

# BULLETIN OF PEONY NEWS

NO. 16

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY  
EXHIBITIONS OF 1921

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



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## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

### *President*

A. H. FEWKES-----Newton Highlands, Mass.

### *Vice President*

H. A. NORTON-----Ayers Cliff, Quebec

### *Secretary*

A. P. SAUNDERS-----Clinton, N. Y.

### *Treasurer*

A. H. SCOTT-----Front and Market Sts., Chester, Pa.

### *Directors*

JAMES BOYD-----Haverford, Pa.

B. H. FARR-----Wyomissing, Pa.

A. M. BRAND-----Faribault, Minn.

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## CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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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 editions of the first five or six issues of the Bulletin of Peony News are now however nearly or quite exhausted.

The dues are \$3.00 a year, but applicants for membership are required to accompany their applications, 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
- 1921 Bulletin No. 14 (Symposium Number)  
No. 15 (Membership List)
- 1922 Bulletin No. 16

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.

## REPORT OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

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The annual meeting of the Directors of the Peony Society for 1920 was held at the offices of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on Dec. 11, 1920.

Those present were Messrs. Bonnewitz, Boyd, Brown, Farr, Fewkes, Saunders, Scott. On invitation of the Directors, Mr. W. H. Thurlow was also present.

The meeting was called somewhat earlier in the year than such meetings have been held in the past, but it was found possible to put through all the usual business and to make arrangements for the spring show just as well as in former years by meeting in March or April.

A partial report of this meeting has already been sent out to the members of the Society, and the material there included will not be repeated here.

The prize schedule for the Boston show was taken up and discussed in detail. Several of the new special prizes called for careful consideration. The conditions of competition for the prize of \$100 offered by Mr. J. A. Taylor of Memphis, Tenn., were finally determined under the following action: The Taylor prize may be awarded to a new seedling of any color not included in the specifications for the Harrison Memorial Prize or the Pamela Sisson Prize. The variety must score at least 90 on the scale of points adopted by the Society. The prize is open for competition until awarded.

Mrs. Pleas had offered a series of prizes for the purpose of encouraging the staging of blooms without disbudding. The Directors chose two of the prizes offered for inclusion in the schedule of this year, and they will be found in the printed prize lists. The first is an award of a root of any one of Mrs. Pleas' varieties for a stem of Elwood Pleas not disbudded, shown beside a disbudded bloom of the same variety. The second a similar prize for the largest and best collection of undisbudded peonies, including some of Mrs. Pleas' varieties.

The Treasurer presented a report showing the present worth of the Society as \$2532.60, reckoning \$1700 of Liberty Bonds at par. He reported the membership as being at that time, December, 1920, something over 400.

Only five members were reported as being in arrears and all of these have failed to respond to repeated appeals for settlement of back dues. They were therefore dropped from the membership list. The names are: E. F. Fengar, Ida Jane Kinsell, J. B. McClure, R. H. Murphey, F. H. Stannard.

The Treasurer reported on the death of several members who had passed away since the last meeting.

It was moved and carried that the Treasurer prepare official application blanks and distribute them to growers for insertion in their catalogues. In the past, the nurserymen have had these application blanks printed at their own expense. It seemed unreasonable that the Society should not bear this expense.

When the meeting re-convened in the afternoon, the question of the Society's publications was taken up. It was agreed that the best way to get forward with the Manual was to divide the work among a number of different peony growers; that lists of varieties which still lack official descriptions should be sent out to various growers so that the work may not fall too heavily on any one person. Mr. Farr suggested that opinions as to the value of varieties as given in the Cornell Bulletins should now be eliminated, and that the symposium ratings should be given in their stead.

There was considerable discussion of the desirability of having a special color chart printed for the use of peony growers. Mr. Boyd was asked to get an estimate on the cost of such a chart, including only the colors which would be needed for peony descriptions. A committee was appointed to carry on the work of preparing the manual for publication, consisting of Messrs. Saunders, Fewkes, Farr, and Boyd.

Various names were considered of men who might be available to assist in the clerical work in connection with preparing the text of the manual. The committee was authorized to spend up to \$500 before the next meeting of the Directors. A general outline of the material as proposed in a very excellent arrangement by Mr. Hamilton Traub of Henning, Minn., was discussed, and, with some alterations, approved.

The local committee for the Boston show as well as the committees of judges, and a nominating committee, were then named, and the local committee was given power to arrange the premium list. The personnel of these committees was as follows:

Nominating Committee: Messrs. Saunders, Fewkes, Farr.

Local Committee: Messrs. Fewkes, Thurlow, Norton.

Committees of Judges: For the open classes, Messrs. Norton, Farr, Scott; for the amateur classes, Messrs. Saunders, Boyd, Brown.

A request from Mr. Carl Kelsey for an authoritative list of peony names for inclusion in a manual of flower names prepared by the American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature was referred back to the Secretary with instructions to furnish Mr. Kelsey a copy of our symposium list with any necessary additions.

It was moved and carried that the Secretary be authorized to draw on the treasury up to \$250 for secretarial help.

Messrs. Boyd and Scott were appointed a committee to revise the By-laws and present the result of their labors at the next meeting of the Directors.

A lengthy discussion of the new symposium then took place. The material was not yet prepared for publication, but as much as was available was presented for the consideration of the Directors. There was the customary debate as to a possible method of eliminating "erratic votes," and the usual difficulty encountered in distinguishing between votes that are truly erratic and merely those which are not in accordance with one's own judgment. Thus like the poet, we

"heard great argument  
About it and about; but evermore  
Came out by the same door where in we went."

However, none of us would have the hardihood to maintain that erratic votes do not exist. They probably do arise out of several causes, among which the following are worth consideration: (1) impressions based on plants not true to name; (2) the chance that once in a while an individual plant may be badly set; even in a collection where most of the specimens are well planted there is always a possibility that one here and there may have been placed a good deal too high or too low in the ground with the result that the blooms can never develop in their full quality; (3) a soil that is not suited to peonies, causing them to give inferior blooms perhaps throughout the entire planting; (4) even where the soil is good there may be bad spots where individual plants suffer from lack of nourishment; (5) human nature: if we hear a variety too much talked about we may feel a desire to "get back" at it, to give it a black eye; or perhaps a plant sulks for us one season, and we say to ourselves that it is no good and mark it with a 2, or even a zero, when it should have had a 6 or a 7.

These phases of the situation were considered by the Directors, and it was voted that one or two votes should be considered erratic when they occur at a wide interval from an average established by a large number of other votes. This principle was later observed in working out the averages for the symposium.

The following resolution was also passed:

"The Directors recommend to growers that varieties introduced before 1900 and ranking at 6 or below in this symposium should not be further propagated; further, that the rating and year of introduction should be given with the description by dealers in their catalogues."

The meeting then adjourned.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY FOR 1921

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Nineteenth Annual Meeting held at Boston, Mass., in Horticultural Hall, in Saturday, June 18, 1921.

In accordance with our custom, the meeting was preceded by a dinner, this time with President Bonnewitz at the head of the table. During the courses several well-known members of the Society were called on for speeches. A general air of good humor pervaded the room, and there was much good fellowship on all sides.

After the dinner was over, Mr. Bonnewitz called the meeting to order at about 9:30, and the business of the evening was begun. The following were among those present, either at the meeting or the exhibition: Messrs. R. T. Brown, Boyd, Barron, Brand, Bonnewitz, Miss Alice Bonnewitz, Mrs. Wm. Crawford, Messrs. Chase, Donahue, Farr, Fewkes, Hoyt, Havemeyer, Lane, Norton, Wm. Peterson, Pillow, Roy, Mrs. Milton F. Roberts, Mrs. A. R. Springer, Messrs. A. H. Scott, G. N. Smith, Dr. J. D. Smith, D. C. Stranger, W. E. Saunders, A. P. Saunders, G. C. Thurlow, W. H. Thurlow, and J. C. Wister. There were many others whose names were unfortunately not obtained at the time; this is a pity because it is good to have a reminder of those we so pleasantly meet at our annual gatherings.

