

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

INC. JULY 2, 1904

Bulletin

JUNE - 1945

Number 98

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Northbrook, Ill.

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Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Northbrook, Ill.,
July 3, 1928, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Annual Subscription, \$1.00 Per Year, Included with Yearly Dues

Published quarterly by the
AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
NORTHBROOK, ILL.

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

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

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

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



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

JUNE - 1945

Peonies in an Alabama Garden in 1945

POPE M. LONG, *Cordova, Alabama*

This has been the very earliest and best season for me in forty years.

How New Varieties Performed

I am not including in this section varieties originated by Mr. Edward Auten, Jr. They will be discussed in a separate section near the end of this article.

Red Goddess is a lovely semi-double of brilliant crimson. It is well suited for Alabama as all buds open nicely.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, I consider this superior to *Therese*. Of just a wee bit lighter pink with good stems and excellent plant growth, it opens its great buds perfectly into blossoms as large, as plentiful and as beautiful as *Therese*. It is a better cut flower variety and lasts longer in a vase or on the plant.

Mrs. Livingston Farrand is a color marvel. I have not seen any variety that approaches its glorious salmon pink color. Its open bloom is wonderful. If it proves a good doer here with its super color I would be inclined to rate it higher than any peony in cultivation. It has unsurpassing beauty.

For the above three varieties I shall ever be grateful to Mr. G. W. Peyton who recommended them to me.

Elsa Sass. I have three plants of this variety and secured only one bloom. But what a bloom! It is not fragrant but otherwise almost an ideal white. For northern gardens it might be well suited but I am sure Alabama is too far south for it.

Myrtle Gentry is a great peony with the best stems of any variety in my garden. It is a very light pink of full rose type of large size and delightful fragrance. I feared its buds would be too tight to open here but found to my delight that it did this year. It is one of the best varieties that I have ever grown.

Ruth Elizabeth has excellent red color but a shy bloomer apparently not suited for Alabama.

Matilda Lewis is not a new variety but it is new for my garden, as I have grown it for only two years. It is equally as dark as *Mons. Martin Cahuzac* in its crimson color. It has larger, better formed flowers and a much stronger plant. I have two plants of it. On one I got two fine blooms and on the other only one.

If it should develop into a profuse bloomer it will be a fine addition to my garden.

Mme. Emile Debatene is a deep pink that brightens rather than fades in full sunshine. I received a clump of this two years ago from Mr. M. D. Bigger and this year it produced twenty-eight center stem blooms! If this is not a record it must be close to it. The blooms are large, stems are good, and it is excellent for the lawn or for cut flowers. I heartily recommend it as a deep pink that will produce as many bloom as any peony. It is a great favorite of mine.

Blanche King was only fair this year. I hope it improves next year.

Ella Christiansen gave me a pleasant surprise. I expected nothing but it has proven to be a splendid variety for Alabama. It has a strong vigorous plant and is a profuse bloomer extra large blooms on strong stems. In color it is a medium pink. I am well pleased with it.

Mrs. Frank Beach also surpassed my expectations. It is a wonderful white and if it has a serious fault I failed to detect it. Mr. Bigger has my thanks for recommending it to me.

Some Old Varieties: Twenty to Forty Years Standing

I now have sixty-one of these but have discarded as many more that did not suit me.

All sixty-one varieties bloomed nicely this year. The best of these were, as usual, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Festiva Maxima* and *Baroness Schroeder* in whites. In pinks outstanding were *Venus*, *Therese*, *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Gigantea*, *Tourangelle*, *Marguerite Gerard*, *Miss Salway*, *Lady Alexandra Duff*, *Silvia Saunders* and *Walter Faxon*. My best red was *Philippe Rivoire*, and next in order were *Richard Carvel*, *Cherry Hill* and *Felix Crousse*. In the yellow-whites were *Duc de Wellington*, *Primevere*, *Alba Sulphurea*.

My best Japs in the old varieties were *Isani Gidui*, *Mikado*, *Fuyajo*, *Tokio*, *Rashoomon*, and *Charm*. The last named has been in my garden only two years. It is my darkest red crimson. It is a free bloomer with good stems and a vigorous plant and a splendid performer. It is one of the latest blooming peonies. I think the color is too dull to ever replace *Fuyajo*. *Isani Gidui* is the most refined and beautiful white I have ever grown.

Some Varieties Originated by Mr. Edward Auten, Jr.

As one swallow does not make Spring so growing any variety for only one or two years does not qualify me for passing final judgment on the originations of Mr. Auten as I have grown none of them for over two years. However here is how they looked and performed in my garden in 1945.

Avelyn, a hybrid, opened its first bloom on March 25, which is two weeks earlier than any peony has ever before bloomed in my garden. It is a radiant dark red crimson of bomb type. If any peony has a richer color I have not seen it. If it continues the pace that it set this year and proves prolific it will merit the rating of best of all red doubles. I am sure it is better than *Philippe Rivoire*.

Tempest on a two year plant gave me two clear blooms of good size and excellent form. I note it is called semi-double but mine was double. It has great promise. I expect great things of it on old established clumps. I like it very much.

June Brilliant is a brilliant crimson as shining as a red perennial poppy. A late bloomer opening just after *Philippe Rivoire*. The plant is most vigorous and prolific. My two year old plant produced eleven center stems blossoms which were open at the same time, making it the "beauty spot" in my garden. I consider it as good as *Philippe Rivoire*. It has a more beaming color.

Big Ben is correctly named. It has a strong growth and is a profuse bloomer. Somewhat lighter than *Philippe Rivoire*; it is just as fragrant and blooms are larger. It is a great peony for cut flowers and, best of all, it seems ideal for Alabama.

Topeka, a hybrid, is a vigorous red. It fills a needed place in my garden as I have never seen a red of its color, which is most delightful, brilliant red totally unlike any I have. It is profuse and its blooms are large and well suited for cut flowers lasting a long time. It merits a high rating.

From among the five reds listed above I expect to secure my best red double: if they continue the hot pace they exhibited this year.

Sante Fe and *Louis Joilet* did not produce typical blooms so I must postpone judgment on them.

Double Pink and Whites

Auten's Pride is equally as good as *Myrtle Gentry*. *Mary Auten* is just as fine as *Baroness Schroeder*.

Dwarfs

Rose Marie (a red), *Peggy* (a pink) and *Flower Girl* (a white) constitute a Triumvirate of dwarf peonies. The blooms are large enough but not giants. All three are good cut flowers and most excellent for garden or lawn. Their short but strong stems will stand up in rain or wind.

Rosedale and *Rosalie* are also nice dwarfs. They look like big red roses. Their colors are very fine.

Singles

I have never been fond of single peonies because so many have floppy petals giving them an untidy appearance. There are some that do not have this fault and will be an attraction in any peony planting.

Arcturus and *John Harvard* are two of the very best. No finer or more radiant red color can be found in flowers than these two possess. *John Harvard* is a hybrid. *Arcturus* blooms first but both are early.

Dancing Nymph is such a light pink that it might be called white. It too has cup shaped petals entirely free from the floppiness I detest. All three are good cut flower varieties.

I am hard to please with single peonies. The above three please me.

Jap Type

Nippon Brilliant and *Nippon Beauty* are in a neck and neck race for the best Jap in my garden. *Nippon Brilliant* is properly named. It is brilliant, yes, dazzling! A vase of them in our church created a sensation. *Nippon Beauty* is equally pretty in a modest way. *Nippon Brilliant* is a glamorous strawberry blond and *Nippon Beauty* is a charming brunette. I love them both. I consider them the two best Japs I have grown.

Sword Dance and *Nippon Chief* are close "runners up" and are excellent substitutes.

Nippon Splendor and *Nippon Parade* are only one step behind. In fact Mrs. Long considers *Nippon Splendor* the best of all.

I also have other Japs originated by Mr. Auten and all have proven good. These are: *Gay Paree*, *Alstead*, *Nippon Gold* and *Roberta*. This is a white rival of *Isani Gidui*. I rate *Roberta* below *Isani Gidui*, but again Mrs. Long dissents and votes for *Roberta* because it is a stronger grower and has larger blooms. In the bud state *Roberta* is ideal.

Having commented on so many varieties originated by Mr. Auten some may infer that he gave me plants to test out for him in my garden, but such is not the case. I paid full catalog price and fifty per cent additional for sending me undivided plants.

Standard divisions are good for northern plantings but for the South undivided plants are to be preferred. From undivided plants I usually secure typical blooms the first or second year after planting.

I am not a commercial grower and have never sold a peony root or blossom. Growing peonies is purely a hobby with me. They have paid me big dividends in health and happiness for forty years. I am now seventy-three years old.

How to Plant and Cultivate Peonies in Alabama

I prepare my ground several months before planting. I incorporate in the well prepared soil a considerable amount of barn yard manure and this has ample time to rot before peonies are planted. At planting time I use a hand full of bone meal for each peony. It will not injure the plant if it falls on roots or buds but I try to avoid this.

Here is the most important thing. Plant very shallow covering the buds with about one half inch of soil. If the rains uncover a few buds it will not injure the peonies, as they need all they can get of cold in the South. I am convinced that too deep planting is the cause of ninety per cent of peony failures in the South.

When buds begin to start growth in the Spring I use a hand full of high grade fertilizer to make a ring around each plant about six inches from buds and am careful that none comes in direct contact with buds or root. Keep weeds and grass down by shallow cultivation and the work is done.

I would like to recommend the following twelve varieties that will bloom profusely and thrive in all parts of the South where any peony will grow.

White — *Festiva Maxima*, *Kelway's Glorious*, and *Mme. Calot*.

Pink — *Gigantea*, *Marguerite Gerard*, *Miss Salway*, *Mons. Jules Elie* and *Venus*.

Reds — *Cherry Hill* and *Philippe Rivoire*.

Yellow toned — *Duc de Wellington* and *Primevere*.



Peony Pipe Dreams

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

Pipe dreams sometimes become accomplished realities. I have in my small library an old edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica. A wise savant writing in one of these ponderous tomes concerning the possibility of man being able to fly says in substance that it is a pipe dream. I recall that long years ago a young fellow said to me that he could send a message

without wires. "It cant' be done" sez I. The next night he rigged up some contraptions and did it before some of us doubters while we pawed around the room to find the wires by means of which he was faking us. "It can't be done" is a phrase that is becoming as obsolete as those red wristlets Grandmother knitted for Christmas. What has all this to do with peonies? Just this, there are a lot of unsolved peony problems now reposing in the limbo of "it can't be done" and it's high time some one comes forward and announces "I dood it."

Here's one for the hybridists to tackle, a new strain of peonies without lateral buds. Folks in this neck of the woods know my love for this grand perennial. When they pass by and see me kneeling before a plant with my hands reverently hovering above it they grin out loud, considering it an act of worship. It's a tedious, messy job that comes when you are up to your sun ripened ears in work. If they can breed thorns from Boysenberries surely they can eliminate laterals from peonies.

