the Society within a year or two after the variety has become well established. Furthermore, when the Society has a representative collection of varieties under cultivation, whether at Washington or possibly at New York, the raisers of new varieties who wish to secure the approval of the Society for any given sort, might reasonably be required to send a plant of the variety in question to the Society's collection, to be there under observation.

Finally, the Committee on Registration, consisting of Messrs. Farr, Fewkes and Brown, was continued in office for another year and asked to present at the next meeting a logical scheme for the registration and approval of new varieties.

In order to secure simplicity in future names, and in accordance with the action of other societies, the Secretary was instructed to enter into correspondence with the more important foreign growers requesting them to restrict new names to one or two words, so far as possible. It is hoped that our own growers will follow out the same idea in the naming of new sorts.

By a vote of the Society, Honorary Membership was conferred on Messrs. Lemoine & Son of Nancy, France, who have given us so many of the finest varieties of recent years; and on Mrs. Sarah A. Pleas of Whittier, California, in recognition of her services to peony culture in America.

A new class of memberships was created, Life Memberships, to be obtained on the payment of \$25, the receipts from such memberships to be put into a separate investment fund.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Directors, a regular meeting of the Directors during the winter was established, and the Treasurer was authorized to refund the amount of their railroad fares to all who attend such meeting.

By unanimous action a vote of thanks was extended to Mrs. Edward Harding for her generosity in furnishing a prize of \$100 for a seedling peony, under the conditions given in the previous issue of the bulletin.

The action taken by the Directors on Mrs. Pleas' request eliminating the name Lost Treasure was confirmed. This variety is identical with Elwood Pleas, and the latter name has priority.

Two bulletins were authorized for the present year, the understanding being that the total cost should not exceed \$100.

It was voted to allow space at the end of the bulletins for advertisements. The pages are to be divided vertically and the columns divided into spaces of one inch each. No advertiser is to be allowed more than one such space and at a uniform rate of \$5.00 per year. The attention of readers is directed to the advertisements in the back of this issue.

The question was raised as to whether garden clubs as such should be allowed to take membership in the Society. This matter was referred to the Directors for investigation and report.

In order to extend the usefulness of the Society, the suggestion was made that when twenty-five members in one locality make application, the Society should furnish a medal

or a contribution for a local show, the cost to the Society in no case to exceed the aggregate yearly membership fees of the members applying. This suggestion, which met with a good deal of support, was finally referred to the Directors for a recommendation.

Certain questions were then raised regarding the prize schedule and the following instructions to future schedule committees were adopted:

1. Class 1 shall in future be limited to 100 varieties, instead of reading "not less than 100."

2. In the limited amateur classes, the limitation shall be removed so far as concerns competition in the classes 11 and 12 of this year's schedule.

(Would it not be well to include also the seedling classes with the above?)

Action on the Scale of Points suggested by the Directors was postponed in order that the members might have further opportunity for a discussion of the subject. The scale of points offered was as follows:

Color	20
Size	20
Stem (including length, strength and foliage) ..	20
Form	15
Substance	15
Fragrance	10

It was decided to hold the 1917 meeting of the Society in Philadelphia, in the neighborhood of which we have now an enthusiastic group of peony growers, both amateur and professional.

The following officers were elected:

President.....	B. H. Farr
Vice President.....	A. H. Fewkes
Secretary.....	A. P. Saunders
Treasurer	J. H. Humphreys
Director (for three years).....	James Boyd

Thirty-four new members were elected according to the list presented by the Secretary. The names of these new members are included in the directory given at the end of the present issue.

The report of the Judges was presented and approved. The substance of it will be found in the account of the Exhibition given below.

In order to avoid the necessity of a second session, the officers of the Society were authorized to receive the reports of the committees on Auditing and on Resolutions.

The Auditing Committee later reported that they had examined the Treasurer's accounts and found them correct.

In accordance with the report of the Committee on Resolutions, the Secretary has sent formal statements of the gratitude of the Society to the New York Horticultural Society of New York, to Mr. T. A. Havemeyer for his generous support, and he has conveyed to Mrs. Edward Harding the vote of thanks passed at the meeting.

REPORT ON THE EXHIBITION

The Fourteenth Annual Exhibition of the Society was held, in co-operation with the Horticultural Society of New York, at the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West and 77th Street.

The exhibits were set in order during the daytime of Friday the 9th, and the Hall was opened to the public in the afternoon and evening of that day. It was again opened on Saturday all day and in the evening, and, finally, on Sunday afternoon from 1 to 5.

There was some apprehension on the part of exhibitors as to the wisdom of attempting a three-day show; but the result justified the experiment. True, a few of the exhibits had gone off badly by Sunday afternoon, but many of the blooms were still fresh and sound, and some near-by exhibitors brought in new blooms to replace those that had faded, so that the general effect was not at all one to be ashamed of, even by the end of the Sunday session. It is to be said that the weather was merciful for cut blooms — cool and overcast.

The attendance was remarkable.

Friday, by day.....	1,138
Friday evening.....	265
Saturday, by day.....	6,496
Saturday evening.....	250
Sunday afternoon.....	7,933

Total.....16,082

This, one would think, ought to do something for the popularity of the peony. Naturally there were a few of the visitors who just dropped in casually, but the majority came to see what they could, and pencils and notebooks were much in evidence.

The prize schedule and awards follow here.

OPEN CLASSES

1. Collection of not less than 100 named varieties, one bloom of each.

First — B. H. Farr.

