


AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



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W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor
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

MARCH 1942

Blooms for the Shows

GEORGE W. PEYTON, Rapidan, Va.

At the request of Mr. Christman I am giving some of my views on the handling of blooms for exhibition purposes. Most of them have been formed from observation and some from personal experience. Having helped set up exhibits at some six or seven National Shows and many smaller shows I have been much interested in the results obtained and the methods followed to get these results. As this paper will not be published until the plants are up and growing in most gardens that will be able to make exhibits at Topeka, I shall pass over care to be given the preceding year.

If you did not give your plants a moderate amount of fertilizer the past season, it will do no harm to give them a handful or two of bonemeal, sheep manure, wood ashes or super-phosphate as soon as possible now. But do not overdo it. Keep your plants in good condition and be careful not to injure them in any way. Cultivate shallow regularly enough to keep down weeds and the top crust broken, but not deep enough to touch the feeding roots. An abundance of water is necessary and should be supplied if nature fails. If you are subject to diseases you should spray with bordeaux at stated intervals to keep the plants healthy. If you are troubled with thrips, try the tartar emetic spray, two level tablespoons, one third cup sugar, white or brown, (hard on your sugar rations), three gallons water. Agitate until dissolved. Apply with a small spray disc and as a mist spray to coat foliage and buds with small droplets, but not to drench it. Use when thrips appear and repeat every one or two weeks. **MUST NOT BE** used with any other materials. Remember it is poisonous and act accordingly. The cheap commercial tartar emetic is just as efficient as any. Keep the buds and foliage out of the mud by supporting if necessary. Select the stems that are strongest and thickest just under the bud. These will have the best blooms and incidentally will open first.

As soon as the buds are as big as peas, disbud, using the greatest care not to injure the main stem in doing it. Take the bud between the thumb and forefinger and bend quickly and it will snap off leaving the stem. This stem may then be cut off when the blooms are staged if too long and unsightly. Just before the buds begin to open and not earlier, bag each bloom intended for exhibition with two pound manila sacks, regular grocery bags. One pound sacks may be used on singles, Japs and small blooms. Use rubber bands or paper clips to fasten them on. Be sure they are pulled up to the bottom of the bud or distortion of the flower may result. Pins may be used if you care to run the risk of nasty pricks and maybe poisoning.

A great deal of your success will depend on proper cutting of the flowers. Go over your planting every hour or two during the day if possible and cut the bloom when it feels soft to the touch and has no hard places in it. If necessary remove the bag to be sure and then replace it very carefully. You will find that singles, Japs and some types of doubles can be cut in quite tight bud while the very full doubles will have the outer petals quite wide open before the center softens sufficiently to open well after it has been cut. Do not cut with too short stems, from fifteen to twenty-four inch stems will be found best. Long stems may then be shortened to the correct length in the show room if a certain length is specified. Be sure to bag all buds that have not been bagged.

Place the stems immediately in cold water as deep as possible without getting the buds wet. Of course all blooms should have been labelled just beneath the bag so they can be sorted without removing the bag. Make your labels legible. They are often very illegible to any one even the writer of the label. Place the buds in a cool, dark place until they are sent to storage. If possible tie in bunches all blooms that will be shown together. It will save much valuable time in the show room but you will find it hard to do. Be sure not to break the stems.

Blooms should be placed in storage as soon as possible. Local storage, if adequate, is better than shipping to storage. If the blooms are to be held for some time a temperature of 33-34 is probably best. Otherwise 36-38 is fine. The temperature should be even and never go below freezing. Frozen blooms are spoiled blooms. Remember water should never touch the buds and they should be dry when bagged or cut. This is essential. Wet blooms rot. They will not dry out after they are bagged or stored. Bags that fill with water from rains or any other cause should be removed, the buds allowed to dry and the bags renewed. If local storage is used, take the blooms once a day, at least. Oftener is better if it can be done without too much trouble. If blooms are stored dry they should be placed in water at least three days before they are to be used and longer is surer for good results. Whenever a change is made the stems should be a slightly shortened. Use a knife and not scissors to do your cutting. Blooms stored locally which have to be shipped to the place of exhibition should be packed as tightly as possible in well insulated containers of wood or heavy cardboard and shipped long enough in advance of the show to be sure they will be there when needed.

If blooms have to be shipped any distance to storage, they should be placed in water for several hours at least and cooled down to as low a temperature as possible. A household refrigerator will do a good job, if available, otherwise a cool basement or room will have to do. Pack the blooms tightly in boxes that have been insulated as well as possible with paper or some other insulating material. Blooms often open wide in transit if it is hot and the boxes not well insulated. This means they will fall when removed from storage. I know this from bitter experience. They should be cut in a little tighter bud than for local storage.

All blooms should be removed from storage long enough before use to insure proper opening in time for judging.

This means ordinarily at least twenty-four hours. If possible blooms that have been shipped in tight bud should be examined in storage two or three days before the show and if still in tight bud it may be necessary to remove them two days before use and keep them in a dark place at a moderate temperature of not over sixty degrees until they open slightly in the bags. This cannot be done unless you look out for them yourself and you will have to use common sense as to how long they should be taken out before use. As soon as the blooms reach the show room you should place them in water after cutting a short piece from the bottom of each stem. Do not get the blooms wet or break the stems in doing this. Then

remove the bags. It is well to group the blooms alphabetically and according to color and type when they are placed in water at this time. They will be more easily handled when it comes to setting them up on the show table. Be sure you have plenty of containers to hold them all, filled with water, when you get to the show room or you will be much delayed in getting the work properly done. You should cut and store several times as many blooms as you intend to show as you will find it very hard to get suitable flowers and enough to fill the classes, especially the large classes, unless you do this. The surplus blooms always come in handy for replacements and decorations.

After removing the bags take stock of what you have and decide what classes you can enter. Then as the blooms open properly pick out the finest and set them up in their proper places in the show room. After you have set up your exhibits go over them many times and replace blooms that do not stand up and also see that blooms that open later in your surplus stock and that prove better than some chosen earlier are made full use of. Do this up until you are forcibly removed from the room for the judging. You will find you can often change a loss into a win by this last minute action.

In closing let me warn you to be very careful to fulfill the conditions of each class exactly. Do not finally set up eleven blooms where ten are required. Be sure you have only doubles in the double classes. Be doubly sure you have only Japs in Japanese classes and singles in single classes. If you have help in setting up your blooms be sure you personally go over every one of your exhibits before they are judged and after all changes have been made and see to it that no errors have crept in. Many an exhibit has been disqualified because a well-meaning helper did something wrong. Be sure all your blooms are labelled legibly. Mr. Christman can only read good writing and that is important. The visitors are all in the same boat with Mr. C. and so am I.

If you have any seedlings of merit, be sure to show them and in the proper classes. They may be your own originations or those of your friends, but the awards in the seedling classes will only be made to the originator. If you have any outstanding blooms of New Varieties whether they have been shown before or not be sure to enter them in the New Variety Class under the seedlings. They may win an award and will be of interest to all. This class will be especially necessary at Topeka for few of our originators are in the southern belt and so will be barred from exhibiting their own blooms as they will not be open in time. They will have to depend on their friends who have them ready and it is hoped there will be a great many of these friends and that each one will make every effort to exhibit every new one he possibly can even though the other fellow gets the major award. Your efforts will be well repaid in the knowledge that you have helped another fellow along.

Finally do not get sore because you do not win all the awards. The judges are rarely wrong even if you think they are. Be a good sport.



My Interest in Peonies

M. H. FOLLMER, *Flushing, Long Island, N. Y.*

Some eight years ago a neighbor gave my father several peony roots which were promptly planted. The following spring these plants grew, started to bud and then to all intents stopped. This continued the following two years. The plants were about to be thrown away but instead were given to the writer to try his hand. I selected what seemed to be a better plot of ground, dug up each root with a large ball of earth attached and immediately replanted.

My real interest in peonies did not start, however, until several weeks later when I happened to read an article by Professor Saunders entitled "Some Essential Peonies." It was the first time I knew there were more than three varieties, i.e., white, pink and red.

I then wrote Professor Saunders requesting information as to where additional information could be obtained and where these various varieties could be purchased. He was good enough to write and explain the function of the American Peony Society, its bulletins and the "Manual." He also pointed out just where the names and addresses of peony specialists could be found. On his very excellent suggestion, the "Manual" was purchased and an application for membership in the "Society" was filed.

The "Manual" and the "Bulletins" have been invaluable. In the first place, they made me realize the importance of a proper bed for the roots. Special care was consequently taken in preliminary preparation. Next, peonies were ordered only from specialists who advertise in the Bulletin. During the Fall of 1937 and 1938 I planted approximately 40 varieties selected from the "Manual." All but Tokio (which for some reason has been a failure for me) were good healthy plants the following spring. For the sake of strength, all buds but one were removed from each plant.

Each plant has developed and acted exactly in accordance with its description and characteristics as outlined by the "Manual." This is more than I can say so far as my experience with other flowers I have grown is concerned; for example, roses, irises, gladioli, chrysanthemums and lilies. In reference to these others which I prize highly if a new variety (to me) fulfills everything that is said of it I am delighted and surprised. If one of these peonies did not conform to its description, I would look to some outside factor for the explanation.

To return to the several plants of unnamed peonies given to me, fortunately they bloomed the first year I took them over, but the blooms were what I now would call poor. They have continued to bloom but those purchased from peony specialists were as superior as a cavalry horse is to a nag.

There have been a number of articles indicating that perhaps peony prices are a bit high. Some of the newest varieties may be but the prices of the older varieties are cheaper than a good rose, azalea, rhododendron, a few lilies, or the usual order of tulips. The losses sustained due to disease, freezing and unfavorable climatic conditions of all these others are much greater than in peonies.

The peonies originally given to me have since been dug up, and thrown away, for it was quite evident nematodes were or had been present. Because I had no means of determining whether nematodes were still present, the entire patch had to be disinfected. A half-dozen disease-free roots originally would have been cheaper than this subsequent effort and expense.

I hope and expect to acquire additional space in the next few years. When and if this occurs at least one hundred varieties will be placed out. Certain fundamentals will be established in doing so:

1. Follow the suggestions relative to soil preparation, planting, cultivation, and so on as contained in the "Bulletins" and "Manual."
2. Buy only from qualified specialists advertising in the "Bulletins."
3. Accept no gratuitous roots from people in this vicinity who have only a cursory knowledge of peonies. Unfortunately, there are not many peony gardens in this section, or if there are they are unknown to me.
4. More stress on earlier and medium varieties since this section is apt to have a few real hot days the first part of June. The later varieties, such as *Martha Bulloch*, *Milton Hill* and *Grandiflora* have only done well when the first part of June was unusually cool.

Varieties Planted: *The Bride*, *Tourangelle*, *Kelways Glorious*, *Silvia Saunders*, *Therese*, *Solange*, *Pres. Wilson*, *Longfellow*, *Le Jour*, *Lady Alex Duff*, *Mrs.*

Edward Harding, Primevere, Festiva Maxima, Mons. Jules Elie, Mme. de Verneville, Le Cygne, Alice Harding, Albert Crousse, Eugene Verdier, Auguste Dessert, Felix Crousse, Edwin C. Shaw, Grace Loomis, Frances Willard, Georgiana Shaylor, Marie Jacquin, Walter Faxon, La Rosiere, Mme. Geissler, Livingstone, Milton Hill, Martha Bulloch, Grandiflora, Isani Gidui, Ama-no-sode, Seiriu Somae, Fuyajo, Tokio, Philippe Rivoire, and Mons. Martin Cahuzac.



Rochester Minnesota Peony Show

ROY W. GODDARD, Rochester, Minn.

The Seventh Southeastern Minnesota Peony Show was held on June 7 and 8. This was about two weeks earlier than we usually have our show. The season was so early and advanced so rapidly that the dates were changed twice. Because of the rapid development of the blooms we were fearful of quality. On the evening of the 6th as we unpacked our flowers and began preparing the exhibits, it seemed that our fears were well founded. Substance was poor and they seemed to have suffered as a result of storage. Shortly before midnight we all went home a disheartened and discouraged group. The engineer of the Mayo Civic Auditorium was told to pour on the humidity and to hold the temperature between sixty and sixty-five. At five the next morning when we returned we could hardly believe that there waiting for the final touches were the sick blooms we left six hours before. If the writer had not seen this transformation no one could have convinced him that it was possible. In the two days of the show the blooms held up almost as well as they did at the National Show there the year before.

Dr. and Mrs. John L. Crenshaw exhibited the best flower of the show, won the most points and had five of the six best blooms on the Court of Honor table. Their *Hansina Brand* was judged the best flower and was awarded the Dr. Christopher Graham gold medal. They also received awards for Mrs. J. V. Edlund as the best white and Mary Brand as the best red. Their *Akashigata* and *President Lincoln* were judged the best blooms in their respective classes. The writer won the coveted place on the table by having the best dark pink, a *Blanche King*. The flowers on this table were all good and would have been on the judging table at many national shows. Dr. Crenshaw's new planting in the country is now at its peak and he can be a strong competitor at any show.

An exhibit that attracted attention and is entitled to special mention was the entry of Dr. F. C. Mann in Class 1 which called for 30 named varieties of one bloom each. His flowers were of excellent quality, they were well selected and above all well staged. I do not recall ever seeing a collection better staged than was this entry. Dr. Mann concentrated nearly all his efforts on this entry and the blue ribbon which it won was well deserved. *Blanche King*, *Hansina Brand* and Mrs. John M. Kleitsch were particularly outstanding, especially the latter.

The classes calling for arrangements were well filled. The entire south wall of North Hall where the show was held was filled by these classes with some overflow on the ends. A class that created a great deal of interest was the one for "men only." This called for peonies predominating. In addition to first prize which was won by Dr. N. W. Barker, numerous other awards were given by Mr. Harold Thompson of Holm and Olson who was the judge of these classes. Mr. Richard Grounds won a prize as the entrant who "suffered most."

In the artistic arrangements open to all Mrs. R. W. Goddard won the sweepstakes with an arrangement of *Prairie Afire* peonies. They were arranged with a fringe at the base of *Midwest Iris* and *Plantain Lily* leaves on a flat dish. Above the peonies, crowning the entire arrangement, were three blooms of the old

fashioned *Beatrice Iris*. Mrs. Goddard also received the blue ribbon for the best arrangement of peonies suitable for public decoration. This entry was a basket of *Krinkled White* and *Surugu*—a combination which works well together. We have found *Krinkled White* our most consistent prize winner in basket arrangements. In the several shows staged here in Rochester no flower has so consistently caused strangers from all over the United States to ask, "What is the name of that flower?" "Will it grow in our state?" "Where can we get it?". *King of England* also has worked well in arrangements. We prefer singles or Japs in arrangements. They give a delicacy and character that cannot be secured with doubles.

We have come to the conclusion that various arrangement classes are an excellent means of stimulating interest in peonies. To one who knows little about peonies an array of arrangements appeals to them more than rows of bottles with choice named peonies. In admiring the arrangements interest is often centered on some type of variety and they begin to ask questions. The committee in charge can direct attention to the individual blooms among the named varieties and create an interest in these exhibits. It has been our experience that strangers soon begin to ask about dealers and prices.

The judges of the peony classes were Mr. L. W. Lindgren, Mr. T. C. Carpenter of St. Paul and Mr. A. M. Brand of Faribault, Minnesota. We feel that these peony authorities who have judged our shows for years are critical and impartial. We have never had a complaint regarding their decisions.



Errors on Parade

ERNEST FLINT KELSEY, *East Aurora, N. Y.*

Perhaps a recount of my failures, mistakes and experiences by the "trial and error" method of getting peony blooms ready for the big show may possibly be of some help to those who are about to make their first plunge. I warn you that this article will be of little or no use or interest to the veterans of the show room. To them I doff my weathered garden hat. I hope they will write on the "success" side of this subject to the great profit of all of us.

When it was decided to hold the 1941 show at Syracuse, 150 miles from these small gardens, several friends wrote urging me to exhibit. The project looked impossible and I dreaded to attempt it. However, Harry Little's friendly urging, Christman's encouraging letters, as well as those from Bongers, Peyton, Foster and others gave me courage to attempt to measure blooms with the champions.

