

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

*Bulletin*

JUNE 1954

Bulletin No. 133

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**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY**

George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

President: W. A. Alexander, 207 Eberly Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio.

Vice-president: Clare F. Wood, 130 Queen's Bay, East, Toronto, Canada.

Treasurer: L. W. Lindgren, 1787 West Minnehaha Avenue, St. Paul, 4, Minnesota.

Secretary and Editor: George W. Peyton, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Virginia.

## DIRECTORS

W. A. Alexander, 207 Eberly Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio. (1957).

William F. Christman, Northbrook, Illinois. (1956).

Marvin C. Karrels, 3272 South 46th St., Milwaukee 15, Wis. (1956).

L. W. Lindgren, 1787 West Minnehaha Avenue, St. Paul, 4, Minnesota. (1955).

Frank E. Moots, 1127 West Broadway, Newton, Kansas. (1955).

George W. Peyton, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Virginia. (1955).

Miss Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York. (1956).

Winthrop H. Thurlow, West Newbury, Massachusetts. (1955).

Neal R. van Loon, Route 1, Newton, New Jersey. (1955).

Charles F. Wassenberg, Van Wert, Ohio. (1956).

Allen J. Wild, Sarcoxie, Missouri. (1957).

Mrs. W. E. Wipson, 903 Arrowhead Road, Duluth 3, Minn. (1957).

Clare F. Wood, 130 Queen's Quay E. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (1956).

## DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

No. 5. Dr. D. Sanford Hyde, 810 Bonnie Brae, River Forest, Illinois.

## OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Sec. 2. That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony; to improve the standard of excellence of the flower; to improve the methods of its cultivation and methods of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring about a more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held examinations, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor, or in any other manner.

## MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development, are eligible to membership.

The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send a check or money order for five dollars payable to AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to the Secretary. If cash is sent, the letter should be registered. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances made otherwise. Membership fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members \$5.00 for one year.

## THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued quarterly, usually in March, June, September and December. Back numbers will be charged for at \$1.25 a copy for the current years. Contact the Secretary for prices on other available numbers.

## DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies." Those who desire to register a new variety, and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names, should apply to George W. Peyton, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



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SEPTEMBER, 1954 — NO. 134

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## P R E S I D E N T ' S   M E S S A G E

It is a real honor to be chosen president of the American Peony Society, an honor which (honesty compels the admission) gives me a measure of personal satisfaction. However, I was reluctant to accept. Election to such an office presumes executive ability and qualities of leadership which I know I do not possess in great degree. And those are qualities which the chief officer of our Society should have in generous measure. For there is much to be done; the needs of the Society are many and great.

Perhaps our most pressing need is increased membership. Unless new members are added in a constant flow, an organization soon begins to deteriorate and eventually dies of old age. Numbers beget enthusiasm. Lack of near-by fellow members has a depressing effect on one's interest. For example, my nearest "peony neighbor" is some sixty miles distant. We can't get together very often to bolster our morale.

More members would give us more money. More money would en-

able us to expand the activities of the Society and the service it renders. It would make possible a better publication. With more members and more money, we could have more exhibits and could feature peonies in more general flower shows. We could subsidize research at experiment stations on phases of peony culture about which there is little exact knowledge. We could establish display gardens at strategic locations and carry on a program of publicity and advertising which would bring the peony to the public notice in a big way.

How to achieve these things, how to go about getting the job done is the question we face. I say WE, meaning all members; it is not just the problem of the officers and directors. Possibly one weakness of our Society has been that we sat back and left it all to the officers. But it is a weakness common to most societies and organizations unless definite steps are taken to overcome it. We may as well recognize the truth of the old saying, "What is everybody's business is

nobody's business." As one means of making the problems of the Society the business of more people in a rather definite way and of strengthening the voice of the membership in the planning and conduct of its affairs, I have appointed a group which I call the President's Advisory Committee. The members, none of whom are on the Board of Directors, are people whose interest and loyalty to the Society are unquestioned, and whose background of experience should enable them to be very helpful as advisers. Mr. Louis Smirnow has consented to be committee chairman. He is a successful business executive, a man who knows how to get things done, and a real peony fan whose special interest is tree peonies. Other members and their addresses are listed below.

The function of this committee is two-fold: to suggest to the president things that he can do, within the framework of the constitution, to promote the work of the Society; and to assemble ideas, their own and all members' whom they are able to contact, for the betterment of the Society, and to process those ideas into a set of recommendations to the directors regarding policies and future programs. If it works as I visualize it, the result should be a real "peony roots" policy stemming mostly from the membership at large, and a bold and aggressive attack upon the problems we all know exist. While only eleven people are named members of the committee, I hope that every member of the Society will accept this invitation to add his voice to its councils. Write me if you have suggestions for the president. I will give each one careful consideration and guarantee an answer even if I have to employ a typist. Or if you have what we may term policy suggestions, write the

chairman or any committee member.

Criticism is usually the forerunner of improvement in human affairs. But let us think of criticism as the finding through careful analysis, and bringing to light weaknesses, omissions, inadequacies and poor methods. The organization, the cause, the job to be done—those are our concern. When envy, malice and personal enmity enter in, judgment is warped, wrong conclusions result and the entire cause is weakened. So let us criticize and criticize freely. Let us pull no punches. But let us be sure they are clean and there are no fouls. Then let us come up with suggestions of ways and means of correcting things that are wrong, strengthening the weak spots and initiating action that is needed.

This year, the fiftieth of its existence, could be the turning point in the fortunes of the American Peony Society; we can go ahead into the future of development and progress, or we can take the road leading to decadence and eventual oblivion. It's up to you and me—all of us—individually and collectively. Each member must shoulder a share of the burden and the responsibility.

W. A. Alexander

#### PEONIES BEYOND THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

We have a card from one of our members from Pennsylvania. Dr. Ethel R. Hankele, who is on a trip to the far reaches of Scandinavia, which says: "Crossed the Arctic Circle July 24th. Thermometer 20 degrees Centigrade (68 Fahr.). Saw two pink Peony bushes in bloom. Tried to take a colored picture at 2 a.m. Denmark many peonies, nothing unusual, but several large single ones."

# THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SHOW

## Duluth Peony and Iris Society

Northern Minnesota National Bank

Duluth, Minnesota, July 8-9, 1954

### Court of Honor

Best flower in the show: Le Cygne, Mrs. W. E. Wipson.

Best double, white: Le Cygne, Mrs. Wipson.

Best double, flesh: Mattie Lafuze, Mrs. Wipson.

Best double, light pink: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mrs. W. A. Swanman.

Best double, dark pink: Helen Hayes, Mrs. Wipson.

Best double, red: Bonanza, Mrs. Wipson.

Best single: Krinkled White, Mrs. Wipson.

Best Japanese: Isani Gidui, Mrs. Wipson.

Best flower in Group I.: Duluth, Austin Lathers.

Best flower in Group II: Martha Bulloch, Mrs. Edmund Peterson.

(Note: All varieties shown must be named unless otherwise specified.)

### Group I

Open to all members of the Duluth Peony and Iris Society, except those exhibiting in Groups II and III. Herald-News Tribune Trophy.

1. Collection of 8 varieties, one bloom each. First: Austin Lathers, Ann Pfeiffer, Apollo, Duluth, Edwin C. Shaw, Livingstone, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Rosalie, Ruth Elizabeth. No second nor third.

2. Collection of 5 varieties, one bloom each. First: Austin Lathers, Armandine Mechin, Duluth, Livingstone, Mrs. Franklin D.

Roosevelt, Myrtle Gentry. No second nor third.

3. Collection of 3 Japanese and or single. First: None. Second: Austin Lathers, Akashigata, Jimmie Franklin, Mischief. No third.

4. Vase of 3 blooms, one each white, pink and red. First: Austin Lathers, Duluth, Edwin C. Shaw, Armandine Mechin.

### Group II

Open to all except those exhibiting in Groups I and III. J. D. Harrold Trophy.

1. Collection 5 varieties, one bloom each. First: Mrs. W. A. Swanman, Claire Dubois, Frances Willard, LeCygne, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Pfeiffer's Red Triumph. Second: Mrs. L. C. Husband, Couronne d'Or, Duluth, Mrs. Harry F. Little, Mrs. John M. Kleitsch, Sarah Bernhardt. Third: Mrs. F. N. Knapp, Avalanche, Couronne d'Or, Ella Christiansen, Mons. Jules Elie, Sarah Bernhardt.

2. Collection 3 varieties, one bloom each. First: Mrs. W. A. Swanman, Ann Pfeiffer, Claire Dubois, Rosalie. Second: Mrs. F. N. Knapp, Baroness Schroeder, Chestine Gowdy, Sarah Bernhardt. Third: Mrs. Edmund Peterson, Felix Crousse, Martha Bulloch, Rosalie.

3. One variety, pink. First: Mrs. Edmund Peterson, Martha Bulloch. Second: Mrs. W. A. Swanman, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt. Third: Mrs. F. N. Knapp, Chestine Gowdy.

4. One variety, white. First: Mrs. W. A. Swanman, Le Cygne. Second: Mrs. F. N. Knapp, Avalanche.

Third: Mrs. J. F. Thompson, Le Cygne.

5. One variety, red. First: Mrs. W. A. Swanman, Pfeiffer's Red Triumph. Second: Mrs. Edmund Peterson, Felix Crousse. Third: Mrs. J. F. Thompson, Felix Crousse.

6. One variety, Japanese. First: Mrs. W. A. Swanman, Rashoomon. Second: Mrs. L. C. Husband, Mrs. Mac. Third: Mrs. Edmund Peterson, Mikado.

7. One variety, single. First: Mrs. W. A. Swanman, Krinkled White. Second: Mrs. J. F. Thompson, Krinkled White. No third.

### Group III

Open to all members of the Duluth Peony and Iris Society.

1. Collection 15 varieties, one bloom each. First: Mrs. Wipson, Ann Pfeiffer, Bonanza, Doris Cooper, Ensign Moriarty, Felix Crousse, Le Cygne, Lillian Wild, Kansas, Mattie Lafuze, Moonstone, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Philippe Rivoire, Sarah Bernhardt, Tempest, Victory. No second nor third.

2. Collection 8 varieties, Japanese. First: Mrs. Wipson, Break o' Day, Dignity, Hari-ai-nin, Isani Gidui, Sunmist, Tamate Boku, Westerner, Yellow King. No second nor third.

3. Collection 5 varieties, single. First, Mrs. Wipson, Le Jour, Dancing Nymph, Krinkled White, Seashell, White Perfection.

4. Vase of 3 blooms, one variety, flesh. First: Mrs. Wipson, Mattie Lafuze. No second nor third.

5. Vase of 3 blooms, one variety, light pink. First: Mrs. Wipson, Sarah Bernhardt. No second. Third, Joseph Priley, Milton Hill.

6. Vase of 3 blooms, one variety, dark pink. First: Mrs. Wipson, Helen Hayes. Second: Joseph Priley, Martha Bulloch. No third.

7. Vase of 3 blooms, one variety,

red. First: Mrs. Wipson, Kansas, No second. Third: Joseph Priley, Mary Brand.

8. Vase of 3 blooms, one variety, white. First: Mrs. Wipson, Le Cygne. Second: Joseph Priley, Solange.

### Group IV

Open to anyone not a member of the Society.

1. Collection 3 named varieties. No entry.

2. Collection 3 unnamed varieties. No entry.

3. 3 blooms, unnamed. First: Miss Evelyn Kontonikas.

### Group V. Arrangements

Open to all

1. Arrangement of peonies suitable for decoration in a large church or auditorium. Other flowers and foliage permitted. Peonies must predominate. First: Mrs. Robert Macdonald. Second: Mrs. Oscar Anderson. Third: Mrs. Ralph Wagner.

2. "Peace" All white arrangement. Peonies with other foliage, any type. First: Mrs. Macdonald. Second: Mrs. Wagner. Third: Mrs. E. L. Swanson.

3. "Bounty of the New Land." Arrangement of peonies with fruits and/or vegetables and other material. Peonies predominating. First: Mrs. Macdonald. Second: None. Third: Mrs. Swanson.

4. "Father of Waters." Arrangement of peonies with driftwood. First: Mrs. Macdonald. Second: Mrs. Swanson. No third.

5. "East of the Sun." Arrangement of Japanese peonies in oriental style, with or without accessories. First: Mrs. Macdonald. Second: Mrs. Ralph Wagner. No third.

### Group VI. Seedlings

Open To All

First: Austin Lathers. Second: Mrs. L. C. Husband.

## Judges

Specimens: Glenn H. Greaves, St. Paul; Mrs. Oscar Anderson, Duluth. Arrangements: Mrs. W. Brandser, Mrs. Juneau.

## Trophy Winners

Group I.: Herald-News Tribune: Austin Lathers.

Group II. J. D. Harrold: Mrs. Willis A. Swanman.

Reported by R. Stanley Larson

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## HINTS FOR BEGINNERS

The planting season will be upon us when this Bulletin reaches you, in the early days of September. If you have not already made your plans, you should get a Handbook of the Peony (price 25c and still available), if you wish advice. This book gives you brief, but definite information on the many subjects connected with the Peony, including directions as to where, what, when and how to plant.

You are strongly advised to plant the varieties you personally like. Each one has personal preferences and lists of varieties given by others may prove unsatisfactory to you. But be sure to get the best your money will buy.

Choose the firm, from whom you will get your roots, with care. Be sure they are reliable and do not be carried away by sensational advertising in the papers, magazines and over the radio, offering everything for nothing. Good roots cost money and cheap roots are the highest priced you can buy. The classified list on the last page of the Handbook and the advertisers in this Bulletin are to be depended upon. Be sure you have a guarantee of true named varieties. Also the plants should reach you in reasonably fresh condition, if properly

packed. Plants received in bad condition should be reported at once to the one from whom you bought them and also to the postmaster, if the package was insured, and they usually are. This should not be neglected. If the roots are in good condition when received, they should grow. If they do not, the fault is probably yours. The seller cannot guarantee results as they are beyond his control.