Pipe dream number two, if realized, will bring down blessings on the head of the man who makes this dream come true. This is a test tube problem. Will some specialist in soil analysis tell us what the peony does to the ground in which it is planted that makes it impossible to plant another peony in the same spot and have it grow and produce the same as one planted on new ground. What "X" substance does it take from the ground or what "XX" mineral, or what have you, does it put into the ground that produces this condition. Tell us what substance can we return to the ground or what neutralizing agent can we use to restore the ground to it's former status? Holes in a golf course are necessary but in a peony garden they are a land wasting abomination. Solve this problem and we can dig that fine specimen, tuck a division back into the ready made hole and not have to rent land — no man should rent land to plant perennials.

Pipe dream three is a color chart that will accurately describe every color and it's varying shades. For instance, red-1-2-3-4 etc., from the lightest to the darkest. I have heard reams of reasons why it can't be done, the varying shades in different soils and under different lights and differing shades on the same petals and all the rest, but Cyrus laid the cable and Watts made the thing go, Fulton went up the river, Edison made a lamp without a wick, the "horseless wagon" started to climb telephone poles and each time there was a backwash of "can't be dones" croaking on the sidelines.

Pipe dream four is for the publicity man and promoter. What man or group of A. P. S. men want to undertake the task of lifting the peony from "the common garden variety" standing to the plane of romance. Why should the rose steal all the moonlight, dreamy music, wedding bells and poetry. Beautiful? of course this pampered hot house posey is beautiful — and so is an orchid. The peony has everything, color, size, fragrance and above all hardiness, adaptability, freedom from insect pests and many plant diseases to which others are subject. Every garden magazine should have peony news. Garden lovers can rattle off the names of roses and they buy them by name. How many green thumb grubbers order peonies by name? "I want a red" or "I want a white or pink." There are tens of thousands of flower lovers who have never seen the modern peony and when shown a garden full of them are spell bound by the great variety of color, petal arrangement and sheer ethereal beauty of some of the newer kinds. There is no more colorful sight than an acre of peonies in bloom. Those who make color photography a hobby, hover around the peony gardens like bees among the clover. Surely God is lighting up the garden when the "pineys" start to bloom.

Tree Peonies from Seed

H. F. STOKES, *Roanoke, Va.*

In 1932, intrigued by the catalogue descriptions of *Paeonia moutan*, the tree peony of Japan, I imported a pound of the seed through the agency of the Yokahama Nursery Company.

The seed arrived late in the fall, and was immediately planted. The choice of location was mistake No. 1, being a row in a plot otherwise devoted to growing young Chinese chestnut seedlings. Subsequent mistakes remain unnumbered. I shall not attempt to recount them here, but rather give the resulting findings.

Evidently the native habitat of the tree peony was hill or mountain country where it occurred along with other shrubs, probably as undergrowth to taller species.

Some of the seed, if permitted to lie under a mulch of leaves after falling from the pods, will volunteer the first spring after ripening. In practice one may gather and plant as soon as the pods open. If this planting is done in a cold frame which is kept well above freezing, many of the seed will sprout during the first winter. Some have been found with roots several inches long by the first of February. Some of these sprouted seed will produce plants the first spring if transferred to outside, but more will not make their appearance until a year later.

Purchasers of dry seeds should not count on any plants before the early spring of the second season. If stratified, the seed should be lifted and planted in the row in the fall before the second spring, as sprouting starts very early.

I had high mortality among my young plants, due to full exposure to the sun and lack of moisture. Partial, but not too heavy shade, with good ventilation, is essential, coupled with even, moderate moisture. Slatted lath shading was found satisfactory in later plantings.

Even with mature plants these two factors, shade and moisture, are of primary importance. Under Virginia conditions some plants will sunburn ruinously, while others can "take it." Drought increases the tendency to sunburn. As a whole, if the plants can be located where they can be protected from the sun during the hottest part of the day, and from freezing winds, results will be best, and the blossoms finer and more enduring.

Some plants are doing fairly well and producing the finest of flowers in full shade, though they are inclined to be "leggy" and the foliage more sparse under such conditions.

Fertile soil, non-acid but containing adequate humus, is desirable. Bone meal in moderation is helpful.

Before planting in permanent location the soil should be loosened to a depth of 20" over an area two to three feet across to allow easy extension of the fleshy roots. Troublesome, yes; but the job well done is good for a lifetime. If planted in beds or rows the plants should be at least four feet apart; six feet would be better.

From my original pound of seed I have about forty plants, including those given away. More intelligent early care would have produced a far larger number.

Those that received the best care began blooming seven years from the sowing of the seed. Several, neglected for years, have persisted but have not blossomed yet.

Being a forest plant, soil temperature is an important factor here in the South. This can be kept down by shading, cultivation or deep mulching. As the plant becomes larger it helps solve this problem by self-shading its own root area.

My plants are quite variable in vigor and form of growth. The tallest are now four feet high, with relatively few stems; others are half that tall. Some have many stems and form a bush like an inverted bowl. Early leaf color may range from light green to bronzy purple, but this has no relation to the color of the flowers.

The tall-growing plants usually carry their blossoms well above the foliage; the lower-growing ones are more inclined to hide their blossoms among the leaves.

The flowers vary in size from 4" to more than 10", averaging from 7" to 8". They are mostly singles and semi-doubles, though some might be rated as doubles. The petal count runs from 10 to 30. All blossoms have the characteristic golden anthers, the joy of pollen-gathering bees. Recently I counted nine at work within a single flower.

In color the flowers range from pure white to deepest purple-maroon with intermediate shades of pink and such indeterminate shades as orchid, lilac, mauve, fuchsia, etc. Colors may be either solid throughout, shaded from center to edges, or splotched with deeper hues from pink to deep purple and maroon.

Petal texture is of satin delicacy when protected from the sun.

In all flowers the pistils are prominent in the midst of a forest of stamens, their envelopes showing all petal colors, with which, however, they may contrast. White blossoms may have pink or purple pistils, while purple flowers may have pistils of purest white.

In China, the native home of the tree peony, the winter season is said to pass abruptly into spring, without recurrence. Here, in Virginia, the moutan peony responds promptly to the first warm days, usually early in February, and then has to weather betrayal through late freezes and frosts. The foliage is surprisingly hardy, withstanding hard freezes without injury; however, if high winds accompany freezing, damage may result. The blossom buds, which appear with the first leaves, are almost equally hardy and, in this respect, are far superior to those named varieties of the Chinese tree peony that reached the United States via Europe.

Here, in south-west Virginia at an elevation of 1100 feet, my first moutan peonies begin blooming from April 15th to 20th in normal season, the latest about May 1st, or from two to three weeks ahead of the herbaceous species. This abnormally early season of 1945 the first blossoms were out April 1st.

Being a rank amateur in the peony world, I am unable to judge the merits of my seedling flowers as compared with named commercial varieties.

I do know they make a beautiful show, and attract appreciative attention. The wide variation in color and form makes the first blossoming of each new plant a high adventure. Only this spring I had my first bloom from a long-neglected plant recently brought in from the original nursery planting. It proved to be a rich, deep pink within, with lighter ribbing on the outside; my finest, I think, of the color. Such experiences have no price.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Show

ANNUAL PEONY AND GARDEN FLOWER SHOW OF THE MINNESOTA PEONY AND IRIS SOCIETY

with the cooperation of

THE MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Thursday and Friday, June 28-29, 1945

Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota

LIST BY CLASSES OF WINNERS AND VARIETIES SHOWN

OPEN CLASSES

Class No. 100 A. COURT OF HONOR. The Color Champions.

White: *Le Cygne* — L. W. Lindgren.

Flesh: *Judge Snook* — G. H. Greaves.

Light Pink: *Hansina Brand* — *Croix Farms*.

Dark Pink: *Ensign Moriarty* — E. H. Lins.

Red: *Burma* — E. H. Lins.

Class No. 100 B. The American Peony Society Silver Medal Award.

Best entry of five varieties, one bloom each, any color.

Croix Farms — *Alice Harding*, *Blanche King*, *Hansina Brand*, *Minuet*,
Mrs. W. L. Gumm.

GRAND CHAMPION OF THE SHOW: *Martha Bulloch* from R. C. Schneider's exhibit in class No. 102.

Class No. 101. Collection of fifty named varieties, one bloom each, double: First — R. W. Jones — *Adonis*, *Anne Nielsen*, *Berlioz*, *Charlene*, *Cherokee*, *Dearborn*, *Dixie*, *Dr. F. G. Brethour*, *Elizabeth Huntington*, *Frankie Curtis*, *George W. Peyton*, *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Grace Loomis*, *Henry Webster*, *Jacques Dessert*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *La France*, *La Lorraine*, *Le Cygne*, *Marilla Beauty*, *Mary Ellen*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Minuet*, *Monsieur Martin Cahuzac*, *Mr. L. van Leeuwen*, *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *New Era*, *Nina Secor*, *Odile*, *Onondaga*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *Phyllis Kelway*, *President Wilson*, *Priscilla Alden*, *Queen of Hamburg*, *Red Satin*, *Reine Hortense*, *Rosalie*, *Sarah K. Thurlow*, *Sensation*, *Shirley J.*, *Souvenir de Louis Bigot*, *Summer Glory*, *Walter Faxon*, *W. E. Blanchette*, *W. L. Gumm*.

Second: R. C. Schneider — *Adolphe Rousseau*, *Alice Harding*, *Alsace-Lorraine*, *A. M. Slocum*, *Argentine*, *Auguste Dessert*, *Baroness Schroeder*, *Benjamin Franklin*, *Charles McKellip*, *Cherry Hill*, *Chestine Gowdy*, *Claire Dubois*, *Couronne d'Or*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Frances Willard*, *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Henry Avery*, *H. F. Reddick*, *Judge Berry*, *Karl Rosenfield*, *La Fee*, *Lake o'Silver*, *La Lorraine*, *La Perle*, *La Tulipe*, *Laura Dessert*, *Le Cygne*, *Lillian Gumm*, *Livingstone*, *Longfellow*, *Madame Emile Lemoine*, *Marie Crousse*, *Mark Twain*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Matilda Lewis*, *Mary Brand*, *Monsieur Dupont*, *Monsieur Jules Elie*, *Mrs. A. S. Gowen*, *Petagra*, *Phoebe Cary*, *Red Bird*, *Red Top*, *Reine Hortense*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Souvenir de Louis Bigot*, *Victorie de la Marne*, *Walter Faxon*, *W. F. Christman*, *William F. Turner*.

Class No. 102. Collection of ten varieties, double three blooms each.

