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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Bulletin

MARCH 1959
BULLETIN NO. 152

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Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at
Rapidan, Virginia, October 4, 1951, Under Act of March 3, 1879
Subscription to non-members \$5.00 a year.

Published quarterly by the
American Peony Society

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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 method; 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 Peony Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members, \$5.00 for one year.

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued quarterly. Back numbers when available, will be charged at prices which will be furnished by the Editor. Current year back numbers will be fifty cents each to members.

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



MARCH, 1959 — NO. 152

President's Message

"Here is one of the incomprehensible mysteries of Nature. Take for instance a seed of a choice peony. A man may plant 1000. They all produce different plants, no two exactly alike, but the secret artists have their eye on one. The seeds resemble each other like so many peas. The workers lay their plans and carry them out.

We will take Mary Brand for instance — largest and most brilliant of the reds. How did they get the pattern and do the painting?

Take Le Cygne, called the finest white on earth, and very fragrant withal. The flower is of enormous silk petals often incurved like feathers on the wing of a swan. How could those unseen and silent workers with a skill which would defy the world's best painters, design a living, growing production and put that resplendent orb in the sunlight like a jeweled queen receiving the admiration of a host of visitors with an aroma floating like an unseen halo around her? Others are to be evolved until twenty five years from now the wonderland of beauty will be embellished with forms which will enthrall the beholder.

The more we study these triumphs of nature, the better intro-

duction we have to the thoughtfulness and benevolence of the Kind Father who is constantly unfolding before us new fields of delight. What exquisite taste! What marvelous skill He displays in the new presents He designs for us.

How can nature pick out the seeds which will grow into a Festiva Maxima, Felix Crousse, Richard Carvel or a Florence Nightingale? And greater things than these will she do."

The above was taken from a little book written by Rev. C. S. Harrison of York, Nebraska. Rev. Harrison passed away Feb. 23 1919. He was a very enthusiastic member of the American Peony Society. I liked this so much that I wanted to pass it on to those that have not read it before.

MYRON D. BIGGER

The Sunday, March 29th, edition of the *Topeka Capital-Journal* carried a half page article on Mr. Bigger's father, James William Bigger, now 92 years young, born in Cass County, Indiana, November 30 1867. Moved near Topeka when 19 where he ran a dairy farm until recent years. Now he helps Myron cultivate his peonies. He lives with his daughter, Mrs. Fern Kent, keeps a cow, has a garden, and still cuts wood.

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RAILROADING AND PEONIES

BY A. L. MURAWSKA

It's been about a half century now since I first had my nose rubbed into the growing of peonies and what a grand half century it has been! During the course of these fifty years ideas have ping-ponged between myself and the peony lovers when our paths crossed. However, the number of people with whom I had agreements and disagreements about peony matters would total but a fraction of what is now the membership of our society.

Many of these people have inquired why I did not contribute material to the bulletin, since they expressed that I possessed the savy to cook up something worthwhile. But, this is not the simple task it seems to be. I'll have to confess that there are limitations to my talents in written expression, and it would be as difficult to whip up an article as it would be for a virtuoso to play a sonata on a violin with boxing gloves on both of his hands. I know that I should help out in contributing to our beloved bulletin, since I have been the recipient of many good ideas by reading it, and it has brought a little color to my drab little world. Frankly, there has been just too much of this business of "let George do it". I have often intended to write an article, but the bug-bear of writing has always frightened me out of my intentions. Time to do it is getting late. The aches and pains are gradually increasing in number and in intensity and I realize that ere long I will not be able to grow things that will give others pleasure. In fact, I find myself stealing a siesta whereas I should be out chopping away with the hoe.

When the time comes when I can not grow flowers nor have the contacts with the people who love them, then I'll pray to the good Lord to allow me to wobble out of this mortal orbit. Life certainly will not be worth living. At last I have found an hombre who knows more than just the A.B.C's about peonies and he can express himself on paper better than most people and he agreed to put my ideas into written expression, with the provision that his name be kept anonymous. I'll go along with that, but have insisted that provided integrity be kept, he can color things to suit himself. So here goes an article to the bulletin. Whether it will be published, that's something else again. I do hope that our beloved George Peyton does not chuck the mess into the round file more commonly known as the waste basket. If the proposed article clicks, then it should give ideas to others who also have limitations in writing.

To begin with, most of the people in the peony game refer to me as the frank, brusque, irascible hombre who seldom spares words to clobber those who do not see peonywise with him. Unfortunately, my expressions are irreducibly terse, often extending beyond the words contained in the dictionary, if you know what I mean. I seem to be a powder keg with plenty of tinder underneath that explodes with much effervescence of indignity when someone expounds the praises of a peony variety that in my mind lacks sufficient merit. I hope to touch upon a few of these later on. There are plenty of ideas buzzing around in my

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mind, but most of these have not crystalized, however, I intend to bring a few of these into perspective.

By vocation I am a locomotive engineer and it is the brand of our trade to always proceed with caution and to constantly watch for the lights be they yellow, red or green. My avocation is the growing of peonies of the better grade. Many who know me well say that which I claim as my avocation is my vocation and *vice versa*. Perhaps this is so, but while the growing of flowers comes closest to the heart, there is not enough joy cabbage made to satisfy even my barest wants. Oft times, the records show that I put more money into the enterprise than I get out of it. Why do I continue with such a foolish enterprise? The answer is that I am almost insane about flowers and that I am fond of ALL people. Anyway, after all, isn't it much better to have lived rich than to have died rich?

