

# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

## Bulletin

DECEMBER, 1943

Number 92

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor  
Northbrook, Ill.

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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.

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# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



DECEMBER - 1943

## Peonyitis Germ In Coote's Paradise

JAMES W. KEAGEY, *Dundas, Ontario*

When Mr. Christman requested me to describe some of my *Chinensis* Seedlings and Tree Peonies for publication in the BULLETIN, at first glance it looked like an overlarge order for a one-man Cash and Carry business. I could see the devil between me and the sea again, this time making it easy for all and sundry to catch me out or out of what they're after.

Finally I came to the conclusion that the sea isn't farther from me now than it was last time, and moreover, just because I have been a new man ever since then isn't a sufficient reason why a new Neck may not all but say: Attention, Please! where angels fear to tread and come home — satisfied beyond fondest expectations.

Coote's Paradise is a bit o' Eden situated at the western end of Lake Ontario. It lies between and around two rival industrial centers: the larger one self-styled ambitious city of Hamilton lies at the mouth of the Desjardins Canal. Five miles or so farther inland the 'Valley City' or Town of Dundas does the same thing at the source of said waterway.

In both places Peonyitis germ works while we sleep. Surely you don't need to know what that kind of bug is to understand what it means.

As far as the presence of available limestone nutriment in abundance can make it so, Coote's Paradise is the Tree Peony or any other Peony's bailiwick.

Several years ago, Mr. Henry Bertram, chairman of the Board of John Bertram and Sons Company, Limited, Manufacturers of machine tools in Dundas, gave me a handful of Peony seeds, about eighty by actual test, and showed me what to do with them.

Mr. Bertram was for many years champion rose-grower in this part of Canada. He still might be if he could stoop easily and often enough before breakfast and after supper. The American Rose Society has recently made him an honorary life member in recognition of his merits as an all-round gardener.

I was taken up with roses myself at the time and not greatly enthusiastic about the seedling idea. However, to save my face I followed instructions to the letter and planted the seeds.

Four years later over seventy seedlings were transplanted from the seed bed. In the seventh year the first flowers appeared. I was ready enough by that time to cry Havoc! at patience. I still have twenty or so of these original seedlings. Ten of them, I venture to say, may be depended on never to violate the bond of like to like in any man's garden.

Each in turn has been the cynosure of all eyes up my own garden at day-break — uh huh! Some of the otherwise less desirable ones are quite satisfactory mother plants, others have landscape value.

Looked back at now in the light of subsequent experience, getting nothing much better than chips off old blocks and occasional might-have-been "gems of the first water," but for the too fixed tendency to exhibit thorns in the flesh to mixers of metaphors and each other. Am I justi-



Some of the beautiful seedlings originated by Mr. James Keagey of Dundas, Ontario.  
Group No. 1. Numbered from left to right, beginning with the topmost flower. The  
red one in the center is No. 9.

fied or not in believing that the results of my first venture as a seedling grower might be regarded as unusually noteworthy even by a Professor Saunders, as they are by yours truly, who was, as far as he knows to the contrary, also made in Canada?

Speaking likenesses of five of my original seedlings as shown in Group 1 counting clockwise with number one at the top. They are numbers 2, 4, 5, 7, 8. I have sent Mr. Christman Kodochrome slides of five others as good and better in some cases, not a temperamental one in the whole lot. With one exception they are, I swan, both Show and Dealers' Peonies.

That the exception is at its best a Show Peony, Mr. Christman may say "yes" or "no," out of larger experience than I can.

Judges at Regional Peony Show at Guelph, Ontario, in 1939, awarded it honorable mention when it was only half out. A very late season variety, full double cream white, with vivid blush pink center, very heavy flower, very large, packed with substance, with me it rates 10 for stem and 10.5 for fragrance, sweet as the rose *George Arends* or *Mrs. John Lung*. There is a reason why this is the first time I have mentioned fragrance — it is too true to be good. Like many late varieties, it inclines to be a fair-weather drone. Since it has become established it never has refused to go to town in the rain, and as far as I know, never has been too tight in a fog. Under the influence of a six-volt battery or two it might square the Arctic Circle for Mr. Foore: might even make unbelievers on Attu and Kiska lift their eyes unto hills, and all others stoop to touch it.

Slow as molasses to get there, and yet it gets better and better consistently each year. Have it planted in 'fire-brick' clay.

Counting clockwise number one at the top. In Group 1 — number one is introduced to indicate size of flowers, the guards are just reaching six inches. The Jap is the only seedbearer.

No. 2 — Creamy white with pollen edged petals of waxy texture — late mid-season, crimson markings on young plants.

No. 3 isn't convincing enough to mention, it is a good seedling. I should have cut its head off before taking the picture.

No. 4 — A *Reine Hortense* pink crimson splashes and edges huge bloom late mid-season. Where I have it planted is a better place to meet than at the fountain.

No. 5 — Mid-season clear pink fading white with crimson markings and plum color crinkled tissue in deep center loosely surrounded by pigmy stamens and anthers. Required Simon pure clay to make it open its rose bud center. Unfortunately, the lower half of collar fell away just before picture was snapped.

No. 6 — *Kukeni Jishi* pink pale carpels and stigmas, late mid-season, center holds up very well — as well as Mikado.

No. 7 — Petals crepe texture, loose and fairly heavy bloom, one of the most engaging flowers in the garden in fair weather, full of yellow glow. Cream white late mid-season, very large.

No. 8 — Blush pink with deep funnel, has undeveloped carpels and stamens, bears no seed, a very satisfactory performer and popular.

No. 9 — A seedling from Dr. Brethour's seed. Bright red with paler ruffled edges, tinges of blue in it that keep well away from vile magenta color, is otherwise satisfactory and sunfast. The most outstanding increaser of all. First year five representative blooms, second year — twenty; third year — thirty-five; it is not a case of identical twins being interlocked, full double, no signs of pollen.





Results of experiments in hybridizing by James Keagey, Dundas, Ont.

Group 2 shows some after-effects (F2 — F3 types) of putting the right peony pollen in the right place at the right time, namely, on the bonfire by the barrow load. All are clear medium and blush pinks fading to white except Number three, numbered from left at top and so on to number nine at bottom. Number three — a fine red with silvery reflexes, a ragged robin sort that is always welcome.

The Tree Peony '*Saigyā Jakura*' has longer petals and a deeper, more colorful center than number one, otherwise the similarity is striking. Five and seven are the same seedling as are two and eight, all have pale carpels and stigmas — just the sort of thing that makes me forget my majestic doubles now and then. You should be interested.

I seem to be getting forwarder by discarding seedlings with red stigmas *Holus Bolus* even before they have flowered. Red stigma characteristics are too dominant for me to deal with to good purpose, they are too inclined to reproduce dead spits of themselves for better or for worse. Pale stigma characteristics on the other hand hereabout at least seem to be teetering on the edge to reproduce "Beauts" better than themselves and in greater variety. Anyhow to me in white and blush pink, single and semidouble peonies red stigma is an offense, as much out of place as a birthmark on an otherwise lovely cheek: smooth, apple green and coral pink is O.K.

When you have finished reading what I have to say, you may be under the impression that I glory in size for its own sake. I have never given a plant more fertilizer at one time than you can grab in one hand and as soon after blooming as possible.

In order to avoid some of the inevitable mess that follows in the wake of deluges and whirlwinds, I remove terminal buds on heavy doubles up to half. In my estimation only duffers would think of glorying in the middle age spread (for its own sake) "of all those endearing young charms."

Is it or isn't it *Glory Chinensis* that I enjoy visiting and *Moutan Glory* that I enjoy being visited by? Your guess is as good as mine. If you are more than half right half the time you have me beaten — but don't tell me. I am taking it for granted nevertheless that my share of enjoyment as a responder to Mr. Wister's appeal to all members of A. P. Society, page 241, paragraph 13 (manual) and in 1943 June *Bulletin*, is greater than yours, just what you'd know; at the same time admitting that I may be a sadder and no wiser man than you are for different reasons. I am sadder because I didn't loosen up more and sooner and since Pearl Harbor I am perhaps no wiser. A delayed shipment of super extra beauties could have given me the ideal fifty well chosen varieties indicated by Mr. Wister. Life is like that at times just one embraced might have been after another turning out to be a gay saddist that gets one adding up wishes, and fudging the facts, and coming to absurd conclusions — such as, being far, far better off with half as much sadness to visit than one could ever be with twice as much gladness to be visited by. To Hell with that preposition! and the breed that extols such a moaning — vice-versa.

As it is, a dozen or so of Mr. Wister's 5X and 4X and less desirable varieties and a few others that show promise of being choice, make up my collection.

There have been major casualties that I cannot regard as jolts that don't matter, due largely to faulty grafting, and no little perhaps to what happened between shipping time and replanting time as early in April as possible, all of eight weeks. Plants arrive with sprouts three inches long, and how would you re-act to being planted in cold clay in April? Would you sulk?

My experience has been, when grafted on *Moutan* stock something doing above ground is apparent at once, and never a casualty. When grafted on herbaceous stock nothing happens to signify above ground for a year or two as a rule — but casualty. After that the survivors having been

busy forming their own roots and succeeding better, catch up to and sometimes outstrip the others. In all cases I plant the graft eight inches deep. Once they are well away you'd swear the place likes them and makes them laugh.

Will somebody who knows please put me straight about my two varieties called *Iro-no-Seki*. One imported from Japan corresponds to dealer's description — is shrimp pink in the bud, salmon pink in open flower becoming deeper as flower ages with tinges of scarlet and pale edges and crinkled, crumpled, ragged petals crepe texture, semidouble. Imported from U. S. A. — this one is supposed to be flesh and shell pink semidouble and was until I gave it away — just glorified *Banksi*.

The first time my Japanese plant bloomed was the first time I saw a tree peony of quality in flower — a single ten incher. I would like to know the true name of the blossom that gave me high water mark of peony enjoyment that hasn't been washed out yet.

*Iro-no-Seki* color-of-Seal which is in Japan Salmon-Scarlet. *Iro-no-Seki* and *Shuchiuka* are now eight years old. I just stuck them in poor ground because I didn't know better, they looked like "hoss" radish roots to me, and by the Lord Harry I did just the right thing apparently, so what? They are on a *Moutan* stock and sucker lavishly even yet and bloom the same way. *Iro-no-Seki* is five feet tall when in bloom, and *Shuchiuka* five feet broad, and my story is getting to be the same way. No matter how far Little Brook may babble on forever Little Bulletin will brook no other babble nor your, nor mine, forever and ever. I must bunch my 'Oh how lovely's' and put the emphasis on the doers I've brushed by, and looked back at, and been looked back at by, as though I'm nothing to shout about from a Peony's point of view.

#### GROWN IN MR. BERTRAM'S GARDEN

*Han-a-Kisoi* (or *Hana Kurabe*) is the way Chugai Nurseries list it, its rating of 9.2 is reasonable. A picture of it in color given me by Mr. Bertram and made for him by his expert photographer, Mr. Horace Bond, would seem to justify the judgment of men who rate it 9.5 and 9.7.

As I see it now it is a honey with bells on — cherry pink with paler edges.

In all Japanese types the carpels are shrouded at first, each variety has its peculiar color. Stigmas protruding make them look like tied-up money bags.

#### GROWN IN MY OWN GARDEN

*Gesse-Kai* — Has twelve and fifteen inch possibilities so they say. I can well believe it — frozen back to two and three inch stubs last winter it produced five glorious blooms just under nine inches. They held their form, pure white semidouble with 'shrinks' on all petals — as Japs put it.

*Haku-raku-ten* — noble looking flower, creamy white semidouble.

*Ruriban* — lives up to its reputation.

*Shin-ake-bono*, *Adzuma Kagami* and my variety '*Iro-no-Seki*' are similar in color and are tops for landscape.

*Kasumi-no-mori* — very large, choice S.D., ragged petals, cherry pink.

*Ho-ren* — semidouble, good, jersey cream with sulphur suffusions sans molasses — very beautiful.

*Tennyō-no-hagaromo* (Robe of Heaven) — Supposed to be purplish pink spell-binding cactus flowerer but not yet. My sister has seen it growing in Japan and vouches for it.





"Hana-Kurabe," tree peony as grown by Mr. Henry Bertram's garden. Japanese catalogues list this variety as "*Hana Kiso*" (or "*Hana Kurabe*"). See Mr. Wister's list in *JUNE BULLETIN*. Original photograph by staff photographer of John Bertram & Sons Machine Tools Co., Dundas, Ont. Note the clarity of detail brought out in this illustration.

*Ken-rei-mon* — promises to be a humdinger in pomegranate purple enhanced by a catchy protuberant corsage tinged scarlet (tentatively rated 9.95).

*Kokuriu-nishiki* — Blood red with green and white trimmings — little bit of all right because of a strangeness in the proportion.

*Dai-Kagura* — Has a fixed determination to be enormous and hold its form. Did so at 10 1/2" — deep crimson with paler edges, semidouble, makes a gay sight. One of my best.

*Yachyo-jishi* — hardiest and most vigorous grower of all on herbaceous stock, a lovely flower. Corresponds in color and description of it in Picture Book of Choice Peonies issued by Niigata Prefecture, Japan — light carmine globular, cup shaped, full double large; semidouble as yet, and last but not least — *Aya-nishiki* — peach pink, synonym is *Momozomo*, momo means peach. — It is a comparatively midget beauty without out-size appeal, veritable beauty's top notch virtue 'gracious motion' is very satisfyingly suggested.

