

# BULLETIN OF PEONY NEWS

No. 13

Together with the  
Proceedings of the American Peony Society  
for 1920

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Edited by the Secretary of the Society  
A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N.Y.



SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE  
AND LIBRARY STUDIES  
PENN. STATE COLLEGE  
STATE COLLEGE, PA.

Published by the  
**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY**  
August, 1920

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## **THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY**

### **CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur growers. Nomination is not necessary for those desiring admission, but a list of applicants for membership is presented to the Society at its annual meeting and the names are there voted on.

Those who make application for membership at any time receive at once the publications of the Society, so far as they are available.

The dues are \$3.00 a year, but applicants for membership are required to accompany their application, which should be sent to the Treasurer, by a payment of \$5.00 of which \$2.00 is an initiation fee and \$3.00 a payment for their first year's dues. When the application is made before January of any year, the \$3.00 is considered as applying to the current year—June to June—but when the date of application is later than January first the payment is applied to the following year—June to June. Thus anyone making application in May and paying \$5.00 would be clear of dues until after the annual meeting in the next year.

The publications of the Society include the following:

1907 A Peony Checklist

(in co-operation with Cornell University)

1908 Descriptive Bulletin No. 259

(with Cornell University; out of print)

1909 Proceedings of the American Peony Society

for the Years 1903—1908 (out of print)

1910 Descriptive Bulletin No. 278 (with Cornell University)

1911 Descriptive Bulletin No. 306 (with Cornell University)

1914 Proceedings of the American Peony Society

for the Years 1909—1913

1915 Bulletin of Peony News, No. 1 (out of print)

1916 Bulletin of Peony News, Nos. 2 and 3.

1917 Bulletin of Peony News, Nos. 4 and 5.

1918 Bulletin of Peony News, Nos. 6 and 7.

1919 Bulletin of Peony News, Nos. 8 and 9.

1920 Bulletin of Peony News, No. 10 (Hollis Number),  
No. 11 (Iris Number), No. 12, No. 13.

It is planned for the future to issue four News Bulletins a year. These contain the proceedings of the Society and articles on different phases of peony culture.

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY FOR 1920**

Eighteenth Annual Meeting held at Reading, Penna., in the Hotel Berkshire, on June 10, 1920.

As in 1919, the meeting of the Society was preceded by a dinner, under the auspices, this time, of the Reading Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Club of Reading.

The dinner was largely attended by the members of the Peony Society, as well as by local people affiliated with either of the organizations under whose patronage we were. It gave us an opportunity to gain some impressions of our hosts, and gave them a chance to see some of the important peony growers and to hear them talk on their favorite topic. Messrs. Bonnewitz, Farr, Boyd, Brand, Geo. Thurlow, J. C. Wister, Harry Norton, may be mentioned among a good many others who were called on for brief speeches after the dinner was over.

At about nine o'clock the banquet was declared at an end, and the meeting of the Peony Society was called to order.

Mr. Bonnewitz, the President, occupied the chair. Among the members present were Messrs. Babcock, Barron, Bonnewitz, Boyd, Brand, Brown, Buechly, Chambers, Coiegrove, W. W. Cook, H. S. Cooper, Farr, Hendrickson, Kelsey, Kineman, Little, McClain, McClelland, Frank B. Meyer, Morgen, Moulton, Newhard, Norton, Parker, Pennock, Rick, Rockwell, A. P. Saunders, E. K. Schultz, A. H. Scott, Geo. Thurlow, W. H. Thurlow, J. C. Wister; Miss Alice Bonnewitz, and Mesdames Baylies, Hires, Springer, and Taylor.

The Secretary presented as the minutes of the 1919 meeting the printed Proceedings, as they have appeared in Bulletin No. 9; and these were adopted. The report of the

Directors' meeting of April 1920 as it appears in Bulletin 12, was also adopted with some slight additions as the minutes of that meeting.

We are abandoning the custom of listening to formal addresses from the President or any other officers of the Society. The fact is that there are now so many questions on which general discussion is desired that the Society can afford to dispense with the more conventional type of addresses altogether. So when we came to that place in the order of business in which the President's address is supposed to appear, we had an informal talk by Mr. Bonnewitz with a good deal of free and general comment.

The Treasurer then presented his report showing a balance to the credit of the Society of \$2,022.20. The membership of the Society has been increasing very satisfactorily. The labor of adjusting the cases of those in arrears for dues is now nearly completed; some few of these have definitely resigned from the Society; the others have paid their arrears and are now again in good standing.

The report of the Judges Committee was presented and adopted. It appears in full in the account of the Exhibition printed below, and need not be given again here.

A large number of matters of miscellaneous business then came before the Society.

Mr. Bonnewitz showed the specially designed containers which he had used in transporting from Van Wert to Reading the blooms of Jubilee with which he carried off the first premium in Class 11, as well as some other flowers of particular merit. The containers were very well designed for their purpose, which was to keep the stems in water at all times, even in transit, without running the danger of wetting the blooms. The containers could easily be made by any tinsmith, but could not be made practicable except for a very limited number of blooms.

Several new prizes were announced for future competition.

Mr. W. A. Sisson offers a prize of \$100 for a new seedling. The conditions of competition may be later subjected to certain modifications, but they stand at present in this form :

### **The Sisson Memorial Prize of \$100 for a New Pink Peony**

Founded by W. A. Sisson of Rosendale, Wisconsin, in honor of his mother, Pamela Whitcomb Sisson, 1833-1920.

#### **Conditions of competition :**

1. The winning variety must be a peony in a shade of delicate pink, touched with lavender; and not previously introduced into commerce. Example of the color may be found in the Rochester or Mikado aster.

It must be approved by the judges as an important addition to best existing varieties.

2. The prize shall be open for competition from May 15, 1921, to July 15, 1925, unless it be awarded before the latter date.

3. The prize is to be awarded by the Nomenclature Committee of the American Peony Society for blooms shown at an annual exhibition of that Society.

4. At least three blooms must be shown, with not less than 15-inch stems, with foliage.

5. The winning variety is to be named Pamela Sisson, and a root of it is to be presented to W. A. Sisson.

Note:—This is our W. A. Sisson, formerly of Ripon, Wis., who moved to Rosendale to live, and will move his entire stock of peony roots this fall.

Further, Mr. W. W. Cook, of Clinton, Iowa, offers for next year a prize of \$25 for a seedling of especial merit, the exact conditions of competition still to be fixed.

The Skinner Irrigation Company offered for the present show, 1919, a 50-foot length of their irrigation system to an amateur exhibitor, on recommendation of the judges. This offer came in too late to appear in the prize schedule, and even too late for the judges to take into consideration while the judging was being done. The matter was therefore referred for adjustment to the judges committee for the amateur classes. A similar offer is made by the Skinner Irrigation Company for next year's premium list.

By a unanimous vote Honorary Membership was conferred on M. Crousse who is now living near M. Lemoine, in Nancy, France; and the Secretary was instructed to send the following message to him :

The members of the American Peony Society extend to M. Crousse their heartiest good wishes. They congratulate him

on his great achievements in the improvement of the peony. Wherever peonies are grown in America, the Crousse varieties are known and highly esteemed.

The Society begs M. Crousse to accept Honorary Membership, and hopes that he will live long to enjoy the beautiful plants which he has created.

From the consideration of M. Crousse and the fine peonies we owe to him, the talk drifted by a natural transition into a rather free discussion of new varieties produced in this country, and in particular certain sorts put on the market as seedlings, which are pretty well recognized as old varieties re-named. Such practices cannot be too strongly condemned, and indeed they could not be more strongly condemned than they were in the progress of the discussion.

During the course of this talk, which lasted about half an hour, there were many things said "right out in meeting" which it is well should be said once in a while. And we were all left with an added appreciation of the need of great care and circumspection in putting new varieties into commerce. The discussion was rounded off by a motion to this effect:

It is the sense of this meeting that growers should be urged to apply the most rigorous possible selection before naming and marketing new varieties.

Our tongues being thus loosed we passed on to the use of misleading statements in advertisements by American growers regarding the wins made by their own varieties in our shows. The Secretary was instructed to write to those who seemed to lay themselves open to criticism in either of these ways, and to call their attention in a gentle but effective way to the need of repentance and reformation.

The Secretary then raised certain questions relative to the printing of the bulletins, and especially concerning their cost, and the long delays sometimes incurred through an attempt to economize in the expense of publication. It was voted to allow him to use his judgment in these matters, no definite sum being appropriated for the bulletins of the coming year.

Mr. A. S. Parker called attention to the fact that most of our shows receive too little advertisement in advance, and recommended that a more liberal appropriation should be made for publicity. The difficulty however in the past has not been so much the question of money as that of finding someone who would spend the time necessary to get the show properly advertised. Mr. Farr spoke of the successful efforts that had been made in Reading to bring the show before the public. The Assistant Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce had provided articles which appeared in the daily press for a week in advance of the show; and many members of the Women's Club of Reading were active in encouraging the exhibiting of vases of peonies in shop windows and also in introducing announcements of the exhibition into moving picture shows.