First: *Mrs. A. S. Gowen* — *Acme*, *Blush*, *Florence*, *Nicholls*, *Georgiana*

Shaylor, Mary Brand, Minuet, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Mrs. Livingston Farrand, Myrtle Gentry, Thura Hires.

Second: R. W. Jones — *Clemenceau, Dearborn, Frankie Curtis, La France, Minuet, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Myrtle Gentry, W. E. Blanchette, Winnie Winkle, W. L. Gumm.*

Third: R. C. Schneider — *Alice Harding, Baroness Schroeder, Carbondale, Claire Dubois, Le Cygne, Lora Dexheimer, Martha Bulloch, Phoebe Cary, Reine Hortense, Sarah Bernhardt.*

TEN BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY

Class No. 103. White or Flesh:

First: Mrs. A. S. Gowen — *Thura Hires.*

Second: R. W. Jones — *George W. Peyton.*

Third: R. C. Schneider — *Monsieur Dupont.*

Class No. 104. Light Pink: First: Mrs. A. S. Gowen — *Minuet.*

Second: R. W. Jones *Minuet.*

Third: E. H. Lins — *Mandaleen.*

Class No. 105. Dark Pink: First: R. W. Jones — *Martha Bulloch.*

Second: R. C. Schneider — *Martha Bulloch.*

Third: Mrs. A. S. Gowen — *Walter Faxon.*

Class No. 106. Red: First: E. H. Lins — *Burma.*

Second: R. W. Jones — *Sir John Franklin.*

Third: R. C. Schneider — *Adolphe Rousseau.*

Class No. 107. Vase of six varieties, double.

First: R. W. Jones — *Chief, Clemenceau, Frankie Curtis, Georgiana Shaylor, Walter Faxon, W. L. Gumm.*

Second: Mrs. A. S. Gowen — *Beaumarchais, Florence Nicholls, Karl Rosenfield, Kelway's Glorious, Minuet, Reine Hortense.*

Third: Franklin Nursery — *Avenger, Edith Scovell, Loren Franklin, Mrs. A. B. Franklin, Prof. McIntosh, The Admiral.*

ONE BLOOM

Class No. 108. White: First: Mrs. A. S. Gowen. — *La Lorraine.*

Second: L. W. Lindgren — *Mary E. Nicholls.*

Third: R. C. Schneider — *Le Cygne.*

Class No. 109. Flesh: Mrs. A. S. Gowen — *Florence Nicholls.*

Second: R. C. Schneider — *Argentine.*

Third: Croix Farms — *Alice Harding.*

Class No. 110. Light Pink: First: Mrs. A. S. Gowen — *Minuet.*

Second: R. W. Jones — *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.*

Third: E. H. Lins — *Mandaleen.*

Class No. 111. Dark Pink: First: R. C. Schneider — *Martha Bulloch.*

Second: R. W. Jones — *Walter Faxon.*

Third: E. H. Lins — *Dolorodell.*

Class No. 112. Red: First: E. H. Lins — *Burma.*

Second: Croix Farms — *Philippe Rivoire.*

Third: R. W. Jones — *Onondaga.*

Class No. 113. Six varieties, red, double, three blooms each.

First: R. W. Jones — *Karl Rosenfield, Mark Twain, Monsieur Martin Cahuzac, Onondaga, Philippe Rivoire, Sir John Franklin.*

Second: R. C. Schneider — *Adolphe Rousseau, H. F. Reddick, Longfellow, Lora Dexheimer, Philippe Rivoire, William F. Turner.*

Class No. 114. Japanese, one bloom each, not more than fifteen varieties.
First: R. W. Jones — *Charm, Fuyajo, Gypsy Rose, Jean Ann, Madam Butterfly Mrs. Mac, Nippon Beauty, Nippon Gold, Onahama, Some Ganoko, Tamate Boku, Yellow King.*

Second: R. C. Schneider — *Ama-no-sode, Ashland, Charm, Fuyajo, Gold Tip, Isani Gidui, Mikado, Mrs. Mac, Osceola, Rashoomon, Sandusky, Some Ganoko, Tamate Boku, Tokio.*

Third: C. R. Jenks — *Ama-no-sode, Isani Gidui, Mikado, Polar Star, Tamate Boku.*

Class No. 115. Singles, one bloom each.

First: R. C. Schneider — *Departing Sun, Le Jour, Nellie, Pond Lily, Pride of Langport, Schwindt.*

Second: C. R. Jenks — *Arcturus, Helen, Krinkled White, Sea Shell.*

Class No. 116. Not over thirty varieties, doubles, one bloom each, rating 8.5 or over.

First: R. C. Schneider — *Adolphe Rousseau, Chestine Gowdy, Charles McKellip, Claire Dubois, Frances Shaylor, Frances Willard, Henry Avery, Kelway's Glorious, Lady Alexandra Duff, La Fee, La France, Lake o'Silver, La Lorraine La Perle, Le Cygne, Livingstone, Lora Dexheimer, Martha Bulloch, Matilda Lewis, Mons. Jules Elie, Mr. L. van Leeuwen, Mrs. A. M. Brand, Mrs. A. S. Gowen, Nick Shaylor, Petagra, Philippe Rivoire, Red Bird, Reine Hortense, Walter Faxon.*

Second: R. W. Jones — *Adonis, Cherokee, Chief, Clemenceau, Elsa Sass, Felix Crousse, Georgiana Shaylor, Gloriana, Harry F. Little, Katherine Havemeyer, La France, Le Cygne, Loren Franklin, Martha Bulloch, Matilda Lewis, Minuet, Monsieur Martin Cahuzac, Mrs. Livingston Farrand, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Myrtle Gentry, Onondaga, Phyllis Kelway, President Wilson, Reine Hortense, Sarah Bernhardt, Souvenir de Louis Bigot, W. L. Gumm.*

Class No. 117. Handle basket, greatest diameter not to exceed twenty inches, main feature to be peonies: First: R. C. Schneider.

Second: R. W. Jones.

Class No. 118. Handle basket, greatest diameter not to exceed twelve inches, main feature to be peonies. First: R. W. Jones, Second: Franklin Nursery, Third: R. C. Schneider.

Class No. 119. Vase of peonies opening not to exceed eight inches in diameter, artistically arranged with or without other flowers.

First: R. C. Schneider, Second: R. W. Jones.

ADVANCED AMATEUR CLASSES

Class No. 201. Not more than twenty-five varieties, one bloom each, double.

First: G. H. Greaves — *Acme (2), Alice Harding, Alice Reed Bates, Argentine, Avenger, Chief, C. W. Bunn, Edith M. Snook, Elise Renault, Kelway's Glorious, Livingstone, Mary E. Nicholls, Matilda Lewis, Minuet (2), Mrs. Bryce Fontaine, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Mr. L. van Leeuwen, Philippe Rivoire, Queen of Hamburg, Souvenir de Louis Bigot, Victoire de la Marne, Zus Braun.*

Second: Mrs. H. B. Tillotson — *Archie Brand, Argentine (2), Asa Gray, Chestine, Gowdy, Cornelia Shaylor, Frances Willard, Hansina Brand Hazel Kinney, Jean Cooperman, Karl Rosenfield, Mary Brand*

(2), *Milton Hill*, *Honsieur Martin Cahuzac*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Mrs. C. S. Minot*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Mrs. Shaylor-Force*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *Rev. H. N. Tragitt*, *Solange*, *Therese*, *Walter Faxon*.

Third: John Ahlf — *Alice Harding*, *Avenger*, *Betty Blossom*, *Dixie*, *Edith Scovell*, *Karl Rosenfield*, *Katherine Havemeyer*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *La France* (2), *Matilda Lewis*, *Mary Brand*, *Minuet*, *Mr. L. van Leeuwen*, *Mrs. C. S. Minot* (2), *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Reine Hortense*, *Snowball*, *Therese*, *Victoire de la Marne*, *William F. Turner*, One unnamed.

Class No. 202. Ten varieties, double, three bloom each.

First: G. H. Greaves — *Alice Reed Bates*, *Daniel Boone*, *La Lorraine*, *Livingstone*, *Mary E. Nicholls*, *Mr. L. van Leeuwen*, *Mrs. Bryce Fontaine*, *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Sarah Bernhardt*.

Second: Mrs. H. B. Tillotson — *Asa Gray*, *Denise*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Mrs. C. S. Minot*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *Reine Hortense*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Therese*.

Third: John Ahlf — *Betty Blossom*, *Frances Willard*, *La Lorraine*, *Matilda Lewis*, *Minuet*, *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Reine Hortense*, *Victory Chateau Thierry*.

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY

Class No. 203. White: First: L. W. Lindgren — *Le Cygne*.

Second: G. H. Greaves — *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*.

Third: John Ahlf — *Marie Lemoine*.

Class No. 204. Light Pink: First: John Ahlf — *Minuet*.

Second: G. H. Greaves — *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*.

Third: Mrs. H. B. Tillotson — *Therese*.

Class No. 205. Dark Pink: First: John Ahlf — *E. G. Hill*.

Second: G. H. Greaves — *Alice Reed Bates*.

Third: Mrs. H. B. Tillotson — *Walter Faxon*.

Class No. 206. Red: First: G. H. Greaves — *Matilda Lewis*.

Second: Mrs. H. B. Tillotson — *Mary Brand*.

Third: John Ahlf — *Avenger*.

Class No. 207. Flesh: First: Mrs. H. B. Tillotson — *Tourangelle*.

Second: G. H. Greaves — *Alice Harding*.

Third: John Ahlf — *La Lorraine*.

Class No. 208. Vase of three blooms, one variety, single or Japanese.

First: John Ahlf — *Onahama*. Second: G. H. Greaves — *Imperial Red*.

Class No. 208 A. Hybrids: First: G. H. Greaves — *Bright Knight*, *Crusader*.

Class No. 209. Basket, main feature to be peonies.

First: John Ahlf.

Class No. 210. Vase of peonies, opening not to be over eight inches.

First: G. H. Greaves. Second: John Ahlf.

NOVICE AMATEUR CLASSES

Class No. 301. Not more than ten varieties, one bloom each, double.