Mr. Little explained about covering the buds with small bags held in place with rubber bands and that these bags should be pulled up against the base of the bud so that the opening bud would have room in the bag to unfold its petals. He also explained that you could tell when they were ready to cut by squeezing the bags. After I had bought my fourth big lot of bags the cracker barrel congress at the corner store looked at me suspiciously. I heard one of them say between squirts of tobacco juice, "what suppose he's doin' with all them air bags?" They "rubbered" again when I cornered the local market on rubber bands. Day after day I slipped those paper night caps on the sleeping buds and day after day I answered the same question, "what for neighbor?" Right here let me mention a mistake. I slipped the bags over what I considered the largest buds. On my return from the show I noticed that the biggest and best ms were on the thickest stems. Perhaps you may think it strange I had not d this before. "Taking in" a show is also taking in a lot of information, of greater benefit to you than medals and ribbons. The next time—if

there ever is a next time—I will not only look at the size of the bud but also the thickness and general appearance of the stem and the plant as a whole. My first mistake was my failure to disbud enough of my peonies. Each season I purposely leave some with their laterals intact. Many people do not want them disbudded, preferring them with laterals so that they may enjoy the bloom longer. However, I might have disbudded more and had a better selection when cutting time came. Disbudding is a slow, messy job but it is one of the “must do” details to get prize winning blooms. The gummy stuff from those lateral buds tastes like sorgum molasses seasoned with bitter aloes. Tasting it is not a necessary detail, neither is smearing it all over your pants. I admire the industry of ants but for epicurean taste give me the honey bee. Squeezing time finally arrived. I began the solemn ritual of squeezing those bags. Said one, “you must learn by experience” and as I had none I just squeezed and squeezed and wondered then pondered and squeezed again, “squeeze play” in baseball parlance. I squeezed bagged peonies in my dreams, finally reaching the height of the ridiculous when I squeezed the buns at the dinner table. When to cut was as dark and mysterious to me as why that wart came on my neighbor’s nose.

My next mistake was in packing them in full sun and in a tool room that was none too cool. Afterwards I learned that is is best to chill them somewhat before shipping. There is no refrigeration plant nearby but I could have packed them in a fairly cool cellar. After packing them I had to drive seven miles to an Express Office. From there they were taken some distance to the train. I found the Express Co. very helpful. Several times they made extra trips just to get my blooms on the first train.

About the arrangements for their storage in Syracuse I knew nothing, except that Harry Little took excellent care of them, unpacking and putting them in water and even arranging to have them moved to the Exhibition building at just the right time. What small success I had was due to the work of Harry Little, John Bongers and W. F. Christman—perhaps there were others who helped on that busy morning. My next mistake became apparent when arranging them for the show tables. I neglected to have blooms of the same kind together. When we finally removed the paper bags and got them into the containers on the long work table we had a long and tiresome job getting them separated for the various classes. Had not John Bongers come to my rescue it never would have been done. It was all new and baffling to me. It was at this time that I discovered my biggest mistake. I did too much squeezing—that is I continued my squeezing process too long. It gave me a “sick at the stomach” feeling when I held a bald headed bloom and watched a mess of petals fall at my feet. Typewriters have no characters to indicate weeping, so let’s pass on. I recall that Harry Little once told me that he would rather have his blooms reach the show table coming than going. I think we will all agree to that statement. There is a certain expectant charm to an opening flower that disappears when it passes its prime. Some of mine were “going” and some were “going, going, gone” and did not look like the blooms I had seen at home the day I left for the show. I would say from my experience it is better to cut them too early than too late.

It seems to me there are two essential rules to observe in preparing blooms for the show room, proper timing in cutting and chilling before packing for shipment. Of course, cold storage facilities near the show rooms are essential, but that is always provided, so the amateur need not concern himself about that detail.

Another mistake I made was to cut too many of one kind and not enough of others. As a result I had a lot of blooms good enough to display but not enough of each kind to meet competition requirements. In other words I did not cut my blooms with specific classes in mind. Along with a sharp knife take

your Exhibition program into the field. It is not a gala day when I put my mistakes on dress parade and I am not in a mood for shouting or flag waving. I remind myself that "I know not and I know I know not" but if these "know nots" of mine are in the least degree helpful to those who are about to make their first display I will have accomplished my purpose. I would say to those who hesitate, go to it, no matter if you're green. You will get a big thrill out of it, win or lose. You will be more than repaid when you see those grand displays and meet those big showmen, who are modest, friendly and helpful to every beginner who makes his first try at the "big game." May I suggest a motto for all of us: "*Take Those Blooms to Topeka.*"



The National Peony Show - 1942

HOMER JAMESON, *General Chairman, Topeka, Kan.*

This year on June 6th and 7th the 1942 National Peony Show will be held in Topeka, Kansas. Topeka has a population of 88,000 people. Located on the Kansas River, it is the Capital City of the great State of Kansas. Topeka lies between the corn belt and the cattle breeding districts in the south and between the winter wheat fields and the chief markets of the United States. It was located at this strategic point because it was the junction of the Santa Fe and the Oregon Trail. Two great Federal Highways cross this point, No. 75 and No. 40, giving it the name of "The Crossroads of America." Also leading into Topeka, are highways 10, 4, and 24. Railroad facilities are excellent, the Union Pacific, Santa Fe, Rock Island, and Missouri Pacific all lead into Topeka. In normal service, it is served by 37 passenger trains from all directions. Topeka also has a modern airport and by June will have completed a new Bomber Base (in case any of you decide to come by Bomber).

We will meet this year under conditions more trying than those experienced for many years. We have lamented drouth and floods, all of which have caused us trying moments in our Horticultural activities. This year, however, we meet with our nation at war. Every one will have to do his part to make an all out effort for Victory. Our part might well be the building of Morale. England has long recognized the therapeutic value of flowers and plants to a people under mental strain. All over the country various flower societies are urging the people to not give up growing flowers. We do need "Vegetables for Victory" but we must remember that man doth not live by bread alone, while the world must have food, "hearts starve as well as bodies." Let us raise all the food we can but let's also give our people more beauty through flowers than before. Working in and around flowers gives man a reborn courage that is bound to build morale in our citizenry. With these factors in mind, we have decided that we should go ahead with our show and with everybody exhibiting that can, we will make it a big Victory Peony Show.

The response to our letters has been fine and it is evident that it will be good competition. Topeka has always been a big peony growing region and there are a good many peony growers in the eastern third of the state. At Topeka we have Myron Bigger's Peony Farms, Joe Warner's Peony Farm, Ben Scott's, C. A. Gurney's Nursery, and Dr. Menninger's Oakwood Peony Farm. Frank E. Moots, of Newton, is a big peony grower also. To say nothing of many amateur growers, who raise quite a few just for the pleasure derived from them. Topeka has held its annual Peony and Iris show for a good many years.

The show will be held in the new Municipal Auditorium, a building well landscaped, beautiful both inside and out. The main arena is 135 feet by 100

feet. The building is equipped with one of the latest air conditioning systems, and there will be plenty of room available for preparing the peonies for exhibit.

There are at least three good hotels within four blocks of the auditorium. There are a good many other hotels and also many cabin camps located at the edge of town. We would recommend that you write the Chamber of Commerce or the Show management for information concerning hotels. Reservations should probably be made in advance, since there is a new Bomber Base being built in Topeka, however, the hotels and Chamber of Commerce have promised that they will see to it that there are rooms available.

The Railways Ice Co. will furnish free storage for any peonies for the show. They are experts at peony storage and their equipment and method is the most up to date. For best showing we recommend putting your peonies in cold storage at your own town if facilities are available as soon as cut, and shipping them just before the show, in a refrigerated car, however we will be glad to have them sent here for storage if you so desire.

There will be an interesting program provided which will include the talks illustrated with colored pictures both stills and movies. One of the features of the program will be a U. S. Peony Tour in Kodachrome. This is a collection of slides brought in or sent by out of state peony growers, approximately 5 to 10 slides per person, showing peonies or peony fields, each person telling about his or her slides when they come on the screen. Let us know if you will be able to bring or send some slides.

While in Topeka we want you to be sure and visit Reinesch Rose Garden and the Doran Rock Garden, which are nationally known, and should be at their best at about these dates. We are also building a new green house in the park. Topeka has beautiful parks and our Park Commissioner, Harry Snyder, will be happy to have you visit them.

The Topeka Horticultural Society with the Flowers Lover's Club cooperating, is sponsoring the National Peony Show this year. These two organizations have been staging from two to three flower shows each year, so you can see that the members of the various committees are not inexperienced when it comes to staging a flower show.

The committees are working well and are interested in making this show a big success. We invite you to come and help us make it a **VICTORY PEONY SHOW.**



A Friendly Debunker

ERNEST FLINT KELSEY, *East Aurora, N. Y.*

The A.P.S. should have an Official Debunker. Nominations are in order. Before the ballots are counted and the Official Debunker installed I am going to assume Squatter's Sovereignty, (you westerners will understand this term). Debunking is a risky business. It sometimes makes enemies for the Debunker—I don't want to do that. An experienced Debunker should be able to write about disagreeable things in a very agreeable manner, in fact so friendly and agreeable that the debunking process will be painless, so let's keep sweet. The Debunker is the antithesis of a "yes man." I have a few qualifications for the job but skip them if permitted to make this personal reference. Some years ago the Big Chief called me to his office and blurted out "Kelsey I like you." You could have bowled me over with an eyelash for we had just finished a conference where I had disagreed with the "Bunch," including the Big Chief. As my lower jaw was "necking" my throat he exploded again "I have lots of 'yes men' around me and you are not one of them." I prize that remark.

Well, let's begin the "first lesson." A favorite indoor sport with writers for the Bulletin is to take pot shots at our rating system. In the last Bulletin two of them were peppering away with their pea shooters like naughty boys in front of an old maid's window. Mr. Elmer A. Claar has written a splendid article—wish I could write one half as good. In it he has suggested a rating system so complicated and "all bound 'round with a woolen string" that it would give the wisest peony savant the heebe-jeebes to unravel it and make it work. Speaking of our present numerical plan he writes "I do not think the judges use the plan at all" and adds "what the judges really do is to make comparisons." Well, I'll be debunked. If the judges cannot or will not use our simple and understandable rating system, do you suppose they would or could judge by this involved rating system?

Here is a thumb nail sketch of his rating system.

- 1—Rated for length of time introduced.
- 2—Rated according to an "arbitrary" number of votes.
- 3—Rating copyrighted—year of rating to be catalogued.
- 4—Rated according to geographical locations.
- 5—Rated according to purposes used.

Why stop at the halfway house, friend Claar? Why not go "all out" for the perfect rating. Let me suggest some additional nicks in your rubber yardstick.

- 6—Rated according to soil. There is a divergence of bloom in different types of soil.
- 7—Rated according to size of planting. Commercial growers and back yard gardeners and amateurs should have separate ratings.
- 8—Rated by Garden Clubs. These "green thumb" groups could inject some new ideas into the perplexing problem who rated and what and how.
- 9—Rated according to the time of planting. We might once for all settle the question of spring planting. Also according to phases of the moon.
- 10—Rated according to the preference of different groups of people, the uppy up peonies for Movie Stars, the fragrant ones for garbage collectors.

Silly? of course, but we could continue to split hairs until our floor would look like a barber shop on a late Saturday afternoon. Even though we should rate by this system who would bother to put complete details into his catalog? The numerical system is not perfect you say. Well, who says it is? There never was and never will be a *perfect* rating system, neither has there been nor ever will be a *perfect* peony. Why can't we have a perfect rating system? The reason is obvious. Nature never produces *exactly* the same plant or flower even in the same species under ideal conditions. Things that grow cannot be rated or standardized with the same accuracy as machine made articles. Precision made pancake turners and our glorious perennial cannot be measured by the same yardstick. The slide rule and micrometer can standardize man made things but the things God has made do not easily yield themselves to standardization. Consider a peony bloom for instance. The colors vary under different lights, natural or artificial. They vary at different times of the day and on different soils and under different methods of fertilization and cultivation. More than that, blooms on the same plant vary in color and sometimes in texture. They vary in different latitudes and altitudes. There are varying shades of color on the same petal. Recognizing these variations and the fact that the bloom is the deciding factor in ratings makes a complicated system unwieldy and useless and by the same token makes a simple system indispensable. The writer says that our present system is "arbitrary." Of course it is; the very nature of the thing rated compels it to be so. It seems to me sensible and reasonable to use a fixed and "arbitrary" rating instead of a rubber yardstick, stretched to cover every possible contingency until it looks like an old suspender web.

Mr. Claar makes a good summing up in his last paragraph; "it might be said that these various ratings would cause too much work to get them together." Well, you said it. May I add that if you did get them together they would be about as useful as a season ticket to a man facing a firing squad. Our present rating system will stand until some Peony Solomon devises a simpler and better rating system—and where is he? Before we find him I am afraid the whiskers on those bearded iris will reach the ground. This Debunker says it's a well written informative article.

Mr. Roy G. Gayle's article is "peppy" and well written also. I would say his "IQ" rating system is bad, very bad. I would boost his "IQ" up into the "glorified 9s" and see if he squawks about that. Now that I have sugar coated the pill here's the dose. Now and then I read in the Bulletin veiled assertions that some group of highbinders have sneaked a jack under some of the ratings and boosted 'em but not once have any of these writers had the intestinal strength to call them by name. Come out into the open, friend Gayle. Who are these "sham battle heroes" some Peony Papa has decorated with the "Distinguished Service Cross?" Let's debunk them too. Tell us which of the "500 varieties are 'sham battle heroes'." Would you stack your "IQ" up against the group who rated the "71" that received "less than 10 votes?" Seriously, I believe our present ratings have been established by men who are strictly on the level. Errors? No one denies that. Errors are the sign posts on the highway of Progress. The dead end road of stagnation has no errors. "Commercial growers and peony fanciers" known to this simple one would rate a peony solely on its merits, regardless of who originated or who had stocked it.

Now let me answer your question, "are the A.P.S. ratings of the past sufficient to warrant the confidence of the members?" Positively yes. Proof? Look at the many who are using them in catalogs and price lists, showing that they are not discredited, notwithstanding clever writers like yourself and Mr. Claar have used them for target practice.



Odds and Ends

J. C. NICHOLLS, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

Nematodes. It is learned that the best results so far obtainable with the Hot Water Treatment of infested Peony roots is the destruction of no more than about 70% of the nematodes or eel worms. Since the remaining 30% can probably repopulate the roots almost at once, the treatment appears to be of little if any practical help. It was long ago observed in our fields that nematodes disappeared from infested roots transferred to heavy clay soil and that is the only remedy for the worms of which we know.

Lemoine's Disease. It has been suggested that this disease may come from a virus produced by nematodes but our considerable experience makes that seem highly improbable. Under superficial examination roots thoroughly knotted and flaked by nematodes resemble those infected with Lemoine's Disease but informed scrutiny has always disclosed that the disease was not present.

In the earlier period of our work with Peonies, we annually added considerable numbers of plants from many sources and that gave us ample experience with both nematodes and Lemoine's Disease. We are glad to say that we have received only clean and healthy roots in recent years. We found that plants with Lemoine's Disease could communicate the disease to adjacent healthy plants but in no case did nematodes originate the disease.

After our main garden had been free of both the disease and the nematodes for some years, we had a terrific attack of nematodes in a small detach-

planting in very light soil. Those Peony plants were left in place until the roots were knotted almost to extinction; some of them were then divided and planted in heavy soil and they have since thriven with no nematodes present. This evidence is not positive but it is strongly indicative.

Winter Killing. In thirty-one years of growing Peonies our only case of winter killing occurred in 1934. The plants were in very heavy soil which sloped but little. A thaw was followed by a quick drop in temperature to 37 degrees below zero. In one block of 3200 strong four-year clumps almost exactly 30% failed to grow in the spring. Examination indicated that the roots had been split and their tissues disintegrated by the freezing of the contained moisture. Mr. Hans Sass attributes to this same cause some losses he had at the same time as those discussed in a recent Bulletin. We are therefore inclined to think that the losses discussed in the Bulletin were caused by freezing of the contained moisture.

We have never dug from the ground any Peony root that was so lacking in moisture content as to preclude the possibility of injury by such freezing, especially in the manner suggested in the last sentence of this paragraph. Three years ago, 200 clumps growing on a sharp slope of very porous soil had the tops to die down at least a month ahead of the usual time because of a very protracted drought; they should have been as dry as roots may get in the ground but, when dug, they were found to be plump with apparently normal moisture content and to have nicely developed eyes; divisions from them have grown well without ill effects from their experience. This and all our other experience argues against the hypothesis that dryness may have caused the killing. If our arguments above are correct, one might reasonably contend that Peonies ought to be killed every winter in one of our usual low temperatures. Possibly the explanation is that Peonies naturally adjust themselves to normal conditions, however harsh, but that an abnormal warm spell may cause the moisture content to increase greatly enough to be vulnerable to a quickly following severe freeze.

Pollen from Sterile Kinds? When we began the Peony work we had read that some double Peonies occasionally have side blooms that are single and we hoped that such single blooms might provide pollen when the main or terminal blooms lacked it. We followed up this closely for a few years and ever since have casually watched for such pollen but in no case has a side bloom possessed pollen when the main bloom lacked it. We rather anticipated this for we could not understand why a weak secondary bloom should possess a faculty, especially of sex, denied the stronger terminal bloom. Our evidence on this point is negative and we do not presume to dispute others who have recently told us that such side blooms may have pollen. We would be glad to learn of any definite case of side bloom pollen observed under these conditions.

