

# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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## Bulletin

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Northbrook, Ill.

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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 upon.

Those who make application for membership at any time receive the current publications of the Society as they are issued.

The dues are \$3.00 a year, of which \$1.00 is toward a year's subscription to the American Peony Society BULLETIN. All checks covering membership dues should be made to The American Peony Society and sent to the Secretary with application for membership. Dues in future are to run from January 1st to January 1st of the following year.

Back BULLETINS of the Society will be charged for at the rate of 25 cents per copy and 50 cents for the Symposium Number (No. 14). To non-members these prices are doubled. No BULLETINS available prior to No. 13.



# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



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DECEMBER, 1940

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## A Message from the President

As this is written we are near another holiday season, bringing with it, of course, a New Year.

The news and radio assure us that this may be the most momentous year through which we adults have ever lived. We may see privation and taxation to which we are unaccustomed. Our personal privileges may be greatly curtailed.

There is one privilege which you and I enjoy, which, so far, is still ours. We may work with our hands and soil which is our own. Our favorite flower is one which rewards our efforts so generously that all who are interested in the peony know that there is no Spring flower which can approach it in satisfaction and beauty. Let us all be thankful that we have our peony gardens in which to work.

The peony blooming season to me is a period to which I look forward for the other ten months of the year. I am probably more fortunate than most of you in so that I can regulate my life that I am able to extend this period so that this year, for instance, I was able to attend a lovely peony show in Duluth, Minn., on July 10th, when my own peony season in Washington, D. C., began on April 25th with the blooming of *P. Macrophylla*.

For the past twelve years I have had the reputation around the country as just about as rabid a peony enthusiast as could be found. This is probably true, for except one year, I have not missed a National Peony Show since 1928.

I attend these meetings for the simple reason that we have in the peony world just about as fine a group of people as it has ever been my privilege to know, and I count many of them among my closest friends.

If I can share this pleasure with you and convince you that attendance at our annual shows is a treat which you have no right to deny yourself, I will feel gratified.

Those who were fortunate enough to attend the Rochester, Minn. show this year, know what I mean. Never have I seen finer bloom, competition or spirit. We must continue this work, maintaining always the same high standard of perfection.

1941 will see our annual meeting in Syracuse, N. Y. Here we should find another exhibit equal to the one just past. Every entry in the show, every new member sent in before next Spring

will help to make our exhibition more successful and our Society stronger and better able to serve each and every one of us. The degree of our mutual service depends upon the number of our members, so do what you can to increase our membership. If each of you would secure only one new member we would be back to our pre-depression status. Your officers and directors are your servants, striving to promote your favorite flower. Their efforts will be more effective if you help them.

In closing I want to thank those who have helped so generously in the projects which we have been carrying on this fall for the good of the Society. Your co-operation was a revelation to me personally and I am deeply grateful to you all.

Circumstances permitting, I expect to be in Syracuse next Spring for our show. I will consider it a favor if you will make yourself known to me.

May good health, happiness and prosperity attend you in the New Year.

Sincerely,  
Earle B. White



## Tomorrow

Ernest Flint Kelsey

Chill Night his sable robe has spread  
Above the sleeping children's bed,  
Yet ere his mighty task has ceased  
Flushed Dawn strides smiling from the East.  
The stars are fading one by one—  
The day has come.

The Winter may reluctant go  
With stinging lash of wind-blown snow;  
He reigns supreme in fields and brakes,  
O'er ice-locked streams and fettered lakes.  
The cloud banks move, behold the sun  
For Spring has come.

Depression cannot always last;  
Hard times have come and always passed  
Into new days of joyous song—  
Detours are rough but seldom long.  
By faith I hear the spindles hum,  
Good times must come.

Although these cruel wars may rage  
Through bloody years and men engage  
In mortal combat, they will end  
And peace will heal, restore and mend.  
The right, not might, must overcome,  
Then peace will come.

Note: Mr. Kelsey has appended the following note to his verses:  
"Perhaps the verses are not just suitable for the Peony Bulletin but it seems to me in these days of almost universal

gloom we need to be reminded that day follows night, Spring succeeds Winter, prosperity ensues hard times and peace dawns after the bitterest war. It is an irrevocable law of life which should fortify us and give us courage and endue us with hope.

Today I have been cutting peony tops and burning them. They are dead, dry, lifeless and unsightly but just below the cool loam are buds ready for some glad tomorrow. Is this preaching? Perhaps, but the truth is as old as the day when out of the darkness came the voice that said, "Let there be light."



## LeCygne—Is It Rated Too High?

By J. W. Frenz, Baraboo, Wisconsin

*Le Cygne* has been the highest rated peony for many years, and has generally been thought to fully deserve that honor. But of late there seems to be a growing feeling in some quarters that *Le Cygne* is rated too high and that something should be done about it. Some peony growers believe that there are other peonies as good (or better) than *Le Cygne*, and sensing that these may never attain the high mark now accorded *Le Cygne*, favor pulling *Le Cygne* down a few notches so that it will not rate higher than their favorites.

It seems to me unfair to vote again on *Le Cygne* after all these years. *Le Cygne* obtained its rating of 9.9 in the Symposium of 1921, nearly 20 years ago. At that time *Le Cygne* had been in general commerce for fourteen years, and was apparently quite generally grown, for it received 56 votes in that Symposium. That is a large number of votes, and a great many more, I believe, than any peony will receive in any future Symposium. The fact is, that in the Symposium recently conducted by the Society there were so few votes cast that the Symposium has been abandoned. (See Bulletin No. 79, page 47). It is now proposed to have a board of judges consisting of 20 growers submit votes on the peonies to be rated. This is less than half the number that voted on *Le Cygne* in 1921. It has always been considered that the more votes cast, the more likely the average would disclose the true worth of a variety.

An examination of the votes cast for *Le Cygne* in the Symposium of 1921 discloses that there were no "erratic" votes. The total number of votes cast was 56, of which 49 voted it a rating of 10; 6 voted it 9.5, and one thought it should rate 9.0. The average of these votes gives *Le Cygne* its rating of 9.9. Thus it will be seen that 49 out of 56 persons voting considered *Le Cygne* "the perfect flower." That is too large a majority to be lightly set aside. It is almost unanimous.

What has occurred in the mean time that would lower its rating? Nothing, so far as I can see, except that some growers prefer other varieties to *Le Cygne* and dislike to have their favorites lower in rank. If it is thought that there are other peonies as good or better than *Le Cygne*, the growers no doubt will vote them the same or a higher rating than that possessed by *Le Cygne*, but let us not nullify the vote cast by those 56 growers back in

1921. It must be remembered that in voting on a variety, that variety alone should be judged. If *Le Cygne* merits its high rating, it is quite beside the point that there are other fine peonies that do not rate as high. The remedy is by a majority vote.

It seems to me that the Symposium of 1921 settled the question for all time. All the reasons now urged for reducing the rating of *Le Cygne* were present just as much in 1921 as they are now, and yet it received its high mark of 9.9.

If peony ratings are to mean anything, and if we want the public to have faith and confidence in them, we cannot be changing the ratings every time a certain group or class is able to muster enough votes to secure for a favored variety an attractive rating. If that is to be done, then we might just as well give up the matter of rating entirely, in fact it would be much better if we did. I am a believer in the rating system and that ratings given by a substantial number voting in a Symposium are very helpful to all. But these ratings must possess some degree of permanence and not fluctuate like the stock market.

As has been pointed out, *Le Cygne* received its high rating as a result of practically complete unanimity of those voting in 1921. Are we to say that they did not know what they were doing? Were all of those who voted at that time in error? It seems that to suggest such a possibility is to instantly refute it. For my part I am going to assume that those who voted then were as well equipped and qualified to pass on the merits of the peonies being considered as are those who will vote in present or future Symposiums.

It strikes me as quite a serious matter. Since 1921 *Le Cygne* has been heralded far and wide as the highest rated peony. The Society's Manual, catalogs, magazine articles, books and encyclopedias have alike publicized it as such. Even those not very well informed generally about peonies know that *Le Cygne* stands at the head of the list. And now, presumably, we may have to change that and say that some other peony has taken its place at the head of the procession. It is going to be hard to explain. It will likely cast doubt on many other peonies and tend to make the whole system uncertain and insecure.

Furthermore, it seems to me that to again vote on *Le Cygne* is a violation of the rule adopted by the Society governing ratings. As I understand it, when a peony receives more than 20 votes in two successive Symposiums, and the rating does not vary more than .2, the last rating is the permanent rating of the variety. (See Bulletin No. 14, page 22). *Le Cygne* was voted on in 1919, and with 23 voting, received a rating of 9.7; it was again voted on in 1921, and with 56 voting, received a rating of 9.9. As I read the rule, this would permanently fix the rating of *Le Cygne* at 9.9.

It is respectfully submitted that it should not be disturbed.

\* \* \*

## Charcoal The Invaluable

*From Northwest Gardens\**  
Fred Cole

### A MOST USEFUL MATERIAL IN THE GARDEN

If we had to pay a dollar a pound for charcoal it would still pay to use it in our gardens. Costing only a few cents a bag it is seldom used in this country. This must be because its properties are not known.

In England, famous for its lawns, charcoal and wood ashes are the main source of plant food on most of the great estates. It is used once a year in the form of soot. One dressing of soot keeps the lawns in good condition throughout the year. Soot is mostly charcoal.

Charcoal itself has no food value whatsoever. Its value to the plants lies in its ability to collect and conserve ammonia. The power of charcoal to collect and conserve ammonia is one of the marvels of the world of physics.

A simple explanation of its power may be illustrated by two one-gallon bottles. If we replace the air in one of the bottles with ammonia gas the bottle will hold exactly one gallon of gas, just as it would hold one gallon of water. If we fill the other bottle as tightly as possible with good charcoal, this full bottle will now hold eighty gallons of ammonia gas—the one gallon of charcoal having the power to absorb into its pores eighty gallons of ammonia gas. If we were to attempt to compress eighty gallons of ammonia gas into one gallon we would need a very powerful compressor. Yet this simple product of our forests has the power of compressing eighty gallons into one gallon.

How does it act in the soil? We put into our gardens various plant foods—bonemeal, for instance. As soon as the bonemeal is moistened, bacteria start to work on it and break down its protein. The first product of this breaking down (rotting) is ammonia in its gas form. This gas is extremely volatile and easily escapes into the air, and as far as we are concerned is lost. But nothing is lost in nature. She will return it to the ground in the rain—but distributed over other peoples' gardens. Imagine a grain of bonemeal rotting in the soil and giving off its valuable ammonia gas. Now imagine a grain of charcoal lying next to it. That grain of charcoal will absorb eighty times its own bulk of ammonia. It will absorb it and hold it for the use of the plant roots.