It is always to be remembered that there is no very large number of people in any town who are keenly interested in peonies, or flowers of any kind, unless the town is one like Philadelphia, or Boston, where horticultural exhibitions take place regularly in a hall dedicated to such purposes. All things considered, the number of visitors at the show in Reading was very gratifying.

It was moved and carried that the Directors should at their next meeting take the necessary steps to have the 1921 show properly advertised. (Easier said than done!)

The Chair then appointed a Committee on Resolutions, consisting of Messrs. Hendrickson, Brown, and Little, and by a vote of the meeting, the officers were empowered to receive their report. It was later received and accepted. It reads as follows:

Your Committee on Resolutions offer the following—

That the thanks of the American Peony Society be gratefully extended to

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

The Chamber of Commerce of Reading

The Women's Club of Reading

The Management of the Berkshire Hotel

Mr. B. H. Farr



**Mr. James Boyd**

and all others who have worked untiringly for the success of the show.

Your Committee would also like to take this opportunity to express a word of appreciation of Mr. Farr's work for the Peony. We feel that the service which he has rendered to the peony, through the publicity he has given it, the accurate information he has acquired and freely given out by his exhibitions, fine catalogues, etc., has been unequalled by that of any other man. The interests of the Peony have been promoted and we have all been benefited because he followed the lure of this great flower.

Isaac Hendrickson

Harry F. Little

Robert T. Brown.

It was moved and carried that in future all the expenses of the Directors incident to their annual spring meeting, should be met from the funds of the Society.

A vote of thanks was extended to all those commercial growers who have sent out at their own expense invitations to their customers to join the Society. The Secretary has been unable to satisfy himself that all of those who have done so are known to him, and will be grateful for further information from any who are not named herewith. Messrs. Good and Reese, Thurlow, Farr, Brand, and Bonnewitz are to be included under this action; and perhaps others as well. These invitations are known to have been instrumental in bringing our new members for this year up to an entirely unprecedented number; of which more will be said below.

A lively and prolonged discussion took place regarding the best fertilizers for peonies.

Mr. Scott spoke well of Alphano Humus. All humus fertilizers are of course beneficial to the soil, increasing its power to retain moisture, which is one of the great factors in peony culture. Mr. Boyd, however, who has as healthy a block of peonies as could anywhere be seen, uses no humus. He is now carrying out a series of exact and systematic ex-

periments on fertilizers, from which we may hope to have very valuable results in a few years. He has used a great variety of commercial fertilizers, with varying results. Mr. Boyd thinks that the soil for a peony planting should be analyzed, or else, if you prefer, you may observe the plants and draw conclusions from their behavior. He considers that weak stems may often be due to a lack of potash. He finds much lime bad for peonies, though irises will stand any amount of it.

To this Mr. George Thurlow responded that in his experience the more lime was added to the soil the better the peonies grew. With regard to humus, Mr. Thurlow reported that at West Newbury they had dug humus from peat bogs in the neighborhood for use in their nursery fields. They found that there was humus and humus; and that the quality of the stuff should be carefully considered before incurring the expense of digging and transportation. They have had very good success with meadow muck, which is practically peat or leaf mold. Where commercial fertilizers are used instead of barnyard manure of some kind, it is desirable to add humus in one form or another since it is entirely wanting in the commercial fertilizers. Mr. Thurlow further called attention to the fact that while leaf vegetable crops require especially nitrogen; root crops—beets, etc.—especially potash; and seed crops especially phosphorus; peonies need a complete fertilizer, for the roots and leaves equally need encouragement, and phosphorus adds to the general vigor of the plant.

Mr. Bonnewitz called attention to the fact now pretty well established, that divisions do not do well if set where old plants have just been taken out. Mr. Farr confirmed this statement; and Mr. Thurlow stated that at Cherry Hill they make it a rule to plant evergreens or some other nursery stock in soil where peonies have stood. This is merely in accordance with the general principles of the rotation of crops.

It was moved and carried that the scale of points as recommended by the Directors should be adopted—

Color ..... 25

Form .....	15
Size .....	15
Distinctiveness .....	15
Substance .....	10
Stem .....	10
Odor .....	10

(5 for blooms without odor ; 0 for blooms with bad odor.)

Mr. Boyd spoke at some length on the Symposium of 1919, and in view of the proposed new symposium of this year emphasized the need for careful voting by our members. He thought erratic votes should be eliminated. The Secretary opposed the suggestion of eliminating votes, urging that anyone who undertook to eliminate erratic votes would simply be selecting those judgments which agreed with his own. The best way to get a sound verdict on the merits of a variety is by having a large number of votes ; then the few erratic ones, either too high or too low, make very little difference to the average.

There was some discussion of the feasibility of dividing the votes in the symposium by north and south, or by east and west. Mr. Barron also suggested that it would be interesting to make use of the so-called Life Zones worked out by Dr. Merriam. Unfortunately none of these suggestions can probably be applied unless we get a much larger number of marked lists than have heretofore been sent in. But the suggestion was also made that a separate average be made upon the votes of the Directors, on the assumption that they ought to know good peonies from bad if anyone does ; and this will be done in the next symposium.

The selection of our meeting place for 1921 was next considered. Mr. Boyd extended an invitation to the Society to come to Philadelphia. Mr. Thurlow urged that we go to Boston ; and it was finally decided to hold our next meeting and exhibition in the latter place, if possible in conjunction with the peony show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The possibility of meeting in some Canadian city in 1922 was talked of, and on the whole seemed to meet with approval ; but no action was taken.

A committee on nominations previously appointed by the President, laid before the Society a slate of officers, and, there being no other nominees, the Secretary was instructed to cast a ballot for those named. The following constitute the officers of the Society for the present year :

President, L. R. Bonnewitz  
 Vice President, A. H. Fewkes  
 Secretary, A. P. Saunders  
 Treasurer, A. H. Scott  
 Directors :

R. T. Brown, whose term expires in 1921  
 James Boyd (replacing T. A. Havemeyer, resigned) whose term expires in 1922  
 B. H. Farr, whose term expires in 1923.

The election of new members then took place. Eighty-four names were included in the list for the present year. This is more than double what we have added in any preceding year, and in this connection the Secretary presented a tabulation of the number of new members taken in each year since the foundation of the Society. The records show that in 1902, 23 members came in, and in 1903, at or before the first annual meeting, 14 more ; these are to be considered as the charter members. In the succeeding years the increase is as shown below :

1904.....	2
1905.....	4
1906.....	7
1907.....	10
1908.....	6
1909.....	5
1910.....	9
1911.....	8
1912.....	13
1913.....	16
1914.....	20
1915.....	16
1916.....	34
1917.....	32
1918.....	28
1919.....	40
1920.....	84

Nothing more is needed to show how rapidly the interest in the peony has been growing in America in the last ten years, nor how successful have been the efforts made during the past year by the officers of the Society and by loyal members to increase the membership list.

There are now over 350 names on our books, including the applicants for membership who have come in since the meeting of last June. Compare this with Mr. Ward's estimate made in 1902 and quoted elsewhere in this issue, to the effect that "eventually the membership might be worked up to 100 and possibly considerably more." Considerably more indeed. If we can keep up our present pace we should have 500 members in two more years. All those who have striven to bring in recruits, and so strengthen and enrich the Society are to be congratulated on the outcome of their labors.

There was much further talk on this as well as on other topics, and finally the meeting for 1920 did adjourn, at about 1 a. m.

## THE EXHIBITION

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The show was staged in the lobby of the Berkshire Hotel, Reading, in such a way that those who wished to see everything that was there, had to pay their admission fee and pass through the gate; while the more casual hotel guest, after his first surprise at finding himself in the middle of a flower show when he was looking merely for a quiet corner in which to smoke, was able to find his quiet corner just the same, and to smoke unmolested.

To those who have read Mr. Bonnewitz' account of the show in his printed letter sent out to our members, it may seem like threshing old straw to go over the ground again. But there are several things Mr. Bonnewitz did not say, that I wish to say, and perhaps others that he did say which I should like to express differently.

And first and foremost I have my old complaint to make about the lighting. It should be, but unfortunately it is not, an axiom that we will not stage our exhibitions under any-

thing but natural unimproved daylight. We thought when we directors met in Reading in April that we should have daylight in the main room at least, and some good artificial light for anything that was staged elsewhere. But when the show came on there was nothing in the main lobby but that warm yellow electric light. Hence in all the open classes the doubtful pinks were relieved of their doubts, and the bluish reds glowed with a warm clear crimson flush which made even old Louis van Houtte look attractive.