This was, for representative character, a very thorough-going display. It cannot have included much less than 250 varieties, very many of them in good condition, a few very fine. Among the best, Kelway's Glorious was conspicuous; Summer Day also looked fine. As for Thérèse — well when you see a bloom down the table and think to yourself "There is something really grand," it is almost always Thérèse. Volcan was very fresh and good in color. Princess Maud, Mme. Emile Lemoine, Germaine Bigot, Aurore, Marie Lemoine, Trojan, all very good.

2. Vase or basket of peonies, not less than 100 blooms, arranged for effect.

First — Cottage Gardens Co., for a magnificent big vase full, containing a mass of pink blooms, all of one color (Modeste Guerin?) in the center, bordered by a wide ring of Duchesse de Nemours. This was a charming and most effective exhibit.

Second — B. H. Farr.

3. Collection of twenty-five varieties double, three blooms of each.

First — Geo. H. Peterson. An excellent lot of blooms, among which Pierre Reignoux, Augustin D'Hour and Philomèle looked particularly well.

Second — Cottage Gardens Co., with some very nice blooms of Adolphe Rousseau, Alexandriana, Descartes, Duchesse de Nemours (particularly fine), Pierre Dessert, Mme. Calot (very fine), M. Jules Elie, Triomphe de l'Exposition de Lille, Boule de Neige, among others.

Third — B. H. Farr. The best in this exhibit were Summer Day and Splendida.

4. Collection of single varieties. No entry.

5. Collection of Japanese varieties.

First — B. H. Farr. A very pretty exhibit, including a remarkable unnamed, very dark red, with red and yellow petaloids; much the most striking bloom in the exhibit.

6. Twenty-five blooms white or cream, double, one

variety.

First—S. G. Harris, with a fine fresh lot of Festiva Maxima.

Second — S. G. Harris, with Duchesse de Nemours, about as good as the best.

Third—B. H. Farr, with a very good vase of Albatre.

7. Twenty-five blooms, light pink, or pink and cream, double, one variety.

First — B. H. Farr, with Marguérite Gerard; an excellent vase.

Second — Cottage Gardens Co., with Humei Carnea, quite exceptionally pretty.

Third — Geo. H. Peterson, with a fine lot of Mme. Calot.

8. Twenty-five blooms, dark pink, double, one variety.

First — Cottage Gardens Co., with M. Jules Elie, which came up very fine after a day in the Hall.

Second — S. G. Harris, with Edulis Superba.

Third — B. H. Farr, with M. Jules Elie.

A vase of Modeste Guerin was also staged in this class.

9. Twenty-five blooms, red or crimson, double, one variety.

First—Cottage Gardens Co., with M. Martin Cahuzac, cut rather young, but it came up well by the second day of the show.

Second — B. H. Farr, with Felix Crousse.

Other varieties staged in this class: Masterpiece, Don Juan, George Washington.

10. Six specimen blooms, double, any one variety.

First — G. H. Peterson, with some fine blooms of Simonne Chevalier.

Second — S. G. Harris, with a good lot of Modeste Guerin. Mr. Harris also staged in this class a group of handsome blooms of Boule de Neige.

11. One specimen bloom, double, any variety.

First — B. H. Farr, with M. Jules Elie. Visitors at the Boston show last year will remember that a mammoth, or rather mastodonic, bloom of the same variety drew the first place there, too, and in this year's show at Boston, both first and second premiums fell to the same sort.

Second — G. H. Peterson, with Simonne Chevalier.

Third — S. G. Harris, with Festiva Maxima.

12. Best new variety introduced since 1910. No entry.

13. Best new seedling of American origin not yet in commerce. No entry.
14. Mrs. Harding's prize for a new seedling. No entry.

AMATEUR CLASSES

15. Largest and best collection of varieties, one bloom of each.
First — James Boyd, with a very good lot of blooms, perhaps seventy-five varieties in all, many of them in the pink of condition. I noted Tourangelle, Mireille, La Tendresse, Mme. Lemonier and Albert Crousse as being particularly good; but there were many others equally choice. These blooms were at their best when the show opened, and went off rather badly before the end.
16. Collection of ten varieties, double, three blooms of each.
First — A. L. Gifford, with a good lot, among them quite an extraordinary trio of Aurore, better, I venture to say, than it has been seen before in any of our shows. Mme. Calot was also very well staged. Unfortunately Mr. Gifford's varieties were marked only by hieroglyphics, so that it was impossible to get the names except by a personal application to the exhibitor.
17. Collection of single and Japanese varieties.
Second — A. P. Saunders. Comment on this exhibit would be painful to the writer of this notice. Most of the vases contained buds only, for peony season where they came from was still a week off. There is, however, a moral to be drawn from the case; a moral commended to the attention of amateurs. It is: "Always exhibit, whether you have anything fit to show or not."
18. Collection of white varieties, double, one bloom of each.
Second — A. L. Gifford.
19. Collection of light pink or pink and cream varieties, double, one bloom of each.
First — James Boyd.
Second — A. L. Gifford.
20. Collection of dark pink varieties, double, one bloom of each.
First — A. L. Gifford.

21. Collection of red or crimson varieties, double, one bloom of each.
Second — A. L. Gifford.
22. Display of peonies arranged for effect; other perennials admitted. No entry.
23. Collection of hardy perennials other than peonies.
Second — A. P. Saunders. This was rather a small collection, but included some unusual things; for instance, Iris Graminea, Tufted Pansies, Primula Japonica, P. Auricula, P. Sikkimensis, P. Sieboldi, Incarvillea Grandiflora, besides German Irises in variety, Lupines, etc.