First: J. F. Jones — *Alice Harding*, *Hansina Brand*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *La Lorraine*, *Le Cygne*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Mrs. Franklin D. Roose-*

- velt, Philippe Rivoire, Sarah Bernhardt, W. E. Blanchette.*
 Second: C. R. Jenks — *Acme, Gloriana, Kelway's Glorious, Lady Alexandra Duff, Le Cygne, Lillian Gumm, Mark Twain, Monsieur Jules Elie, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Philippe Rivoire.*
 Third: W. T. Coe — *Ann Pfeiffer, Elsa Sass, Felix Crousse, Grace Batson, Martha Bulloch, Minuet, Mrs. Livingston Farrand (2), Peachglow, Philippe Rivoire.*

ONE BLOOM

- Class No. 302.** White or Flesh: First: J. F. Jones — *Le Cygne.*
 Second: W. T. Coe — *Alice Harding.*
 Third: C. R. Jenks — *The Admiral.*
Class No. 303. Light Pink: First W. T. Coe — *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.*
 Second: A. M. Chesher — *Georgiana Shaylor.*
 Third: C. R. Jenks — *Minuet.*
Class No. 304. Dark Pink: First: F. L. Perry — *Claire Dubois.*
 Second: C. R. Jenks — *Loren Franklin.* Third: W. T. Coe — *Walter Faxon.*
Class No. 305. Red: First: A. M. Chesher — *Philippe Rivoire.*
 Second: C. R. Jenks — *Monsieur Martin Cahuzac.*
 Third: F. L. Perry — *Karl Rosenfield.*
Class No. 306. Six varieties, one bloom each.
 First: W. T. Coe — *Ann Pfeiffer, Le Cygne, Mark Twain, Martha Bulloch, Minuet, Mrs. Livingston Farrand.*
 Second: J. F. Jones — *Alice Harding, Hansina Brand, Kelway's Glorious, Le Cygne, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Nick Shaylor.*
 Third: C. R. Jenks — *Acme, Kelway's Glorious, Le Cygne, Monsieur Martin Cahuzac, Philippe Rivoire, Walter Faxon.*
Class No. 307. Three varieties, one bloom each. Entries limited to those who have never won a prize in a State peony show before.
 First: Martin A. Eliason — *Lillian Gumm, Mrs. J. V. Edlund (Illegible).*
 Second: F. L. Perry — *Claire Dubois, Karl Rosenfield, Mrs. A. B. Franklin.*
 Third: Arthur W. Shoquist: All unnamed.
Class No. 308. One bloom, single or Japanese.
 First: C. R. Jenks — *Arcturus.* Second: W. T. Coe — *Nippon Beauty.*
Class No. 309. Basket of peonies arranged for effect.
 First: J. F. Jones. Second: A. M. Chesher.

SPECIAL CLASSES OPEN TO ALL

- Class No. 400.** The Best and Most Distinguished New Peony. Award: The American Home Achievement Medal in bronze.
 Awarded to *Victory*, originated and shown by R. A. Thompson of West McHenry, Illinois. The flower is a large deep ivory with pink overtones fully double with good stems and foliage. It was awarded a First Class Certificate at The Annal Show of The American Peony Society in Milwaukee in 1944.
Class No. 401. Seedlings: Certificate of Honorable Mention were awarded E. H. Lins of Cologne, Minnesota, for the following:
 No. S-1-6. A full double, flat, blush flower, very large.
 No. R-S-101. A large high built, medium to dark pink double. Named *Ensign Moriarty.*

No. R-3-149. A large, broad petalled Jap of that color so much disputed, either a rosy red or a dark pink. The staminodes are fully transformed, the color of the guards and heavily suffused with white and yellow, with pointed tips of white. Carpels whitish green tipped red. Disc is the color of the guards.

NOTE: There were duplications of varieties in at least four exhibits according to our records. This should be avoided if possible. If the rules were strictly carried out such exhibits would be disqualified. However as each exhibitor in one class made two duplications each, it really made no difference in this case. How can such duplications be avoided? Only by having some one check the varieties in each exhibit. This is not always easy to do as time is limited. But it should be done if possible.

WINNERS OF SWEEPSTAKES

Open Classes: R. W. Jones.

Advanced Amateurs: G. H. Greaves.

Novice Amateurs: J. F. Jones.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF EXHIBITORS

John A. Ahlf, 1226 Niles Street, St. Paul.

Frans Anderson, 722 Huron Street, S. E., Minneapolis.

Mrs. J. A. Carlson, 2728 14th Avenue, South, Minneapolis.

A. M. Chesher, Richfield Station, Route No. 4, Minneapolis.

William T. Coe, 803 Phoenix Building, Minneapolis.

Croix Farms, Hastings.

Martin Eliason, Route No. 2, Appleton.

Franklin Nursery, 62nd and Portland Avenue, Minneapolis.

Mrs. A. S. Gowen, Excelsior.

G. H. Greaves, 2200 Doswell Avenue, St. Paul.

C. R. Jenks, 422 West Elm Street, Stillwater.

J. F. Jones, 3144 Colfax Avenue, South, Minneapolis.

R. W. Jones, 731 Delaware Avenue, St. Paul.

M. A. Krogness, Wayzata.

L. W. Lindgren, 1787 West Minnehaha Street, St. Paul.

E. H. Lins, Cologne.

F. L. Perry, 4253 Utica Avenue, St. Louis Park.

R. C. Schneider, 708 Osceola Avenue, St. Paul.

Alfred B. Schwartz, 4315 Russell Avenue, North, Minneapolis.

Arthur W. Shoquist, Taylor's Falls.

R. A. Thompson, West McHenry, Illinois.

Mrs. H. B. Tillotson, Eureka.

Mrs. M. J. van Wagenen, 1729 Irving Avenue, South, Minneapolis.

Mrs. L. F. Will, 4626 South France, Minneapolis.

JUDGES

OPEN CLASSES

William F. Christman, Northbrook, Illinois

L. W. Lindgren, St. Paul

ADVANCED AMATEUR CLASSES

A. M. Brand, Fairbault

George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Virginia

R. C. Schneider, St. Paul

NOVICE AMATEUR CLASSES

E. H. Lins, Cologne, Minn.
 R. W. Jones, St. Paul, Minn.
 Mrs. A. S. Gowen, Excelsior, Minn.

ARRANGEMENTS

Miss Helen Fischer, Hastings, Minn.

GARDEN FLOWERS

Miss Helen Fischer, Hastings, Minn.

SEEDLINGS AND COURT OF HONOR

A. M. Brand, Faribaut
 William F. Christman, Northbrook, Illinois
 L. W. Lindgren, St. Paul
 George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Virginia

All the above are members of the Standing Seedling Committee of
 The American Peony Society

NOTES ON THE SHOW

After several postponements due to cold weather, which caused the latest season known for a long time, the show was finally held on Thursday and Friday, June 28-29, in the lobby of the Northwestern National Bank through whose generosity and cooperation this show has been made possible for a number of years. Many of the very late varieties were not open even at this late date. Some gardens were much behind others. Mr. Lindgren was able to show only the earliest. We missed seeing magnificent blooms of *Cooper's No. 35* which opened into large, full centered, exquisitely colored flowers on July 3. Also fine blooms of *Moonglow*, *Dorothy J.*, *Harry F. Little*, *Nick Shaylor*, *Auten's Pride*, *Dolodell*, *Alesia* and *Ella Lewis* came out too late to show.

Generally speaking the flowers were of splendid quality and size and lasted well. The very large attendance was gratifying to all concerned.

The Court of Honor, which was composed of the five color champions, had many very fine specimens in competition. *Le Cygne*, the Champion White is still the finest formed flower we have in my humble opinion. Grand blooms of *Mary E. Nicholls*, *Thura Hires*, *Frances Willard* and *Prof. McIntosh*, a new Franklin origination, gave it stiff competition. *Judge Snook*, the Flesh Champion, had as competitors *Alice Harding*, *George W. Peyton*, *Old Lace*, and *Mrs. Springer Brooks*. In light pink, *Hansina Brand* once more proved its ability to win in any company. Its opponents were *Minuet*, *Mandaleen*, *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Mrs. W. L. Gumm* and *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*. A new one from the gardens of E. H. Lins never before shown under name, *Ensign Moriarty*, was the high honor in dark pink over *Dolorodell*, *Blanche King*, and *Edith Scovell*. One of the sensations of the show and the winner in every class in which it was shown was the red Champion, *Burma*, also a Lins origination. Its rivals were *King Midas*, *Mark Twain*, *Sir John Franklin* and *Avenger*. This last variety was shown everywhere under the name *Defender*. We wish to call attention to the fact that this name was changed to its present one, *Avenger*, on account of a duplication of names. Mr. Glasscock's hybrid *Defender* had the priority.

The American Peony Society's Silver Medal Class had four grand entries. The varieties shown have all been mentioned above and will not be repeated.

The Grand Champion of the show was not chosen from the entries in the above classes but was taken from Mr. R. C. Schneider's entry in Class No. 102. It was a superb bloom of *Martha Bulloch* which for pure perfection of flower could hardly have been surpassed. Another flower of the same variety from R. W. Jones' exhibit in Class No. 101 was hardly less perfect. There were many other flowers not entered in the Court of Honor and especially a *Minuet* from Mrs. Gowen's exhibit in Class No. 102, that would have compared very favorably with any of them. It is very hard to always pick the best flower any exhibitor may have and often he does not do so.

In the two entries of Class No. 101, fifty varieties, there were only seven duplications of varieties so that they together had 93 varieties. All of them were in splendid condition. The varieties ranged from the grand old standby's to the latest new.

The class for ten varieties three blooms each is one of the hardest for any exhibitor to stage. It is always one of the highest honors to win it. This year Mrs. A. S. Gowen carried off the honor. She concentrated her best efforts on this class and it was her desire to place in it only the originations of Col. Nicholls of which she has a grand collection. But as many of them had not opened she was forced to abandon this idea, but she did manage to get four of them in it, all of outstanding excellence.

The classes for Japanese and single type peonies showed marked improvement over other years in numbers exhibited. Let us hope that this trend will continue and that many more will plant representative collections of these beautiful flowers.

The Advanced Amateur Classes showed the usual high quality of blooms. We missed the usual fine exhibit of T. E. Carpenter, but the class was hotly contested by Messrs. Greaves, Lindgren, Ahlf and Mrs. Tillotson.

The Novice Amateur Classes showed many flowers of the highest quality. Besides the usual exhibits from Messrs. J. F. Jones, Jenks and Coe there were several new comers namely Messrs. A. M. Chesher, F. L. Perry and Arthur Shoquist. The old timers will have to look to their laurels in future. We missed Mr. Patzke in this division.

The Artistic Arrangement Classes and those for garden flowers had many fine entries. We were particularly impressed with what could be done with a number of blooms of one variety of peony by the very beautiful basket of *Walter Faxon* arranged by Mrs. R. W. Jones which showed to the best advantage its magnificent form and color. Why do not the exhibitors in such classes as those calling for ten blooms one variety make an effort to give some character and beauty to these exhibits by arranging them in some such way?

Many very good seedlings were entered by E. L. Lins, Martin Eliason, M. van Wagenen, John Ahlf and Franklin Nursery. Besides those awarded honors we were especially impressed by a flower showing light pink outer petals and an almost white center shown by Mr. Ahlf. Let us hope it will keep this characteristic on an older plant.