The amateur classes were staged in an adjoining room illuminated for dining-room purposes, with little dim lights covered with red shades,—the sort of light in which you could not tell an oyster from an asparagus tip. That, of course, was intolerable, and we got some bare raw 50-Watt tungstens and put them on in the place of the blush lights; but even so, the lighting was poor and deceptive. The fact is, there was no corner in the exhibition where a bloom showed its true color, except just under the windows in the lobby.

My other regret — and I may as well get them both off my mind at once — is that there was in the open classes much less competition than usual; there were several classes with no entry at all; others with only one entry; and, worst of all, there was no competition in Class 1, the big open class for a collection of 100 varieties. That was a great pity, for this class is really the backbone of the show; we always count on at least two exhibits in it; and for the "peony man" it is usually the most interesting section of all the show.

Having thus disburdened my mind I am glad to be able to say that in spite of everything the show was a good show. Almost all the exhibits were good, some of them very fine; and Mr. Boyd's bloom of *Le Cygne* which took the first premium in Class 12 was probably the finest individual bloom we have ever had on our tables. *Le Cygne* has been fine at other shows, but never I think so impressive as it was here.

There was in a sense nothing that was both very new and particularly thrilling to those who have been regular attendants at our recent shows. Even the six blooms of Jubilee which Mr. Bonnewitz brought with such care and success

from Van Wert, excellent as they were, were not better, I think, than the ones staged in Philadelphia in 1917. And I question whether anything in the 1920 show was as grand as the display of Lady Duff in the Thurlow exhibit last year; as for the other top-notchers, Thérèse, Kelway's Glorious, Solange,—none of these were staged this year in better form than we have often seen in other years. Yet, for all that, there were many varieties very well exhibited, and the show was a feast for the eyes of every peony lover, and, as always, a revelation to those of the outer world who drifted into our sacred precincts.

Before proceeding to the consideration of classes in detail, a word of acknowledgement and gratitude should be said to those who made the show a success,—the exhibitors; to Mr. Farr who staged a fine lot of blooms and a lot of fine blooms;—vases big and small—nothing in competition, but a great deal that was worth looking at; to Mr. Boyd, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Bonnewitz, the principal exhibitors, as well as to all the others who shall be named below, big and little peony brothers and sisters, bringing some much some little. but all contributing to the general effect, and every one in his own measure putting us under a debt of gratitude.

Let us proceed now to an inspection of the show in detail.

#### Open Classes.

Class 1, for not more than 100 varieties, one of each. Here, as I have mentioned, Mr. Boyd had it all his own way, being without competition. His group was good and could have stood up against strong exhibits, if such had been there, without going down before them. In the dark shades I noted Longfellow and Lora Dexheimer as being conspicuous, and Pierre Dessert as very large, and looking brilliant in color under the artificial light, but when brought into daylight this variety takes on too much of a purple tone. Lora Dexheimer has not often been staged at our shows. I thought it fine in color and my impression was confirmed by the blooms in my own garden later in the season. What the habit of the plant is, I cannot yet say, but so far as color goes it is certainly one of the most promising of the newer

sorts. There was a fine Thérèse on Mr. Boyd's table. Festiva maxima I noted as looking fit for any company; Marguerite Gerard, good; La Lorraine, a fine white suffused pink toward the center, and with a few yellow stamens,—a very fine bloom, and one rarely seen; La Perle, very fine, and unusually full of color, in my judgment the equal of many of the newer sensational things; a Mignon, light rose pink, of good substance; someone offered to wager that it was the first bloom Mr. Boyd had had, and, curiously enough, it was; the variety is notoriously a shy bloomer. Georgiana Shaylor impressed me as a little unfinished, but a fine large flower of good clear color. Mlle. Joanne Sallier was fine in size and quality, and looked extra good in color until it was brought under the light of day.

It is not easy to stage 100 varieties, all on the same day, and Mr. Boyd had found it necessary to fill out with some blooms that were not quite up to exhibition standard; but taken all together it was a good exhibit and deserved its win.

Class 2 for a vase or basket of peonies, and Class 3 for a collection of 25 varieties three of each were neither of them entered.

Class 4, however, for 10 varieties 3 of each brought out several entries. It is rather curious that this class, which is a new one, should have called out good competition while the preceding class, which in other years has been rather popular, should have been entirely abandoned.

Class 4 was a fine class. Mr. Boyd took first in it, with an exhibit which included Thérèse, Le Cygne, M. Jules Elie, Festiva maxima, Jubilee, Mme. Calot, M. Martin Cahuzac, Felix Crousse, Marguerite Gerard, and Mme. Emile Lemoine. The second went to Mr. E. M. Buechly, of Greenville, Ohio, who staged Thérèse, Le Cygne, M. Jules Elie, Festiva maxima, Jubilee (these five identically the same as in Mr. Boyd's group), La France, Karl Rosenfield, Mme. de Vernéville, Frances Willard, La Verne. This last is the variety we hear of from our Northwestern confreres. Mr. Thurlow tells me it is a pink variety sent out by Kelway as Baroness Schroeder. That sounds likely.



There were two other entries in class 4, but I did not succeed in finding from whom they came. One of them contained fine vases of La Perle, Avalanche, and another variety labelled Albatre but which was apparently Duke of Wellington. The other entry had fine James Kelway, Georgiana Shaylor, and three very lovely Eugénie Verdier.

We put Eugénie Verdier, Kelway's Exquisite, Judge Berry together, under the daylight, choosing as good blooms as we could get of all three, and asked one of our most enthusiastic experts to pronounce judgment upon them. He unhesitatingly chose the bloom of Eugénie Verdier as the best of the three, adding "That is Kelway's Exquisite, and is just the way it comes in my garden." The real Exquisite and Judge Berry were a good deal alike, though easily distinguishable, the former being a little deeper in color and a little thinner in petal. I mention this not at all as a final judgment on the merits of these varieties, but because I consider that Eugénie Verdier is not yet appreciated at its true worth, while newer varieties of a similar color and type are often given admiration which they less deserve.

Class 5, for singles, brought out a fine representative collection of standard sorts and seedlings from the Cottage Gardens Company, Queens, Long Island,—as good a group of singles as we have ever had on our tables. Some of the best of them were Le Jour (Shaylor); Clairette (Dessert); Deborah Sayles (Shaylor), a very attractive bloom; a fine big white marked Seedling 431; another seedling, No. 2, of a nice shade of blush; and No. 7, a pink, also good. The dark reds were for the most part not good enough in color, though an exception must be made in the case of Vesuve (Dessert), of fine deep tone. Altogether there were about three dozen sorts shown in this group, an unusually large entry for this class. The second prize exhibit was from Mr. Bonnewitz, who staged Le Jour, Nympe (Dessert), Venise (Dessert), and Pride of Langport, which, though sometimes praised, I thought not extra good in color.

Class 6, for a collection of Japanese sorts; no entry.

Class 7. Twenty blooms white or cream. First to the Cottage Gardens Company, for a vase of Duchesse de Nem-

ours, nice and fresh, but not impressive as to size. Second to E. M. Buechly for a vase of *Festiva maxima* which had been good, but had flopped somewhat even before the judging occurred.

Class 8. Twenty blooms light pink or pink and cream. First to the Cottage Gardens Company, for a pretty vase of Octavie Demay. A vase of fine blooms of M. Jules Elie staged in this class, was disqualified for containing only 18 blooms.

Class 9. Twenty blooms dark pink. First to the Cottage Gardens Company, who showed good blooms of *Edulis superba*.

Class 10. Twenty blooms red or crimson. First to E. M. Buechly with a vase of Louis van Houtte, an old sort shown in very good form, though the color is not comparable with that of many of the more recent dark reds.

There was almost no competition in the preceding four classes; and that was much to be regretted, for these vases of 20's, or of 25's as they used to be, have an excellent effect on the general looks of the room.

Class 11, for six specimen blooms, is always a stirring class, and so far as concerns number of entries it was up to the average; there were at least half a dozen entries, and while they were good, the blooms were not of such generally high quality as we have often seen. The first place went rather easily to Mr. Bonnewitz for a very fine vase of Jubilee. We have perhaps been rather "fed up" on this variety by our friends in Van Wert, but we are being forced to admit that for a stage bloom Jubilee is one of the grand whites. Second prize to Mr. Buechly, with M. Jules Elie. Besides the winning vases there were others of Thérèse (not in her best form), Jubilee, Felix Crousse, Louis van Houtte; but of course the last named has no place in such company.