Origin of Walter Faxon. As suggested by Mr. Auten, there is strong probability that this variety is a seedling of *Marie Crousse*, the latter being in Richardson's garden at the appropriate time. Those two and Mrs. *Farrand*, a seedling of *Marie Crousse*, have pronounced similarities of color, foliage, small but strong wiry stems which are slightly angular in the same characteristic way. Other seedlings of *Marie Crousse* and of *Walter Faxon* tend to confirm this. At the time Mrs. *Farrand* first bloomed it was noted that seedlings of the single *Othello* also closely approximated the same characteristics; *Blush* and other *Othello* progeny have the *Faxon* and *Marie Crousse* kind of color, stems and roots.

Tomato Boku. In 1940, two mature clumps of this variety each had a stem with the terminal bloom as usual but with the side blooms full anemone doubles. The center petals of the doubles were a handsome deep scarlet-rose in color. For many years we have removed the side buds from most of our Peonies

and that has reduced our opportunities for observing possible occurrences of this and side bud pollen mentioned in a preceding paragraph. We would be interested in knowing whether others have had double secondary blooms on Japanese Peonies, especially other than *Tomate Boku*.

Japan, Japanese. Our Editor in a recent Bulletin requests opinions as to substituting the word "Oriental" for "Japanese" in designating Peonies. We strongly object to that as pointless and beneath the dignity of America. Our use of the word is for identification only and not to do honor to Japan. My service on the Pacific Coast and at Honolulu enabled me to know the Japanese well and that could only leave me with a deep and abiding distrust and detestation. But I would derive no particular satisfaction from calling the Japanese beetle, "Victory beetle," or their dishonored fried egg banner, "Liberty flag." Let's be grown up and keep our poise. My above strictures do not apply to loyal Japanese born in the United States.

Frost Injuries to Blooms. For the first time in our experience our Peony blooms were severely damaged by a hard freeze in April, 1941; that was the most harmful of all years as we were then to make our initial attempt to exhibit Peony blooms and that in big league competition at the Annual Show of the Society. Buds aborted, split at the sides or opened at the top admit water and turn brown; the blooms of some were reduced in size, notably *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, and many of the full doubles had no more than half the number of developed petals. The earlier varieties were hit hardest but all kinds were injured to some extent.

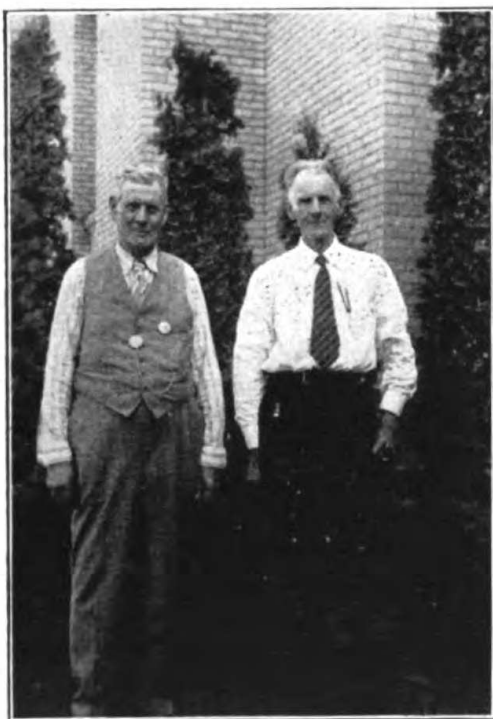
The damages had decided us to show only a few of our less known originations, *Florence Nicholls*, *Thura Hires*, *Nancy Nicholls* and *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*. Then Mr. Peyton and Mr. Little came to our garden and urged us to show all we could so as to make up for losses general throughout this section. We immediately stored all the blooms still available but had to use some inferior blooms to make up the "Twenty Class." All our blooms were from three-year clumps. Messrs. Kelsey, Waldmann and Little experienced the same difficulties and Mr. Kelsey had the additional handicap of unsuitable storage facilities.

We know of no comment at Syracuse that might call for excuses by any of us. We fared so much better in the competitions than anticipated that our own feeling was one of elation at our luck rather than one of apology. The alibi is for our locality and not for any of us personally; it is to emphasize that the blooms we exhibited were well below the quality normally produced in this eastern section of our country.

The Annual Show. Participation in our Annual Show of the Society brought home to us how much we have been missing. The most enjoyable feature was being able to meet such people as Mrs. Emigholz, Mrs. Freeborn, Mrs. Gowen, the Moots, Messrs. Kelsey, Glasscock, Berneche, Winthrop Thurlow, Brand, Christman and many others. And it is always a pleasure to renew acquaintance with our old friends the Saunders, Dr. Webb, Mr. Peyton and the Littles. Those people are not at a loss in any company and the Society is to be congratulated on having such representatives.

Another thing that appealed to us as highly commendable, and of no small importance, was the complete lack of anything resembling officiousness on the part of the Officials of the Peony Society and the Syracuse management. Helpfulness was the order of the day.

* * * * *



Lyman D. Glasscock, left. Col. J. C. Nicholls, right.



Reading left to right. Winthrop H. Thurlow, Mr. & Mrs. L. W. Lindgren.



Homer Jameson, left. Dr. C. F. Menninger, right.



C. F. Wassenberg, left. Roy W. Goddard, right.

Japanese Peonies

GEORGE W. PEYTON, *Rapidan, Va.*

Rumors have reached me that a proposal has been made to change the designation of that type of peony bloom we know as "Japanese" to "Oriental." It has always seemed to me that the use of the term "Japanese" was in some ways unfortunate. The chief objection has always been that it has carried a conviction to the minds of those who do not know the reason for its adoption, that these peonies are really a distinct race of peonies which had their origin in Japan and that they are essentially different from "Chinese" peonies. Of course all who are at all familiar with the facts, know that these peonies were imported from China into Japan just as ours were and that all peonies in every land produce the Japanese type from seed and that this type is no more exclusively Japanese than any other, but it was given the name because the Japanese growers seemed to have cared little for the other types and propagated this type almost to the exclusion of all others so that it became the symbol of a peony raised or propagated in Japan.

As we know all other types by their botanical classification as singles, doubles, semi-doubles, anemone, it would seem that the name these peonies should have been known by in a classification of types should have been botanical rather than national. But it was probable that some difficulty was experienced in finding such a name, so the term "Japanese" was adopted as the easiest way out of the dilemma. I am not enough of a botanist to know any name that would take its place and adequately fill the bill. Maybe "semi-anemone" would come fairly close to it, but I am sure that it has objections also and is rather awkward to use. A recent advertisement uses the word "Crested" instead of "Japanese" but it is certainly not a very good substitute. We say "semi-double" for that type which has many stamens mixed in with the fully transformed petals and even then it is hard to make a dividing line, as many we call full double still show stamens. Likewise the term anemone is not very widely in use to describe that type which has a center of rather narrow, fully transformed petaloids or stamanodes, of which type *Aureolin* is a fairly good example. Most of these are still classified with the Japs in our catalogues and other lists. But the distinctive Jap is one that has these staminodes only about half transformed, that is the bases still have the form of the stamens and the anthers are more or less flattened into the form of petals, thus the suggestion of semi-anemone for them.

The term "Oriental" has far less real significance than the term "Japanese" for when we come down to the facts nearly all of our peonies are really Oriental. All the tree peonies had their origin in the Orient, most of them in China. Ninety per cent at least of our herbaceous peonies, of whatever type, had their native home in the Orient, China, Siberia, Korea, and other countries of that vast continent of Asia, which we know as the Orient. So why substitute a name such as Oriental which would have no real significance whatever for a name that at least has far better claims to distinctiveness? Kelway called these Japanese peonies "Imperial" peonies and still does. The Japanese have adopted this word in some of their catalogues and they are listed as "Imperial" peonies. But that term is just as non-descriptive as Oriental and not nearly so descriptive as Japanese.

So it seems to me that unless we can find some term that will adequately describe the type that it is folly to try to change it just because we happen to be at war with Japan. That is just a bad example of the move during World War I to substitute such names as "Garden" and "Liberty" for "German" in the well-known species of iris known even botanically by that name. So my vote would be an emphatic "NO" to any proposal to drop the term Japanese until we have a better name and no one has yet proposed it to my knowledge.

Ravings of a Peony Maniac

DR. JOHN L. CRENSHAW, Rochester Minn.

In our peony patch in Southeastern Minnesota we have some 875 plants of 400 named varieties. I was horrified last spring to find that over 100 plants four to six years old were not coming up as they should and upon investigation then and later I found that the crowns were torn loose from the roots and with but little rain in the spring and none at all for ten weeks, in mid summer the crowns died completely. The roots were still alive and healthy late last fall but had no crown structure attached. None of our plants had had any fertilization, as suggested by Mr. Little in the June Bulletin. All of my loss was confined to plants that were on a hillside and subjected to the northwest wind, which blew the snow off and froze the earth for three to five inches in one night. Plants in the flat adjacent to the hill were covered with snow the next morning and not a plant was injured. Will not plant any more peonies on a hillside, though I will probably never see another storm like that of November 11, 1940. I believe the crowns would have grown new roots but for the drouth that followed. As for the roots without any crown, it has been shown by others, as well as myself, that *Albiflora* roots will not form any eyes, though I understand that *Officinalis* will in time. Some years ago I planted a beautiful large root of *Nick Shaylor* that was broken off just below the crown and I dug it last fall to find that there had been no attempt at crown formation, though the root was still plump and solid and had put out a few fine hair roots.

Our first peony to bloom was *Laciniata* on May 14, this was followed promptly by *Mlokoewitschi*, which had been planted the fall before and opened several of its beautiful yellow blossoms; this I understand is the only truly yellow herbaceous peony, and it's a dandy!

In May my wife and I drove to a medical meeting in Colorado Springs, and it was pathetic to see what drouth and storm had done to Nebraska and particularly Western Kansas, where very few trees were left and practically all Chinese Elms were dead. In a yard in Colby, Kansas, there was a very strikingly beautiful planting of hardy roses, *Austrian Copper* and *Harrison's Yellow*. They make a fine combination. In the Garden of the Gods we were delighted with large patches, which entirely covered the ground, of a dwarf lupine of a lovely shade of yellow; I tried to find some seed but it was too early and there were too many people around for me to swipe a root.

We had planned on our way home to stop at Hamburg, Iowa and see Interstate Nurseries' peonies and also those of Hans Sass but we heard that the Sass peonies were not yet open. In the vicinity of Hamburg we saw orchard after orchard of old apple trees dead and cut off at the ground as a grim reminder of November 11th. At Interstate there was a large planting of peonies in full bloom containing many of Sass named originations, as well as seedlings under number. *Gene Stratton Porter* was better than I ever saw it. Interstate also had several acres of Oriental Poppies in many colors that made a wonderful mass of color.

On our arrival at home, May 24th, we found our early varieties in full bloom and from then on were busy sacking and cutting buds to be stored for our show. *President Lincoln* was a sight to behold but too far open to save anything but smaller, later buds—but even these were fine enough to win. Our flowers opened very irregularly, late ones with the mid-season and *Mons. Jules* after early blooms were gone. However, thanks to ample rain in the spring there were so many beautiful things that it would be hard to pick a dozen." Outstanding were *President Lincoln*, *Souv. de Louis Bigot*,

Therese, *James Boyd*, *Grover Cleveland*, *Mary Brand*, *John L. Crenshaw*, *Alesia* (wonderful), *Dr. Neeley*, *Onondaga* (magnificent), *Mme. Geissler* (unbelievably large but vile color except in artificial light), *Nick Shaylor* (always good), *Elsa Sass*, *Mrs. Harriet Gentry* and *Mrs. Shaylor Force* (all hard to beat), *Frances Willard*, *Myrtle Gentry* (always good and most fragrant), *Hansina Brand* (the best in the patch), *Mrs. C. S. Minot*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* (best white with us), *Evening Star* (worth watching), *Rev. Tragitt*, *Blanche King* (our best dark pink), *Cornelia Shaylor*, *Rosalie* (Auten) was not large but lovely. I was again fooled by *Le Cygne* which, while perfect, seemed too small to save, only to see it grow into good sized blossoms after it was completely open. *Glasscock's Sun-bright* and *Crusader* were a brilliant patch of color that caught your eyes as soon as you came in sight.

We were so busy preparing for our local show that we didn't have much time for hand pollination but did get some seed from *Mike (Mlokošewitschi)* x *Isani Gidui*, *Mike* x *Yellow King*, *Mike* x *Toronomaqi* and *President Lincoln* x *Marie Crousse*. We have several thousand seedlings of various ages, and two of the dozen that have bloomed seem worth while; at any rate, they provide a never-failing interest each year.

The Rochester Show June 7th and 8th was held in an air conditioned room, which kept the flowers in as good condition the last day as the first. I had stored all of my flowers in wet, cold storage (about 400 blooms) except those cut the last week before the show (about 200 blooms); the latter were put in tubs in a darkened, cool cellar. The blossoms from cold storage were removed to the air conditioned showroom at 5 P.M. the day before the show, stems cut, put in bottles of water and sacks removed; blooms looked only fair when unsacked but were much better the next morning. The flowers from the cellar were left until 6 A.M. the day of the show, when they were taken to the showroom, unsacked, etc., and looked fine. The above program was about right for the stage at which I had cut my buds, and got them into the show in their best condition; they stood up perfectly for the two days of the show and some of them were then taken home and enjoyed for several days more.

On June 16th we attended the Northwest Peony Show in Minneapolis, which is usually the best show to which we go, but in '41 I do not think the flowers were up to their usual high quality, probably due to unseasonable weather. Outstanding were *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch*, *Nick Shaylor*, *Frances Willard* and *Franklin's Mark Twain*, *A. B. Franklin*, *Milady* and *Hiawatha*. Others that caught our attention were *Quest*, a dark pink Jap; *Ideal* (Greaves) somewhat like *Martha Bulloch* but darker; *A. E. Rowe* (Schneider) dark pink and R3—86 (E. H. Lins) good rich dark red.

At this show I liked very much the way the various classes were marked; in addition to the class number there was a separate card giving a description of the class, for example: "Class I." "One bloom each of eighty to one hundred named varieties." There was also a class for "one bloom each of three varieties in one container," which might prove of interest, especially to the amateur.

Later in June we had a scorching trip to Syracuse to the National Show and had the pleasure of renewing many of the acquaintances made in Rochester in '40 and also of meeting Colonel Nicholls and my boyhood friend George Peyton. We arrived at the show just as the judges were picking *Blanche King* as the best flower. I was told that the bloom of *Le Cygne*, which was the "Best White," was the type *Le Cygne* that is grown in the East, that is to say a low, flat flower. I have seen a *Le Cygne* like it in the Middle West, where the blossoms are nearly round; evidently soil and climate make the difference. Going over the exhibits I noted, liked, and marked to get when they come down in price; *Mrs. Harry F. Little*, *Thura Hires*, *Ella Lewis*, *Carolyn Mae Nelson*, *Mrs. Fern Lough*, *Jas. Pillow*, *Florence Bond*, *Lottie Dawson Rea*, *Mary*

Nicholls and *Hakodate*. Among the Hybrids, Mr. Glasscock's *Bright Knight*, *Rose Marie* and *Flame* and Prof. Saunder's *Nathalie*, *Ellen Crowley* and *Alexander Woolcott* also caught my fancy. I was disappointed in the Amateur and Advanced Amateur Classes, many of which had no entry or only one. I believe we all concurred in the hope that future A.P.S. banquets would not be in conjunction with other organizations.

We cut our last real peony blossoms on June 25th, having had about six weeks of bloom.

We have one tree peony in our yard that we cover each winter and it has lived and bloomed each year for fifteen years so I had sufficient courage last summer to put out nine more and am living in hopes.

I have been greatly interested in the work being done on peony seed by the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research and they seem to have proven that the delay in growth of peonies from seed lies in too short a period of warm weather after the seeds are planted rather than to the hardness of the shell, as many of us previously supposed. A summary of their experiments would, I believe, prove of interest to many Bulletin readers.

Only a few more Arctic months now before we will be looking for the first red sprouts and be busy cultivating and disbudbing.



The Peony, "Myrtle Gentry"

MYRON D. BIGGER, *Topeka, Kan.*

If I was limited to one peony I would, without hesitation, pick *Myrtle Gentry*. I have grown the variety since 1928 and in all the twelve blooming seasons I have yet to find even one serious fault with this variety.

The roots are always clean. The plant grows a fine green; stays green all season clear up to frost, and this one fact makes it a good grower. It has always been free from disease for me. It has been very consistent as a bloomer and blooms every year and every plant blooms.

The color is one of those melting pinks that can't be beat. It fades a little in the sun, but after it fades it is still as pretty as it was before.

After you see the root; plant it and see it grow so well; bloom into as fine a flower as it does, then just smell it—and it will finish your opinion of it as being one of the best.

The fragrance is wonderful, and to sum up the variety, I vote it the most desirable in all the four hundred named and two hundred and fifty numbered seedlings that are growing in my planting.

To me, *Myrtle Gentry* is Mr. Brand's masterpiece and if he had produced no other variety, he could certainly be proud of his work.