Observe the action of roots where there are pieces of charcoal in the soil. It will be found that the roots are attracted by the charcoal and cling to it to get the ammonia it absorbs for them.

Blood-meal, bone-meal, fish-meal, soya-meal, tankage, natural manures, compost heaps, all form ammonia as they break down. It is the ammonia-forming capacity of these fertilizers that we pay for—a material containing fifty per cent of protein costs twice as much as one containing twenty-five per cent. We pay a high price for the ammonia-forming materials in our fertilizers and then allow the greater part of the ammonia to escape into the air.

How much charcoal should one put into the soil? For the first few years at least, as much as we use of the organic plant foods—a sack to a sack, bulk, not weight. Charcoal, being almost indestructible, accumulates in the soil; it does not decay or wash away.

Obviously the ideal condition would be to have every grain of organic plant food coated with charcoal before it goes into the soil—so thoroughly mix powdered charcoal with the materials before putting them into the soil.

Charcoal has other equally wonderful properties. It will store up and conserve the valuable ammonia, and at the same time it will act as a continuous factory for the destruction of injurious acids.

To prove this we can return to our bottle illustration. Fill the bottle with charcoal and then pass into it sulphide gas. The bottle filled with charcoal will absorb fifty-five gallons of sulphide gas, or we can pour eighty-five gallons of hydrochloric gas into it. The action now is quite different from when the ammonia was stored up and saved for the plants to use as they needed it. The sulphide and chloride are destroyed by the action of the charcoal. We can watch this destruction. Plunge a thermometer into the charcoal saturated with the sulphide gas. The temperature will rise rapidly due to the oxidizing process and then it will return to normal. When the temperature has returned to normal your nose will tell you that the evil gas has been destroyed.

Wherever evil organic gases are given off, there will be found a use for charcoal—those evil smells coming from the compost heap when you put the grass cuttings on it, for instance. A sprinkling of charcoal will destroy the evil gasses and conserve the ammonia.

Let's carry the idea of this compost heap out on to the lawn. We dress the lawn with charcoal-treated tankage, fish-meal or bone-meal. The material decays and washes in to the soil, but the charcoal does not decay, it does not dissolve. It remains near the surface and there it arrests every escaping atom of ammonia.

All charcoal is good for the garden, but some is much better than others. The most efficient is that made from boxwood, and the least efficient is that made from willow.

People who understand charcoal and its properties know from which woods the most efficient charcoal is made. Charcoal is like coal—one ton may be worth twice as much as another ton of a different sort.

\*Northwest Gardens, 112 Spring Street, Seattle, Washington.



## Peonies In Northern Texas

By R. R. Boykin, Dallas, Texas

I do not wish to criticize Mr. George W. Peyton's statement in the September issue about peonies in Texas, but I do disagree with him as I have been growing peonies for the past fifteen years, and have had excellent success with them. I will admit, however, that they require more care than in the north. Our

winter temperature is the only hazard we have to surmount as it very seldom gets as low as zero and then rises too rapidly for the ground to freeze hard over a depth of an inch or so. This is not sufficient cold for the peony eyes; therefore, they should be uncovered by removing the soil gently from around them thereby exposing them to receive the full benefit of every bit of freezing temperature we have. For this trouble, we are rewarded in April with very beautiful peonies, which friends from the north tell me are on a par with peonies up there.

The peonies here do not seem to be bothered with diseases and it is very seldom that I have seen thrips on them. There are two or three varieties in my collection which do not bloom so well but they are late bloomers, and I have just about concluded that some peonies that bloom late enough to come after the middle of May here, do not have perfect flowers and I do not recommend them; however, I intend to keep trying until I find the ones that do bloom.

The following varieties make up my garden:

WHITES—Mrs. A. M. Brand, Baroness Schroeder, Pauline Kunderd, Madame De Verneville, Duchess De Nemours, Kelway's Glorious, Avalanche.

YELLOWS—Primevere, Laura Dessert.

PINKS—Mons Jules Elie, President Taft, Etta, Walter Faxon, Marguerite Gerard, Grace D. Bryan, Livingstone, Martha Bulloch, Minnie Shaylor, Souv. de Louis Bigot, Phyllis Kelway, Hansina Brand, Edulis Superba, Therese, Gigantea.

REDS—Phillipe Rivoire, Longfellow, Benoit, Mary Brand, Mrs. John M. Lewis, Lora Dexheimer, Richard Carvel, Karl Rosenfield, Kunderd's Darkest.

JAPANESE—Isani Gidui, Fuyajo, Ohanagassa, Ama-no-sode, Toro-no-maki, Akashigata.

SINGLE—L'Etincelante.

TREE PEONY—Reine Elizabeth.

Twenty of the above varieties were planted this fall. The *Reine Elizabeth* is a pot plant and was planted last year (1939) and I believe will have several blooms this next spring. I am anxious to add two Lutea Hybrids, *Souvenir De Maxime Cornu* and *Satin Rouge* to my garden.

I understand some peony lovers in Houston, which is 250 miles farther south, have their peonies planted in tubs and keep them in cold storage during the mild winter season.

During next blooming season, I will take some pictures and send to you as visible proof of Texas grown peonies.



## Leaves From a Notebook of a Cape Breton Gardener

William MacDonald, Sydney, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Can.

About twelve years ago I read in one of Charles Darwin's numerous books on plant life that there were over 3,000,000 pollen grains in a peony flower. The same author stated that a flower fertilized by insects produced a more robust plant than the

plant propagated by human artificial methods.

Thus hit me the cross fertilization bug. Every year since have I religiously planted peony seeds. The fact that I would have to wait six or seven years to get and see results has accentuated and hardened into a confirmed habit what was, in the beginning, merely a temptation.

Six or seven years ago I began to get blooms. They were nothing to "write home about." In the years 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937 the blooms continued to show no outstanding merit. I began to think my idea of having original peonies was not so hot.

Came 1938 and 1939. I noted a very few lovely little blooms—pink and bright scarlet—in form resembling *Fire King*. But I wanted doubles.

This year—1940—I got four beautiful seedling blooms that have no reason to hang their heads among the hundred and more varieties of standard peonies in my garden. Three are full doubles, one is a semi-double.

One of these peonies is a compact double about the size and shape of *Philippe Rivoire*, but the color is old rose. The stems are erect and strong and not coarse. Foliage is good and the odor agreeable.

The second peony resembles *Le Cygne*. Filmy, gossamer petals of a soft virginal white. Stems long, slender, wiry, erect. Foliage good. Odor pleasant.

The third peony is a semi-double, with the inner petals unfolding in a field of gold. Color white, with a blush so dimity as to make adequate description difficult. Stems slender, strong, erect. Foliage good: likewise odor.

The fourth peony is a full double. Color old rose-pink. Stems long, slender, stiff. Foliage and odor good.

These four peonies bloomed during the last two weeks of July, which puts them in the category of late bloomers.

Truly, does not the peony reveal the secret of where the Chinese got their ideas on the coloring of their pottery and pictures? For always the Chinese have had beautiful peonies. This love of beauty by the Chinese has had an ineluctable effect upon their character. In my perhaps uninformed opinion there are on this earth no people more industrious, more courageous, more cultured than the Chinese. A Chinese friend visited my garden this summer. Boorishly, I offered him some Japanese peonies. Quietly and politely he refused the gift. His gesture was a veritable sermon on patriotism. However, he did accept some Chinese peonies.

But I digress. In 1941 or 1942 I purpose naming and registering these original peonies. But I do not know the correct procedure. So I shall have to write Mr. Christman of the American Peony Society, of which society he is the very efficient secretary. And right now I'm going to write him.

## The Peony—A Glorified Rose

By F. Trafford Taylor, K. C.

*Past International President, Kiwanis International St. Boniface,  
Manitoba, Canada*

You may be a peony lover, but in case you are not, here are a few of the high lights and interesting facts about this wonderful flower. The perfect peony is certainly nature's most gorgeous floral masterpiece.

The peony has been aptly named a glorified rose, and is native of the steppes of Siberia, in its single form, where it grows wild.

The Orientals cultivated it many centuries ago, having numerous peony Societies in Japan and China.

It remained for the French specialists, after the French Revolution at Nancy, near Paris, to develop in a peony garden, which is still in existence, the wonderful double peonies. Some of the most striking of these modern double peonies are *Le Cygne* (the swan), a beautiful pure white delicately petalled flower, some nine inches across, as white as the driven snow, *Sarah Bernhardt*, bomb shape, pink, of an enormous size, bearing prolifically year after year, and *Marcelle Dessert* a delicately tinted flesh pink.

The great French growers at Nancy were Calot, Crousse, Dessert and Lemoine, the garden passing from family to family, and from father to son.

The French growers grew for delicacy of form, producing such exquisite perfect blooms as *Solange*, a dark shaded cream, resembling a typical sunset, and *Philippe Rivoire*, a delicate red of lovely shade, *Emile Lemoine*, a sturdy yet delicate white and a late white, is *Marie Lemoine*, one of the latest blooming peonies. The English grower, Kelway, produced enormous peonies called *Kelway's Glorious*, a peony measuring almost a foot across.

The Americans produced some wonderful peonies, particularly Brand, the Elder and Junior at Faribault, Minnesota, who have given the world some of the finest reds, including *Brand's Magnificent*. The further north, the better the red color, and the peonies prefer a long closed winter, as a resting period preparatory to producing in a moderately warm summer season, their glorious blooms.

*Karl Rosenfeld* is a very fine American red—dark crimson, producing particularly fine flowers of good texture, quality and quantity, and most suitable to the home grower.

I have often thought that it would be a splendid, and very useful objective and activity, for Kiwanis clubs, particularly in the North and North Western parts of the United States and Canada to encourage and popularize the growing of peonies, so as to develop peony shows, and in the blooming season, to distribute as many as possible to the sick and bed ridden. I may say that to date this year, Mrs. Taylor and I have cut upwards of 25,000 peony blooms, and distributed them to the hospitals throughout greater Winnipeg and St. Boniface, including the invalid soldiers and apparently they have been appreciated, also decorated YMCA Army Hut at Shilo Camp.