Class 12 for the best specimen bloom, brought out a really noble bloom of *Le Cygne* from Mr. Boyd who easily carried off the first honors. It was a symmetrical bloom, in perfect condition, and just a trifle short of 9 inches in diameter. Such a bloom is unbeatable. Curiously enough, the second prize also went to a bloom of *Le Cygne*, this

one shown by Mr. Bonnewitz. It was a smaller flower, but of faultless symmetry and of the highest quality. Those that were left out in the cold included Jubilee, Felix Crousse, Frances Willard, Eugénie Verdier, Walter Faxton, Marguerite Gerard, and Madame Geissler; some of these were in fine examples, and it illustrates what a grand variety Le Cygne is that even the second best bloom of it was still well ahead of the other sorts named.

Class 13, for a collection of varieties subsequent to 1905, brought out a nice display of Mr. Boyd, who took first prize. It included several of the Brand sorts, as, Mary Brand, Judge Berry, Fanny Crosby; also Hollis' Daybreak; Jubilee, Francois Rousseau, Laura Dessert, Georgiana Shaylor, Kelway's Glorious, and Le Cygne. Second prize to Mr. Bonnewitz with a somewhat smaller lot, including Jubilee, E. G. Hill, a red with much purple in it, Laura Dessert, very small but pretty, and others.

Class 14 was a set of prizes of \$2.00 each, for vases of ten of the best standard sorts, not more than three blooms of each. This class has been tried in our schedules now for several years and it has never yet brought out such exhibits as were hoped for. This year only four out of the ten varieties were shown at all. Mr. Bonnewitz staged good vases of Thérèse and M. Martin Cahuzac, which took prizes; Mrs. Haldeman O'Connor of Harrisburg got a deserved award for M. Jules Elie, and Miss Alice Bonnewitz for Festiva maxima; but Solange, Albatre, Le Cygne, and the others were not shown at all. Will someone say why this is? It would be so very interesting to see competing vases of Solange, Albatre, or indeed any of the varieties specified, that it is a disappointment to find, as we have so far found, only one vase, and not always so much as that. Perhaps a higher premium might coax the coy exhibitor from his lair.

Class 15, for a collection of Hollis varieties, and Class 16, for a collection of Richardson varieties, were both vacant.

Class 17, for a decorative arrangement of peonies, called out only one exhibit, but that was a very graceful bouquet

of *Festiva maxima* from the hand of Mrs. Geo. S. Pomeroy of Reading.

Class 18, the seedling class, brought out a number of exhibits, but none of them were of sufficient merit to receive recognition at the hands of the judges. There was a good single white, but not distinct from others of the same type and color; some dark reds of a rather too purplish shade; a Japanese sort with purple guards and yellow and purplish centre; and a small light pink of good color. Exhibitors of seedlings will, I am sure, find it to their advantage, when possible, to stage several blooms of a kind together in a vase; if some foliage is used with the flowers, so much the better.

Class 19, the Harrison Memorial prize for a yellow. No entry.

We now leave the open classes and proceed to those in the Advanced Amateur group. There was some good competition in these classes, and they were well worth studying in detail.

Class 20 was for a collection of not more than 50 varieties. The first place was taken by Mr. E. K. Schultz, Philadelphia, with a very fine lot of bloom. Mr. Schultz has never before been able to stage anything really worthy of the size and quality of his extensive collection; but this year he was able to show us what he can do. It was a well-balanced group, not lacking in good dark reds, and with not too many of the bad deep pinks that sometimes make an exhibit look so heavy. There were many good things in this exhibit. I noted Marguerite Gerard of distinguished quality; Duke of Wellington, a variable kind, but always fine when well grown. A bloom labelled Venus was apparently identical with Duchess of Sutherland staged near it, while this variety was quite indistinguishable from Kelway's Exquisite in other exhibits. The Venus was not Venus as we know it and the Duchess of Southerland was apparently Exquisite. It would be interesting to know what was the origin of these two roots. Mr. Bonnewitz brought up a good second in this class with an exhibit which included

Thérèse, Eugénie Verdier, Le Cygne, such interesting novelties as Mignon and Lora Dexheimer, and many others.

The third prize went to Mr. A. H. Chambers, Reading, who put up an excellent collection, embracing La Fée, Souvenir de Gaspard Calot, La Perle in grand form, Reine Hortense, Rosa Bonheur, Lady Duff. Thank Heaven we are gradually establishing a Lady Duff in America. Whether it is the "true" one or not, who cares? It is at any rate one of the grandest of our peonies, and no one who has seen it in its full beauty will be likely ever to forget it. The flower has quite a little of the quality of a huge tea rose, with a peculiar crinkling of the petals toward the centre. Mr. Chambers showed a fine and typical bloom of it.

It would have been much less easy to pick the order of winners in this class on the second day, for by that time both Mr. Bonnewitz' blooms and those of Mr. Chambers had come up into very fine form.

Class 21, for ten varieties, three of each, saw Mr. Schultz again in first place, with Mr. Bonnewitz second. Mr. Schultz' exhibit included Le Cygne, Kelway's Glorious, Mary Woodbury Shaylor, Mignon (small but good) Thérèse, Lady Duff, Boule de Neige, Festiva maxima, Adolphe Rousseau, M. Martin Cahuzac; while Mr. Bonnewitz showed a group including Le Cygne, Lady Duff, Agnes Mary Kelway (not good enough; a variety that should go out), and others.

In class 22 for a vase of singles or Japanese, Mr. Chambers took first place with a pretty lot of blooms, Mr. E. I. Scott, Swarthmore, coming in second.

Class 23, for a vase of 15 blooms, one variety, brought out a really grand lot of Adolphe Rousseau from Mr. Schultz. These were remarkable blooms, and it would have puzzled any of the newer reds to beat them. Mr. Bonnewitz took second in this class.

Class 24. Collection of Japanese varieties. Second to Mr. Bonnewitz for a nice little group; only four kinds, one bloom of each, but very pretty.

Class 25. Collection of whites. First to Mr. Schultz, with the same old stand-bys— Le Cygne, James Kelway, Boule de

Neige, Marie Jacquin, Mme. de Vernéville, etc. Second to Mr. Bonnewitz with *Le Cygne*, *Jubilee*, a most lovely bloom of *La Rosière*, and one of *La Fiancée* (Lemoine) which I found rather unconvincing beside the others.

Class 26. Collection of light pinks. First, Mr. Schultz, with an exhibit in which I noted *Carnea elegans* because it is so rarely to be seen, and President Taft, not identical, I thought, with the bloom of *Reine Hortense* staged by Mr. Chambers in class 20, though it might have been. Second to Mr. Bonnewitz, who had among many others, *Thérèse*, *Eugénie Verdier*.

Class 27. Collection of dark pinks. First to Mr. Schultz, with a group that included a remarkable *Rosa Bonheur*, always a delight when typical, also Mme. Camille Bancel, *Pierre Reignoux* and other standard sorts. Second to Mr. Bonnewitz, who staged *Suzanne Dessert*, *Beauté de Villecante*, *Simonne Chevalier*, Mme. Reignoux, etc., a good lot in these shades, which are certainly the least satisfactory colors in the whole range of peonies. However, in the warm rosy light of the room in which these exhibits were staged, it made but little difference what was the natural color of the blooms, they all looked charming.

Class 28. Collection of dark reds. First to Mr. Schultz, who put up one of the best exhibits ever staged by an amateur at one of our shows. There were no less than 27 varieties, including a number that are not often staged. Under other lighting they would have been a very interesting study. Even *Pierre Dessert* which was staged immense in size, looked quite fine and brilliant in color. Mr. Bonnewitz' exhibit in this class, which took second prize, was also good, but I was struck with the large proportion of reds with stamens. Fortunately we are coming in these years into a better group of reds than we have had before, thanks in large measure to Mr. Brand, and it would not be surprising if we should find ourselves ready to cast off many of the older sorts before long.

Coming now into the Novice Amateur classes, it is pleasant to report a pretty good entry in almost all of them.

In class 29, for a collection of six varieties, one bloom of each, the first place was taken by Thomas T. Taylor, of Ogontz, with a pretty group of blooms; the second prize went to Miss Alice Bonnewitz who also put up a nice group; and the third to Mr. C. H. Newhard, of Wilkes Barre, for a fair lot, rather lacking in size.

Class 30 was for a vase of three whites. Here the first prize went to Miss Alice Bonnewitz, who staged Jubilee; the second to Dr. John Ege, of Reading, with a vase of an unnamed sort, perhaps M. Dupont; and the third to Mr. E. I. Scott, with a good trio of Avalanche.

Class 31. Vase of three blooms, light pink. First to Thomas T. Taylor with Eugénie Verdier (labeled Eugène); second to Mrs. Sylvester Keyser, of Wyomissing, with Marguerite Gerard, or something resembling it; third to Dr. Reuben G. Wenrich, of Warnersville, Pa., with an unnamed sort.

Class 32. Vase of three dark pinks. First to Thomas T. Taylor, with Mme. Geissler; second to Dr. Wenrich, with an unnamed sort; third to Miss Alice Bonnewitz.