Rating Peonies

FREDERICK E. SNYDER, *Convoy, Ohio*

Much has been written in recent bulletins about the matter of peony ratings. After reading these articles with a great deal of interest, it seems to me that both sides have presented good points. Possibly a compromise might be the answer in which some plan could be worked out that would include constructive suggestions of both the "rightists" and the "leftists." The old system of rating has really worked surprisingly well and has been very helpful to peony development in the past. Surely it would be better to make occasional revisions, if and when necessary, than to drop the system and experiment with something untried.

I believe most members feel that there should be some method of correcting any obvious errors that may have been made in ratings in the past.

Victory Chateau Thierry was raised from 8.9 to 9.2, and surely no one familiar with that variety would feel that the change was ill advised. *Minnie Shaylor* and *Blanche King* are two more that deserve a raise.

But in general, STABILITY is an element that must be maintained if these ratings are to be of real service to the Society and to the public. One recent article compared iris ratings with those of the peony. Such a comparison is impossible. Iris can be developed as much in ten years as slow growing peonies can in forty. In twenty years time the Iris Society may feel a need for an entirely new set of ratings.

While many excellent new peonies have been introduced in the past twenty years, they are still fundamentally the same flower. For some reason, a few persons seemingly feel that we can give proper recognition to the new varieties only by tearing the old ones from their pedestals. If another peony proves itself as good as *Le Cygne*, it too may be rated 9.4 without breaking any rules. I wish those who say they cannot become excited about *Le Cygne* might have visited Mr. Beckman's Auglaize Gardens last June. Looking across the fields and gardens at any time a crowd could always be seen collected in one certain spot. The attractions proved to be a planting of *Le Cygne* loaded with immense flowers of greatest beauty and purity. They compelled a hushed admiration, bordering on reverence, and I would wager that none of those who were there would cast a vote in favor of lowering the rating of *Le Cygne*, regardless of comparison with any other existing variety.

One of the chief purposes of the rating system has been to aid the amateur who wishes to make a collection of the best and choicest peonies. Here again we must stress STABILITY. When one plants iris it is for immediate results and with the expectation of lifting them for division in a few years at most. If they are disappointing, they can easily be removed to a less conspicuous place, or even discarded, but the amateur plants peonies for permanence, and selects varieties with as much care as he would select varieties of shade or fruit trees.

If a man wishing to plant an orchard asked a nursery, or some state department for advice in selecting the best varieties, he would be very ill pleased in four or five years, just as the trees are beginning to bear, to have his advisors write and tell him that they had changed their minds, and that if he wanted a first class orchard he would have to discard his trees and get some other kinds. He would not take their advice a second time, and likewise the layman wants to have confidence in the decision of the Peony Society's ratings. And so it is I feel that peony ratings should be made carefully, with intentions of permanence, even though there must be a means of correcting an occasional mistake that may possibly occur.

Until recently, the old method of rating peonies worked quite well, and one feels that the results are as accurate as could reasonably be expected. All but a very few have gone unquestioned, and I believe that there are more peonies that are under-rated than are over-rated. Recently, however, some confusion has arisen in rating new, (and some older) varieties, and more systematic methods would very likely be of value.

I wonder if the Society might not appoint a committee of say, six or ten, peony experts, to rate peonies in the future. A rating should not then be made permanent or official until all the committee has voted on it. Since this could not be done quickly, an un-official rating, noted as such, might first be made by the general membership as in the past. The judges would give due consideration to the opinions of the popular rating in making their decision. In changing any rating formerly made, a petition should be made to this board.

possibly one carrying a certain number of signatures. In this way, both stability and flexibility could be attained.

A peony rating necessarily generalizes the different qualities of the peony, and fine peony judging is something of an art.

A recent article presented a suggestion for giving separate ratings for particular qualities such as color, size, stem, performance, etc., etc. This might well be of interest to specialists and hybridizers, but in losing its simplicity, the method would lose its value for the general public. For this reason, I feel that the single numeral rating is still preferable, since we wish to help popularize peonies rather than narrow down the field to a few.

One other question that has arisen on a few occasions in the past has been that of "peony politics"—keeping an originator's prejudice from affecting the rating of a new variety. On first thought it would seem that this would occur frequently. Actually, however, results show very, very few occurrences of this, and as stated above there are more cases of under-rating than the opposite.

Also with the plan suggested above, I believe there could be no means of deliberate unfairness in ratings. There is a very human tendency at times, in the first enthusiasm of seeing a fine, new variety, to give it a higher rating than one could give the same variety after more years of acquaintance. Mrs. J. H. Neeley, after a comparatively long time, was rated 9.22. Mrs. J. V. Edlund, being rated while much newer, received 9.51. In my garden, Mrs. J. H. Neeley has been the more desirable of the two. Very likely a few of Dr. Neely's peonies have suffered from lack of a sponsor. On the other hand, some of the newer ones, such as *Nippon Brilliant*, *Nick Shaylor*, *Tempest* and others, while they have been given high ratings, are so excellent in quality, that they may still be considered to have very conservative gradings.

Since interest and attention have recently been focused on this matter of rating, I hope they will continue until some definite plan is formed, and that others will continue to write in their opinions.



Fragrance In Peonies

MARTIN A. ELIASON, Appleton, Minn.

One morning in June 1939, while distributing a pailfull of show blossoms in the main show room at A. B. Franklin's, I heard a man's voice right behind me say a cheery "Good Morning," and had just time to turn around to answer his greeting before he anxiously asked, "Do you sell *Philippe Rivoire* peony plants?"

When I replied, "Yes, we certainly do, we raise more of that kind than many others because when that variety is in bloom it is one of our best selling reds." He quickly answered, "Yes, it WOULD sell well!—I work in a tannery and the odors in there are far from pleasant. A friend gave me one blossom from his plant of *Philippe Rivoire* and I took it along to the room where I work so that I might get an occasional whiff of its exquisite fragrance. You can imagine my surprise when the fragrance from that one blossom filled the room so that the stench in there was less noticeable than that fragrance. Now I want to plant that wonderful variety in my garden. I came way over here from St. Paul to find out if you could sell me a root of that variety." (That is a distance of about ten miles.)

Another customer, when his attention was called to the unusually sweet fragrance of the variety *Mabel L. Franklin* exclaimed, "Say, that's something grand." He then bought a nice little order of fragrant peonies.

The above incidents are not pipe dreams but actual occurrences, and were

not only very pleasing to me but seemed to be very significant as well.

These incidents brought more forcibly to my mind this question, do we pay enough attention to the fragrant varieties when we make up our literature? When selling plants, it seemed to me that if a customer was undecided between two or more varieties of about the color he wanted, he would most generally choose the fragrant one, if one variety had sweet fragrance and the other little, or none at all.

On many orders, an *Edulis Superba*, Mabel L. Franklin, Philippe Rivoire, or an A. B. Franklin would be chosen just as much because of its unusual fragrance as for its beauty of bloom. Some customers would even pass up more beautiful blossoms from better plants and buy *Edulis Superba* for its fine fragrance.

It seems as though there is now enough varieties that have both superior beauty of bloom and fine fragrance so that we could increase the popularity of the peony, (and incidentally increase our sales) by emphasizing the many fragrant varieties in our sales literature. Too many peony growers apparently disregard peony fragrance when they compile their sales literature—is that as it should be?

Why not set up a new class to be exhibited at our national and regional peony shows, something like this—25 varieties, (perhaps 40 or 50 would be better) of sweetly fragrant peonies. If that were done, I believe that we would find the public would be taking notes of varieties and do most of their buying from varieties appearing in that class.



Members Sending In Rating Lists

GEORGE W. PEYTON, *Rapidan, Va.*

Of the more than five hundred members to whom rating lists were sent in the spring of 1939, sixty-five returned them more or less completely filled out. Below you will find the names of those who did take this trouble and I hope none have been omitted.

I wish personally to thank each and every one of them for the pains and accuracy with which the lists were compiled, and also for the many very fine lists of varieties you considered the best that were included.

There were about twenty-five of these lists sent in. I hope to present some interesting information about these lists and also about the answers to the Questionnaire in a future bulletin.

One list sent in did not have any ratings, nor was the Questionnaire answered, but it contained a large amount of very useful information about many of the older varieties. This list was from Mrs. W. L. McLaughlin, who has probably the largest collection of old timers of any one, more than a thousand varieties.

The following five lists had no ratings, only the questionnaire was answered: H. E. Anthony, Chas. H. Smith, Harry L. Smith, J. B. Skelton and Harriet F. Holmes.

One to ten varieties rated: Ernest F. Kelsey, Mrs. A. S. Gowen, L. L. Hoopes, J. W. Bernstein, Mrs. Emma Brookens, Mrs. W. G. DuMont, J. W. Frenz, Hugh H. Gilmore, R. W. Goddard, C. R. Jenks, Mrs. Walter C. Lyman, J. Neilson, W. L. Newcomb, H. G. Reading, E. P. Sargent, J. Prevost Stout, Miss Mabel Thoms, and Lester Votrain, a total of eighteen lists.

Eleven to twenty-five: R. V. Ashley, A. P. Saunders, C. F. Wood, W. H. Boyle, Wm. Brown, Dr. John L. Crenshaw, W. E. Lanigan, J. D. Millar, H. H. Reineke, Joe Warner and G. E. Winchell, eleven lists.

Twenty-six to fifty: B. C. Auten, L. D. Baker, Myron D. Bigger, Toichi

Domoto, A. B. Franklin, L. D. Glasscock, Kelway & Son, J. C. Nicholls, J. F. Styer, G. H. Greaves, James Mason, Frederick E. Snyder, and R. W. Jones, thirteen lists.

Fifty-one to one hundred: A. M. Brand, Cottage Gardens (A. Newhouse), Oberlin Peony Gardens, L. R. Sjulín, John C. Wister, H. G. Huntington, and R. A. Napier, seven lists.

Over one hundred: Edw. Auten, Jr. (210), H. T. Beckmann (148), W. F. Christman (323), John A. Bongers (198), H. W. Claybaugh (108), William J. Doherty (135), L. E. Foster (160), Harry F. Little (242), and W. C. Otis (255), nine lists.

Several of the lists had only tree peonies listed and one or two only hybrids. I also received a very interesting letter from a lady in Topeka, Kansas, which protested against the change in rating of the four old ones. I counted her votes in on these. Unfortunately I have mislaid the letter and do not recall her name, but I appreciated her interest just the same. This letter makes the total of sixty-five lists.

There were twenty-three lists from commercial men and forty-two from amateurs.



The 1939 Rating List

GEORGE W. PEYTON, *Rapidan, Va.*

In the December, 1941, Bulletin there appeared an article by Mr. Roy G. Gayle which opened with the statement that it was his honest opinion that the A.P.S. had made a vital mistake in accepting and publishing the new (1939) symposium. As this was the first intimation that I had had that the Society had so nearly committed hari-kari I thought it would be interesting to look into the matter and see what evidence I could get that would bear out Mr. Gayle's opinion. So I went down into my trusty junk room and resurrected from the tons of documents that I have accumulated over my life, the individual rating sheets that were returned and also the older symposiums.

Before taking up some of the matters he discussed, it may be well for us to review the methods that have been followed in making out these rating lists. The first list gotten out in 1916 was an experiment and included only the newer peonies of foreign introduction. No American varieties were listed. It was sent to all the members of the Society and only nineteen lists were returned. It listed 123 varieties for rating of which 18 received ten or more votes while 105 had less than ten. The number of Class A (peonies rating 9 or better), was 14 of which ten still hold their place. Only five of these 14 received ten or more votes and one of these has since dropped into Grade B.

The next list was composed of nearly all the known varieties that were considered of any importance. This was sent to all the members and 45 lists were returned. Ratings of 487 varieties were published of which 177 received ten or more votes leaving 367 with less than ten. 27 rated 9 or better of which 22 had ten or more votes. Eight of these were afterwards dropped lower. This list was gotten out in 1918.

Three years later in 1921 a second list was gotten out. This included practically all the varieties that were listed in 1918, with quite a large number of additions. This list was also sent to all the members of the Society. It is not stated exactly how many were returned, but it was at least 84 as *Festiva Maxima* received that number of votes. 685 varieties were rated of which 322 received ten or more votes and 363 less than ten. 36 rated Class A of which 24 had ten or more votes. Six of these 36 have since fallen below the

9 mark. It was suggested that all peonies that had received twenty or more votes in each of these last two lists (1918 and 1921) should be dropped from further consideration if their ratings differed only by a small margin in each list. This shows that then a rating was not considered final until it had received twenty or more votes in two lists and that these ratings should be very close together and it was found that most of them were.

In 1925 the third symposium was conducted. This list was composed of all varieties that had received less than twenty votes in 1921 and in addition all the new ones that had come out since. These new ones had begun to appear in quite abundant number. This list had about 750 varieties listed. How many lists were returned has not been stated, but this list was not sent to the entire body politic but to a selected group of fifty. The ratings of 278 varieties were published of which 110 received ten or more votes while 168 had less than ten. In the two previous lists ratings were published for all varieties that received three or more votes while in this one only those were published that had five or more. 31 of this list received Grade A ratings while 19 of these had ten or more votes. Five of this thirty-one have since fallen to lower grades. When the Manual was published in 1929 a jury was selected to give tentative ratings to quite a number of new ones which had not received ratings. This showed the eagerness with which these ratings were looked for. How many composed this jury and how many lists were received I do not know, but 26 were deemed worthy by that committee to be classed in Grade A of which only four now hold that honor.

In 1933 it was deemed wise to get out another list as it had been a long time since 1925 and the demand for ratings for these many new ones had become quite insistent. So Prof. Saunders prepared a list of all varieties that had been introduced in the previous ten years, also all that had received less than ten votes (note the change here to ten instead of twenty) in the 1925 list and which had not appeared in the 1921 list. A few older varieties were also included. The list had 645 varieties and it was also sent to a selected jury of about fifty. Forty-three lists came back marked. The published results contained 251 varieties and only those that had received three or more votes. 64 of these had ten or more votes and 187 less than ten. 50 made Grade A of which only 13 had ten or more votes. Of this fifty 38 still hold their rank while 12 have since failed to make the grade. The 1939 list was also gotten out principally to meet the insistent demand for ratings on the very large number of new varieties that had made their debut in the past ten years. This list was sent to all the members of the Society. Sixty-five were returned. A list of those who sent in these lists has been sent to Mr. Christman and he will use his judgment whether to publish it or not. Many of them had very few ratings and only about a dozen had fifty or more varieties rated. So it will be seen that our ratings had to be made from a very few lists. This 1939 list contained a very large number of varieties over 1200 I think. The ones listed were all that had been registered with the Society since 1933 except a few that were never released for distribution, all varieties introduced from 1929 to 1933 regardless of the rating received in 1933, all varieties introduced in 1921 and later that had not received ten votes, several of the older ones to correct errors and to test out their standing now in comparison with the newer ones and all Japanese and Singles that had not been rated of which there were a very large number. It was the intention to drop from all future lists these old ones that did not receive ratings at this time to prevent endless listings for no returns. From the ratings returned there were selected 276 that were thought fair enough to publish and with only one or two exceptions these had received three or more votes. Only fifty two received ten or more votes and 224 less than ten and of course these will be included in any future rating list as has

always been the custom and even some that received the required ten may be included if they were less than five years old at the time of the 1939 list. Ninety-three varieties ranked Grade A of which only thirty had ten or more votes leaving sixty-three with less than ten votes.

All of the above has been published to give the new members some idea of how our symposiums have been conducted and to revive the memories of our older members. Reference to these old lists will be better than my resume which has now been all too long I am afraid.

However from the above it will be seen that after the many duplications are to some extent eliminated (I have not had the time to get the exact figures on these) only about five hundred varieties have ever received ten or more votes out of the probably three thousand listed in the rating lists and we have published ratings of about a thousand that received less than ten votes. So to publish a rating of a variety with only three votes has been the usual custom and it has never been considered final until at least ten votes have been cast and even then not always so. So it seems to me that this concern over publishing ratings of varieties with less than ten votes is more or less a tempest in a teapot. Our members have never considered them unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians and most of them I am sure like to see the trend taken. After all, few of them are ever appreciably lowered and so in most cases they can be considered as quite accurate.

Of course mistakes are made. *Raoul Dessert* and *Souvenir de Louis Bigot* had ratings of only 8.3 and 7.5 respectively at first, but have now climbed into the ranks of the *Sham Battle Heroes*, while *Belisaire* with 9.5 as its first value has done the opposite. It took *Philippe Rivoire* three strides to climb from its first 8 with three votes to its present standard in Grade A company. And it had been out fifteen years when its final rating was made. *Kelway's Glorious* rated 9 on three votes in 1916 after seven years out.

From the above figures it seems to be very clear that it is not very easy for a variety ever to get ten votes as about two thirds of them never do. It is much harder for one to get ten votes in ten years than it is in twenty also. So I am not particularly disturbed because 38 of the Grade A peonies have never received ten votes even though they have been out more than ten years. Neither do I think any man who happens to have 17 varieties in the Grade A list deserves to have the finger of suspicion pointed at him and be made the subject of but thinly veiled accusations of having conspired with his "Quislings" among the members of the Society to get a rating build up even though eleven of these 17 varieties are "Reds" and to go further, four of them are also Japs. Horror of horrors! Personally I say All Honor to Him. And what is more I think any one who is at all familiar with Mr. Auten's varieties will not question the justice of the ratings.