The American Home Achievement Medal went to the variety *Victory* from Mr. R. A. Thompson of West McHenry, Illinois. Several of us, members of the Seedling Committee of The American Peony Society, have watched this flower over a period of years. While this year it was not as good as we have seen it, yet the flower shows what a fine flower it is in both form and coloring. It has proved its ability to withstand

rough treatment and still come out a grand flower. It opens readily from tight buds and has good foliage and strong stems. So far it has never been tried out in any garden except that of its originator. It is being released this fall and we shall look forward to seeing it in years to come as shown by some of our master showmen and we feel certain it will not be found wanting in any respect.

If it had been allowed to grant two medals in this class a second would certainly have gone to *Burma* the new dark red of Mr. Lins. The number of classes in which it won in this show, on its first appearance, over the greatest reds we have, showed something of its excellence.

A very spectacular flower was shown in this class. It was an immense medium pink of slightly rounded form from Franklin Nursery. It was shown under number and I find I failed to make a note of the number. I think it was easily the largest flower in the show and a very fine one as well.

The largest single exhibitor in the show was R. W. Jones of St. Paul. He cut 106 different varieties and entered all but one of the Open Classes. He won 6 firsts, 9 seconds and one third. His exhibits contained many of the very rare varieties, many of which were shown only in his display exhibit. The second largest exhibitor was R. C. Schneider also of St. Paul. He placed in fifteen classes and had five firsts. Mrs. A. S. Gowen of Excelsior, Minnesota, did not attempt to enter many classes, but the excellence of her exhibits is shown by the fact that she won six firsts in eight entries. Franklin Nursery and E. H. Lins entered only varieties of their own origination. Due mention is made of them elsewhere in this article. Croix Farms made very few entries this year, but their ability to win was amply proved by their award of The Silver Medal in Class No. 100B.

Display exhibits, which added much to the show, were made by E. H. Lins, Franklin Nursery, Mrs. A. S. Gowen, R. C. Schneider and R. W. Jones. In all shows it seems that certain flowers dominate the show. In this one it would probably be hard to choose between *Martha Bulloch* and *Minuet* with *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt* not far behind. None exceeded *Walter Faxon* which was shown in quantity in such perfection of form and coloring as is rarely seen. *Le Cygne* was seen in many exhibits in all its perfection of form and color. *La Lorraine* was also a flower that had to be reckoned with in many classes. *Kelway's Glorious* appeared in more classes than I have ever seen it in any show I think and always of superlative excellence. *Reine Hortense* was also one found in great perfection. We missed the usual show of *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Hansina Brand*, *A. B. Franklin*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* and *Nick Shaylor*. These flowers usually abound in every class. This year they were rarely seen. It seemed an off year for *Mrs. Edlund* everywhere. The others had not opened in any but the most favored gardens. Of the new comers not mentioned before, probably those of Col. Nicholls attracted more attention than any other. His *Mary E. Nicholls*, immaculate in pure white and of great beauty of form appeared in several exhibits. Mrs. Gowen showed *Blush* in its delicate tint of light pink, *Florence Nicholls* in white and pink, *Thura Hires* in lemon shadings, *Nancy Nicholls* in flesh, and *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* still the purest pink of any. This was also seen in several other exhibits. *Harry F. Little* only appeared in Mr. Jones's display I think, maybe in the 8.5 class. *George W. Peyton* was seen in several classes also. Mr. Kelsey's *Marilla Beauty*, *Charlene*, *Noel*, *Mother's Day* were in Mr. Jones' exhibit. Mr. Lins' *Tondeleyo*, *Ra-*

mona Lins and *Casablanca* did not appear this year due to lateness of bloom. *Mandaleen*, *King Midas*, *Dolorodell* and *Old Lace* were very fine. Franklin's fine new reds, *Sir John Franklin*, *Mark Twain*, *Avenger*, were seen in excellent shape. His *Alice Reed Bates*, *Prof. McIntosh*, *The Admiral*, *Peachglow*, *Summer Glory*, *New Era*, also were shown.

We failed to see Mr. Schneider's good varieties, *Alice Schneider* and *A. E. Rowe*, but *Carbondale* and *Red Top* were in his exhibit. Also he showed his single *Pond Lily* and Japs *Ashland*, *Gold Tip*, *Osceola*, and one we presume is his, a light pink or blush, *Sandusky*. All of these are flowers well worthy of attention. If one had looked he would have seen a number of the so-called white Mons. *Jules Elies*. *New Era*, *Luxor*, *Frankie Curtis*, *Lady of the Snows*, and *Blanche Elie* were all there in perfection. Sass's *Adonis*, *Queen of Hamburg*, *Sensation*, *Red Satin*, *Imperial Red*, *Elizabeth Huntington*, *Dr. F. G. Brethour*, and a few *Elsa Sass* were on hand. Judge Snook's *Helen Hughes* and *Edith M. Snook* were in Mr. Jones's collection as were *Garden Princess*, *Victor's Crown*, *Harry L. Burden*, *Liberty Bell*, *Matchless Beauty*, *Gloriana*, *Flow'ret of Eden* all Dr. Neeley's originations. The immense ball of the old *Berlioz* was also here. *W. E. Blanchette*, *Mrs. A. S. Gowen*, *Mrs. Bryce Fontaine*, *C. Bunn* from Mr. Brand's deft hands were shown in good form. *Moontone* from Murawska added its delicate touch to the scene. *Auten's Pride*, *Nippon Beauty*, *Arcturus*, *Rosalie*, *Dearborn*, represented Mr. Auten very ably. *Zus Braun* in Mr. Greaves collection was one we seldom see. And so ends the account of a very delightful show. We missed many old friends especially the hearty clasp of Mr. Franklin, and his usual cordial welcome. We made some new ones. We congratulate all concerned on the very excellent showing made in spite of dire predictions of utter failure. Great success often arises out of seeming failure as in this instance.

GEORGE W. PEYTON

Rapidan, Virginia, July 12, 1945.



To the Members of the American Peony Society

As it was not possible to hold meetings either of the members of the Society or its directors this year on account of the Convention Ban imposed by the Office of Defense Transportation, no elections of either officers or directors could be held. Therefore in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society as set forth in Article III Section 2 (page 68, Bulletin No. 67, March, 1937), which specifies that: "The directors shall hold office during the term for which they are elected and until their successors are chosen" the two directors whose office expired this June will continue in office until their successors are duly chosen by the members of the Society."

Likewise in accordance with the provisions as set forth in Article IV Section 1, which reads as follows: "The Board of Directors shall choose from its own body a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, who shall hold office for one year, or until their successors are elected, all the present officers of the Society will continue in office until their successor are duly elected by the Board of Directors."

At present it is not considered necessary to appoint a director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John A. Bongers. If such a necessity should arise it will be done.

If we are able to hold a meeting of the members next year it will be then necessary to elect six directors. At that time the following five directors' term of office will expire: L. W. Lindgren, William F. Christman, A. P. Saunders, Chas. F. Wassenberg, George W. Peyton. The sixth will fill the place now vacant. Attention is called to the fact that Article III, Section 3 of the By-Laws reads as follows: The directors to be elected at each annual meeting shall be active members nominated by the Board. Nominations may also be made by any ten active members of Society. Such nominations should be made in writing to the Secretary at any time before the meeting of the Board, which precedes the annual meeting of the Society, and names so proposed shall be presented to the Society along with the nominees selected by the Board." It is strongly urged that the members take advantage of this provision and send in their nominees.

GEORGE W. PEYTON, *President*

Rapidan, Virginia, July 14, 1945.



My Peony Season at Home and Abroad

GEORGE W. PEYTON, *Rapidan, Virginia*

A very few words will suffice to tell of my own season. It was the worst I ever experienced. A very hot and rainless March was followed by a wintry April and May. Peonies were very far advanced by April and tree peonies opened as early as April 5. *Smouthii* bloomed on April 8 and *Red Warrior* would have opened in a few days, but it and about ninety percent of my remaining blooms were either killed or so badly damaged by the numerous freezes that followed hard on each other throughout April that the bloom was insignificant. The other ten percent was good. Generally singles were bad, Japs and doubles mediocre while semi-doubles were excellent. The best singles were *Pico*, my own seedling *Dunlora*, *Sea Shell*, *Imperial Red*, *Red Harmony* and *Flanders Fields* which was the first chinensis to open (April 25). There were no good white Japs except Murawska's No. 37, *Largo* was probably the best one I had.

The doubles were a very mixed lot. Some however came along in fine shape. Of the newer ones *Moonglow*, *Marilla Beauty*, *Laura Kelsey*, *Florence Nicholls*, *Dr. J. H. Neeley*, *Mrs. W. L. Gumm*, were good with a new one *Mattie Lafuze* making the most perfect flower of them all on a small two year plant. It is a combination of exquisite pink and white tones with a very deep flower of fine form. Its foliage is large and stems very strong. It looks like a coming show flower. *King Midas* was the finest red. *To Kalon* and *Charlene* gave much promise and *Moonstone* was very good.

The real semi-doubles were represented by *Mildred May* in its dress of pure white with golden trimmings. *Ernest F. Kelsey* was very fine, almost perfect with *White Rose* its equal. *Red Goddess* was a real divinity in her royal robes of deepest red velvet. *Garden Princess*, *Lady Alexandra Duff*, *Marie Jacquin*, *Pompilia* and many others added to the beauty of the season. *Laura Treman* was a very fine flower.

An invitation from my good friend, Mr. R. A. Napier, in mid-May caused me to discard all my resolutions not to go away from home this year, and so on June 5th I boarded a train and went first to visit the garden of our late beloved president, John A. Bongers, in Ottumwa, Iowa. This

garden I found in full bloom and full of as fine flowers as one could wish to see. It is useless to attempt to name what I saw there. There were all the best we have in excellent bloom except the very late ones which looked as if they would surpass even the others. Mrs. Bongers wishes to sell this garden as she is unable to give it the care it deserves. It is a great opportunity for any one who desires the best to get a representative collection of all worthwhile varieties of late introduction. Very few of them are missing and the plants are just in their prime.

From Ottumwa I came to Blue Island to see Mr. Napier and spent the next ten happy days with him talking peonies, and going over his garden many times daily. Since the death of his wife last February, Mr. Napier's daughter and her husband together with their very attractive family of three daughters live with him and take good care of him. His peonies were just coming into bloom on my arrival and were just passing their prime when I left. There was a show at The Beverly Hills Field House put on by the Beverly Hills Woman's Club on June 15. Mr. Napier made a number of entries and won everything he entered. The highest award was won by *Sarah M. Napier* in the class for single specimens with a purple ribbon. The blue was placed on *Mary E. Nicholls*. Other winners were *Alice Harding*, *Florence Nicholls*, *Mrs. Harry F. Little*, *Akbar*, *Grace Batson*. His display consisted of forty of the finest varieties we have.