Be sure you do not plant the roots upside down. More do this than you would think. They will not grow.

If you have any special problems, write us and we shall try to help you.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairman, Louis Smirnow, 8 Elm Court Drive, Sands Point, L. I., N. Y.

Vice-Chairman, Roy G. Gayle, R. R. 3, Rockford, Ill.

William Brown, Box 13, Elora, Ont.

L. W. Cousins, 472 Tecumseh Ave., London, Ont.

Mrs. D. Y. Dunn, 144 Cherokee Park, Lexington, Ky.

Les Foster, 107 East Sixth St., York, Neb.

G. H. Greaves, 2200 Doswell Ave., St. Paul 8, Minn.

Dr. D. Sanford Hyde, 810 Bonnie Brae, River Forest, Ill.

W. H. Krekler, Peacock Nursery, 721 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road, Akron 13, Ohio.

Clarence Lienau, 25804 Joy Road, Detroit 28, Mich.

Francis P. Tikalsky, 312 North Spring Ave., La Grange Park, Ill.



1902



1954

# HISTORY of THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

By George W. Peyton, Secretary

Note: The facts in this article were taken mainly from an article on the History of the Society by the late Prof. A. P. Saunders, published in the Manual of the Society (Peonies). —Editor

The American Peony Society owes its existence, primarily, to a state of confusion. The story is told in the following letter, sent to a number of peony growers, by Mr. Charles Willis Ward, President of the Cottage Gardens Nursery Company of Queens, Long Island, New York, dated June 26, 1902:

My Dear Sir: Referring to the unsatisfactory condition in which the nomenclature of the peony now is, I write to ask you if you would co-operate in the formation of an association for advancing the public interest in the peony, and especially straightening out peony nomenclature.

Under existing conditions, when one orders a peony under name, a useless mixture of sorts under various names, is often received. During the past year, peonies purchased under name from six to eight reputable firms, with few

exceptions, proved either mixtures or untrue when the roots came into flower. In several instances, each name covered varieties of peonies ranging from pure white through the various shades of pink to the deepest purple and crimson; for instance, a variety, described in the catalogue of the nurseryman selling it, as a beautiful flesh-pink, contained several plants bearing snow-white flowers, others bearing deep rose-pink blooms and others bright crimson of the shade of Rubra Triumphans, but few of the plants proving to be of the variety bought.

The nurserymen in Holland, recognizing the hopeless mixture into which their stocks of peonies have been allowed to lapse, have undertaken annual peony exhibitions for the purpose of correcting the nomenclature. They hold exhibits at several points throughout Holland and, I am told, are making strenuous efforts to get matters in proper shape.

The newer varieties which have been introduced, when well grown and well exhibited to the public, will certainly attract great attention, and such exhibits will natu-

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rally result in a large increase in the sales of the same. The work done for the carnation by the American Carnation Society is a striking example of what can be done by concentrated effort.

The annual exhibitions of carnations, held by the Carnation Society, have been a great stimulus to the carnation industry, which now is certainly ten times as important as it was when the Carnation Society was formed. There is no reason why some such advance cannot be made in the case of the peony. True, we cannot expect to accomplish as much in the way of increasing business in peonies as has been done with the carnation, but organized effort will accomplish something.

Such an association could be conducted upon economical lines, and the holding of peony exhibitions, under the auspices of local clubs and state horticultural societies could be encouraged by the offering of suitable prizes. There have been accumulated during the past eight or nine years, large stocks of peonies, which at the present time, remain unknown. It only requires the exhibition and advertisement of these stocks, to work up public interest to a much greater extent than the peony now commands.

Would you be willing to join in the formation of such an association, in which the annual dues would not exceed \$3 to \$5? My impression is that we could get probably from 25 to 50 members as a starter, and that eventually the membership might be worked up to 100, and possibly considerably more.

Awaiting your esteemed reply, I remain,

Sincerely yours,  
C. W. Ward.

From the above letter, it will be seen that Mr. Ward proposed two main objectives to be accomplished by the formation of the proposed association. The first was to straighten out the mess into which the nomenclature had fallen and secondly to hold annual exhibitions, in connection with local groups, to promote the use and sale of peonies by bringing them more into the public eye.

Twenty-four firms or individuals accepted Mr. Ward's invitation to meet for the purpose of forming such an association as he proposed. The preliminary meeting, to carry out this plan, was held in Brooklyn, N. Y., on Feb. 18, 1903. The following officers were elected to serve until the First Annual Meeting: President, Arthur H. Fewkes, Newton Highlands, Mass.; Vice-president, Guy A. Bryant, Princeton, Ill.; Treasurer, J. Howe Humphries, Philadelphia, and Secretary, Alex Wallace, New York City.

As Messrs. Wallace and Fewkes found they could not serve in the offices to which they had been elected, Mr. C. W. Ward was elected as President and Mr. Fewkes was transferred to the office of Secretary.

The membership list at that time contained the names of 23 individuals or firms who joined in 1902 and 14 who joined in 1903, making a total of 37, 12 more than the minimum in Mr. Ward's letter. Of these, so far as I know at present, only Mr. Charles Klehm of Arlington Heights, Ill. is still alive and a member of the Society, but the descendants of at least four others are still in the Society.

The First Annual Meeting was held in Detroit, Mich., June 11-12, 1903, at which time the above slate

of officers was continued in office and in addition three directors were elected, C. S. Harrison, York, Nebraska, for one year, E. A. Reeves, Cleveland, Ohio, for two and Wm. A. Peterson of Chicago for three years. These three with the four officers constituted the first Board of Directors. This meeting was concerned principally with the forming of a permanent organization, and so it was voted to incorporate the Society under the laws of the State of New York and a draft of the proposed constitution and by-laws was drawn up and presented to the Society. It was read paragraph by paragraph and after a number of amendments had been made, it was adopted as amended. Also, the draft of the proposed certificate of incorporation was read and the matter referred to Mr. Frank B. Lown of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., an attorney who had offered his services, with instructions to proceed with the business of incorporation. Three committees were appointed, Press, Nomenclature and Exhibitions. The treasurer reported he had \$133 on hand.

While nothing is stated about the duties of these committees, yet it would seem that the Nomenclature Committee immediately went to work to bring order out of chaos.

Their first duties were to make a list of all known named varieties and to find a place for a test planting of these varieties so that they could be compared and mistakes rectified. So we find that by the time for the Second Annual Meeting had rolled around, there had been secured from Auguste Dessert of France a list of all authentic French and Belgian varieties with descriptions. It listed 549 varieties, many of which are still

known to us. Also lists had been compiled of the Kelway varieties introduced to that date. This list contained the names of 294 doubles. It does not seem to have bothered listing the immense number of singles that had also been named by this firm at that time. A list was also compiled of the originations of the Americans who had placed varieties on the market. It is not stated how many varieties were in this list. Also a list of Japanese varieties, with correct translations of the names, was obtained by one of the members from a Japanese friend. This list was made up mainly of tree peonies, only a few herbaceous being in it. These combined lists contained about a thousand named varieties, mostly doubles. Cornell University had also offered the land for the planting of the test collection of as many of these varieties as could be obtained, for study and comparison, the three objectives being to eliminate duplicates, to establish a correct nomenclature and to accurately describe all of the true varieties.

There remained the big job of assembling and planting this test garden. This was arranged at the Second Annual Meeting, held in New York City, June 8-9, 1904. At this meeting the first annual exhibition was held. The first woman member was admitted, Mrs. Sarah A. Pleas, Spiceland, Ind. Honorary membership was conferred upon Mons. Auguste Dessert of France and Prof. John Craig of Cornell, under whose supervision the test plot was to be conducted.

Appeals were sent out in August of that year and by planting time 1470 varieties had been contributed which was afterwards increased to 3,500 plants in 1933 varieties.

These contributions came from France, Germany, Holland, and England from eight different firms. In addition 22 individuals and firms in this country sent in roots.

Now that the roots had been received and planted, it remained to find a man who would undertake the long and arduous task of comparison and identification. Needless to say, he had to be one of long experience and familiarity with peonies. Cornell had supplied a competent young man in the person of Prof. J. Eliot Coit, to take care of the work on the spot. Such an experienced man was found in Mr. B. H. Farr, of Reading, Pennsylvania, who agreed to undertake the work with the assistance of Mr. Joseph Dauphin of the Cottage Gardens Nursery, who had had wide experience with the peony in Europe. Later Mr. Leon D. Batchelor of Cornell joined them and these four men carried out the assignment with eminent success, though it took them a number of years to complete the work.

These four faithful men would meet each year, at Cornell, Reading or the Cottage Gardens on Long Island and give the plantings intensive study for one or two weeks each season. The confusion unearthed was almost incredible. Almost every variety existed under from two to two dozen different names. Also the same name was often applied to many different varieties. Our well-known variety, *Edulis Superba*, was found under 23 different names.

To have a complete list of the names then in use, Mr. Coit published a check list of all known names which had appeared in catalogs, magazines or other litera-

ture. It gave the source from which the names were taken and so proved of great value to those in charge of the work.

The first results of this endeavor were published in Cornell Bulletin No. 259, prepared by Mr. Coit in 1908. It contains a history of the peony, its culture and classification and a bibliography. Also it has descriptions of about 90 varieties and species.

This was followed in 1910 by Bulletin No. 278, prepared by Mr. Batchelor, which contains descriptions of about 400 varieties. The final Bulletin No. 306 was published in 1911 and contains descriptions of about 265 varieties. Altogether descriptions of about 750 varieties were published along with a long list of synonymns. The collection at Cornell, now having served its purpose, was broken up in 1912, though a planting of the authentic varieties was maintained at Cornell for many years and may possibly be there now. It was about ten years ago.

The result of this work was mainly the establishment of the correct name for each variety then in commerce and it has been the duty of the Society to see to it as far as possible that such duplications do not occur now. However, in spite of all efforts they do occasionally happen, sometimes accidentally, sometimes deliberately. One practice, which it has been found hard to break up, was for a grower to buy a collection of mixed varieties and rename them to suit his fancy. We suspect that this has been done in recent years especially with roots imported from Japan by firms and persons who have no connection with the Society. Such unethical matters are now being handled by

the American Horticultural Council.

And so ended the first chapter in the Society's history and a most satisfactory ending it was.

#### Annual Exhibitions

The second aim of the Society to hold exhibits yearly under the sponsorship of local bodies or state societies has also been pursued with regularity. We have now a total of fifty annual national exhibitions behind us, with an uncounted number of excellent local shows, all of which have proved of inestimable value in promoting the sale and wider use of the peony.

As before mentioned the First Annual Exhibition was held in New York, June 8-9, 1904, in the Museum Building, Bronx Park, in conjunction with the Horticultural Society of New York. There does not seem to have been any schedule or prize list for this one. There were seven exhibitors, C. W. Ward, Queens, N. Y., who showed about two hundred varieties all unnamed, but under number; Frank Gould with John J. Morris of Chestnut Hill, Pa., who had sixty-three varieties; Siebrecht and Son, N. Y., with a large display of about 32 unnamed varieties; C. Betscher, Canal Dover, Ohio, forty named; C. M. Wild, Sarcoxie, Mo., ten varieties whether named or not is not stated, and F. S. Rosenberg, Walden, N. Y., 18 unnamed. No names of the varieties shown under name were recorded, but it is safe to say, that those shown were nearly all, if not all, of European origin and it is also a pretty safe bet that *Edulis Superba*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Fragrans*, *Whitleyi* (Queen Victoria) and *Humei* were among those present. All of the individuals who exhibited are now dead and the firms they represented no longer in busi-

ness with the exception of the firm represented by Mr. C. M. Wild of Sarcoxie, Mo. If I read the records correctly, he was a member of the firm of Wild Bros. which is still a going concern and a member of the Society.

The Third Annual Meeting and Second Annual Exhibition of the Society was held in the Auditorium Hotel in Chicago, June 16-17, 1905. The address of President Ward at that meeting, stressed the importance of the exhibitions in spreading the fame of the peony, the difficulty then experienced in getting varieties true to name, the importance of the peony as a cut flower, its value in landscape work and the unfortunate controversy that arose between the Society and the Society of American Florists, whose officers seemed to be under the impression that the formation of the special flower societies was aimed at destroying the Society of American Florists. This misconception led to the formation of the S. A. F. Peony Society within its own ranks with the idea of killing the American Peony Society. These differences seem to have been ironed out soon and since then both Societies have lived a long life of peace and usefulness.

This exhibition was the first one that had a schedule and a prize list. As the first schedule may be of interest to many of our members it is here copied in condensed form:

Class 1. Largest collection of varieties, one bloom each. First: C. W. Ward, \$15; Second: Vaughan's Seed Store, \$10.

2. Best 12 and most distinct varieties, six blooms each. 1st. Petersons' Nursery, \$10; 2nd. Vaughan's Seed Store, \$5.

3. Collection of rose pink varieties not less than three nor more

than six flowers of each. 1st. Peterson's Nursery, \$10.

4. Salmon-flesh (same conditions). 1st. Peterson's Nursery, \$10.

5. White. 1st. Peterson's Nursery, \$10.

6. Cream-white and light yellow. 1st. J. F. Rosenfield, \$10. 2nd. Peterson's, \$5.

7. Crimson without stamens. 1st. Peterson's. \$10.

8. Crimson with stamens. 1st. Peterson's, \$10.

9. Tricolor varieties, including flowers with guard petals, collar-ette and center petals of different colors. 1st. Peterson's, \$10.

10. Best 12 specimen varieties, 12 blooms of each variety. 1st. Peterson's, \$25 silver cup, donated by Country Life in America.