As to the Twenty Man Committee's ratings being more accurate than the ones published, may I just remark that that committee will probably be composed in large part of just those very men from whose ratings the 1939 list was compiled. Will they be any more accurate just because they are members of the committee than they were as just ordinary members? If you will glance at the list you will see that the men from whose ratings most of the list was compiled, (those who sent in the largest lists) are men of unquestioned honesty and in addition men whose peony judgment is of the best.

It may also be said that it is going to be extremely hard to get ten men among those twenty who have all the varieties to be rated. Most people's cash for spending in peonies is rather limited and if any one wished to get every one of that seventy-one despised sham battle heroes on which our Distinguished Service Medal has been so shamelessly pinned by rating build-ups, it would

cost him pretty close to a thousand dollars, or would have when they were first out.

It is also going to be hard to find ten men among the twenty that have any one of the many varieties they will be called on to rate.

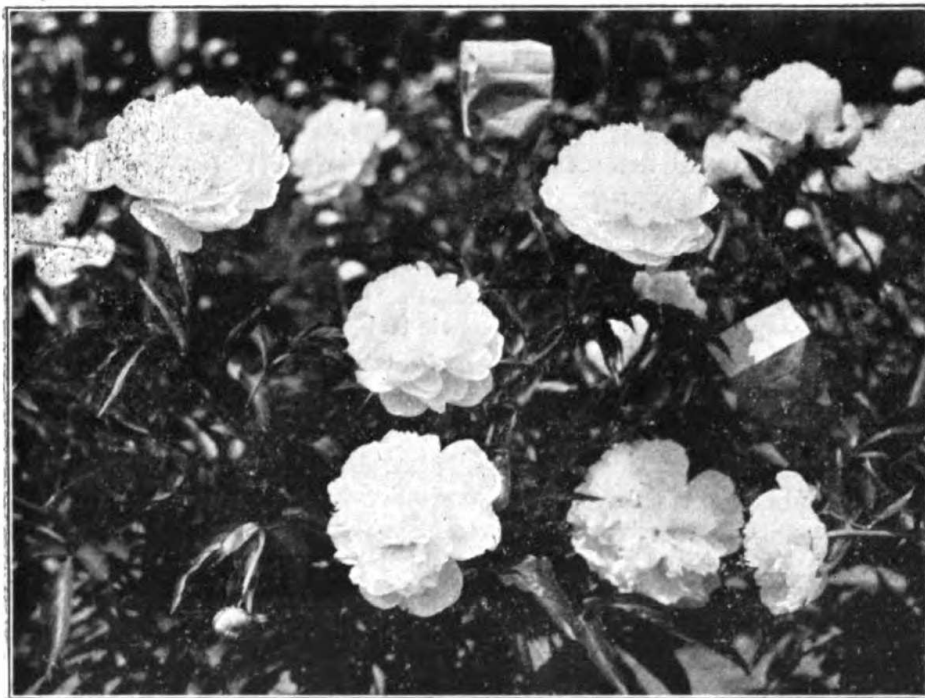
Finally may I say that unless the Society has confidence in the ratings published after the hard and conscientious work of those who took the trouble to fill out the lists and the compiling of the same it seems to me useless to spend over a hundred dollars of our hard earned money on them. Why not let us have your opinion so that we shall have something to guide us and not waste money and time on rating build-ups and dishonest ratings if you think that is what they are?



Seedling Peony E. F. Kelsey

E. F. KELSEY, *East Aurora, N. Y.*

Regarding the peony *E. F. Kelsey*. It is seedling from a lot I found growing around *James Kelway, Tourangelle, Mad. Emile Gallee* and some other standard varieties. The peculiar thing about these seedlings is that they were nearly all white doubles, and from them I selected what I thought to be very choice blooms, *Laura Kelsey, Marilla Beauty, Miss Innocence, Mel Gedge, Party Gown, River Mist, Star Bright, To Kalon, The Fleece, White Water, and Reunion,*



Peony E. F. Kelsey .

now named *E. F. Kelsey*. Three have received Honorable Mention by the American Peony Society, *Marilla Beauty, Charlene* and *The Fleece*. Along with the rest, *Reunion* was lifted from the original bed in 1936. From it I got four good divisions. The size and quality of the bloom has increased from year to year. Last year it was covered with great big beautiful blooms, more beautiful than any of the white company represented in the entire gardens. The blooms

are produced on strong stems. The petals have good substance. It attracted so much attention that the Courier-Express Photographer came and took a picture of it and wrote a feature article about it, accompanied by a cut. The enlargement that I sent you is from that negative. It is probably one of those that need to be well established to produce characteristic bloom. The bloom had gone just a trifle past prime. The bags were put on so that the reporter might have something out of the ordinary to write about.



My Experience with the Armistice Day Storm

HENRY ARP, *Williamsburg, Ia.*

I have two beds of peonies. The home garden has about 250 named varieties from ten to twenty years old, facing north. These are planted in a heavy, black soil with a nice slope towards the north. Last spring, most of these peonies came up very thin, in fact very thin. The bloom was smaller than usual and some plants had no bloom on at all, while a very few were as good as usual.

They had been given the usual care and attention and I could not account for their behavior until I read of others who had similar trouble with their plants.

The other bed has about 1600 seedlings, containing plants from one to seven years of age. Last spring I found that a large number failed to come up at all. I did nothing with them until last fall when I started to replant some of them, at which time I found that nearly every one of them had new buds starting below the old crown. Very few of them were dead altogether. Now I am anxious to see what they will be like this spring.

What I cannot understand is all last summer not a leaf showed at all but by digging down I found the roots alive on nearly all of them and a new bud or two down below the crown, much deeper than the old crown was. The older the plant, the harder it was hit. A few of the older plants came up during June and July with only one stem. On examining them this last fall, I found all the old crown dead and some of the roots. All that was left was the one sprout which I took up and replanted, destroying all the dead roots and crown that remained. These will be watched with interest to see what develops. In all my experience in growing peonies I have never before faced such a situation.

Editor's Note: The terrific storm Armistice Day Nov. 11th, 1940, will long be remembered by many of us. We have had reports in past issues about losses sustained due to this storm. Peonies can take most any kind of weather, but when the sun is shining in the morning with summer temperatures prevailing, and to experience zero by night with a howling blizzard in progress, it was just too much. The ground was full of moisture and the sudden freezing wrenched the crowns off the peony clumps as though they had been maliciously torn off by some culprit. If roots are broken off near the crown as these roots were, they very frequently will form an eye on the remaining root and this is what happened to Mr. Arp's peonies. The fact that the new and young plants were not as badly damaged is due to the fact that they had not become so well anchored in the ground and could take the shock easier. Again there was not the resistance offered as in older plants that had become well established. Perhaps we will never experience another storm like it at least let's hope not.

Secretary's Notes

I have had several requests that in the March bulletin we have some information about handling peony blooms for exhibition purposes and I have promised the writers that we would have some information along this line. Accordingly I have written several experienced exhibitors as well as a few who have not had as much experience and who are desirous of getting this information. I have written to the latter to get their main questions so we could help them solve their problems.

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Nearly twenty-five years ago at one of the early peony shows in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul where I resided at the time, we had one exhibitor who almost invariably carried off first honors with his bloom and it was almost a foregone conclusion for some years who would carry off, first prize in the outstanding classes. Naturally, my curiosity was aroused to the extent that I was determined to find out just how this party handled his bloom and asked him point blank how it was done. I soon discovered he was not willing to pass his secret on to anyone else. He told me that he had picked them out of the garden the day before he came to the show. When I noted officinalis *Rubra* displayed in fine condition along with *La France* and other late varieties, I knew that the statement was untrue. This made me all the more determined to find out his method of handling bloom prior to show dates and I did find out. He had a cave or cellar dug in the earth, and in this enclosure he kept a large quantity of ice, holding the temperature down considerably and enabling him to hold his flowers for two weeks or more in first class condition.

The party who practiced this method of handling his flowers is no longer with us. The method he employed can still be used if modern refrigeration service is not available, in fact a good cool cellar can also be employed to very good advantage and is perhaps the most universally used at the present time until the flowers can be placed in storage.

Mr. Peyton has gone into this matter very thoroughly and with his many years of experience, we feel that his advice will be of great help to anyone who is contemplating staging show flowers or wants to keep specimen bloom for a considerable period of time.

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If you have other problems in handling your flowers not touched upon in the articles presented, write this office and we will try and aid you. We want to stress the fact that if you plan to enter into any specific class, be sure to have extra blooms to replenish your display or to replace any bloom that is not in show condition. Many make the mistake of bringing just the amount of bloom required for the class and find when they come to open their bloom, some of the lot are not in first class condition for various reasons, and some of these reasons are as follows: the buds may have been picked too tight and they fail to open properly; the buds may have been allowed to open too far before being cut and stored and they will fall when the sacks are removed; in sacking your buds it is just possible they were wet and this will cause them to rot or spot; placing them in cold storage when the buds are wet will also cause them to discolor and rot; rough handling may break or remove the buds from the flower stem and make them unfit for use; putting them in storage at too

low a temperature will ruin them, they must not be frozen in storage. A temperature of about 34 to 36 for long storage is about right, at least that has been our experience covering many years in handling stored flowers. If they are not to be held long in storage, the temperatures may be held at a higher level, say 38 to 40 degrees. Cultivation and fertilization of your plants prior to their forming flowering buds is a mighty important matter. You can't expect to neglect your plants and cut exhibition bloom from them. Of course when one is fortunate and can cut bloom from their garden or field just prior to the exhibition, they do not have all this bother to go through with, but it may surprise you to know that properly stored bloom will in most cases win over specimens cut direct from the field. The delicacy of shading is often entirely lost from field cut bloom after it has been exposed to the sun or light for a brief period of time. This is entirely retained in the stored bloom, and this variation may be the cause of some comment from people who are not entirely familiar with the true coloring of a variety when it first opens. Artificial light often produces the same effect, particularly in the deeper colored varieties.

If it is your first attempt at storing flowers, don't be discouraged if you don't win all firsts, as there is not a single successful exhibitor, who has not had several tries at it before he becomes proficient and knows just when to cut his bloom, as well as how to store and handle them. He can learn something each year he exhibits.

I can see a vast change in the exhibitors of the present day and those of many years ago. Information was not as readily given and if any exhibitor could learn some new trick of handling, it was his own secret.

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One of the secrets to a good arrangement is the foundation prepared before the arrangement is even attempted. If the vase or container can be pretty well filled with foliage of the plant to be exhibited, or other foliage, if permitted, a considerable part of the work has been done. This will allow you to place the flowers in most any position you desire them, which is not possible without specially prepared containers having a wire mesh inserted in them or other means of holding the flowers in place. If you can bring some foliage, without flowers, for this purpose, you will be surprised how your work is lessened in making up the arrangement. I have often used discarded stems from which the bloom had been removed for the purpose.

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If there is one thing that gets under my skin, it is the party who comes to me with a long face, or with a chip on his shoulder, and says, "I could have brought down some bloom from my garden that would skin anything that is in the show room," or words to that effect. The chances are he don't know a good flower when he sees one. This is along the same line that is frequently experienced when you show a brand new flower, perhaps the only one in existence, to some one who does not know flowers very well. You are elated to be able to have something out of the ordinary and are rather nonplussed to have the party tell you, I have one just like that in my garden that I have had for several years, or Mrs. Jones has one just like it. Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise and reminds me of the story I heard recently, the subject of which was, Genus Doubtful. The story goes like this: A couple of sailors got into an argument over the kind of animal a heifer was. One sailor claimed that the heifer belonged to the hog family, the other that it was a variety of sheep.

Finally they called in Boatswain Bill. "Bill, wot's a heifer—is it a hog or sheep?" they asked. Boatswain Bill bit a large chew reflectively, then said: "To tell the truth mates, I dunno much about poultry."

If you have some good flowers in your yard, bring them to the show and let the judges decide if they possess sufficient merit to win over other entries. Be a good sport and be able to take it on the chin if you don't win. A successful show is made up of a number of enthusiastic exhibitors who do not allow personal ambitions to overshadow their better judgment. Let this enthusiasm carry you on, for it is simply success on a rampage; the mainspring of all important accomplishments. Do your very best to win and if not successful at your first undertaking, do not be dismayed, but make a determined resolve to better your effort another year. If you win, do not let it stop your enthusiasm, but let your accomplishment be a stepping stone to future success and glory.

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We have encouraged and asked for articles on rating methods, both for and against such a practice. We have presented these articles with the one thought in mind, and that was to have a clearer view presented in our minds of the very best method of procedure along this line. We do not all think alike and that is one reason for horse races. Many large manufacturing organizations are welcoming suggestions from their workers as to better methods of procedure, and are getting from this experiment valuable helps and hints that can be put into practice to their mutual benefit. Perhaps, we too can be given helpful advice that will be well worth considering. Anything that is left to nature, perhaps greatly aided by man's ingenuity, cannot be measured with exactness, as variations will necessarily be experienced and will have to be taken into consideration. Nature, in its unlimited variation, is difficult of absolute appraisal, and any established rating should be so considered.

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By the time this issue of the bulletin is in your hands, peonies will have made their appearance in some sections, in fact I had a recent letter from one of our members in the state of Oregon who stated that in early February, *Officinalis Rubra* was about two inches in height.

In most sections of the country we have had a rather open winter and plantings made last fall, that were not protected in some manner, may show signs of heaving. This should be carefully watched and earth placed over the crowns if they have become exposed. A still better way would be to replant them as they should be.

We will have to employ our flower gardens as a sort of sanctuary until after the duration, in fact many of us so consider our gardens at all times. It surely is a place of refuge from the drab realities of life. We will also have to cultivate our vegetable gardens with more vigor so that they will produce to the utmost during these uncertain times.

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The schedule of the Topeka Show that appears in this issue is one that will enable the novice, amateur and professional alike to find many classes in which it is possible to enter and compete for the worthy prizes offered. These prizes are made possible by the generosity of many interested in the success of this show. They ask your support by entering in all the classes you can. Full information will be found in this schedule to enable you to do this and there will be many willing hands to assist you in your efforts.

We want you to carefully read Rule No. 1 in the schedule. You will note that the work room will be open all day Friday, June 5th, to allow you to get your exhibition bloom ready for the following day. This should avoid the last minute rush that we almost invariably experience.

Again we would call your particular attention to Rule No. 5, to the effect, "All exhibits sent to cold storage will be taken to the Municipal Auditorium early Friday morning, June 5th, unless arrangements are made for later delivery."

Remember this is the day preceding the show, so if you are not able to take care of your flowers the early part of the 5th of June, see that directions are given to the management of the show to have them held in storage until later in the day.

The ability to have the work tables and rooms the day preceding the show is a very fine thing as it will enable exhibitors to get their blooms in water and get them in proper shape for exhibiting. In case any of the bloom have been cut a little too tight in bud, it will give an opportunity to get them in the light and in a temperature where they can soon be opened.

Read these rules carefully, as well as the instructions on how to handle your blooms that have been gone into so thoroughly by Mr. Peyton, and make a determined effort to exhibit. You have a good chance to win some of the valuable prizes being offered.

There will be a number of well experienced exhibitors who will be glad to help you in the way of advice as to just what to do if you are not conversant with proper procedure. This exhibit will give the southern growers a chance to show what they can do in the way of raising fine peonies. The season will be too early for growers in the northern section of the United States as well as Canadian growers to compete as their blooms will not be ready unless we have an unusually early season.

A CORRECTION. In my article in the last bulletin I have listed the variety *Myrtle Gentry* as a white. This should be pink and I do not know how it escaped my notice as I have known this variety since it was first shown and admire it very much. There also seems to be some discussion on the variety *Mrs. W. L. Gumm*, which I have also listed as white. The true variety is pink, I understand, regardless of the fact that it is listed as a white in Gumm's catalog. Regret that these errors got past me but under the circumstances I think I can be excused.

I have received many letters of condolence from members of the Society and it has been impossible to acknowledge all of them in person. I do want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation, and in this Mrs. Christman joins me.

In a recent letter from one of our members, Mr. J. Prevost Stout with reference to the name Japanese peony, I quote as follows:

"I was born in Japan of Missionary parents and so I was deeply interested in the paragraph on the name "Jap" or "Japanese" on page 28, Bulletin No. 85. The Japanese are rare gardeners and have developed a great number of beautiful plants and I admire their peonies greatly and see no reason for taking away the name and credit from garden lovers on account of the warriors of the race. I vote to keep the name."

Iron Sulphate at the rate of one tablespoonful to a gallon of water applied to plants having poor colored foliage will be found a valuable remedy.