Judging by the way my three- and four-year-old plants jumped ahead this year, they have ambition now to live up to the Tree Peony's reputation of being the most overpoweringly superb of hardy shrubs. New and heavy soil produces more bloom than the soil the lily likes or even heavier and older garden soil. The plants grow equally well until they become established, and then the heavy soil has it — obviously. It is a mystery to me. They are grown in Japan in a mixture of loam, sand, leaf-mould and betelnut shells.

It's written — on our pillows — just another snort and a couple of sighs and most men will fall asleep happy. Dear Reader: Since pride attends me still I hope you are the exception that proves the rule, and have what it takes to stay wide awake 'arf a mo' longer.

Somebody's grandmother wandered into my garden one day when this sort of 'prolixity-inducer,' that I have been describing, was at its best, and slipped into a trance. After she got out again as she was going away with her arms full of it, she assured me over and over that she had never dreamed the "Piney" ever was or could be so beautiful.

Over in God's Country, in Boston and 'Way down South' in Rapidan, tidbits like that are bitten over as a matter of course, God wot! Hereabouts they are bitten in two before they are swallowed — but not always. Finally, may God bless Uncle Sam's endeavor to Joshua the Sun of Nippon.



## Special Notice

THE 1944 MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY WILL BE HELD IN MILWAUKEE, WIS., AT A DEFINITE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN. WE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THE SPONSORS IN THE MARCH BULLETIN. PLAN TO EXHIBIT YOUR FINEST FLOWERS AT THIS SHOW. AS WE WANT TO MAKE IT AN OUTSTANDING EVENT.



Tree Peony — "*Dai-Kagura*," a glowing crimson with paler edges. Flowers shown were  $10\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. Center perfectly cupped. Original photograph slightly out of focus producing blurred effect.

## Home Grown Peonies, Season Of 1943

J. W. FRENZ, *Baraboo, Wisconsin*

This is a continuation of the article which appeared in the September BULLETIN. The peonies commented on in these two articles were all planted at the same time and are growing under the same conditions. These conditions are believed to be favorable to peonies.

The September article ended with *Lady Kate*, and will be continued from there:

*Loveliness* seems to be a very desirable peony. It blooms late in the season, but apparently has no trouble in opening its buds. The plant is a good grower and rather tall. The flowers are quite large, somewhat flat, and are a light pink, with some red splashes. The blooms are exceedingly attractive.

*Minnie Shaylor* is a semidouble peony. As a rule, I do not care for this type of flower, but at the urgent suggestion of a friend I planted it, and have not been sorry. It is one of the most beautiful of all peonies. The flowers are "saucer" shaped, a light pink in color when first opened, fading to white, and showing yellow stamens. While, as a rule, I am prejudiced against this kind of flower, I admire this particular semidouble very much and do not hesitate to pronounce it one of the outstanding peonies.

*Minuet* first came to my notice at the National Show held in Rochester, Minn. I was very much impressed by its light pink color and its fine form. I find it to be a good grower and a dependable bloomer, and desirable in every way.

*Miss Eckart* is liked at our house. It is a good grower, an abundant and consistent bloomer. The flowers are well shaped, large, and medium pink in color. It is well worth planting.

*Mme Claude Tain* resembles *Baroness Schroeder* and in my opinion is fully its equal, if not superior. The plant is of medium height, blooms profusely and regularly each season, and its flowers are pure white and well formed. I like this variety very much indeed.

*Mme Emile Debatene* reminds one of *Souv de Louis Bigot*. It is a rather low growing plant that blooms regularly and in great profusion. The flowers are a deep pink and well shaped. I prefer this variety to *Souv de Louis Bigot* because it appears to be a much better performer.

*Modella* has become one of my favorites. The plant grows well and blooms abundantly and regularly. The flowers are quite large, light pink, with a creamy center, and of true rose shape. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever" might have been written about this peony. It has one serious defect, a very short stem. But for sheer beauty it is hard to beat.

*Mons Jules Elie* may seem out of place here, it is so well and favorably known. My reason for including it in this list is to permit me to pay my respects to a grand peony. Some time ago Mr. Foster, in writing about this peony in the BULLETIN, referred to it as "the amateur's delight." It certainly is. Also the expert's.

*Mr. L. van Leeuwen* is one of the really good red peonies. It makes a most attractive garden plant. The flowers are large and fully double. It grows quite tall and blooms regularly and profusely. This variety and *Fanny Lee* are exactly the same shade of red and could not be told apart except for the fact that *Fanny Lee* is a semidouble. Some writers deplore the lack of good red peonies. Here is one that is an ornament to any garden. It is not easy to classify red colors. The Manual calls this a light crimson, which will do for the purpose of this article.

Mrs. George Bunyard presents further proof of the fallacy of our rating system, if any is needed. Here is a peony without a fault, so far as I can see, and rates only 8.3. This variety regularly produces great quantities of large, rose shaped, dark pink flowers that are very attractive on the plant and when cut. This is one of a long list of "forgotten" peonies that should be more generally remembered.

*Myrtle Gentry* is now quite generally grown and is very popular. It seems to do well in every garden. The plant is a strong grower, quite tall, a reliable and abundant bloomer. The flowers are large, of fine form, a light pink in color, with salmon or tan shades. This variety very much resembles *Tourangelle*, but possibly is a better grower. This peony has so many good qualities that it should be in every garden.

*Ninon* would not be considered a "must have," but it is an interesting peony nevertheless. It is classed as a flesh, but it has a very noticeable red cast and when shown in certain light appears to be a red peony. Its garden habits are good. It grows very well, blooms regularly and in large quantities. If you want something different, this is it.

*Odalisque* has not proved to be a good peony in my garden. It grows very poorly, blooms scantily, and the flowers are small and unattractive. I have seen it described as a "loosely built *Le Cygne*," which I think is very unkind to *Le Cygne*. The only resemblance I can see is that they are both white.

*Odile* will make a friend of everyone who plants it. It is a very strong grower, quite tall, a consistent and profuse bloomer. The flowers are large, well formed, and are pink, with tan shades. This variety closely resembles *Tourangelle* and *Myrtle Gentry*. It has been described as a "glorified *Tourangelle*." I would not go quite that far. "When better *Tourangelles* are grown, *Tourangelle* will grow them," to paraphrase a well known slogan. However, *Odile* is an exceptionally fine variety.

*Queen of Hamburg* is a desirable peony. It grows well and is free flowering, producing very large, well shaped, glowing pink blooms. The color classification lists it as a dark pink, but I would call it a light pink. At any rate, it is worth growing and should appeal especially to those who like huge flowers.

Rev. H. Tragitt gives a good account of itself in my garden. The plant is rather dwarf, but grows well and is a dependable and free bloomer. The flowers are large, rose shaped and pure white. It is said that this variety occasionally shows a trace of red, but I have never detected it. This is a desirable addition to our long list of fine whites.

*Rose Shaylor* belongs in any list of good peonies. The flowers are rather flat, quite large, and are light pink, with dark pink and cream shades blended together, and with red markings on some of the center petals. This is indeed a handsome peony, and its garden habits are good.

*Sensation* has failed to be one in my garden. It came to me praised very highly, and to say that I have been disappointed is being charitable indeed. The plant I have is a poor grower and sparse bloomer, the flowers small and unattractive.

*Silvia Saunders* is a low-growing peony that produces an abundance of small semidouble cup-shaped, light pink flowers, with yellow centers. This variety appeals to many flower lovers. It makes a fine garden plant because of its dependable habits, but it is not a particularly good exhibition flower.

*Standard Bearer* does not receive much attention from commentators, but I like it very much. It is always the first peony to bloom in my garden. The plant is a good grower, a reliable and profuse bloomer.



The flowers are large, medium pink, with the guard petals recurving after the style set many years ago by *Mons Jules Elie*.

*Venus* seems to be a victim of the rating system. It is a much better peony than its 8.3 rating would lead one to believe. The plant is a good grower, a reliable and free bloomer. The flowers are light pink in color, cup-shaped, and very attractive. This variety is equally desirable as a garden plant and for cut flowers. I consider this one of the good ones. There are, unfortunately, two peonies named *Venus*. The one I am describing is by Kelway.

*Victory Chateau Thierry* has become known far and wide as one of the great peonies. Some say it is Mr. Brand's best, but I am not so sure about that. It has performed splendidly in my garden. I find it a consistent and abundant bloomer. The flowers are light pink and attractively formed. A lady visitor to my garden said the flowers on this variety were "ethereal." They are certainly beautiful. No peony garden is quite complete without this one.

Thus I conclude this second article. I have tried to be fair and just in my comments. Many will not agree with all I have said. That is to be expected. But I hope that what I have written proves to be of interest.



## Impressions of the National Peony Show at Minneapolis, 1943

VICTORIA GORDON KARTACK, *Baraboo, Wis.*

Never before had I attended a Flower Show in the Lobby of a Bank. but what an ideal place it was with its spacious aisles and comparative coolness. The business of the bank seemed to go on as usual amid the preparations for the show and in spite of the armed guards here and there, an air of gayety was in the air, due no doubt to the color and fragrance of so many long rows of beautiful Peonies.

The heat of course was bad for the blooms and by late afternoon of the first day, some of them were beginning to wilt. This was especially noticeable in the Single and Japanese types. This is one reason why so many peony collectors will not grow these, but I have always felt that a collection is incomplete without at least a few of these types, as well as some of the semidoubles.

There were a number of outstanding blooms in the Japanese class that I was fortunate to see for the first time. *Charm* was one, truly an improved *Fuyajo*. *Ohanagasa* also made a favorable impression, the petals in such a lovely rosy-red shade and rather crinkled. *Onahama* was new to me too and I liked its rich red petals and large chamois yellow center. I also saw some excellent blooms of *Polar Star* of glistening white with petals of heavy substance. *Leto* was new in name to me. This seemed to verge on the anemone type, similar to *Primevere*. I noticed in the Jap. Seedling classes that the trend seems to be toward a more petaloid center and this would bring up the question: "Where does the Jap. type end and the anemone type begin?" I had not seen the peony *Jewel* before either. It is a nice dark red, but I wondered if the high conspicuous carpels added or detracted from its beauty. There were many blooms in the Jap class more familiar to me. Wonderful ones of *Krinkled White* and *Tamate-boku*, *Rashooman* and *Ama-no-sode* which I love because of its deep pink petals flushed with red and its full deep yellow center with a pink glow. In the singles there were also many well grown blooms, the variety *Helen* seemed outstanding to me.

Of course it was in the doubles that the most glorious blooms were to be seen. The soil of Minnesota surely grows marvelous peonies. Many varieties familiar to me through the years were seen in absolute perfection. *Walter Faxon* was shown in several classes, all extremely large and of lovely color. *Milton Hill* showed its nice pink color and high-built form. Fine blooms of *Alice Harding* and *Nina Secor* were to be seen. It is always a pleasure to see *Hansina Brand* and *Myrtle Gentry*. No matter what the future may bring in the way of new peonies, I can never imagine either of them losing their popularity. Perfect blooms of some other older varieties I might mention were *Frances Willard*, such a lovely fragrant creamy-white, *Alsace Lorraine* which also has stood the test of time, *Jeannot* which has such nicely arranged petals and pleasant perfume, *La France* with its vivid pink, rather flat blooms, *Loveliness* also with rather flat loose blooms of a lovely shade of yellowish pink. *Charles McKellip* was there, and I wondered as I so often do in my own garden when I look at it, why it is rated so low. I have grown it for about 15 years now and I have always considered it a desirable red. It is loosely built, to be sure, but it has fine form with broad silky petals in a lovely shade of bright red. The plant has good foliage and is a fine bloomer. Another feature of this peony is that the buds have a nice form which make them useful in flower arrangements.

Returning for a few moments to some of the older peonies, I was pleased to see some fine blooms of *James Kelway* and *Eugenie Verdier*. There was also a bloom of the old *Mme Geissler* in perfect form. Very frequently this peony does not open well for me. *Blanche King* and *Martha Bulloch* were also shown in several classes. These two peonies Mr. Brand must also be very proud of and it must give him much satisfaction when he thinks of the pleasure they have brought to so many people.

It is time to leave the old favorites lest this article become too long. I would like to mention a few varieties that impressed me, varieties that were new to me. *Alice Schneider* was one, a fine white. *Franklin No. 1001* is a wonderful dark rose-pink. *Blushing Beauty* is a lovely large pale pink on the order of *Therese*, it is very fragrant. *C. W. Bunn* is also pale pink with a yellow glow in the center. *Mary E. Nichols* is a beautifully formed cream-white flower. *Mandaleen* a huge loosely-built pink bloom. *Pink Beauty* had the rare salmon shade. *Onondago* is a very dark fine red. *Carbondale* a lovely deep pink that seemed to be overlaid with rose-red. This seemed to me a very poor name for so wonderful a flower. *A. E. Rowe* was another pink which seemed to have a rosy glow. *King Midas* was a red of fine form.

Peonies not so very new but which I had not been fortunate to see before and which I liked very much were: *Jean Cooperman* a fine light red. We do not have many new peonies in this shade. *Dr. John L. Crenshaw* also a light red, beautifully formed. *Henry Avery* though an old timer, I had not seen before and I rather liked the combination of the yellow petals with the pink. This was also my first meeting with the peony *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, a gorgeous color surely, the deepest salmon pink we have so far, but I wondered when the blooms started to wilt in the afternoon, how well it would stand up in a garden. *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* is a wonderful flower too, the originator may well be proud of it. There were a number of blooms of this variety shown in different classes, the most wonderful one ending up in the Court of Honor to battle for supremacy with the most wonderful bloom of *Nick Shaylor* I have ever seen. A perfect bloom of *Solange* also ended up in the Court of Honor and in the dark pink class the variety *Pres. F. D. Roosevelt*. I was pleased

and surprised to see a fine bloom of *Chas. McKellip* there too, as best of the reds, I suppose. *Mrs. A. M. Brand* finally ended up as best bloom in the show. I was so interested in the judging of these blooms in the Court of Honor. It seemed to me that there were about 3 blooms that were so absolutely perfect that it was hard to judge between them.