LIMITED AMATEUR CLASSES

Open Only to Those Not Competing in Classes 1-22

24. Three blooms, white, double, one or more varieties.
First — Arthur H. Scott, with first rate La Tendresse.
Second — Lee R. Bonnewitz, with Jubilee, very good blooms.
Third — Mrs. Herbert K. Taylor, with Marie Jacquin.
Fourth — L. J. Germann, with Jubilee.
25. Three blooms light pink, or pink and cream, double, one or more varieties.
First — Mrs. Herbert K. Taylor, with Eugénie Verdier.
Second — Lee R. Bonnewitz, with Thérèse.
Third — A. H. Scott, with Kelway's Queen.
Fourth — L. J. Germann.
26. Three blooms, dark pink, double, one or more varieties.
First — Mrs. Herbert K. Taylor, with Mme. Geissler.
Second — A. H. Scott, with Mrs. G. Bunyard.
27. Three blooms, red or crimson, double, one or more varieties.
First — Mrs. Herbert K. Taylor, with Felix Crousse.
Second — A. H. Scott, with Karl Rosenfield.

It was interesting at last to see Mrs. Pleas' Jubilee staged. Her variety Opal also appeared in these classes; both very attractive varieties, and could probably be better done than they were here.

There were several exhibits not in competition that deserve a few words of comment.

Messrs. Bobbink and Atkins staged an elaborate and representative collection of mixed perennials, especially strong

in German Irises, but with other things very well done — Canterbury bells, for instance, and a few sprays of that exquisitely beautiful plant, *Thalictrum dipterocarpum*.

John Lewis Childs also set up a large and handsome collection of German Irises. The variety in this group of plants is already getting to be confusing. It will not be very long before the iris should be taken in hand for the purpose of eliminating a lot of the older kinds, as we must do for the peony.

The Cottage Gardens Co. staged a showy and well arranged group of perennials, among which the Rose Acacia, *Robinia hispida*, attracted a good deal of attention.

A. P. Saunders staged a small exhibit of Japanese tree peonies. The majority of the visitors were entirely unfamiliar with the tree peony, and the extraordinary quality of the pink color in some of the varieties, and the size and texture of others, excited much admiration. There cannot be much doubt that any one of our professional growers who could stage a few hundred blooms of tree peonies at some show, and offer plants for sale, would realize a "good thing" from it. But the problem of propagation should first be solved.

As far as quality of bloom is concerned, the show in general was not quite up to the best traditions of the Society, though there were fine blooms here and there. On account of the cold and backward season, peonies in the region of New York were not yet ready, whereas those from Philadelphia and its neighborhood would have been better a few days earlier.

As fine an exhibit as any in the hall was that of Mr. James Boyd in the amateur class, including a number of well staged, perfect specimens. It is a common error to suppose that the amateur is always at a disadvantage as against the professional grower. The nurseryman must keep his roots divided, especially those of the finest sorts, which are always in demand, whereas the private grower can afford to let his Tourangelles and his Thérèses grow into big plants which will yield really typical bloom. When it comes to number of varieties, the private grower is, of course, "not in it." Certainly no amateur in the country could have set up anything so comprehensive as Mr. Farr's exhibit.

The rooms in which the exhibition took place were rather too much spread out to make possible a good general view of the blooms. The central rotunda was filled with the vases of twenty-five of a kind. There was a great deal in

this section that looked extremely well. Besides the exhibits already mentioned, there were large vases of Venus, Germaine Bigot, Boule de Neige, Stanley (single) and other kinds. The electric light in the rotunda was of a warm, yellow tone which gave a peculiar softness and beauty to many a red of doubtful hue staged beneath. Some of the old familiar ones were so altered and improved by the illumination as to be almost unrecognizable. But when one took a bloom out to the daylight, the glamour was gone and the customary magenta tones resumed their place. It was what one might call a "good selling light."

A shipment of M. Jules Elie, fine blooms, arrived from Mr. Kohankie of Painesville on Saturday afternoon — too late for competition, but not too late to brighten a corner of the hall until the end of the exhibition.

No notice of the show would be adequate without some recognition of the hospitality of the authorities and the great civility of the staff of the Museum. The attendants were always courteous and helpful and they contributed in no small degree to the success of the show.

The experiment of creating the new classes, 24-27, in the prize schedule proved quite a success, for they brought out a good many amateur entries. Such classes might well be extended in our future schedules.

* * * *

REPORTS OF LOCAL PEONY SHOWS

Massachusetts Horticultural Society

The following notes have been kindly furnished by Mr. A. H. Fewkes:

The peony exhibition in Boston was not altogether satisfactory this year on account of the peculiar season. It was postponed to June 18th, and then only the earliest varieties were available in this vicinity.

The greater part of the first prizes were taken by G. H. Peterson of Fair Lawn, N. J., who brought on some very fine blooms of the mid-season varieties, mostly of the old standard kinds, but varieties that had not yet opened in this latitude.

With few exceptions, there were none of the real high class varieties shown, and two weeks later, at the rose show, most of them had gone by, or had been ruined by the rain.

The varieties shown in the various collections, which took

prizes, were as follows:

204. Collection of twenty named varieties, double, one bloom of each.

First — G. H. Peterson, with Felix Crousse, Mme. de Galhau, Triomphe de l'Exposition de Lille, De Candolle, Baroness Schroeder, Mme. Emile Lemoine, Charlemagne, Reine Hortense, Jeanne d'Arc, Eugénie Verdier, Comte de Gomer, Mme. Emile Gallé, Avalanche, M. Krelage, Mme. Jules Dessert, Sarah Bernhardt, Stephania, L'Indispensable, Alfred de Musset, Pink Beauty.