We are only printing the peony schedule for the Topeka Show in this issue. A very complete schedule for iris, roses, garden flowers, floral arrangements, etc., has also been provided and can be obtained from the General Chairman of the show Mr. Homer Jameson, 930 Cambridge, Topeka, Kan.

The committee in charge of this show have gone to a great deal of expense and work to get the arrangements lined up for a most successful exhibition and we ask each one of you who possibly can to enter into the competition and help make the show a great success. You will be able to find a place for any entry you may wish to make and the staging conditions will be such that the show room is air conditioned.

In closing I wish to pass on this bit of sound advice from an unknown author.

YOUTH . . .

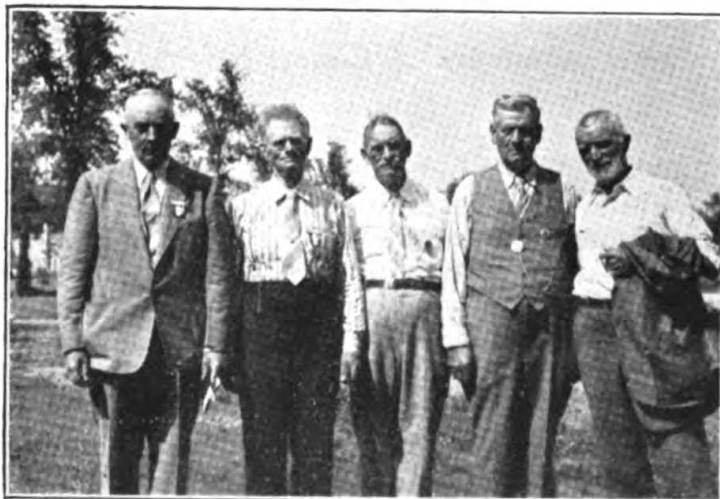
YOUTH is not a time of life—it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of red lips and supple knees; it is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is a freshness of the deep springs of life.

Youth is the predominance of courage over timidity, the love of adventure over the life of ease. No one grows old by merely living a number of years; they grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

Worry, doubt, fear, and despair—these are the long years that bow the head and turn the youthful spirit back to dust. Whether sixteen or sixty, there is in every being's heart the love of wonder, the sweet amazement of the stars, the unfailing, childlike appetite for what next, and the joy of the game of life.

You are as young as your faith, as young as your self-confidence; you are as old as your despair. In that central place of your heart there is a wireless station; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, courage, grandeur and power from the earth, from men, and from the infinite, so long are you young. When the wires are down—and all the central place of your heart is covered with the snow of pessimism and the ice of cynicism—then you are grown old indeed.—*Author Unknown, Western Life News.*

H. F. Christman



Some noted peony originators. Reading left to right.
Edw. Auten, Jr., A. M. Brand, E. F. Kelsey, Lyman D.
Glasscock and Prof. A. P. Saunders.

Harry F. Little Receives Master Award

Camillus Man Made Syracuse Flower Festival Success at Fair

Harry F. Little, Camillus horticulturist and past president of the American Peony Society, has been given the annual "Master Gardener Award" of the Men's Garden Club of Syracuse.



The citation is made yearly to "the member who has done the most during the year in horticultural avenues to further keener interest in gardening for the good of the community."

Mr. Little was instrumental in insuring the success of the Syracuse Flower Festival held at the Horticultural Building on the State Fair Ground last June.

He exhibited 50,000 peony blooms, which were the high spot of annual meetings of the American Peony Society, the Men's Garden Clubs of America and the Garden Center Association of Central New York, joint sponsors of the festival.

Many of his prize-winning varieties were shown for the first time at the festival. In addition to being the largest single contributor, he also helped stage the show and arranged for entries from all parts of the United States.

He received the "Master Gardener" award at a recent dinner meeting of the Men's Garden Club of Syracuse, at which time Lynn Wyckoff was installed as president.



A Communication from New York State

LOUIS SMIRNOW, *New York City, New York*

In these last bulletins, there was some mention made as to the reason for the apparent lack of more Peony growers, as compared with other flowers, such as Dahlias, Iris, etc. I do not believe, as some do, that the Peony is priced too high. It takes years to develop a worthwhile Peony; propagation takes longer. In my opinion the reason for the lack of obtaining new enthusiasts is that new introductions are kept at high prices for too long a time, as for example: "Mrs.

J. V. Edlund". I note from catalogs received that the price is still approximately \$10.00, yet without being too sure about it, I do not believe that this Peony is superior to *Kelway's Glorious*, or *Le Cygne*, and one or two others.

I am a Dahlia enthusiast, and know what is done with Dahlias. When a new variety is shown for \$15.00, the following year it can be bought for as little as 50% less, and two years later, for \$1.00 or \$2.00 at the most. I feel that the same should apply to the new introductions among Peonies.

Another important reason to my mind is the fact that Peonies require a lot of space—approximately four feet in either direction. In this day and age, with new housing developments throughout the nation, the space allotted to the average man is small. My own garden space is approximately 27 ft. by 22 ft.—small indeed. I grow Dahlias, Roses, Iris, Tulips, and other perennials, but still have managed to squeeze in seven Tree Peonies, and eight Herbaceous type. Crowded—it is true, but I must make the most of my limited space.

It seems to me that another mistake the Society makes, is that the annual show, instead of being held in Rochester, Minn., Ohio, or Syracuse, should be held in New York City. Here, all the flower shows are well attended, and many new Peony fanciers can be gained. More so, than in any other point in the country. Your committee should give some consideration to the 1943 show in New York. The American Dahlia Society never fails to hold its annual show in New York City, and each year, hundreds of new enthusiasts are had as a result.

I shall await with interest receipt of the next issue of the Bulletin.



A New Plan For Rating Peonies

CHESTER RICK, Peekskill, New York

In regard to the matter of ratings. I have often wondered why the Society does not recommend discarding every peony variety but the one best variety of a given form, color, period of bloom, suitability for landscaping, show, commercial or non-commercial cut flower use, etc.

While I am not familiar with many varieties of peonies, my impression is that there are many which are the same as others in all important features except that some have a greater or less degree of perfection than others practically synonymous.

It would seem to be desirable in every case, where there are a number of varieties which are practically duplicates, that all be recommended for discard except the one best, even though they may all have high ratings. On the other hand there may be some varieties with such low ratings as to be suitable for discard, but which should not be discarded if they possess some outstanding characteristic which is not to be found in any other variety,—but if retained, it should be known for precisely what idiosyncrasy it retained. Thus each variety of peony would be placed in a certain class. How many classes there would be I am not prepared to suggest, but it would be very interesting and useful to see a breakdown of the table of 150 peonies rating 9 or over,—Bulletin No. 82, page 1, made by some expert, showing perhaps a dozen classes of form instead of three only; showing perhaps a dozen classes of color instead of three, and showing the names of the varieties that would fall in the 144 classes. To this list of 150 varieties could then be added those having a rating under 9 but having some characteristic justifying retention.

By proceeding somewhat along this line, I believe the number of varieties that would be recommended for use would be greatly reduced without the danger of eliminating anything in any way desirable; simply eliminating every-

thing but ONE BEST in each class of near duplicates.

This would seem to be to the benefit of commercial growers as well as the public.

Perhaps leading to this, a table would first be prepared giving in tabular classification for each variety, information not only as to the form, color, odor, and other characteristics of the bloom, but of the kind of stem, leaves, suitability for various localities or purposes, tendency to health or disease, etc. In other words, an effort would be made to give for each variety, not only specific information on every character of the variety, but having it in tabular form, each variety may be more readily compared with each other variety without searching three written descriptions.

Considering the progress that has been made in scientific classification in various lines, it is plain that the present classification, or lack thereof of peony information, leaves much to be desired. The reason is found, I suppose, in the fact that the burden of the work of the Society falls on the shoulders of only a few who have the ability, the time, the means and good disposition to undertake it.



Why Flower Arrangements

GRACE H. LINCOLN, *Port Washington, New York*

When we dig into history for the record of the way plant material has dominated decorative ideas in all parts of the world, we are impressed by the fact that the present emphasis upon flower arrangement is just the American way of doing what the Chinese, Greeks, Persians, Egyptians, Japanese and others have tried to do in past centuries.

Each group enhanced life and the contemporary scene with plant material which was at hand and used it in terms of personal privilege and appreciation. Art is always a record of the way people think.

It is perhaps, quite in order, that within our societies and clubs, there should be discussions pro and con, as to which offers the greatest spiritual uplift—a finely grown plant or a deliberately arranged design of the cut plant material. Differences in opinion are a sign of healthy activity and inevitable growth. Just about one-third of our population is earth-minded, but only a small percentage of these people have opportunity to enjoy the privilege of garden space. Thus an apartment dweller may become skillful at arranging flowers some other person had the time and ability to grow.

In the beginning the arranger may concentrate upon other things than horticultural quality in material, but after constantly handling the flowers one discovers that well fed and healthy plants vibrate with a color, luster and form which is lacking in weak, commonplace material. Thus, by a circuitous route, horticultural discrimination may be fostered.

Much the same is true of artistic effort. One learns the mechanics easily but constant application and practice are needed before the arrangement becomes a graceful presentation of the plant material woven into the idea for the design. Within the material itself, we have the reason for the arrangement. It may be an adventure in color or an effort to make the best use of a fine curve. Every composition speaks audibly of the comprehension of the designer.

Individually, we approach the problem with personal standards which grow out of knowledge and environment. To some, there is security in traditional style, while others are intrigued with the newest of modern ideas. There is an abundance of plant material for any style we choose to interpret.

Our show backgrounds demand a concentration upon every element which influences the arrangement, while our domestic arrangements are made with flowers which suit the scene we have ourselves provided. The vase of flowers which makes a gracious note at home may lack interest for the show, while many show pieces are self-contained designs which are not restful in the average home.

Sustained interest in flower shows and flower arrangement leads one to the conclusion that these things are serving a very real purpose and should be encouraged until the hard work proves something for the American way with plants and flowers. A new generation will take over the problems of better horticulture, road improvement and conservation, encouraged by the record which has grown out of the faith of those who believe in the spiritual compensation of fine landscapes, beautiful gardens and flowers and freedom to work with them.

From October Horticultural News.



Brief Report of the Topeka Peony Show

Answering your letter of May 16th. Wish to advise you that the award of one year's membership in the A.P.S. went to Mrs. F. L. Seybold, 311 Orchard St., Topeka, Kansas. Her entry was three blooms of *Myrtle Gentry*, very lovely blooms. She appreciates getting this award very much.

We had a very lovely show, though a little late for the Iris, but it is hard and really impossible to have each in their prime. We really should have two shows. We should have had the show a week earlier for the Iris, as the best were gone, but we did have lovely peonies.

We held our show in the Banquet Hall of our new Auditorium and had plenty of room, had the tables in rows and at one end of the room had a garden scene with a pool and running water with a background of evergreens and surrounded with garden furniture which was quite effective. We had 36 exhibitors and 220 entries which is not up to former years on account of Iris being gone, then too, we had a freeze last Fall which killed so many shrubs which are usually displayed. Roses were good but poppies were gone.

I am sending you our Classification Book under separate cover. We did not crowd our show much this year on account of having the National Peony Show next year and thought we would need the extra cooperation next year.

Thanking you so much for your interest in our show and looking forward for your hearty cooperation next year.

Sincerely,

MRS. K. M. COLE, *Show Chairman.*



Proposed Questionnaire For 1942

We shall need to get our minds off the trouble we are in for a few hours each day, so I propose that each member of our Society list all the best peonies he grows, naming about five to ten in each color class and type and give the ratings he thinks they deserve.

List all the new varieties he grows introduced in the last fifteen years and rate them.

List any varieties he thinks should be rerated and give his ratings.

Do you think the rating lists worth the time and expense required to get them out? Give your reasons if you do not.

Send the lists to me if you will and I shall be glad to report the results.

George W. Peyton,

Rapidan, Virginia, March 17, 1942.

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

President.....Dr. Earle B. White, Kensington, Md.
Vice-President.....L. W. Lindgren, St. Paul, Minn.
Secretary.....W. F. Christman, Northbrook, Ill.
Treasurer.....W. W. Cook, Clinton, Iowa

SHOW COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

General Chairman.....Homer Jameson, 930 Cambridge, Phone 2-5793
Assistant Chairman.....Mrs. W. B. Mills, 1634 Buchanan, Phone 2-7150
Secretary.....Mrs. Harry C. Snyder, 221 Edgewood St., Phone 2-6695
Registration & Entry.....Mrs. Harold Richardson, 1021 Jefferson, Phone 2-5014
Publicity.....Mr. Raymond Gilkeson, Capper Publications, Phone 6461
Tickets & Admissions.....Mrs. Geo. Housh, 305 Roosevelt, Phone 7245
.....Mrs. Paul Hunting, 1277 Lane St., Phone 2-5514
Classification & Schedule.....Myron Bigger, 3305 E. 21st St., Phone 3-5828
.....Joe Warner, 2200 N. Central, Phone 7657

SECTIONAL CHAIRMEN

Peonies.....	Mrs. Elmer H. Ebey, 4100 W. 6th St. Rd., Phone 4065
Iris.....	Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Gay, 1024 Forest Ave.
Iris (other than German).....	Mrs. Frank Dawson, 1024 Forest Ave., Phone 2-0212
Roses.....	Mrs. J. E. Allison, 1294 High, Phone 2-5906
Garden Flowers.....	Mrs. R. M. Cole, 1315 W. 15th St., Phone 2-3902
Floral Arrangements.....	Mrs. Robert Dick, 1835 Buchanan St., Phone 5790
	Mrs. E. F. Wilson, 1510 Tyler St., Phone 2-3839
Shrubs.....	Mrs. Byron Young, 1723 Pembroke Lane, Phone 2-8842
Special Features.....	Mrs. Wm. Paul, 1116 Washburn, Phone 2-5275
	Mrs. Homer Jameson, 930 Cambridge, Phone 2-5793
Miscellaneous Displays.....	Mrs. Walter Stadel, 1340 Campbell, Phone 7094
Potted Plants.....	Mrs. F. C. Chubb, Hoyt, Kansas
Junior.....	Miss Lulu McKee, 2528 Central Park, Phone 3-3649
Tables.....	Miss Nanon Herren, R.F.D. 1, Phone 7531
Floor Staging.....	Homer Jameson, 930 Cambridge, Phone 2-5793
	Franklin Rose, 1120 Webster, Phone 5428
Commercial Exhibits.....	Mr. C. A. Gurney, 3015 E. 6th, Phone 5451
	Fred Pomeroy, Coe Seed Company, Phone 3-3127
Entertainment.....	Preston Hale, 1431 Boswell, Phone 3-1500
	Steve Smith, Hall Stationery Co., Phone 2-6783
Banquet.....	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Stadel, 1340 Campbell, Phone 7094
Miss Susan Dick, State Horticultural Society, Kansas State House, Phone 2-7558	
Hostess.....	Mrs. Alf M. Landon, R.F.D. 8, Phone 2-5763
(Reservations to be made before 4 P.M. June 5th, if at all possible. Tickets \$1.00)	

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Program and prizes are subject to slight revision.

June 6, 1942

- 8:00 A. M. Entering and staging exhibits.
11:00 A. M. Judging exhibits.
2:00 P. M. Formal Opening of Show.
Music and Special Feature.
3:00 P. M. Special Entertainment in Little Theatre Room.
Peonies in the Landscape.

- 4:00 P. M. Photographing Flowers with Kodachrome.....Steve Smith
 6:30 P. M. Annual Banquet American Peony Society (open to anyone).
 Florentine Room, Hotel Jayhawk.
 Make reservations with Miss Susan Dick (Phone 2-7558),
 State Horticultural Society, State House, before 4:00 P.M.
 on June 5th, if possible.
 Annual Meeting of American Peony Society (after banquet).
 U. S. Peony tour with Kodachrome slides.
 7:30 P. M. Colored Movies by Swift & Co.

June 7 (Sunday)

- 8:00 A. M. Breakfast in Park.
 2:00 P. M. Peony Culture.
 2:30 P. M. Peony Diseases.
 3:00 P. M. Peony Hybridizing.
 7:00 P. M. Scenes in Kansas by Kansas Industrial Commission.
 8:00 P. M. Wild Flowers in Kansas.

Special Notice. It is planned to have a meeting of the Directors of The American Peony Society Friday evening June 5th at the Jayhawk Hotel at 7:30 P.M. and information as to meeting place can be obtained at the desk.