Class 33. Vase of three dark reds. First to Miss Alice Bonnewitz, for Karl Rosenfield. Second and third to Dr. Wenrich and Dr. Ege respectively, with unidentified sorts.

Classes 34, 35, and 36 were open only to members of the American Peony Society who had not previously exhibited.

In class 34, for 12 blooms in two varieties, the first place was taken by Mr. Buechly with M. Jules Elie and perhaps Couronne d'Or. Second by Mr. Chambers who put up some fine blooms of Adolphe Rousseau along with an unnamed pink.

Class 35, for six blooms of a white. No entry.

Class 36. Six blooms of a pink, to Mr. Chambers, who staged Souvenir de Gaspard Calot, fine in size and substance, the color not so good by daylight.

Class 37. Twelve blooms in not less than six varieties. Edward P. Schwartz of Gaithersburg, Maryland, who staged a very good exhibit, including some really fine ones: Mme.

Geissler, Reine Hortense, Albatre, Souvenir de Louis Bigot (style of Eugénie Verdier, flat, and good in size, but sadly disappointing in color when taken into daylight.)

Classes 38 and 39 were open only to residents of Berks Co., Pa.

Class 38. Collection of ten varieties, three of each. No entry.

Class 39. Best three blooms any variety. No award.

Class 40. Collection of tree peonies. First to A. P. Saunders, who staged about two dozen varieties, some of them seedlings, and not a few good.

Class 41, for a collection of early flowering herbaceous species or their hybrids. First to G. B. Babcock, Jamestown, N. Y., who put up a good show of officinalis sorts, including Alba mutabilis, the true Alba, Otto Froebel (fine color), Rosea superba, Rosea plena, La Negresse, and others.

It was delightful to have officinalis sorts, tree peonies, hybrids of lutea (to be mentioned later), and a full show of Chinese peonies, all staged together. We have never before had such a representative gathering of blooms, so far as range of season is concerned.

Now a word about the blooms staged by Mr. Farr. He did not enter into competition in any class, and indeed his main show was held in the fields, but he did bring in a lot of stuff that filled up some of the unoccupied spaces in both the rooms. There were some large vases containing 25 to 50 blooms of a kind, and then quite a collection of smaller vases containing 3 to 6 of a kind.

Among the big vases I noted James Kelway, M. Martin Cahuzac, Adolphe Rousseau, M. Jules Elie, and a truly astonishing bunch of Duke of Wellington, with a very wide cup of pink petals and a creamy yellow centre—conspicuously lovely and finely finished; I don't know how Mr. Farr produces such beautiful blooms of that variety. Then there was an equally lovely vase of perhaps 50 Marie Jacquin, a variety that when well staged is as beautiful as anything we have.

Among the smaller vases I noted some pretty Japs — Flash-



light, Albatross, and Hana-no-sato among them. Among the others, Lord Kitchener did not greatly impress me. It is much like *officinalis rubra plena* in form, showing the carpels badly, and is only moderately good, I thought, in color. *Eglantine* was a pretty single. Mme. Gaudichau was good in color but not sufficiently filled out. I have mentioned only a few sorts out of a large and impressive exhibit. The vases were too crowded to make it easy to study the different kinds, but the general effect was most excellent. And at one end of it were three blooms of a class all by themselves — *L'Espérance*, *La Lorraine*, *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu* — the hybrids of tree peonies with *lutea*. Very interesting; but not all very lovely. I thought *L'Espérance* much the handsomest flower of the three. It is a large single yellow, of a fine bright color, the petals stained crimson at the base. I do not know whether or not it has inherited from *lutea*, as *La Lorraine* has, the modest though undesirable habit of hiding its blooms under the foliage, but if it holds up its head like a tree peony, it must be a very decorative garden plant.

The Mohican Peony Gardens also sent in a quantity of blooms of good stock kinds which were displayed in large vases and made a handsome effect — M. Dupont, Mme. Geissler, M. Martin Cahuzac, Mme. Auguste Dessert, etc.

The show was a joint exhibition of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the American Peony Society, and we have to thank the Pennsylvania Society for a most generous contribution to the prize schedule, without which we could not have offered either so many or such substantial prizes.

Locally the show was under the auspices of the Women's Club of Reading and it was largely through their efforts that a good attendance was secured. There was an admission fee, and the proceeds were left at the disposal of the Women's Club for charitable purposes. There was a continuous flow of visitors, and many of them, we may hope, were thus started with their feet in the right path that leads to — membership in the Peony Society.

But after all, the best thing about this show was not the

show itself, but the opportunity it gave to our members to visit the peony and iris fields at Wyomissing; and for this purpose facilities were generously afforded by the Chamber of Commerce and by Mr. Farr himself. A great many were thus able to study Mr. Farr's large collection in the fields; and while plants grown as nursery stock do not always do justice to the varieties they represent, it is well to supplement the impressions gained from cut blooms on the exhibition tables by an inspection of growing plants in the fields.

A small party also took the trip to Haverford to see Mr. Boyd's carefully selected and well kept stock. I was unfortunately not able to make either of these visits, being kept at the exhibition hall almost continuously. Those who have received Mr. Bonnewitz' letter about the show and meeting will know something of the pleasure afforded by these tours of inspection.

### THE PEONY IN THE NORTHWEST

(Some notes from Mr. Christman concerning the spring shows in Minneapolis and St. Paul.)

The annual June exhibition of the Northwestern Peony and Iris Society was held June 19th in connection with the Minnesota State Garden Flower Society and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society's exhibits. The display was made in the Gymnasium building of the University Farm School, St. Paul, Minn.

This exhibition, while not as large as in former years, due to torrid weather and torrential rains immediately preceding, was a very worthy one and many beautiful blooms were to be seen.

Mr. D. W. C. Ruff of St. Paul, Minn., carried off first prize in the professional class with a splendid display that extended the entire length of the large hall. Something over 150 varieties were exhibited and all of them were in first class condition. The yellow peony *Lutea* created a great deal of comment, as well as many other magnificent blooms in

this display. Mr. Ruff has the art of exhibiting his flowers down to a science and can always make a splendid showing regardless of climatic conditions. To the novice not initiated in this feature of the game I will say that it requires an immense lot of work and a considerable outlay of money. Great credit is due to Mr. Ruff's efforts as his display was the outstanding feature of the exhibition.

Mr. A. B. Franklin, 58th Street & Wentworth Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn., carried off the second prize in the professional class, for a general collection of peonies. Two large vases of the new seedling Mabel L. Franklin won a great deal of admiration and most favorable comment.

In the amateur collection Mrs. H. B. Tillotson of Minneapolis, Minn., won first prize money with a splendid display of bloom. Mr. A. C. Arney of St. Paul carried off second prize in this class. Mr. Arney's collection consisted of some very fine varieties.

I do not have before me the winners in the color classes of the various exhibits. Mr. Ruff with a splendid vase of Mary Brand carried off first prize in the reds. He also received second prize in the light pinks with Thérèse. The first prize in the light pink class went to Mr. A. C. Arney with some splendid blooms of Albert Crousse, as I recall it. Being busily occupied with other matters I did not get an opportunity to make a definite record but it will be secured later.

Harry Franklin Baker of Minneapolis had a large display of flowers and among them quite a collection of peony bloom of the standard varieties. These were not entered in competition.

Mr. John Stryker, of St. Paul, Minn., had a number of fine blooms on display but they were not entered in competition.

There were a few other small displays but the writer did not get an opportunity to learn the exhibitors' names.

Judging in the professional class was done by Mr. John E. Stryker, and the amateur exhibits were judged by Mr. D. W. C. Ruff. The capability of these two men as judges is unquestioned and as a result there could be no doubt as to the rightful winners.

In the seedling class there was no competition and Mr. A. B. Franklin carried off first, second and third prizes. Had there been competition in this class, the first prize winner, Seedling No. 8, now named Mabel L. Franklin, would doubtless have carried off first honors, as it created most favorable comment by all who viewed it. The blooms displayed were from two year old plants and were not truly representative of the fully established flower. Size only was lacking. Seedling No. 36 carried off second honors. This is a flower similar to Mabel L. Franklin in type but differing in color. No. 36 is a delicate or flesh pink beautifully margined on the inner petals with lavender. This seedling is in a class with No. 8. Both varieties are of a perfect rose type and possess a most delightful fragrance. The writer had the pleasure of spending a day in Mr. Franklin's fields and examining some thirty odd specimen seedlings, a number of which will doubtless prove to be first class varieties. There will be more to say about these seedlings at a later date.

Mrs. Tillotson has a splendid seedling that was displayed but not put in competition. It is a fine, full, double flower and will doubtless be placed in competition another year.