Mr. Napier's garden is open to the public daily during the peony season from dawn to dark. Many take advantage of this great opportunity to see the best peonies at their prime. It was a great pleasure to me to show a number of peony lovers each day through this garden. From Mr. Napier's home I went to see my good friends the Crenshaws in Rochester, Minnesota. John's friends will be glad to know that he was able to go out to his peony garden several times during the season. His room in the hospital was always a regular peony show. It is hoped that he will be able soon to come home for good. His peonies were exceptionally fine this year.

A morning's visit to Dr. Christopher Graham was as usual a high spot in my trip. He is in fine health and spirits and no one enjoys his flowers more than he does and it is a delight to him to show his friends around. Two visits were also paid to the garden of Dr. Pollock. This garden was also just coming into good bloom and his plants were exceptionally fine looking and gave promise of many fine things which was fulfilled as he told me in Minneapolis.

My stay at Mr. Brand's was very short this time. I found both Mr. and Mrs. Brand not as well as might be wished, but we hope the summer will bring them back into fine health. We often hear that peonies run out and get inferior in a few years. This statement is not true if we can take the gardens of Mr. Napier and Mr. Brand as examples. Mr. Napier's has many plants over twenty years old still blooming as well as ever. In Mrs. Brand's private garden there is a plant of *Le Cygne* about thirty years old that was loaded with immense blooms of as fine quality as that variety can produce and we all know what that means. There are plants of *Martha Bulloch*, *Mary Brand*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand* that stood fifty-four inches high this year and were either in full bloom or just coming into bloom with the finest flowers that could be found anywhere. And there were others only a little less aged equally fine. The two plants of *Oliver F. Brand* in it were in splendid shape and were giving promise of fine bloom in a few days.

Miss Gentry had just broken her arm a month before and was still incapacitated by the accident.

During my stay in St. Paul I was a guest in the home of R. W. Jones where I spent several very happy as well as busy days for we were cutting and storing blooms for his exhibits in the show. It was a great pleasure to me to renew my acquaintance with his very efficient wife, and his three charming daughters. His cabin on his peony plot is a marvel of good taste and convenience. One night was spent with those excellent people Walter Lindgren and his wife. His daughter Lois was also at home. She has taken a soldier for life since my last visit and he is to be congratulated on his choice.

My trip home was rather tiresome so far as the rail journey was concerned as it was the hottest time I had experienced. But I had the pleasure of one more day's stay with Mr. Napier and a visit to my two daughters and cousin en route.

It was a disappointment not to see many of my friends whom I ordinarily visit on these trips, but it did not seem possible this time to prolong my absence from home. It was a pleasure to meet both at Mr. Brand's and at Mr. Jones's, Mr. Alan Wild of Gilbert H. Wild and Son of Sarcoxie, Missouri. He had with him his very handsome wife and young son and attractive daughter. They were touring many places seeing peonies. I also had the pleasure of seeing Art Murawska also for a short visit at Mr. Jones' home.

As I have mentioned elsewhere the principal varieties I saw I shall not take up additional space with a further list.

Next year we hope we shall all meet again at Rockford if conditions are favorable.



Comments From Missouri

BENJAMIN C. AUTEN, *Carterville, Mo.*

Le Cygne is characterized in the Manual as having heavy foliage. Mine is decidedly otherwise, a big tall stem with smallish leaves on the upper half or two thirds of the stem. Judging from them, I would suppose the shortcoming of *Le Cygne* is flower production to be due to the inadequacy of the foliage for a high flower job.

Complaint has been made of *Mons. Martin Cahuzac* that its blooms, some of them, fail to come up to maximum. The most beautiful flower that ever grows on *Mons. Martin Cahuzac* is a full open-centered side bud. The big centered-stemmed double flowers are frowsy and cheap, except in their glorious color, and the side buds have the same, better displayed. From some of your *Cahuzac*'s, disbud the center bud.

One has me accused, in the bulletin, of advocating the use of rootless crowns in commercial handling of plant. Not so. I said: if I were replanting my own stock, and could replant at once into good soil with assured moisture supply, I would cut off the roots and plant only the crowns. In commercial handlings, where the plant may have to meet any one or more or all, of half a dozen dangerous vicissitudes, a good root system is a valuable, even necessary, safeguard.

If a plant has opportunity, however, to get a few new crown roots established, it is better off not to have any others. Any plant is as old

as its oldest root. In any clump, of course, some of the crowns are practically on roots their own, of their own age.

Many years ago I secured a few plants from Auguste Dessert. The roots had been cut to two inches, and I never had plants do better. An old root, I think, is of slight value as a source of food. It can hold a supply of moisture to carry a plant from night, when moisture can be secured, across a dry day to night again, and thus across a dry season.

All the gathering of food is done by the rootlets of the preceding season, mostly at and near the ends of the older roots, until new ones can take their place. The development root gathers no food, but serves as food storage for the next spring's growth. The older a root is the less it is worth. In dividing, all old roots should be discarded. They are of no use to the plant. If of a valuable or scarce variety, they may be replanted, and may or may not develop buds and start new plants. If not broken off, they never will, as any little energy they may have will be passed into the younger growth of the plant. Such pieces of root can be planted very close, as growth will be slow and many will not grow. While they may contribute something to the plant of which they are a part, the old age roots are working against it in another way. New growth of a plant is at the terminals, whether above or below ground. The older a root is, the farther and harder it is for the interdependent activities above and below ground to reach and support each other.

While partly a matter of crowding and of the crowns yearly becoming more shallow, old age of a peony, I believe, is mainly the result of the annual increasing of the distance through aging roots which has to be traversed by the life juices of the plant.

Every year the feeding rootlets are a new crop, most of them farther from the crowns than those of the year before.

An analogous example of this is an unpruned peach tree. In a few years the branches become so long, with the functioning part of the tree so far from home, that the tree no longer can maintain itself. By systematic heading back, thus keeping it short limbed and compact, its life is extended many years.

A newly set plant starts its rootlets from the end of the root. If the root is eight inches long, the rootlets are eight inches or more from the crown: if cut to two inches, only one fourth as far, and much more efficient. There usually are also rootlets from the crown, and these are the ones of highest value to the plant.

In setting rootless crowns, nematodes are eliminated. In cases of suspected Lemoine disease, the planting of rootless crowns may give opportunity for accurate determination. In old clumps, the evidence may be obscured. In the young root-growth from a rootless crown, the new roots will almost certainly give definite evidence.

As to Lemoine disease, it is my suspicion that the disease has a tendency to become more and more attenuated, in old clumps, at any rate, and may be even to disappear altogether, though I would not wish to plant stock that in the past has had the disease, no matter how rigid an inspection it might pass.

To return to the point at issue, I consider it good policy for commercial plants to have a good supply of roots; and equally good, to shorten, may be completely remove, these at the moment of planting.

Once, after filling a wholesale order, I sorted out from the rubbish the broken off crowns, and the blossom-stem stubs which had buds at-

tached. These I planted, and from them received as fine a row of plants as I ever had. It may take an extra year for them to come even, but from then on the advantage will be with them.

Just as in a human family, or the human race, whose life is in its young, so is the life of a peony plant in its young parts.

Of the albiflora type of peony, roots broken off from root tissue will never grow, though they can remain in the soil three years before giving up. Such roots develop a callus on the distal end. Roots broken off from the crown may or may not grow, according to whether or not a trace of crown tissue came off with them.



A Report From Ohio

JOHN S. SNOOK, *Paulding, Ohio*

This year has certainly been one of the poorest since I have been interested in growing peonies. Last summer and fall we had a long and severe drought; so prolonged that it killed a number of clumps and injured many others. Then this March was like a summer month and April and May were cold, with a number of freezing nights. As a result, a good many clumps had no blooms and many of the others not more than one third of half the usual number.

I have about forty of the varieties chosen by the Minneapolis committee and named in the March bulletin as the select class, and I did not have what I could call a first class bloom on a single one of these varieties. All were small and nearly all the pinks lacked color.

But there was a redeeming feature, small as the blooms were, there was a showing of beauty that made a peony lover understand that in spite of adverse weather they were aristocrats of the flower family.

Then I had one other consolation — my seedling, *Edith M. Snook* was pretty good. I had one or two blooms of this variety that would have stood out in any peony show. I presume that sounds like bragging, but I assure you that I do not mean it that way. Was surely gratified to see it do so well under adverse conditions.

There was one other variety that gave me a surprise and that was *President Wilson*. The blooms were small, and while other varieties of pink lacked color, its blooms were the richest lavender pink one scarcely ever sees.

I was very much interested in the select class and the candidates for select class chosen by the committee and printed in the last bulletin. These lists, and the lists named by Peyton in the September 1943 bulletin are valuable for all growers.



Correction of address

Shuhaibar, Alfred, c/o American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon.

The above address was incorrectly given us as reported in a former bulletin.