DONORS OF PRIZES

American Home	New York City
Ed. Auten, Jr.	Princeville, Illinois
Allied Growers Seed Co.	Topeka, Kansas
Barteldes Seed Co.	Lawrence, Kansas
Blackburn Lawn Service	Topeka, Kansas
Better Homes & Gardens	Des Moines, Iowa
J. W. Bernstein	Lincoln, Nebraska
Myron Bigger	Topeka, Kansas
J. A. Bongers	Ottumwa, Iowa
Lee R. Bonnewitz	Van Wert, Ohio
Brand Peony Farms	Faribault, Minnesota
W. F. Christman	Northbrook, Illinois
Coe Seed Co.	Topeka, Kansas
W. W. Cook	Clinton, Iowa
Henry Dreer, Inc.	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Flower Grower	Albany, New York
Henry Field Seed Co.	Shenandoah, Iowa
L. E. Foster	York, Nebraska
Melvin Geiser, Fairchance Farm	Beloit, Kansas
Gurney Nursery	Topeka, Kansas
Hall Stationery Co.	Topeka, Kansas
Hill Iris & Peony Farm	Lafontaine, Kansas
Horticulture Magazine	Boston, Massachusetts
Inter-State Nurseries	Hamburg, Iowa
Ernest Flint Kelsey	East Aurora, New York
Ben Kerns	Topeka, Kansas
R. M. Kellogg	Three Rivers, Michigan
Long's Gardens	Boulder, Colorado
Frank Moots	Newton, Kansas
R. A. Napier	Blue Island, Illinois
Northbrook Gardens	Northbrook, Illinois
Geo. W. Peyton	Rapidan, Virginia
Sarber Nursery	Topeka, Kansas

Shawnee Nursery
 J. H. Skinner & Sons Nursery
 Joe Warner Peony Farm
 C. F. Wassenberg
 Dr. Earle B. White
 Mrs. C. G. Whiting
 G. E. Winchell
 Williams & Haney
 Band-Box Cleaners
 Central Park Pharmacy
 Clapiers Flower Shop
 Hall Stationery Co.
 Lord's Flower Shop
 Scott Peony & Strawberry Farm
 Wilson Greenhouse

Shawnee, Kansas
 North Topeka, Kansas
 North Topeka, Kansas
 Van Wert, Ohio
 Washington, D. C.
 Mapleton, Iowa
 Oskaloosa, Iowa
 Topeka, Kansas
 Topeka, Kansas
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 Topeka, Kansas
 Topeka, Kansas

The following donors are local and chiefly amateurs:

Mrs. Lee Brown
 Mrs. Frank Dawson
 Mrs. T. F. Doran
 Mrs. Foster Galloway
 Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Gay
 Mrs. I. D. Graham
 Mr. Preston Hale
 Mrs. Harley Short
 Mrs. F. L. Seybold
 Mr. Oran Sipes
 Mrs. Ted Saunders
 Mrs. Harry C. Snyder
 Mrs. Walter Stadel
 Mrs. M. B. Sweeney
 Topeka Daffodil Club

Topeka Flower Lovers' Club
 Topeka Horticultural Society
 Mr. Walter Truitt
 Mrs. E. F. Wilson
 Mrs. Frank Wilson
 Mr. John Hoehner
 Mrs. Geo. Housh
 Mr. Homer Jameson
 Dr. Karl Menninger
 Miss Alice Potter
 Mrs. Horace Potter
 Mrs. K. J. Roach
 Mrs. H. N. Oakley
 Mr. H. N. Oakley
 Mrs. W. B. Mills

SHIPPING DIRECTIONS

1. No exhibit can be staged at the showroom before early evening of June 5th, but the work rooms will be available to exhibitors all day June 5th.

2. All exhibits to be staged by the owner should be addressed to himself in care of Peony Show, Municipal Auditorium, Topeka, Kansas, and sent by prepaid express.

3. All exhibits to be staged by the Staging Committee should be addressed to the Staging Committee, Municipal Auditorium, Topeka, Kansas, and sent by prepaid express. Each specimen in these shipments should be carefully and permanently labelled, and the class in which they are to be entered indicated. A complete list of the contents of the shipment should be included with it and a duplicate copy mailed to the Staging Committee.

4. Exhibits to be placed in cold storage should be addressed to The Railways Ice Company, 1st & Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas, and marked "for Peony Show," and sent by prepaid express. Notice of shipment and duplicate list of contents should be sent to Mrs. Harry C. Snyder, 221 Edgewood, Topeka, Kansas. If it is to be staged by the Staging Committee, full instructions must accompany the shipment. No charge is made for cold storage for exhibition blooms.

5. Cold storage will be available any time from the beginning of Peony blooming season. *All exhibits sent to cold storage will be taken to the Municipal Auditorium early Friday morning, June 5th, unless arrangements are made for later delivery.*

**THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
NATIONAL SHOW
JUNE 6-7, 1942
MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM — TOPEKA, KANSAS
SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Entries are open to anyone, regardless of membership in local or National Societies.
2. Entry list giving name and number of classes to be entered should, if possible, be in the hands of the registration chairman, on or before June 2, so that proper space may be provided for exhibits. However, entries can be made prior to time of judging.
3. All exhibits must be entered in place, ready to be judged by 11:00 A.M., June 6, and must remain in place up to time of closing, 9:00 P.M. June 7.
4. All entries must be staged under a number obtained from the Show Committee. The entry card showing the exhibitor's name may be displayed after the awards are made.
5. No exhibitor can make more than two entries in one class, nor receive more than one award in any class, except in the seedling classes where the number of entries and awards is not limited.
6. All peony blooms staged for competition must have been cut from plants owned by the exhibitor, except in the Arrangement Classes.
7. All varieties of peonies, except in the seedling and arrangement classes, must be correctly named and plainly labelled. Seedlings must be either named or numbered.
8. Any exhibit containing either more or less material than specified in this schedule, or that in any other way violates the conditions, shall be disqualified.
9. Prizes will not be given to unworthy exhibits, even if they are the only ones in their class, and the judges may award either first or second prizes, or make no award at all, at their discretion. The judges' decision must be accepted as final.
10. All containers, except in the arrangement classes, will be furnished by the Exhibition Committee.
11. Double or semi-double varieties are to be shown unless otherwise indicated.
12. The American Peony Society color classification will be found at the entry desk to assist exhibitors in getting their entries into the proper color classifications.
13. The American Peony Society Manual to govern type of bloom.
14. In the Arrangement Classes the container must be furnished by the exhibitor at his own risk. Name and address of the owner should be placed on the bottom of container. The Show Management assumes no responsibility in case of loss or breakage. Containers will be furnished for all other classes.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
NATIONAL PEONY SHOW
Topeka, Kansas**

PEONIES

GROUP ONE—Open to Professional Growers, Advanced Amateurs and Amateurs.

GROUP TWO—Advanced Amateur Class. The classes in this group are open to those who grow peonies primarily for pleasure and whose expenditure for new varieties equals or exceeds all receipts for sales of flowers and roots.

GROUP THREE—Amateur Class. Open only to those who sell no flowers or roots. Not open to exhibitors in Groups ONE and TWO. The American Peony Society's new Medallion will be given in all open classes as follows:

1st Prize.....	Gold Medallion
2nd Prize.....	Silver Medallion
3rd Prize.....	Bronze Medallion

All prizes subject to slight revision.

GROUP ONE—OPEN CLASSES

DIVISION I.

Collections

- Class No. 1** 40-30-20
A collection of 80 to 100 named varieties, one bloom each in separate containers. Double or semi-double.
- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Gold Medal..... | American Peony Society |
| 2. 1 Red Giant..... | L. D. Glasscock |
| 3. 1 Edouard Doriat..... | C. F. Wassenburg |
- Class No. 2** 20-10-5
Collection of not more than 25 named varieties, any type, double, semi-double Jap, or single, one bloom each in separate container by an exhibitor from any State other than Kansas.
- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. 1 Roy Robinson..... | G. E. Winchell |
| 2. 1 Shawnee Chief..... | Myron D. Bigger |
| 3. 1 Mme. Emile Debatene..... | Joe Warner, Peony Farm |
- Class No. 3** 20-10-5
Collection of 20 named varieties, double or semi-double, three blooms each, in separate container.
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 1 James Pillow..... | W. F. Christman |
| 2. 1 Golden Bracelet..... | A. M. Brand |
| 3. 1 Kelway's Lovely..... | Geo. W. Peyton |
- Class No. 4** 20-10-5
Collection of 10 named varieties, double or semi-double, three blooms each, in separate containers.
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 1 Kelway's Achievement..... | Geo. W. Peyton |
| 2. 1 Jean Cooperman..... | J. W. Bernstein |
| 3. 1 Minnie Shaylor..... | Mr. Ben Kerns |
- Class No. 5**
Ten blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double in one container. White or flesh.
- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. 1 Lulu Little..... | J. A. Bongers |
| 2. 1 Denis Debatene..... | C. F. Wassenburg |
| 3. 1 Hazel Kinney..... | W. W. Cook |
- Class No. 6** 10-5-3
Ten blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double in one container. Light pink.
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 1 Dr. Christopher Graham..... | Brand Peony Farms |
| 2. 1 Shattuck..... | Myron D. Bigger |
| 3. 1 Georgiana Shaylor..... | Frank E. Moots |
- Class No. 7** 10-5-3
Ten blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container. Medium or dark pink.
- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. 1 Priscilla Alden..... | Frank E. Moots |
| 2. 1 Denis Debatene..... | Mr. Ben H. Kerns |
| 3. 1 Odile..... | J. A. Bongers |

- Class No. 8** 10-5-3
Ten blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
Red.
1. \$5.00 Order of Peony roots.....Northbrook Gardens, Northbrook, Ill.
2. 1 Firebrand.....A. M. Brand
3. 1 Kelway's Glorious.....Ben Kerns
- Class No. 9** 5-3-2
Three Blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
White or flesh.
1. 1 Mrs. Roland.....Brand Peony Farms
2. 1 June Day.....Myron D. Bigger
3. 1 Edith Scovell.....Joe Warner Peony Farm
- Class No. 10** 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
Light pink.
1. \$5.00 Order of Peony Roots.....Northbrook Gardens
2. 1 Frankie Curtis.....Myron D. Bigger
3. 1 Myrtle Gentry.....Ben Kerns
- Class No. 11** 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double in one container.
Medium or dark pink.
1. 1 Dr. John L. Crenshaw.....Brand Peony Farms
2. 1 Blanche King.....Joe Warner Peony Farms
3. 1 Kelway's Glorious.....Ben Kerns
- Class No. 12** 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
Red.
1. 1 Topeka.....Edward Auten, Jr.
2. Root of Ella Christiansen.....W. W. Cook
3. 1 President Wilson.....Frank E. Moots
- Class No. 13** 20-10-5
Five named varieties, any color, one each, in one container.
1. 1 Root of Mary Kelway.....Geo. W. Peyton
2. 1 A. G. Perry.....Brand Peony Farms
3. 1 Rose Shaylor.....Myron D. Bigger
- Class No. 14**
Six blooms, one named variety, any color, semi-double or double, in one container.
1. 1 James Kelway, Jr.....Geo. W. Peyton
2. 1 Root of Dearborn.....J. A. Bongers
3. 1 Marietta Sisson.....Myron D. Bigger

DIVISION II

Japanese Peonies

- Class No. 15** 15-10-5
Collection of 10 or more named varieties, Japanese type, one bloom each, in separate containers.
1. 1 Santa Fe.....Edward Auten, Jr.
2. 1 Creve Coeur.....J. W. Bernstein
3. 1 Rashoomon.....Myron D. Bigger
- Class No. 16** 5-3-2
Six blooms, one named variety, Japanese type, in one container. Any color.
1. 1 Mlokoewitschi.....Dr. Earle B. White
2. 1 Instituteur Doriat.....Ben Kerns
3. 1 Philippe Rivoire.....Joe Warner Peony Farm

- Class No. 17** 10-5-3
Three blooms, one named variety, Japanese type, in one container. White or blush.
1. 1 Evening Star.....Inter-State Nurseries
 2. 1 Matilda Lewis.....Myron D. Bigger
 3. 1 Fuyajo.....Ben Kerns
- Class No. 18** 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, Japanese type, in one container. Pink.
1. 1 Mrs. Bryce Fontaine.....Brand Peony Farms
 2. 1 Imperial Red.....Myron D. Bigger
 3. 1 Walter Faxon.....Frank E. Moots
- Class No. 19** 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, Japanese type, in one container. Red.
1. 1 Mrs. J. V. Edlund.....Joe Warner Peony Farm
 2. 1 Lobata.....Dr. Earle B. White
 3. 1 Martha Bulloch.....R. A. Napier

DIVISION III**Single Peonies**

- Class No. 20** 15-10-5
Collection of 10 or more named varieties, single type, one bloom each, in separate containers.
1. 1 Dr. L. W. Pollock.....Brand Peony Farms
 2. 1 Elise Renault.....Myron Bigger
 3. 1 Myrtle Gentry.....Brand Peony Farms
- Class No. 21** 10-5-3
Six blooms, one named variety, single type, in one container. Any color.
1. 1 Nick Shaylor.....C. F. Wassenberg
 2. 1 Harriet Gentry.....W. W. Cook
 3. 1 Fireball.....Brand Peony Farms
- Class No. 22** 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, single type, in one container. White or flesh.
1. 1 Joanne Foreman.....Brand Peony Farms
 1. 1 Frank E. Good.....Myron D. Bigger
 3. 1 Georgiana Shaylor.....Frank E. Moots
- Class No. 23** 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, single type, in one container. Pink.
1. 1 Jean Cooperman.....Brand Peony Farms
 2. 1 Sea Shell.....Inter-State Nurseries
 3. 1 Jeanne Ernould.....Myron D. Bigger
- Class No. 24** 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, single type, in one container. Red.
1. 1 Carolyn Mae Nelson.....Inter-State Nurseries
 2. 1 Marengo Lilac.....J. A. Bongers
 3. 1 President Wilson.....Ben Kerns

GROUP TWO—ADVANCED AMATEUR CLASSES**DIVISION IV****Double and Semi-double Peonies**

- Class No. 25** 30-20-10
Collection of 40 to 50 named varieties, double or semi-double, one bloom each, in separate containers.
1. American Peony Society Silver Medal
 2. 1 R. A. Napier.....Brand Peony Farms
 3. 1 Frankie Curtis.....W. W. Cook

- Class No. 26** 15-10-5
Collection of 10 named varieties, double or semi-double, one bloom each, in separate containers.
1. 1 Shawnee Chief.....Myron D. Bigger
 2. 1 Charlotte Core.....C. F. Wassenberg
 3. 1 Mrs. A. M. Brand.....W. W. Cook
- Class No. 27** 10-5-3
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container. White or flesh.
1. 1 James Pillow.....W. F. Christman
 2. 1 Odile.....J. A. Bongers
 3. 1 Hansina Brand.....W. W. Cook
- Class No. 28** 10-5-3
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container. Light pink.
1. 1 Ellen Foster.....Brand Peony Farms
 2. 1 Ella Christiansen.....Ben Kerns
 3. 1 Philippe Rivoire.....Frank E. Moots
- Class No. 29** 10-5-3
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container. Medium or dark pink.
1. 1 Lulu Little.....J. A. Bongers
 2. 1 Laverne Christman.....W. W. Cook
 3. 1 Betty Blossom.....C. F. Wassenberg
- Class No. 30** 10-5-3
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container. Red.
1. 1 Hans P. Sass.....Inter-State Nurseries
 2. 1 Henry Webster.....Joe Warner Peony Farm
 3. 1 Myrtle Gentry.....J. W. Bernstein
- Class No. 31** 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. White or flesh.
1. 1 Mrs. A. S. Gowen.....Brand Peony Farms
 2. 1 Tomate Boku.....Lee R. Bonnewitz
 3. 1 Walter Faxon.....Frank E. Moots
- Class No. 32** 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. Light pink.
1. 1 Kaskaskia.....Edward Auten, Jr.
 2. 1 Sapa Plum.....Gurney Nurseries
 3. 100 Blakemore Strawberries.....Scott Peony and Strawberry Farm
- Class No. 33** 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. Medium or dark pink.
1. \$5.00 Peony Roots.....Northbrook Gardens
 2. 1 White Beauty.....Edward Auten, Jr.
 3. 1 Therese.....Ben Kerns
- Class No. 34** 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. Red.
1. 1 Jean Cooperman.....Brand Peony Farms
 2. 1 Longfellow.....W. W. Cook
 3. 1 President Wilson.....Frank E. Moots

DIVISION V Japanese Peonies

- Class No. 35** 15-10-5
Collection of five or more varieties, Japanese type, one bloom each, in

separate containers.

1. 1 Dr. Christopher Graham.....Brand Peony Farms
2. 1 Victory Chateau Thierry.....Myron D. Bigger
3. 1 Phyllis Kelway.....W. W. Cook

Class No. 36 10-5-3

Three blooms, one named variety, Japanese type, in one container. Any color.

1. 1 Marengo Lilac.....J. A. Bongers
2. 1 Laura Vories.....Myron D. Bigger
3. 1 Mrs. John M. Kleitsch.....R. A. Napier

Class No. 37 5-3-1

One specimen bloom, named variety, Japanese type. Any color.

1. 1 Judge Snook.....J. A. Bongers
2. 1 Elsa Sass.....Myron D. Bigger
3. 1 Mary Brand.....Joe Warner

DIVISION VI

Single Peonies

Class No. 38 15-10-5

Collection of five or more named varieties, single type, one bloom each, in separate containers.