11. Best 100 blooms of Festiva Maxima. 1st. Vaughan's, \$10.

12. Best 100 blooms pink any shade. 1st. Peterson's with Livingstone, \$10. 2nd. J. F. Rosenfield with Floral Treasure, \$5.

13. Best 100 blooms crimson. 1st. E. A. Reeves with Lee's Grandiflora Rubra, \$10. 2nd. J. F. Rosenfield with Seedling No. 206, \$5.

#### GRATUITIES

C. W. Ward, extensive collection of peonies, honorable mention. Vaughan's Seed Store, fine collection of herbaceous flowers and Baby Rambler roses, H. M.; Klehm's Nursery, fine collection of peony flowers, artistically arranged. H. M.

Signed: Judges: P. J. Hauswirth, Charles Klehm, E. A. Kanst.

It will be seen that there were 23 entries that placed in the classes and five exhibitors. A total of \$155 was given in prizes of which Peterson's Nursery won \$85. Also note that Mr. Rosenfield showed his own originations. No. 206 was later named Karl Rosenfield I think, still

one of the finest reds we have. Note the comparatively large number of blooms of each variety required. However Class No. 1 has generally been for the big collection of varieties, one bloom.

In this class, which we now know as the Gold Medal Class, the number of varieties required was first unlimited, then specified as 100, or not more than 100, then cut to 80-100, then to 50-60 and now will be limited to 50. Also at first it was confined to doubles and semi-doubles, but now up to 40 per cent may be other types and also hybrids will now be admitted.

Also it may be noted that the classes requiring 100 blooms of one variety were cut to fifty in the next show and have been gradually reduced in number until now only five blooms as a maximum are required. Even that is sometimes reduced to three. This was brought about by the fact that these blooms were generally just dumped in any old way in a bucket or tub and no attempt was made to arrange them in any way and they actually detracted from the appearance of the show and so they were discontinued.

The next meeting and show was held in Horticultural Hall, Boston, June 15-16, 1906. At this meeting two men were admitted to membership that were destined to play most important rolls in our Society. They were Prof. A. P. Saunders of Clinton, N. Y. and B. H. Farr of Reading, Pa. At this show classes especially for amateurs were added to the schedule and all listed were won by Mr. James McKissock of West Newton, Mass. Note: I found these classes were also in the Chicago schedule. No entries. Also T. C. Thurlow and Son come on the scene as winners in the Open Classes. This firm is now better known

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to us as Cherry Hill Nurseries. It also should be noted that blooms for exhibition were transported quite long distances and that cold storage was also employed to keep them in good condition, though with varying success.

Due to the fact that the Cornell plantings had now come into full production, the next two annual meetings and shows were held in Ithaca. Prof. Saunders entered as an exhibitor for the first time, winning first for his exhibit of salmon and flesh-pink varieties in the first show in the amateur classes and making a clean sweep of these classes in the next show, seven classes in all.

The President's address at the Fifth Annual Meeting contained some matters that are of interest and good advice even in this day and time. He stated that he was struck with the lack of business methods generally among those engaged in floriculture, especially the lack of knowledge of the cost of production, a matter of prime concern in every business. He thought the A. P. S. should try to instill a certain amount of business methods in the minds of those engaged in such industries as the Society represents. He stated that one of the first things a business man must learn is to sell his products at a profit. Under conditions that then prevailed he thought this impossible for a peony grower to do as he could not sell any one variety in quantity. He thought from one hundred to one hundred fifty varieties were all that a grower should carry. He said those who attempted to carry four or five hundred varieties could never keep them straight and he advised them to confine their efforts to fifty or at most a hundred different varieties.

He also stressed the importance of bringing the peony into prominence by exhibitions and he thought every grower should stage his own exhibit every year. He gave a demonstration with flowers, of what he considered a good peony. At this point one ventured to remark that the buyer might have a different idea of what constituted a good peony. But Mr. Ward stuck to his guns and said the buyer would eventually come to the growers opinion. He also stated that he considered the growing of new varieties from seed was a waste of time and effort and that it was impossible to get new varieties better than those now existing. But he said that if any one persisted in raising new seedlings, he should go about it in a systematic manner and not depend on accidental crosses.

How right he was about some things and how wrong about others! Probably his greatest error was in his lack of vision in regard to new varieties. Rarely now are many of those in commerce at that time seen or sold and we now think, with the advent of the hybrids, that the surface has just been scratched and that the future holds great promise of better things to come.

Our records of the next years of the Society's activities are quite meager. In 1911 Mr. Fewkes resigned as secretary and Prof. Saunders was elected in his stead and occupied the office until 1924. We also find the first invitation to hold the meetings of the Society in Minneapolis was given in 1908 for the 1909 meeting. But it was not accepted and it was not until 1923 that it was held in the Twin City area.

From the minutes of the 1912

meeting we find it was the intention of the Society to keep three of every known variety in a permanent exhibition garden at Ithaca for purposes of identification and education and that new varieties were to be added as they came into commerce. Unfortunately this was never carried out and the Cornell collection was never materially increased.

During the first years of the Society, the presidents held office much longer than they do now as they were not then limited to two terms of one year each. Mr. Ward was president from the founding of the Society until 1909 when he resigned on account of ill health. He was then elected Honorary President and continued as such until his death in 1920. He was succeeded in 1909 by Mr. Farr who held the office until 1917. Since that time, no one has occupied the office for more than three years.

While we do not have any account of the annual shows in much detail from 1909 until 1915, yet they were regularly held and it seems were largely responsible for the growth of the Society which started to increase more rapidly about 1912. Also possibly more important was the work of the Nomenclature Committee in bringing order into the Peony World through its work at Cornell.

Beginning with 1915, when the Bulletin first made its appearance, we have far more complete accounts of the Society's activities.

#### The Bulletin

The publishing of the bulletin was the next step in the Society's progress after the completion of the work at Cornell. This was evidently done through the encouragement and advice of Prof. Saunders, though in his writings he has been too modest to say much about its

origin. However it came about, the fact is that it appeared in August 1915, and was called "Bulletin of Peony News" which name was changed in November, 1927 to "American Peony Society Bulletin" under which name it has continued to appear up to the present time. The editorship has always been a duty of the Secretary and he has also usually written more or less of its contents, due to the reluctance of our members to send in contributions. There have been appeals for membership participation from the beginning and I suppose always will be.

At first the Bulletin came out only once or twice a year and it has only been since 1929 that it has been published regularly as a quarterly and, even since then, it has occasionally come out only three times a year. It has certainly proved the most effective means of holding the Society together and we hope it can be improved in the future as there is certainly room for improvement. It is still put together on a rather hit and miss plan. Lack of funds has often held it up and it has suffered from delays in publication at times.

#### Symposiums

With the increase in the popularity of the peony, there arose a need to distinguish between the best and the mediocre in the lists of varieties offered for sale. Prof. Saunders brought forward the idea of a numerical rating, based on ten as perfection, this rating to be determined by averaging the votes of those who sent in lists with each variety assigned a rating which the voter considered it deserved. It was decided to carry out an experiment by having a list of recent foreign varieties rated by the membership. This list was published in Bulletin



No. 2 and the results in Bulletin No. 3. This list had a column for the number of years the variety had been grown by the rater and one for his rating and remarks if he wished to make any. Nineteen lists were returned. Mons. Martin Cahuzac seems to have received more votes than any other variety. It received three tens and five each 9, 8 and 7 which averaged 8.33 plus. The highest rated variety was Le Cygne which received ten tens and one 9, an average of 9.91. Thirteen of the 123 listed received ratings of 9 or better. Five of these have since fallen below the nine mark while five also have been elevated from below 9 to the select list.

This experiment proved to be such a popular feature that it was repeated in 1919 on a much larger scale and again in 1921 on a still larger. Many of these ratings remained unchanged until they were abolished at the last annual meeting together with those of all other symposiums. Other symposiums were taken in 1925, 1933 and 1939. None have been held since, though it has been voted several times to have one. The result of these ratings was to increase sales of high rated varieties and to decrease those of low rated ones. This, of course, resulted in some financial loss to some growers. So it also resulted in the dropping of many low rated varieties from cultivation. It was recommended by the Society that those with a lower rating than 7.5 should be discarded. But it was found that several varieties that received lower ratings were still rather indispensable, so some of these have continued to be carried in lists even today.

The lists of those that rated higher than 9 has increased with the years and while it may contain one or two that do not deserve this high

rating, yet on the whole the ratings are quite reliable. In any new symposium it is certain that many of these will still hold their own against all comers.

#### The Manual

At the Annual Meeting of the Society in 1906, Rev. C. S. Harrison proposed that the Society get out a Manual containing articles by the prominent growers of the time. This proposal seems to have met with little response until the meeting in 1912 when a committee was appointed to look into the matter. This committee reported the next year that arrangements had been practically completed with Doubleday, Page and Co. to publish it. This arrangement seems to have fallen through for, while the matter was discussed from time to time, nothing definite was done until Mr. James Boyd of Haverford, Penna., offered to undertake the work of getting the material together and having it published. This was in January, 1926.

Mr. Boyd was a man who believed in getting things done that he undertook and so we find that the book we call the Manual, though published under the simple name "Peonies," was prepared and published in late 1928. A review of the book is published in Bulletin No. 36, December, 1928. It was printed by the well-known firm headed by J. Horace MacFarland, Harrisburg, Penna. It contained 336 pages with 11 pages of advertisements at the back. The first twenty pages are taken up with a history of the Society, rolls of its officers and directors and the various awards made by the Society. Then comes a check list of Chinese peonies classified under doubles, Japanese and singles. This list gives only the originator, year of introduction,

rating and color, and takes up about fifty pages. Following this is a Descriptive List of Chinese Peonies of eighty pages, giving the classification by types, color standards, pronunciation and several lines of description of each variety which rated 8 or better in the symposium, previously taken. Also included are several varieties that rated less than 8 which were deemed of enough importance by the directors to be included.

Under the title, "Favored Peonies in America," extracts from letters sent in from several parts of Canada, Washington, California, Georgia, Alabama and Virginia are quoted. The object of this section was to determine the Northern and Southern boundaries where peonies do well, saying "Obviously, if the northern and southern limits are found, the territory lying between will be congenial to the peony."

The last half of the book is taken up with chapters on growing, propagating, treatment of diseases, peonies for the market, for exhibition, breeding, care of seedlings, the importation of peonies, peony don'ts, the history of the tree peony with a check list of varieties and color classification, peony species other than *albiflora*, biographical sketches, bibliography and three indexes. In all it is a complete book of the Peony and it was most interestingly written. In addition to Mr. Boyd, it contains articles by Prof. Saunders, G. A. Stephens, Freeman Weiss, Harry F. Little, A. M. Brand, Charles L. Marlatt and John C. Wister, a galaxy of writers who knew their business. It contained 41 illustrations of which 8 were in color, all excellent.

The financial history of the book is a rather sad one. It was published just as the famous "depression"

was in the making. Its price was set at \$5 each to members and \$6 to non-members. While it has not been possible to determine exactly the correct data, it seems that about 3,000 copies were printed at a cost of \$3.20 each or in the neighborhood of ten thousand dollars. All of this seems to have been paid except about \$3,000. There were about 2600 copies unsold on hand at this time, carried at a cost of about \$8,000. This would seem to represent a profit on paper of approximately \$5,000, but the profit was never realized, or if so it has been hard to determine how much. At any rate the final bill for the manuals was paid on July 24, 1945, and the last manuals were disposed of in 1947. The price was gradually reduced from the original to \$1.50 and as this represented a loss of nearly two dollars on each copy, it would seem as if really no profit ever resulted.

Since the exhaustion of the old Manual, there has been no book on the peony available and the matter of a new one has been discussed time and again, so far with little having really been done, principally on account of the lack of finances.

To somewhat alleviate the situation, and to answer the many questions that come in to the Secretary's office, the Handbook of the Peony was prepared and published in January, 1953. Its publication was made possible by pre-publication sales of nearly 17,000 copies. Now only about 300 copies remain to be sold and at the rate they are being moved, this supply will not last long. The profit to date has been approximately \$1,050 with only a small postage bill of a few dollars unpaid. We shall probably issue a new one when this is completely sold out. The total issue was about 19,000 copies.

### Department of Registration

As one of the main reasons for the formation of this Society, was to correct the nomenclature and prevent the occurrence, in the future, of the many duplications of names that had occurred and to secure to an originator priority to the use of the names he desired to give his originations, it was decided by the Society, on the recommendation of Mr. A. H. Fewkes, that the names of new varieties should be submitted to the Secretary for registration. This was in 1915.

Whether this was done or not it has been impossible to determine from the records in the Bulletins. Certainly no registrations were published in the Bulletin for several years.

The matter was again brought to the attention of the Society by a letter from Mr. Fewkes in 1920 which letter is printed in full in Bulletin No. 12, May, 1920. In it he says: "Registration is a very important matter, as it provides an authoritative list with original descriptions of all varieties considered by the originators of sufficient excellence to be worthy of a name and introduction, and also tends to eliminate duplication of names." He also proposed that the registrations be sent to a special officer to be known as the Registrar of Seedlings or of New Varieties. Also he proposed that special forms be furnished those who desired to register their varieties. It was also proposed that a Department of Registration be established in the Bulletin, and an invitation be extended to all raisers, owners or disseminators of new seedlings or varieties to submit for registration the name and description of any variety, they might think worthy of general cul-

tivation. He submitted a sample form for use in these registrations. So far as recorded the only action taken on this recommendation was to authorize Mr. Farr to have a complete card catalog prepared of all existing varieties. This chore seems never to have been done. However, in the minutes of the 1922 annual meeting, it is stated that a Department of Registration would appear regularly in the Bulletin in the future. This was carried out and in the next Bulletin we find T. C. Thurlow's Sons registering four varieties as follows: Sarah K. Thurlow, Katherine Haveneyer, James R. Mann and Helen. The first three have minute descriptions made by Mr. Fewkes while Helen has a short one which does not give much information that should have been given. Also Mr. C. M. Wettengel of Macomb, Ill. registered three, Martha A. Twyman, Lothario and Foreador, all with short descriptions.