I felt very fortunate too to see so many of Mr. Franklin's newer creations all in perfect form, many of them I had not seen before. There was *Minuet* a very large pale pink bloom with a rather neat look. *Mrs. A. B. Franklin*, the loveliest pure-white bloom of compact form. The two peonies named after the President and his wife, *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt* being the bloom I would choose if I had to make a choice between them. *Acme* is a lovely clear pink and a huge bloom, *Snowball* not quite so large but of heavy substance. *Duluth* is a fine fragrant creamy white. *Alice Reed Bates* a pink on the salmon order that I would like to have some day. *Mark Twain* is a fine large red. *Cherokee* is listed as a white, but it opened a pale pink in the showroom. There were some fine specimens of two older Franklin peonies displayed *June Day* and *Lake o' Silver*. This last seems more like a semidouble to me.

The Seedling Classes fascinated me. I wish that they might have been spread out more for better display and that the originators' names might have been better shown for after all part of the interest in seeing this class is to know the name of the grower. Even by late afternoon the tags on the bottles were still folded up, and I thought this was a serious fault. I jotted down the numbers of some of the outstanding ones, but they would not have much meaning in this article unless we had the originator's name with them. There were many seedlings in the Japanese class verging on anemone centers, as I have mentioned before, and also a goodly number where these centers were of the same color as the guard petals. I cannot feel that this is an improvement for to me part of the charm of Japanese type peonies is the contrasting center. Mr. E. H. Lins had a yellow-and-white peony similar to *Primevere* but with an additional mass of center tufts in white, sort of a three-decker effect similar to the old peony *Philo-mele* which is pink but similar in structure. Last but not least, I must mention the Hybrid *Golden Glow* a flame-red single but very large. The color stood out among all the other colors even at a distance. I do not know who exhibited it for there was no name on the three milk bottles containing the blooms. This was the only hybrid variety in the show. I had looked forward to seeing many Hybrids and also some Tree Peonies and was much disappointed. (Note — Mr. Lindgren exhibited the variety *Golden Glow*.)

In the Arrangement Classes there were some fine entries, mostly of one variety in large baskets or containers. Several fine displays of the peony *Philippe Rivoire*, my favorite red of all the reds. I think it would add to the educational value of such displays to have the names of the varieties used on the entry tag or a separate slip. I noticed during the afternoon that visitors looking at the arrangements would audibly wonder what the names of the peonies were.

Being a rather new member, I was happy to meet Mr. Lindgren, the President, and Mr. Christman, the Secretary, who put me right to work as an assistant judge. I was glad to be able to add my judging experience for like many women judges who work at General Flower Shows, I feel a lack of experience when it comes to judging Specimen Blooms. I enjoyed working with Mr. and Mrs. Bernstein, who grow Peonies at Lincoln, Neb., and also Mrs. Moots, who with her family grows peonies so enthusiastically. Mr. Peyton was also most kind to me and it was a

pleasure to meet him after reading his interesting Peony articles in the BULLETIN and other magazines. I would like to have met some of the Minnesota members of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society, to tell them how fine the show was and how much I enjoyed it, enough to feel amply repaid for the hot long journey by train, but my time was so limited and everyone seemed so busy at the show that my appreciation will have to be said in this article. (Note — *Krinkled White* is a single, *Jewel* a hybrid.)



## Tree Peonies, An Exciting Adventure

A. P. SAUNDERS

*Hamilton College, Clinton, New York*

An invitation to write about tree peonies is to me one not to be declined. I always have the hope that perhaps one or two of my readers may believe what I say, and be stirred by a desire to have a few of these beautiful plants in their garden. And when once you have seen a fine tree peony in bloom you will never again be happy without them.

It is not as if tree peonies belonged in the rank and file of good garden plants of which in so many cases you can very well say: "I can take them or leave them." I could for my own taste make a very long list of such, and it would include most of the annuals and a large proportion of the standard perennials. But the tree peony belongs with the few real aristocrats among flowering plants—things that no self-respecting garden can be without. I would put in this group besides the tree peonies, French lilacs, large-flowered clematis, magnolias, azaleas (if your soil permits), some of the nobler narcissus, a few of the irises, hybrid delphiniums, and of course roses. You could make a garden of these alone, and what a garden! Nothing inferior in it! There are other plants I happen to love; some of the *Philadelphus* for instance; but I can understand that someone else might be indifferent to them. Not so with the tree peonies. No one who has any appreciation of beauty can look at a fine tree peony bloom without a deep thrill.

The herbaceous peonies, the ordinary peonies of our gardens, are handsome plants, and their flowers in many cases have great beauty, but lovely as they are, they make you feel when they are put beside a noble bloom of a tree peony that what they aspire to the tree peony has achieved. Great size, ideal perfection of texture and form, wonderful color over a wide range from white to almost black through all the loveliest pinks and reds—all these the tree peony has. Oh, I don't say that all tree peonies are beautiful in color. Some of them, particularly among the varieties of European origin come in those shades of lilac pink that we could *so happily live* without. Therefore, in selecting varieties of tree peonies for purchase, if you cannot choose from among blooming plants in a nursery, you will do well to choose those with Japanese names rather than the French ones; for the varieties of Chinese or Japanese origin which come to us under Japanese names are likely to be the clearer colors.

The tree peony is Chinese in origin and has been loved and cherished in Chinese gardens for more than a thousand years. It came to Europe about a hundred and fifty years ago, and from there to America. In China it is called the King of Flowers. I don't know what should be called the King of Flowers in America, but I have a terrible suspicion it would have to be the *Petunia*. What a come-down!

In spite of the enthusiasm of those who know and appreciate the tree peony, it has never taken hold with the great gardening public. This is due partly I think to the fact that one does not often see a fine collection of tree peonies, such collec-

tions being few and far between. There are magnificent collections at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and at Highland Park in Rochester, New York. Otherwise, one would have to go to private gardens or to the few nurseries where these plants are grown in any considerable number. Another fact against the tree peony is that it has a bad name among professional gardeners. They are liable to tell you that it is difficult and uncertain. Uncertain it is, in the sense that plants do sometimes die. I have something like one or two thousand tree peonies, and it is true that I lose a few each year; but not more, I feel sure, than I should in a planting of an equal number of roses. Yet no one will discourage you from growing roses on the argument that you may occasionally lose one. As for the difficulty of growing tree peonies, they ask no more care than most other hardy perennials. I have a severe winter climate near the Adirondack Mountains and my tree peonies come through most winters with little or no protection and with very little damage. I don't think I have ever had a plant winter-killed, though they do often lose some of the buds on the ends of the branches.

The tree peony is a shrub, growing here some three feet high; and if the topmost buds are winter-killed the plant will develop flowers from the buds farther down the stems. I do not know how much the tree peony would enjoy the severe winters of northern Minnesota, but at the Cottage Gardens Nursery in Lansing, Michigan, there is a large stock of tree peony plants which were in great health when I saw them in June, and, therefore, cannot have suffered any considerable damage from the preceding winter.

Twenty-five years ago very few nurseries carried a line of tree peonies; but I am glad to say that the demand for them is on the increase and there are now several nurseries which carry good stocks. I would mention besides the Cottage Gardens alluded to above, the Oberlin Peony Gardens, Sinking Spring, Penna.; Mr. William Gratwick, Linwood, New York; Mr. John C. Wister, Germantown, Penna.; The Farr Nurseries, Weiser Park, Penna. All of these are more or less specialists, but several of the large general nurseries also carry a few varieties of tree peonies, though your choice with them is necessarily more limited.

The plants must be multiplied by grafting, and as this is a slow and uncertain process, prices on these plants are higher than for the herbaceous kinds which are multiplied by division. But tree peonies are not expensive for the pleasure to be had from them; and if you are in the mood for adventure I would suggest that you buy a single or semi-double white as a starter. I have had dozens of single whites among my seedlings and never one that was not a beauty.

Just one piece of specific advice I would give if you are moved to purchase a tree peony. Do not buy either the variety *Banksi* nor the single purple offered under the name *moutan*. *Banksi* is a mauve pink double, poor in color, uninteresting in form, and generally inferior. It does bear an abundance of flowers, but under the circumstances I do not consider that a merit. *Moutan* is a single purplish red, to my eye a bad color.

### Lutea Hybrids

In Southern China there is another wild shrubby peony which came into culture a little before 1890. It bears small flowers of a bright buttercup yellow color and is called *Paeonia lutea*. There is a closely related form, *P. Delavayi* in which the blooms are dark mahogany red.

As soon as *P. lutea* had reached the blooming stage in France where the first seedlings were raised, the great Lemoine began to make crosses between this plant and the Chinese tree peonies. The results appeared after some years in the production of a grand new race of large-flowered peonies in which the predominant color was yellow. *L'Esperance*, *La Lorraine*, *Souvenir de Maxim Cornu*—these were the first named varieties to be offered to the public. These plants opened up an entirely new vista in peony culture. M. Lemoine has continued his breeding



experiments and has since 1906 introduced about a dozen new and striking novelties. But in spite of the exciting possibilities in this race of hybrids no work has been done in that direction in Europe in more recent years except by Lemoine himself, and all the hybrids that have been made in this country are found in my own garden.

Here in this cross is a veritable gold mine for any plant breeder, and I hope it will not be long before at least a few intelligent hybridists will devote some attention to these crosses. Their range of color includes clear yellows from pale to deep golden, yellows more or less stained with reddish, reds in many shades, deep maroons, whites, and among the newest of my own hybrids a few in which pale pink is laid on to a background of yellow.

The flowers are often of very large size and vary from singles to full doubles. Their season is a little later than the tree peonies; these begin to bloom here in northern New York about May 25; the lutea hybrids begin about June 1st, and the ordinary Chinese herbaceous peonies about June 10.

*P. Lutea* is easily raised from seed and blooms on quite young plants. The tree peonies are not so easy, requiring some special care; but anyone who wants to develop a large collection of tree peonies can, if he knows how, get a group of magnificent varieties by growing seedlings of a fine strain. Only, what he saves in money he will spend in time, for tree peonies do not usually bloom until they have had five or six seasons of growth. But whether the bill is paid in money or in time, a bed of fine tree peonies cannot fail to be worth all it has cost.—*From Michigan Horticultural Society, "Horticultural News."*



## Peonies In Milwaukee, 1943

MARVIN B. KARRELS, *Milwaukee, Wis.*

Our secretary is asking for articles for the BULLETIN, and with that thought in mind, and the fact that I derive keen pleasure in growing my peonies and talking about them, I am prompted to write this. I look forward each quarter to receiving the BULLETIN, and read with interest the contributions by others, and so feel that I should reciprocate, and possibly others will find something of interest about the way my plants and blooms behaved.

Our season in Milwaukee started with a three-week drought in April, followed by light rains, and then very cool weather for all of May and early June. Many nights in May had temperatures of 34 to 38 degrees. To prevent frost damage, I frequently covered the better varieties. I was very anxious to cut some blooms for the Regional Show in Chicago on June 12–13, but alas, the buds were tight with not even a hint of opening, so my family and I went there to view the gorgeous blooms of other growers. I was particularly anxious to see Mr. Glasscock's hybrids and some of the newer *Chinensis* varieties. We were rewarded for our trip by seeing some of his hybrid blooms, and also several blooms of *Dorothy J.*

Upon our return to Milwaukee the weather suddenly turned very warm with over 90 degree temperatures for a number of days. This rushed the blooming season to a climax, and many lates started to bloom with the early and midseason varieties. This unusual hot spell preceded by the cool weather gave us a comparatively short season of bloom of about sixteen days. The best bloom as usual for the past four or five years was *Le Cygne*. *Kelways Glorious* also produced some magnificent flowers as did *Therese* and *Philippe Rivoire*, which for the first time came into bloom with *Le Cygne*. What a beautiful combination these two made in a vase!

*Mrs. John M. Kleitsch* produced some of the finest flowers in my garden this year. This variety has been given the reputation of being a poor opener. I was afraid that the hot weather might cause it to fail, so I cut many of the just opening buds, and let them open inside away from the hot sun, resulting in some of the loveliest flowers I have seen. I have it on a four-year-old plant, and find it opened well for the past two seasons. There are a large number of peonies which never seem to fail, and first on this list I would put *Mons. Jules Elie*. It was the first to open this year (even before *Richard Carvel*). I have it growing in three different locations, and in each place it produced uniformly good flowers. In my opinion this one should be in every planting. *Dr. J. H. Neeley* as a four-year-old had beautiful flowers, some of the most fragrant of all. *Nick Shaylor* on two- and three-year-old plants had some of the largest blooms in my garden. This one is unquestionably one of the finest of all peonies, and really deserves the gold medal it received from our society. *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* is another peony which in my opinion is here to stay. It combines fragrance, form, size and good plant growth. I have some two- and three-year-old plants, and while the flower was a bit small on the two-year-old, it showed much larger on the three-year plant. Of the limited number of whites in my garden, this one comes closest to *Le Cygne* in perfection of form.

I have *Elsa Sass* only on two-year-old plants, and while they were small, the bloom gave a pre-view of what is going to come when it acquires a little more age. How I wish this one had fragrance! I have a two-year-old plant of *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* and to say the color of this one is sensational is putting it mildly. From my observation of a large number of pink *Chinensis* peony varieties, this one is absolutely distinct in color. As a two-year-old it had six flowers, all of good form, two of which were of excellent size. The growth of the plant was medium in height with just average stems and foliage. I am looking forward to its bloom as a three-year-old. A little more age, I think, will bring it to perfection.