I have a twenty year old acre plot, of some 3,500 peonies, of the best varieties, gathered over the years from Europe and the United States and at this time of the year it is a very fitting service activity in my opinion, for Kiwanians to use their surplus flowers to brighten the sick rooms and hospitals. I also grow at home some 20,000 annuals, of different varieties, as a follow up flower for cutting after the peonies have finished blooming.

The gathering and cutting requires considerable time, but if a number of Kiwanians work together in a group, they could establish a regular flower car to gather blooms of the members, from time to time, throughout the season, and take turns in distributing same to the hospitals and other institutions.

Peonies are probably the best investment one may make, in the line of flowering perennials, as I understand there are peony plants in the States of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania 125 years old, and like Johnny Walker still going strong.

The Greeks in olden days had the European variety comparable to our quite common early "Red Piney," to be found in every front yard behind the white picket fence of the early Americans. The ancients considered the peony as a lucky charm and a good omen, to ward off evil spirits, and no house was without one plant, for this purpose.

The young people often wore the roots around their necks, in necklace style, as a charm and a lucky rabbit's foot, to guard against evil and bad luck. They also considered the peony of considerable medicinal value and generally it has been held in greater respect and reverence throughout the centuries than any other known flower.

Roses may be grown to perfection only in certain states and provinces, but the peony is universal and I sincerely recommend it to every community throughout the domain of Kiwanis on this continent, to bring not only joy and satisfaction to its owner but to brighten the eye of the sick and afflicted.

The greater portion of the peony roots have been imported yearly from Holland, but this market is now closed, and we in Kiwanis might do well to encourage the peony growers and producers in North America, by making it possible for urban and rural flower loving groups and agricultural societies to obtain and develop this truly wonderful flower, in larger quantities and at a reasonable cost.

The above sketchy outline of the peony is, I realize, a very poor and inadequate description of this truly magnificent flower. I apologize to peony enthusiasts for the lack of detail but I am speaking as a true lover of the peony, as a grower, and as a zealous enthusiast, for peonies happen to be my particular hobby for the past twenty years.

May Kiwanians everywhere more generally respond to the club activity of "Flowers to the Sick." It has been said that this simple action has an eloquence of thought and feeling which speaks all tongues. May the peony continue to prosper and flourish and thus bring joy and gladness to the world.

The following is a resume of certain helpful suggestions concerning the development and growth of the peony gathered and gleaned by the writer from actual and practical experience over

the years.

Here are a few guides to explain in detail the way to plant and care for peonies, so that the most inexperienced may grow them and enjoy their beauty.

The peony is one of the best perennials for this country. It is very reliable, and most varieties continue to grow for years undisturbed, yielding a large quantity of bloom for a short period each year and for the whole season until frost, a low (30 inch) foliage plant, clean and attractive.

The peony is not particular as to soil. It will grow in rich or poor clay, sandy loam or black soil. A fairly rich soil is perhaps the best, but it will thrive in any soil that is not acid. Peony beds should be well drained, so that surplus water in the spring-time gets away quickly, because water remaining on beds, even for a few days, is fatal to peonies.

Peonies should be planted in the fall—from September to freeze-up—preferably the last week in September. The reason for this is that if the plants are dug too early the eyes on the crown, which will be the stems next year, are not sufficiently developed.

Spring planting has at times proved satisfactory, but it is dependent on the condition of the roots. Do not plant in the spring in this country. A percentage of roots will become unthrifty, and, once in that condition, they rarely recover.

Peonies should see the sun for at least half the day. They may be effectively planted in beds by themselves—this is the ideal way—as a foreground to the shrubbery, as a low hedge or dividing line, or to border a walk.

If peonies are planted in front of, or near, shrubs, make provision for preventing the roots from interfering, because peonies will not grow well in soil impoverished by shrub or by tree roots.

Dig soil two feet deep. If the lower foot is a cold, grey clay, remove it and fill in with good garden loam. Remember that the peony plant is to remain for years in the same location. Don't put any manure under peonies. Peonies must be given a space at least three feet square each, and four feet square is much better. The plant will not entirely fill this space until about the fifth season.

The eyes on the crown of the plant should be two to three inches below the level of the ground. If too deep they will not bloom; if too shallow they will suffer from frost. Dig the soil at least a week or two before planting, and water well to settle the soil. If planted in newly-dug soil, and the eyes are set two inches below the level, by spring the plant would have sunk many inches more. The final depth of the eyes is to be two to three inches, so make allowance for soil settling, and if you are afraid of frost damage, mound soil over each plant for the first winter.

Wood ashes are safest and best, but not always obtainable. Use bonemeal; dig in or hoe in from half to one pound per plant per year. Apply preferably just after blooming, July 1st to 15th, to aid the plant for the following year. Do not put bonemeal in the ground within twelve inches of the stems. Do not use manure.

The ground should be hoed deeply throughout spring and summer. This will supply air and additional vigor and will cause the roots to go deeper.

Non-blooming is sometimes caused by the plant having sunk too deeply into the soil. If any plant does not appear to be a strong, vigorous grower, the soil could be scraped away from the stems to a depth of six inches, so that the condition of the crown could be observed without disturbing the feeding roots. This should be done early in September.

There are two diseases prevalent among peonies in this country, and they are easily detected by the amateur. The first is "Nematode" or root gall. On the large roots it appears like a succession of swollen joints, and on the fine roots like little ball-like adhesions.

The second disease is a rot that starts on the crown at the base of the old leaves and develops like a brown pithy rot running through the center of the thick roots, and finally destroying the whole plant.

Do not plant a peony that shows the least evidence of either disease. Burn diseased plants. Don't bother with them.

Ants visit the peonies in large numbers to obtain the nectar from the buds, but they do not damage the plant or the buds.

Standard divisions have three to five eyes on the crown, which would lead one to believe that three to five stems would show up in the spring. More frequently one to two or three stems will appear the first year, because there is not enough root system or new root growth to supply and support more stems. The ideal root to buy is one that has been grown one year after being divided.

Do not buy large clumps and expect them to bloom the first year. Experience has demonstrated that large roots never become established or bloom successfully. The peony when transplanted has to make a new root system, and this takes two to five years. This means that too much must not be expected from a peony until the third summer.

The flowers are formed at the top of each stem. Usually there will be a large terminal bud and several side buds. If all these buds are allowed to develop, the strain on the plant is increased, and frequently the side buds will not be open at the time the bloom is cut. It is generally considered advisable to take off all but the terminal bud. These should be nipped off with the fingers when about the size of a pea.

Two leaves must be left on the stem when cutting, as these help to feed the plant and produce eyes for next year. Use a sharp knife, and cut on the slant. Early morning is the best time to cut the bloom, as it has had a cool night to be refreshed after the previous day's sunshine.

As peonies are planted with the idea of blooming many years in one place, and in view of its taking two to three years to bloom, it is highly important that the soundest advice be given in the matter of selection. There are hundreds of varieties and a wide variation in quality. Price does not necessarily indicate quality. Some of the finest peonies are among the lowest priced. Some peonies are exceptional for charm and delicacy of texture

and color, but are not consistent yearly bloomers.

This is not for the benefit of the peony specialist; it is meant to be a reliable guide to the beginner, and the few varieties listed are sure to give good results and be highly satisfactory. Only the cheaper varieties are listed. The order of listing under each color is the order of preference.

#### WHITE:

*Mad. de Verneville*—White, very fragrant. Medium size. Very reliable plant and sure bloomer. Clean, neat foliage. Should be first white in every western Canadian garden. Stands spring frosts better than any other.

*Festiva Maxima*—For exhibition better than "*Mad. de Verneville*." Stems will not support blooms unless staked. Larger bloom and better form. Fragrant. Foliage rather coarse.

*Baroness Schroeder*—Flesh white; fine form; sweetly fragrant. Good foliage and stem. Reliable. A general favorite.

#### BLUSH PINK:

*Mad. Jules Dessert*—A very lovely pale pink, deeper in center. Semi-rose type. Very large bloom. Good lasting qualities. Good stem and foliage, fine vigor and habit; lacks fragrance.

*Reine Hortense*—Large flesh-colored bloom of fine form. Strong grower. Profuse bloomer. Agreeably fragrant.

#### PINK:

*Sarah Bernhardt* (Lemoine)—Strong grower; free bloomer; fragrant. This peony seems to do well in all soils and climates. Excellent form of flower and fine stem and clean foliage. One of the best of all peonies.

*La France*—One of the finest exhibition peonies grown. Very large, perfectly double, fragrant flowers. Vigorous grower and very satisfactory.

*Claire Dubois*—Very large violet rose bloom. Well formed and good for exhibition. Would not be listed with the first two except for the fact that it has a deeper color.

*Mons. Jules Elie*—Early incurved type that sometimes is nipped by the frost. Has been grown here for many years. Some years it is very large and fine. If poorly grown will show seed carpels almost as soon as it opens.

*Eduis Superba*—A great favorite because of its dependability to bloom every year and its strong fragrance. For form and quality it is far behind.

#### RED:

The reds have not been developed as yet to be of the same quality as the pinks and whites, and they are not all fragrant.

*Karl Rosenfeld*—Dark crimson. Good grower and reliable.

*Mons. Martin Cahuzac*—Very, very dark blackish red. Unique in color and greatly favored by some.

*Grover Cleveland*—Bright crimson. Strong grower, clean and reliable.

It is suggested that peonies be purchased in the following order: 1. *Mad. de Verneville*; 2. *Sarah Bernhardt*; 3. *Karl Ros-*

*enfeld*; 4. *Festiva Maxima*; 5. *Mad. Jules Dessert*; 6. *Baroness Schroeder*; 7. *Reine Hortense*; 8. *La France*; 9. *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*; 10. *Claire Dubois*.

When the grower has acquired the foregoing and has become more and more enthusiastic, add the following: *Le Cygne*—Cr. White; *Solange*—Cream; *Therese*—Pale Pink; *Tourangelle*—Flesh; *Milton Hill*—Flesh; *Kelway's Glorious*—White; *Philippe Rivoire*—Red; *Souvenir de Louis Bigot*—Salmon Pink; *Walter Faxon*—Salmon Pink; *James Kelway*—Flesh White.

## Sensational New White Miniature Peony

N. I. W. Kriek, Lansing, Mich.

*Named after first white baby born in America.*

While florists can have almost anything they want in the way of double peonies, it has long been recognized that there were



*Virginia Dare*, a Cottage Gardens production.

very few single peonies that were adopted to commercial flower arrangement. Single peonies did not last sufficiently long to

stand up and neither were there enough Japanese peonies that had sufficient lasting quality for the florists' trade.