There are literally thousands of peony varieties upon the market today, but everyone of them comes shy of the near perfection of Le Cygne. But, as most know, it has two faults, one of them is immediately visible upon viewing a plant in the field and the other shows up after one has a little experience with growing it. It has superlative color, individuality, wonderful substance, ideal form, exhilarating fragrance, grand stalks, beautiful and lush foliage and charm to give away. But, alas, the foliage is too high from the ground and long stemmed blossoms cannot be cut from it without setting the plant back. The second fault is that it, at times, is temperamental and refuses to put on the stellar strip tease of which it is capable. So, my wagon in the hybridizing game is hitched to a

peony star that has all of the virtues of LeCygne, plus a reliability of bloom and with foliage much closer to the ground. Yes, the trajectory is a high one and I am of the firm conviction that the goal I seek to meet will be attained either by me or someone else.

There have been thousands of peonies that were introduced since a group of far seeing members of our society, invested with authority, swung an axe and recommended that, with few exceptions, all varieties that were rated below eight should be discarded from commerce. The growers responded admirably and as a result, quite a bit of junk was culled out of existence. There's no denying that a few mistakes were made in giving such a wholesale bum's rush, and a few meritorious varieties were temporarily set back. But the tremendous benefits that were harvested greatly offset the harm. Why not pick up the meat cleaver again and start swinging and get rid of many of the rif-raff varieties that should belong to the past? Personally, I swung the meat axe and think that I have done a pretty good job of it. I grow only the good reliable ones.

Our society has no effective filter to keep from registering low grade peony varieties. Consequently, as time jets by many worthless varieties will creep into commerce. Many of the eager-beaver peony cashews register a flower immediately after its first bloom. This may bring a little revenue into the till of the society, but it just clutters up commerce with junk. I find out that it takes no less than ten years after a seedling has been transplanted before one can accurately assay its merit. I have often sent out seedling stock to get others' opinions before registering. We just have to have some

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kind of a filter or skimming rod to prevent dross from accumulating. An appointed qualified committee to screen out the undesirable would help immensely. Perhaps a few test gardens spotted around the country would even be still better.

I s'pose that every lover of peonies has a sort of fool's paradise in his garden, which is a monument to his rashness and over-enthusiasm. But, unfortunately, our Bulletin unwittingly gives many assists in the peddling of the gold-brick varieties. We have in our society, as in other lines of endeavor, a certain group who have to keep up mit der Schultzes, and not much, if anything, can be done about it. I've seen a number of eager-beaver, over enthusiastic peony cabbage heads who tossed out something very good to obtain some highly over advertised variety in order to get into the swim with the latest. These are the ones that help put into the till of those who are principally in business to snare a few fast centavos. Too often very inferior varieties are given quite a sendoff by the upper lamas of our society and their praises are accepted as authoritative. I never give any opinion about any variety unless I have grown it for some time.

I had an incident at one of our national exhibitions that will give a little insight into what happens when someone tries to extend their authority, I stood fixed before a variety that was a real phony and was boiling within because it had received a blue ribbon. I hung around hoping to disgorge what was upon my mind. I noticed a tiny old lady who was making notations as she was making the rounds of the exhibition. When she spotted the bloom that had

upped my blood pressure, she said to me, "My, my, what a grand beauty, I must get a start of it." She then fondled the petals gently and added, "Don't you think so?" I then blew a gasket and told her that the bloom had been prettified by certain artifices that were used by the exhibitor and that it would never attain that form if not doctored. She was surprised to have been informed of this and begged me to review the list that she had made. Those that know me well, know that people do not have to turn on their hearing aids when I get to expound about peonies, particularly when I start to yak-yak about worthless varieties. Guess I must have been heard across the hall. I scratched off her list the junk and told her why. Apparently, some one wisened the top kick of our society, who led me into a corner and blasted vehemently that I was off base and should not have done what I did. I counterblasted back that one of the reasons for our society was for the purpose of education and if there were any illusions in people's minds about peonies it was my duty to straighten them out. Quite a few large calibered volleys pendulummed back and forth, but I am still at the old stand doing what comes naturally to one whose soul is sailing away in the orbit of peonies.

I had another experience that involved the same variety, which happened shortly before the one just related. It seemed that everyone went ga-ga about this variety and it's form in the exhibitions was on everyone's lips. Altho I was aware of the guiles that are employed in exhibiting, I let my enthusiasm carry me away and made quite an investment to get some of the stock. I waited for seven years to see a bloom that would up my

pulse rate, but nothing like that happened. In punching the sack about peonies with some of my peony intimates, I found that the very fine form can be acquired by patterning after that which the gals use to give swirls to their hair. A tony as it were. Only bags were used on the unopened buds. Ye gods, how I detest bagging! To me, this is faking and I hope that our society will eventually come up with classes for unbagged varieties for our shows. I wanted to recoup something from my unwise outlay, so advertised standard roots for two dollars. The originator wanted seven and a half. I did not sell a root. The originator sent me a blistering letter that was a lulu and and it was fortunate that the postal inspectors hadn't read it. As a sort of penance, I offered all of my stock, one hundred divisions, for fifty cents each. He did not buy. At the next peony show, where I saw him, I cut my price to two bits a division and he passed it up. Well, I worked out a peach of a double play: Murawska to the garbage collector to the city dumps.