*Ella Christiansen* is another peony which should be in every planting. The bloom is a clear solid medium pink. It invariably comes good. The plant is clean, very thrifty, and beautifully shaped. It is also a fragrant peony.

*Myrtle Gentry* never fails, but its delicate pink never lasts out the day for me: it always fades to a white. I wouldn't have a peony planting without it principally because of its grand fragrance and dependability.

Those who like large size in peonies should always have *Nancy Dolman*. It always grows immense in size for me, but I think a little coarse. It's an interesting bloom as its petalage is set in whorls and takes a long time to fully expand and open.

Before completing my list of better does this year, I think I must mention the following which did better than average: — *Tourangelle* was the best I have ever had it and possibly the best I have ever seen it. The bloom was beautiful, delicate in color, very fine in form (not large) and really profuse in flower — weak stems; good fragrance. My plant of *Coral Queen* was very similar to *Tourangelle* in color, but not quite so good in form, but had stronger and longer stems.

*Martha Bulloch* always seems to do well, but I especially like the bloom before it is fully open. Martha always grows well, and makes a good plant and never fails in bloom for me. *Reine Hortense* — an old one — very reliable, this year produced several blooms of immense size with good form. These blooms, I think, could have competed with some of the

very good show blooms I saw at the Chicago exhibition. The late John Kleitsch of Duluth always had a word of praise for his *Reine Hortense* plants, and I think he was right in his appraisal.

My plants of *Hansina Brand* produced good bloom, but not so good as I have seen at other gardens, or at the Whitnall Park Arboretum. I have this one only on three-year plants, and I think it requires more age. *Hansina Brand* in my opinion is also one of the top notchers.

Now for some that didn't do so well. *Elizabeth Barrett Browning* — I am going to discard this one and replace it with one of the newer late whites. The form of this one is atrocious. The stems are crooked, and seem to grow in all directions. It makes a very messy-looking plant, and about all that can be said in its favor is that it comes late and is fragrant. I don't see how it deserves a rating of 9.2. *Blanche King*, usually a good dark pink, was smaller than usual this year. I thought the color wasn't up to par. It seemed to have a purplish cast in its deep pink, more than it had in former years. This is a good dark pink of which we have too few, but I wouldn't raise its rating above the 8.9 or 9.0.

*Baroness Schroeder* is very dependable, but rather small blooms grew on my plants this year. It has good fragrance, and bloomed early this year, although it usually is late.

All my reds, with the exception of *Philippe Rivoire*, sun-burned too rapidly. With temperatures of over ninety degrees each day for almost a week it was no wonder that they did. If there is a better red in the peony world than *Philippe Rivoire*, I would like to see it.

My one plant of *A. B. Franklin* as a two-year-old had very stubby growth and short stems on the four small blooms of good form. The way this one has been praised I certainly expect considerable improvement with age, but will wait another year or two before passing final judgment. I wonder if this one will turn out to be one of the "sham battle heroes" in my garden.

*La Lorraine* usually is good, but was a little small this year. This must have been an unsuitable year for *La Lorraine* as I noticed it didn't get into many of the winning classes at the National Show in Minneapolis, where in other years it was a strong contender.

I have two of Franklin's varieties, and *Minuet* so far is the best of the two. Only five blooming stems appeared on the two-year-old plant, but every one was a perfect bloom. — Large size, good form, tall strong stems, and a beautiful pale pink. I'm sure *Minuet* will stand the test of time.

Sass' *Elizabeth Huntington* has a peculiar charm for me, and I should always want it in my garden. It was particularly good this year.

*Alesia!* What a beautiful white! To me it is the daintiest of all whites I have seen. I hope I shall always be able to afford a peony collection large enough to include it, with its delicate fragrance.

My few plants of Japs did well, but to me the most interesting and beautiful are the big doubles.

This article is written from notes I made at blooming time, and I think I may have skipped some of the good varieties. I do recall that *Alice Harding* in particular was also outstanding, but I didn't make a record of its bloom this year.

Growing my peonies has given me much pleasure and relaxation, and I can't conceive of a better hobby.

## My Northern Peony Garden In 1943

BY W. T. COE, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

I came to the Lake Superior summer home May 8, and gave the garden a good, clean cultivation. There had been seven feet of snow during the past winter, so all the clumps came through safely. At that time, the shoots were just breaking through the ground. I came again on July 1. There had been much rain, and I found the peonies had grown tall and lush, and the buds were large. I disbudded rather sparingly as there would be no peony show late enough for my flowers, and the shortage of gas would make visitors few. The secondaries were many and all bloomed.

The first peony to bloom was *Silvia Saunders*. It opened July 5; *Trails End* (Neeley) opened next day, and in three or four days *Edulis Superba*. In early July half a dozen others were in full bloom. By July 12 over half of the clumps bloomed. On July 15 I took an appraisalment of 30, practically all new varieties, nearly all in their third season of bloom.

I shall offer in a separate article my estimate of these new varieties in their third year. Of course they all performed much more near to form as three-year-olds than as two-year-olds. The Queen of the Garden this year is *Mabel L. Franklin* (Franklin). It stood 50 inches tall on strong stems. There were 7 terminal blooms 8 inches in diameter by 5 inches deep. Its petals are of 3 different shades of pink and one of cream, with some red flecks. It was sweetly perfumed. I have seen it grow in A. B. Franklin's nursery, but never have I seen it perform as it did here in 1943.

The next in order of perfection and size would be *Martha Bulloch*, *La France*, *Grace Batson*, *Acme*, *Hans P. Sass*, *Leto*, and *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*, but it is hardly fair to attempt to give precedence to any, they were all so beautiful. *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, heretofore tender here, bloomed well. *Mrs. A. M. Brand* grew so tall and lush that it fell over, and, in attempting to stake it up, three main stalks snapped, so I just let its marvelous white blooms lie where they fell. The clump I erroneously described as *Carolyn* *Mae Nelson* last year proved to be *Hans P. Sass*. It is a very remarkable variety. A new yearling single of H. P. Sass, *Pink Dawn*, produced three remarkable blooms. It has a future. Its color is pink of the dawn as the sun rises over Lake Superior. There was a rain on the 23rd of July, and a high wind, but the beauty of the peonies held until about the 26th. This article is written on the 28th of July, and there are yet many lovely blooms. *Mrs. Frank Beach* (Brand) and *Peerless*, a Franklin's Seedling, blush white, are now in full bloom. *Enchantress* is still on duty. *Nancy Dolman*, *Acme* (Franklin), *Hans P. Sass*, *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*, and *David Harum* still have a few perfect blooms. *Ella Christiansen* (Brand) has just passed. *Evening Star* (Sass), and *Duluth* (Franklin) are still to bloom.

*Ann Pfeiffer* as a two-year-old was much more beautiful and larger here than in my Minneapolis Garden. I shall expect to be able to cut a number of good blooms away along into August, but the beauty of the garden ended July 26, 1943.

On August 10, 1943, I cut a nice bouquet of peonies.

Judging of the following varieties made on July 15, 1943, at W. T. Coe's peony garden on the North Shore of Lake Superior, Minn. All clumps are three years old unless otherwise noted. F. indicates Franklin, N, Neeley; and S, Sass.

- 9.3 *Mabel L. Franklin* (F). Light pink petals of 3 shades and one shade of cream and a few flecks of red near center. 7 terminal flowers 8 inches in diameter by 5 inches deep on strong stems. 50 inches tall, sweetly fragrant. Queen of the garden.
9. *Chief* (F). Light pink, 11 flowers, fully double. 6x4. No fragrance. 50 inches tall. Strong stems.
- 9.3 *Acme* (F). Light pink shaded deeper in center with flecks of red. 36 in. tall. Stiff stems. Very full double, fragrant. One of the very best peonies.
- 9.1 *Peerless* (F). Blush white, very late, strong stems, little fragrance, flowers medium size and fully double.
9. *Duluth* (F). White, very late, strong stems. Fully double. Medium size flower. It is a pure white and its extreme lateness makes it very desirable.
9. *Mt. Everest* (S). Pure white, greenish lower petals. 6 flowers 6x3 inches. Fully double. Strong stems 36 inches. No fragrance.
- 9.1 *Queen of Hamburg* (S). Deep pink, outer petals lighter toward center. 10 flowers 50 inches tall on strong stem, each 8x3 inches. No fragrance.
- 8.7 *Matchless Beauty* (N). 8 flowers 6x3 inches, 36 inches tall, and strong stems. Flowers each have a ring of yellow petals. Early M. A little fragrance.
- 8.5 *Liberty Bell* (N). Dark pink, 14 flowers. 52 inches. Strong stems. Stamens show. Flower loose. Fine garden variety.
9. *Apollo* (S). White with pink center. 50 inches. Flowers 7x3. Spicy fragrance.
- 9.4 *Ann Pfeiffer*. Deep rose, 36 in. tall. 5 flowers 6x4 as a 2-year-old. Unusually fine.
- 9.1 *Sea Shell* (S). Single, light pink, 54 in. tall. 16 flowers 8 inches, yellow center. Fragrant.
- 9.2 *H. P. Sass* (S). Light pink. 54 in. 5 flowers 8x5. Full double. No fragrance. Very strong stems.  
(This was erroneously reported in 1942 as Carolyn Mae Nelson.)
9. *Leto* (N). Jap. Light pink, yellow center, 54 inches tall, 15 flowers. No fragrance. An outstanding Jap.
8. *Rosabel* (S). Deep rose, 36 inches, flowers 5x4. Very floriferous, and sprawling.
- 8.8 *Jap Beauty* (S). Deep red. Center petals embroidered with gold. 10 flowers. Very interesting. Stems not strong.
- Peggy* (Auten). 1st year, 1 flower, lovely, dwarf. A charming variety. Unfair to rate it on 1st year's performance.
- 9.1 *Queen of Sheba* (S). Deep rose. 36 in. 11 flowers, 7x3. Strong stems. Fragrance, strong but not sweet. A showy flower in the garden.
9. *Evening Star* (S). White, late, 36 in. 7 flowers 6x4 in full bloom July 19. No fragrance.
- 8.5 *Lotus Cup* (N). Light pink, 50 inch. Semidouble flowers 9x4. Fluffy. Yellow center. A little fragrance. M.
9. *Trails End* (N). Light pink. Very early. Earlier than *Edulis Superba*. Some red flecks. No fragrance. Handsome flower when picked just as bud opens.
- 9.5 *Mrs. J. H. Neeley* (N). White with blush center and many flecks of red. 50 inches. Strong stems. Late. 10 flowers. Not open yet on July 15. Nearly the last to bloom. An outstanding variety.



There were also three numbered seedlings of Franklin's not yet named that are outstanding varieties, but since they are not named I have not reported on them. The numbers are D39, light pink; D140, pink; and E41, pink late. 10 flowers. A grand peony, tall and upstanding.

*Coral Queen*. (S). Blush white. Misnamed by the Interstate Nursery. 36 inches, strong stems, and large fully double flowers. A very good variety. Might with propriety be named Pearl Queen. Until it is re-named should be discouraged.

*Pink Dawn*. (S). Single, 1st year. 3 flowers. Petals the color of the dawn as the sun rises over Lake Superior. A beauty. Will rate it next year.



## Grandmother's Old Red "Piney" Has A Name

BY MYRNICE C. MORGAN, *Baldwin, Kansas*

Do you remember grandmother's early red "piney"? And have you hunted in vain for that gorgeous red that makes all others look sickly in comparison? If so, here is the name by which you may identify it. It is *paeonia officinalis rubra plena* (rubra—red, and plena—double). It is the first peony in bloom and has especially attractive foliage.

This flower was originally single and grew wild in Southern Europe. Here the Greeks gave it its name after their physician Paeon, who was fabled to have cured the wounds of the god Mars during the Trojan wars. It was supposed to have medicinal powers, and bits of the root were worn about the neck as a charm.

It was introduced into England at an early date, where well into the last century it was planted at the door of many a cottage to keep out evil spirits. Here's hoping it is fulfilling its mission for the English cottages today. From England it was brought to New England, and has been carried all over our country. This accounts for your grandmother's old red peony, whose brilliant color is not quite equaled by the best of the new varieties.

A closely related species is *paeonia tenuifolia* or the fern-leafed peony. This species is a native of Siberia and Northern Europe.

Another interesting form is the tree peony, a taller, shrubby species from China.

The *paeonia albiflora*, a single white native of Siberia, was introduced into China by Chinese traders early in the Christian era. There it was developed into the varieties from whence come our more recent introductions.

Peonies properly located and planted are permanent and do not need to be moved. Have a care in cutting the blooms to leave sufficient foliage to carry on the work of the plant. Be sure to allow two sets of leaves to remain on each plant stalk.

The most common causes for peonies failing to bloom are too deep planting and poor location. Too much fertilizer or removing the foliage during the growing season are other causes. Unseasonable frosts or freezing in late spring sometimes causes bloom failure. Spraying the frozen buds with cold water before the sun strikes them may help in such an emergency.

## More About Peony Ratings

RALPH M. SCHROEDER, *Warrensburg, Ill.*

Some people just can't seem to keep their opinions to themselves. The above self-appointed judge of peonies therefore takes typewriter in hand to unburden his soul of that which no one else cares much about.

The peony, being what it is, needs a triple rating. It may be possible by combining its value as a commercial cut flower and that on the show bench, to eliminate one rating. In no way is it possible in my opinion, to combine either of the above with the value as a garden plant.

I find that the following system of points gives much the same results as do first impressions.

Flower (70)		Plant (30)	
Color	50	Habit of growth	10
Form	10	Floriferousness	5*
Stem	7	Foliage	
Fragrance	3*	Color	5
		Resistance to leaf spot	10

\* Fragrance and floriferousness may be either a plus or minus rating.