The minutes of the preceding Directors' meeting as printed in this Bulletin were read and approved. The President then made a brief but interesting address, congratulating the Society on its growth and urging that since it is now becoming more and more an association of amateurs its affairs should, so far as possible, be intrusted to representatives of our amateur membership. Mr. Bonnewitz recalled the great pioneer peony growers about Boston, Richardson and Hollis, and more recently Shaylor, and reminded us of the debt that all peony lovers owe to them. After the President's address, the Treasurer gave his most satisfactory report, showing that the Society had in June, 1921, 408 annual members fully paid up, only 12 annual members still owing dues, and none for more than two years, 13 life members, and 8 honorary members. This gives a total active membership of 433, indicating a truly phenomenal growth during the past few years.

The Treasurer's summary showed the following growth in the Society's assets:

1919	-----	\$1,506.18
1920	-----	2,022.20
1921	-----	2,783.15

Our Treasurer is always in a state of alarm lest the expenses of the Society may outrun our income; but there seems no immediate



danger of any such calamity overtaking us. It is of course true that we should avoid unnecessary outlay, but on the other hand, it is comfortable to feel that we can continue to offer a generous schedule of prizes, and print our bulletins in ever increasing editions without running any immediate danger of bankruptcy. As a matter of fact the prizes at our shows are never all taken. It may not be unprofitable to review the figures for the past few years. As given below, they include only the regular money prizes offered by the Society and do not include either medals or such specials as Mrs. Harding's prize or the others offered for seedlings:

	Offered	Awarded	
1916.....	\$550	\$321	(New York)
1917.....	544	476	(Philadelphia)
1918.....	483	378	(Cleveland)
1919.....	409	323	(Detroit)
1920.....	656	456	(Reading)
1921.....	527	225	(Boston)

After receiving the Treasurer's report, the reports from the committees of judges were heard and approved. They are given in full detail below, and need not be inserted here.

The excellent custom now pretty well established at our gatherings of omitting lengthy and formal addresses gives us much more time for a discussion of the questions that interest us and that are important for the welfare of the Society and for peony culture. In some remarks of the Secretary the suggestion was brought forward that the Society should in some way provide for two official exhibitions each year, one in the north and one in the south, or one east and the other west. The need of some such arrangement was felt particularly in 1921 on account of the very unusual season, which resulted in making the Boston exhibition almost a "one man show." Our membership is now so considerable that it is most desirable that more of the large peony-growing public should have a first rate peony show within a reasonable distance; furthermore the success of two shows would now be much more certain than would have been the case ten years ago. The practical details of such a plan would not be easy to work out; and after some discussion the whole question was referred to the Directors with power to act.

The Secretary asked for instructions regarding the cost of the bulletins, wishing to know whether it was desirable, in the judgment of the Society to keep the cost of these publications within some rigid limit. The matter was referred back to him with power.

The selection of a meeting-place for 1922 next came before the Society. Mr. W. E. Saunders presented a cordial invitation to the Society to come to London, Ontario, a city which has chosen the

peony as its civic flower, and which possesses a large and active Horticultural Society. The invitation was backed by a letter from the Mayor of the city and a resolution from the Board of Trade.

A letter was then read from Mr. H. S. Cooper urging the desirability of choosing Chicago as our meeting place for some time in the near future, and this was supported by a telegram from Mr. W. W. Cook carrying the same message. Mr. Wm. Peterson spoke in favor of Chicago for some near date, but was not opposed to London for 1922. A motion to accept the invitation to London was finally put and adopted, on the understanding that the Society shall enjoy the courtesies of the Customs so that cut flowers for exhibits may be freely taken across the border.

The Committee on Nominations presented its slate. Mr. Bonnetz, who was named as a Director, declined to let his name stand, and the officers finally elected were these:

President, A. H. Fewkes.

Vice President, H. A. Norton.

Secretary, A. P. Saunders.

Treasurer, A. H. Scott.

Director to serve for three years, A. M. Brand.

The Secretary reported that the list of applicants for membership was so long that the meeting would be wearied by a reading of it, and on a motion to that effect the entire list was declared elected with the proviso that the names should be published in the next bulletin, (i. e., in this issue).

It was moved and carried that a vote of thanks be extended to Messrs. T. C. Thurlow's Sons, Inc., for the care and labor they had expended in setting up so large and beautiful an exhibit, without which the show would have lacked the larger part of its interest.

The Committee on Resolutions presented the following report:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be extended to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the courtesy of their invitation to the American Peony Society to hold our show in Boston in conjunction with the regular local peony show.

That our especial thanks be expressed to our local committee, Messrs. Fewkes, W. H. Thurlow, and Norton, through whose efforts the present exhibition in an untoward season and at an unfortunate date, was carried through to a successful issue.

That we here record our sorrow in the death of John M. Good, of Springfield, Ohio, an active and interested member of the Society for many years, a veteran grower of peonies on a large scale, and a courteous and agreeable gentleman, whose presence at past meetings

we shall always remember with pleasure and whose memory we cherish with affection.

Wm. A. Peterson,  
Chas. E. Hoyt,  
E. K. Schultz.

The report was adopted.

The appropriate committee was authorized to award the prize offered by the Skinner Irrigation Company, to complete the prize awards.

The meeting then adjourned.

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## THE EXHIBITION

The eighteenth Annual Exhibition of the American Peony Society was held in Horticultural Hall for the two days, Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, 1921.

The season of 1921 was one of the most remarkable and in some regions the most disastrous for peonies that has occurred during the present century. Spring opened very early and plants started into growth in the north about three weeks before their usual time. Then when they were in large bud, frost struck a good many gardens in Pennsylvania and farther north, about the middle of May, and did great damage to the blooms. But even where there was no frost the bloom was below the average in quality. It is hard to know to what this can be attributed unless to the fact that the winter resting season had been shortened and the plants had lost the "beauty sleep" they usually get in the early weeks of spring. My own garden records show that the earliest peony species—*tenuifolia*, *Wittmanniana*, *macrophylla*, and *Mlokosiewitschi*,—whose usual dates run from May 20 to 25, came on this year from April 30 to May 5, a full three weeks before the normal time.

Under such circumstances it was almost impossible to tell even after the first blooms had appeared, what would be the best date for the full season of Chinese peonies in northern latitudes. The dates of the show were chosen quite a long while in advance, and as the season developed and it became clear that everything would be early it did not prove possible to get them changed. The result of all this was that exhibitors had unusual difficulties to contend with, and the show did not bring out nearly as many blooms as we are accustomed to see. All the more gratitude is owing to those who did stage their blooms—most of them held over in cold storage—and particularly are our thanks due to the Thurlows and to Mr. Harry Norton. If in my comments below I am obliged to notice

that some of the exhibits were of inferior quality, it is not to be attributed to a lack of skill or of good-will on the part of the growers, but to a hostile season which made it impossible to set up exhibits uniform in high quality. This applies to other exhibitors as well as to those named here. Mr. Bonnewitz, who is always game about staging whatever he can, brought in quite a lot of material, but it had been held too long and most of it proved unfit to stage when it was opened up.