Another thing that gripes me is the fast fading color. We all know that all colors will fade in time when exposed to the sunlight, but some of the colors in peonies fade in just a few hours. Take Sea Shell for instance. It seldom fails to cop a prize in a show. On opening, the color is rich and beautiful, but let it stand in the sun for a couple of hours and the color washes to simulate a very much laundered garment. Yet this variety is very popular. Why? To preserve its color it has to be bagged and stored. Another fader is Largo. So is the old variety Therese.

Stalks! How I detest those varieties that have to use crutch-like supports to keep their beautiful

heads out of the mud! By looking at the supported plants you would think that they were polio victims. James Pillow, Marilla Beauty and Mrs. J. V. Edlund can't even hold up a matured unopened bud! Oh, there are many, many more in the same category. Unless a fellow is in the exhibition game and has to have his ego inflated by winning, there is no reason why they should be in any garden. In my hybridization activities I have come up with some pretty nifty blooms from my seedling bed, but those that could not stand on their own legs went to the city dumps.

I cherish fragrance highly in a flower. If my Moonstone had it I'd be most happy. I notice that very few of the judges at the peony shows pay much attention to fragrance. Don't ask me why they don't. Will someone tell me why certain varieties, that give off a bouquet that is reminiscent of over-ripe limburg cheese, were ever introduced?

Floriferousness, in my opinion, is one of the most important essentials of a highly desired peony. It must bear a bloom on every stalk year in and out. Our modern gardens are much smaller than when we oldsters were kids and swam in nature's bathing suits in the stream just around the bend from the railroad bridge. There is no room in a small garden for any flower that is not as reliable as the orbs in the heavens. But, exhibitionists must have their innings. I know an exhibitor who has a row of Hansina Brand about as long as the road from Bataan. He remarked that if he gets just one exhibition bloom, he is happy.

I desire large succulent foliage on any plant. After the peony blooming season is through, they give us a rich, glossy exotic green that few plants can give us. By

the way Eleanor, Elsa Sass, and Nick Shaylor all have superlative foliage. And, of course, LeCygne, my dream boat, has it. By the way, Nickie and Elsa are the one two Sunday punches in my planting. Nickie is at times sullied by red flecks—a la Festiva Maxima. Elsa is very late blooming and now and then, but not often, it doesn't quite make the grade. But it is far from LeCygne in respect to unreliability. The variety Eleanor is huge and reliable. It will give Blanche King quite a run for its money as the best deep pink.

What about hybrids? To be honest, I have grown them for about ten years and have a lot to learn. Most of them lack vigor and the foliage in most instances is not so lush and glossy. I guess that Red Charm is about everyone's favorite among the hybrids, But I believe that I have detected an objectionable weakness in it. Shortly after the blooming season has passed this paragon amongst the hybrids has a change in the foliage. It assumes a spotted, sickly anaemic effect that gives the appearance of disease. In fact, quite a number of people remarked unfavorably about the foliage. I have never seen it otherwise in my own garden or elsewhere. Perhaps, I have yet to see a healthy Red Charm. I would appreciate it very much if our members would give to Secretary Peyton their personal observation of this variety's foliage. A number of peony growers, who have had much more experience with hybrids than I, report that the hybrids of the most vibrant hue have to be transplanted often, say every third or fourth year. How about a few words to Peyton on this? Some of the hybrids that I grow have substance that reminds one of an oriental poppy. Chalice is about the worst

in this respect that I have seen, it pops out to a dish rag appearance in less than half a day.

We often hear the wail for a symposium. Others feel that it is of no value. Personally I'm in the latter group but feel that a symposium would create excitement and pep up the gang. If there is anything that our society needs, it is a shot of something that will pep up the entire gang. If a symposium is the only way to get it, let's administer the shot. Yet, I am for something that is much more beneficial and has far more lasting results. Roughly, there are about a dozen essentials to a peony. Why not give a list of our peony varieties in alphabetical order and give a sort of box score for each of these essentials, but forget all about a rating. Anybody that could read would instantly know the faults and virtues of any variety. Wouldn't that be something! Then if some peony cashew went astray and got all fouled up after he had read the score, he deserved to be rooked and good. Such a tabulation would give us the green, red and yellow lights so that we can purchase wisely. We're back to railroading again with the signal lights. Forgive me, I'm too house broken on railroading.

Hooray, I have cooked up an article at last! Hope that if it gets into print it makes its appearance before the next National. We then can pick up the script where we left off and have some meat to yak-yak about with those who try to grow peonies for profit.

NOTE

Mr. Edward Auten, Jr. tells us he is retiring and will sell out his business, when he can find a suitable purchaser.

Evaluating Hybrids

The hybrid peony is here to stay. It has earned a place in the average garden as well as in the fanciers collection. Many will be making their first appearance in gardens all over the country this year. For those who will be making their initial purchase of hybrid varieties and for the beginning breeder whose young plants will soon be coming into bloom, I trust that the following observations may be of some help. I have waited in vain for such an article to be written by Auten, Bockstoce, Mains — someone whose accomplishments in the field of species crossing would give it the stamp of authority.