Mrs. Wm. Crawford of LaPorte, Ind. was a visitor and very kindly consented to talk before the gathering on the propagation and cultivation of the peony. As the reporter present secured this talk and it will doubtless appear in some future number of the *Minnesota Horticulturist* I will not attempt to repeat it here. I simply want to state that Mrs. Crawford was given no advance notice to enable her to prepare a paper but she gave a splendid, practical talk that will prove of great value to those starting in the peony game. She was detained for a considerable length of time answering the volley of questions that were presented to her by her interested listeners. This talk was followed later by Mr. D. W. C. Ruff. Unfortunately the writer was called away from the meeting and did not get an opportunity to hear him. Mr. Ruff illustrated his talk with several splendid blooms. This address will also appear in the columns of the *Horticulturist* during the coming year.

Due to the inclement weather immediately preceding the

exhibition, Mr. A. M. Brand of Faribault, Minn., made no display. This is the first year for some time that he has not added greatly to the exhibition by his display of grand seedlings and other varieties. I understand from Mrs. Crawford who visited his gardens on Friday the 18th of June that he had anticipated showing a number, but a severe storm destroyed a great number of blooms and this, added to terrific heat a few days previous, proved disastrous.

A small party made a trip to the trial testing grounds of the Farm School and examined the peony planting. Everything showed excellent care and attention. There is ample space provided for a large planting of peonies, and it is hoped that there may be a general response this fall when the call is made for donations to this cause.

On June 16th and 17th a splendid peony show was held in the First National Bank, St. Paul, Minn., under the auspices of the bank. This exhibition was for amateurs only and consisted of two classes, the Advanced Amateur Class and the Novice Amateur Class. A great deal of interest was manifested in this exhibition and some splendid blooms shown. I understand that this is to be an annual affair in the future, due to the success of the first venture.

The professional exhibits of the Riverview Gardens, Mr. A. J. Wilkins, 909 Winslow Ave., St. Paul, Mr. Wm. Anderson, Kerwin St., and Hazelwood Ave., St. Paul, and Mr. D. W. C. Ruff, Globe Building, St. Paul, Minn., added greatly to the display and made the show the success it proved to be. The W. L. Miller Seed Company had on exhibit several standard varieties handled by them.

In the Riverview Gardens exhibit was noted a large vase of Thérèse that was magnificent. This grand variety always receives the highest praise, and deservedly so. Other varieties exhibited in this collection were as follows: Karl Rosenfield, Claire Dubois, Avalanche, Mary Brand, Loveliness, Laura Dessert, Lady Alexandra Duff, La France, Madame Jules Dessert, Venus, Felix Crousse, Pasteur, Adolphe Rousseau, Rachel, Mons. Martin Cahuzac, La Tulipe, Reine Hortense, Marie Lemoine, and several others. To anyone familiar with peonies it will be observed that there are some of

the finest varieties obtainable in the above list.

Mr. Wm. Anderson had a splendid collection of the following varieties: Lady Alexandra Duff, Thérèse, Reine Hortense, Loveliness, Mons. Martin Cahuzac, La France, Mary Brand, Martha Bulloch, Madame Auguste Dessert, Madame Jules Dessert, Aurora, Avalanche, Marie Crousse, Venus, and many others.

Varieties noted in the W. L. Miller Seed Company display were as follows: Felix Crousse, Livingstone, Mons. Dupont, Sully Prudhomme, Lady Alexandra Duff, Albatre, Aurora, Eugénie Verdier, Madame de Vernéville, Karl Rosenfield, Mons. Jules Elie, Primevère, Baroness Schroeder, Mons. Martin Cahuzac.

Mr. D. W. C. Ruff furnished 27 large bunches of various colored bloom that were placed in cornucopias and hung on the walls entirely surrounding the exhibit. The beautiful marble seemed to add lustre to the display and the light was ideal for showing off the flowers to their best advantage. Mr. Ruff's collection is too well known to make any comment necessary other than to say that it consisted of many varieties of the finest sorts obtainable and was displayed in the best possible condition.

Entries were made in eleven classes for the advanced amateurs and in eight classes for the novice amateurs. The fine feature of this exhibition was the large number of entries made by various amateurs, some of whom possess splendid collections. Among the first prize winners were noted the following names:

C. W. Bunn, A. C. Arney, A. E. Greaza, S. L. Titus, Frank Morris, A. F. McBride, Gus D. Messing, R. H. Rolf, J. W. James, Margaret Henry, Warren Hoff, Frank Wickman, I. J. Swan and Mrs. P. F. Casey.

The first iris show, which is to be an annual event, was held on June 8th and 9th in the Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis, Minn. It was a splendid success and was viewed by many hundred people. This bank being located in the downtown business district made it easily accessible and there is no doubt but that a great many more iris will be planted this coming fall than have ever been planted be-

fore, as a result. Some very splendid exhibition blooms were staged.

Being a member of the 1st Minnesota Field Artillery the writer was called to National Guard Encampment June 5th to 19th and as a consequence did not get an opportunity to visit the various peony fields that had been previously planned for; in fact I was not permitted to enjoy my own garden. This was certainly a bitter pill to swallow but there was no alternative, and I took my medicine with the rest. At any other period of the year it would have proved a delightful outing in addition to the splendid military training received in camp. We are hopeful that another year may prove more favorable and that the intense heat and downpours experienced when the peony was in the height of bloom this season may be missing.

### CHARLES WILLIS WARD, 1856-1920

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Charles Willis Ward was born in Michigan in 1856. It was not until he was getting on towards middle life that he entered the field of floriculture, and founded the establishment at Queens, Long Island, now known as the Cottage Gardens Nurseries.

Mr. Ward was an enthusiastic carnation grower and was one of the leading spirits in organizing the American Carnation Society. He raised a large number of seedling carnations, some of which were put on the market; of these Mrs. C. W. Ward was one of the most successful. In 1903, he published "The American Carnation and How to Grow it."

In more recent years Mr. Ward has been living in California where he had large nursery interests at Eureka.

Mr. Ward's name must ever be remembered in connection with the American Peony Society, for he, probably more than anyone else, was responsible for its foundation. Among the papers of the Society there are many interesting letters which passed from one peony grower to another during the years 1902 and 1903, discussing the question of the formation of a society devoted to peony interests; and then later, to the problems that such an organization should set itself to solve.

The earliest of these letters that I have been able to find is one from Mr. Ward to Mr. Fewkes under the date June 26, 1902. It reads as follows :

My Dear Sir,

Referring to the unsatisfactory condition in which the nomenclature of the peony now is, I write to ask you if you would co-operate in the formation of an association for the purpose of advancing the public interest in the Peony, and especially straightening out Peony nomenclature. Under existing conditions when one orders a peony under name a useless mixture of sorts under various names is often received. During the past year Peonies purchased under name from six to eight reputable firms with few exceptions proved either mixtures or untrue when the roots came into flower. In several instances each name covered varieties of Peonies ranging from pure white through the various shades of pink to the deepest purple and crimson ; for instance, a variety described in the catalogue of the nurseryman selling it as a beautiful flesh pink, contained several plants bearing snow white flowers, others bearing deep rose-pink blooms, and others bright crimson of the shade of Rubra Triumphans, but few of the plants proving to be of the variety bought.

The nurserymen in Holland, recognizing the hopeless mixture into which their stock of peonies have been allowed to lapse, have undertaken annual peony exhibitions for the purpose of correcting the nomenclature. They hold exhibits at several points throughout Holland and, I am told, are making strenuous efforts to get matters in proper shape.

The newer varieties which have been introduced, when well grown and well exhibited to the public, will certainly attract great attention, and such exhibits will naturally result in a large increase in the sales of the same. The work done for the Carnation by the American Carnation Society is a striking example of what can be done by concentrated effort. The annual exhibitions of Carnations held by the Carnation Society have been a great stimulus to the Carnation industry, which now is certainly ten times as important as it was when the Carnation Society was formed. There is no reason why some such advance cannot be made in the case of the Peony. True, we cannot expect to accomplish as much in the way of increasing business in Peonies as has been done with the Carnation, but organized effort will accomplish something.

Such an association could be conducted upon economical lines, and the holding of Peony exhibitions under the auspices of local clubs and State Horticultural Societies could be encouraged by the offering of suitable prizes. There have been accumulated during the past eight or nine years large stocks of Peonies



which at the present time remain unknown. It only requires the exhibition and advertisement of these stocks to work up public interest to a much greater extent than the Peony now commands.

Would you be willing to join in the formation of such an association, in which the annual dues would not exceed three to five dollars? My impression is that we could get probably from twenty-five to fifty members as a starter, and that eventually the membership might be worked up to one hundred, and possibly considerably more.