The list of prizes is given below:

Class 1. Collection of not more than 100 varieties, double, one of each. First to T. C. Thurlow's Sons, West Newbury, Mass., who put up an exhibit that was very good, considering that most of it had been held over for a week or more in storage. It was interesting to look over a table that contained so many of the Thurlows' own sorts. Among these President Wilson impressed me as about the best; it is of a very delicate and beautiful shade of light pink, uniform in color and good in form. As it was staged there it gave the impression, as did some of the others, of being a bit soft in texture, but this should perhaps be attributed to the fact that the blooms were not freshly cut from the plants. James R. Mann was another of their seedlings that was attractive in color—a soft pink, not very large as staged; probably it comes bigger on mature plants. Of course with all new varieties where stock is being multiplied as fast as possible it is to be remembered that blooms are likely to be taken from young plants, and would therefore not have the size and often not the full quality of those produced on specimens that had become thoroughly established.

My remaining notes on the Thurlows' exhibit are as follows:

La Perle, fine; a variety not yet appreciated at its full value.

Milton Hill, always lovely when well done.

Walter Faxon, always conspicuous for its color.

Jeannot, one of Dessert's recent ones, very lovely in color, a pretty shade of pink, deeper towards the centre; a beautiful flower.

Benjamin Franklin (Brand), a large petalled, solid dark red; very good; looks like a promising sort.

Mrs. C. S. Minot (Minot), on the order of Lady Duff and exceedingly pretty. Tea rose style, light pink and cream, with stamens and crimson flecks, perhaps too much variegated, but with that variety of color which though it is the bugbear of the cut-flower men, is the delight of the amateur.

Eunice Shaylor, a new-comer, white with yellow petaloids, but shown too small to be characteristic.

Mme. Boulanger, as usual identical with La Perle. I set the blooms side by side and found color, fragrance, foliage, everything, exactly alike. This has been my own experience with them in my

garden, too; but I understand there is a true variety Mme. Boulanger, distinct from La Perle. I think, now that we are becoming so careful in the matter of names, that growers who have the same variety under these two names should merge them; the mauve pink, very fragrant, high bloom of crown type, deeper colored towards the centre, is generally understood to be La Perle. Those who have two distinct varieties under these two names might well say so in their lists.

Milton Lockwood, too faded to say much about.

Tourangelle, of enchanting color, small, but oh, what beauty!

E. C. Shaw, a fine light pink color, something near Thérèse.

Avalanche, very fine, an exceptional bloom even for this fine sort. Is this sort subject to a good deal of variation according to the vigor of the plant? I have one root set in rather a poor spot, which has never given anything out of the ordinary, whereas another that is better placed, gives about one year in two or three, a few blooms of marvelous beauty. Have others the same experience?

There was no competition in class 1, but the award of a first to the Thurlows was well deserved for the general quality of the blooms staged, and particularly for the number of unusual varieties included in their large collection. This table was the centre of interest for the show, and had it been possible to set up all the varieties in really prime condition it would have been such an exhibit as we have rarely seen.

Class 2. Collection of ten named varieties double, three blooms of each. No exhibits.

Class 3. Twenty blooms, double, named, white or cream, one variety. Second to T. C. Thurlow's Sons for a vase of M. Dupont, which had been better when fresh.

Class 4. Twenty blooms, double, named, light pink or pink and cream, one variety. First, T. C. Thurlow's Sons, with a vase of Mme. Jules Dessert, very fine, and one of the grandest of recent introductions. Certainly a variety that has come to stay. The same firm also staged a beautiful twenty of La Perle, but they were not up to Mme. Jules Dessert in quality.

Class 5. Twenty blooms, double, named, dark pink, one variety. First to E. E. Randall, Pride's Crossing, Mass., with a strong, fresh group of the variety Mme. Geissler, a grand peony if you are out for size; but too coarse to be considered of first quality. Second to T. C. Thurlow's Sons with Sarah Bernhardt (Lemoine, of course).

Class 6. Twenty blooms, double, named, red or crimson, one variety. First, T. C. Thurlow's Sons, with Eugène Bigot, very good in color.

Class 7. Six specimen blooms, double, named, any variety. This with the following class is generally the most interesting, after class 1, in the whole of our exhibitions. This year it did not quite live up to its past record, though some of the blooms were fine. The first prize went to Mrs. Milton F. Roberts, West Medfield, Mass., for a half dozen of Solange, fresh and nice, with that delicious deep "tea" color of which this variety has a monopoly. This was a fine vase. Second to E. E. Randall for a vase of Thérèse, very good, though one of them looked to me like Mme. Jules Dessert; yet I may have been wrong about that. In this class there also appeared Grandiflora, other vases of Solange, and Grace Loomis—but none of them in good enough form to put the best two in any great danger.

Class 8. One specimen bloom, double, any variety. First to Harry A. Norton with Thérèse. Second to T. C. Thurlow's Sons, with Avalanche. This was a good and very interesting class, though not all of the bloom was quite of prize winning quality. Other varieties staged included Samuel Henshaw, very rarely seen and always good when well done; Grandiflora; Perfection; Enchanteresse; Phyllis Kelway; E. B. Browning; Martha Bulloch; Milton Hill; President Wilson; Solange; Grace Loomis; and the variety Nina Secor, a white seedling raised and named by Mr. Eugene Secor shortly before his death; we shall hope to see the variety again on our tables, for it was by no means without promise. This whole class represented a larger variety of types than one usually sees. And I do not imagine that the decision of the judges was reached all in a moment.

Class 9. Collection of new varieties introduced since 1905. No entry.

Class 10. Ten prizes for the best blooms of each of ten selected varieties.

In this class Mrs. Milton F. Roberts received two prizes, one for a very fine true Kelway's Queen (in this case, at least, the true is the beautiful!), and the other for La France.

Class 11. Seedling class. In this class a Certificate of Merit was awarded to the variety Grace Loomis, probably on the basis of blooms entered in class 7.

In the four following special classes for seedlings, there was no entry. These are the classes for competition for the Harrison Memorial Prize for a yellow peony, the Sisson Memorial Prize for a seedling of a lavender pink color, the J. A. Taylor Prize for a seedling of special merit in some color not specified in either of the preceding prizes, and the W. W. Cook Prize for a seedling of the Japanese type.

Class 16. The Garden Club Prize of a silver medal offered by the Garden Club of America, for the best display of Seedling Peonies. Awarded to A. P. Saunders. There were eight or ten varieties in this group, several blooms of each, all of them in light shades of color. Not many of them were in their best condition, but a few were nice blooms, and the judges gave a Certificate of Honorable Mention to a variety shown as No. 364. This is a white of good quality, but in my judgment too near to Albatre to be a desirable addition to our already over-burdened list of commercial sorts.

Class 17 included two prizes offered by Mrs. Pleas for stems not disbudded. No entry.

Class 18. Offered by the Skinner Irrigation Company, consisting of a fifty foot length of their irrigation system to the amateur receiving the largest number of first prizes. Awarded to Harry A. Norton.

We come next to the Advanced Amateur Classes.

Class 19 was for a collection of not more than fifty named varieties, double, one bloom of each. First to T. F. Donahue, Newton Lower Falls, Mass., who staged a fairly good lot. Beranger, Tourangelle, Raoul Dessert, and some others, were shown in fine form, but some of the other blooms were rather small for exhibition purposes, and a few were past their best. It must not be forgotten that fifty varieties is a great number for an amateur to be able to stage at one time, and Mr. Donahue is entitled to much credit for having put up a group that was fairly entitled to a first premium.

Class 20. Ten named varieties, double, three blooms of each. First, to Harry A. Norton, who staged Le Cygne, Adolphe Rousseau, Reine Hortense, M. Jules Elie, Venus, Frances Willard, Mrs. Geo. Bunyard, James Kelway, Martha Bulloch, Felix Crousse; a good set. Many of the blooms were very large and well grown, but some were tarnished, the result of being packed too close, or perhaps of being cut when they were too far on. This was an exhibit, however, which would not have been easily beaten, and it was a pleasure to see a group of such fine sorts, without one bad color among them all.