Second — A. H. Fewkes, with Cynthia, Mme. Duce, M. Jules Elie, M. Chevreul, Festiva Maxima, Mme. Calot, James Kelway, Philomèle, Mathilde Mechin, Vicomtesse de Belleval, Marcelle Dessert, G. B. Sowerby, Solfatare, Duchesse de Nemours, Achille, Venus, Marie Jacquin, Le Cygne, Candidissima, de Jussieu.

205. Collection of ten named varieties, double, three blooms of each.

First — G. H. Peterson, with Claire Dubois, Eugène Bigot, Triomphe de l'Exposition de Lille, Felix Crousse, De Candolle, Sarah Bernhardt, M. Krelage, Avalanche, Asa Gray, M. Dupont.

Second — Mrs. C. S. Minot, with Carnea Elegans, Comte de Diesbach, Summer Day, Mme. de Vernéville, Duchesse d'Orleans, Adolphe Rousseau, Henri Laurent, L'Illustration, Marie Lemoine, Festiva Maxima.

206. Specimen bloom, double.

First — Geo. N. Smith, with M. Jules Elie.

Second — A. H. Fewkes, with M. Jules Elie.

207. Collection of twelve named varieties, single, one bloom of each.

Nothing worth recording in this class; none of the fine single varieties shown.

208. Collection of twelve named varieties, Japanese single.

No entry.

209. Collection of six named double varieties, white, one bloom of each.

First — G. H. Peterson, with Couronne d'Or, Solfatare, Avalanche, Mireille, M. Dupont, Baroness Schroeder.

- Second — Mrs. C. S. Minot, with Summer Day, Duchesse de Nemours, Marie Lemoine, Fesiva Maxima, Mme. Crousse, Emilie Hoste.
210. Collection of six named double varieties, rose pink, one bloom of each.
 First — G. H. Peterson, with Mme. Geissler, Louise Renault, M. Boucharlat ainé, Pierre Reignoux, M. Krelage, Wine.
 Second — Mrs. C. S. Minot, with Octavie Demay, M. Jules Elie, Comte de Diesbach, Woodbourne, Adelaide Delache, Modeste Guerin.
211. Collection of six named double varieties, salmon pink.
 First — G. H. Peterson, with Lamartine, Eugénie Verdier, Sarah Bernhardt, Mme. Emile Gallé, Mme. Camille Bancel, Albert Crousse.
 Second — S. G. Harris, with Jeanne d'Arc, Mme. Barillet Deschamps, Gloire de Chas. Gombault, Rose d'Amour, Delicatissima, Germaine Bigot.
212. Collection of six named double varieties, red or crimson, one flower of each.
 First — G. H. Peterson, with Felix Crousse, Comte de Gomer, Pierre Dessert, Mme. Bucquet, Denis Helye, Eugène Bigot.
 Second — S. G. Harris, with Mme. Bucquet, Felix Crousse, M. Krelage, M. Martin Cahuzac, Rubra Triumphans, Officinalis Purpurea Plena.
213. Collection of twelve named varieties, double, one flower of each. For non-commercial growers only.
 First — Mrs. J. L. Gardner, with Macella, Rose Quintal, Festiva Maxima, Mme. de Vernéville, Magnifica, Belle Chatelaine, Roi Salmone, Etienne Denis, Reine des Fleurs, Alex. Dumas, Clarisse, M. Boucharlat ainé.
214. Collection of twelve blooms, pink, for private gardeners only.
 First — Mrs. J. L. Gardner, with Laius, Alex. Dumas, Clarisse, M. Boucharlat ainé, Richard Feters, Macella, Rosea Superba, Magnifica, Belle Chatelaine, Roi Salmone, Etienne Denis, Reine des Fleurs.
215. Collection of twelve blooms, white, for private growers only.
 No entry.

216. Collection of twelve blooms, red, for private growers only.

No entry.

The names of the varieties shown by private gardeners and non-commercial growers were badly mixed, and very doubtful, so they are of little value.

The most noticeable varieties shown were as follows: M. Jules Elie, Le Cygne, Marie Jacquin, Venus, Marcelle Dessert, James Kelway, Mme. Calot, Mme. de Galhau, Baroness Schroeder, Jeanne d'Arc, Mme. Emile Gallé, Mme. Jules Dessert, Avalanche, Beauté de Villecante, Germaine Bigot.

Omaha, Nebraska — "The Peony City"

Mrs. Lowrie Childs, in a letter of June 24th, gives an account of this show.

It seems that Omaha is going to put the peony on the map. The show was held on the 7th of June, in the Court House rotunda. Many of the shop windows in the city were decorated with peonies in recognition of the day, peony "buttons" were sold on the streets, and altogether the event appears to have been made the most of. The exhibition, in which several thousand blooms were staged, must, from the reports, have been very fine. Among the prize winners one is not startled to find the name of J. F. Rosenfield as carrying off a good proportion of the awards. And there, too, we find a \$50 gold medal for the best specimen bloom, pink peony, awarded to Thérèse.

New Hartford, N. Y.

The Central New York Horticultural Society held its regular peony show at New Hartford, near Utica, about the end of June. Several members of the American Peony Society were among the exhibitors, and among the prize winners, too. Mrs. F. S. Kellogg of New York Mills, Mrs. John MacLean and Mrs. Aras J. Williams of Utica and A. P. Saunders of Clinton all carried off ribbons of one color or another — mostly blues!

Such little local shows are the very best means of promoting interest in floriculture, and those of our members who have the energy — it takes a lot — to put such exhibitions through, confer a lasting benefit on the community in which they live.