What I have to say is the result of three things: My own experience with seedling hybrids which I freely admit is too limited to carry much weight. Second, a number of years experience with named varieties of hybrids, again limited by the relatively few varieties I have grown. And third, (this perhaps justifies the article) conversations I had on several occasions with Mr. Glasscock a few years before his death, talks and correspondence with Mr. Auten, several visits with Mr. Bockstoce while attending national shows, and close association with Mr. Walter Mains for a number of years past. Miss Silvia Saunders and Mr. Harold Wolfe have also contributed to my thinking relative to hybrids.

It is entirely understandable that in the early days of species crossing, many of the progeny were saved, propagated and named that should have gone on the trash heap. Each new plant that bloomed was an EVENT. Colors were new and striking. The flower form was frequently different and unusual. The time of bloom-

ing was often earlier than that of either parent. And the plant, both top and root, had characteristics exhibited by neither parent. But now that we have become familiar with hybrids, particularly those of *officinalis x albifloras*, we have a good idea of what to expect and some standards in existing varieties by which to evaluate new things. We can, or should, profit by the experience of older breeders, else we will be repeating their mistakes, perhaps failing to go beyond their successes. Accurate evaluation of the worth of a hybrid is a thing they had to learn from scratch; the beginning breeder can begin today with a considerable body of knowledge, needing only a bit of tempering by the fires of experience.

Take the matter of color. The majority of *officinalis* hybrids are red. When pinks and whites appear, they are very welcome and we are prepared to be a little more lenient in judging them. The reds in general are notable for a brilliance and purity not found in *albifloras*; total absence of blue often results in reds of startling brilliance. Some people have come to demand this quality in red hybrids. But some blue is not so likely to result in a dull, lusterless hue as in *albifloras*. The brilliance and sparkle remain, resulting in a color effect which to me is most pleasing. In some that fade, the color becomes a sort of pastel. They are approved almost without exception by my garden visitors. On the other hand, the very dark ones, black reds, are not so well received unless they have a very high sheen, a varnished look. Any dullness, lack of brilliance, makes them unattractive to many people.

The weakness of most pinks is

that they fade badly in strong sunlight and become unattractive. For garden display, this is hardly to be tolerated. If grown for cut flowers or exhibition, it is less serious. One very dark pink double seedling which I am watching with interest, fades considerably, but becomes more beautiful as it ages. Good pink double hybrids are very scarce; any appearing in the seedling row should be given every chance to make good. Perhaps if more *officinalis rosea* were used in crossings, there would be more. Mr. Mains says that is the source of his pinks.

Hybrids appear in the same flower forms as *albifloras*, but Japs and anemones are rare. Singles predominate. Some are difficult to classify definitely. Flowers on the same plant may range all the way from singles with one row of petals through semi-doubles to full doubles with only a few stamens showing. Young plants are likely to have mainly single flowers. Mature, vigorous plants will have largely semi-double and double flowers. There may be variation from season to season also. Mr. Auten's JOHN HARVARD, which he calls a single, is generally that for me, with two or three rows of petals; but this past season, an unusually good peony year, it was almost full double.

Some doubles are practically spherical in shape and more tightly packed with petals than any *albifloras* I have ever seen. Some have quilled petals. These are rarely long-lasting flowers. Strong stems are very important with these heavy doubles. However, it is too much to ask that they resist breakage entirely when the flower is full of water; stems would have to be so thick and heavy that we would criticise them

for coarseness. Looking to the future, I believe more small to medium sized Japs and semi-doubles in as wide a color range as we can get, blooming over an extended period and borne on neat, tidy plants will do much to increase the popularity of hybrid peonies.

The plant should come in for as close scrutiny as the flower. It takes a superlative flower to make up for an inferior plant. In *officinalis* hybrids, coarse, awkward, stems and leaves is one of the most common defects. Such plants are likely to sprawl and appear untidy. Some have crooked stems, which can be tolerated if not too bad and the flower is good enough. A very common defect is early ripening of foliage which turns brown and unsightly while that of other peonies is still fresh and green. I have an unnamed seedling (never will be named or sold) which comes close to being the handsomest plant in my garden; it remains a clean, dark green until frost cuts it down. I use it for foliage effect in a perennial bed. But alas! the flower is a small, ragged semi-double of a dark red, unattractive color. No one would think of using RED CHARM for its late foliage effect, but it has a flower to compensate for its foliage deficiencies. Mr. Mains says, the closer a hybrid approaches the *albiflora* in foliage, stem and root, the more desirable it is, other things being equal.

There is as much variation in the root systems as in the tops of hybrids plants. Some have very large, heavy roots which fuse into a monstrous crown of tough, woody tissue, making division extremely difficult. Such plants frequently have few eyes, further complicating the problem. Others have a great number of smaller

roots with long, narrow necks which all join up to form a relatively small crown with many eyes so closely set together that again division is difficult, often impossible without extensive wastage of roots or eyes or both. Eyeless roots, cut off when dividing, should be saved and planted if the variety is a valuable one. Most of them will eye up and grow in time; but it is a slow method of getting increase. Eyes with little crown or root tissue, can sometime be grafted on to eyeless roots, even *albiflora* roots. Some hybrids divide easily and to very good advantage making propagation as rapid, possibly more rapid than the average *albiflora*. Very large roots and heavy crowns are generally indicative of coarse stems and leaves, a grossness which is unattractive. This is no indication of the kind of flower a plant will have. We may find a small single atop such a plant, or it may be a large semi-double or double.