The rest of the Advanced Amateur Classes and all the Novice Amateur Classes were vacant.

There was at the end of the schedule a group of Special Classes open only to members of the Society who had not previously exhibited in our shows; some of these brought out good exhibits.

Class 29 was for twelve blooms in two varieties, double, six blooms of each. First, to Harry A. Norton for fine bouquets of *Thérèse* and *Festiva Maxima*.

Class 30 for six blooms of a white variety. Second, to Harry A. Norton with *Festiva Maxima*.

Class 31, for six blooms of a pink variety. First, to Harry A. Norton, with a good half dozen of *Thérèse*. Second, to Robert C. Morse, Milton, Mass., with a group of *Grandiflora*, not in full size, but very fresh and pretty.

Class 32, for six blooms of a dark pink. Second, to Harry A. Norton, with *Kelway's Queen*, but the inferior sort which travels under this name—this one which to my mind is neither true nor beautiful. At least I hope it is not the true one, though as to that, who can tell? But let us in America, at least, establish the other, lighter colored variety, as the true *Kelway's Queen*—one of the loveliest of all the light pinks we have.

Class 33, for six blooms of a red or crimson. First, Harry A. Norton, with *Felix Crousse*.

There were two further classes, one for Tree Peonies, and another for early flowering species and their hybrids; but with a show that was almost too late even for the Chinese peonies, there was no possibility of having those earlier things still hanging on, and both classes were vacant.

All praise and gratitude to the exhibitors who made the show what it was. The short list of prize winners proves clearly enough that if it had not been for the Thurlows and Mr. Norton, Mrs. Roberts, and Messrs. Donahue, Randall, and Morse, we should have had no show. Additional thanks are due to the Thurlows for the large decorative display which did much to render the rooms lovely in appearance.

On Saturday morning several of our members made a visit to the Thurlows' nurseries at West Newbury, and they report a most interesting display there. The writer of this was busy in the Hall and had to deny himself the pleasure of joining the party. He was obliged also to miss the interesting talks of Mr. Farr, which were given in Horticultural Hall on the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday. These are said to have been, as they were sure to be, informing and stimulating.

The attendance at the Show on Saturday was fairly good. Boston always has a respectable turnout for flower shows, and there were many who came and brought their intelligence with them, to learn what they could for the benefit of their own gardens.

For those of us who meet year after year over the exhibition tables, a peony show is as much a gathering of friends as it is a



feast for the eye. The 1921 show was notable more than for any thing else, for the staging of so many of the new Thurlow varieties. It would have been a great pleasure if we could have had also a table of seedlings from the garden of Mr. Shaylor, and particularly if he could have presided over it in person. But his health of late has not been good and we missed both him and his peonies in the exhibition hall.

This account of the show is late in appearing, I know, but I trust that, as old men love to sit about the hearth and recall the adventures of their youth, so we in these wintry days may be glad to recall the memories of a June that was filled with peonies, and to look forward to another June that will be still better than any that has passed.

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## PEONY SHOW OF THE ONTARIO PEONY SOCIETY

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The Ontario Peony Society did me the honor of inviting me to act as judge in their second peony show, held at St. Thomas on June 15th, 1921.

I wish that the members of our own Society could have seen this show. It was, of course, not as large as our own shows, and did not have so ambitious a prize list as we usually indulge in. But the blooms were there. And not old rubbishy kinds either. There is a group of men up there—many of them members in our Society—who think the best is none too good for them; and they have everything that is new, whether in peonies or iris. They are amateur growers, too; what people sometimes call "mere amateurs;" but they are not very "mere," even if they are amateurs. It is a most agreeable experience to get into a country where horticulture is as respectable a fad as golf or trotting-horses. Most of the amateurs on this side, if they have gone in for peonies at all heavily, have had to turn professional in order to keep up their reputation for sanity in their own community. It is true that a woman anywhere may take pleasure in plants and still be considered respectable and sane enough; but for a man to indulge in such a fad, unless he can show that he makes money out of it, marks him as an eccentric, to say the least. Of course, if a man has made a success in some "practical" line, a little intellectual weakness for flowers may be overlooked; but if you have not thus established your sanity, you will indulge any horticultural madness at your peril, and your neighbors will look askance at you. Many a man seeks to avoid the stigma by speaking of his garden always as "my wife's garden." "Keeps me pretty busy evenings taking care of my wife's plants!"

This is cowardly. But I know how strong the temptation is to find something to hide behind; for I see how the expression changes in my own visitors' faces when I tell them my seedlings do a good deal better than pay for themselves; and when they get the figures they are ready to admit that peonies are handsome flowers after all.

Now in Ontario all this seems to be different. Men who are manufacturers, men in insurance or any other line of business, and young men, too, who are still making their way, are not ashamed to let it be known that they have gardens of their own, or that they spend real money on importations of irises or peonies from France and England. And as far as I could see, people seemed to be still doing business with them. I don't know that even over there a man could be elected to political office if he were known to waste his substance in such a way. I believe there was one of them a while ago who was elected to the Board of Water Commissioners. But then, water! That is a sort of eccentricity, too,—in Canada.

All this digression has a purpose. For we are to meet in London next June, and our members may just as well begin now to look forward to the good times we shall all have up there. It is a most congenial atmosphere to any plant lover, or indeed for one who has eyes for any of the beautiful things in nature. They say there are grown men over there who collect butterflies!

Now to get back to the show, and to say a few words about the classes.

Class 1 was, as with us, the big class. "Best collection of not less than 50 varieties, double, one bloom of each." The first prize went to S. F. Wood of London. It was a close thing between him and Miss Blacklock of Meadowvale, who came in second. It was necessary to make a detailed tabulation of the blooms into first quality and second quality before I could decide how the prizes should go. Firsts and second were 27 and 23 in Mr. Wood's group, and 17 and 33 in Miss Blacklock's. That means very high quality as a whole. For the most part the varieties were what we see on our own tables. La Perle, Baroness Schroeder, M. Dupont, Mme. E. Lemoine, Claire Dubois, Tourangelle, Nymphaea, Bertrade, Reine Hortense, Longfellow, Marie Jacquin,—there were among the first quality blooms in one or other of the two fine exhibits.

Class 2. Best collection of not less than 25 varieties, double, one bloom of each. First, to J. MacPherson of London; second, to J. McMaster of London. Mr. MacPherson staged among his a *Victoire de la Marne* of incredible size, as well as a number of others that were good. Mr. McMaster's were of almost equally good quality. A third exhibit by Mr. Victor Sinclair of Tillsonburg, though rather unequal in quality, contained a *Thérèse* that was truly magnificent.

**Class 3.** Six specimen blooms. There were five entries here, and all good. S. F. Wood came easily first with Mme. Emile Gallé, Reine Hortense, Baroness Schroeder, Modeste Guerin, Claire Dubois, and a remarkable bloom of M. Dupont. Miss Blacklock was second with Festiva Maxima, Mme. Calot, Adolphe Rousseau, M. M. Cahuzac, Lamartine, and M. Jules Elie. The other exhibits were not quite of winning quality, though in a group staged by Mr. McMaster there was a most beautiful Walter Faxon. There are few things more welcome to the eye in a peony show than a well colored bloom of this variety. As a garden plant it is, for me at least, one of the poorest of the good kinds. Does anyone succeed in making it look well out of doors?

**Class 4.** Best peony in show; entered in this class only. First, to Mr. Sinclair, with Thérèse. Second, to E. W. G. Quantz of London, with M. Dupont. Both of these were absolutely first quality blooms. The Thérèse was a grand one, and the M. Dupont so fine that it was almost a toss-up between them. I have never seen M. Dupont so well done as it was at the St. Thomas show by Mr. Wood, Mr. Quantz, and some of the other exhibitors.