*Virginia Dare* is definitely a departure from the general peony types. Its flowers are produced in abundance and if not disbudded average 4 inches across. The stems are wiry and the flower petals are reflexed which makes it unusually attractive in bouquets or in any other floral work. The color of *Virginia Dare* is a milk white and the stamens are pure yellow.

In 1938 this peony received first prize in Miniature class at the International Peony Show. It holds great promise for the flower industry and will easily make its way as a fine plant for the garden.

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## Comments

I was quite surprised when reading Mr. James Mason's list of "Sixty Fragrant Peonies" in the September issue of the Bulletin, to notice the omission of *La Perle*, which has a most delightful rose fragrance, as pronounced as that of *Edulis Superba* or *Mad. de Verneville*, both of which it surpasses in the beauty of its bloom, especially in the bud during its opening. Throughout the forty years plus that I have been growing peonies *La Perle* has constantly remained one of my especial favorites. According to the Manual there is a false variety, white in color, the true variety being a pale lavender-pink.

Oh, dear! What a mistake the Society directors made when they revoked the fee for registration of new varieties, since the modest fee seemed to have been keeping quite a flood of probable inferiorities from infliction on an already overcrowded list.

—H. G. Reading, Franklin, Pa.

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## Potting Peonies

In a recent issue were mentioned the advantages of potting peonies. I should like to know how large the pots should be. Can they be bedded out in the open during the winter? How would they do in a heated basement where there is little sunlight? I do not have a greenhouse.

—F. A. G.—Pa.

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Potting of peonies can be handled the same as roses. Three-eye to five-eye divisions can be potted now and put in a coldframe or in a cool cellar. A heated basement might start the plants too early and prevent them from making sufficient roots. It would be better to pot them and then hill them in outdoors covered with peat. Peony divisions can also be potted in late winter and plunged in coldframes for spring sales. It is necessary to use divisions from plants not over three years old, as stock from old plants does not make the plant worth while for spring sales.

N. I. W. Kriek.

(From Dec. 1st, 1940 American Nurseryman)

## Department of Registration

Mr. Ralph M. Schroeder of Warrensburg, Ill., has sent in for registration the following new variety developed by Maud E. Ticknor, of Warrensburg, Ill.

*Maud E. Ticknor*—1940. Double type. Large, early. Color pale rose pink. Broad guard petals with center incurved. A lighter form of *Mons. Jules Elie*. Seldom fades in central Illinois.

Mrs. Charles Schrader of R.R. 3, Liberty, Ind., has sent in the description of her seedling that she wishes registered.

*Rosanna Shrader*—(1940) Planted seed 1926, first bloom in 1930. Color, blend of rose pink. Double rose type showing yellow stamens. Vigorous grower, 48# stems, sturdy and strong. Midseason bloomer very large and lasting. No fragrance. Foliage dark green.

The following varieties presented for registration by Mrs. Walter C. Lyman of Downers Grove, Ill.

Peonies to be registered, originated on the Lyman Homestead, 900 Ogden Road, Downers Grove, Illinois. Previously registered: *Estelle*, *Lovancia*, *Marcia Dewey*, *Regal*, *Walter Campbell Lyman*. To be registered 1940:

*Ariel* (Lyman 1939) (Jap) Pale pink guards, pale pink and gold-tipped staminodes. Strong and fine blossoms, good form.

*Edward* (Lyman 1939) (Single) Black-red, full stamen, 3 rows guard petals, whitish carpels coral tipped, reddish stems. Stunning in color, form, and atmosphere. Strong and abundant in bloom. Is not inclined to fade, and keeps clear color.

*Fantasia* (Lyman 1939) (Jap) Pale pink guards turning cream with age, staminodes cream, yellow and gold. blossoms large and lovely, some plants produce a "feather" or two touched with red or pink in the blossoms. Strong and good form. Rather late.

*Harriet Cory* (Lyman 1940) (Anemone Jap) Deep rose or rose red guards broad and somewhat notched; full ball of fine tubular petaloids, irregular in shape and size, white and yellow tipped. Fragrant, may have stamens influence. Unusual and lovely.

*Mary Lena* (Lyman 1936) (Anemone Jap) Pale pink guards, center of white fringed petaloids like "shredded cabbage." Good form.

*Mary Louise* (Lyman 1940) (Single) Medium pink large blossoms, long large petals in 2 rows, full and fine stamens, petals edged and tipped white. Very tall and strong stems, erect. Fine appearing.

*Remembrance* (Lyman 1939) (Anemone Jap) Rose pink guard petals, soft salmon pink notched petaloids  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide somewhat flecked with pink and white, turning white with age, a few scattered staminodes. Very lovely and good form.

*Silver Wedding* (Lyman 1939) (Single named by G. F.

Isel) White when fully open, pink buds. Heavy squared yellow stamens. Strong and good form. Very lovely.

*Sunset Glory* (Lyman 1939) (Jap) Deep rose pink or red. Deep red in bud. Broad rounded, crinkled cup shaped petals 2 rows. Stamens full deep rose, pink, gold with yellow, beautifully curled and crinkled. Carpels yellow green, coral tipped. Very beautiful in form and color. Strong; medium season for bloom.

*Torchlight* (Lyman 1939) (Anemone Jap) Deep rose pink or red, red in bud. 2 rows rounded petals of clear color. Ball form of petaloids, deep rose, pointed and tipped with white, narrow but wider than *Harriet Cory*. Strong and of splendid appearance.

Mr. A. L. Murawska, River Drive Peony Gardens, River Grove, Ill., has sent in for registration the following:

*Mrs. Telfer MacArthur*, Murawska 1940) Double. Midseason.

Opens a blush fading to ivory white. Rose bud like buds, free flowering, strong stems, medium height, good foliage, no pollen or markings. Very good keeper and one of the outstanding features is the strong locust blossom fragrance.

Named in honor of Mrs. Telfer MacArthur, wife of the President of the Pioneer Publishing Co., of Oak Park, Ill.

## Medals and Certificates Won At The 1940 Peony Show

Gold Medal—Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minn., best exhibit, open class of 100 varieties, Rochester, Minn., 6-22-40.

Silver Medal—T. E. Carpenter, St. Paul, Minn., best collection advanced amateur class, Rochester, Minn., 6-22-40.

Silver Medal—A. G. Nelson, Wilcox, Sask., for most outstanding exhibit peonies Regional Show at Moose Jaw, Sask., 6-28-40.

Silver Medal—R. H. Jones, Peru, Ind., for seedling peony *Dorothy J.*, Rochester, Minn., 6-22-40.

Silver Medal—Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minn., for seedling peony *Ruth Elizabeth*, Rochester, Minn., 6-22-40.

Silver Medal—R. A. Napier, Blue Island, Ill., for best collection 50 or more varieties, Chicago Regional Peony Show, 6-15-40.

B. H. Farr Memorial Medal—Franklin Nursery, Minneapolis, Minn., for best bloom in show, variety *Martha Bulloch*, Rochester, Minn., 6-22-40.

James Boyd Memorial Silver Medal given by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society awarded to Louis R. Fischer, Minneapolis, Minn., for the most beautiful collection of peonies judged as to condition, quality and color.

American Home Achievement Medal awarded by the American Home for the most worthy new seedling which has not been

offered for sale more than three years prior to this exhibition. This award given to R. H. Jones of Peru, Ind., for his seedling *Dorothy J.*

The bronze medal of the Minnesota Horticultural Society awarded to R. W. Jones of St. Paul Minn., for three blooms of one named variety originated by a Minnesota grower. Winning variety, *A. B. Franklin*.

The Bronze Medal of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, for best bloom of named variety originated by a Minnesota grower which was not listed for sale prior to the fall of 1935. This was won with the variety *Pres. F. D. Roosevelt* exhibited by Louis R. Fischer, Minneapolis, Minn.

Honorable Mention—E. H. Lins, Cologne, Minn., with Seedlings Certificate No. R-2-101 and S-1-4.

Honorable Mention Certificate to A. B. Franklin, Minneapolis, Minn., for seedling peonies E-1, *Tircinia* and G-1-2.

Honorable Mention Certificate to Lyman D. Glasscock, Elwood, Ill., for seedlings 42-R-1, *Dainty Lass*, *Bright Knight* and 14-D-1.



## Garden Notes

### From an Old Dogeared Dook

Any peony tyro can ask questions; only men of experience can answer them. Questions continually bob up as I mull over my garden notes these wintry days. Here's one—

#### WHICH IS THE BEST RED SINGLE?

"Of course the best red single is the one I originated," says the seedling savant, but is it? From a dog-eared, mud stained, rain spattered book I cull the following: "*Cornie Moore*, a red single holds its color for a long time." "Petals have a gloss like hand rubbed mahogany." "Fragrance pronounced and pleasing." "Bloomed June 8." "Blooms large and showy." "June 11th, bloom unfaded." "Plant full vigorous grower." "Dark green foliage, red stems that are stiff." "June 16th some blooms still good." And again I read "*Seneca Chief*, red single, rich wine colored bloom opened today (June 3)" "Petals shade lighter to edges and are neatly cupped." "Very striking in color and form but not equal to *Cornie Moore*." "June 16th *Gopher Beauty*, a lively red single, a shade lighter than *Cornie Moore* and not so good." "June 10th, *Imperial Red*, single, has too much purple in it and not so good as *C. M.*" "*Man 'O War* a better red single, a shade lighter than *Cornie*." "I still think after comparing these single reds and others that *C. M.* is the best." "However, I must see *President Lincoln* next June. That Court of Honor red may change my mind—perhaps there are others that are better.

#### WHICH IS THE EARLIEST ALBIFLORA PEONY?

Notes of 1937, '38,, '39 and '40 say "*Early Morn*, rose pink single, blooms with *Officinalis Rubra*." "This peony has no outstanding merit except earliness, which saves it from the rubbish heap." Has any one on earlier one?

## WHICH IS THE BEST WHITE JAP?—

"*Isani Gidui*" say the garden notes." "Seedling *Harvest Moon* is my best contender." It is admired by many. Its butter yellow center and deeply cupped petals make it distinctive, but I must give the palm to *Isani*, unless age makes a better *Moon*.