More people grow peonies as garden flowers than for any other purpose. The above system was designed for the greatest number of people rather than the greatest number of peonies.

In any flower garden the important thing is the bloom. Just as a plant without good flowers is a poor plant, so is a flower with poor color a poor flower. Form in the bloom also is important. Hidden somewhere among its idiosyncrasies of form and color is the personality of the flower. This personality is referred to by Mr. Snook in the June BULLETIN as general effect. Without stopping to consider why you will deduct from your ratings of color and form if this personality is lacking.

As all people who grow them use them to some extent for cut flowers, stem and fragrance go somewhat together. A frame for support is an eyesore in the garden and a weak stem is unsightly on the buffet. (A peony does not fit on the mantel.) Fragrance is a plus or minus quality. Just as a pleasant aroma can add to the value of a flower, so can an unpleasant odor detract from an otherwise perfect bloom. In a closed room too intense an odor can be distasteful.

Especially with peonies, where the plant is large and difficult to hide, is it necessary to rate it for garden purposes. Some people with only the older and more inferior varieties cut their plants off to overcome their bad habits. Members of the society should know better. By habit of growth, I mean does the plant have a nice strong symmetrical form, or other pleasing characteristics or does it sprawl and tend to lie down.

Floriferousness is really a part of plant habit, but it can also be either a plus or minus quality. I do not mean that more flowers always add. It is possible for too many blooms to detract from the beauty of a plant. This, however, is probably more of a negative fault than a minus quality, as it can easily be remedied by the judicious use of a pair of shears.

While it is possible that a plant might have foliage of a naturally unsightly color, it is more likely that this would be the result of disease. Leaf spot probably causes more unsightly plants than do other diseases. While this can be combated to some extent by spraying, those plants which seem to be resistant are nicer to play with.

Sure we should continue to rate the peonies and other garden flowers. This should be done out in the wind and the sun or on the show bench. It should not be a matter of seeing the flower once but should extend over the blooming period of the plant for several years. A flower cannot be rated sitting in an easy chair reading what the press agents say in the catalogues.

## Birthday Party For A. B. Franklin

BY W. T. COE, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

The following friends of A. B. Franklin, namely, R. W. Jones, R. C. Schneider, C. R. Jenks, Glen H. Greaves, Walter Lindgren, W. T. Coe and J. F. Jones, gave him a birthday party on November 10, 1943, at the Lowry Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota.

It was a charming event. The Minnetonka Garden Club sent a dozen chrysanthemums. A number of personal letters of congratulation were received during the evening. The Press sent a reporter and a photographer.

A sumptuous meal was eaten and it is a pleasure to state that Mr. Franklin still keeps a robust appetite.

He is leaving, on December 1, for Mississippi, where he spends his winters.

The group took several votes on peonies with the following result. Since these men are all experienced growers, their selection should prove of value.

If limited to one peony, which would you choose?

A. B. Franklin	<i>A. B. Franklin</i>
R. W. Jones	<i>Nick Shaylor</i>
R. C. Schneider	<i>Martha Bulloch</i>
C. R. Jenks	<i>Philippe Rivoire</i>
Glen H. Greaves	<i>Le Cygne</i>
Walter Lindgren	<i>Le Cygne</i>
W. T. Coe	<i>A. B. Franklin</i>
J. F. Jones	<i>Le Cygne</i>

Which peony is the most beautifully colored?

A. B. Franklin	<i>Mabel L. Franklin</i>
R. W. Jones	<i>Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt</i>
R. C. Schneider	<i>Tourangelle</i>
C. R. Jenks	<i>Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt</i>
Glen H. Greaves	<i>Tourangelle</i>
Walter Lindgren	<i>Tourangelle</i>
W. T. Coe	<i>Tourangelle</i>
J. F. Jones	<i>Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt</i>

The three best peonies regardless of color or variety?

A. B. Franklin	<i>A. B. Franklin</i>
	<i>Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt</i>
	<i>Mark Twain</i>
J. F. Jones	<i>Le Cygne</i>
	<i>Nick Shaylor</i>
	<i>Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt</i>
R. W. Jones	<i>Nick Shaylor</i>
	<i>Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt</i>
	<i>Myrtle Gentry</i>
C. R. Jenks	<i>A. B. Franklin</i>
	<i>Philippe Rivoire</i>
	<i>Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt</i>
Glen H. Greaves	<i>Le Cygne</i>
	<i>Nick Shaylor</i>
	<i>Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt</i>

Walter Lindgren

*Le Cygne**Nick Shaylor**Mrs. J. V. Edlund*

W. T. Coe

*A. B. Franklin**Martha Bulloch**Mrs. J. V. Edlund*

Editor's note: — Mr. Franklin's birthday is January 18, and he will be 86 January 18, 1944. As he was to leave for his winter home in Mississippi early in December this advance party was arranged.



## A Report From New York

LOUIS SMIRNOW, *Great Neck, Long Island, N. Y.*

I now have 59 Herbaceous Peonies and 8 Tree Peonies. Out of 59 about 30 were planted last fall including *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, *Mrs. R. M. Bachellor*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, *Thura Hires*, *Odile*, several Japs and two singles.

Of this recent planting, *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt* gave two exquisite blooms of immense proportions and the womenfolk voted it as the best peony of the season. My own opinion is that a bloom of *Le Cygne* was the best, followed closely by *Therese* and *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*. The first two were on three- and four-year-old plants. The best six blooms of the year were:

No. 1 — *Le Cygne*, which blooms well for me almost every year.

No. 2 — *Therese*, one bloom of which was the largest peony I have ever seen. It was easily 9 inches, and held its color fairly well despite the excessive heat.

No. 3 — *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt* which held its color very well and is one of the most beautiful peonies I know of. I propose to get two more plants this year.

No. 4 — *Thura Hires*, shaped like *Le Cygne* but fewer petals, light yellowish cast in center, a picture of fluffiness as it bloomed on a one-year plant.

No. 5 — *Festiva Maxima* — this plant gave me 22 disbudded blooms of immense size and exquisite beauty on a four-year plant.

No. 6 — A double bloom on a plant of *Petite Renee*, a Jap. This plant gave two freak double blooms of a very large beautiful light pink, same color as the regular *Petite Renee*.

These were the best six doubles of the season.

In Japs, *Isani Gidui*, on a two-year plant, was easily the best, closely followed by *Mrs. Wilder Bancroft* and *Sword Dance*. In singles, *Le Jour* was really sensational. It was larger than any of the Japs. The three blooms of a first-year plant were perfect; when cut, they lasted several days in the house. It has good fragrance.

This was the best year the Tree Peonies had. *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu* had twenty-two sensational blooms of tremendous substance, exquisite coloring and delightful fragrance. We cut the blooms short on the following:

*Ukaregi Ohio*

*Shugyokuden*

*Surprise*

*Yohonohomare*

*Fuji no-mori*

and put them in shallow plates on the tables at home, very much as you would water lilies. These Tree Peonies are at their very best in this fashion. They not only last several days, but their fragrance adds to their desirability, and in my humble opinion no other type of peony can compare with the beauty of these blooms when treated as I have mentioned above.

I am surprised that so little mention is made in reports of the various growers of Tree Peonies. I know that they do not grow too well in the cold countries or in extreme southern points, but in places like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin and the New England States and along the Middle Atlantic States Tree Peonies grow well.

Those who wish to try growing Tree Peonies should start with the variety *Banksi*, which opens early and gives fully double flowers of colors almost similar to *Therese*.

*Reine Elizabeth* is a European type Tree Peony, fully double, of a delightfully clear Salmon Pink.

Of my other Herbaceous Peonies, *Walter Faxon* had nice blooms of medium size, the usual delightful color.

*Primevere* was at its best this season. Good medium size blooms which always remind me of a large anemone flower.

*James Kelway*, on a young one-year plant, gave five large blooms. Yellow stamens shows through these large blooms quite noticeably, but I assume that as the plant matures this will not be the case. This variety was easily the most fragrant bloom of all my Herbaceous Peonies.

A friend of mine selected *Mrs. Wilder Bancroft* as the most beautiful Jap she had ever seen. The unusual coloring of the carpels appealed to her.

It will be surprising to many people to learn that *Kelway's Glorious* which was planted in the fall of 1941, has not been doing well for me. I have had only two blooms and those were mediocre. I shall dig up the plant this fall and perhaps it will do better in another location.

*Blanche King* finally gave me one bloom on a two-year plant.

*Solange*, unfortunately, is awarded the booby prize because it has not yet bloomed on a good healthy plant four years old. I shall try it one more season, and if I do not get any bloom, I shall discard it.

The first blooms of the Herbaceous type were *Peach Blow* and *Marietta Sisson*. Both opened well on a first year plant. *Marietta Sisson* had to be dug up from the ground because it developed stem rot. I shall, of course, obtain another plant.

*Victory Chateau Thierry*, on a one-year plant, had four blooms of blush color, fully double, not too many petals, yellow stamens showing rather noticeably set off by the red tips. This flower was lacking in fragrance.

*Imperial Pink* opened with three blooms of a slightly purplish red. This peony is fragrant, and because of its generally excellent appearance I can highly recommend it.

*Tempest*, as usual, was excellent.

Strangely, the best red of the year were two large blooms of *Karl Rosenfield* on a one-year plant.

Last but not least, *Mons. Jules Elie*, the Babe Ruth of Peonydom, bloomed as good as ever. Generally admired by all, one is inclined to overlook this beautiful variety because we expect it to be good. For consistency of performance, I don't know of any variety that I would rate higher than *Mons. Jules Elie*.

I need not mention here the unusual weather which prevailed this season, you have had reports from all over the country. It seems that



all the blooms opened up almost overnight regardless of the variety being an early, mid-season or late bloomer.

On November 6 I visited the peony plot of Mr. H. W. Hodgson of S. Plainfield, N. J., who has been growing and hybridizing peonies for thirty years. He has a well arranged plot consisting only of seedlings. It is quite apparent that Mr. Hodgson is trying to achieve a color break. By constantly crossing varieties which he feels will bring about this color break, he has produced several seedlings one of which appears to have a decided orange tinge. Because of the extreme heat, most of the peonies were beginning to fade when I got there, but I saw enough good blooms of various types to convince me that Mr. Hodgson had some desirable peonies in his plot.

Among others, I saw a medium-sized extremely fragrant red double, resembling *Philippe Rivoire*, but perhaps a brighter red. There was also a fine plant medium pink resembling *Mons. Jules Elie* in type. This grew on a tall bush, straight stems and good foliage.

There was also a fine blush double, good substance, fragrant, resembling *James Kelway*. Also, a salmon pink, large size, bomb shape, very attractive because of its color. There was also a blush white, base petals pure white, collar, blush petaloids, center petals flaked with rose, the petals throughout the bloom creating a general crepe effect. This, to my mind, had tremendous possibilities of being a valuable addition to the newer and better peonies. There were some promising Pink Japs.

His outstanding creation is the orange-hued peony mentioned above of which I saw but a slight trace. It was past its prime, but there was clear evidence of a color break. Mr. Hodgson should be congratulated upon his sincere work, and I am sure his efforts will redound to the benefit of peonydom.

I have just finished reading the June BULLETIN for the first time. I generally read it a half-dozen times before putting it aside. As usual, I find it extremely interesting and its success is due mainly to the efforts of Mr. Christman, our Secretary, and to Mr. George W. Peyton. It seems to me that peony lovers would find themselves at a great disadvantage should these two venerable gentlemen find it impossible to continue this great work. I am sure many others join me in wishing them many years of good health and long life.



## A Suggestion

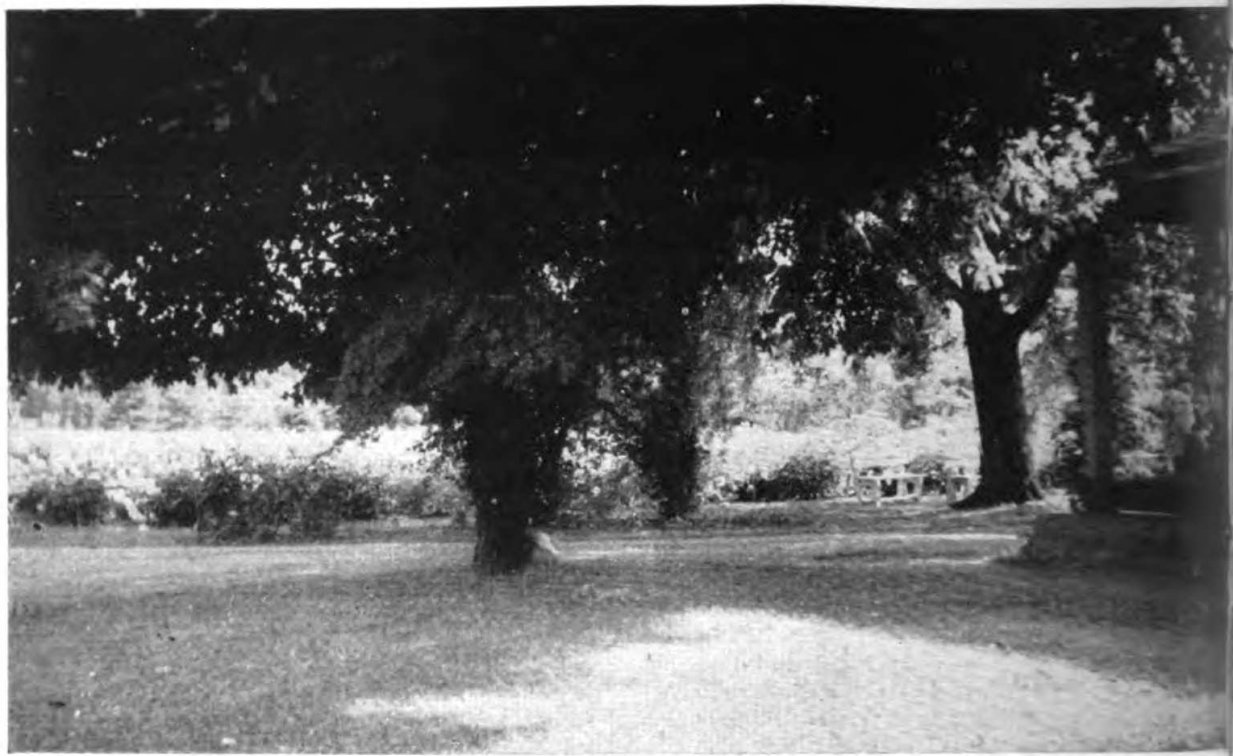
MRS. J. R. EMIGHOLZ, *Cincinnati, Ohio*

Here is a suggestion that I think would prove interesting as well as establishing the popularity of certain varieties. This particularly refers to the popularity of *Le Cygne*.