**Class 5,** for singles. No entry.

**Class 6.** Japanese peonies, not exceeding 10 varieties. First, S. F. Wood. Second, V. A. Sinclair. Mr. Wood staged 8 varieties, all in fair condition, none extra fine. Mr. Sinclair's blooms were creditable, but rather small. Who will be the first to set up a really worthy exhibit of the Japanese sorts? I do not think we have ever had a group of them that really did justice to their beauty, and I still believe a sensation could be made with them if they were well grown and effectively staged.

**Class 7.** 25 blooms of one variety in one receptacle. The finest blooms in this class were M. Dupont staged by Mr. Wood, but the vase contained only 24 blooms. I was told they had been counted several times; but that only shows how we neglect the study of arithmetic these days. Anyway, Mr. Wood got the first prize with a vase of Léonie Calot, small but very pretty and in good condition; and the second prize went to Miss Blacklock, with Duchesse de Nemours.

**Class 8.** 10 blooms of one variety in one receptacle. First, to T. H. Hill of London, with M. Charles Leveque in exceptionally fine style. This and Mlle. Léonie Calot are generally recognized as synonymous; and they certainly look enough alike. Second, to V. A. Sinclair with a vase of a dark red Japanese sort, very effective. Mr. Hill also staged in this class some fine large blooms of Souvenir de l'Exposition Universelle, which were, however, a little tarnished.

**Class 9.** Best seedling of Canadian origin. This class brought

out three varieties, all of them creditable. Two were from Miss Blacklock, and one from Mr. Wood. Miss Blacklock's "Rowancroft No. 1," a primrose yellow bloom in the style of Primevère took the first place. No second award was given, the other two varieties, in the condition in which they were shown, being not quite of prize winning calibre.

Class 10. Most artistic arrangement of not more than 25 blooms, in vase, bowl, or basket. No entry.

Class 11. Three white peonies, one variety. This was a fine class. The first went to a trio of M. Dupont of great beauty, staged by Mr. Wood. Second to Mr. Hill with fine large blooms of Festiva Maxima. Other entries here included Primevère (not at its best), La Rosière (good), and three remarkable blooms of Canari, unfortunately somewhat spotted. I will venture to say that this last variety has not been seen in such size on our tables during the last ten years.

Class 12. Three light pink peonies, one variety. First, to T. H. Hill with Triomphe de l'Exposition de Lille. Second, to S. F. Wood with Mme. Jules Dessert; these last not very large, but with that fine thick quality of petal that distinguishes this variety. A vase of L'Indispensable was also shown; the blooms were very large, but unevenly developed, as is so often the case.

Class 13. Three pink peonies, one variety. First, to A. W. Graham of St. Thomas, with Sarah Bernhardt. Three beautifully finished, spotless blooms of exceptionally good color. Second, to Miss Blacklock, with M. Jules Elie; blooms heavy, but rather too far expanded.

Class 14. Three dark peonies, one variety. First, to S. F. Wood, with De Candolle. Second, to E. W. G. Quantz with an unnamed dark red, perhaps Pierre Dessert.

Class 15. Sweepstakes award for the greatest number of points won by any exhibitor; firsts to count five, second three. This was easily won by Mr. Wood, whose wins totalled 33 points.

Those of us who expect to exhibit at London next June should be warned in advance that the local growers will stage fine blooms that will not be easy to beat. I do not know that there is anyone in that region who could stage 100 varieties in successful competition with such displays as we have had in past years from Mr. Farr, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Bonnewitz, the Thurlows, or Mr. Shaw. But in the smaller classes there should be some lively runs.

There was a general spirit of helpfulness manifested by everyone at this show, but no account of it would be complete without a mention of Dr. Bennett, the President of the St. Thomas Horticultural Society, who was the leading spirit of the enterprise and its active and always good-natured superintendent from early morning till night.

## PEONY SHOW AT TORONTO

By Dr. F. G. Brethour

It was said by the Press at the time in big headlines, and by many persons since, that the Peony Show put on by the Toronto Horticultural Society on June 16 and 17, 1921, was the most beautiful flower show ever staged in the city of Toronto. The Directors have felt in the past that owing to the difference in the time when peonies were at their best varying from a week earlier in the Niagara peninsula and along Lake Erie, to a week later even fifty miles north, it would be difficult to pull off a successful show. However, the peony element thought it was worth a trial, and a strong committee was formed by our President, Dr. Baldwin, and the work was undertaken weeks, yes, months, ahead; with the result that the show was a complete success. In the first place we were able to secure the beautiful hall in Jenkins' Art Gallery, with its alcoves, and galleries hung with costly paintings, and with its polished hard wood floors. We then canvassed for money, and, strange as it may seem, we finally had to refuse some contributions. We then proceeded with our premium list, and taking no chances, in case the exhibits might happen to be few, we put in classes for displays of perennials.

In the open class, a table twelve feet by three was filled with hardy outdoor flowers and foliage, including shrubs, arrangement to count. Sir John Eaton donated a trophy for this class, a rose-wood clock valued at \$75. The committee added \$10, \$5, and \$3. This was won by Dr. F. G. Brethour, Mr. F. L. Green being second, Miss Blacklock third. The Advanced Amateur and Amateur classes called for smaller spaces. These proved to be an interesting part of the show, as they were placed in the alcoves and on the sides, and formed a beautiful background for the peonies. There was also a class for baskets or vases of roses, not more than 25 varieties, and also a class for shrubs; both of these classes were well filled and well placed.

The peony classes were much the same as in the American Peony Society's schedules, including a Novice Amateur class for those who grew not more than 12 plants and who need not necessarily be members. There was a first and second in each class, for best white, light pink, dark pink, and red; also for best five blooms in variety. The object was to get these amateurs to see the best and so be encouraged to grow something worth while. First class peony roots were given as prizes.

The peonies were set upon round tables for the big classes, and on long tables running lengthwise of the hall, with passage-ways

between. The baskets or large vases were elevated to give effect, and the whole view when you entered the hall was most striking.

In the open class the large collection was limited to 50 varieties, one bloom of each, and there were five entries. H. M. Rolph was first; F. A. Kent second.

In the collection of 20 varieties, 3 blooms of each, the first prize was won by Dr. Brethour, the second going to Prof. Bunting of Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec. In Dr. Brethour's collection were three gorgeous Thérèse, Sarah Bernhardt in splendid form and color, Rosa Bonheur, Mme. Jules Dessert, Raoul Dessert, Eugénie Verdier, Jeannot, Ginette, Tourangelle, La Fée, Mme. Emile Dupraz, Souvenir de Louis Bigot, Le Cygne (not quite at her best), Isoline, Souvenir de Francois Ruitton, Mlle. Léonie Calot, and others of like class.

The best 15 whites, won by Miss Blacklock.

The best 15 light pink, won by Dr. Brethour, with Thérèse.

The best 15 dark pink, won by Miss Blacklock.

The best 15 red, won by Prof. Bunting.

The best bloom in the show was a Thérèse, fully 8 inches across, and in beautiful unfaded pink color. This bloom was cut a week before the show and kept in the cellar, and yet it stood up well for both days, notwithstanding the hot weather. It was staged by Dr. Brethour. In this class was also a beautiful La France, by J. S. Wallace, and a fine Mme. Jules Dessert by Dr. Baldwin. There were also several other good ones.

The best artistic arrangement of 25 stems, single or double, was won by Miss Blacklock and Mrs. T. A. Patterson, two firsts; Dr. Brethour second.

Best collection of single or Japanese, won by F. L. Green.

The next class was for the best six blooms in variety, for which Messrs. B. M. and T. Jenkins gave a valuable water-color valued at \$75. This was won by Dr. Brethour. The varieties were Thérèse, Raoul Dessert, Tourangelle, Eugénie Verdier, Mme. Jules Dessert, Sarah Bernhardt.