The Secretary would very much like to receive notices of local shows wherever held, from our members, in order to make record of them in future issues of the Bulletin.

* * * *

A SYMPOSIUM ON THE NEWER FOREIGN VARIETIES

Readers of the Bulletin will remember that in the issue of last May, a list of some of the newer peonies from Europe was presented, with the request that our members should express judgment as to the merits of the varieties given, so far as their experience enabled them to do so.

There were in all nineteen reports received. The results are tabulated below. Members were asked to give their vote as to the value of each variety on a scale of 10, in which 10 should represent the highest excellence, 7 or 8 a variety of good but not of the highest quality, and anything below 5 to be not worth cultivating.

With each variety in the table below, there are given all the votes received, then the average of all the votes, and below, any notes or comments of interest that were added to the reports.

It is scarcely necessary to remark that the average vote in the case of those varieties where only two or three votes were recorded carries much less weight than where it is made up from a large number.

There is also the possibility to be borne in mind, that when one or two votes out of a long list are widely different from the general consensus, these exceptional votes may have been based on observation of plants not true to name.

	Votes on the Basis of 10	Average
Adolphe Rousseau (Des. 1890)—10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7.....		8.4
Probably the best early dark red, but not so good in habit as Ed. André or M. M. Cahuzac. (H. Reed).		
Albert Crousse (Cr. 1893)—10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8.....		8.8
Alsace-Lorraine (Lem. 1906)—10, 10, 10, 8, 8, 7, 7.		8.6
Generally satisfactory for a very late white. (H. Reed).		
Amazone (Lem. 1899)—6.....		6
Armand Rousseau (Des. 1903)—8, 7, 5.....		6.7
Discarded. Bad color. (A. P. Saunders).		
Auguste Villaume (Cr. 1895)—10, 9, 8, 8, 8, 7, 6, 6, 6, 6.....		7.4
Does not open. (G. N. Smith).		
Often a bad bud and poor habit, but also often so fine it cannot be dispensed with. (H. Reed).		

Votes on the Basis of 10		Average
Aurore (Des. 1904)—10, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8.....		8.3
Bayadère (Lem.)—8, 6.....		7
Bélisaire (Lem. 1901)—10, 9.....		9.5
Without a fault. (H. Reed).		
Belle Mauve (Lem. 1903)—6, 5, 3.....		4.7
Béranger (Des. 1895)—7.....		7
Bertrade (Lem.)—7.....		7
Blanche Cire (Des.)—7, 6, 4, 4, 0.....		4.2
Discarded. Too many of the same color. (Cot. Gardens).		
Boule Blanche (Cr. 1892)—7, 7, 6.....		6.7
Carmen (Lem. 1898)—10, 8, 7, 7.....		8
Good in all respects. (H. Reed).		
Claude Gellée (Lem.)—5.....		5
Comtesse O'Gorman (Cr. 1895)—5, 5, 5.....		5
Too many others like it. (Cot. Gardens).		
Coquelin (Des.)—7, 6.....		6.5
Directeur Aubry (Cr. 1897)—8, 7, 7, 5, 5.....		6.4
Too many others like it. (Cot. Gardens).		
Distinction (Des. 1895)—6, 4.....		5
Dr. H. Barnsby (Des. 1913)		
E. G. Hill (Lem. 1906)—8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7, 6, 5, 5....		7
Elie Chevalier (Des. 1908)—7.....		7
Empereur Nicolas (Cr. 1897)—8, 6, 6.....		6.7
Enchanteresse (Lem. 1903)—10, 10, 9, 8, 8, 8, 7...		8.6
Enfant de Nancy (Cr. 1896)—7, 7.....		7
Estafette (Des. 1910)—9, 6.....		7.5
Eucharis (Lem. 1909)		
Eugène Bigot (Des. 1894)—10, 9, 9, 8, 8, 5.....		8.2
Eugène Reignoux (Des.)—7, 6, 5, 5, 3.....		5.2
Evangeline (Lem. 1910)—9, 9, 8.....		8.7
Flambeau (Cr. 1897)—7, 4.....		5.5
Francois Rousseau (Des. 1909)—8, 6.....		7
Galathée (Lem. 1900)—8.....		8
General Davoust (Cr. 1898)—9, 7.....		8
Gen. de Boisdeffre (Cr. 1896)—9, 6, 6.....		7
Gen. Dodds (Cr. 1893)—6, 5.....		5.5
Shy bloomer. (H. Reed).		
Germaine Bigot (Des. 1902)—10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7, 7.....		8.6
A royal variety. (S. G. Harris).		
Stamens blacken; a serious fault. (A. P. Saunders).		
Ginette (Des. 1915)—9.....		9