Have five or ten whites, a few old, but the most new, well grown, and have the public state the three or five varieties they like best, in order of their preference. No dealer or officer of the society to be eligible; just the regular members and the public.

Have some one with slips of paper and votes to be made at the place not taken away where advice of others may be given. View could be on four sides.

The above is just an idea of mine, but it might settle the popularity and worth of *Le Cygne* as compared to the newer varieties.



Tri-Terrace North Gardens as viewed from the front porch of Mr. E. F. Kelsey's home at East Aurora, N. Y. This is a glorious sight as I can testify, having had the privilege of viewing it. The lovely trees form a magnificent setting for this floral display of beauty. (Editor.)

## The 1943 Peony Parade

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

Those early peonies are twice welcome when they fling out their color pendants in the van of the coming parade. There is a real thrill in first events, the first date with "her," the first Christmas with the baby, that music to the ear, the applause at the conclusion of your maiden speech. Your eye catches a spot of color among the lush green; you rush out to take a good look at an ordinary pink single, but it is more than that, it is the colorful drum major leading the parade. The feathery green of the Fern Leaved peony lifts his color to the breeze in the month of May, this year in the fourth week, a bit later than usual. Following this came *officinalis rosea* and *Early Morn*, a pink single on June 3. *Early Morn* has nothing to commend it except that it is usually the first *Chinensis* to bloom. Next in line was *Peach Blow* June 9. It has the softest and most alluring shade of pink in the pink division of the parade. Someone on the sidelines remarked as *Peach Blow* passed in review, "peony blooms are short lived." Isn't it true that the loveliest of all things are short lived, a kiss, a rainbow, sunsets, that friendly handclasp, Christmas morning or Thanksgiving dinner at the old home. Like all these, *Peach Blow* soon fades into a pleasant memory. Don't condemn it. Bring it into the house before Old Sol effaces its magic colors. Its extreme earliness and pastel tinted colors merit its place in any garden.

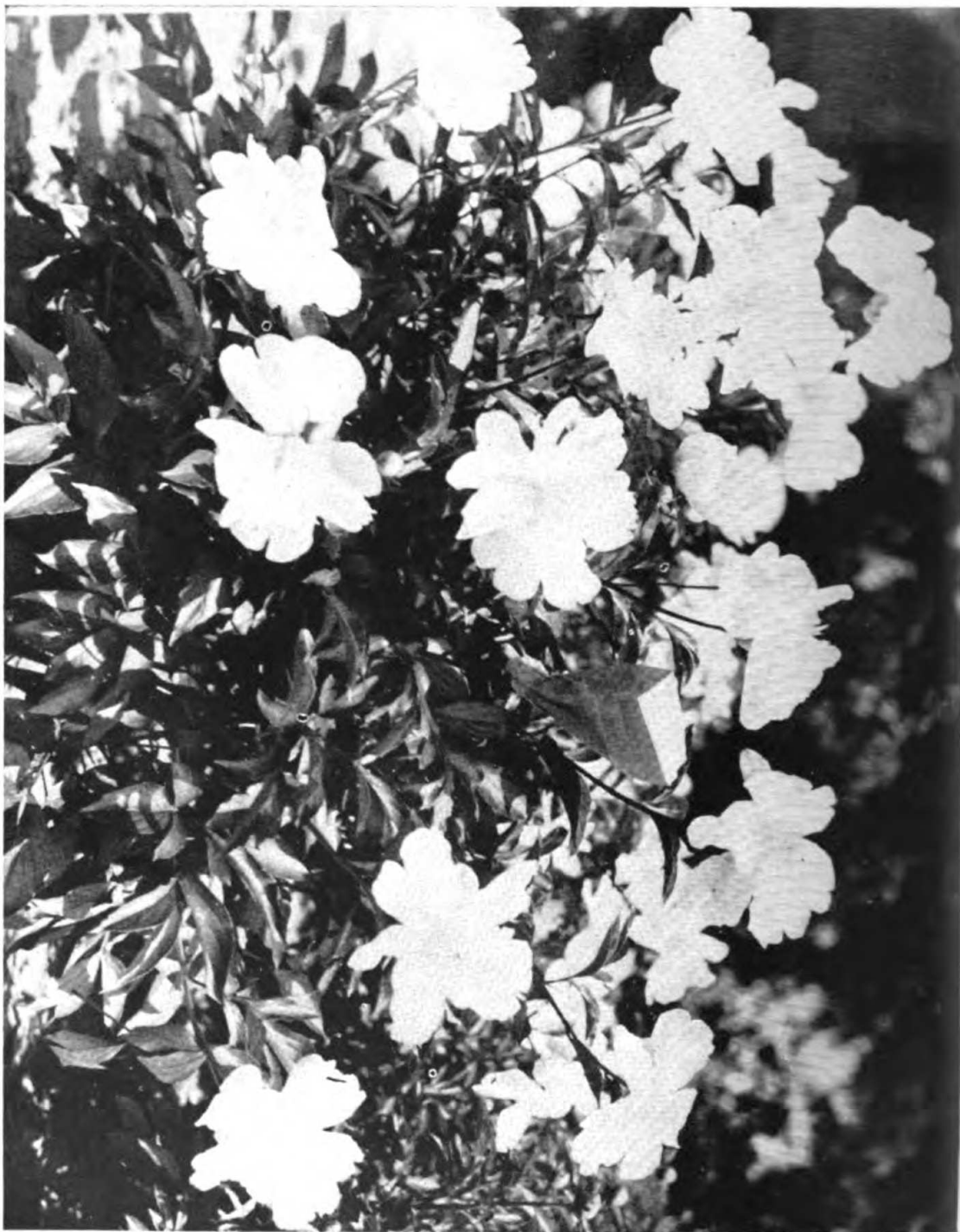
Speaking of the pleasure in first things, our first hybrid bloomed June 8, following *La Printemps* and *Avante Garde* and just before *Marta*. "One swallow doesn't make a summer," neither does producing one hybrid

make one a hybridizer. Those who have made thousands of crosses can just skip this part of the parade, a *chinensis* X *officinalis*. When I dug it one half of the roots were formed like *officinalis* and the rest like *chinensis*. This may be an old story to hybridizers; to me it seemed peculiar. The blooms measured 5½ inches over all with a densely packed 3 in. cluster of bright yellow stamens with the surrounding petals a deep rich red. The 36 in. stems have no laterals and the light green foliage resembles *officinalis*. From every corner of the garden that color combination catches your eye. I hope some day to see a whole row of them. This leads me to say that to really appreciate peonies you must see them in masses, either in one color or in blended colors. A field of peonies, framed by living green of shrubs or trees is a feast to the eye. It is the massed bands that get the big hand at the reviewing stand.

Here is the second contingent of the peony parade that passed by June 11, *Grandiflora Nivea Plena*, a long name for an old and lovely peony *Jubilee*, almost as large as a sunflower but unfortunately does not have stiff sunflower stems. One visitor looking at the immense bloom remarked "there ain't no such peony." I warn you, don't depreciate *Jubilee* in the hearing of friend Bonnewitz or Tri-Terrace folk. A critic of the immortal poet Milton, in commenting on his classic, *Paradise Lost*, said "if length hath no merit it hath no other." Perhaps some have said, in passing judgment on *Jubilee*, "if size hath no merit it hath no other"; if so, you are as wrong as Milton's critic was. *Jubilee* is as exquisite as a piece of rare needlework. This leads me to another observation, suggested by this quotation from high school days. "In words as fashions the same rule will hold, alike fantastic if too new or old; be not the first by whom the new are tried, nor yet the last to lay the old aside." Substitute the word peonies for "words" and you will have a good rule to observe. Some of them "went up like a rocket and came down like a stick," and that "stick" landed right in the choicest part of our fields. I am sure I hear "amens" to this from far and near. In our scramble for much touted new ones we are apt to overlook the sterling merits of the veterans of the parade. Continuing with the second contingent that bloomed June 11, let me mention *Seneca Chief*, a wine-colored single shading lighter toward the tips. This may be a "rocket" peony, but I like it. *Cornie Moore*, in no sense a "rocket" peony, is right up in the lead of the marching reds. It is fragrant and it holds its velvety red petals longer than any of them. Then there is K146, a pink *Mons. Jules Elie* type. (If my friend George W. Peyton sees this, he will squirm because I have not spelled it *Monsieur Jules Elie*. He is right; we are inexcusable in our sloppy way of spelling peony names.) Red singles, those colorful Cadets of the June parade, pass by. *Imperial Red* has better color than *Man O'War*, but the latter has a larger bloom. *Imperial Red* fades quickly, *Man O'War* has better substance and lasts longer. *President Lincoln* is another of those dark red singles that has had much praise. An old master violinist listened to a violin pupil play. When asked how he liked the pupil's playing he replied, "he has a good violin." The peony, *President Lincoln*, has a good name. Perhaps I may like it better in years to come. *Jimmie Franklin*, 1942 planting, displays more purple than *President Lincoln*. When better established it will probably have a better bloom.

Here are some of the red doubles as they passed in review last June: *Irwin Altman*, a high-stepping rich glowing red, petals symmetrically arranged with delicate fragrance. This is a late selection, but it has class in habit of plant, color and petal arrangement. Watch this one. *Richard Carvel*, a brilliant red that's always good. *Noel*, perhaps the largest red

A large informal single called "*Thelma*" as grown by Mr. Kelsey.



bloom in the garden, has a shade of red that is clear and pleasing. *Marian Pfeiffer* — here is a cheer for that very fine red. It has a large bloom, charmingly petaled, a profuse bloomer and for color it's "tops." From this observation post *Marion* is Miss Red Double for 1943. All peonies are beautiful, but they are not beautiful to all. To me the red double *Dr. Barnsby*, is decidedly sour. Some folk admire its rich reddish-purple color. It affects me somewhat like my reaction when they showed me a bottle of vinegar when I had the mumps. Magenta gives me the vinegar reaction. Which one of you prejudiced me against *Lora Dexheimer*? There is a good red in this soil. Its color is clear and its petal formation pleasing. I gave it a good hand as it passed in review. *Thor* and *Marian Pfeiffer* stood shoulder to shoulder in the parade, in full bloom at the same time. Now hang on: I'm going to make comparisons. They are almost identical in color, size of stem, foliage and height of plant. *Thor* is not so high built, has better petal formation and the blooms are more uniform. *Thor* has the better bloom. *Inspecteur Lavergne* is a small red double with flecks of ivory on some petals. There is something about it that pleases me. This sets me off on another tangent; what is the "it" in some small peonies that attracts us more than other forty-six bust peonies about which others rave? for instance, those dainty little miniatures, of which there are two hereabouts, *Marie Hetzel*, a tiny pink rose type, and *Tiny Tim* with its pink cup single, 1½, 3 and 4 inches in diameter. But to return to the red doubles, *Priam*'s color is nearly as dark as *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*. Its bloom is larger than *Mons. Martin Cahuzac* and the habit of the plant is much better. This dark red will hold its own in this color range. *Longfellow*, *Karl Rosefield* and *Felix Crousse* are all good. The latter would be better if it did not drag its banner before the parade is over.

Heading the pink section are *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, *Walter Faxon* and *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*. *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* is by far the best double pink peony originated and in my humble opinion it is just about pink perfection. Time and the shortage of paper will not permit reviewing any of the other worthy pinks.

Which is the most fragrant peony? I have come from the gardens many times with my nose powdered with pollen and decorated with ants from a sniffing orgy, always arriving at the same conclusion, it's *Irving Flint*. This pink rose formation bloom has the strongest and most pleasing fragrance my nose has ever probed. I will send a division to the first peony fan who will start a planting consisting exclusively of the most fragrant peonies. Some peonies rated fragrant fail to register on my sensitive olfactory nerves. *Kelways Glorious* in this garden has a very faint fragrance. It reminds me of those perfumed blotters handed out by the drug stores away back in the horse-and-buggy days. You had to massage your nose with them to get a smell of that Jockey Club. While on the subject of fragrance, listen to my tale of disappointment. A seedling's first bloom was delightfully fragrant and was named *Rare Perfume*. As a mature plant it had no more fragrance than a head of cabbage. *Alberta Kelsey*, the pink double studded with shining gold points, has strong and very pleasing fragrance. I frequently read about the strong fragrance of *Philippe Rivoire*. I would call it very faint fragrance. The most exhilarating fragrance of all comes when a gentle south wind stirs among the opening blooms and fills the house with a perfume no apothecary has been able to distill.

It would be an almost endless task to do justice to the long procession of white peonies. In the first place, is there a really pure white peony?