As in *albifloras*, a vigorous constitution and resistance to disorders are of utmost importance. Observation leads me to believe that variation in vigor and disease resistance is even greater than in *albifloras*. Mr. Auten says that some are extremely susceptible to root rot, which checks with my own experience. I have seen some so heavily infested with root knots (nematodes) that they were worthless while other hybrid varieties and *albifloras* close by were absolutely clean. Leafspot is another disorder to be watched. Some plants while appearing healthy and disease resistant never attain much size, four or five stems and blossoms being about their limit. This is an important factor if they are to be used as cut flowers, as is the

length of stem and leaves close to the base of stem.

Keeping quality varies in hybrids about as it does in *albifloras* and is just as important. How long a flower lasts before wilting or dropping petals is only part of the story. Tendency to fade is a defect of many, particularly the pinks. Singles and Japs should retain their cup shape, remain neat and tidy. Ability to take cold storage for a reasonable period is an asset to any flower. Great variation will be observed in this.

Albiflora x lobata is an interesting cross and an easy one to make. The progeny are all single (so far as I am aware) and have a high degree of uniformity in form and size. Miss Saunders says, "Never a bad color in all the hundreds (of seedlings) that have bloomed." That, of course, means much less culling, fewer discards. Mr. Wolfe believes they should be sold as a strain (Miss Saunders speaks of them as a "race") rather than as named varieties, and suggests the name "Albata". Mr. Mains shares that opinion; he has in his files a letter from Prof. Saunders telling of the remarkable uniformity of his seedlings and expressing something of the same line of thought. However, they will need to be segregated into color groups, as they range from salmon and coral through rose and cherry to bright crimson (no whites as far as I know), but all have a sheen and brilliance, almost a luminous quality. There is some degree of variation in quality of plants and there will need to be some roguing to eliminate the poor ones. A few will be of such outstanding excellence that they should be propagated and perpetuated as named varieties.

Every garden should have a few

hybrids; not to compete with but to supplement the *albifloras* by lengthening the season of bloom and adding new colors and flower forms. Every collector will want as many as he can find room for. The gardener will find a goodly list of kinds that will serve his purpose. The collector will find many more of interest to him. But both need to be discriminating; for, while there may be no poor hybrids as one peony enthusiast has said, there are certainly many that will be very disappointing. My feeling is that we have scarcely made a beginning in hybridizing; that some new and wonderful things will soon be appearing as three-way and quadruple hybrids, and from the back crosses and second generation plants. And the possibilities of the simple *officinalis-albiflora* cross or the *albiflora-lobata* have not been exhausted by any means. From the wisdom acquired in long years of experience, "many failures and a few successes", comes this statement by Walter Mains: "Whether the young hybridist sees his plant children as superior to those of the other fellow or not, rest assured that all must subject themselves to the ruthless but just law of survival of the fittest."

W. A. Alexander

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Mary Bowden, 2620 Kennedy Road, Agincourt, Ontario, Canada.

Mrs. F. M. Chaye, 6728 Marine Crescent, Vancouver 14, British Columbia, Canada.

Ralph Dealing, Route 1, Box 3a, Mound, Minnesota.

Fort Worth Botanic Garden, % Scott Fikes, Forester and Horticulturist, Fort Worth 3, Texas.

Ben Gilbertson, Box 35, Kindred, North Dakota.

Mrs. Henderson Heyward, Box 691, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Mrs. Leona J. Hofman, 3735 West 115th Place, Chicago 43, Illinois.

Rev. Edward J. De Mars, 5930 Woodward Avenue, Detroit 2, Michigan.

Mrs. Paul G. Muth, 9385 North Dixie Drive, Dayton 14, Ohio.

Mrs. Theo. R. Mysyk, Hebron, Illinois.

Mrs. Edward L. Olson, 423 River Street, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Mrs. Mable Ostrander, Box 423, Bradner, Ohio.

Mrs. J. D. Parks, 627 Olympic Road, Pittsburgh 11, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Andrew Spang, 151 Kalb Avenue, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

M. Louis Sullivan, Vernon, New York.

Sumio Takasuki, Ohtake, Yao-Shi, Near Osaka, Japan.

Mrs. James Taggart, 18305 River Road, Green Acres, Washington.

Harold U. Tennant, 1319 16th Street, Lubbock, Texas.

Gale D. Whitsett, Route 7, Box 226, Decatur, Illinois.

NEW HYBRID PEONY PLANTINGS

Mrs. Elizabeth Falk has donated two plantings of hybrid peonies, one to the Morton Arboretum which is only about 20 miles from her home. The second was to the Northern Illinois University at De Kalb, Illinois, of which university she is a graduate and which her son now attends.

She has also donated plants to the National Arboretum in Washington.

OBITUARIES:

W. Ormiston Roy (1874-1958)



Mr. Roy has been a member of the American Peony Society since 1921. Though not a great many of us knew him, those who did, valued his friendship.

The writer has always remembered with much delight a visit from him about 25 or more years ago.

Only within the last month

have we learned of his death, a notice of which was sent us by his son, Mr. W. Wallace Roy.

* * *

Mr. W. Ormiston Roy, Landscape architect, naturalist, curler, dog fancier, peony grower and a man whose activities embraced many facets, died on the evening of August 7, 1958.