Since then, the Department has appeared with great regularity in the Bulletins and at first, when no registration fee was required practically all new peonies in the country were registered.

In 1939, Dr. White brought to the attention of the Directors the fact that some other societies charged a fee for registration and, after considerable discussion, it was voted to charge members a fee of two dollars for each variety and non-members five dollars. This action did not meet with the approval of some of the directors not present and so the matter was again brought up at the directors' meeting in 1940. There seems to have been quite a heated discussion with some violently opposed to the fee and others equally ardent supporters of it. The matter was left over until the second meeting of the di-

rectors after the annual meeting and at that meeting, with a reduced number of directors present, it was voted to discontinue the fee. But the matter did not end there. At the next meeting of the Board, the matter was again brought up and this time, by unanimous vote, it was decided to charge a fee of two dollars for each variety registered which fee does not cover the cost to the Society for each registration. This action has resulted in the registration by the great majority of originators of each variety, however, some of those, who led the opposition to the fee have never registered their varieties.

This matter of registration has since taken on an international interest and rules for registration have been adopted by the many members of the horticultural societies under the leadership in this country of the American Horticultural Council. While there are still a few points to be decided, yet it now seems that there will certainly be adopted rules for the international registration of varieties by all Societies and that if varieties are not registered, they will have little chance for international recognition. This matter will be one of the major topics of discussion at the coming meeting of the American Horticultural Council in Boston in October of this year. It is certain that some system of registration must be adopted. If this is not done, there is the chance of duplication and renaming of varieties will go on with no check placed on them and consequent widespread confusion again. While many names are still presented for registration that are duplicates of names now in use, we have so far, been successful in preventing nearly all duplication.

### Seedling Awards

Though one of the objectives of the society was "To stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower by holding or causing to be held examinations and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded prizes therefor in any other manner," 'nothing seems to have been done to promote this objective for many years. So far as it's been possible to determine the first class for seedlings was in the show held in 1915 where we find the Silver Medal of the Society was awarded to Prof. A. P. Saunders for his seedling No. 362. No description whatever is given of this seedling. Prof. Saunders once told the writer that it had never been named, but a plant of it was still in his garden. Also we find Very High Commendation being given three other seedlings. We have no information when such awards were authorized. In 1917 an award of Merit was made to Mr. Farr for a bloom of La Lorraine, the yellow tree peony originated by Lemoine.

It was ordered in 1917 that a logical scheme for awards be drawn up. In 1918 several awards of merit were made.

At the directors' meeting in 1919 it was decided to change the names of the awards and that the Award of Merit be called a Certificate of Honorable Mention and a Certificate of Merit a First Class Certificate. Money awards were also made in the Seedling Classes at this time. The first First Class Certificate was awarded to Grace Loomis and the first Certificate of Honorable Mention to Farr No. 6. The money prize was withdrawn in 1920.

Many discussions were carried on as to scales of points to be used in making these awards. Mr. Fewkes

suggested scales for doubles, singles and Japs which differed slightly from each other to fit the type. The directors finally adopted a scale for all types as follows:

Color .....	25
Form .....	15
Size .....	15
Distinctiveness .....	15
Substance .....	10
Stem .....	10
Odor .....	10

**TOTAL .....** 100

This scale has never been changed. Though it was adopted in 1920 it is doubtful if it has ever really been used in judging.

While occasionally the name Certificate of Merit creeps into the accounts of subsequent shows, yet since 1919 the following awards are possible.

Certificates of Honorable Mention, preferably to seedlings that show promise, whether they have been propagated or not.

First Class Certificates, generally to seedlings that have been divided and show decided merit.

Silver Medals to such seedlings as may be thought deserving the honor and

Gold Medals only to those showing highest merit.

The first Gold Medal was awarded the variety Mrs. A. M. Brand in 1923. Since then it has been awarded to nine varieties.

The Society's bronze medal was not authorized for award until 1946, when it was decided to award it to the Best Japanese type, Best Single and Best Herbaceous Hybrid in the show each year. Occasionally some of these are not awarded at the annual show, but usually they are.

After Mr. Farr's death in 1924, it was decided to honor his memory by a memorial medal to be given the best flower in the show

(now limited to the best double). This was first given in 1929 to Tourangelle and since then has been awarded each year.

At the 1928 annual exhibition the Garden and Home Builder Magazine, now the American Home, offered an achievement medal for the best and most distinctive peony shown to be awarded under certain conditions. It was first awarded in 1928 to Prof. Saunders for his yellow tree peony, Argosy. Since then 22 varieties have won it in the national exhibition and nine in the Minneapolis show.

Special awards have been offered from time to time for seedlings that fulfilled special conditions. We find such prizes have been awarded Mrs. Edward Harding, Nancy Dolman, Frankie Curtis and Nippon Beauty. A special prize of \$1.000 was offered for a number of years for the best double all yellow peony. It was never awarded and never had an entry for it. It was finally withdrawn by its donor. It now looks as if the goal has been reached by the variety Oriental Gold, imported from Japan by Mr. Smirnow.

From 1930 to 1953, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society offered a medal in memory of Mr. James Bcyd, whose services to the Society, especially in connection with the Manual, were freely and generously given. It was awarded yearly to the most distinguished peony entry in the show. It was first won by Mr. A. B. Franklin for his exhibition of seedlings at Duluth and last awarded to Mrs. Elizabeth Falk for her exhibit of the originations of her father, Mr. Lyman D. Glascock, at Kansas City last year.

It has been withdrawn for the present at least.

### Exhibition and Trial Gardens

Several of these gardens have been established since the formation of the Society, either in public parks or at some University. They have invariably started off with a great bang and with a few exceptions, have been largely forgotten by the Society as the years rolled by.

The first of these gardens was the one at Cornell formed primarily to straighten out the nomenclature. After it fulfilled this purpose, it was partially sold, but the intention was to keep at Cornell, at all times, a representative collection with all new varieties added as they came out. My impression is that the Society almost immediately forgot its existence and that only a few new varieties have ever been added to it since 1912. When I last saw it, some ten or 12 years ago, it had only a collection of the old ones left there in 1912 and a few of Mr. Auten's originations of later years. I do not know whether it is still in existence or not.

Similarly a collection of singles and Japs was gotten together at the University of Illinois at Urbana, Illinois, in the late twenties. This was to correct the duplications that had crept into the ranks of these types, principally due to the re-naming in both this country and Europe of varieties imported from Japan. This garden was well maintained for a number of years and the University issued a Bulletin, No. 447, November, 1938, which gave the results of their study of these plants. After that it was decided to make this a truly representative garden by the addition of doubles, and, if my memory is correct, a good many roots were asked for and some sent. But I also have an impression that the response was not especially enthusiastic.

What is the status of this garden now, I do not know.

About 1915 or maybe a little later, a large planting of peonies was made at Arlington, Va., under the care of the Department of Agriculture of the United States. This was also intended to be a representative collection of the best and some interest was shown in it at the beginning of its career. However, as usual, it waned and so far as I know, nothing has been added to it in the years that have passed. A number of years ago I was at a show in Washington and I think there were some flowers from this garden at the show. Again later on the land then occupied by the Department of Agriculture which was down along the Potomac River was taken over for other purposes and the plantings moved to Beltsville, Md. I remember being at Beltsville fifteen or twenty years ago and they told me the planting was in good condition out back of the greenhouses some distance from where I was, so I did not see it. What has since become of it I do not know.

Following the annual exhibition held in Toronto in 1936, an effort was made to have a peony planting in the park where the exhibition was held. What was really done I do not know.

There is a small collection of peonies in Breeze Hill Gardens in Harrisburg, Pa., which I am sure is kept in good order, but whether any additions have been made to it in recent years I do not know. Probably the best and most up to date collection of peonies in America is the one maintained at Swarthmore College, near Philadelphia by the Arthur Hoyt Scott Foundation of which Dr. John C. Wister is the director. This collection has almost all the finest varieties of tree pe-

onies, herbaceous hybrids and regular peonies to be found anywhere. It is kept in excellent order and should be visited by all who wish to see peonies at their best.

There are some peonies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, but how large the collection is, I do not know. Also there are some at the Morton Arboretum near Chicago. I also do not know the extent of its collection.

The planting of tree peonies in Whitnall Park, Milwaukee, is one of the best in the country. This planting was made largely through the efforts of Mr. Charles E. Hammersley of that city. There is also a large planting of seedling tree peonies at Rochester, N. Y.

The late C. M. Clarke of Teepee Creek, Alberta, before his death, gave a large and quite complete collection to the University of Alberta at Edmonton. This is being well maintained.

Two large gardens of peonies have been planted in recent years and as yet are not old enough to have representative blooms of all the plants. They are those of Mr. Clare F. Wood at Queenston, Ontario, near Niagara Falls and Mr. William F. Krekler, near Akron, Ohio.

These collections have been financed entirely by their owners and are being kept up to date each year, by the addition of worthy new varieties. Neither has many tree peonies in it, though both have large collections of herbaceous hybrids. Next year, they should both be in fine condition for visitors.

Some of the large growers also have exhibition gardens which have the varieties they grow readily accessible. There are also some private gardens which have good collections, whose owners welcome visitors.

### Regional Districts

The first by-laws of the Society provided that the officers of the Society should be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and one District Vice-President for each of the following districts: (1) Eastern States; (2) Middle States; (3) Southern States; (4) Western States; (5) Northwestern States; (6) Pacific States. It was not designated what states should be embraced in each district. These District Vice-Presidents were to be elected by ballot at the annual meeting, by members present from the district which he was to represent; provided that when less than three such members were present from any district, such election must be approved by the President. When any district was unrepresented the President was empowered to appoint a District Vice-President for that district. It was specified that: Each District Vice-President shall make a report at the annual meeting of matters within his district affecting the interests of the Society; shall assist the officers in the performance of their duties with respect to his district and shall be the representative of the Society in his district and for that district, at all meetings and exhibitions of the Society.

There is no record of these officers ever having been either elected or appointed. Such was the fate of the first attempt to have regional districts and District Vice-Presidents.

In 1925 it was decided to rewrite the by-laws. This was done and the new ones adopted in 1926. These make no mention whatever of Regional Vice-Presidents or the division of the Society into districts.

Again in 1936 it was decided to revise the by-laws. These revisions were published in the March, 1937.



Bulletin. While no mention is made in those by-laws of Regional Districts or Regional Vice-Presidents, yet in that same Bulletin there is a communication from the President, Mr. C. F. Wassenberg, giving a proposed division of the country into twelve regional districts and in the directors' meeting at the annual meeting in Lincoln, Neb. that June, the revised by-laws were adopted and the proposal for the division of the country into those twelve districts adopted and the regional Vice-Presidents for each district actually appointed with the exception of two districts. The duties of these vice-presidents were as follows: To appoint committees to see that a regional show was staged each year in their districts, to devise ways and means for increasing the membership of the American Peony Society, to secure pictures, articles, etc. for the Bulletin and other magazines, speakers for garden club meetings, etc. and advertise the peony in every way possible and to report on any new origination so that accredited judges may pass on their merits.

From the records it would seem that this is about as far as the matter ever got, except that for a year or two a regional show was held in the district comprising Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri, of which district Mr. John A. Bongers was Vice-President. Also regional shows were held in Canada at several places for a few years and in Chicago until 1943.

In the March, 1946, Bulletin Mr. Roy G. Gayle presented a plan for the division of the U. S. and Canada into nine regional districts and the appointment of directors from each region who would be the presidents in their respective districts. In 1948 his revised by-laws, which incorporated his ideas, were pre-

sented to the Annual Meeting at Guelph, Ontario, and adopted. However, since the meeting was held in a rather hasty fashion and little time given to the consideration of these revisions, they were gone over again at the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee in 1949, and after some revision again adopted. The section dealing with district organization is as follows: The President of the American Peony Society shall appoint a president for each of the regional districts, who shall hold office until an election is held in his district. Provided: That if an election is not held within one year from the date of appointment the President of the American Peony Society may appoint another member to be president of that district.

The president of each regional district shall also be a director of the American Peony Society. (Note: As this section was in conflict with the requirement that a director of the Society should be elected for a term of three years, this section was amended to read: Each organized district shall elect a president and director to represent the district on the national board of directors.) The number of regional districts was fixed at nine.

The first district to organize under this setup was the Second, comprising the states of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. They have held regional shows every year since.

The Fifth District has held regional shows quite regularly since the above by-laws were adopted. Just now it seems to be the only one fully organized. This district comprises the states of Illinois and Wisconsin. It is the largest of all in number of members. The Second is next.

Due to the fact the other dis-

districts cover such a large territory and the number of members at any one place is small, it has been impossible to form an effective organization of these districts. The solution may be in encouraging the formation of small organizations in much smaller areas. The State of Oklahoma already has a large number of such small organizations within its bounds. Minnesota has two organizations which annually hold shows that rival the National Show in size and beauty and North Dakota also has one of equal distinction. Superior, Wisc., has one that is fast coming to be one of the best. Massachusetts has long had its annual show. It is hoped that more such local organizations will soon be formed. The Tacoma Park, Md., show has been held also for a long time. There are also some on the West Coast, one being that of the Men's Garden Clubs of Albany, Ore., which held its Seventh Annual show this year. Shows featuring peonies have also been held several times in Lynchburg, Va..

Steps are being taken by our President to encourage such enterprises in many states. We hope that his efforts will be crowned with much success.

We hear that a peony show was staged in Philadelphia this year by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, but so far we have received no account of it.

We hope in the near future to have many reports from such shows covering a much wider territory than at present.