All sections in the Advanced Amateur and Amateur classes were exceedingly well filled, the chief prize winners being Mr. Rolph, Mrs. Patterson, Mr. Wallace, and Dr. Brethour.

In all, there were upwards of 4,000 peony blooms, and of these only comparatively few had to be replaced on the second day. Displays not for competition were sent in by Sir John Eaton, Mr. A. B. Ormsby, Miss Blacklock, James Howarth, and Prof. Bunting from Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec. Prof. Bunting staged about 400 blooms which he had brought from nearly 400 miles away. They were each rolled in paper, and packed tightly in large flat boxes. When taken out and put into water they opened up rapidly and looked perfectly fresh.

## NOTES OF THE SHOW

The outstanding blooms in the show were Thérèse. They were immense in size and rich in color.

There were plenty of Le Cygne, but not in perfection.

Jeannot was very much admired for its exquisite color and perfume.

Sarah Bernhardt was exceptionally good. It figured as one of the best six, also in three huge blooms in the collection of 20, and took first as best ten dark pink in the Advanced Amateur class.

Primevère was jotted down in notebooks by a great many of the visitors.

La France was shown in good form for the first time in Toronto.

Auguste Dessert was shown by me for the sake of its color; and it is quite distinct,—somewhat of a cerise. It promises very well, and is a very strong grower. The color lasts well in the sun.

Entente Cordiale promises well also, being a beautiful pink somewhat like La France. It may not be true however, as Rivière's stock is, I think, uncertain. Mlle. Léonie Calot in a group of three in the collection of 20, were immense and of wonderful color, and with good strong stems. It excelled itself this year.

It looks as if the peony show may become a permanent feature after 1922. This year, owing to the Peony Society holding their big show in London, Ont., we intend to hold instead an Iris show, with Darwin tulips, perennials, lilacs, and shrubs on the side. All the irises worth growing are here, and the premium list will be most attractive. It will be open to the world!

We are all looking forward to meeting the "big guns" in the peony world next June, and if the dates at all suit there should be a big exhibit from this side. We hope that specimens of the newer American introductions can be brought over.

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## EXHIBITION OF THE NORTHWESTERN PEONY AND IRIS SOCIETY

By W. F. Christman

(The following account of the show held this year in St. Paul has been furnished by Mr. Christman, the enthusiastic and competent Secretary of the Northwestern Society. It is interesting to see how very frequently the new varieties which are being produced in such large numbers in that section are to be found on exhibition tables there. Mr. Brand's peonies now need no introduction to eastern growers, and it is to be hoped that other seedlings of real value from the same section of country, where the soil and climate seem to be unusually well suited to the peony, will soon find their way into cultivation with growers in all parts of the country.

It will be noticed that Mr. Christman's article really covers three separate shows: that of the N. W. P. and I. Society on June 15 and 16, the First National Bank show in St. Paul on June 16, now a regular annual show, and the exhibition of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society on the 17th. Those must have been pretty active days for peony growers in the neighborhood of the Twin Cities.)

The fifth annual exhibition of the Northwestern Peony and Iris Society, held in the Palm Room of the St. Paul Hotel, June 15 and 16, proved to be the best exhibition ever held by the Society.

A very hearty response to notices sent out by the Society resulted in a large number of exhibitors making entries, and the most gratifying feature was the interest manifested by the many amateurs who brought blooms for display. Artificial light had to be resorted to, but it was so diffused and softened that the beauty of the blooms was not greatly impaired. An effort will be made to secure quarters next year that will require no artificial lighting during the day at least, for in no other way can the full beauty, wonderful coloring, and delicate tinting be seen at their best.

The show committee consisted of Messrs. D. W. C. Ruff, Warren Hoff, John S. Crooks, W. F. Christman, and John E. Stryker, chairman. Excellent facilities were accorded to exhibitors, and there was little confusion in getting the various exhibits staged. Great credit is due to Mr. Stryker, who worked unceasingly until the show was ready for judging and opening to the public.

We were extremely fortunate in having with us Mr. Wm. A. Peterson of Chicago, a universally well known peony connoisseur, who judged the exhibits in a most capable manner.

In all there were ten classes. The prize winners in the various classes are as follows:

**Class 1. Best vase of six white peonies**

First to Riverview Gardens, St. Paul, with Couronne d'Or

Second to D. W. C. Ruff, St. Paul, with Le Cygne

Third to Franklin Nursery, Minneapolis, with their seedling  
Serene

**Class 2. Best vase of six red peonies**

First to Riverview Gardens, with Francois Rousseau

Second to D. W. C. Ruff, with Chas. McKellip

Third to John E. Stryker, St. Paul, with Karl Rosenfield

**Class 3. Best vase of six dark pink peonies**

First to D. W. C. Ruff, with E. G. Hill

Second to Riverview Gardens, with M. Krelage

**Class 4. Best vase of six light pink or blush peonies**

First to A. C. Arny, St. Paul, with La France.

Second to D. W. C. Ruff, with Judge Berry.

Third to Riverview Gardens, with Claire Dubois



- Class 5. Best specimen bloom, double, any color.  
First to D. W. C. Ruff, with Thérèse  
Second to A. C. Arny, with Phoebe Cary  
Third to Riverview Gardens, with Albatre
- Class 6. 25 blooms in vase, any variety. Each entry one color only  
First to D. W. C. Ruff, with Sarah Bernhardt  
Second to Riverview Gardens, with Marie Lemoine  
Third to Franklin Nursery, with Mabel L. Franklin
- Class 7. Best seedling exhibited by originator  
First to Franklin Nursery, with the variety June Day  
Second to Mrs. H. B. Tillotson  
Third to John E. Stryker
- Class 8. Best collection of named varieties exhibited by professional growers  
First to D. W. C. Ruff  
Second to Riverview Gardens  
Third to Franklin Nursery
- Class 9. Best collection of named varieties, competition for amateurs only  
First to John E. Stryker  
Second to Mrs. H. B. Tillotson, Eureka, Minn.  
Third to E. A. Sanborn
- Class 10. Collection of six varieties, double, one bloom of each; for amateurs who have never won a prize for a collection at a peony show  
First to A. F. McBride  
Second to E. A. Sanborn

#### NOTES OF THE SHOW

Mr. Ruff, who always puts up a fine exhibit, outdid himself this year with a display that would be hard to beat. Few of the many spectators dreamed of the immense amount of work and preparation necessary to make a display of 217 varieties, that filled two tables the entire length of the room. His exhibit included almost all of the finest new kinds whether French, English, or American. There was no more outstanding sort among them than Walter Faxon. This peony is in a class by itself in the matter of color.

The Riverview Gardens, 909 Winslow St., St. Paul, put on a splendid display, that carried off second prize in the collections of named varieties. Their exhibit included also many of the finest and newest sorts. Mr. A. J. Wilkus, proprietor of the Riverview Gardens, proved to be one of the biggest hustlers at the show, and it will be noted that he was among the prize winners in a number of classes. His blooms were in very fine condition.

The display of the Franklin Nursery, Richfield Station, Minneapolis, revealed a large number of new seedlings never before exhibited. These seedlings created a great deal of favorable comment, and there are a number of them that will be classed among those of the first rank when they become better known. A few of the most promising were: June Day, Mabel L. Franklin, W. F. Christman, Ball o' Cotton, Petagra, Serene, No. 78, Eleanor Ann Smith, A. M. Slocum, Edwin W. Becker, Mary P. King, Reverie, Red Bird, X6. In addition to these, a large number of the best standard varieties were staged by the same nursery.