List of New Members

Anderson, Mary E., Box 206, Chillicothe, O.
 Armitage, Alvin L., Smith's Creek, Mich.
 Beede, Virginia S., Rehoboth, Mass.
 Birtner, Charles W., R.F.D. 1, Freeland, Belts Co., Md.
 Bischoff, Mrs. Florence, Plainview Road, RFD 1, Hicksville, N. Y.
 Borel, S. R., Moss Road, Cheshire, Conn.
 Brewster, Mrs. Frank L., Baxter Springs, Kas.
 Brownell, M. J., Mt. Upton, N. Y.
 Cammon, A. M., 747 Everett St., El Cerrito, Cal.
 Carras, Mrs. N., 702 Summit, Lawton, Okla.
 Coates, Jr., W. W., 2318 Townes Lane, Austin 21, Tex.
 Collins, Mrs. Lydia E., Rice, Minn.
 Dagnall, C. H., R. 3, Box 326, Vienna, Va.
 Domenici, Mrs. C., 402 S. 15th St., Albuquerque, N. Mex.
 Dukelow, Elmer, RR 3, Hutchinson, Kans.
 Durling, Ed., 2010 S. Broadway, Wichita, Kans.
 Erb, James Z., Lorane, Pa.
 Fett, Mrs. John, Ankeny, Iowa
 Franklin, Loren, Franklin Nursery, Richfield Station, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Franklin, Mabel L., 5357 15th Ave., S., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Fuermann, Eugenia, 523 Winsor St., Jamestown, N. Y.
 Funkhouser, Harry B., 192 W. Earle Ave., Youngstown, Ohio
 Gloyd, Mrs. A. L., 5412 Worthington Dr., Washington 16, D. C.
 Hayes, Lester C., 1129 West Forest, Decatur 41, Ill.
 Herighausen, Henry, 4552 N. Kostner Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Hibbard, C. B., 4 E. 41st St., New York City 17, N. Y.
 Hicks, Robert, North, Va.
 Hobdas, Phillip, 2016 Indiana Ave., La Porte, Ind.
 Holoday, J. A., 1149 Ferry St., Eugene, Ore.
 Hopper, Mrs. Thos. J., Dundee, N. Y.
 Hough, Mrs. Kenneth J., R.F.D. 1, 2709 Lincoln Ave., La Crosse, Wis.
 Hunter, Mrs. C. Kenneth, RFD 1, Hanover Hills, Barrington, Ill.
 Huss, Genevieve, 318 N. A. Street, Farmington, Mo.
 Hutchinson, Priscilla E., Cherry Hall, Matawan, N. J.
 Kirkbride, W. Warren, 2261 Stillman Road, Cleveland 18, Ohio
 Klager, Mrs. Hulda, Woodland, Wash.
 Lamb, Mrs. C. A., E. 101 Sharp, Spokane, Wash.
 Laneford Garden, G. E. Derbyshire, Princeton, Ind.
 Leach, Frank A., Box 5, Diablo, PO, Calif.
 Little, Mrs. Charles D., 902 West Brow Road, Lookout Mountain, Tenn.
 Missouri Botanical Garden, Geo. T. Moore, Director, St. Louis, Mo.
 Pares, George, R 2, Newburgh, N. Y.
 Rittenhouse, Verne C., R.R. 2, Miamisburg, O.
 Rough, W. E., 118 Nelson Drive, Hilton Village Br., Newport News, Va.
 Roulhac, John G., 607 Farnsworth Bldg., Memphis, Tenn.
 Schultz, Mrs. Louis A., 2018 Clinton St., Rockford, Ill.
 Stallkamp, Leonard G., Park Road, Holland, Mich.
 Snyder, Mrs. Wm. J., 2613 S.E. 8th St., Des Moines 15, Iowa
 Stanley, H. M. Ironton, Ohio
 Stras, Mrs. J. C. Cardinal, Ky.
 Weiland A. & H., 790 Elm Street, Winnetka, Ill.
 Weatherby, Donald C., R.F.D. 1, Decatur, Ill.
 Zeskey, Jr., Charles R., 625 W. 69th St., Kansas City, Mo.
 Zillmer, O. A. 9502 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa, Wis.

Secretary's Notes

Due to the fact that I happened to have a number of good articles for this issue of the bulletin, my notes will necessarily be rather brief.

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Well, the peony season is a thing of the past for this year, although I cut a bloom July 16th that looked pretty good to me. As a general thing, from reports I have received covering a wide territory, there was much lacking in our season of bloom that brought disappointment to many. A real peony lover can take it, however, and we have already commenced to plan for another year when we surely expect to have some good bloom that late freezes have not damaged.

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Yesterday, July 15, I had the pleasure of a brief visit with Mr. Styer of Concordville, Pa., who came to Chicago to attend an executive meeting of which he is Chairman. In a little over two hours we packed in considerable conversation about peonies and experiences this year.

He stated that he sent some help from Concordville to their New York State planting of peonies in order to disbud. Shortly after they started to work he got a phone call stating there had been four inches of snow and the peonies were flat on the ground, having been frozen. It is not a hard stretch of the imagination to figure out that this meant sure loss, but that is just one of the many instances where late freezing got in its work.

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On the Chicago market there are a good many peonies at this writing, being held in storage, and many of them will never open due to frost damage. They were cut in the bud as they usually are with the expectation that they would eventually produce good bloom, but many of these buds will never open and the local florists have been afraid to handle them on this account. The buds looked all right when cut but when they are cut open they show a black center, the result of freezing, and this means they will not develop.

Reports I have received this season are pretty much the same. Only a few report that they had a good season of bloom. In some sections of Minnesota the peonies got through pretty well and they had some excellent bloom at their annual show which it was my privilege to attend as well as to assist in the judging.

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When I find something really worth while I like to pass the information on to our readers. Perhaps some of you are not chemically inclined but I will wager that there is not a one who reads these lines who has not at some time or other wished he knew how to make some preparation for some particular use. The Chemical Publishing Company of Brooklyn, 2 N. Y., have recently published a most comprehensive book entitled *The Chemical Formulary*, Vol. VII. There are 2500 formulas for making almost anything, easily, quickly and inexpensively at home.

including a wealth of practical helps for gardeners. The book contains 453 pages and is priced at \$6.00. It differs from previous books on this subject in that it contains many new and different formulas and the best of all, it has been simplified for the benefit of non-technical users.

THE CHEMICAL FORMULARY contains a most comprehensive list of formulas for agricultural insecticides ranging from the new DDT group to time tested mixtures for cut worms, lawn grubs, Japanese beetle, thrip, aphid, mite and mealy bug control.

This book will also be found of great value and of special assistance to housewives trying to cope with war time shortages. There are formulas for beverages, flavors, cosmetics and drug products, polishes, soaps and cleaners as well as for food products. There are also formulas to prevent discoloration of fruits, vegetables and meats in canning and preserving.

The book can be obtained at bookstores or direct from the publisher and I can assure you that it will be a good investment that you will not regret making.

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We will be glad to get your reports of the garden performance of your peonies this year as in spite of weather conditions that would have ruined other flowers, the peony did not entirely disappoint us. The Japanese types came through particularly well while others next to them were complete flops. I have received a few reports that very little, if any damage was experienced in some sections, while a few miles distant there was severe loss due to freezing.

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Mr. Peyton has given us a very full and complete word picture of the Minneapolis show and also of his trip that I am sure you will all enjoy reading.

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The other articles and items appearing in this issue should also be found good reading from which much valuable information can be secured.

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We are making every effort to get this issue to you as soon as possible but there are delays beyond our control that sometimes we cannot figure on.

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Had I the time I would write each member who has sent in their dues thanking them personally for their cooperation, but as this is not possible at present, I shall have to express my appreciation and thanks through this medium. We do want to thank you most heartily as your continued support means better bulletins.

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We would feel that we had accomplished something worth while if in the coming year we could boost our membership to the 1000 mark or beyond. This is not impossible as we haven't far to go and with a slight increase over the year just passed this goal will be reached. Are you with me?

W. F. Christman

Unusual Peonies In Oklahoma

ELEANOR HILL, *Tulsa, Oklahoma*

Mine has always been an experimental garden. I grow principally plants that present a cultural problem or new varieties that have not been grown here before. Why I should have chosen to grow all monocotyledons I do not know. When there was no bloom the borders were dreadfully monotonous. When I moved to my new garden I decided to add numbers of plants with compound foliage to give variety. Peonies were chosen for the background of the large borders.

Double peonies do not produce the fine large blooms here that they do in the north. That fact has never disturbed me, because I prefer small flowers and singles or semi-double flowers. I am interested in species and unusual hybrids of all plants. Reds frequently fade in our hot suns. These, and the fact that I need April rather than May bloom, were the factors that controlled my selections.

My first purchase was quantities of the single *tenuifolia*. It offers no cultural problems except that it comes up so early it must be covered frequently to keep the blossoms from being frozen. Unlike most peonies it has no protecting foliage around the bud when it comes through the ground. The fact that the foliage died down early made me think it would not tolerate full sun, but it will. When it is established the foliage stays green until September. It has bloomed consistently the five seasons since it was planted. As it blooms in early April the sun is not strong enough to cause the blossoms to fade. It has been very popular with garden visitors most of whom do not recognize it as a peony. The plants increase in size very quickly.

Corallina was represented as being difficult so it was planted in partial shade at the north of the house and close enough to a down spout that it would receive extra water when it rained. It showed no increase and did not bloom until its third year. It gave excellent bloom the fourth and fifth seasons and is now increasing very rapidly. To my eyes it is not beautiful. I call the color magenta, not coral, as it was represented. Like *tenuifolia* the foliage dies down early.

The tree peonies, *Reine Elizabeth* and *La Lorraine* planted in the autumn of 1942 are growing satisfactorily. Both set buds the second season after planting. The bud of *La Lorraine* failed to develop and the one on *Reine Elizabeth* was accidentally broken off. The third season the bud on *Reine Elizabeth* rotted due to heavy rains. The bud on *La Lorraine* did not develop properly.

Also planted in 1942 were *Mlokoewitschii*, *Victoria Lincoln*, *Alstead*, *Nippon Gold*, *Lady Alexandra Duff*, *Helen*, Early and Late windflowers, *Auten Seedling 2237*, *Peggy*, *Silvia Saunders* and *Lucky Day*.

Mlokoewitschii bloomed the first spring; failed to bloom in 1944, but bloomed in 1945. Slight yellowing of the foliage in hot weather leads me to believe it should be grown in partial shade. I like it better than any peony I have ever seen. The plant is quite dwarf and has most unusual foliage which begins to die down in August. Its clear, pale yellow flowers will make excellent arrangements. It does not come up until about the time that we are past the danger of killing frost. It blooms the latter part of April.

The Early and Late Windflower peonies will also be attractive for cutting. They bear small single white flowers on stems with crooked

necks. They are not showy and few people will recognize them as peonies when picked. Both come up early enough to require protection from late freezes. The foliage of the Late Windflower dies in July. They are so similar that both are not needed except to give a longer season of bloom.

Auten Seedling 2237 has not bloomed. As it does not exceed one foot in height it makes an excellent plant for the front of the border. It will be re-set this fall. *Peggy*, another *Auten* dwarf, is not so attractive a plant. The plant is taller and the foliage coarser. It should be planted in partial shade here as the sun bleached its pale pink blossoms.

Silvia Saunders makes a medium sized plant. It comes up early enough to require covering. I like to use it in arrangements when not disbudded.

Victoria Lincoln is a magnificent peony although almost too large for my taste. It has bloomed for three years and has not come double yet. I expect to transplant it as soon as it does, as it suits me the way it is. It is the brightest, purest colored of the pink peonies in the garden. *Helen*, which is planted across the walk, looks pale and faded in comparison. Both bloom in mid-April.

Lucky Day and *Nippon Gold* come up late enough that they require only the protection of a few leaves raked over them. They are nice flowers, but the colors suffer from being planted too close to *Victoria Lincoln*.

Lady Alexandra Duff was chosen because of its unusual color. Although planted in full sun the color is quite good.

Le Cygne, which was moved from my old garden, gives good bloom although planted on the north side of the garage where it receives no direct sunlight except on summer evenings. The stems are taller and the blossoms larger than when it is grown in full sunlight. When planted in shade it extends the blooming season into mid-May. It usually comes up in February.

Solange also grew very satisfactorily in the same situation until I suspected it of being diseased and destroyed it. Only in almost full shade are its lovely coffee tones evident.