Friend Little's *Snow White* is a chaste and beautiful bloom, but it is not pure white. With us it opens a very light shade of pink which fades to a cream white. There are ivory whites, like *Le Cygne*, others tinted with gold tones like *Kelways Glorious* and *To Kalon*, that bewitchingly beautiful "show room peony." *Alice Harding* has a charming pink cast in its wonderful bloom. *Laura Kelsey* opens with an overcast of pink which fades to a blush white. *Rare Etching* has those bewitching tints found in *Tourangelle* carried on much better stems. As far as my observation goes there is no real white. My first love and the first selection from the seedling plot, *Mothers Day*, is the nearest to a pure white. It is a clean shapely bloom with petals incurved similar to *Le Cygne*. I have always described it as "medium sized bloom," but last June a visitor cut a bloom from a seven-year-old plant, very large and wonderfully beautiful, Court of Honor candidate. *Festiva Maxima* has crimson splashes, *Nancy Bonner* has a crimson V on the petals and in various ways our white brigade shows marks of some ruddy ancestor. Before I forget let me pay a tribute to *Ella Lewis*. My garden notes read, "*Tourangelle* and *Walter Faxon* glorified, a marvelously beautiful pink that has size, classic petal arrangement and charm on a healthy, stocky plant that produces long strong stems. It's an eye-filling bloom, a rival to *Marilla Beauty*."

I dislike to mention the next in line, *Japanese*. I would change the name, first because it is a misnomer, in no way descriptive of the type; second, it reminds us of a race with a tissue thin veneer of civilization over a black, savage heart. Before we are done with that Dragon Empire no one will gainsay this statement. Change the name to STAMANODIA or STAMANODA, which is descriptive and eliminates a name which is the synonym of treachery and stark barbarism. Don't agree? you will before this war is over and the name will be changed. Here is a new one. *Vista*, a decidedly dwarf stamanoda, midseason, medium pink guards, light yellow stamanodes in an unusually large cluster, the whole forming a large attractive bloom larger than *Amo No Sode*. It has strong stems with dark green broad-leaved foliage to the ground, height 21 inches. *Aureate* is another dwarf but slightly taller than *Vista*, with pale guards, clear dandelion yellow staminodes, green carpels tipped red. The yellow in *Aureate* is the best I have seen. This is a careful comparison of *Harvest Moon* and *Isani Gidui*; blooming time identical, stems almost identical, height of plants, *Harvest Moon* 36 in., *Isani Gidui* 26 in. Leaves, *Harvest Moon* narrower, edges smooth, *Isani Gidui* crimped and serrated, guard petals, both deeply cupped and crimped, overall size of bloom identical, staminodes, *Harvest Moon*, fine with little white showing, giving a deep clear yellow, *Isani Gidui*, staminodes coarser with more white tones down the yellow, average diameter, of staminodes, *Harvest Moon* 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches, *Isani Gidui* 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches, seed pods, *Harvest Moon*, green yellow tipped, *Isani Gidui*, green, white tipped. The cluster of staminodes in *Harvest Moon* is more compact and symmetrical. These comparisons were made from mature plants of the same age in the same soil. *Kobe* is another interesting staminodia, rose pink guards with fish hook shaped staminodes, deep green seed pods. You can cross your fingers on all of these except *Vista*; keep your eye on this one.

Now comes the end of a long and colorful parade, the very latest. *Marilla Beauty* is handicapped by being so late that it misses the Peony Shows. The latest three to bloom are *Galathee*, *Frontier*, a large double pink that blooms the last week in June, and K65, *Lights Out*, the very last of the passing parade, a rose pink double, whose falling petals in July end the season from cool mid-May to July's torrid heat.



# Secretary's Notes

We had planned on having this BULLETIN in the mail about the first of the year. Imagine my surprise and disappointment in getting a letter this date (Dec. 29) informing me that the company who had been doing our linotype work for the past couple of years had insisted on greatly increasing the price of doing this work. We had been promptly informed when copy was received by this Chicago firm, but it took nearly two weeks for their reply to travel a distance of about 15 miles (due to Christmas rush it was held up in our local Post Office. Fortunately, we have been able to obtain the services of a highly efficient organization who, we are confident, will turn out even better work than we have been getting. We felt that we could not be held up and are delighted that we will have this work done in our own neighborhood. This two weeks delay we have experienced cannot be laid at the door of your humble servant and we just had to say a word explaining the situation. Even editors have their troubles.

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To those of our members who wait for the BULLETIN, it must seem a long time between issues. To me, who am responsible for getting it to you, the time between issues seems all too short. Soliciting articles, preparing copy for the linotype operator, checking proof, etc., etc., brings these issues very close together as there can be but little let-up from one issue to the next. As most of you know, they just don't happen.

I am truly grateful and deeply appreciative of the fine cooperation I have enjoyed in the past by having very able and efficient co-workers, who have assisted me in my work in preparing the BULLETIN by supplying helpful articles for our readers.

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Many members have written praising the work of Mr. Peyton in the last issue of the BULLETIN. Very few realize the work involved in getting the information to present it in the manner it was shown. We feel personally that it was a splendid, helpful issue and we regret that a few errors got past us in the final hurry to get it on the press. A part of this was due to the fact that we did not see the final proof of copy before it was run. In addition, we were so burdened with other duties that our brain was befogged at times and we found that several corrections we made on the galley proof sheets were not made as indicated in the final copy.

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It is December 15 as I write these notes and we are all ready to go ahead with the BULLETIN as soon as we receive a couple of articles that have been promised within the next day or so. Winter has arrived in earnest and zero weather has been experienced. It came on us rather suddenly, as we had been congratulating ourselves that we might be able to work in the fields until Christmas. We should not complain, however, as we have had a most favorable planting season this fall. What a contrast to a year ago! No rains at all to interfere with digging and little freezing weather to retard the work.



Edgar A Guest has so beautifully pictured in verse the season just past in his poem entitled, "Indian Summer" from which I quote two of three splendid verses.

"When the busy year is closing and the harvest tasks are done,  
When the frosts of early morning show that Winter's coming on.  
When the last brave leaves have fallen, comes that extra touch sublime.  
As a sort of farewell gesture known as Indian Summer time.

"It's as though the good Lord planned it as a favor for us all,  
That we might have something lovely through the winter to recall.  
A little added rapture for our memories to hold  
When the storms descend upon us and the winds are bitter cold."

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Those Indian Summer days have passed, but as the holiday season is fast approaching, we are reminded that another year is about to dawn and with it new problems to face. We are truly hopeful that the coming year will see the end of hostilities that are causing a great toll of valuable lives, material and resources of our country, as well as all other countries participating. Mr. James J. Metcalf has summed it up nicely in the following lines entitled, "Let Us Keep On."

"Each day, each night this awful war comes closer to its end.  
With peace and happiness in store and all the world a friend.  
Each hour we approach the day when people will be free.  
When we shall put our arms away in final victory.

But we have still so far to go and still so much to do.  
We must make sure of every blow and see each battle through.  
We must produce more tanks and planes to help our fighting sons:  
We must consolidate our gains with bullets and with guns.

So let us all keep going on and not relax a bit.  
Until we meet the victor's dawn and we are sure of it.

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I think we should all be gratified at the list of new members appearing in this issue of the BULLETIN, as well as some of the recent numbers. Interest in the peony is increasing with years, which fully justifies our undying faith in our chosen flower. I am sure that there were many surprises when the last BULLETIN was received to see the large number of new varieties that had been placed on the market during the past few years. Many of them are fully equal to anything that has been produced in the past, and I venture to make the assertion that many of them will soon supersede their predecessors. There is still room for advancement and improvement in some lines. That evasive yellow; the still more elusive blue; a good orange; a striking coral; a sober gray; a brilliant violet are some of the colors still lacking in the Chinensis varieties.

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We have gone to considerable expense in getting the illustrations in this issue, but we feel that pictures sometimes tell more than words, and we hope you like them.

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What better gift could you give a peony-loving friend than a membership in the American Peony Society for the coming year? A peony Manual is also a very desirable gift. At the price they are now being offered, \$1.65 postpaid, peony pleasure and information can be dispensed

covering a considerable period. With the last issue of the BULLETIN, the information in this manual is brought up to date as far as new varieties and ratings are concerned. Make it a point to secure at least one new member for the year 1944.

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It has been a pleasure to serve you these many years and we wish we might shake the hand of each of you and extend personal season's greetings, but this is impossible. Many of you I have never had the pleasure of meeting, but I feel we are all one big family and it is my desire to meet many of you in the coming years. Your letters are a constant medium of expression in which we can present our opinions and views, and we receive many hundreds each year. This issue may reach you a little late for the holiday greetings we are expressing in this note, for conditions are such that we cannot promise anything definite as to exact date of completion of the BULLETIN. If it is received a little late, our expression of holiday greetings is just as sincere, even though belated. We want to help you with your peony problems and assist you in getting the most out of your membership. Don't hesitate to write this office when you are experiencing difficulty with your peonies, and also feel free to write us about your successes in growing them. Perhaps you can offer some helpful suggestion as to growing or handling peonies that will be most helpful to some of our members. We can help others through the medium of the BULLETIN, and that is why it is being published.

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I am also taking this opportunity to thank each one for the fine Christmas greetings received as it is out of the question to reply to each personally. We appreciate your very kind expressions and good wishes and wish to reciprocate in kind.

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This season is hard for us as it has only been two years this month since we lost our young son. It is appalling to think of the parents who have lost their sons since that time and who will lose them while this war lasts. Mrs. Christman has written a few lines which I am glad to pass on, thinking they may give some consolation or comfort to mothers and fathers with a like cross to bear.

1

When God hangs out His stars at night,  
Up in His heaven's blue,  
He chose His very brightest one  
And placed it there for you.

3

It seems to twinkle back at us,  
We try not to be sad,  
And we can almost hear you say,  
"Good night, dear mom and dad!"

2

It shines right in our window,  
This very brightest one,  
And dad and I look out and say,  
"Good night, beloved son!"

4

The days are long and lonely,  
And nothing seems quite right;  
But we always have God's promise  
When we see your star at night.

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We feel that we should not lose interest in our flowers, for there is nothing more beautiful than a flower. All flowers are beautiful, but some have more appeal than others. And to me the peony is one. We hope to have a fine show this coming June and are awaiting a definite announcement that will doubtless appear in this issue of the BULLETIN.

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It pleases us immensely to get letters like the one received from a new member, Mr. O. C. Crossley of Halifax, N. S., recently, from which I quote as follows:

"I have received a truly tremendous amount of pleasure, as well as a vast store of most helpful information from the BULLETINS. This information has been shared with friends and I hope has helped a little to spread the popularity of the peony in my small circle. . . . While I have read and enjoyed every word of the BULLETIN (including the ads), I think Mr. George W. Peyton should receive special thanks for his many splendid contributions. I greatly enjoyed his "Peony Pilgrimages," and his list of "Recent Peony Introductions" is precisely what I have been waiting for. Again thanks, and best wishes to all who help to make the BULLETIN such an outstanding success."

We are also pleased in being able to record many new names as members of the Society. We can also report at this time that more manuals have been disposed of up to this time than for any like period in recent years, and much of this credit is due the Brand Peony Farms, Inc., of Faribault, Minn., who have inserted an advertisement in their catalog inviting customers to join the Society and to purchase the Manual. If several other dealers could be prevailed upon to do the same for the Society, we would have a phenomenal increase in membership. This could be followed up by personal solicitation of members among their peony-loving friends. Can we count on you? Mr. Peyton has also prepared and sent out an invitation to join the Society.

I hope you like this issue. It is quite a problem to follow up the September issue with one of equal merit, but we have done the best we could under the circumstances.

Wishing each and every one of our members the Season's Greetings and trusting the year 1944 so near at hand will bring out many new things in the peony world, I am,

Very sincerely,



*H. F. Christman*

\* \* \*

If you have not remitted 1944 dues, please do so to avoid extra expense of mailing statements.

## Awards

### AWARDS MADE by the American Peony Society during the year 1943

- Gold Medal* awarded to Hans P. Sass, Elkhorn, Neb., for the variety Elsa Sass for outstanding beauty of flower and plant and general excellence of performance in all sections.
- Gold Medal* awarded Louis R. Fischer, Hastings, Minn., for the best collection of fifty varieties of peonies at the Annual Exhibit of the Society held at Minneapolis, Minn., June 21, 1943.
- Silver Medal* awarded to R. A. Napier, Blue Island, Ill., for the best collection of fifty varieties of peonies at the Chicago Regional show held at Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, Ill., June 12, 1943.
- Silver Medal* awarded G. H. Greaves, St. Paul, Minn., for the best collection of twenty-five varieties of peonies in the Advanced Amateur Class at the Annual Exhibition of the Society held in Minneapolis, Minn., June 21, 1943.
- B. H. Farr Memorial Medal* awarded to Louis R. Fischer for the best bloom in the Annual Exhibition of the American Peony Society held at Minneapolis, Minn., June 21, 1943. Variety Mrs. A. M. Brand.
- Certificate of Honorable Mention* awarded E. H. Lins, Cologne, Minn., for his seedling R-2-4, a very pretty bomb type bloom with blush guards and creamy yellow collar and crown. (Note: Description is rather dismembered on page 36 of bulletin 90 by having a portion of description being removed four lines out of place. — EDITOR.) *Honorable mention* also for seedling R-4-49 Dolorodell).
- Certificate of Honorable Mention* awarded A. B. Franklin, Minneapolis, Minn., for seedling No. A-231-P, medium pink double; Seedling A-118-R red double. Also seedling No. 54, a blush pink double much like Nick Shaylor.
- First Class Certificate*, awarded to H. C. Cooper, Portland, Oregon, for No. 101, a soft blush pink rose double. This confirms similar action by the Regional Show held in Minneapolis, Minn., June 22, 1943.
- First Class Certificate* awarded A. B. Franklin for seedling No. 1001, very large, double white. Also for seedling A-212-JP rosy pink, Japanese type with long, narrow staminodes, color of guards tipped yellow to white, green carpels tipped white with white disc.
- First Class Certificate* awarded E. H. Lins, Cologne, Minn., for seedling S-1-4 (Ramona Lins), pale blush pink rose type double. Also a first class certificate for R-2-212, a large full double pure white named Casablanca.
- James Boyd Memorial Medal* awarded Louis R. Fischer, Hastings, Minn., for the Most Distinguished Peony Entry in the show held at Minneapolis, Minn., June 21, 1943. (This Medal will not be awarded again for the duration.)
- The American Home Achievement Medal* awarded E. H. Lins, Cologne, Minn., for the best and most distinguished new peony. Variety Dolorodell, a very fine, well built up full double with a most distinct color, being a pure pink, remarkably free from other color tones.