Born December 4, 1874, at Dorval, Quebec, he lived his entire life in Montreal. Early in life he became a landscape architect which was his main interest. Many important people retained his services in this connection, among them Prime Minister Mackenzie King when landscaping the grounds of his Kingsmere estate.

He possessed a tremendous knowledge of plants and shrubs and he maintained his interest in flowers throughout his life. He was particularly interested in peonies and the Canadian maples.

He became manager of Mount Royal Cemetery in 1898 and it was due to him that this became one of the world's most beautiful cemeteries. He introduced into Canada the old Chinese method of growing trees and shrubs.

He and his father, both, were winners of the Sir Joseph Banks medal for Horticulture and in 1956 was awarded the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's large gold medal for his work in assembling an outstanding collection of woody plants in Mount Royal Cemetery.

In his younger days he was a dog fancier, his specialty being collies. He often judged at shows of the Westminster Kennel Club in New York's Madison Square Garden.

He was an authority on the Scottish poet, Robert Burns, he himself being of Scottish ancestry. He was a Presbyterian.

His favorite sport was curling and he was a past president of the Caledonia Curling Club. He was also a Rotarian and belonged to the Royal Albert Lodge AF and AM and the MAAA.

He is survived by two sons, A. Carlyle and W. Wallace Roy, a

brother John F. Roy, four sisters, Misses Alice, Eadie and Lillian Roy and Mrs. Janet Marks; seven grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. His wife, the former Charlotte Ann Springings, died in 1947.

The above facts were taken from the Montreal Gazette of Aug. 8, 1958, and the following editorial was published in that paper:

"Not many people in this world may be described as philosophers—as people who have developed their own philosophy of living. But W. Ormiston Roy was one of these.

With him, life was never merely the daily round, dull in routine, burdened with conventions, and other people's ideas. He was an original thinker, and his very look and bearing had independence and character.

His humor kept him from impatience or bitterness with those with whom he freely differed. He went his own way, and just because it was his own way, it had a depth and quality that impressed all who truly knew him.

He was a naturalist, not only by profession but by instinct. In a professional sense, he had a vast knowledge of horticulture and botany, and of landscape architecture. Mount Royal Cemetery, in its serene and state-ly beauty, is largely the outcome of his planning and his care. He was an honored figure at international conventions of landscape architects.

But his feeling for nature was not only a professional skill; it was profound within himself. In closeness to nature, he believed, was health for body and spirit, a largeness and a peace, a wonder and a haven.

His love of nature was combined with a fine love of literature. It was an experience to hear him reading Burns. Even if the meaning of the Scot's words might not be clear to the listener, he gave them cadence and richness, such as they were intended to have in Burns' own manuscripts.

He was a companionable man. Yet he was never the conformist. The bigger things he never surrendered for the gains that conformity might bring. He liked his choice, and by that he stood.

His friend, the Canadian poet, Wilson Macdonald, once described W. Ormiston Roy as "a poet of reception". It was the true description. For, though he wrote no poetry himself, he was wonderfully receptive to all poetic feeling, to the beauty of a sunlit world."

MISS MABEL CHOATE

Miss Choate of New York City and Stockbridge, Massachusetts, died on December 11, 1958. She had been a member of the corporation of The New York Botanical Garden since 1933, of the Garden since 1918, and a patron since 1951, and on the Advisory Council from 1933-1935, re-elected in 1941 and a member since that date. Miss Choate was especially interested in the Library and Research Laboratory and generously contributed to the support of the Garden.

Note: This was taken from the March-April issue of the Garden Journal of the New York Botanical Garden.

Miss Choate had been a member of the American Poeny Society for about five years.

HOWARD E. WIGELL

We have learned of the death, in January of this year, of Mr. Wigell of Rockford, Illinois, while on a trip to Florida. We had hoped to be able to publish some details of his life. Maybe we can do so in the June Bulletin.

For many years he has been a life member of this Society. He was one of the best educated men I have ever known and he had a most remarkable memory which was a storehouse of information on almost any subject you could mention.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends. The Society extends its sympathy to his family.

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST FLOWER SHOW

The French Government Tourist Office, 610 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, New York, notifies us that such will be the show to be held in the new Palais de La Defense April 24 until May 3rd.

The International Floralia 1959 will have the largest collection of plants and flowers ever assembled in one place. The exhibition hall is also the largest one in the world, and would cover 14 New York City blocks.

Approximately 80 countries will be represented and they expect three million visitors. It has 131 entrances, a heliport connecting with the two main Paris airports, a 5,000 car parking lot, a postoffice, rooms available for meetings and restaurants and snackbars on every floor of which there are five.

Special tours are being organized by the Wm. H. Miller Travel Corp. and the Jean Berks Travel Agency, both of New York. If any of our members attend, we hope they will send us an account of their trip.

PEONY SHOWS - 1959

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL PEONY SHOW OF THE PEONY UNIT OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS is now scheduled to be held on May 8-9, 1959, in the new Art Center on the Fair Grounds, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The American Iris Society will hold its annual meeting and show the same week, so there should be a good attendance at both shows.

Our President, Mr. Bigger, and Mr. Jim Wild of Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri, have been asked to judge the Horticulture Section.

Mrs. Opal M. Hamilton, 3029 N. 23rd Street is Show Chairman and Mrs. W. H. Allen, 809 S. W. 35th Street, is Secretary of the Oklahoma City Council of Garden Clubs. For schedules and further information, write either of these ladies.