Votes on the Basis of 10		Average
Gisèle (Lem. 1905)—6.....	6	
Gismonda (Cr. 1895)—8, 7, 7, 7.....	7.3	
Valuable for lateness. (M. Westland).		
Gloire de Touraine (Des. 1908)—8, 8.....	8	
Henry Murger (Cr. 1895)—9, 8, 7, 5, 5.....	6.8	
Kelway's Glorious (K. 1909)—10, 10, 7.....	9	
Kelway's Queen (K.)—10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 6....	8.7	
La Fayette (Des. 1904)—10, 8, 8, 7, 7, 6.....	7.7	
La Fée (Lem.)—10, 10, 9, 8, 8, 6.....	8.5	
La Fiancée (Lem. 1898)—9, 8, 8, 7, 6.....	7.6	
La Fontaine (Des. 1893)		
La Fontaine (Lem. 1904)		
La France (Lem. 1901)—10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 8, 7	9.2	
La Lorraine (Lem. 1901)—10, 9, 9, 8.....	9	
Lamartine (Lem. 1908)—9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8.....	8.2	
La Tendresse (Cr. 1896)—10, 10, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7, 7, 7.....	8.3	
Laura Dessert (Des. 1913)—8.....	8	
Laurence (Lem.)		
Le Cygne (Lem. 1907)—10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9.....	9.9	
Unquestionably the finest of all whites. (O. Ringle).		
Extra choice. (J. Boyd).		
Mme. Aug. Dessert (Des. 1899)—10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7.....	8.8	
Mme. Camille Bancel (Cr. 1897)—10, 8, 7, 7, 6....	7.6	
Mme. de Bollemont (Cr. 1892)—5.....	5	
Mme. de Trévéran (Des. 1899)—9, 8, 8, 8, 7, 6, 6...	7.4	
Mme. Emile Lemoine (Lem. 1899)—10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 7, 6.....	8.9	
An ideal variety in form and growth. Has no su- perior as a creamy white. (S. G. Harris).		
Mme. Fould (Cr. 1893)—8, 7, 7, 7, 6, 5, 0.....	5.7	
Not worth growing. (Cot. Gardens).		
Mme. Gaudichau (Millet) 9, 8.....	8.5	
Mme. Hervé (Cr. 1892)—8.....	8	
Mme. Hutin (Cr. 1892)—8, 6.....	7	
Mme. Jules Dessert (Des. 1909)—10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 8, 7.....	9.2	
Mme. Manchet (Des. 1913)—4.....	4	
Mme. Moutot (Cr. 1892)—7.....	7	
Mme. Reignoux (Des. 1909)—2.....	2	
Mme. Savreau (Paillet)—8.....	8	
Mlle. Desbuissons (Cr. 1893)—8, 7.....	7.5	

Votes on the Basis of 10		Average
Marcelle Dessert (Des. 1899)—10, 10, 9, 9, 8, 8, 7, 7, 7, 7, 6.....		8
Marguerite Dessert (Des. 1913)—9, 8.....		8.5
Marg. Gaudichau (Millet)—9.....		9
Marg. Gerard (Cr. 1892)—10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7, 7, 6.....		8.4
Marie Crousse (Cr. 1892)—10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 7, 5.....		9
Marmontel (Cr. 1898)		
Marquis C. Lagergren (Des. 1911)—8, 4.....		6
Mignon (Lem. 1908)—10, 10, 9, 9, 8, 8.....		9
Mirabeau (Lem.)		
Mireille (Cr. 1894)—8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7, 6, 4, 0.....		6.3
Worthless. Buds do not open. (H. W. Groschner).		
Fine and free, but petals so delicate it scalds in the hot sun. (H. Reed, Missouri).		
Miss Salway (Kel. 1899)—9, 9, 7, 7, 7, 7, 6.....		7.4
M. Auguste Gauthier (Des. 1890)—4, 4.....		4
Very bad color. (A. P. Saunders).		
M. Chevreul (Des. 1893)—7, 7, 7.....		7
M. Martin Cahuzac (Des. 1899)—10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7.....		8.3
Poor grower. (A. H. Chambers).		
I do not believe its quality warrants the price at which it is held. (S. G. Harris).		
M. Pasteur (Des. 1893)—5.....		5
Mont Blanc (Lem. 1899)—10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 6.....		8.6
Often has defective buds. (A. P. Saunders).		
Neptune (Des.)—10, 7.....		8.5
Odette (Des. 1908)—7, 7, 6.....		6.7
Ornement des Massifs (Lem. 1899)—4.....		4
We call it Charlemagne. (Cot. Gardens).		
Charlemagne. (H. Reed).		
Charlemagne. (S. G. Harris).		
Orphée (Lem. 1899)		
Discarded. (Cot. Gardens).		
Pasteur (Cr. 1896)—8, 6, 6, 5.....		6.3
Too shy. (A. P. Saunders).		
Pavillon (Lem. 1901)		
Petite Renée (Des. 1899)—9, 8, 6, 6, 5, 1.....		5.8
For landscape. (B. Auten).		
Philippe Rivoire (Riv. 1911)—9, 8, 7.....		8
Pierre Duchartre (Cr. 1895)—10, 9, 8, 8, 7, 7, 7, 7..		7.9

Votes on the Basis of 10		Average
Pierre Reignoux (Des. 1908)—10, 7, 7, 6, 5.....	7	
Pomponette (Des. 1909)		
Pres. Taft (Blaauw, 1909)—8.....	8	
Primevère (Lem. 1907)—8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7, 7, 7.	7.7	
For color. (Thurlow).		
Rachel (Lem.)		
Raoul Dessert (Des. 1910)—9, 6.....	7.5	
Renommé (Cr. 1897)		
Rosa Bonheur (Des.)—10, 10, 9, 8, 8, 7, 6.....	8.3	
Ruy Blas (Des. 1906)—7.....	7	
Sapho (Lem. 1900)—6, 5, 2.....	4.3	
Miserable. (J. Boyd).		
Sarah Bernhardt (Lem. 1906)—10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 8, 8, 8, 7.....	9.2	
Beautiful but unreliable. (J. Boyd).		
I wish all peonies were like Sarah Bernhardt. It al- ways blooms; it is the queen of all; it has no faults. (M. Westland).		
Beautiful but not a lasting bloom in this climate. (H. Reed, Missouri).		
Sarah Bernhardt (Des. 1895) (Syn. Umbellata rosea) —9, 9, 8, 8, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 6, 6, 6, 5, 5, 4, 4....	6.6	
Lacks substance. (H. Reed).		
Saved from the discard by its season of bloom. (A. H. Chambers).		
Several other comments to the same effect.		
Simonne Chevalier (Des. 1909)—10, 7, 5, 4.....	6.5	
Choice bloom; fine plant. (J. Boyd).		
Solange (Lem. 1907)—10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 8, 6.....	9.3	
Sometimes defective buds. (A. P. Saunders)....	9.3	
Souv. de l'Exp. de Bordeaux (Des. 1896)—8, 7, 6, 5, 3.....	5.8	
Souv. de Louis Bigot (Des. 1913)—8, 7.....	7.5	
Souv. du Dr. Bretonneau (Des. 1896)—8, 7, 7, 6....	7	
Poor color. (A. P. Saunders).		
Splendida (Kel.)—10, 5.....	7.5	
Sully Prudhomme (Cr. 1898)—4.....	4	
Sultane (Lem.)		
Suzanne Dessert (Des. 1890)—8, 8, 7, 4.....	6.8	
Weak neck. (Cot. Gardens).		
Suzette (Des. 1911)—8.....	8	