Mr. J. E. Stryker, 518 Globe Building, St. Paul, carried off first prize for the best amateur collection. He staged 41 varieties of peonies of the better class, including such standard favorites as *Le Cygne*, *Thérèse*, *E. B. Browning*, etc. Mr. Stryker has a large collection and is constantly adding the best varieties obtainable.

The amateur collection of Mrs. H. B. Tillotson of Eureka, Minn., was very well staged and included such good standard kinds as *Grandiflora*, *Mme. Emile Gallé*, *Baroness Schroeder*, *Mary Brand*, etc.

The professional display of Prof. A. C. Arny, 2115 Dudley St., St. Paul, was exceptionally rich in the newest sorts, including *Alsace Lorraine*, *La France*, *Le Cygne*, *Victoire de la Marne*, *Aviateur Raymond*, *Longfellow*, *Mme. Jules Dessert*, *Thérèse*, *Solange*, *Tourangelle*, *Brand's Magnificent*, *Chas. McKellip*, and many other fine kinds.

Others making entries and displays were as follows:

Colfax Grant, 515 N. W. Bank Bldg., Minneapolis.

E. A. Sanborn, 1786 Marshall Ave., St. Paul.

Warren Hoff, 208 Amherst St., St. Paul.

John M. Kleitsch, 2121 East 4th St., Duluth, Minn.

B. F. Beardsley, Bald Eagle Lake, Minn.

A. F. McBride, 1764 Marshall Ave., St. Paul.

Mrs. T. H. Thompson, 1305 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul.

Mrs. Tillotson brought in bloom from her gardens at Lake Minnetonka, coming nearly twenty-five miles in a driving rain. This shows the right spirit. She also brought in a display for the First National Bank Show the following day, as well as the Horticultural Society's Show held on the 17th.

The weather was extremely hot, and the flowers showed the effect the second day of the show, although new flowers were constantly added, so that there were no really unsightly blooms in the entire exhibition.

Four large white peonies and a bud, of the variety *Duchesse de Nemours*, that had been preserved in alcohol since 1915 B. P.

(Before Prohibition) caused considerable interest at the show held at the First National Bank. The specimen was well preserved.

It was regretted that the Brand Nursery made no display. Their exhibits have been missed for several Junes. It is hoped they will make an effort another year to bring up a large exhibit, as they have one of the largest plantings in the West.

Due to a misunderstanding Mr. Wm. Anderson, 1540 Kerwin St., St. Paul, did not exhibit at the Northwestern Peony and Iris Show but did exhibit at the First National Bank Show a few blocks distant, on the 17th of June. Taken as a whole I do not think I have ever seen a finer collection of blooms. The number of varieties was not very large but the quality of the blooms was unbeatable. The blooms of Martha Bulloch, Thérèse, Le Cygne, Solange, Judge Berry, and many others, were immense. The natural fine colors of the blooms seemed to be brought out with a clearness and richness not often seen. We are informed that Mr. Anderson uses no fertilizer in securing these exhibition blooms. It is evident that his soil must be naturally adapted to the needs of the peony plant. It is a reddish clay and doubtless contains a good deal of the ashy residue left from the burning of the heavy timber that once covered the ground. Nearly every bloom in Mr. Anderson's exhibit was of exceptional size. I noticed particularly the following varieties: Couronne d'Or, Judge Berry, Martha Bulloch, Claire Dubois, Mary Brand, E. B. Browning, Tourangelle, Pasteur, La Lorraine, M. Martin Cahuzac, Thérèse, Primevère, Solange, Reine Hortense, Phoebe Cary, Marie Lemoine, La France, Baroness Schroeder, Sully Prudhomme, Elwood Pleas, Karl Rosenfield, Le Cygne, Sarah Bernhardt, Mme. Jules Dessert, Etta, Lady A. Duff, Eugène Verdier

On Thursday, the 16th, the First National Bank of St. Paul staged a show for amateurs that brought out exhibits from about twenty-five different growers. I have no detailed report as to the prize winners, but I was very favorably impressed with the exhibition as a whole. The show was held open for two days, and was during that time largely attended.

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society chose June 17th as the date for their exhibition, and in spite of the fact that two peony shows had immediately preceded their date, a large number of blooms were displayed, in addition to many other classes of annual and perennial flowers.

The writer does not have at hand information as to the various winners in all the classes. Mr. D. W. C. Ruff carried off first honors in the class for the largest collection, Riverview Gardens coming in for second prize, and A. C. Arny for third. In the amateur classes Mrs. H. B. Tillotson easily carried off first honors. In the seedling class, the Franklin Nursery carried off first, second, and

third prizes with the following seedlings: No. 44 (Serene), No. 78, X-6, The last two are unnamed seedlings of great merit.

It is hoped that a combination of interests may be brought about another year that will result in one big peony show representing the combined efforts of the peony growers of this section, and proving a great attraction to all peony admirers. Next year's peony show of the N. W. Peony and Iris Society will be held in Minneapolis, and the iris show will be held in St. Paul. It is the intention to alternate these shows each year between the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

It is also greatly desired that the American Peony Society will be the guests of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul in the near future. We hope that perhaps they will decide to hold their June exhibition here in 1923.

### **PEONY SHOW AT SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Our member, Mr. Chas. McCaffree, sends a very interesting account of the formation of the Sioux Falls Peony Society and of their first show, held on June 9 and 10, 1921. There was a schedule of prizes,—ribbons only—for peonies, irises, roses, and other garden flowers; also for wild flowers; and a prize or two for decorative arrangements. The number of separate exhibits of peonies came up to 147; many of them, it is true, included only three blooms, but even so the number of exhibits is amazing.

The named varieties for which separate prizes were offered in the prize schedule were Festiva Maxima, Edulis superba, Rubra superba, Mme. Lemoine; but a number of other named sorts were shown, including Felix Crousse, Mme. Geissler, Modeste Guerin, Eugène Verdier, Floral Treasure, and others,—on the whole a very good lot from among the older kinds. An excellent article on peony planting and culture from the pen of Mr. McCaffree appeared in the local papers at the time of the show. It is the proclaimed intention of the new society to make its show an annual event, and we wish them great success, and hope to hear the particulars when it is all safely over next June.

The Constitution of the Society is given below, as it may contain useful suggestions for those who are at work upon similar organizations elsewhere:

#### **CONSTITUTION**

Article 1. (Name.) The name of this society shall be the Sioux Falls Peony Society.

Article 2. (Purpose.) The purpose of this society shall be to conduct an annual Peony Show in Sioux Falls.

Article 3. (Membership.) Any person may become a member of this society upon favorable vote of the board of directors and payment of the annual membership fee of fifty cents.

(a.) Honorary membership without dues may be issued at the discretion of the Executive Committee and honorary membership shall carry all the privileges of membership in the society.

Article 4. (Officers.) An Executive Committee of nine shall be elected at the annual meeting of 1922, three for a term of one year, three for a term of two years and three for a term of three years and they shall hold office until their successors have been elected and shall qualify. The Executive Committee shall have authority to administer the affairs of the society between the membership meetings. The Executive Committee shall elect from their number a president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. No officer shall be paid for his services except that the Executive Committee may direct special work by the secretary for which they may allow compensation. They may employ such other assistance as may be needed. The Executive Committee shall have power to fill any vacancies which may occur.

Article 5. (Meetings.) The annual meeting of the society shall be held the third Tuesday in January, at such time and place as the president may designate. Special meetings may be called by the president or any five members. A postcard notice of the annual or any special meeting shall be mailed to each member at least three days in advance of the meeting. The members shall constitute a quorum at any membership meeting, and five members shall be a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Article 6. This constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the members by a majority vote of those present.

### **PEONY SHOW AT NEW BEDFORD, MASS.**

A peony and rose show was held at New Bedford in the week preceding June 25. The show is reported to have been a great success, much of its interest being due to a fine display of blooms from the Cherry Hill Nurseries. A special award of merit was given to the new Thurlow seedling President Wilson, which looked so well at the Boston show.