#### Color Charts

One of the greatest difficulties experienced in describing peonies or any other flower, for that matter, is that of being able to correctly state its color so that those who read the description, will have at least a good idea of what the color

of that particular variety is. When we say a flower is white, we have a pretty good idea of it. But when we say a flower is pink, we are at a loss to know what is its true shade as there are innumerable shades of pink. Again we all know that as a flower ages, its color changes and also the sun has a great deal of effect on the shade. So what are you going to do about it?

The first authorized descriptions of peonies appeared in the Cornell Bulletins from 1908 to 1912. The descriptions employed a color chart, printed in France and called the *Repertoire des Couleurs*. It listed 360 colors in 1440 shades, each color having four shades. In the descriptions the popular name of the color is given, then the name of the color as found in the chart which is referred to by shade number and page number. For instance the color of Felix Crousse is given as bright red (tyrian rose 3(155)), which means that bright red is listed in the chart as tyrian rose and is the next to darkest shade of that color and is found on page 155 of the chart. This chart was rather bulky and I doubt that many ever really took it to the fields to compare colors. At any rate we find that the Manual did not use it to describe colors, but went back to the more or less popular names for various colors and their many shades, some of which were also certainly confusing. Quite a popular chart was the Ridgeway Chart which was used, I think, by the Iris Society.

A Color Classification was gotten out by the Society as a supplement to Bulletin No. 75, March, 1939. This chart employed only the seven elementary terms of white, flesh, light pink, medium pink, dark pink, red and yellow. The better known varieties were listed under

each of these color designations and this classification of colors is now almost universally used in our descriptions.

Just recently the American Horticultural Council has adopted a color chart which they say is scientifically accurate. All flower societies are urged to adopt it. This chart has three color pages of 21 bands of accurately standardized color, arranged according to the spectrum, named according to standard color nomenclature procedures and accompanied by an explanatory text.

It has a detector on which may be placed a petal of the flower whose color is desired and this slides along the color bands until the exact color is reached. It is inexpensive, costing a dollar.

Whatever color chart may be adopted it is going to be hard to get away from the color names which we have used so long.

#### Outstanding Varieties

In looking over the records of the Society, it is interesting to note the different varieties which have more or less occupied the spot light for short periods of time. For many years these came almost exclusively from Europe and generally from France. Of late years we have had few outstanding ones from across the water. Now American originations are predominant in our shows and in our gardens, though there are some of the old ones that will still be heard from for many years to come.

In the life span of the Society there have been about a dozen peonies which have in succession been more talked about than any others. The first of these was originated and introduced in France by that famous peony man, Auguste Desseret, in the same year the Society was incorporated. Needless to say

it was Therese. It was some years after its introduction before it became at all well known in America, but then its was eagerly sought by all, because of its beauty and general excellence. It has never lost its place as the second highest rated peony and the highest rated pink.

With the introduction by Lemoine in 1907 of *Le Cygne* this one rapidly came to be the criterion of all that was best in a peony. Its form and pure color quickly brought it to the top rank of all peonies. It is still considered the most beautifully formed of all doubles, though because it does not always perform well in all parts of the country, it has lost its place as highest rated of all peonies, which place is now occupied by Kelway's *Glorious* which never became the most spectacular peony, but has won its place by its uniform excellence in all sections where peonies are grown.

Though *Solange* and *Tourangelle* came along about the same time, and are among the world's most beautiful flowers, yet, due to faults they have never been so highly praised as the above.

The rise of *Philippe Rivoire* to fame was gradual as its first rating was down to 8. Now it has risen until it is the red that surpasses all others in its many good qualities.

About 1916 the first American variety to come into great prominence was shown at New York. This was Mrs. Pleas Jubilee. For several years it was all the rage, but today we almost never hear of it. Few even have it in their gardens. It was certainly a nice flower, but its stems were so weak it could never be kept off the ground and so most people got disgusted with it and so it has almost fallen into oblivion.

The winning in 1918 of Mrs. Ed-Harding's \$100 prize for a new pe-

ony, by Shaylor's No. 35 brought another American variety into the limelight. This was named Mrs. Edward Harding and due to too close propagating, the variety for some years never showed its true worth and so, though many had rushed to pay the price of \$100 asked for a division when it was first placed on the market, it got a black eye from which it was long recovering. However, now it has recovered its first vigor and beauty and is one of the finest of all early whites.

The next variety to achieve widespread notoriety was also the winner of a hundred dollar prize offered by Mrs. Harding, this time in France. It was an origination by Lemoine and was reputed to be better than Le Cygne which would have been a great honor for any variety. It was first named Amitie Americaine, but changed to Alice Harding when it won the prize for the best peony shown at the Paris show in 1922. While it never has achieved the high rating of Le Cygne, it is a great peony. Though undoubtedly the stock was diseased and most of it still is, it has done well almost everywhere in spite of its root knot trouble. Lately there has been placed on the market stock that is free of the disease. The first root of this sold in America brought \$200 for a standard division. The change of name caused a lot of trouble in the Society and it took some years to eliminate the bad feeling caused.

With the showing in London, Ontario, in 1922 and in the Twin City area in 1923 of most of Mr. Brand's famous Thirteen, the spot light was once more turned on American varieties. In this case not one, but a baker's dozen varieties sprang into sudden publicity. All of these were sold at fifty dol-

lars a root and with each went an agreement not to sell any of them for less for a certain term of years, I think it was five. It is reported that five thousand dollars worth of these were sold the first year they were placed on the market.

The agreement seems to have been kept by almost everyone and as a result few roots were sold after the first. Stocks rapidly accumulated and when the price limit was lifted, most of them came down in price like the rocket stick. Nearly all of them could then be bought for five dollars or less a division. Most of them still command good prices. Some have almost disappeared, but at least a half dozen are among our highest rated sorts. Of these the one that received the Gold Medal, Mrs. A. M. Brand, has proved an unreliable bloomer in many sections, though, where it does well, it is one of the most beautiful of all peonies. Possibly Myrtle Gentry, the Silver Medal winner, has given the best performance of the lot, though Victory Chateau Thierry has also proved its worth in all parts of the country. Hansina Brand has been the greatest exhibition variety among them. Blanche King is certainly the greatest dark pink we have for exhibition, though it does not always stand up well in the garden. Strong stems are a characteristic of nearly all of them.

Several years passed before any other variety caught the fancy of the peony fans, but in 1933, Mrs. J. V. Edlund won a gold medal at the Chicago show and became the most sought after variety for several years. It is still one of the greatest exhibition whites we have, though it will not stand up when in bloom.

In 1936, Mr. Harry F. Little

showed at Toronto a new variety from the gardens of Col. J. C. Nicholls, that on account of its brilliant pure pink color, immediately became the most wanted peony in America. It was Mrs. Livingston Farrand. It sold for \$100 a root which for that day was a high price for any peony. While it has proved to be rather erratic in behaviour, yet it is still much sought after and the price has never come down below the five dollar level. Only with the advent of the hybrids has its color been challenged as the finest pink we have.

In 1942 there came a visitor to the garden of Art. Murawska in River Grove, Ill., bearing a beautiful double white with exquisite pink tones in the center. Art was busy so he forgot to ask the visitor's name and where he came from, but the bloom was left with him. He took it to Mr. Christman's and there the writer saw it. We were so impressed with its beauty that we tried to find the originator for two years when he appeared again just as suddenly on the scene at the Milwaukee show. He was Mr. Robert Thompson of McHenry, Ill., and he brought with him a large number of his flower. It did not open fully until the second day of the show when it was awarded a first class certificate and was named Victory. When first placed on sale the next year well over fifty divisions were sold. It has proved to be all it gave promise of being, one of the most beautiful of all peonies and a great garden variety as well as an exhibition one.

Also in 1942 there was shown at Minneapolis a single bloom of a peony that was sent from Portland, Ore., labelled simply Salmon Seedling. The seedling committee thought so well of it that they awarded it a Certificate of Honor-

able Mention. Each year after that, whenever shown, it was awarded a higher award until it finally was honored with the Gold Medal of the Society. It is possibly needless to say it was Doris Cooper, another great flower and still so scarce that it is held at a price far above that which most peonies bring.

It may be well to mention that at the same Milwaukee show a variety was seen for the first time that has since steadily advanced in popular favor, though with much less popular acclaim, which now seems probably destined to equal or surpass the other two in all around excellence. That flower is Mattie Lafuze.

In 1948 at the National Show in Guelph, Ontario, Mr. Cousins of London, Ontario, brought a big box of a decidedly distinct peony, though its color was not unusual. Its ivory white blooms had its petals reflexed much like a rose and its beauty struck all who saw it. This one has since won many high honors and for the last three years has been the highlight of several shows. Its high price has prevented its distribution to many.

In winding up this review of the favored prima donnas of the Peony World, we must mention the extraordinary career of Red Charm, a hybrid from Mr. Glasscock, which, wherever shown, has invariably won highest honors. It will be certainly one of the most sought after varieties for several years to come, until challenged by some new comer of which we know nothing as yet. Maybe it will be the new yellow full double from Japan, Oriental Gold.

The mention of the above varieties by no means exhausts the roster of great peonies that have been introduced within the fifty years of the Society's life. In fact some have not been mentioned that have

proved to be as good as many of the above. But we cannot enlarge the list now, though we may do so in a separate article to be published later on.

#### Herbaceous Hybrids

In the March, 1952, and June, 1953, Bulletins and in the Handbook of the Peony, these hybrids have been quite thoroughly treated. As all of these publications are still available, we shall not take up much additional space here with them. However, we must say that the remarkable success that has attended the work of the few who have undertaken it shows us that a fertile field is now open to those who will take the pains to carry on this work. Almost limitless possibilities are open to them and those of us who are fortunate enough to live for the next few decades will probably witness the production of varieties of such beauty of coloring, vigor of growth and lengthening of the season that we now do not even dream of. The Society owes an everlasting debt of gratitude to the handful of men who have pioneered in this work. While the great masters of the past have now laid down the shovel and the hoe, yet we have faith that others will arise to take their places and that the future will see greater achievements that we have so far witnessed, marvellous though they may be.

#### Tree Peonies

Though these aristocrats of deciduous shrubs were brought into Europe before the herbaceous kind from China, yet probably owing to their difficulty of propagation and to their habits of growth in many sections, they have never been widely grown. Now, due to better methods of propagation and to the introduction of varieties that are surer bloomers, they are being far

more widely grown than ever before. Due to an article published in the American Home Magazine in March, 1951, the demand for information and for seeds of these peonies has been even greater than for the herbaceous kind. Inquiries still come in to the Secretary's office every day or two from that article. If all who inquire where seeds may be bought, plant them, we may experience a flood of varieties such as we have never had before and mainly from amateur gardeners. However, the results of these plantings will be a number of years yet in appearing as it takes about seven years, if all goes well before a tree peony seedling will produce good flowers from seeds. Few new ones have been introduced in the life of the Society except for Prof. Saunders hybrids. Nearly all the better varieties of *suffructicosa* tree peonies came from Japan. The ones of European origin are mostly full doubles and many of them are poor colors. The Japanese varieties are generally semi-double or single and those that are listed as full double are not as full petalled as the European. This quality is especially valuable in the southern part of the country, where they will begin to grow in January and so are often badly damaged by frost.

The yellow hybrids are later to bloom and so are not as often hurt.

To sum up some of the accomplishments of the Society in its fifty years of life: It has succeeded in bringing order out of chaos in the nomenclature of the peony and has established a Department of Registration to carry on the good work.

It has held annual exhibitions which have done a great work in bringing the better varieties to the notice of the public.

It has published continuously for forty years, its own house organ, the Bulletin, which has kept it in close contact with its members.

It has fostered the origination and introduction of new varieties by suitable awards to those considered worthy, many of which have gone to the small gardener.

It has seen the rise of America to predominance in the Peony World, in which it has become the leader in its advancement through the excellence of its originations, especially in the field of hybridization in every class of peonies.

Probably the nearest it has come to failure has been in its efforts to increase its membership to a point comparable to that of its sister flower societies. Let us hope the immediate future will see that defect remedied.

We hope to take up in more detail some phases of its history in this or future bulletins.

### W A R N I N G !

At this time of year, when the planting season for fall is upon us, our newspapers, radios and magazines often carry alluring offers of plants at prices far below those of our well-known, reliable nurserymen. Those who buy from these advertisements often get stock that is poor, and untrue to name. Much of it may not live.

In buying any plants, you should know that the seller is reliable and you should demand a true name guarantee, and that stock will be delivered to you in good growing condition. Results cannot be guaranteed as these depend a great deal on how plants are treated when received and it is manifestly impossible for the seller to control this.

Those who buy tree peonies, should demand plants grafted on

herbaceous roots unless they want to run the risk of having all their plants revert to the wild tree peony which is a rather bad red single. You have no recourse, when this happens, as the fault will be yours if the seller did not specify plants on herbaceous roots. Also unless you care nothing for names, you will probably find a large proportion of these cheap plants untrue to name. This is especially true of imported plants.

If you wish good plants, true to name, delivered in good growing condition, buy from a reputable dealer. You will find many of them listed in the Handbook of the Peony and in the advertisements in this Bulletin.

A concerted effort to put a stop to these fraudulent advertisers is being made by the American Horticultural Council and results are being obtained as witnessed by the following item that appeared in the Florists' Review of Aug. 12, 1954.

### NURSERYMAN CONVICTED ON CHARGES OF FRAUD

James W. Owen, Bloomington, Ill., described by prosecutors as the nation's largest mail-order nursery operator, was convicted August 6 of using the mails to defraud, according to a newspaper report. He was found guilty on 17 counts, each carrying a maximum penalty of five years in prison and \$1,000 fine, of defrauding customers by misrepresentation of flowers, shrubs and trees in advertisements and for selling inferior stock.