Those of us who attended our annual meeting in Belleville, Illinois, in 1957, will remember, with much pleasure, meeting these ladies there. They both write of the continuing interest in Peonies in Oklahoma with many new converts. They are seriously discussing an invitation to our Society to hold its annual meeting and show in Oklahoma City at some time in the near future. We shall certainly welcome such an invitation and the sooner the better.

We hope many of our members will find it convenient to attend this coming show. A number of our members are also members of the American Iris Society, so this should be a good time to attend both exhibitions.

THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL SHOW OF THE TAKOMA HORTICULTURAL CLUB will be held

on May 23-24, 1959. We have several members in Silver Spring and near-by. We hope that all will take advantage of the opportunity they will have of visiting and making exhibits in this show. Phone or write Mr. Leland H. Cole, 1512 Grace Church Road, Silver Spring, Maryland after May 1 for further details.

THE ANNUAL PEONY SHOW OF THE OTTAWA HORTICULTURAL CLUB will be held sometime during the week of June 23rd. Charles F. Stewart, 1532 Claymore Avenue, Ottawa 5, Ontario, Canada, will be glad to give you any information you may wish about this show.

THE FORTIETH ANNUAL PEONY SHOW OF THE DULUTH PEONY AND IRIS SOCIETY is scheduled to hold its show July 8-9, 1959, probably in the lobby of the Northern City National Bank, Duluth, Minnesota. Mrs. Gregory O'Brien, Secretary, 2704 East First Street, Duluth 2, Minnesota, is the Secretary of this Society and will send you any information about this show you may desire.

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL PEONY SHOW OF THE SUPERIOR PEONY GARDEN CLUB will probably hold its show about the same time as the above Duluth Show. Mrs. Charles Lund, 1731 East 8th Street, Superior, Wisconsin, will be able to give you the details.

THE FORTIETH ANNUAL PEONY SHOW OF THE MINNESOTA PEONY AND IRIS SOCIETY will be held June 22-23 1959, if all goes as at present scheduled. Mrs. Loren Franklin, 5 East 104th Street, Minneapolis 20, Minnesota, is secretary. She

will be able to give you full details somewhat later on.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL PEONY FESTIVAL VAN WERT, OHIO, will be held June 6th, 1959. *Queen Jubilee XV* will be chosen from contestants from the neighboring high schools on April 29th. Her coronation will take place during the festival. This is by far the largest peony event of the year as it has about one hundred thousand visitors each year. Some estimate more than that. We have many members near enough to make this a day's event. We hope they will take full advantage of this opportunity.

It will be seen that there are at least four big peony shows scheduled at present to be held at week intervals. This presents an unequalled opportunity to see the biggest peony shows held in this country on one trip of about three weeks. Any one who can do so, should avail themselves of this. There are lakes by the thousands and fish by the millions in Minnesota waiting to be caught in the time between shows.

THE FIFTY SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

So far, no change has been made in the dates set for our next meeting and exhibition in Grand Forks, North Dakota, June 29-30. It is still rather early to be sure that none will be necessary. As the date is now quite late, we hope none will be necessary.

Mr. Loyde C. Thompson, Box 128, Reeves Drive, Grand Forks, is General Chairman and his daughter, Mrs. Donald L. Anderson, 410 Twenty Third Avenue, South, is Secretary of the North Dakota Peony Society. Those who wish advance information about the

meeting and show should write either of them direct.

As we have noted elsewhere, our June Bulletin will carry all necessary information.

AN INVITATION TO DISTRICT FIVE

The Milwaukee County Horticultural Society invites any Wisconsin and Illinois member of the American Peony Society to its meeting on May 26th, to hear Marvin C. Karrels, Director of the American Peony Society, tell all about new and Popular Peonies.

It will be an illustrated lecture, and will be held at the Finney Library, 4243 West North Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin at 7:30 P.M. sharp.

Mr. Karrels will also bring specimen blooms of hybrid peonies.

Write Mrs. Walter P. Knuth, President, 3444 North 90th Street, Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin, for further information if desired.

WANTED

Our President, Myron D. Bigger, 1147 Oakland Avenue, Topeka, Kansas, would like to have the following, 1 copy each:

A Manual, giving complete directions for the Propagation and Cultivation of **THE PEONY**, by Rev. C. S. Harrison, and published for him by the York Blank Book Company, York, Nebraska, about forty years ago.

Peonies for the Little Garden by Mrs. Edward Harding. This was one of a series of small books on Flowers for the Little Garden and was published we think, by J. B. Lippincott Co. of Philadelphia, about 30 years ago.

American Peony Society Bulletin No. 53 for March, 1933.

Any one having one or more of these publications, please communicate with Mr. Bigger.

A Japanese Garden

The 88th Spring Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, was held in Horticultural Hall, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, opening on March 10.

At this show Mr. Marinus Vander Pol of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, staged a Japanese Garden which was reported by Miss Gloria Gould, Garden Editor of the Boston Herald, as follows:

"Directly opposite the Bonsai Garden is, in our opinion, the Show's High Point. It is the Japanese Garden of Marinus Vander Pol of Fairhaven, done by Allen Haskell; 23 years old; you can spend hours here watching the sun filter through the delicate maples onto the mossy floor where you will find tucked the most unusual wild plants. Tree peonies, from white through pinks to deep purple reds, are perfect foils for the soft greens of this garden, which highlights the lavender pink wisteria, *multijuga rosea*."