Awaiting your esteemed reply, I remain

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Ward

Copies of this letter were sent out by Mr. Ward to the principal peony growers of the country, with the result that twenty-four individuals or firms expressed themselves as prepared to co-operate in forming a society for the purposes indicated. A preliminary meeting was then held in Brooklyn in February 1903, at which the following officers were chosen, as recorded in the Proceedings of the Society —

“President, Arthur H. Fewkes, Newton Highlands, Mass.; Vice-President, Guy A. Bryant, Princeton, Ill.; Secretary, Alex. Wallace, New York City; Treasurer, J. Howes Humphreys, Philadelphia, Pa.

“It was understood that in case either Mr. Wallace or Mr. Fewkes should find themselves unable to accept the offices to which they were elected, either Mr. Charlton or Mr. C. W. Ward would serve until the election of permanent officers.

“The first annual meeting was fixed to be held during the session of the American Association of Nurserymen, which was to be held in Detroit during June, 1903.

“Mr. Wallace found it impossible to serve as Secretary, and Mr. Fewkes decided that it would be impossible for him to serve as President. However, an arrangement was made whereby Mr. Fewkes would fill the office of Secretary and Mr. Ward that of President, until the first annual meeting.”

The offices of the Society being thus filled in a temporary way, the first annual meeting was held at Detroit on the 11th and 12th of June, 1903. At this meeting Mr. Ward was elected President, Mr. Bryant Vice-President, Mr. Fewkes Secretary, and Mr. Humphreys Treasurer.

At the time of this meeting there were about thirty-seven

members, and the Treasurer reported a balance of \$133 to the credit of the Society.

In the following year, 1904, the first exhibition was held, in connection with the second annual meeting; and from that time on, until 1909, Mr. Ward continued to hold the office of President of the Society. He thus exercised a large and determining influence on the Society in its infancy, and for a good deal of the success which has come to us in more recent years, we should be grateful to him.

When in 1909 the Society held its seventh annual meeting at the Cottage Gardens Nurseries in Queens, Mr. Ward found that his impaired health made it necessary for him to cut off as much as he could in the way of outside activities, and forestalling his certain re-nomination to the presidency he sent the following letter, which, I think, is worth quoting without alteration.

Lovell's, Mich., June 5, '09

To the Members of the American Peony Society :—

It is with extreme regret that I am compelled to announce my inability to be with our beloved Society at its seventh annual meeting, and to also announce that hereafter I shall be unable to take any laborious part or position with your or any other Horticultural body. My connection with, and labors among Horticulturists have been most agreeable, pleasant and instructive and I would much like to continue them; but the condition of my health during the past year warns me that I must cut off all detail work possible and save my strength for tasks that I cannot avoid. I wish, however, to assure you all that my sympathy and support will always be heartily exerted in aiding all Horticultural Societies, not only in America, but in other lands as well, in the grand works they have undertaken.

The work which the Peony Society was organized to perform has been but fairly begun. Some errors and omissions have likely been made; but these should not discourage you in continuing the work already planned, nor in planning additional work that experience shows to be needful — but we should rather work with renewed vigor and determination to accomplish all that which we set out to accomplish.

Nomenclature :—With the data at my command, I am at this time unable to make many suggestions of value, but the work already mapped out should be continued to the end that American peony growers should have at least an authentic list of

named varieties that will cover a select list of those varieties most desirable for general culture on our continent, and that duplicate names should, as far as practicable, be eliminated from that list.

Your Nomenclature Committee should be composed of able, practical men who are willing and able to give it necessary time, observation and attention.

**Essays :—**There should be provided at each annual meeting, two or three able essayists, covering subjects of interest to peony growers, both amateur and professional. Among the subjects that will likely prove of interest might be mentioned,

Cultivation of the Peony

Propagation of the Peony

Originating new varieties by cross fertilization

Commercial Peony Growing

The Value of the Peony for Cut Flowers

The Peony for the Amateur

The Peony as a Decorative Plant

The Use of the Peony in Landscape Gardening

Peony Colors (pointing out shades of color that are not desirable and not worthy of cultivation)

The Peony at Exhibitions

(illustrating best methods for keeping, shipping, and staging peony blooms at exhibitions.)

and several other subjects that will suggest themselves as time passes.

**The Cornell Experimental Plot :—**The Cornell experiment has not proven as successful as might be desired, owing very largely to the unfavorable nature of the soil and the lack of continued culture and fertilization; and the condition of the plants at the Station is not such as to enable a correct study of the varieties, nor to enable one to judge as to the value of different varieties. Some means should be adopted to provide for proper culture, fertilization, and favorable soil conditions, for until the peonies can be observed in fairly favorable conditions, the observations and deductions therefrom will not likely prove of great general value.

**Annual Exhibitions :—**Should be held in locations where an attractive and effective exhibition of peony blooms may be assured, and at such seasons as would enable nearby growers to stage fine displays to good advantage.

**Premiums :—**Substantial premiums should be offered under such conditions as will attract extensive entries and thereby assure fine displays, and rules or regulations should not be so technical or severe as to discourage or drive away exhibitors.

**Introducing New Varieties :—**While the Society should encourage the growers of new varieties and give ample recognition

to all improvements of merit, it should carefully avoid the endorsement of the commercial value of any new peony, and its awards should be of such character as would prevent the use of the Society's name in advertising worthless varieties, or varieties that may be practically duplicates of kinds already existing in commerce.

In conclusion I desire to express my great gratitude to the Members of this Society for the uniform, kind and courteous treatment they have one and all accorded me, and for the generous assistance all have rendered the Society, as well as for the enthusiasm manifested in our work.

I feel that I ought to apologize for the little time I have been able to devote to the duties of the office with which you have repeatedly honored me and to offer as the only explanation; lack of sufficient strength to attend to them properly and at the same time care for the business duties which have been crowded upon me and which could not be avoided. I feel certain that any one of your members whom you may choose as my successor, will more ably fill the office than I have been able to do, and that under his guidance our Society will prosper and accomplish the needed work.

You all have my best wishes for success collectively and individually, and I desire to express to each and every one of you my warmest friendship and sincerest wishes for a long, successful and happy career.

Charles Willis Ward.

By a vote of the Society at this meeting, Mr. Ward was made Honorary President in recognition of the great services he had rendered to the Society. He continued to hold the title of Honorary President up to his death, but I do not know that he took any further active part in the affairs of the Society after the year 1909.

Mr. Farr was the second of our distinguished series of Presidents, and his tenure of office continued up to such recent times as will be within the recollection of most of our members.

It has not been my wish to give any account of Mr. Ward's activities as a general nurseryman, but simply to bring before the readers of this Bulletin evidence to show that Charles Willis Ward was not only one of the founders of our Society, but that he in large measure determined its policies, and set it on the line of activities which it has since followed.

We should therefore honor his memory, and hold his name in perpetual respect.

## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

### Words of Wisdom from Mr. Shaylor

Mr. Shaylor writes in a recent letter :

"You have asked me many times for some notes on peonies, and this morning I thought something could be said, that would interest the many who are planting seeds. There are always in mind, in such work, great expectations ; and often-times everything else is forgotten. This should be guarded against. Courage and patience should play a larger part. Remember that one has to have courage to throw away a very large part of every planting as soon as they bloom. Then those that appear worthy to grow on, should be put out where they can be left for four years without disturbance. The noted Lemoine once wrote to me 'Do not give your appreciation of a peony flower until the plant has been set three years.' You see I put it one year more. Here is where patience tells. I have known growers who stood around with pad and pencil to name a peony as soon as there was an indication that the first flower would open. Sad to relate, they and their peony never got anywhere. Try them out four or five years before shouldering on them the burden of a name.

Look back a little and think where those who named everything they found kicking around in the path, have stumbled.

Another bit of advice. Get the best stuff the world can give for your seed producers. How can one expect to win out by cur blood against thorough-breds? I remember an older grower who grew a lot of seedlings and brought them in a basket for me to see, saying this to me : 'Shaylor, you have done right. You have bought the very best stuff you could get, the world over ; while I have not. I could have been more successful if I had had better stuff to work with.' There are enough medium flowers now. To do better is worth the try.

There is one great stumbling block to a grower of seedlings. He wants to get some to sell; and this leads to dividing them before they are perfectly developed. Don't do it. Keep them the four years in one place. Unless you do this you

cannot know how superior your creation may be."

As a postscript, Mr. Shaylor a few days later sent this "Item for the Bulletin."

"There is coming a new generation in peonies that will give the blooms a very delicate, transparent, and wax like appearance. It will be as though you could almost see through the delicate petals."

### **Mr. Pillow's Catalogue**

Mr. James Pillow, heretofore an amateur, has joined the ranks of the professionals, and sends a catalogue of his peonies grown at Cold Spring on Hudson, N. Y.

There are only 80 varieties in the list, but it includes a large percentage of the finest standard sorts.

We wish him much success.

### **A Correction in Bulletin 12**

Through a regrettable error of type-setter or proof reader, the variety Carmen was omitted altogether from the list of Lemoine varieties published in Bulletin 12. It has been added in all the remaining copies of the issue. Will you kindly turn to page 18 of that bulletin and add the name Carmen to Volcan and La Fiancée under the date 1898. The list will then be complete and correct, I believe.