	Votes on the Basis of 10	Average
Thérèse (Des. 1904)—10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9.....		9.8
I think the most beautiful of all peonies. (O. Ringle). Does not perform well as a cut flower (A. H. Chambers).		
Thos. S. Ware (Mechin, 1890)		
Tourangelles (Des. 1910)—10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 9.....		9.7
Volcan (Lem. 1898)—8, 8, 6, 4.....		6.5

Those having an average grade of 9 or over in this list are as follows:

Le Cygne, 11 votes.....	9.9
Thérèse, 15 votes.....	9.8
Tourangelles, 8 votes.....	9.7
Bélisaire, 2 votes.....	9.5
Solange, 10 votes.....	9.3
Sarah Bernhardt (Lem.), 12 votes.....	9.2
Mme. Jules Dessert, 9 votes.....	9.2
La France, 9 votes.....	9.2
Ginette, 1 vote.....	9
Kelway's Glorious, 3 votes.....	9
Mignon, 6 votes.....	9
Marie Crousse, 15 votes.....	9
Marguerite Gaudichau, 1 vote.....	9

It is probably fair to assume that those of the above in which the average is based on five or more votes represent actually the pick of the varieties in the list.

In the case of a few varieties no votes at all were received. The names are included in the list as a suggestion that such sorts might be worth trying out by those who have the space and means.

Should we not get a very interesting result later on, by extending this symposium to include a wider range of varieties, and then from the votes that came in, constructing a list of the Society's favorites? If we included only such as on the basis of at least twenty votes, scored an average of nine or better, we should have a selection that would be authoritative in a larger sense than any that has yet been made.

PEONIA LUTEA AS A BASIS FOR CROSS-FERTILIZATION

By Winthrop H. Thurlow

We believe that great possibilities lie in hybridizing the single yellow *Peonia lutea* with a Chinese double and raising a new race of peonies which will be yellow, or, better yet, be true reds and pinks, with all the purplish tints neutralized. *Peonia lutea* is hardy with us here in Massachusetts, while *Wittmanniana* is not, or at least, we have never been able to make it bloom. *Lutea* is very full of pollen and, as it is a single flower, has strong pistils. We have not yet made any satisfactory cross, but will keep on trying. That others are using this as a parent plant is evident from Lemoine's new Moutan or tree peony hybrids which he offered last year.

Unless we have better weather conditions than during the last two years, we will have to build canopies over our crosses, for the very rainy weather has spoiled most of our attempts. Following Mr. Fewkes' suggestions in a previous issue of this bulletin, we should advise crossing a double on *lutea*, although everybody will probably try it both ways. *Primevère* will yield some pollen and has some well developed seed pods, so that this seems one of the most logical varieties for a yellow seedling.

We will probably struggle for many years before we gain anything worth while, but the appeal is strong to all of us to take another step in the darkness and often the attempt is fun enough to repay for the work.

* * * *

The Secretary wishes to add his testimony to that of Mr. Thurlow. For the past two years I have been diligently crossing back and forth between *P. lutea* and herbaceous sorts. Both seasons have been as bad as possible for such work, and most of the crosses were failures; there are a few pods this year that have yielded seed, but my suspicion is that they must have been self-fertilized before the foreign pollen was applied. *P. lutea*, if it can be made to cross with the herbaceous kinds, is far preferable to *P. Wittmanniana* for the purpose, so far as color goes. Those who have not seen *lutea* can hardly credit the fact that it is really a deep buttercup yellow; whereas we call *Wittmanniana* yellow only because of our desire to have yellow peonies; it is really only a creamy white. If *lutea* can be successfully crossed with herbaceous kinds, the progeny should certainly

be "thrillers."

I may add that of my many crosses of lutea on tree peonies this year not one gave any results. I am also working for a hybrid between the herbaceous peony and the Japanese tree peony, so far with no promise of success.

Those who intend working with *P. lutea* should understand that its season of bloom falls more with the herbaceous peonies than with the tree sorts; in fact I had bloom on lutea until the middle of July. It is therefore a good plan, where possible, to have cut blooms sent at the proper time, from farther south. Lutea sets seed very freely and therefore is also a good female parent for crosses.

Referring back to Mr. Fewkes' article in the previous bulletin, I wish to make this record: Partially transformed stamens do not, as a rule, burst and give a large quantity of free pollen as do normal stamens. But the partially transformed stamens do almost always have a thickened yellow edge; if this is slit open with a knife, or with the sharp edge of a pair of forceps, pollen will be found inside; generally very little, but enough, and it has proved its fertilizing power in a number of cases this year.