## WHICH IS THE BEST WHITE DOUBLE?

Now comes the dog fight. So many wonderful double whites have been developed lately that it would require the wisdom of Solomon to decide—and I'm no peony Solomon. *Mrs. Edward Harding*, *Alice Harding*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *LeCygne* and other stars of the peony stage are losing their box office appeal to some mighty fine starlets. There are more good whites in peonydom than anything else. My dog-eared garden notes shout like a hog caller in praise of mine. Love me, love my peonies, if not my superlatives. Here goes— "*Laura Kelsey* seems to have everything—vigor of growth, stiff stems, rank foliage, beautiful in bud, long and sharply pointed, opens perfectly into a large bloom in midseason, lasts longer than any other white, multiplies rapidly, roots clean and healthy." Does not need support." "Stands up under all weather conditions." "Beats *Kelway's Glorious* by a mile—and *Kelway's Glorious* is beautiful." Again the book says "*Marilla Beauty*, blush white, perfectly formed, large enough to satisfy the most greedy." "Stems good, foliage ample, a late bloomer." "I can't find a late white that can compare with it." "It's a knockout." Quick, editor, with the blue pencil.

"*Miss Innocence*, a white double with glistening freshness of petals." "Reminds me of a sweet faced maid, sans make up." "White peonies give me a thrill, this one especially."

"Remember sheep shearing time? Can you see those big fluffy fleeces on the barn floor cuddled up against the hay mow?" "*The Fleece* reminds me of a fleece after the sheep had been washed in the creek, all the burrs removed and the hired man had clipped it. It's a big fluffy petaled bloom that shouts across the garden, I'll take nothing less than 9+."

My late friend Otis in letter after letter sang the praises of the white double peony *Tokalon*. The old lop eared garden book says "Excels in perfection of petal arrangement and brilliance." "Competent judges say 'best white in the garden.' "Isn't it difficult to decide?" "Look at one and you are convinced, look at another and you waver, look at *White Water* and sing, 'But You Can't Marry Ten Pretty Girls.'" "It's big, beautiful, satisfying." The big, silvery dashes of spray in the rapids above Niagara Falls suggested the name.

"*Party Gown*, this white double is all dressed in shimmering silk for the big ball." "What an eyeful!" "Beautiful from her stunning blond coiffure to the tips of her silver slippers." "When she blooms I stand respectfully." "Look for her picture on the society page. I like—no, I love her. Page Who's Who."

## WHICH IS THE BEST PINK PEONY?

To my mind the answer is easy—*Mrs. Livingston Farrand*. What does the old mud stained garden book say. "*Farrand* is the pink of perfection and the perfection of pink, unquestionably the First Lady of the Pinks." The following notation in the book

does not alter my opinion. "June 13th." "We held a bloom of *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* against a bloom of *Grace Kelsey* and the colors are identical." "This shade of pink is not common." "There is room for both."

#### WHICH IS THE BEST RED DOUBLE?

There is an "open season" on reds. We have a long way to go in this color to equal productions in the rest of the peony spectrum. *Philippe Rivoire* is hard to beat.

The notes say "*Ruth Clay*." Here is a red that is decidedly different, having a richness that most reds lack." "It has no sheen." "Resembles a rich web of fine velvet." "If it has a purple cast I can't see it." "One critic says—best seedling of all." "Don't agree, but it's very good."

"*Noel*" "Big husky plant." "Bloom very large and attractive." "Almost as dark as *M. Martin Cahuzac* but larger and better finished." "This is a universal favorite with visitors."

"*Valor*" "Once condemned," "Everyone liked it so I compared it with most of the commercial reds and found the color as good or better than any." "Am not sold on the color even though the rest like it." "My red seedlings not on a par with my whites." "Perhaps *Autin's* reds might be a good yardstick." "Get some next spring." "Succeeded in getting five crosses *Albiflora x Officinalis*." "Hope to see some good reds among these."

#### WHICH IS THE MOST FRAGRANT PEONY?

I don't know. "*Irving Flint*," a rich pink double and *Alberta Kelsey*, the gold studded rose pink double are wonderfully fragrant, particularly the latter." "They remind me of the odors of French perfumes from the perfumery section of Buffalo's elite shop." "Will the committee on fragrance please smell and tell." "These are my perfume potentates."

#### WHICH IS THE LATEST PEONY?

The mud stained book says—quote: The last three peonies to bloom are *Galathee*, *Frontier*, a big pink double and *Lights Out*, a rose pink, the latest of all. Unquote. I have entered *Last Rose* in the marathon.

#### HOW SMALL MUST A PEONY BLOOM BE TO BE CLASSED AS A MINIATURE?

The fellow who settled the question "What is a standard division" can answer this one too. I have two little fellows with blooms the size of a half dollar, dwarfed also in stem, foliage and root. Perhaps *Tiny Tim* and *Little Buffalo* in the rich garden soil where the "kids" are now will grow into big sloppy pinks. If so I'll give them the coup de grace.

—Ernest Flint Kelsey.



## Peonies in Iowa in 1940

J. A. Bongers, Ottumwa, Iowa

With freezing temperatures at zero in mid November the season for peony planting came to an abrupt end.

The season was erratic, and while there was an abundance of bloom, it would have been better had we received more moisture

in May. The weather in April and May was chilly and as a result the season was two weeks late. Usually *Richard Carvel* and *Edulis Superba* begin to bloom April 15th to 17th, but this year they began to open on Memorial Day, hence there were no cut flowers. Even so, there were many thrills and few disappointments. The old varieties vied with the new for a place in the sun and when the blooming season ended, there seemed to have been little to choose between them.

In the field, as usually happens in the show room, the whites, blush whites and pinks attracted the most attention. Many of the reds were very good and they added a great splash of color to the scene.

I imagine the average member of the Society, would prefer to hear about the newer varieties as most all are growing the older ones such as *Le Cygne*, *Kelway's Glorious* and *Therese* and naturally the newer varieties, particularly by American originators, would and should provide more interest. While I shall keep that idea in mind as I proceed, I feel that I cannot write knowingly of a peony season and omit the above named peonies, and for good measure, *Alice Harding* should be included. They are the highest rated of all peonies and that rating isn't accidental. There are those who favor all peonies and rating for *Le Cygne*, due to its sulkiness in some sections, but I could not willingly subscribe to that.

In my estimation no other peony compares to *Le Cygne* in color and in beauty of form. When you see a well grown plant of *Le Cygne* in full bloom you are beholding the nearest thing to perfection you will ever see in a peony. *Kelway's Glorious* was grand, too, and its that kind of a peony. I would give *Le Cygne* the preference because of its form and purity of color. In form, in carriage and in the splendor of the whole.

*Alice Harding* remains a great peony. Those who love peonies and who admire real beauty, must stand in mute admiration before an individual bloom of *Alice Harding* shown in a crystal vase.

Then there was *Therese*. Who would be without it? Grand in the bud and glorious in flower it removes the yardstick with which we judge good peonies.

A new comer, not grown by many, and as sparkling a white as you will want to see is *Alesia*. It is in a class with *Le Cygne* and *Kelway's Glorious* and seeing it in bloom you will linger long beside the plant. In addition, its a splendid performer.

Another new comer of splendid habit is *W. L. Gumm*. This seems a really fine peony. It is globular in form, that is the small central petals fill out to the edge of the guards, making a nicely rounded bloom which is fully supported by the stem. *Rev. H. Tragitt* is of similar form and of equal merit and a most profuse bloomer. I feel that those who do not grow *W. L. Gumm* and *Rev. H. Tragitt* are missing much peony satisfaction.

There are many more excitingly beautiful white peonies and *Evening Star* is one of them. There are no red indications in the blooms. The plant is usually void of side buds and the blooms are exquisite.

*Mary Auten* too, is one that will cause you to go back and look at it again and again, and though it opens blush pink and

fades to a beautiful white, there is a halo of cleanliness about the blooms of *Mary Auten* that causes a plant of it to stand out.

When white peonies are being considered, *Elsa Sass* is one that never should be sold short. It has everything in plant and stem and flower. A full double, a glistening, fragrant flower, it ranks among the best.

Splendid in every way too is *Dr. F. G. Brethour*. Very new, it still has to make its way, but it gives every indication of its ability to do that. It is a large, glistening white, with no red indications and the stems hold the great blooms erect.

*Marilla Beauty* was a beauty. I do not know what *Marilla* refers to but *Beauty* as pertaining to this flower is in keeping with it. The exquisite blooms with pink shadings toward the center were as rich as any in the Garden. (*Marilla* is the name of a town near where it was originated and where first shown—Editor).

Yet another white that seems destined for a high place was *Mrs. Harry F. Little*. I was greatly surprised and pleased with this superb flower. Quite tall and of splendid stem, it seemed outstanding in every way.

*Mrs. James Kelway* made a wonderful show. The flower is very similar to *Kelway's Glorious* and just as good. The plant is taller and opens a little later than *Kelway's Glorious*.

Another first class white, and one that is always good, is *Mrs. Frank Beach*. For dependability, for lavishness of bloom and for beauty too, *Mrs. Frank Beach* must be classed with our best peonies.

*Blanche Elie* and *Lady of the Snows* are new and of Canadian origin. Both are bomb type and have shown very well. They open blush pink with yellow center, fading to white. *Blanche Elie* grows quite large and is a duplicate of *Mons. Jules Elie* in form. *Lady of the Snows* is the taller of the two, though it does not grow as large as *Blanche Elie*. Both are distinctive in form and they are the best examples of the bomb type peony in white that I know.

*Duluth* showed what it could do and the large, green leaves of the plant were in pleasing contrast to the pure white blooms. *Duluth* is certainly one of the finer peonies.

*Margaret Lough* is not generally known but it will bear watching. The blooms are large and glistening white with an occasional petal finely edged red. The blooms possess much substance and there is a crispness about them that seemed unusual in a peony.

The pinks equalled the whites in size and splendor. Needless to say that some of the older varieties showed brilliantly and were equal to any of the newer ones. Such varieties as *Therese*, *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Reine Hortense*, *Sarah Bernhardt* and *Lady Alexandra Duff* were at their best and for complete satisfaction, few peonies surpass them.

The deep rose tones of *Martha Bulloch* were most satisfying and the same may be said for *Lady Kate*. This peony has been in commerce for some time but one seldom hears of it. I wonder why? It has all the attributes of a good peony and one cannot go wrong with it.

In a deep rose pink, *Queen of Hamburg* is another fine ex-

ample. The peony is quite new but it has all the ear marks of a fine peony. *Martha Bulloch*, *Lady Kate* and *Queen of Hamburg* are quite similar in color and seem the best examples in their color class.