### **Gleanings from the Show**

"I like to see a yellow peony," said a stumpy little man, coming up to me. "So should I," I thought. But I led him over to Mr. Farr's bloom of the hybrid, L'Esperance. "No, that ain't like the others. I want a big double yellow just like the others." I asked him to come back again in a few years.

On the second day of the show, another approached me with a stealthy air and whispered "Where is the Canadian peony?" I could not think of any Canadian peony except Mr. Harry Norton, and he had gone. And I could not understand what the visitor had had in his mind until I saw in the morning paper the account of our meeting of the night before, in which it was stated that Mr. Norton had claimed to

have developed in his garden a peony so hardy that it would even withstand a Canadian winter !

### **Consoling Numbers**

For those who have a fancy to go on with this mundane life, I present these vital statistics.

There is no surer way of prolonging life than by growing peonies. Among the important names in peony culture in this country—I speak of the producers of new varieties—are: Richardson, Hollis, Shaylor, Thurlow, Terry, Harrison, Rosenfield, Mrs. Pleas, Brand. The half of those named are still living. Richardson died when he was 89; Hollis at 72. Mr. Shaylor, I am thankful to say, is still with us, and we hope he will live to be 89 at least. The Thurlows are youngsters, with half a century ahead of them; Mr. Brand has not yet begun to think of growing old. Mrs. Pleas we hope will live yet many years to enjoy the fame of Jubilee; but she is no longer young. Mr. Terry died at about 84, according to a note in Mr. Harrison's Manual; and Mr. Harrison himself passed away last year at 87. Now the average of 89, 72, 84, and 87, gives 83, which may therefore be taken as the reasonable expectation of a peony grower. Therefore, cheer up. Those of you who are still under 73 may now begin to raise peonies from seed in full confidence that you will live to see several generations of seedlings come to maturity and add lustre to your name.

### **A fine Painting of Peonies**

If you are in New York during the present or coming months, do not fail to pay a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. There are a number of beautiful paintings at present loaned to the gallery for a commemorative exhibition; and among those which are permanently owned by the museum there is a painting of peonies by Wilton Lockwood, a member of our society up to the time of his death. It is not hung so well as it would have been if there were a peony man on the staff of the museum, but the picture itself is delightful and gives much of the spirit of the peony.

It must have been painted, I think, from blooms of La Rosiere.

### **Request for Copies of Early Publications**

Mr. Hamilton Traub would be glad to purchase from anyone who has copies to spare, the following publications—

Cornell Bulletin No. 259

Proceedings of the American Peony Society, 1903 - 1908

Bulletin of Peony News, No. 1.

If you have an extra copy of any of these, please communicate with Mr. Traub, whose address is Henning, Minnesota.

## **OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY, AUGUST, 1920**

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 Smith, W. and T.....Geneva, N. Y.  
 Soukup, Miss Anna.....518 B Ave. W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
 Springer, Mrs. A. R.....1017 Polk St., Topeka, Kansas  
 Stannard, F. H.....Ottawa, Kansas  
 Stoepel, Mrs. F. C.....266 Seminole Ave., Detroit, Mich.  
 Stone, W. M.....Annandale, Minn.  
 Storrs and Harrison Co.....Painesville, Ohio  
 Stranger, David C.....West Newbury, Mass.  
 Stryker, J. E.....820 Globe Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.  
 Sturtevant, Miss Grace.....Wellesley Farms, Mass.  
 Sturtevant, R. S.....Wellesley Farms 95, Mass.  
 Styer, J. J.....Concordville, Pa.  
 Syfert, Geo. R.....1541 Franklin Park S., Columbus, Ohio  
 Taylor, Mrs. Herbert K.....Ogontz, Pa.  
 Tealdi, Prof. Aubrey.....Ann Arbor, Mich.  
 Thomas, Wm. S.....243 Main St., Plymouth, Mich.  
 Thorne, Henry C.....602 W. Tioga St., Ithaca, N. Y.  
 Thurlow, Geo. C.....West Newbury, Mass.  
 Thurlow, Winthrop H.....West Newbury, Mass.  
 Tormey, Alfred J.....Arlington, Md.  
 Traub, Hamilton.....Henning, Minn.  
 Turpie, Mrs. M.....1954 E. Main St., Columbus, Ohio  
 Underwood, Arthur A.....Cheyenne, Wyoming  
 Upjohn, W. E.....Kalamazoo, Mich.



Van Leeuwen, John..... 17 Battery Place, New York  
 Vaughan's Seed Store.....Chicago, Ill.  
 Walcott, F. C.....Hotel La Salle, 30 E. 60th St., New York  
 Wallace, James S.....12 Wellington St. E., Toronto, Canada  
 Warnaar and Co.....Sassenheim, Holland  
 Wassenberg, Chas. F.....Van Wert, Ohio  
 Watson, Miss Ellen M.....5400 Bartlett St., Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Weage, Daniel E.....Coldwater, Mich.  
 Webb, Dr. W. S.....1705 Warwood Ave., Warwood, W. Va.  
 Weed, Howard E.....Beaverton, Oregon  
 Wenham, R. P.....Blue Ribbon Farm, Painesville, Ohio  
 Wheeler, E. P.....36 Pacific St., Rockland, Mass.  
 White, Edward H.....Lyndhurst Farm, Hammonton, N. J.  
 Whitman, F. E.....947 Portland Ave., St. Paul, Minn.  
 Wild Bros.....Sarcoxie, Mo.  
 Wild, Frank H.....Sarcoxie, Mo.  
 Williams, T. B. Coombe..One Oak, Tunbridge Wells, England  
 Williams, W. D.....Van Wert, Ohio  
 Wing Seed Co.....Mechanicsburg, Ohio  
 Winslow, Arthur E.....5 Choate St., Waterville, Maine  
 Wister, J. C.....Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Wood S. F.....307 Dufferin Ave., London, Ontario  
 Zielsdorf, Herman O.....840 McIntosh St., Wausau, Wis.

## APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

June to August 1920

Auten, Edward, Jr. .... Princeville, Ill.  
 Billan, Chas. F. .... Higley Building, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
 Brown, William .... 2108 Myrtle St., Erie, Pa.  
 Cumbler, Mrs. Chas. C. .... Highspire, Pa.  
 Davis, Miss Bessie B. .... Quinton, N. J.  
 Ferguson, W. T. .... Smiths Falls, Ontario  
 Funk, Mrs. Dean .... McLean, Ill.  
 Garrison, E. M. .... 132 Christopher St., Montclair, N. J.  
 Greene, Ryland W.....Merchantville, N. J.  
 Kern, H. H. .... Bonner Springs, Kansas

Lantz, E. H.

R. D. No. 10, Madisonville Station, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Lawrence, T. H. .... 97 Rantone St., Beverly, Mass.  
Manwiller, Elmer S. .... Bernharts, Berks Co., Pa.  
Mays, Mrs. Geo. D. .... R. D. No. 1, Reading, Pa.  
McKendrick, Adam M. Y. .... Hotel Fuller, Detroit, Mich.  
McKie, Miss K. M. .... Cambridge, N. Y.  
Missouri Fruit Company .... Pomona, Mo.  
Parke, Mrs. S. M. .... 608 Susquehanna Ave., Pittston, Pa.  
Perry, A. G. .... care Butler Bros., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Prouty, John J. .... Baldwinsville, N. Y.  
Reynolds, John Q. .... 231 Ridge St., Glens Falls, N. Y.  
Rial, Wm. S. .... Greensburg, Pa.  
Rogers, Wm. S. .... 319 S. 13th St., Reading, Pa.  
Rosenfield, Karl .... Box 235, Menlo Park, Calif.  
Rosenfield, Reno .. R. D. No. 7, Benson Station, Omaha, Neb.  
Rosenfield, Stanley, .... General Delivery, Kansas City, Mo.  
Schreiner, Frank X.

R. D. No. 1, Riverview Station, St. Paul, Minn.  
Seaton, R. A. .... 722 Humboldt St., Manhattan, Kansas  
Smith, Everett .... 1243 Adams St., Muncie, Ind.  
Tenny, Dr. Cecil L. .... 714 Leary Building, Seattle, Wash.  
Tinnerman, Walter . 2107 N. Tremont St., Kansas City, Kan.  
Ward, Mrs. M. F. .... 415 2nd Ave., Lewiston, Idaho  
Weinburg, Carl .... 504 S. 7th St., Ann Arbor, Mich.  
Welles, Edw., Jr. .... Mountaintop, Luzerne Co., Pa.  
Wheelock, K. K. .... 1020 Harrison St., Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Wiley, Florence S. .... Ruxton, Md.