A large user of advertising, Owen, who operated under a variety of names, including Owen Nursery, the Marie Kruse Nursery, and the Bob Richards Nursery, budgeted \$2,000,000 for advertising in 1952. During the period covered by the indictment, from 1950 to 1953, the nurseryman served more than 12,





000,000 customers.

United States District Judge Charles C. Briggie conducted the six week trial without a jury. He set August 13 for sentencing. The defense attorney, at the conclusion of the trial, announced his intention to file a motion for probation.

In his summation, the judge held that Owen had devised a scheme under which the people had suffered.

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This man advertised widely in nearly all of our leading Sunday papers. Several of his ads were sent the Editor from widespread sections. Your editor then wrote the firm for some information about several varieties he listed, that were unknown to him. The reply was that these roots were under label in a peony field the firm had bought, but that he did not sell them under label.

While this particular firm seems now out of business, yet there is some evidence that there are still others doing the same thing. So BEWARE or you will be a sucker.

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### CLAIRE DE LUNE

Those who are fortunate enough to secure a plant of this one, should not expect the bloom to be a golden yellow.

It is a pale moonlight yellow and possesses a distinctiveness and charm not found in many flowers. It lasts well as a cut flower and does not flop, but keeps its form.

The plant is medium height and is especially attractive when it first comes up in the Spring. It blooms quite early, being among the first to open.

### ORIENTAL GOLD

Ever since peonies have been extensively grown, it has been the dream of originators to produce a double yellow herbaceous peony.

From time to time, rumors have spread that the desired goal had been reached.

When the yellow tree peony, *lutea*, was discovered in the closing years of the last century and its hybrids began to be placed in commerce, which were true double yellows, hopes ran high that its herbaceous counterpart would be found.

One of the earliest rumors in this country, was that the late "Father" Terry, as he was affectionately called by his friends, had accomplished the seemingly impossible. In fact the writer once had a letter from Mr. Meneray of Council Bluffs, Iowa, stating that he had bought this plant for six hundred dollars, if my memory serves me right. He cut it into about twenty divisions and when it bloomed, it was a semi-double, so he threw it away. Such was the fate of a semi-double in those days! Whether this was really yellow or just one of the numerous varieties we have today, with white or pink guard petals and a yellow center of small petals, no one knows now. Maybe we shall hear from someone who did see this plant as there must be many living now who did. At any rate we never had the yellow peony.

The late Lee R. Bonnewitz was so much interested in it that he offered a prize of one thousand dollars in cash for a true double yellow; but as the years passed and no one claimed it, the offer was finally withdrawn. This would have been named C. S. Harrison, after one of our earliest members who was a dyed-in-the-wool peony enthusiast.

With the discovery of the creamy yellow Wittmanniana and the light yellow Mlokošewitschi in the Caucasus Mountains, hopes again mounted that the long awaited yellow would soon be with us. The story of the many attempts to gain this end has been told in former Bulletins. To date the greatest success along this line, has been achieved by Dr. White in his origination, the pale yellow single, Claire de Lune, which we know was shown for the first time at Minneapolis this year. It is a variety of great charm and distinction.

For years the rumor has persisted that there was a yellow double in existence, but all efforts to track it to its lair proved in vain until Mr. Louis Smirnow, through his agents, finally obtained a few roots of what was reported to be that yellow. The plants from the first importation all died, I am told, and the second importation proved to be untrue. Then a third attempt was made with the result that this year, at least one plant bloomed in the garden of Dr. David Gurin and one also in Mr. Smirnow's garden. And the search was ended, for it was a true yellow double.

Magazine editors, scientists and horticulturists came to see it. Color pictures were taken of it and a bloom was shown at the June Rose and Flower Show of the Men's Garden Club of New York, held at the Advertising Club, June 7.

A dried specimen was sent to Col. F. C. Stern of England, the author of the latest monograph on the Peony, "A Study of the Genus Paeonia." He wrote Mr. Smirnow as follows: "I have received the dried specimen of your double yellow herbaceous paeony. It is the most interesting I have ever seen and I have never seen anything like it. It is very good of you to send it. I

am mounting it and sending it to the Herbarium of the British Museum in London. Here it will remain a permanent record of this wonderful paeony, which one has heard of, but never before seen in the western world. My congratulations in obtaining it and I hope you will grow it successfully and propagate it."

While no one knows its origin or the species from which it came, it is probably a hybrid, maybe of a species still unknown, except to a few in its native country.

Mr. Smirnow has arranged for the importation of additional roots a few of which will be offered for sale.

### ORIENTAL GOLD

Dr. David Gurin, Great Neck, N. Y.

This Spring, during the midseason of the *lactiflora* varieties, the double yellow herbaceous peony, Oriental Gold, bloomed in my garden for the first time.

The flower is bright golden yellow, not cream or ivory, large, (five inch diameter first year of bloom) and fully double. A few rudimentary stamens were hidden in the petals and had no pollen at the time I observed them.

The appearance of the flower is beautiful and extraordinary, but I had been expecting no less, since I first saw these plants after their importation from Japan.

The roots are lemon yellow in color and resemble a turtle with the crown at one end of a horizontal root from which vertical root branches descend. This appearance is unlike Mlokošewitschi or Wittmanniana, the yellow flowering species and, of course, unlike *lactiflora*.

The shoots emerging from these roots in the Spring, are also unique in their yellow green color, com-

pletely lacking the red of other herbaceous peonies. The leaves resemble *lactiflora*, but are smaller and slightly yellowish.

Plants of Oriental Gold can be readily identified at any stage of development. Is this a new species or a hybrid of *lactiflora* with an unknown species? I do not know the answer.

### CAN PEONIES BE FORCED

Edward Auten, Jr.

Briefly, the answer is "yes." For some time I have had a theory that any perennial, bulbous or with roots, that blooms outdoors by June 15th, should respond to forcing in the winter. In general this seems to be a pretty good rule, but I found one very definite exception. I tried every trick I knew to force the wild Jack-in-the-Pulpit, but could not get it to bloom until about a week before regular blooming time outdoors. With peonies, however, I have had success in my own home, and I have furnished clumps to two different park greenhouses that have done well.

The singles and Japs do best, and the semi-doubles and loose doubles, especially the early ones, should do well. Blooms will not be up to size, and colors may vary, but they look good to the confirmed peony fan. Forcing peonies will never be a commercial proposition as the cost of plants is too great, the yield of blooms per square foot of greenhouse space too small, and the competition of other greenhouse flowers and of blooms from outdoor fields in warmer climates too strong.

A whole two or three year old clump is best, in a large container. Of course the roots must be trimmed to fit the container, and this can be rather severe if necessary.

As much of the original dirt as is possible should be left on. Potting should be done late in the season. Then keep the pots (or pails) in a cool or better a cold place until the middle of winter. Freezing does not seem to be necessary. But if kept outdoors in severe weather, the pots should be buried. Freezing solid as they stand above ground is injurious.

When brought indoors to start growth, temperatures should be low for some time. Once growth shows and heat is increased, progress is rapid. Timing to bring bloom for a certain date would be quite a problem, different for different varieties. Maximum temperature should probably not go above 70 degrees.

### Dept. Of Registration

The following variety, whose name has been approved by the Nomenclature Committee, is presented for registration by the owner of the stock in this country:

By Louis Smirnow, 8 Elm Court Drive, Sands Point, Long Island, New York.

**ORIENTAL GOLD** (Japan, 1954). D. M. Y., Parentage unknown. Probably a herbaceous hybrid. Roots yellow. Stems upright, strong, bright green, medium tall. Foliage slightly darker, small. Flowers medium in size, double with some hidden stamens, lemon yellow, fading lighter with age. It blooms with the late Japs. It should prove good for landscape work, arrangements and hybridizing.

Due to the fact that the origin of this variety is unknown and also its true name is uncertain, it is being registered by Mr. Smirnow under the above name.

It is hoped that its history may become known at some future time and that the species from which it has been derived will be discovered.

# TREE PEONIES

By Fador Kernin  
Shelby, Nebraska

This has been a good year for strong and healthy growth of tree peonies, but poor from the standpoint of bloom. Some of my most dependable bloomers like *Gumpoden* and *Kamada-Fuji* did not have a single bloom this year, but there is one variety that never fails, and that is *Beikoku* (America). I have two plants of this. One is a perfect plant about 2½ feet tall and 4 feet across. This had 52 blooms, semi-double beautiful flesh pink. It seemed to hold its color better this year in spite of 85 degrees hot sun and strong wind, the day it opened.

The other one was crowded on the northwest side of a blue spruce tree, and had only half as many blooms. A large plant of *Yomeimon*, double, deep scarlet crimson with rose shade, had 22 blooms.

*Hakuo Jishi*. A large semi-double, shaggy white, had 16 blooms. The translation means, white tailed

lion and is well named. Makes a fine plant. Some of the younger plants have started to bloom and I am finding out by experience what I have heard so often, that it is very hard to get plants labeled correctly from Japan. Maybe some of the Japanese growers will wake up some day, and find they have killed the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Of the *lutea* hybrids a large plant of *Arcadia* had 48 blooms, single yellow with red markings at base. A large plant of *Daredevil* had 35 blooms, large single garnet red.

*L'Esperance* had four blooms, single to semi-double yellow with red markings at base. I had one bloom each of *Alice Harding*, *Chromatella* and *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu*. They all have weak necks. So if I have to stake the blooms to hold them up, I much prefer to do it for such beautiful doubles as *Alice Harding* and *Chromatella*.

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## TREE PEONY TOPICS

Louis Smirnow

The ever controversial topic of propagation is with us again. There are some who believe that tree peonies grafted on tree peony roots are highly desirable. Others still feel, after many years of experimentation, that the old method of grafting the tree peonies on a herbaceous root is still the most practical. One of the largest nurserymen in Japan has written me a long letter in Japanese, in which he defends the method of grafting on herbaceous roots. He states that the herbaceous root acts as a nurse and that the

tree peony establishes its own roots in short order and eventually makes the best type of plant.

\* \* \*

From my observation in several gardens visited this past year, I found the outstanding varieties were:

*White*: *Fuso-no-tsukasa*, *Chichibu*, *Haku-banryu*, *Godaishu*, *Hakuo-jishi*, *Gessekai*, *Hade-sugata*.

*Red*: *Nissho*, *Hino-sekai*, *Higurashi*, *Kinkoden*, *Hodai*.

*Maroon*: *Ubatama*, *Hatsu-garashu*, *Black Pirate*, *Sumi-no-itchi*, *Black Sea*.

*Pink*: *Shintenchu*, *Yae-zakura*,

◆533◆

Yachiyo-tsubaki, Shin-kagura, Kagura-jishi, Tama-fuyo.

*Purple, Violet, Lilac:* Kokomon, Rimpe, Taisho-no-hokori, Horakumon, Kamata-nishiki.

*Lutea Hybrids:* Mine d'Or, L'Esperance, Alice Harding.

There are several varieties of tree peonies in red, pink, maroon and purple which have beautiful white stripes on the edges of the petals. Some of these are Adjumashibori, Shokko-nishiki, Naniwanishiki, Jitsu-getsu-nishiki and Kokuko-no-tsukasa.

I had a letter recently from a tree peony enthusiast asking me to mention one tree peony whose color is entirely different than is had in herbaceous or herbaceous hybrid. There are several, but the outstanding variety is the magnificent wisteria blue, Kamada-Fuji. Many growers have confused Kamada Fuji with Kamada Nishiki. As a result, you can see Kamada Fuji labeled on plants bearing magenta blooms. I have a plant which bears 8-12 flowers annually, all large symmetrical, almost ball-shaped flowers.

At the risk of being repetitious, if you ever get an opportunity to observe the fragrance of Sang Lorraine, do so. It will astonish you to find such pleasing fragrance in a tree peony. There is nothing that can compare with it.

Sekura geson is a variety which should be observed closely. In a very wet season, this magnificent pink double will grow to enormous proportions. I saw two flowers 14" this past Spring. In ordinary seasons, it is the size of the average peony but in a wet season, nothing exceeds it in size.

#### LOOK ALIKES

Nagoya Castle and Flora, Katmachi-shiro and Renkaku, Hakutsuru and Hakuo-jishi.

Gabisan, a pure white semi-double, has the most beautiful center. Most whites have pure yellow centers. This one has yellow, red, pale green and white as colors in the stamens and carpels, beautiful to behold. It's only fault is that it is a shy bloomer, but it is a worthwhile variety.

This year, I made my usual annual pilgrimage to the gardens of Dr. David Gurin of Great Neck, L. I., who has the outstanding collection in the country, in my opinion, and also visited the gardens of Mr. Earl Morse of Great Neck and Mr. Edward Heathcote of Flower Hill, L. I., and several others on the Eastern seaboard, who have tree peonies. In a small garden, it was my pleasure to see 15 tree peonies selected for being the best in their respective color class, growing against a background of lilacs. In full bloom, these are breathtaking.

It was in the gardens of Dr. David Gurin where the new yellow double herbaceous peony, called Oriental Gold was in full bloom. Dr. Gurin's garden was visited by many scientists, garden editors, professional gardeners, for the purpose of observing this yellow peony and while there, they saw many fine herbaceous peonies in bloom. There is no more avid horticulturist than Dr. Gurin, who in addition to his outstanding collection of tree peonies, grows the best of Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Camellias, flowering fruit, in short, it is astonishing to observe the vast collection of plants and congratulations are due to Dr. Gurin for his great love of so many garden beauties. It is astonishing to observe the manner in which so many of these plants are crowded into so small a space and yet all plants thrive. Some of the

outstanding tree peonies there, this year, were the following:

Abokiu: Excellent dark crimson, beautiful semi-double.

Arashi-Yama: Russet tinged rose double, very large.

Banzaimon: Brilliant red with faint white stripes, full double.

Gabisan: Large white, full double.