*Mme. Emile Debatene* made a fine splash of color. The plant is splendid and while the blooms may be lacking in finish, their color was distinctive in that they were noticeable among one hundred other pinks.

The deep pink tone of *Westhill* was pleasing. This seemed a splendid new peony, having good form and substance and the plant is extra good.

*Nancy Gedge* seems a peony of promise. It has good form and the color holds well in the sun. The plant was not well established but I am looking forward to seeing something very good in this peony.

*Blanche King* seemed the deepest pink. Its color held and it is a peony of great substance.

In lighter tones, *Ella Christiansen* was very good and very large and so was *Hansina Brand*. This last named is a grand peony and no other peony surpasses it in substance.

*A. G. Perry* in a deep, creamy white, shot with rays of pink, was most alluring. This seems a coming variety and good in every way.

Another surprising peony was *Numbus*. Tall and of splendid stem, this peony was a standout and should add class to any planting.

*Zus Braun* showed up very well. The blooms were very large and of good substance and no plant in the field supported the blooms as well as *Zus Braun*.

*Armance Desert* swung into action this year, and the ivory colored blooms, suffused pink in the center, stamped it as one of the finer peonies.

*Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt* was outstanding and its that kind of a peony. Then there was *Myrtle Gentry*, the silver medal peony. Its worth more than that. Its really a gold medal variety, and the same applies to *Elizabeth Huntington*. It seems to me that the three last named peonies are the best in their color and rank among the best.

Some peonies have an especial appeal because of the cleanliness of the buds and the open flowers. *Baroness Schroeder*, *Alice Harding* and *Mary Auten* are in that class and all are outstanding varieties. It seems that another might be added to that class in *Manitou*. This is a stiff stemmed variety and one of the better, new peonies. The blooms are trim and the coloring is a deep, rich pink.

*Nick Shaylor* continued to show that it is a great peony. I believe it will take its place as one of the best in the best dozen that grow.

*Florence Bond* did nicely. It has pleasing fragrance and the deep pink tones proved it a beautiful flower. *Eva Barron*, lighter in tone, but regal in form and carriage, was a delight to the eye. Stiff stemmed, it held the beautiful blooms erect.

*Matchless Beauty* is a well named peony. It has good sub-

stance and is of medium height. There is a mingling of colors in the heart of the bloom that may not be accurately described but it is a real beauty and a good performer.

*Mrs. W. C. Otis* seems to hold much promise. The plant is very good and the blooms are nicely formed, carrying more color than *Milton Hill*.

Space forbids the lengthy description of more pink peonies, but in their varying tones such varieties as *Belle*, *Mrs. Fern Lough*, *Mrs. E. J. Snook*, *Sensation*, *Pink Beauty*, *Frank E. Good*, *Shirine*, *Sarah Napier*, *Lulu Little* and *Edith M. Gumm* stump them as being first class and a real addition to any garden.

The reds made a grand display of color. As usually happens *Philippe Rivoire* showed best, especially from a color standpoint, for there is that about the color of *Philippe Rivoire* that causes it to stand out among any number of reds.

Several plants of *Mary Brand* showed extra well and for general satisfaction and all around good quality, *Mary Brand* has no superior. *Longfellow*, somewhat taller than *Mary Brand* and deeper in color, was good too and a distinguishing feature about the three above named reds is that they hold their color in the sun.

*Dearborn* was satisfactory in every way. It has size, it makes a fine plant, is deep, bright red in color and ranks with the best in the sun.

Having observed *Priam* for quite some time and never having found it wanting, I believe it is the best, really dark peony that we have. The many petaled blooms resemble a rose more than any peony I know and it is unsurpassed in the sun.

*Matilda Lewis* is much like *Priam* in color, the petals are large and the blooms are somewhat loose, whereas *Priam* has small petals and the blooms are very compact. Due to this difference, both varieties are needed.

Due to its height and size *Onondaga* made a great show. This variety carries considerable purple and for that reason many will like it and others will not, but in any case its color is distinct from any other red peony I have.

In regards to color, *Shawnee Chief* was just the opposite of *Onondaga* in that it carried very little purple. I have not grown *Shawnee Chief* long enough to have become acquainted with the flower, but its light, bright red color that held in the sun seemed very promising.

I feel that the Japs and singles should be included in every planting, though it seems they are not fully appreciated. They are among the most graceful of all peony plants; they survive the wind and rain better than the doubles and equal them in color. Out of a possible fifty varieties of Japs, there were several examples of grace and charm which I never expect to see surpassed.

*Roberta* was one of these, in fact it was the chief. In beauty of form, in purity of color and in the splendor of the whole, *Roberta* will remain long in my memory. The large, pure white blooms with their great yellow centers held aloft on three foot stems, were the acme of peony perfection.

*Isani Gidui* was grand and there is that about its form not duplicated by any other Jap.

For those who do not know it, *Silver Plume* will prove a genuine surprise. The light pink color may not be described, but to me it seemed the best in its color. Its really a great Jap.

*Mary Moy* is another splendid light pink Jap. Not as flashing as *Sliver Plume* but very fine in every way.

*Largo* is comparatively new and in a deep rose pink its a standout. *Largo* gives every indication of being an outstanding Jap.

The deep rose tones of *Prince of Paulding* stamps it a very exciting Jap. The plant is tall and the blooms are held erect and since it is deeper in color than *Tomate Boku* it makes a splendid color subject.

*Fuyajo* is an old standby and may not be dispensed with in any garden. *Nippon Brilliant* was, as the name implies and remains, a wonderfully showy Jap. Not only is the color a deep, brilliant red but the large yellow center makes it a very fine landscape variety and it stands like a major in the sun. *Nippon Chief* and *Nippon Splendor* were very good too and like *Nippon Brilliant* they held their color.

*Charm* was outstanding and in its color it seemed the best. *Charm* is a Jap beyond reproach.

*Hara-ai-nin*, unique in color and form, was a beauty and it should have a place in every garden as it is among the finest of all red Japs.

*Goddess* made a great show and it is really a good Jap. While its color tone is not as deep as some of the above mentioned varieties, it does have charm and its highly colored center makes it worth while.

The Singles were not to be outdone by the Japs and *Helen* led the parade and *Helen* remains a fine single.

In a deep toned pink, *Elfin Pink* showed very well and held its color surprisingly.

*Mischief*, tall and stiff stemmed, was extra good and coming as late as it does makes it a most desirable peony.

The red singles made a great show of color and *Kickapoo* led the field, closely followed by *Arcturus*. They stood with the temperature at 98 degrees and when the petals had fallen they still retained their color. They are among the most beautiful and possess great substance.

*President Lincoln*, *Man O'War*, *Gopher Beauty* and *Verdun* showed nicely on plants not well established. I was greatly pleased with the deep, bright red tones of *Norman Thomas*. This is a very new peony and because of its color and substance it seems extra good.

*Imperial Red* made its usual show and those who do not grow it are missing much peony satisfaction? It is self colored and stands alone in its color class. The blooms are extra large and possess a sheen that cause the petals to look transparent. Because of its distinctive color, *Imperial Red* seems the finest of all singles.

White singles are very chaste and make a grand showing in the garden. Because of its size and its height, *Le Jour* makes a grand garden subject. It reminds one of the best.

*White Perfection* was well nigh perfection. The plants are medium in height and the blooms are medium sized but the deep yellow centers with a background of pure white, are trim and chaste.

*Morning Song* follows *White Perfection* in season of blooming and it too is very good.

Many more singles, Japs, and doubles might have been mentioned but space would not permit. Among them were some very beautiful things well worth recording, but since my chief concern was to record those that were outstanding, I trust that they may prove of value to those who are undecided as to what they want.



## The Proof of the Pudding

William Brown, Elora, Ontario

On different occasions I have noticed the claim of some American growers that their introductions of the Japanese type of Peony have far surpassed the foreign introductions of this kind.

Possibly this is true, for in recent years there have been some wonderful new Japs of American origination. However, in my belief, the only way this claim can be substantiated is by competition at the annual show of the American Peony Society.

Looking over the reports of the last five years, what do we find? In the Japanese classes the foreign introductions have scored twenty firsts, twenty-one seconds and thirteen thirds. The American four firsts, three seconds and five thirds.

Allowing three points for firsts, two for seconds and one for thirds, this makes a grand total of one hundred and fifteen points for the foreigners and twenty-three for the Americans.

This summary deals only with the classes where separate varieties were competing and where the names were given. In the collections, the American and foreign varieties were fairly well mixed, with the odds in favor of the latter.

One could hardly say that this showing bears out the assertion of the superiority of the new varieties of the Japanese type from the American gardens.

We might however say that the American Japs are not widely enough distributed. Perhaps not, but at the 1940 show at Rochester, American introductions were fairly plentiful in the collections. If they were as well represented in the separate classes how can you account for this showing? They only captured one 1st, one 2nd, and three 3rds, and at that the first was won by a single (*Krinkled White*) which should never have been judged as a Jap. In the meantime, the foreign varieties ran up the impressive total of six 1sts, six 2nds and three 3rds. Thirty-five points against eight.

*Isani Gidui*, that incomparable white leads with thirty-three points in its favor, and on no occasion during the last five shows can I find where it was beaten in its color class.

*Tamate-Boku* leads in the pinks with twenty-two points, and *Rashoomon* the reds with thirteen.

Even in spite of careful checking, there may be some slight inaccuracies in these records, but on the whole, the results should convince us that we still have a long way to go before making good our claim of superiority in this particular type of peony.

During the same five shows, the doubles of American origin have gone out and demonstrated beyond a doubt that they have taken the lead. But as to the Japs? ? ?



Prize winners at Rochester show, Court of Honor awards. Left to right as follows:  
*Martha Bulloch, Nick Shaylor, Tomate-Boku, President Lincoln.*

# Secretary's Notes

## THE SADDEST TIME

*They say that autumn is the saddest time  
Of all the year, when flowers fade and die;  
When birds depart to seek a kinder clime,  
And trees are bare; and gray and chill the sky.  
But autumn has so many cheery things  
The glow of lighted windows thru the haze;  
The wind that to pale cheeks red roses brings;  
The close communion of an open blaze.  
The shouts of children racing thru dry leaves;  
A maple like a sudden scarlet stain.  
What can there be in autumn, then, that grieves  
When it is certain spring will come again?*

—Claire Goodell

To my mind Autumn is one of the best seasons of the year. It is at this time we garner in the fruits of our labor and plant our favorite flower, the peony.