I have only one bit of advice for persons interested in growing early peonies in this climate. Provide plenty of bushel baskets and large hampers to use for cover during late cold snaps. In most instances half-bushel baskets will not be large enough.



Fragrance

This is just a thought about the fragrance of flowers.

Webster says: "Smell and odor may suggest either a pleasant or an unpleasant impression. Scent implies less strength than smell or odor. Fragrance is a fresh and pleasant odor. Perfume may be either natural or artificial, and either light or heavy. Aroma suggests a distinctive, often delicately spicy, odor."

With these fine distinctions in mind, let's think about the fragrance of flowers (which usually is "fresh and pleasant" but not always). I am told that the flower stages a chemical reaction as the result of which a "gas" is given off that we call "fragrance."

When we gaze at a flower and perceive its color, we immediately check this against the spectrum and say the flower is red, or orange, or yellow,

or blue, etc. In other words we have a standard of measurement for the color of a flower so that we can write or speak of it freely, and those with whom we converse can and do understand immediately the color we are describing. But has it ever occurred to you that we have no standards at all by which to record the fragrance of a flower? To transmit to another person an impression of the odor of a certain flower, we are compelled to resort to a simile: we say it "smells like a rose" or it "smells like violets" or it "smells like garlic" or we even go so far as to say it "smells to heaven" (which is bad, not good).

How different this is from our ability to express visual reactions! We don't say "this rose is colored like the meat of a watermelon;" we say "it is red." Yet if we want to talk about its fragrance, we fish around for comparisons. We seem to have no words with a fixed standard of value when it comes to smells.

There are a few words that occasionally are used in speaking of odors, but they seem to be flexible in meaning and they fail to convey a fixed impression from one person to another. For example, to say a flower smells "sweet" fails to tell anything because the meaning is probably borrowed from the realm of taste (an entirely different though perhaps related sense) and it is usually associated with sugar (which has no smell). To say something smells "spicy" conveys an idea of tickled nostrils, but I am not sure this image can be separated from hay fever or the desire to sneeze. We have no words to express for smells the correlary of "bitter" and "sour" in the world of taste. In fact our language seems to be poverty-stricken in this matter of smell standards, and about all we can convey in speech or print is that the fragrance of a flower is pleasant or unpleasant (opinions differ even on this), heavy or light, fleeting or enduring, etc. We still have not told what the flower fragrance is.

Are other languages as void of "smell" words as is English?

Are there other "smell" words in English that I have overlooked that do really convey an image?

If you wanted to describe the over-powering fragrance of the "night blooming jasmine" (*Cestrum nocturnum*), how would you do it?

Of if you wanted to write a friend about the perfume of our "Cape Jasmine" (*Gardenia florida*), what would you write?

This is a serious request for help. Write me your opinion. — E. A. Menninger in *Stuart News*.



Using Sawdust As Mulch

RALPH B. SMITH, KEOKUK, IOWA

It is about time to report on the sawdust for the spring of 1945.

I believe the sawdust helped this year. In fact I know it kept down the weeds. It did not hold the water quite as much as it did in 1944, but the plants in the low area that were very short last year did not get back to their full height in 1945.

We had a crazy spring. In March it was so warm that it was impossible to hold back the peony plants and *Laciniata* was blooming on April 21. About that time it turned cold and wet and the rest of the plants just stood still until the middle of May. They had buds about half grown, but they did not develop. It has been cold and wet clear up to the present time and the later peonies like *President Coolidge* and *So-*

lange are in bloom now. In going through the patch yesterday I found a good bloom of David Harum on a secondary shoot which had come up from the crown since the first flowers were gone.

I believe that plowing the sawdust under this summer will improve the bed by getting some humus into the soil.

I have another interesting observation from this seasons crop. We have had a lot of root rot in the bed. To fight it we have taken out the diseased plants, dug out the dirt about eighteen inches square and eighteen inches deep and carted it away. I thought I would give the replacements a fine start so I had the boys go down in the Des Moines River bottom, get some extra fine silt and we filled these holes with silt. This year the plants, set in this silt, are not growing as well or showing as good flowers as the plants set out in the old original yellow clay of the bed. This fall I am going to test this by filling the holes with yellow clay taken from the pasture and see how it checks with the plants planted in the silt.

In regard to the root rot problem which is a bad one with us. We lose from 50 to 200 plants a year. I want to give the younger growers a note of warning. We had no root rot until the bed was about five years old. Then about blooming time a plant of Alsace Lorraine began to turn yellow and the stalks looked as though they were made of paper. It was diagnosed all right as root rot, but as we were extremely busy with visitors nothing was done until after the blooming season when it was dug up and thrown away. The next year it was all over the patch, but there were twice as many plants infected along the paths as there were in the rows not bordering the paths. Apparently the disease had been carried by the clothes of the visitors. We started in pouring a formaldehyde solution on the infected plants or rather on the places where they had been and by dusting all of the tops of the plants in the fall after cutting the tops and in the spring just as the buds appeared with bordeaux powder. This apparently checked the disease two years. After that we thought we had it licked and left off the powder. That year we lost 200 plants.

Several years ago you had an article in the Bulletin about the use of charcoal. I was lucky to get some extremely fine chacoal dust from the local Powder Plant and put it on two rows of about 50 peonies each, leaving a row between of the same varieties as a check. There have been three blooming seasons since. I cannot see any difference in the plants or in the flowers between the treated rows and the check rows, but whether the charcoal had anything to do with it or not there was more root rot in the treated rows than there was in the check rows. This is still being tested.

I will try to keep you up to date on our troubles, but wish some of the other fellows who have had to fight botrytis would let us know what they have done and with what success. We are still experimenting to see if we can find the answer and need all the help we can get.

* * * * *

Department Of Registration

Mary E. G. Freeborn of Proctor, Vermont sends in the following description of her seedling peony for registration.

Dr. Wm. H. Pack (Freeborn, 1945) Plant thrifty, shapely and very free producer of medium sized, perfectly cupped, pure white flower with an unusually rich yellow center. Lasts well and suitable for table decoration.

The following new peony is submitted for registration by the originator, Mr. W. A. Payne, R. R. 3, Terre Haute, Indiana. The description is by the originator.

Greer Garson (Payne, 1945) Large to very large, rather compact full double flower without stamens or pistils, opening, according to Ridgway, pale rosaline purple, fading to rose pink, borne on a medium compact plant of average to large size. Good, clean growth with disease resistant, medium green foliage. Bloom held rather high above the foliage on good stems with no lateral bloom most seasons. Fragrance most intense and agreeable. One of the most fragrant of all peonies. Late, midseason bloomer.



NOTE ON ANNUAL REPORTS

Due to some unavoidable delays we were unable to get the report of the secretary and treasurer in this issue. It will appear in the September number as we did not want to hold up the printing of the June issue longer than absolutely necessary. There are some other very good articles that we were obliged to hold over as we have a paper allocation and are obliged to keep within the limit of pages for the time being.

We will have room for several more articles in the September issue so let them come along and they will appear at the first opportunity



LINS NEW PEONIES

BURMA — (Sdl. No. R-7 X D R). A large beautifully formed, beautiful red, shown the first time at the 1945 Minnesota State Show. Was champion red, also first in — One bloom class, also first in ten bloom class. **Burma** has excellent form, heavy substance, good stems that hold the blooms erect and does not burn in the sun. Medium height 3 yr. plants from small 1 eye cuttings produced 10 to 12 large blooms, practically all show caliber. An outstanding variety.

Division \$20.00

OLD LACE — (Sdlg. No. R-1-100). Mere words are not adequate to describe this beautiful flower, but imagine a tall plant with willowy but adequate stems, crowned with great, flat, double, perfectly formed bloom composed of precisely arranged narrow, delicate petals radiating from the center. Open blush pink changing to blush ivory when fully open. To me, this is one of the most beautiful peonies.

Division \$10.00

ENSIGN MANNIX MORIARTY — (Sdlg. No. R-S-101). Very large, full double, heavy bloom on heavy stems, strong enough to hold the great blooms erect. Color is a medium dark pink, petal edges blending to light pink. Medium plants, mid-season. Has been good every year. Was Champion Dark Pink 1945 Minnesota State Show. Will release a few divisions this year.

Division \$20.00

TARAWA — (Sdlg. No. R-3-150). One of our good, early, pure reds. Good every year. Can be used for fine floral work at any stage of bloom development. When first opening, it looks like a pure red Jap. Collar and petaloids are pure self red. As the plant develops, the petaloids develop into a big red bomb. Plants above medium height. Has good strong stems.

Division \$10.00

TULAGI — (Sdlg. R-3-191). Fine, tall clean plants with strong, straight stems. Large refined Jap. Cherry maroon guards, petaloids darker, edged golden cream. Excellent regular performer.

Division \$10.00

MANDALEEN — This is getting better every year. Great, perfectly double refined blooms of clean, warm baby pink with the sweetest rose fragrance imaginable. One of the good peonies.

Division \$10.00

KING MIDAS — Will release a limited number of this bright red of perfect rose form.

Division \$10.00

TONDELEYO — A few divisions available. The brilliant dark pink that can be spotted across the show room.

Division \$20.00

I agree to send good roots but do not promise giant divisions. All the above varieties are in small supply. Orders filled in order of booking. No catalog this year.

E. H. LINS, COLOGNE, MINN.

VICTORY

Sales for this lovely peony have far exceeded our expectations and the available supply for this year's distribution will soon be exhausted. Join the Victory Club of purchasers of this variety. See Bulletin 95 and 96 for full description. Priced at \$20 each, and well worth it.

Later we will prepare a list describing this and many of the finest peonies obtainable. Send request for it and it will be sent when ready. Victory will be featured at the Rockford, Ill., A.P.S. show in 1946.

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W. F. Christman, Propr.

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The American Iris Society, since its organization in 1920, has published 83 Bulletins which cover every phase of iris growing. These bulletins go four times each year to all members, who may also purchase any back numbers in stock for 50c a copy. Because the bulletins are not for sale except to members a

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER of SIX for ONE DOLLAR is made to non-members. The six are our selection from surplus stock.

THE ALPHABETICAL IRIS CHECK LIST, edited by Ethel Anson S. Peckham and published in 1940, is an invaluable reference book for all who grow irises or wish to know about irises. The book lists about nineteen thousand names of irises (including synonyms and mis-spellings) and contains as nearly as is humanly possible all the old species and varieties as well as the new ones, with added information about obsolete varieties, species, section, season, color and fragrance. There is a long list of names of breeders, introducers, dealers and authors, with brief biographical details. The binding is durable, water-proof cloth, and in spite of its 582 pages the book is of a size comfortable for holding and carrying. The price to A.I.S. members is \$3.00, to non-members \$4.00.

Orders should be addressed to the office of the Secretary, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Building, Washington, D. C., and checks made payable to the American Iris Society.

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