Genkimcn: Yellowish white, exquisitely formed double.

Gessekai: Crystal white, enormous famous beauty.

Gumpoden: Brilliant purple, large full double.

Haku-banriu: Full double white, enormous.

Haku-raku-ten: Exquisite yellow shaded white.

Hakuo-jishi: Pure white huge double, floriferous.

Hana-kisoi: Deep cherry pink, enormous double, gorgeous.

Hatsu-garashu: Velvety maroon, full double.

Higurashi: Large bright pink double, fine grower.

Hinc-tobira: Large beautiful full double, scarlet.

Ima-shojo: Scarlet pink, immense double.

Impu-mcn: Brightest scarlet, yellow center, large rare beauty.

Joten-ko: Medium sized bloom, gorgeous scarlet.

Kagura-jishi: Light pink, immense double.

Kamada-nishiki: Bright red purple, white stripes, full double.

Kasuga-yama: Brilliant pure pink, full double, popular for forcing.

Kogane-zome: Beautiful large, semi-double white, purple at base, prolific bloomer.

Kokuku-no-tsukasa: Shining maroon petals, huge double, striped at edges.

Kurc-botan: Unusual tulip shaped large, semi-double, beautiful.

Momoyama: Large semi-double blush pink, one of the best of all.

Naniwa-nishiki: Very free blooming semi-double, brilliant pink.

Nishika-no-tsuya: Scarlet crimson base, charming double of great size.

Nissho: Glistening scarlet, enormous double, beauty.

Oh Gonsome: Yellowish white, red at base, excellent double.

Rimpo: Famous brilliant purple, yellow center, sensational.

Sakura-jishi: Lustrous pink, beautiful semi-double.

Senshumon: Deep rose pink, full double, free bloomer.

Sen-yo-mon: Pale rose, full double, rare, Japanese favorite.

Setsu-gekka: Glistening white, enormous double, crinkled petals.

Shin-kagura: Intense bright rose, huge double, famous beauty.

Shintenchi: Shell pink, thick satiny petals.

Shujakumon: Salmon pink, large full double, considered by some Japanese experts as the finest of all tree peonies.

Taiyo: Bright red enormous, satiny petals, one of the five best.

Tama-fuyo: Exquisite blush pink, double, should be in every garden, beauty.

Tennyo-no-hagorami: lilac rose cerise shadings, large double, unusual.

Tennyo-no-mai: Medium sized, cup shaped, gorgeous flower.

Yachiyo-tsubaki: Brilliant pink, semi-double, my favorite pink.

Yae-zakura: Soft cherry pink, large attractive double, highly recommended.

Ycmeimon: Full double of great substance, my favorite scarlet.

Yuki-zasa: Pearl white, large double, yellow and red center.

#### EUROPEAN VARIETIES

Bijou de Chusan: Full double, best of European whites.

Jeanne d'Arc: Flushed salmon pink, double, great favorite.

Reine Elizabeth: Large pure pink with copper tints, best European pink.

Souvenir de Ducher: Large double, purple striped white at edges.

I did not visit his garden at the time the *luteas* were in bloom but I understand they did well.

Mr. Earl Morse has a very large garden, landscaped to perfection, truly a gardener's paradise. In a background of rhododendrons and azaleas are tremendous beds of peonies of various description. He has a large number of *lutea* hybrids, all of which did well this year.

Hana-kisoi, as usual, was magnificent. Rimpo, as always, was outstanding. The *lutea* hybrid Harvest always does well. His plants of Gessekai, Shintenchu, Ubatama, Ukare Jishi were at their best this year. At the front of his garden, Mr. Morse has a large number of seedlings which he obtained from Swarthmore several years ago. These are magnificent plants. A visit to his garden is worthwhile.

Mr. Edward Heathcote has one of the outstanding gardens in Long Island, a series of formal gardens leading to one vast center landscaped garden in the circular fashion. There is nothing worthwhile in plants that cannot be seen in the gardens of Mr. Heathcote. His tree peony collection consists of perhaps 40 varieties, but each one is a magnificent specimen and in full bloom they present a gorgeous spectacle. He has a good collection of herbaceous plants and he grows the best Minuet I have ever seen. Mr. Heathcote was fortunate in obtaining some of the outstanding seven peonies that Col. Nicholls sold to the Great Neck enthusiasts several years ago.

## PEONIES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

A letter from one of our new members, who lives near Julian, not far from San Diego, Calif., but much higher above sea level, tells us: "Mine is a one-man farm operation and with 800 apple trees, it keeps an oldster busy. Maybe some day I'll tell you what I can about peonies in Southern California. Last year a late freeze got them as well as the lilacs. Reine Hortense and Mons. Jules Elie about the only ones to come through. This year only *Edulis Superba* touched.

I remember you asked me if we had the wild peony here. I have some right here which I have always taken for granted were *Brownii*. They always give a thrill when they come through in the Spring. The flower is uninteresting, but they have a constitution you must admire. They grow in the poorest, rocky soil under drought conditions.

Our peonies here are commercial, but I do enjoy the show reports and the informative articles in the Bulletin.

Sincerely,

Raymond Ziesmer.

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We have just received a letter from Mr. Christman dated Aug. 25, in which he states that his vision is improving daily and that he hopes to have his permanent glasses soon.

We all rejoice in the success of his operation.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY

This is still available, price 25 cents each. No stamps.

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# PAEONIES IN ENGLAND

O. W. B. Anderson, New Zealand

(Note: Mr. Anderson is from New Zealand and is now on a visit to England and has kindly written us his impressions of paeonies in that country. —Editor)

As I grow over a hundred varieties at my home in New Zealand, very naturally I am extremely interested, while now on a visit to England, in observing conditions of growth, size of plants and flowers, and comparing them with those in New Zealand.

Last Winter in England, was one of the mildest for many years and it has been said that Winter only arrived with a snowfall on January 28th, just ten days after my arrival in England.

The Summer has been very wet, so far, and shows no signs of changing. It is perhaps unwise to judge plant performance in such unusual seasons, but I can only give my opinions, based on personal observations to date, and hope that normal seasonal conditions will not prove those observations incorrect.

Plant growth is good and similar to that in New Zealand, size of flowers also practically the same, but colour here appears to be more intensified. This I attribute to the sunnier, drier, conditions we experience in New Zealand, which do not preserve the colour as do the moist, overcast, cloudy skies of England.

Having attended all the large shows at which paeonies were exhibited, and seen them growing in private gardens and in nurserymen's fields, I feel that I have seen just about all England can show me about the Paeony. In one of the show places of England, Wayford Manor in Somerset, was a plant of

Souvenir de Maxime Cornu with three beautiful flowers of distinct yellow, a delightful colour.

Not many miles away from where I am staying, is the nursery of Kelway and Son, who are without doubt, the paeony leaders of this country and I had many opportunities of visiting their fields during the flowering season. This firm was started in 1851 by James Kelway and was carried on by his son, William, and later by his grandson. This grandson, James Kelway, died in 1952, having seen the centenary of his firm. During all that time, the firm specialized in paeonies and in the raising of new varieties and that policy is being carried on actively today, under the Managing Directorship of Mr. J. O. Lloyd, who has been in charge since 1933, a matter of 21 years.

It appeared to me that their greatest successes are in the Japanese varieties and to a lesser degree in the singles. Some of the Japanese are exceedingly beautiful and will add much interest when available for sale.

In describing the varieties given below, I have used the Colour Chart issued by the British Colour Council in collaboration with the Royal Horticultural Society. This I think, is preferable to describing a flower as "light pink" or "dark red" because my idea of a colour may not be the readers.

While all the varieties listed below are ones I should be very happy to have among my collection, there are some of exceptional merit and these I shall briefly mention.

*Bowl of Light.* Strong growing healthy, flowers fuchsine pink with

very attractive petalodes of Chinese yellow, 606/2, edged with a deeper yellow, 403 approximately, Green carpels.

*Her Majesty.* The colour chart gives this as Magenta 27/1, but I suppose if I were speaking to my best friend I should describe it as red. The colour, coupled with the bi-colour petalodes, is excellent. Petalodes Saffron striped Magenta, Carpels Green tipped Magenta.

*Queen Alexandra.* "Beautiful" is my description of this white Jap. Petalodes Barium Yellow 503.

*Gilded Splendour.* Japanese. Magenta 27/1. Large petalodes, most beautiful. Same colour as petals, edged and tinted with Saffron. This, unfortunately, is as yet very scarce and will not be ready for sale for some years. Just keep it in mind. It is the most magnificent Japanese I have seen and it is difficult to believe that there could be a better one. Most aptly named.

In conclusion, if you want a brilliant colour, then get Kelway's Brilliant.

As a visitor to England, I am impressed with the immense interest in and love of all flowers by all classes of people here and this, of course, is reflected in the new and improved varieties, constantly coming forward. I trust this article will be of interest to its readers.

#### DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME VARIETIES

*Bowl of Beauty.* Japanese. Persian Rose 628/3. Petalodes Ivory. Carpels Red.

*British Empire.* Japanese. Solferino purple 26. Petalodes Chrome 605. Carpels 506 Purple 26.

*Coral Queen.* Double row of petals, Rose Bengal 25/2. Carpels creamed tipped pink. Anthers Indian Yellow 6/2.

*Crimson.* Japanese, Magenta

Rose 027. Petalodes same colour edged with Saffron.

*Day Star.* Double. Guard petals Solferino purple 26/1. Inner petals Solferino purple 26/3.

*Edmund Spenser.* Double. Magenta 27/1.

*Gleam of Light.* Japanese. Magenta 27/2. Petalodes Saffron. Carpels Red.

*Gossamer.* Japanese. White tinged pink. Petalodes Naples Yellow 403/3 edged darker. Red carpels.

*Joy of Life.* Semi-double. Roseine purple 629/3. Petalodes Saffron. Carpels Green.

*Kelway's Brilliant.* Japanese. Magenta Rose 027. Petalodes same. Carpels Yellowish tipped rose.

*Kelway's Unique.* Japanese. Persian Rose 628/1. Anthers Pale Lemon. Carpels Red shaded.

*King George VI.* Japanese. Magenta Rose 027. Petalodes bicolor: Magenta Rose face and pale Biscuit back.

*King of England.* Japanese. Indian Lake 826/3. Petalodes Saffron striped Indian Lake. Carpels Green.

*Lady M. Dashwood.* Single. White lightly flushed palest purply pink. Anthers, fine. Saffron. Carpels pink.

*Nectar.* Japanese. Ruby Red 827/3. Petalodes same, edged Saffron. Carpels Greenish, tipped Ruby Red.

*Pink Delight.* Single. Rhodamine Pink 527/3 fading to White when fully mature. Anthers deep Saffron, Red tipped carpels.

*Silver Shield.* Single. Two rows petals. Pale Magenta 27/3. Anthers Maize. Magenta tipped carpels.

*Smiling Morn.* Single. Roseine purple 629/1 lightening towards base. Fine anthers, Saffron. Carpels Saffron.

*Torpilleur.* Japanese. Solferino purple 26/1. Petalodes Biscuit flushed pink. Carpels Red.

*White Rose of Sharon*. Japanese. White. Fine petalodes, Empire Yellow 603/1. Carpels very pale Char-treuse.

7/0132. Japanese. Magenta 27/1. Petalodes Deep Saffron. Carpels Deep Saffron tipped Red.

#### EDITOR'S NOTES ON ABOVE VARIETIES

Most of the above varieties were introduced some years ago. King of England has been known to us for many years. Its date of introduction is given in the Manual as 1902. We are not sure which of the several varieties imported under this name, the above is.

Several of the names are in use in this country for other varieties. Daystar has been used by Prof. Saunders for a yellow hybrid of *Mlokcsewitschi* x *tenuifolia* which is single. Coral Queen has been used by H. P. Sass for a well known light pink double. Pink Delight is probably the same as a variety that has been listed for many years here. It is described in the Manual as a pink single, origin unknown. While it is almost impossible to tell from the names of the colors used, *Torpilleur* is almost certainly the same variety we have known so long under that name, a brilliant Jap of several shades of red. The description of *Bowl of Beauty* sounds much like that of the variety lately imported into this country from Holland under that name and they are probably the same.

Queen Alexandra is listed in the Manual as a white Jap originated by Kelway and introduced in 1902. It has a rating of only 7.7, which was given in the symposium of 1921 with six voting. It received one nine, four eights and one six. The variety was well known in this country for a number of years. Its low rating was evidently the result

of the fact that few growers in those days thought a Jap worth more than a seven or eight. It has long been a regret of the author that he lost this variety from his collection by once selling his last division accidentally and since he has never found the true one in this country, though there was a pink variety under this name, which was untrue. It was certainly one of the finest white Japs we had at that time and would still be if it were here. Maybe some one will import it again. In the 1939 symposium, Mr. James Kelway sent in a rating list in which some of these were listed. These lists are packed away somewhere and I am not able to locate them except by a long search, but in this list *Gilded Splendour* was listed as the Most Magnificent Peony by Mr. Kelway. I also think *White Rose of Sharon* was in the list. It was certainly listed in the Kelway catalogs of ten or fifteen years ago.

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#### COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION

We have a collection of 35 mm. color slides for rent. The collection contains 24 regular doubles, most of which are the newer varieties. There are a few of the older ones; five semi-doubles; no Japanese types; 2 singles; 20 herbaceous hybrids; and 28 tree peonies. The hybrids and tree peonies are well represented in nearly all colors and types.

The rental fee is five dollars (\$5.00) plus postage. The renter must guarantee safe return and must be responsible for all damage. They are sent from the Secretary's office.

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Seashell was best single or best pink single in four shows this year.