## Department of Registration

Mr. A. L. Murawska, River Drive Gardens, River Grove, Ill., has sent in the following named varieties of his introduction for registration:

*China Maid* (Murawska, 1943). Japanese type, midseason, medium pink. Full description later.

*Chippewa* (Murawska, 1943). Double, midseason, dark red, medium size, tall, good originator.

*Helen Hayes* (Murawska, 1943). Double, midseason. Dark pink, bomb type. Tall. Very satisfactory flower.

*Louis M.* (Murawska, 1943). Double, midseason white with opalescent coloring.

*Mars* (Murawska, 1943). Semidouble, midseason white. Fuller description later.

*Mildred May* (Murawska, 1943). Semidouble, midseason. Lovely pure white enhanced by a row of yellow stamens. Beautifully branched bouquets of beauty when not disbudded. See illustration. Name changed from Mrs. L. E. May.

*Moonstone* (Murawska, 1943). Double, midseason. Perfectly formed blush pink. Especially attractive in transmitted light.

Hybrid Peonies originated by Benj. W. Guppy, Melrose, Mass. The following all are crosses between *Albiflora* singles (pollen parents) and *Officinalis Rubra Plena* (seed parent).

*Abeekins*, 1929. Double. Ruby red. Large guard petals with center of narrow pointed petals of same color.

*Ellenwilder*, 1926. Single. Salmon. Two rows of petals. Stamens have white filaments and pale yellow anthers. Pistils have white stigmas and light green styles and ovaries. Foliage light green. Pastel shades.

*Eeples*, 1922. Double. Bright red, almost vermilion. Broad guard petals. Center of narrow petals of same color interspersed with stamens having red filaments and yellow anthers striped red. Brilliant flower.

*Eewee*, 1932. Single. Deep red. Two rows of petals. Stamens. Yellow anthers. Pistils, red stigmas, cream styles and ovaries. Tall and vigorous.

*Natanis*, 1929. Double. Crimson. Fragrant. Form similar to M. Jules Elie. Large flower. Pistils, pink stigmas, green styles and ovaries. Tall, vigorous, floriferous.

Dates shown are dates when crosses were made. I believe this is the proper way to date a new variety as the date will show among other things whether the variety has been grown long enough to prove its worth.



## New Members

Anderson, Mrs. Oscar A., 2507 Branch Street, Duluth, Minn.

Anderson, A. O., Box 538, Hollister, California

Arnholt, Harry A., 341 N. 33d Street, Lincoln, Neb.

Barrow, A. C., 100 Albion Street, Denver, Colorado

Cooper, Mrs. Paul O., Friend, Neb.

Bowman, Franc H., 5140 East Drive, Rockford, Ill.

Bowen, Mr. Ray L., Better Teachers Bureau, 601-603 Citizens Bank Building, Flint 3, Mich.

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Carpenter, Mr. T. E., Arcade & County Line Road, St. Paul, change to Hastings, Minn., R. R. 3  
Domoto, Toichi, change from Hayward, California, to R. R. 2, Woodstock and Oak Streets, R. R. 2, Crystal Lake, Ill.  
Thorne, Frank E., 2157 110th St., Seattle, Wash., change to 9737 Palatine, Seattle 3, Washington

## Digitized by Google

## A Query

C. M. CLARKE, *Teepee Creek. Alberta*

Hasn't Mr. Foore made a mistake in saying his family heirloom peony, imported into the United States direct from China in 1825, "closely resembles *P. officinalis* in habit and appearance"?

*P. officinalis*, and the closely related, if not identical species, *P. arietina*, *P. lobata*, *P. paradoxa* and *P. peregrina*, are all natives of Europe, not found in China or elsewhere in eastern Asia, and it seems unlikely that a ship returning to the United States from China in 1825 would bring back a peony of European origin.

On the other hand, according to Dr. Saunders' Historical Sketch of Peony Breeding in the A.P.S. Manual, page 206, in Europe, where the culture of *P. albiflora* antedates its cultivation in America, even as late as 1817 only three double varieties of *P. albiflora* were known — *P. Whiteleyi*, *P. fragrans* and *P. Humei*, and two semidoubles were introduced in 1822 — *P. Pottsii* and *P. Reevesii*. The first of Lémon's garden varieties appeared in 1824, and all the host of others we now have are of later origination.

A double-flowered Chinese peony (I assume the peony of which Mr. Foore writes, is a double as he seems to admire that type alone and grows no other) brought to the United States in 1825 would be, not merely a rarity, it would be almost unique and would attract wide attention wherever it was grown. It seems incredible that such a plant would have vanished into oblivion for nearly one hundred and twenty years.

The obvious deduction from the foregoing facts and the story as told by Mr. Foore is — If the plant is a variety of *P. officinalis*, it did not come from China; if it is an *albiflora* variety, his father did not acquire it in 1825. Is it possible that the plants at Higbee, Randolph County, Missouri, represent the entire cultivated stock of a rare Chinese species that is still unknown to botanists?



## Corrections Bulletin 90

My copies of the June BULLETIN have finally arrived. It is an excellent number. There are two or three errors, however, that I think should be corrected in the next BULLETIN if it is possible to do so.

On page 8 in Mr. Wister's excellent article on Tree Peonies we find this sentence (three lines from the bottom of the page): "The only Chinese (or European) Moutans I shall even mention are:" It would seem that a list of varieties should appear here, but there are none. However, under section VII, Magenta just above this sentence there appears a list of supposedly magenta varieties, but certainly a great number of them are not magenta and as they are all European varieties except the first (*Shiko-den*) I feel very sure the balance of them (*Bijou de Chusan*, *Carolina d'Italie*, *Comtesse de Tuder*, *Jeanne d'Arc*, *Marquis de Clapiers*, *Reine Elizabeth* and *Souv. de Ducher*) should have appeared as the completion of the above sentence.



In my own articles I find that I gave you the wrong number for Mr. Lins' new variety in Class No. 65. Casablanca should have been No. R-5-242. I was under the impression that I had changed it but evidently did not, neither did I catch it in correcting the proof that I remember. There is also a transposition of lines from Class No. 64 to Class No. 65 the fifth line under Class No. 64 appearing as the fourth line under Class No. 65.

In the sixth paragraph on page 30 a rather serious error occurred. My manuscript read very distinctly as follows: "It has rarely been my pleasure to see a more delightfully pleasing flower than Ramona Lins or ones of such *distinct* promise of general excellence as Casablanca and Dolorodell." The underlined word *distinct* was published as *distant* which changed the entire meaning of the sentence making it mean exactly the opposite to what it was meant to mean. Likewise immediately following the variety name Tondeleyo was misspelled Tondelayo.

It is curious how these things occur. But it seems impossible for us to catch them all however careful we try to be.

GEORGE W. PEYTON



## Corrections In Peony Names

We have a letter under date of November 8 from one of our life members from which I quote as follows:

"The September BULLETIN was very interesting, especially Mr. Peytons' fine contributions which meant so much painstaking work.

I was however, horrified, that my "Ariel" and "Fantasia" both were duplications in name only of Prof Saunders' or earlier dates, so he has priority. As both have been favorites, but put only into private gardens with but one or two exceptions, there will not be much confusion in changing the names. I have written to Mr. Peyton that "Ariel" is now to be known as "Flippancy" and "Fantasia" as "Capriccio." I hope this straightens out the matter. It is most difficult to obtain names unappreciated other than personal names, which really should be sparingly used."

Signed JESSIE WOODFORD LYMAN  
900 Ogden Road  
Downers Grove, Ill.



## Additions and Corrections to Peony Lists

It has not been possible to compile the several additions and corrections that have come in to the lists of peonies published in the September 1943 BULLETIN (No. 91). So far there have been only a few. If the originators have any additions or corrections to be made to this list or any of our other readers know of such, it will be deemed a great favor if they will send them to me at once so that due corrections may be made. If possible or advisable they will be published in the March BULLETIN or June at latest. SEND ALL ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO ME.

GEORGE W. PEYTON  
Box No. 1  
Rapidan, Virginia

December 18, 1943

## Credit—Where Credit Is Due

In the September issue of the BULLETIN, in Mr. Peyton's review of the Chicago Show, he was unaware of the work done by one of our new members. As you recall — the Show was a near failure on Saturday due to the fact that the cold weather held back the blooms. Saturday, the first day of the Show, the sun came out and the heat of the day caused the buds in the gardens to burst like popcorn. But Saturday's display benches were filled with empty spaces. Sunday morning arrived and with it the discouraging thoughts of a great number of visitors — and a great scarcity of exhibits. Early Sunday morning — in came Mr. Howard T. Clodfelter with what appeared to be a truck load of his fine blooms — and defeat was turned into a victory by his heroic work. So I trust you to see that Mr. Clodfelter is given the full credit due him. He did a meritorious job — silently and alone; — so let us pin onto him the medal for valor which he justly earned. Members of this type strengthen and build our organization.

Sincerely yours,

ROY G. GAYLE, *Vice-Pres. 5th Reg. District*



**Have YOU secured a New Member for the Society?  
Make that your special contribution for 1944.**



## ANNOUNCEMENT

As stated in last BULLETIN, the property containing the stock plants of Northbrook Gardens was sold, but fortunately we were able to make arrangements to remain. The partnership between P. L. Battey and W. F. Christman has been dissolved by mutual agreement as of Jan. 1, 1944. However, there is a considerable quantity of stock still to be disposed of that we were unable to move last fall due to labor shortage. I will continue the business handling high-class varieties.

Any party desiring to make a planting of peonies will do well to get in touch with me as soon as possible. We can make shipments this spring as well as in fall. I will have charge of this liquidation. Address all communications direct to

NORTHBROOK GARDENS  
W. F. Christman, Proprietor  
Northbrook, Ill.

# Brand Peony Farms

During the last 10 years the following Brand Peonies have been awarded Best flower in the National Show.

Are Offering

For the Fall of 1943

Their usual fine assortment of first class Peonies, Irises, Oriental Poppies, Hardy Flowering Crabs and French Lilacs on their own roots.

MRS. A. M. BRAND, a Brand Peony, exhibited by Mr. Louis Fischer this year took *Best Flower in the Show* in the National Show held in Minneapolis.

1933 Chicago	Hansina Brand
1934 Minneapolis	Hansina Brand
1940 Rochester	Martha Bulloch
1941 Syracuse	Blanche Knier
1943 Minneapolis	Mrs. Ann Brand
1933 Chicago	Hansina Brand
1934 Minneapolis	Hansina Brand
1940 Rochester	Martha Bulloch
1941 Syracuse	Blanche Knier
1943 Minneapolis	Mrs. Ann Brand.

Our Latest Catalog, the most beautiful we have ever sent out in color, is free.

**BRAND PEONY FARMS**

Faribault, Minn.

## A REAL OPPORTUNITY

Last year when the Directors reduced the price of the Manual to \$2.25 per copy postpaid we thought the bottom in price had been reached.

To move the entire stock of Manuals as quickly as possible the Directors this year again have made a drastic cut in price of this most valuable book and it can now be obtained at the remarkably low price of \$1.50, plus 15c mailing charge, or a total of \$1.65. This is less than half the actual cost of preparing and printing the edition and when this price becomes known will result in a rapid reduction of the stock on hand. Better get in on this while they are still available. If you already have a copy, give your peony loving friend a copy. A brief descriptive circular will be sent upon request.

Make all checks payable to the American Peony Society and mail to,

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

## NICHOLLS PEONIES

A. B. C. Nicholls, white	\$ 5.00	Black Warrior, dark	\$ 2.00
Blush, pink	2.00	Florence Nicholls	7.50
George W. Peyton, buff	5.00	Guidon, pink-lilac	2.00
Harry F. Little, white	5.00	Mary E. Nicholls, white	15.00
Mrs. L. Farrand, pink	12.00	Nancy Nicholls, white	5.00
Pastel, salmon	5.00	Rosada, huge rose	5.00
Rubio, deep red	5.00	Spring Beauty, pink	1.00
Thura Hires, lemon-white	5.00	Trinket, lemon-white	3.00
Laura Treman, tinted white	5.00	Sunmist, Jap, white	5.00
Japs: Akbar, Aztec, Battle Flag, Golden Arrow, Kate Barry, Mrs. Wilder Bancroft, Neon, Red Star and single: Dainty \$1.00.			

**J. C. NICHOLLS, Sr.**

114 Overlook Road

ITHACA, N. Y.

## The New Ratings

The new ratings appearing in Bulletin No. 82, together with additional data, has been bound in pamphlet form and is now ready for distribution. A small charge of 50c per copy has been made to cover cost of printing, handling, etc. In the new form it will make a neat supplement for the Peony Manual if you already have a copy.

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