Autumn of 1940 will long be remembered by thousands throughout the Central West as well as the central section of the United States, and Nov. 11th the definite date of one of the worst storms in our history. What an Armistice Day it turned out to be. We are still hearing new stories of suffering and privation caused by the sudden approach of winter, and by the way, it has been cold ever since that time. The day ushered in prematurely old man winter with his ruthless vagaries in climatic conditions. The morning of Nov. 11th dawned very lovely with a mild wind blowing gently and bringing with it a feeling of summer. A few hours later temperatures had climbed into the 50's and in the West threatening clouds and the distant rumbling of thunder warned us that we were to have a storm. It came in a few minutes in the face of heavy winds that had in the meantime put in an appearance. A heavy shower was followed by a sudden drop in temperature and by night we had a terrific gale and a real old fashioned Dakota blizzard with heavy snow blinding progress, making transportation difficult and hazardous, and later halting communication facilities.

So much for the storm as you have all doubtless read about it but I could not refrain from mentioning the fact to call attention to contrasting conditions the previous year. The fall of 1939 we were able to plant peonies far into the month of December, in fact until a very few days before Christmas. This fall we have had about six weeks less time to plant. This spring was cold and very late and we have hopes that 1941 will bring us an early spring that will stay put when we get it. Fortunately this fall there was a good covering of snow to protect the plants.

Peonies have gone into the winter with sufficient moisture in the soil to carry them through the few months until spring is with us again. They can surely "take it" as is evidenced by the com-

munication I have received recently from Mr. A. G. Nelson of Wilcox, Saskatoon, Canada. I quote a portion of his letter as follows:

"The peony is certainly the flower supreme at least for the north. I derive a great deal of pleasure from my peony plantation on my farm. I planted my first peonies ten years ago, two dozen, and I have planted some more every spring and fall since until I now have two acres of them and over two hundred varieties. I don't seem to know when I have had enough. The newer varieties are always so alluring and often very good too.

"Our peculiar soil, a heavy clay of silt formation, real gumbo without a grain of sand in it, seem to be specially suited for peonies for without any coddling they have never failed to give me splendid bloom in years good or bad, and we have them really bad. 1931, 1934 and 1937 were almost rainless. They always get a little snow moisture in the spring and they carry on with anything they get, and they get nothing except as it comes from the sky.

"This year, at the time of the Regional Peony Show, we had only had four inches of rain in full twelve months, yet the blooms were of exhibition quality. I entered one hundred and twenty-five blooms of seventy varieties in ten entries and came out with ten firsts and four special awards. Last fall it was so dry here that the peony roots were withered and wrinkled in the ground and they went through the winter in that condition, so I did not expect that they could produce good bloom this year, but they did."

I guess that is one for the books. Very few varieties of flowers could withstand the conditions reported and still give exhibition bloom that won in all classes staged.

What pleased me most in Mr. Nelson's letter was this statement: "I am also more than pleased with the membership in the A.P.S. which I was fortunate enough to win. After reading some of the bulletins I must say that I did not know what I was missing by not being a member of the Society."

This would be a splendid message to deliver to any of your peony loving friends to get them started out for the year 1941. It will be our firm resolve to keep the bulletins interesting and instructive.

Another one of our good members up in Canada, Mrs. M. L. Prentiss of Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada, wrote me on Oct. 22nd as follows:

"You thanked me for trying to help the A. P. S. by sending names of possible prospective members but to tell the truth I'm afraid I am just trying to help these people to pleasure that I feel they are missing.

"Indeed I am thankful that the harvest is over. We were fortunate in having a long open dry season. The grain is No. 1 and a fine sample. We have our own combine and threshed all we can hope to sell for seed with it and then had a large outfit come in to do the commercial grain. Ours is all eligible for registration but we seldom get the chance to sell all of it for seed. The crew on the big outfit this year was a lot of bold, lazy, grumbling young

men who were not doing their work well so after two days the owner of the machine let every last one of them go and with our permission put in a crew of Indians from one of the reserves still farther North and West. They were quiet and quick and willing, very polite and were splendid workers. In all our years here we have never had a better crew. Of recent years we have been using the Indians and breeds in the fields quite a bit and on the whole find them more satisfactory than white men.

"Yes, our working hours are very long and even then we must step right along to get the work finished up. After threshing our men had about a weeks stacking and since then Mack, our son, and one of the men, a Swiss who we keep right along, have disced over 300 acres. They keep the tractor going the 24 hours and the other day I heard Mack bemoaning the fact that there were only 24 hours to the day. Now they will make a last going over the Summer fallow and then onto grading roads before the freeze up. After that all the grain will be put through the big government cleaner, more to have the seed uniform size than for the weeds for our fields are very clean. This machine takes out all weeds and small grain. I believe we are allowed 1 wild oat to the bushel, but we hope not to have even that. We have no Russian thistle or tumbling weed here but it keeps us busy all spare time keeping the ball mustard, stink weed and wild oats out. We keep men rogueing all Summer. Mr. Prentiss takes great pride in the cleanliness of his fields. He is a most painstaking person. This Summer one of the men from the Department of Agriculture (Provincial) put in a trial plot of sugar beets on one of our low laying lake fields. He has every faith, and we every hope that they will survive the winter and that we can raise sugar beets. It will be a fine thing for us if we can do anything to get away from raising more wheat when Canada has about three normal crops in storage now.

Our daylight hours are shortening up very fast now and there is a long time to go before they start turning the other way. However, just now the heavens are wonderfully beautiful. Our Northern Heavens are so immense and the air is so clear that millions of stars show brightly except where the Northern lights dart or roll to dim them. Even though we are accustomed to these grand heavens we still marvel at their outstanding beauty. This is the finest Fall we have ever had. So far there have been only three or four frosts and no snow at all."

This letter was concluded after several weeks vacation trip and she concludes on Nov. 7th, "Winter has hit us over night and it is 10 below zero with snow and a strong East wind to-day. We feel this first snow so keenly."

Mrs. Prentiss is located not far from Mr. C. M. Clarke of Teepee Creek, Alberta, Canada who, I think lives farthest North of any of our members. In a letter dated Dec. 2nd Mr. Clarke stated that he intends to send us some comments on the performance of peonies in that far north country where the winters are extremely long and bitterly cold a great deal of the time. Unfortunately his health has not permitted him to do so for the past few months. We are hoping he regains his health shortly.

In a letter from Mr. William Brown of Elora, Ont., we are

advised that it will be impossible for them to import peonies from the United States until such time as war conditions will permit the spending of money for so called luxuries. Permission is also forbidden to visit the States without a very good reason as no pleasure trips are permitted. He is hoping the restriction will be removed before next spring as he wishes to attend the show at Syracuse, N. Y., next June.

I am sure we all join Mr. Brown in sincerely hoping that the war will be at an end very shortly so that the resumption of universal practices can be carried on between countries.

During the past years, hybridizers have worked for size in peonies as well as color and other characteristics. The thought of miniature peonies did not seem to occupy their minds until recently and we now have some really beautiful midgets in the peony world that we will see at our future shows.

One is pictured in this issue and two others are spoken of in Mr. Kelsey's article and named *Tiny Tim* and *Little Buffalo*. These two are no larger than a half dollar. There are others that I know of still under number but they will appear some time next year in our registration department. Watch for some of these little fellows at the show next year. They have a real place and should work in nicely in floral arrangements.

I feel quite sure that not many of our readers know that there is a city in the United States named after the peony. There is a slight modification of the spelling but it was named by a real peony enthusiast some years ago. One of our members, Mrs. Nettie M. Schoneman lives at Paonia, Colorado. She has sent me the following poem that I think is well worth passing on to our readers.

### WHERE THE COLORADO FLOWS

Where the Colorado goes a winding  
Like a silver ribbon streaming from the snows,  
Under cliffs and through deep gorges, dashing grinding,  
It's a wonder how the Colorado flows.  
From the highest peaks and rugged fields of slide rock,  
Springs a tiny stream that ever swells and grows;  
As it ripples out and sparkles in the sunlight  
'Till it reaches where the Colorado flows.  
Down the river, through the evergreens and aspen,  
Where the fresh, cooling breezes softly blow,  
As you speed along the highway, pleasure seeking,  
Won't you linger where the Colorado flows.  
Mute reminder 'neath the peaceful skies of azure  
Of the many ages past so long ago;  
Like a monument to time remaining  
Down the canyon where the Colorado flows.  
Now the moon is fair to-night upon the river,  
As its silver on the water brightly glows;  
And a light beckons from my cabin window  
In the valley where the Colorado flows.

We are approaching the Christmas season, in fact it is with us now, and as we gaze into the happy faces hurrying to and fro to

secure some remembrance for a loved one or a friend, we can see the contentment that only a nation at peace can enjoy. There are a number of new members who will enjoy the bulletins for the first time this coming year. Several memberships have been given as Christmas gifts and I know of nothing that would be valued more than a Peony Manual and a years membership in the American Peony Society.

We have just returned from a hurried trip to the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn. In my honor, a special meeting of the Minnesota Peony & Iris Society was called Tuesday evening, Dec. 10th in St. Paul. A splendid chicken dinner was enjoyed by a large number of the membership which was followed by some very fine pictures in color, many of which were taken at the Rochester, Minn., show last June. Mr. T. E. Carpenter, our Regional Vice President of that section, showed a number of lovely pictures and he in turn was followed by Mr. Robert Schreiner, also of St. Paul, and Mr. Louis R. Fischer of Minneapolis, Minn., who have some beautiful color slides. A most enjoyable evening was experienced and the meeting of many old friends was an added pleasure. The writer was one of a few organizers of the Northwest Peony and Iris Society which later changed its name to the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society. Some of the charter members were present at the meeting and have been faithful in their membership since 1917 when the parent society was formed. The membership is not large but what they lack in numbers is more than compensated by enthusiasm and a spirit of cooperation. Mr. Brand was supposed to be present but he modestly advised me that he was told to be in attendance at the Minnesota Nurserymen's Association meeting on the night of the 10th but did not tell me why. I learned by the morning papers that he had been awarded a plaque by that Association for forty years of outstanding creative work in flowers and plants. This is not the first award of honor he has received for his efforts. Congratulations.

The annual peony exhibitions staged every year by the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society are outstanding and the President of this society is also the Vice President of the American Peony Society.