1. 1 A. G. Perry.....Brand Peony Farms
2. 1 Mrs. James Kelway.....Myron D. Bigger
3. 1 Karl Rosenfield.....Joe Warner

Class No. 39 10-5-3

Three blooms, one named variety, single type, in one container. Any color.

1. 1 Dr. John L. Crenshaw.....Brand Peony Farms
2. 1 Myrtle Gentry.....W. W. Cook
3. 1 Helen.....Myron Bigger

Class No. 40 5-3-1

One specimen bloom, single type. Any color.

1. 1 Mrs. C. S. Minot.....Frank E. Moots
2. 1 Isani-Gidui.....Myron D. Bigger
3. 1 Mary Brand.....Joe Warner

GROUP THREE—AMATEUR CLASSES

DIVISION VII

Double and Semi-double Peonies

Class No. 41 15-10-5

Collection of ten named varieties, double or semi-double, one bloom each, in separate containers.

1. 1 Lulu Little.....J. A. Bongers
2. 1 Mary Brand.....Joe Warner Peony Farm
3. 1 Mrs. Edward Harding.....Myron D. Bigger

Class No. 42 10-5-3

Collection of five named varieties, double or semi-double, one bloom each, in separate containers.

1. 1 Shawnee Chief.....Myron D. Bigger
2. 1 Dearborn.....J. A. Bongers
3. 1 Hypericum Aureum (shrub).....Walter Truitt

Class No. 43 5-3-1

One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. White or flesh.

1. 1 R. A. Napier.....Brand Peony Farms
2. 1 Philippe Rivoire.....Frank Moots
3. 1 Hypericum Aureum (shrub).....Walter Truitt

- Class No. 44** 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. Light pink.
1. 1 LeCygne..... Ben Kerns
 2. 1 Hansina Brand..... R. A. Napier
 3. 1 Majestic..... Myron D. Bigger
- Class No. 45** 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. Medium or dark pink.
1. 1 Mary Brand..... Joe Warner Peony Farm
 2. 1 Oka Plum Cherry, 5'—6'..... Gurney Nursery
 3. 1 Karl Rosenfield..... Shawnee Nursery
- Class No. 46** 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. Red.
1. 1 Mrs. Rowland..... Brand Peony Farms
 2. 1 Lonicera Maackii (shrub)..... Homer Jameson
 3. 1 Karl Rosenfield..... Joe Warner Peony Farm

DIVISION VIII

Japanese Peonies

- Class No. 47** 10-5-3
Collection of three or more named varieties. Japanese type, one bloom each, in separate containers.
1. \$5.00 Order Peony Roots..... Northbrook Gardens
 2. 1 Prunus Triloba..... Gurney Nursery
 3. 1 Myrtle Gentry..... A. M. Brand
- Class No. 48** 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, Japanese type. Any color.
1. 1 Toro-no-maki..... Ben Kerns
 2. 1 President Wilson..... Frank Moots
 3. 1 Tenuifolia flore pleno..... Preston Hale

DIVISION IX

Single Peonies

- Class No. 49** 10-5-3
Collection of three or more named varieties, single type, one bloom, each, in separate containers.
1. 1 Dr. L. W. Pollock..... Brand Peony Farms
 2. 1 Rev. H. Tragitt..... Preston Hale
 3. 1 Karl Rosenfield..... Joe Warner Peony Farm
- Class No. 50** 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety. Any color.
1. 1 Mrs. A. M. Brand..... R. A. Napier
 2. 1 Mary Brand..... Joe Warner Peony Farm
 3. 1 Majestic..... Myron D. Bigger

GROUP IV—OPEN TO ALL

DIVISION X

Tree Peonies, Specie and Hybrid Peonies.

- Class No. 51** 20-10-5
Collection of tree peonies, named and/or unnamed varieties, any type, one bloom each, in separate containers.
1. 1 Mrs. Bryce Fontaine..... Brand Peony Farms
 2. 1 Philippe Rivoire..... Ben Kerns
 3. 1 Karl Rosenfield..... Joe Warner

- Class No. 52** 20-10-5
Collection of herbaceous species and/or species hybrids, named varieties, any type, one bloom each, in separate containers.
1. 1 Lulu Cliffe.....G. E. Winchell
 2. 1 Majestic.....Myron D. Bigger
 3. 1 Walter Faxon.....Frank Moots
- Class No. 53** 5-3-2
One bloom, named hybrid variety, double or semi-double. Any color.
1. 1 Shawnee Chief.....Myron D. Bigger
 2. 1 Philippe Rivoire.....Frank Moots
 3. 200 Blakemore Strawberry plants.....Scott Peony and Strawberry Farm
- Class No. 54** 5-3-2
One bloom, named hybrid variety, Japanese type. Any color.
1. 1 Jane Addams.....Brand Peony Farms
 2. 1 Majestic.....Myron D. Bigger
 3. 1 Georgiana Shaylor.....Frank Moots
- Class No. 55** 5-3-2
One bloom, named hybrid variety, single type. White or flesh.
1. 1 Garden Princess.....L. E. Foster
 2. 1 Majestic.....Myron D. Bigger
 3. 200 Blakemore Strawberry plants.....Scott Peony and Strawberry Farm
- Class No. 56** 5-3-2
One bloom, named hybrid variety, single type. Pink.
1. 1 Ruth Clay.....Ernest Flint Kelsey
 2. 1 Mrs. Edward Harding.....Myron D. Bigger
 3. 200 Sen. Dunlap Strawberry Plants.....Scott Peony and Strawberry Farm
- Class No. 57** 5-3-2
One bloom, named hybrid variety, single type. Red.
1. 1 The Fleece.....Ernest Flint Kelsey
 2. 1 Mrs. Edward Harding.....Myron D. Bigger
 3. Blakemore Strawberry Plants.....Scott Peony and Strawberry Farm

GROUP FIVE—ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

DIVISION XI

Open to all

- Class No. 58** 15-10-5
Basket of peonies, no other foliage or flowers used.
1. 1 Rose Glory.....Ernest Flint Kelsey
 2. 1 Shawnee Chief.....Myron D. Bigger
 3. 100 Sen. Dunlay Strawberry Plants.....Scott Peony and Strawberry Farm
- Class No. 59** 15-10-5
Basket of white peonies, one variety, without other foliage.
1. 1 Lobata.....Dr. Earle B. White
 2. 1 Garden Princess.....L. E. Foster
 3. 1 Nimbus.....Myron D. Bigger
- Class No. 60** 15-10-5
Basket of pink peonies, one variety, without other foliage or flowers.
1. 500 Sen. Dunlap Strawberries.....Scott Peony and Strawberry Farm
 2. 1 Mrs. J. H. Neeley.....L. E. Foster
 3. 1 Nimbus.....Myron D. Bigger
- Class No. 61** 15-10-5
Basket of red peonies, one variety, without other foliage or flowers.
1. 1 Odile.....J. A. Bongers
 2. 1 Elise Renault.....Myron D. Bigger
 3. 1 Myrtle Gentry.....R. A. Napier

- Class No. 62** 15-10-5
Basket of Jap. peonies, one variety, without other foliage or flowers.
1. 1 Tamate Boku.....Lee R. Bonnewitz
2. 300 Blakemore Strawberry Plants.....Scott Peony and Strawberry Farm
3. 1 Mrs. Edward Harding.....Myron D. Bigger
- Class No. 63** 15-10-5
Basket of single peonies, one variety, without other foliage or flowers.
1. 1 Judge Snook.....J. A. Bongers
2. 1 Sapa Plum.....Gurney Nursery
3. 1 Karl Rosenfield.....Joe Warner Peony Farm

DIVISION XII ADVANCED AMATEURS

- Class No. 64** 15-10-5
Best arrangement of peonies without other flowers or foliage. Vase not to exceed 12 inches in height.
1. 1 Mrs. A. S. Gowen.....Brand Peony Farms
2. 1 Kelway's Glorious.....Ben Kerns
3. 1 yr. Subs. Horticulture Magazine
- Class No. 65** 15-10-5
Basket of peonies with other foliage or flowers, container not to exceed 12 inches in diameter.
1. 1 Ellen Foster.....Brand Peony Farms
2. 1 Mme. Emile Debatene.....Myron D. Bigger
3. 1 Pink Flowering Almond.....Gurney Nursery
- Class No. 66** 15-10-5
Best arrangement of peonies, with other foliage or flowers. Vase not to exceed 12 inches in height.
1. 1 yr. Subs. to Flower Grower Magazine
2. 1 Golden Bracelet.....Brand Peony Farms
3. 1 Myrtle Gentry.....Myron D. Bigger
- Class No. 67** 15-10-5
Best arrangement of Japanese peonies in a vase.
1. \$5.00 in trade.....Northbrook Gardens, Northbrook, Ill.
2. 1 Laciniata.....Mrs. Lee Brown
3. 100 Sen. Dunlap Strawberry plants.....Scott Peony and Strawberry Farm
- Class No. 68** 15-10-5
1. 1 Isani Gidui.....Mrs. Lee Brown
2. 1 Tomate Boku.....Lee R. Bonnewitz
3. 100 Sen. Dunlap Strawberry plants.....Scott Peony and Strawberry Farm

DIVISION XIII AMATEURS

- Class No. 69** 15-10-5
Best arrangement of peonies without other flowers. In low receptacle for dining table.
1. 1 Jane Addams.....Brand Peony Farms
2. 1 Oka Cherry Plum.....Gurney Nursery
3. 1 Karl Rosenfield.....Joe Warner Peony Farm
- Class No. 70** 15-10-5
Best arrangement of peonies without other foliage or flowers.
1. 1 Oka Cherry Plum.....Gurney Nursery
2. 1 Cornus Stolonifera.....Homer Jameson
3. 1 Hypericum Aureum.....Walter Truitt

Class No. 71

15-10-5

Best arrangement of peonies with other foliage or flowers.

1. 1 Joanne Foreman.....Brand Peony Farms
2. 1 Kelway's Glorious.....Ben Kerns
3. 1 Mrs. Edward Harding.....Myron D. Bigger

GROUP SIX

DIVISION XIV

Seedlings and New Varieties

All entries in these classes shall be considered for recognition and awards from the American Peony Society, and will be judged by the standing SEEDLING COMMITTEE of the Society. Any new peony not yet offered for sale in general commerce, shall be recognized as a "Seedling." New peonies that have been named and offered for sale shall be recognized as "NEW VARIETIES."

Class No. 72

Seedlings shown from original seed plants that have never been divided and propagated. One or more blooms. Certificates of Honorable Mention only may be awarded.

Class No. 73

Seedlings from plants that have been divided once or more. Three or more blooms in one container. Seedlings that may have been shown before may be entered in this Class for higher awards. Certificates of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificates, Silver Medal, or Gold Medal may be awarded

Class No. 74

New Varieties that have been named and offered for sale. Three or more blooms in one container. New peonies of special merit that may, or may not, have been shown as Seedlings may be entered in this class for higher awards. Certificate of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificate, Silver Medal, or Gold Medal may be awarded.

Class No. 75

Herbaceous Hybrid Seedlings from original seed plants that have never been divided. One or more blooms. Certificates of Honorable Mention only may be awarded.

Class No. 76

Herbaceous Hybrid Seedlings from plants that have been divided and propagated. Three or more blooms in one container. Certificate of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificate, Silver Medal, or Gold Medal may be awarded.

Class No. 77

Tree Peonies. Seedlings that may or may not have been propagated. One or more blooms. Certificate of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificate, Silver Medal, or Gold Medal may be awarded.

GROUP SEVEN—COURT OF HONOR

DIVISION XV

Albiflora Varieties

After the judging of all regular classes is completed, a special committee of three competent judges will choose from any exhibits in the show the blooms to be honored by display in the following classes of the Court of Honor.

Class No. 78

The best specimen bloom, double or semi-double, of each of the following colors: (A) White; (B) Flesh; (C) Light pink; (D) Medium or dark pink; (E) Red.

Class No. 79

The best specimen bloom, Japanese type, of each of the following colors:
(A) White or Flesh; (B) Pink; (C) Red

Class No. 80

The best specimen bloom, single type, of each of the following colors:
(A) White or Flesh; (B) Pink; (C) Red.

DIVISION XVI
Herbaceous Hybrids

Class No. 81

The best specimen bloom, double or semi-double, any color.

Class No. 82

The best specimen bloom, Japanese type, any color.

Class No. 83

The best specimen bloom, single type, any color.

DIVISION XVII
Tree Peonies

Class No. 84

The best specimen bloom, any type or color.

DIVISION XVIII
SPECIAL MEDAL CLASSES

Class No. 85

The **BEST BLOOM IN THE SHOW**, to be selected by the standing Seedling Committee from any of the classes in the show.
The B. H. Farr Memorial Medal in Bronze.

Class No. 86

The **MOST DISTINGUISHED ENTRY IN THE SHOW**, to be judged by the members of the standing Seedling Committee.
The James Boyd Memorial Medal in Silver.

Class No. 87

The BEST AND MOST DISTINGUISHED NEW PEONY

To be eligible for award in this class, the following conditions must be strictly adhered to. A special entry must be made by the exhibitor for the award. At least three blooms in one container must be shown. Any type of bloom, any color, any class may be shown. The **AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL** in silver will be awarded to the originator, whether an amateur or a professional grower, of the most worthy new peony shown, which has not been offered for sale more than three years prior to this exhibition. The award will be made by the standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society only to a new variety of adequate merit, distinction and novelty — one having distinctiveness as compared with existing varieties. It can not be made to an unnamed seedling and the award will not be confirmed unless the name is acceptable under the rules of the American Peony Society, and the variety has been registered with the Society. The winning variety cannot compete for this medal in any succeeding year.

Class No. 88

To be awarded to exhibitor winning the highest number of points in Classes No. 1 to No. 71 inclusive.

CUP..... Senator Arthur Capper

There are 79 additional classes covering iris, roses, perennials of all kinds, arrangements, etc. A complete schedule can be secured from the Secretary of the Show whose name and address is shown under Show Committee Chairmen. It is one of the most complete and extensive schedules we have ever had and provisions have been made for all who wish to enter.

Show Your Flowers

By MYRON D. BIGGER, Topeka, Kansas

Be sure to plan to show all the flowers that you can in all the shows that are near you this year. You can win just as well as any one else can if only you will think so.

Remove all trash and dead tops from your peony plants and burn them as soon as you can. Keep the weeds and trash away from the plants so that they can breathe, and keep them cultivated at all times from the time they come out of the ground until the frost kills down the tops in the fall.

When the plants come out of the ground watch them closely and as soon as you can possibly do it, remove all the side buds, leaving only the one large terminal bud on each stem. This is best done by taking hold of the terminal bud and stretching it taut so that it will not break so easily, then with the free hand give the side bud a quick break out side ways. With a little practice this becomes easy. It is easiest just after a rain because the buds are not sticky and are more brittle. As a rule the side buds are not large enough until the plants are about a foot high.

About a week before the peonies bloom you should put a one-half pound brown kraft paper bag upside down over each bloom that you wish to take to the show and either tie the top of the bag shut or you may staple, pin or use a rubber band to keep it shut so that it will not come off in the wind and rain. Be very careful to leave the stem and bud loose so that the flower can grow. If you do not, the stem might grow crooked. Get some kind of a label and label each bloom with its name so that you and everyone else can see the name all through the show. For this purpose you may use a price marking tag, wooden label or any other label that you may have that will stay on. Use a No. 2 pencil, never ink or indelible because they will run.

Watch these sacked and labeled buds and the morning of the day that they feel like they are going to bloom cut them and take them to cold storage as quickly as you can. The sooner you get them to storage the better your blooms will be.

Some growers say that it is better to store your blooms in water and others say that it is better to store them dry, so you may do it which ever way pleases you. The main thing to do, is to be sure to store them as near to 34° F. as it is possible to do so.

About 24 hours before the show opens you should take them out of storage and cut about one-half inch off the end of each stem at a very steep angle and put them in water. This is best done in a cool place away from drafts. Three or four hours after they are put into water you may remove the sacks from the bloom. The sacks at this time will be almost full. The blooms will take a lot of water so keep your vases full.

After you have decided which class you wish to put each bloom into, be sure that you have them labeled correctly, classified correctly, and the number of blooms counted correctly. Any of these things wrong might count you out. Be sure to read the rules of the show so that you have them all clearly in mind.

Do not hold back. Take your flower to some show and try as hard as you can. If you do not win, try again next year and fix up your mistakes.

The more blooms there are in the show the better the show is and the more interest there is in the show.

We will be looking for all of you in the Topeka Municipal Auditorium, June 6th and 7th, 1942, with some flowers, even if it is only one bloom. It might win.

BRAND PEONY FARMS

of Faribault, Minnesota

333 E. DIVISION ST.

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 1, 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."

New Catalog in Colors Now Ready and Free.

We also specialize in Own Root French Lilacs, having probably the largest stock of these in the world.

AN EXCEPTIONAL OFFER

With a time limit covering the balance of 1941, 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.

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All orders for this rating list should be sent to the address below.

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Secretary,
Northbrook, Ill.