It is a fine thing that local peony shows are becoming more and more regular events each year in many places. We cannot have too many of them. The peony needs only to be well shown to win admirers everywhere; and he who falls a victim to its beauty at a show one year will be himself a peony grower the next year, a "fan" within five years, and if he lives long enough may see himself president of the Peony Society before he gets through.

## **PEONY SHOW AT SPOKANE, WASHINGTON**

(The following notes on the annual Spokane Show have been kindly furnished for the Bulletin by Mr. L. C. Barrett of the Spokane Seed Company.)

On the 14th and 15th of June, the fifth annual Spokane Peony Show was staged in the salesrooms of the Spokane Seed Company. There were nearly 2,000 blooms staged. The largest single entry was made by Mrs. F. J. Walker, Rockwood Boulevard, Spokane; two professional entries were made by R. A. Jones, Riverside Nurseries, and G. Scheule of Scheule's Hardy Gardens, both of them remarkable for the number of varieties as well as for the individual size and coloring of the blooms. Mr. Jones' M. Jules Elie excited no end of comment. Mr. Scheule's display of Karl Rosenfield was by far the finest red in the entire exhibition. Mrs. Walker's Eugène Verdier was the largest individual bloom displayed.

The awards of prizes were as follows:

**Collection of light pinks**

First and second prizes, Mrs. F. J. Walker

**Collection of pink and cream**

First, Dora McAllister

Second, Mrs. M. E. Hay

**Collection of deep pink**

First, Mrs. A. W. Witherspoon

Second, Mrs. F. J. Walker

**Collection of red or crimson**

First, Mrs. F. J. Walker

Second, Mrs. Geo. L. Fisher

**Collection of whites**

First, Mrs. A. W. Witherspoon

Second, Mrs. F. J. Walker

**Best bloom of white, double**

First, Dora McAllister

Second, Mrs. F. J. Walker

**Best bloom of light pink, double**

First and second, Mrs. F. J. Walker

**Best bloom of dark pink, double**

First, Mrs. A. W. Witherspoon

Second, Mrs. John R. Neely

**Best bloom of red or crimson, double**

First, Mrs. F. J. Walker

Second, Mrs. Geo. L. Fisher

Best bloom of pink and cream, double  
First, Mrs. A. W. Witherspoon  
Second, Mrs. A. G. Hutchinson

The Judges were:

J. W. Duncan, Superintendent of Parks  
S. Younkin, of the Hoyt Bros. Florist Company.  
E. A. Davidson, Landscape Architect

The public attendance was good, and showed a far greater interest in peonies and peony growing about here than has been indicated at any of our earlier exhibitions.

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## NECROLOGY

Within the past year or a little more, the Peony Society has lost several of its members by death, and their names are here commemorated:

John M. Good, of Springfield, Ohio, who was elected to membership in 1905, and was therefore almost a charter member.

James Cowan, of Oshawa, Ontario, elected in 1907.

E. L. Rogers, of Lawrence, Long Island, elected in 1916.

John P. Reed, of Van Wert, Ohio, elected in 1918.

James E. Russell, of Paulding, Ohio, elected in 1919.

William Brown, of Erie, Pennsylvania, elected in 1921.

I hope to publish later some account of the life of Mr. Good and his activities in connection with the peony.

Besides these our own members, however, whose loss we mourn, there are two others so closely connected with the peony world that their names should not be omitted here.

On November 21, 1921, Mrs. Lee R. Bonnewitz died at her home in Van Wert, Ohio.

All of our members, and particularly those who have been present at the meetings of the past few years will have been touched with grief at the news of the death of Mrs. Bonnewitz, and with sympathy for her husband and her daughter Alice. Mrs. Bonnewitz, though not a member of our Society, was always there when the time came for the setting up of those fine exhibits which have counted for so much in many of our recent shows. I think she loved peonies almost as much as Mr. Bonnewitz himself, and felt pride, as she well might, in the beautiful blooms which came from their garden. We shall miss her friendly presence, and it is fitting that our sympathy and deep regret should be recorded here.

In January, 1921, occurred the death of Mr. O. F. Brand, a pioneer peony grower in the Northwest, and the founder of the great stock of seedlings out of which the well-known Brand peonies have come. Mr. A. M. Brand has kindly sent the following note on the life and activities of his father, for insertion in the Bulletin:

"My father, Oliver Franklin Brand, was born in Lawrence County, New York, in 1844, of English parentage. His family moved to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, while he was quite young. In 1861, at the age of 17, he volunteered for the Civil War, and became a member of the First Wisconsin Infantry. When he had been in the army for two years, he was discharged for permanent disability. He then returned home, and after recuperating for about a year took up agency work for the New York Nursery of Ellwanger and Barry. He continued as agent and jobber in this line for some three or four years, when he finally started in the nursery business for himself, at Faribault, Minnesota, then on the frontier in 1867. Here he conducted a general nursery business. Minnesota's climate is very trying on nursery stock and he tested every variety he could get hold of, looking for hardiness and something that would withstand the rigors of our climate. He tried out hundreds of seedling apples sent to him from all over the Northwest, and grew apple seedlings himself by the thousand. At one time he had a testing orchard here of forty acres. Out of all this work he produced several very good apples and crabs for the Northwest.

"From the very start he kept a good many peonies. In 1877 or 1878 I can remember about an acre mostly of *Whitleyi*, *Humei*, *Eduhis superba*, *Fragrans*, and *Pottsi*. In the year 1894 he started his big collection of peonies, and bought everything he saw advertised, with the result that by 1899 he had some eight hundred varieties. In the summer of 1899 he saved four quarts of seed collected from a planting of peonies set off by itself especially for the purpose; and that fall we planted them. The seed was planted in rows two and a half feet apart with the seed six inches apart in the row. This seed gave in the neighborhood of four thousand plants, and out of this planting came E. B. Browning, Mary Brand, Frances Willard, Martha Bulloch, Longfellow, Richard Carvel, Phoebe Cary, Lora Dexheimer, Chestine Gowdy, Winnifred Domme, Judge Berry, Luetta Pfeiffer, and a few other good ones. Most of these were introduced in 1907.

"In 1911 the collection was turned over to me. I had entered business with my father in October 1899, and one of the first things I did was the planting of the seed referred to above. The selections were made later by my father and myself. It was uphill work to get our peonies introduced after we had them, and the financial returns amounted to practically nothing up to about five years ago.



Hence my father really never realized anything in a financial way out of his own productions, although he got a world of pleasure from them.

"My father moved to Pomona in Southern California in the fall of 1911, and continued to grow seedlings there. I was called there last January by his illness, and was with him about ten days before he passed away.

"That he was a true flower and fruit lover, the many seedling apple, peach, apricot, and plum trees that covered his one city lot will bear witness. A few days before he died, he told me that last fall he had planted some peony seed and hoped to live to see it bloom."

A. M. BRAND.

There is to my mind something singularly impressive and almost inspiring in the thought of men who are far beyond the allotted three score and ten, planting peony seed. Professor Jackson, in that admirable account which he wrote of the life of John Richardson records of him that "when nearly ninety he planted peony seeds just the same as in earlier years." And here was Mr. Brand, the senior, also setting the seed of his beloved peonies into the ground at the age of seventy-six, not without hope, or at least with the confidence that if he did not live to see the fruits of his labors himself, they would give pleasure to those who remained behind in the world he had left.

I have spoken elsewhere of the longevity of peony growers, and I truly believe that there is an influence that comes into our lives through a close and loving contact with the plants of earth, which keeps us sane and calm amid the uncertainties and the inevitable griefs of life, and which may very well tend thereby to lengthen our own days as well as make them happier.

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