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# MISS GENTRY TAKES OVER

R. F. Koby, Superior, Wisconsin

The Story of a Grain of Wheat, by William C. Edgar, 1925, is a very interesting story of the history of the long struggle to increase production. The author carries his narrative from earliest times to the date of his article, finally telling us that when the grain was grown it was woman who ground the grist and made the flour, converted it into dark or light bread to feed the hungry.

It seems as though that has been the role of woman from time immemorial—to fill the breaches and complete the job that somebody else may have started.

Another milestone has been passed in our Peony World, and history is repeating in normal sequence. A lady is again filling the breach. Oh! You think there is a mistake in spelling and the error has been corrected with "britches," but that is not true even though you all well know how the women folks delight at the thought of wearing those garments.

It was 1919 when a high school teacher found herself pinched between two forces, a returning principal and a School Board. Mr. A. M. Brand, a member of that Board invited this teacher to come and help him for the next six months. This she did and soon found she was having a lot more fun raising, talking about and selling the flowering plants and peonies than by insisting upon her rights with personalities and School Boards.

Those six months grew to be a year, and then permanent. The first big task was the rewriting and editing

of the Brand Catalogue. In stride this was accomplished and the Brand Catalogue took on the new look. Pictures—in color and en masse—were employed until Brand's Catalogue read like a Fairy book from a foreign land. The 1954 edition is the culmination of this effort.

As the years passed skill was gained in meeting the problems of the Nursery, Brand's Nursery, so that in the late forties and early fifties Mr. Brand relied almost wholly on his selection of 1919. His wisdom had paid off. He had a helper that carried on when the boss was not around.

Have you guessed it? If not, I'll tell you that this person was none other than Miss Myrtle Gentry, Office Secretary of Brand's Incorporated. Diligence did pay off. In the passing of Archie Brand, Myrtle Gentry has assumed the leadership of the firm as of January 1, 1953. All of the staff continues on according to Miss Gentry with Douglas Brand serving as Foreman. Plans are to continue the same high grade nursery stock at lowest prices and still stay in business. A worthy objective at Brand's, isn't it?

And then there we have it again, a woman has filled the breach in one of our great Peony Growing Companies of this country. At this late date it is not out of order to congratulate Miss Gentry and wish her well in this venture.

As we read and then go out and visit new introductions it causes us to wonder where the end may be? And then thinking of progress

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sion we realize that there is no end, but rather a multiplicity of the new, indigenous and exotic that are being developed by the breeders. Thinking in terms of the Peony, the hybridizers as Auten, Saunders, and Glasscock and others have given us just a glance at what can be accomplished, and they probably have just scratched the surface.

These new creations are all going to have to be reckoned with. Are they worth propagating? Will the public buy them? These are now problems of Miss Gentry, these are problems of all the Peony Nursery Men. They are the folks that set the standards. It is their judgment we, as novices, must accept.

And so Miss Gentry as you assume a position of leadership we all wish you well. You now have an obligation. On your judgment, as well as that of others, rests the future of Pecnydom.

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### NEW MEMBERS

T. L. Ackerman, Ticonderoga Nursery, Ticonderoga, N. Y.

Mrs. George S. Carkener, 2318 West 59th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Miss Mabel Choate, Naumkeag, Stockbridge, Mass.

Bruce Collins, Utica, Mich.

Mrs. Edith B. Dessaint, 113 North Faulkner, Pampa, Tex.

Mrs. Bertha Sarvis, Conde, S. D.

Miss Laura Leigh Shannon, 1303 South Pershing, Wichita, Kan.

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### WANTED

If anyone has a Manual (Peonies) they would like to dispose of, please advise the Secretary as he has several inquiries for copies.

### COURT OF HONOR

Sussex County, (New Jersey) Peony Show, June 1954

Best flower in the show, Dorothy J.

Best double white, Elsa Sass.

Best double pink, Dorothy J.

Best double red, Kansas.

Best Japanese or single, one report says: Dancing Nymph; second report, Seashell.

Popularity Queen, Minuet.

No full report of this show has been received.

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### DEATHS

J. W. Frenz, Baraboo, Wisc., Feb. 14, 1954.

Adolph Ryba, Elmhurst, Ill., April 10, 1954.

Both of these were loyal members of our Society. Mr. Frenz was a lawyer and Mr. Ryba a real estate agent.

Mrs. Ryba intends to keep the beautiful garden at her home as a memorial to Mr. Ryba. It has large collections of roses, peonies and iris, with especial emphasis on roses of which there are about 750 plants in the garden.

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### WANTED

If any of our members have 35 mm. kodachromes of any species peonies and of any *officinalis* varieties, also of any Japanese types of regular peonies, they would be willing either to lend or rent for a special talk on A Flower with a Past and a Future—The Peony, to be given the first week in March, 1955, at the Williamsburg, Virginia Symposium, please let the Secretary know. Such slides are entirely lacking in the Society's collection and they will add much to the talk if they can be had.

## TWO NEW RACES OF PEONIES

By A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y.

From Bulletin 100, December 1945

I want to report first on a race of peonies that is still too recent to make any very definite decision on; but the plants so far obtained are sufficiently new in their characters and sufficiently beautiful in their bloom so that I want to get the race recorded without further delay.

The parentage of these plants is more complicated than any strains that have yet been reported, and one of the interesting aspects of the crosses is that they offer thus an incentive to more complicated breeding plans.

Here is the situation: One of the the four parents of these plants is a pink Chinese peony of the Japanese type. There is nothing remarkable about it except that it is a vigorous plant.

The second parent, which includes the blood of three other species, is my seedling No. 14255. This is one of a group of somewhat similar plants by crossing a plant of Otto Froebel with my seedling No. 5397.

My plants of Otto Froebel are not quite alike, as they are mostly seedlings, and these are not always identical with the parent, which is a plant allied, as I believe, to *officinalis*, having pink flowers of a good shade.

No. 5397 is a cross between Mlokoewitschi and *macrophylla* (*tomentosa*). The flowers are pale yellow, the foliage very coarse, very light green. The odor of the leaves is faint and suggests cloves. The pollen is extraordinarily fertile and there is no difficulty in crossing this plant with an *officinalis* variety of Otto Froebel.

I have a strain of these crosses, Otto Froebel x 5397 which crossed with Chinese peonies represents the combination of the four species, Mlokoewitschi, *macrophylla*, *officinalis* and *sinensis*. The plants are sterile and the flowers are more uniform in character than one might expect. I have now about a hundred plants of this breeding, no two of which are really alike, but they are almost all of a certain type.

I will give the descriptions of several of them:

16191 - Slightly semi-double, palest yellow or tending toward amber in color.

16208 - Single, pale rose, with enormous crimson stains at the base of the petals.

16213 - Delicate amber, flushed pink at the base. Fine, large yellow center.

16245 - Conspicuous single, pinkish buff with bright purple rosy shading at the base.

16254 - Strong tuft at the center. Pink, shaded amber. Tall and handsome.

16261 - Buff yellow, pinkish single.

16268 - Very large, cream blush with darker edges; deeply veined and flushed rose.

16274 - Clear, delicate fresh pink single with deeper pink shading.

16283 - Tall, fine cup, pinkish amber.

I have over two dozen of such plants which bloomed last spring and almost all of them looked good to me. Perhaps I am too favorably impressed by them; time will show. For the present there are not more than three or four plants of a kind, so they cannot be distributed yet for a few years. Each year increases and improves the stock.

Their season is about with the earlier hybrids of *officinalis* with *sinensis*. It is difficult to define the

type, but as a rule the blooms are held up well and the colors are so novel that a group of them would be sure to attract notice.

The second cross of which I want to say something is not really new, although comparatively few peony growers have any first-hand experience with its results.

It is the cross *Tree peony*  $\times$  *Paeonia lutea*.

*P. lutea* is now well known to a number of peony growers. It is not yet in commerce on any considerable scale, and I am not sure that it will be, for the bloom is very small in comparison with most of the peonies and an inconspicuous flower, but it has a strong yellow color, and that makes it a valuable parent, for it imparts its yellow tone to large blooms that result from the Moutan parent.

The great Lemoine began work with *Paeonia lutea* immediately after it was introduced to Western culture about 1884, and by the turn of the century, and for a few years thereafter, Lemoine introduced a series of very remarkable hybrids, most of them with enormous blooms in yellow or sometimes stained with red. *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu* is perhaps the most striking of these varieties, and has become better known than any of the others.

Lemoines' introductions include the following varieties:

*L'Esperance*, 1909; *La Lorraine*, 1913; *Mme. Louis Henry*, (Henry 1919); *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu* (Henry 1919); *Surprise*, 1920; *Satin Rouge*, 1926; *Chromatella*, 1928; *Aurore*, 1936; *Flambeau*, 1930; *Alice Harding*, 1936; *Sang Lorrain*, 1939.

These varieties are almost all doubles. Apparently the French have preferred the double blooms.

Among my seedlings quite a large number have been single, and I

think they are not less beautiful than the doubles. Here is a list of them up to the present:

Age of Gold, Amber Moon, Arcadia, Argosy, Banquet, Black Douglas, Black Panther, Black Pirate, Brocade, Canary, Centaur, Chinese Dragon, Coronal, Corsair, Countess, Damask, Daredevil, Festival, Golden Hind, Happy Days, Harlequin, Harvest, Holiday, Hyperion, Marchioness, Melody, Mystery, Narcissus, Open Your Eyes, Phoenix, Princess, Red Jade, Regent, Roman Gold, Silver Sails, Spanish Gold, Spring Carnival, Stardust, Tea Rose, Thunderbolt, Trophy, Wings of the Morning.

There are a number of very beautiful things here, quite comparable with some of the finest French varieties.

It is not necessary to give in detail the marks of beauty on all of these, since they are being introduced to commerce as fast as I can get sufficient stock of them.

A large number of these have yellow as their ground color; some of the others are reds in various shades, and some of the dark-colored ones are deep red, almost approaching black.

This is unquestionably a valuable race, for it introduces new ranges of color among the peonies.

The season of these plants is a little later than that of the tree peonies, which run from about May 25 to the early days of June, while the *lutea* hybrids overlap them and cover the season from early June until about the beginning of the Chinese peonies, which usually start with me about June 10.

There are no other varieties to be considered outside of those of Lemoine and my own; no one else, so far as I know, has worked on this strain.

# Secretary's Notes

With this issue, the Bulletin is again back on schedule. We hope to keep it so, but future events will decide that.

We had hoped to have several more complete accounts of the June and July shows, but as we go to press, they have not arrived.

As soon as possible, we hope to bring our membership list up to date. We have to depend on the individual members to do this. As a matter of fact, such a list can never be exactly correct, as changes in the membership occur almost daily and certainly weekly. Our members should remember that they are members of a Society and not merely subscribers to the Bulletin and hence the same rules do not apply. Names are not usually dropped, unless a notice of resignation is received. This often results in back dues piling up, for which the backward members are liable. A few seem to be quite ignorant of this fact and occasionally one will be quite indignant at being sent a notice of unpaid dues. Far more are grateful for our leniency.

However, as it is not quite fair to those who pay promptly, to carry those in arrears, we hope the latter will also join the ranks of the prompt. All should remember that dues come due, in advance, on January 1 each year and remit without waiting for notices. Sending notices costs the Society a great deal of cash and we like to save as much as we can on this item.

If any one desires to sever his connection with the Society, he

should notify us promptly of his decision. We hope none will feel it necessary to resign.

As there is some demand for a membership list, we shall publish one, if it is decided that the Society can afford the expense. It will cost probably well over a hundred dollars to do this. The list can be included in a regular Bulletin or sent as a supplement to some future issue.

We are glad to say that all medals, due for the past four years, have been sent except the Gold Medals and one or two others held up for information. There has been some delay in obtaining the gold medals, but they should all be out in the next few weeks now. If any one is due a medal from previous years and has not received it, please advise us at once, giving the circumstances of its award.

Quite a number of Bulletins are being returned because of improper address, caused, usually, by the member having moved and not advising of the change. Occasionally the new address will be marked on the returned Bulletin, but often the notation reads: "Moved, left no address." In the latter case, we are up against a blank wall. When a member moves, if he will send us at once his new address, the Society will be saved expense and the member will get the Bulletin promptly. We are still getting returned Bulletins for June, though first mailed more than a month ago. The slightest error in the address will result in non-delivery. So be careful.

—5442—



## NOTES

We expect to republish several more articles from old Bulletins now out of print. We also expect to go more thoroughly into some of the history of the Society than was done in the sketch in this number.

It has not yet been definitely decided where the next annual meeting and exhibition will be held. We hope to have this information in the December Bulletin.

If any one has not received a Bulletin due him, please let us know and one will be sent. Back numbers of some issues are now getting scarce. So do not delay.

New memberships sent in from now to the end of this year, will be dated for the calendar year 1955 and the December Bulletin for this year will be mailed them free.

## FLOWER COLOR DETECTOR

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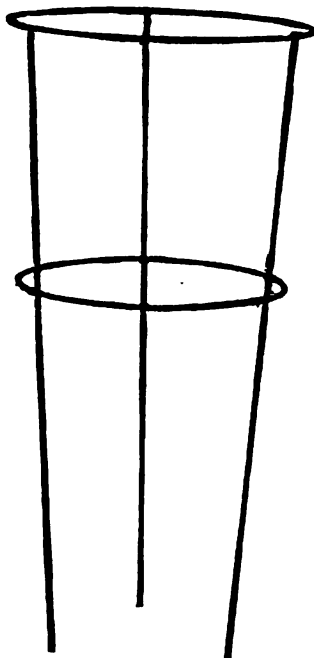
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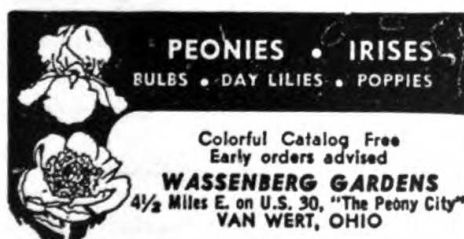
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