It was with the full cooperation of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society that the splendid Rochester show was so successful. They cancelled their annual exhibition so they could give their full support to making the National Exhibition at Rochester one of the outstanding shows of our history.

It should be of interest to our members to know that much has been accomplished since our last meeting. An old obligation for payment of the Peony Manual has been liquidated 50 per cent leaving a balance of \$239.15 of a total obligation of nearly \$9,000.00, contracted some years ago. It has been a hard pull during these depression years but we have made the grade and things look very bright for the coming years. This last reduction on the account was made by a few generous and faithful members who contributed choice peony roots to the peony planting at Breeze Hill, the home of J. Horace McFarland at Harrisburg, Pa. As

only a limited number could be accepted due to lack of space in the garden, we were unable to liquidate the total indebtedness in this manner.

The planting of double peonies at Urbana, Ill., for the completion of a trial garden there, was well under way when the sudden storm of Nov. 11th prevented the digging of peonies in the Northwest, where some large donations were offered. We are glad to say the planting will be completed next fall and with the already established gardens of singles and Japanese varieties, Urbana, Ill., will have an outstanding collection worth going miles to see. The Committee in charge of this project do not propose to plant every variety they can get hold of but will confine the planting to the higher grade peonies in the new as well as the older introductions. The purpose of the planting is to make it possible for the layman to study the worthwhile peonies that will enable them to make a wise selection, if a planting is contemplated, or to acquaint themselves with the real beauty and desirability of the peony, which is one of our finest perennials.

I wish I might shake the hand of each and every one of you, but as that is not possible I am glad to be able to express my most cordial greetings at this holiday season. In this expression I am joined by each and every one of your officers and directors. They are all working to promote continued and renewed interest in our chosen flower, and the enthusiasm they possess is given you through the bulletins and at the annual exhibitions staged throughout the country. We are all hopeful that peace and tranquility may reign throughout the land and that the biblical admonition that swords shall be made into plow shares may soon become a reality, and the Prince of Peace shall reign triumphantly.

To conserve space and to provide more material in the bulletin we have enlarged the size of the printed page as well as set the type solid without leading, thereby gaining additional space. We would like your comments on this change and if it meets with your approval, we will continue the practice. It materially reduces the cost of publication and that is what prompted the change.

Come along with your articles. They are needed for the March issue. Many of the articles we present were intended to bring out comment and additional articles. Don't hesitate to express your frank opinions of the articles appearing in the bulletin and while you are doing it, let us have an article from you. This issue covers many subjects, all related to the peony in one way or another.

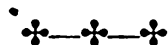
We cannot close without reminding you that the 1941 dues will be gladly received at this time. All who remit will avoid the necessity of your Secretary going to the additional expense of sending out statements which we would like to avoid, if possible. It is a pleasure to serve you to the best of our ability and we appreciate your splendid cooperation. Let us make the year 1941 a most memorable one for the peony.

The most cordial greetings is extended to you with the hope that I may greet many of you in person at the annual exhibition at Syracuse, N.Y. this coming June.

In closing, I want to present a few lines written by B. L. Bruce that express my views exactly.

## OUR COMMON JOYS

How often it appears that we are prone  
 To underrate the things that truly bless,  
 Because they seem to us but commonplace  
 Familiar benefits that all possess.  
 The zest of health, the cheer of happy homes,  
 A share in the abundance of the earth,  
 Companionship of friends and kindred dear—  
 How seldom do we realize their worth.  
 I'm sure we'd be more thankful if we knew  
 How precious are life's bounties, great and small;  
 It oftentimes is some unheeded boon  
 We learn too late is missed the most of all.  
 Lord grant us then sincerely grateful hearts  
 For goodly gifts thru all the passing days,  
 And teach us while these blessings still are ours  
 To treasure them aright, and give Thee praise.  
 W. F. Christman,  
 Secretary.



## New Members and Changes In Addresses

Banzigee, Herman, 2049 Oakstone Way, Hollywood, California.  
 Green Bay Garden Club, Mrs. E. P. Barnard, Pres., R. R. 6,  
 Green Bay, Wis.  
 Pfeiffer, Miss Helen M., 490 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge, N. J.  
 Schroeder, Ralph M. Warrensburg, Ill.  
 Spencer, G. Walter, 878 Dutton Ave., San Leandro, California.  
 Van Steen, Julius J., Crystal Lake, Ill. (Reinstated)  
 Viette, Martin, Miller Road, Syosset, New York.  
 Wagner, Alvin B., 1926 Two Tree Lane, Wauwatosa, Wis. (Re-  
 instated)

### Life Member

Mess, Dr. Carl J., 1835 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

### Changes in Address

Berneche, E. J., Rt. 6, Box 504, Portland Oregon change to 3903  
 S. W. Baird, Portland, Oregon.  
 Hampton, Mrs. Chas. M., 2706 1st Ave., Brandenton, Fla., change  
 to R. R. 2, Waterloo, N. Y.  
 Scott, Otis H., 235 Taylor St., Topeka, Kas., change to 810 W.  
 4th, Topeka, Kas.  
 National Nurseryman, Hatboro, Pa., change to 508 S. Dearborn  
 St., Chicago, Ill.  
 Bernstein, J. W., 2344 Washington, Lincoln, Neb., change to  
 1439 S. 28th St., Lincoln, Neb.  
 Richards, Chas. T., Plainville, Mich., change to Plainwell, Mich.  
 No such office in state as Plainville.



## A Special Announcement

### THE DISCARDED RATING LIST

George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Virginia

Knowing that so many of our members are much interested in the fate of the Rating List I think it wise to tell them that Mr. Harry F. Little and myself have just gone over the entire list together and that we have picked out about two hundred and seventy-five ratings that will be submitted to the Board of Directors for their approval at once and if found satisfactory they will be published possibly in the March Bulletin. Since there were nearly thirteen hundred varieties listed in the Rating List it will be seen that the list that will be recommended is not a complete one. On many of the varieties we had no ratings, this being true principally of the varieties that are so new that no one could give a good rating and there were literally hundreds of the older Japanese and single peonies that had no rating and so they will not be printed in any future list, unless for some reason not now known, it may be deemed wise to do so.

In order to get ratings more quickly and maybe more accurately, a plan is being formulated that we hope will fill this need. Meanwhile we are hoping that every one who grows the new varieties, whether they are given a rating or not in the coming list, will watch them very carefully and report on them after each blooming season. This involves some work, but it is a pleasant work and we are hoping for some results from it. Please do not forget it next May and June.

### JOIN THE AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY

**All Dahlia "fans" are cordially invited to join this great organization which is devoted solely to spreading information about and the improvement of the Dahlia.**

**Read the quarterly Bulletin, a sample copy of which will be sent on request, giving all the latest information and cultural hints on Dahlias. Membership includes the Bulletin, a season ticket to our National exhibitions and all other privileges of the society.**

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# AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

The American Iris Society has, since its organization in 1920 published 70 Bulletins which cover every phase of Iris growing and should be useful to all gardeners.

The society has copies of all but three of these bulletins for sale. A circular giving list of contents of each Bulletin, price, etc., may be secured from the Secretary, Howard R. Watkins, Room 821, Washington Loan & Trust Bldg., Washington, D. C.

In order to dispose of surplus stocks of some numbers we offer 6 Bulletins (our selection) for \$1.00.



Through an endowment given as a memorial to the late Bertrand H. Farr, the American Iris Society is able to offer free to all Garden Clubs or Horticultural

Societies the use of our traveling library. This library contains all books ever published on Iris and a complete file of the Bulletins of this society and the English Iris Society, and miscellaneous pamphlets.

The library may be borrowed for one month without charge except the actual express charges. Organizations desiring it should communicate with the nearest of the following offices:

Horticultural Society of New York, 598 Madison Ave., New York City.

Mrs. Lelia M. Bach, 1111 E. Grove St., Bloomington, Ill.

Sydney B. Mitchell, School of Librarianship, Berkeley, Calif.

Lantern Slides Rental Fee (to members) \$10.00. Apply to Mrs. Herman E. Lewis, 180 Grove St., Haverhill, Mass.

## The American Horticultural Society

invites to membership all persons interested in any phase of gardening. As specialists in peonies you will certainly want to know about all the other sorts of plants that go into a good garden. In the quarterly NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE you will find authoritative articles on many kinds of plants and superb illustrations. We can also supply a reprint of peony species, pictures only, for fifty cents. Membership is by the calendar year. The annual dues are three dollars, and should be sent to the Society in care of the Secretary, 821 Washington Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

## **BRAND PEONY FARMS**

**of Faribault, Minnesota  
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At the 1940 National Peony Show just held at Rochester, Minnesota, and pronounced by old timers "the best show the Society ever held."

### **Brand Peony Farms Won**

**1st. in Class I, the 100 Class; 6 other first, 6 seconds and 4 thirds**

Bringing to them a total of 7 Gold Medallions, 6 Silver Medallions and 4 Bronze Medallions, from the American Peony Society.

### **THEY ALSO WON**

**2 Bronze Medallions from the Minnesota Peony Society.**

**1 American Peony Society Medal on their new red peony, "Ruth Elizabeth."**

**The Dr. Christopher Graham Gold Medallion for best single in the show on their President Lincoln.**

**The T. E. Carpenter Gold Cup for the Grand Sweepstakes of the Show winning 115 points out of a possible 300.**

**And a Brand Peony—"Martha Bulloch" grown and exhibited by Mr. A. B. Franklin, was awarded "best flower in the show."**

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With a time limit covering the balance of 1940, the Directors of the Society have reduced the price of the Peony Manual and supplement to \$2.25 delivered. Membership for one year and Manual for \$5.00.

This is truly an exceptional bargain which should promptly place this valuable Manual in the hands of every peony lover. If you already possess a copy, secure another one for a peony loving friend or persuade them to send for one at once before the limited supply is exhausted.

There are only a few hundred copies available and this offer will be withdrawn promptly at the end of this year, or at any time before that period if available stock has been depleted to a point beyond our actual requirements.

Supplements will be prepared, which may be obtained at a nominal cost to cover preparation, printing and mailing, that will keep the Manual constantly up-to-date.

Send in your order for as many books as you can use while they are still available. All checks should be made to the American Peony Society and sent to:

**W. F. CHRISTMAN, Secretary,  
American Peony Society,  
Northbrook, Ill.**

To members who do not have the manual whose 1940 dues are paid, manual will be sent them for \$2.00.

Dealers, why not offer the manual as a premium for a certain sized order?