By using this device it is possible to get pollen from almost any variety, even the most fully double, and if no stigma can be reached in such a bloom, at least the pollen can be used on another variety less completely transformed.

PEONY FRAGRANCE

Those who read the article on the odor of the peony by Mr. Fewkes in Bulletin No. 2 will remember that he began with the statement that few peonies, comparatively, possess a sweet odor. I hold a precisely opposite view; for to my nose the majority of double peonies have a good odor, and a large number of them are highly scented. Can I get anyone to agree with me in this?

During the past season I made a careful study of my collection with a special view to the question of fragrance; and I offer as a result the following rather tentative remarks:

There are four distinguishable types of odor in peonies, for which I shall use the names Rose, Honey, Lemon and Bitter.

1. The rose fragrance is that which would commonly be recognized as the natural odor of the peony. It approaches the odor of a June rose, and in some cases closely

resembles it. This type of fragrance exists very strongly in *Edulis superba*, and well developed in *Dr. Bretonneau* of *Verdier* (Lady L. Bramwell), *Gigantea*, *Venus*, *Milton Hill* and in many whites, notably in *Baroness Schroeder*, *Mme. de Vernéville*, *Le Cygne* and *Festiva Maxima*.

2. The honey odor characterizes those peonies with bright yellow central petals; most markedly in *Philomèle* and *Candidissima*, two of the most highly scented of all peonies. I have always called this a honey odor, but was confirmed in the designation by over-hearing a lady at the New York show this year exclaim as she sniffed a vase of *Philomèle*, "Why, it smells just like honey!"

3. The lemon odor is a peculiar aromatic and fruity smell, disagreeable to some in freshly opened flowers, but becoming more acceptable as the flowers mature. *Mathilde Mechin* offers a most pronounced example of this type of odor; *Gloire de Chas. Gombault* also possesses it. It would seem, therefore, to accompany those blooms that have a mixture of salmon and pink central petals; but perhaps not all of them.

4. The bitter odor of most stamen bearing flowers is generally considered disagreeable when the blooms are young and the odor at its strongest. This odor is sometimes, and appropriately, called "soapy." Almost all singles possess it in an unmitigated form, especially the single reds, in many of which it is quite repulsive. In the more double varieties, as *James Kelway*, *Mme. A. Dessert*, *La Tulipe*, *M. Martin Cahuzac*, the odor is much less marked than in the singles, and it grows fainter as the blooms get older, so that it is not infrequently pronounced agreeable in flowers that have been open for some days. To me it is never better than indifferent.

The line of demarcation between these types of odor is not tightly drawn, but if characteristic examples of each be taken, the difference is manifest enough.

I hope this attempted classification may bring comment, amplification or protest from such of our members as lead a vivid olfactory existence.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Word has just come of the death of one of our Canadian members, *John Cavers* of *Oakville*, near *Toronto*. *Mr. Cavers* was born in 1846. He was for a good many years

engaged in banking in the town of Galt, Ontario; later he lived for about four years in Columbus, Ohio, moving thence back to Ontario. On account of ill health he was obliged to abandon the work in which he had been engaged, and in the later years of his life he devoted himself to horticulture. He established a nursery under the name of Douglas Gardens at Oakville. Here he cultivated a well selected group of peonies. His catalogue shows him to have been very careful of his names, as he was also of his stock and trade.

Mr. Cavers was seldom, if ever, present at the meetings of the Society in recent years, but was well known to our members in Ontario, and his going will be regretted by all.

* *

If anyone has the varieties Rachel and Orphée for sale, let him now speak, for the Secretary has had inquiries for both of these sorts from correspondents who have been unable to find them offered anywhere.

* *

It is the intention of the Secretary to launch out in the next bulletin on a perilous undertaking. The plan is nothing less than a key to the pronunciation of French names of peonies. The present diversity in our pronunciations is as painful to one as it is embarrassing to another, and it ought surely to be possible to do something to improve matters. Anyhow, the attempt will be made.

* *

Another topic that will find a place in the spring bulletin is the preparation and packing of blooms for the exhibition. Those who have once had the experience do not need to be told how; but for the new-comers a few simple directions may not be out of place. The need was brought to mind by several requests for help which came in just before the show last June.

* *

Material is gradually accumulating for an organized attack on some of the worthless varieties, for the purpose of routing them out of our lists and gardens. Contributions in this line will be gratefully received and when sufficient ammunition has been accumulated, the attack will be launched.

* *

Mr. Bonnewitz's letter, sent out to our members last June, after he had been to New York and seen the peony show there, had the true ring of the enthusiast. Reports

have come in from an unprejudiced observer who paused in his travels at Van Wert, Ohio. He avers that the city contains none but peony "fans"; that it is a hot box of enthusiasm. May their shadows never grow less!

* *

One always hears or overhears strange things at peony shows. This spring a lady was heard to ask as she surveyed the tables, "Do you grow these flowers from seeds or from cuttings?" And when that aspect of her curiosity was satisfied, she said, "But they would not be hardy with me, I suppose, in New Rochelle." It looks as if there was still missionary work to be done for our flower.

* *

All the poor material in this bulletin is to be blamed on the Secretary, for the two contributions by Mr. Fewkes and Mr. Thurlow are throughout good, and the rest of the matter is all from one hand.

* *

If any members know of friends who might be interested in having a copy of the bulletin sent them, the Secretary will be grateful for their addresses.

* *

Anyone who can supply the present address of our member, Mr. Paul Traub, formerly of 1341 Vine Place, Minneapolis, will confer a favor by sending it to the Secretary.

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