Mr. Vander Pol writes us that the tree peony varieties used in this garden were: Yae-zakura, soft cherry pink; Howzan, brilliant light pink; Kokko-tsuru, black-red; Hiodoshi, brilliant satiny red; Argosy, single yellow hybrid and a number of seedling plants, fourteen year old specimens. The most outstanding success in forcing was achieved with Kokko-tsuru which lasted throughout the show in excellent condition.

This entry covered 865 square feet of floor space and was devoted to an Authentic Japanese Garden with Tree Peonies.

It was awarded the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Gold Medal and the Bulkley Gold

Medal for an exhibit of special merit and educational value.

Mr. Vander Pol further says: "It has become rather apparent that the many garden symbols of the Japanese, which were incorporated within this garden, have been completely overlooked by the public at large. Tree peonies are held in sacred veneration by the Buddhists, forcefully expressed in the Japanese gardens. It is, therefore, gratifying to the exhibitors that several noted Orientals have consequently reported on this entry.

Plans for another year may include "The American Tree Peony Garden", which should include several very large specimens, if available, and a large number of plants of varieties that can be forced."

A letter from Mrs. Nehrling of Boston gives us some additional information about this garden. She says, "Mr. Vander Pol's garden was lovely and created much attention and praise. It received the Bulkley Medal of the Garden Club of America, offered for an exhibit of special merit and/or educational value. They choose their own three judges. This year they were Dr. George L. Stout, Director of the Gardner Museum on the Fenway in Boston, Mrs. Irving C. Wright of Milton, and Mrs. Susan Delano McKelvey of Boston. All three have wonderful art and horticultural background, so the award was a very great honor."

We present here a picture of this garden which was kindly sent us by Mr. Arno H. Nehrling, Show Chairman. Also we present a description of the garden by Mr. Vander Pol and Mr. Allen G. Haskell, the Landscape Architect,



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which will explain the meaning of the exhibits. This is followed by a letter from Mr. Kojiro Tomita, the Curator of the Museum of Fine Arts and addressed to Mr. Nehrling.

* * *

Two visits to Japan, plus a great interest in her products prompted the staging of this authentic Japanese garden. Much research and consultation with known authorities combined with a willingness to accept the necessary philosophy helped to realize this attempt.

The decision made, necessary plans were drawn, based on the tree peony areas visited. Plant materials, construction details and religious aspects were thoroughly noted and incorporated at this time. Then began a search for the plant material that would not only lend much character, but be proportionate in scale as well. Seasonability also had to play an important role. Therefore, as tree peonies were to be featured, only such compatible stock as wisteria and late flowering cherries were allowed. Colors, textures and qualities of expression were the first considerations.

In all Japanese gardens rock, water and moss are basic constituents. Much diversity is allowed, in order to fill the needs of its owner. Stature in life, locality, temperament, and religion dictate the selections and arrangements. When water is available, it is featured; when not, it is simulated. Native stones are preferred and situated throughout the garden in the form of primary and secondary paths, groupings to represent borrowed scenery, tortoise and crane motifs, transition and a

feeling of stability. They should appear natural, weathered, and related to entire setting. Moss is encouraged and cherished.

Architecture is always constructed of materials on hand. They must become an inconspicuous part of the plan. Much simulation is required to achieve distance, a feeling of restraint and quiet harmony. Harmony is often realized by vivid contrasts. A completely rustic setting for the delicate peony blossoms exemplify this point.

A Japanese garden is a personal possession and must convey security and privacy to its owner. The use of bamboo screens and thickets of growing trees makes this possible. The screening must blend and transit from one area to another without abruptness. Therefore, plantings on both sides should coincide and flow as one. Since the Japanese appreciation of nature compels their actions, no efforts are spared to preserve a treasure. Paths should take one to a designated spot the most interesting way. A water basin is always incorporated conveniently along the way. It is here the spiritual cleansing takes place. Sizes and placement of polished stones, gravel, and sand undoubtedly suggest a running stream, accomplished without a drop of actual water. A grouping of low growing pine located at the stream's edge indicates the symbolic tortoise island. A stone lantern illuminates and guides the way by night.

One finds a clue to the mystic qualities associated by realizing the Japanese have regarded through centuries, faulty designs unlucky. (This has avoided a degeneration in the art.)

Great satisfaction has been realized from our efforts in presenting this garden. Commendations from Kojiro Tomita, Curator of Oriental Art at Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and Professor Susatki, head Landscape Professor at Harvard were most assuring and gratifying.

MARINUS VANDER POL,
Nurseryman

ALLEN C. HASKELL,
Landscape Architect

* * *

The following is a copy of the letter from Mr. Tomita addressed to Mr. Nehrling:

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
15, Massachusetts, Department
of Asiatic Art.

March 16, 1959.

Dear Mr. Nehrling:

Thank you very much for giving us an opportunity to visit your 1959 Flower Show. What a great pleasure the fine exhibition gave the Tomitas and the friends from Japan. One example after another of Nature's gifts combined with human ingenuity! Particularly we were impressed with the Japanese garden which seemed as if it had been transported from that remote land. Then, too, we noted the contrast skillfully created by placing luxurious peonies in the rustic setting. I should like to extend to Mr. Marinus Vander Pol through you our congratulations for his design and for his flowers.

With renewed thanks, I am

Yours sincerely,

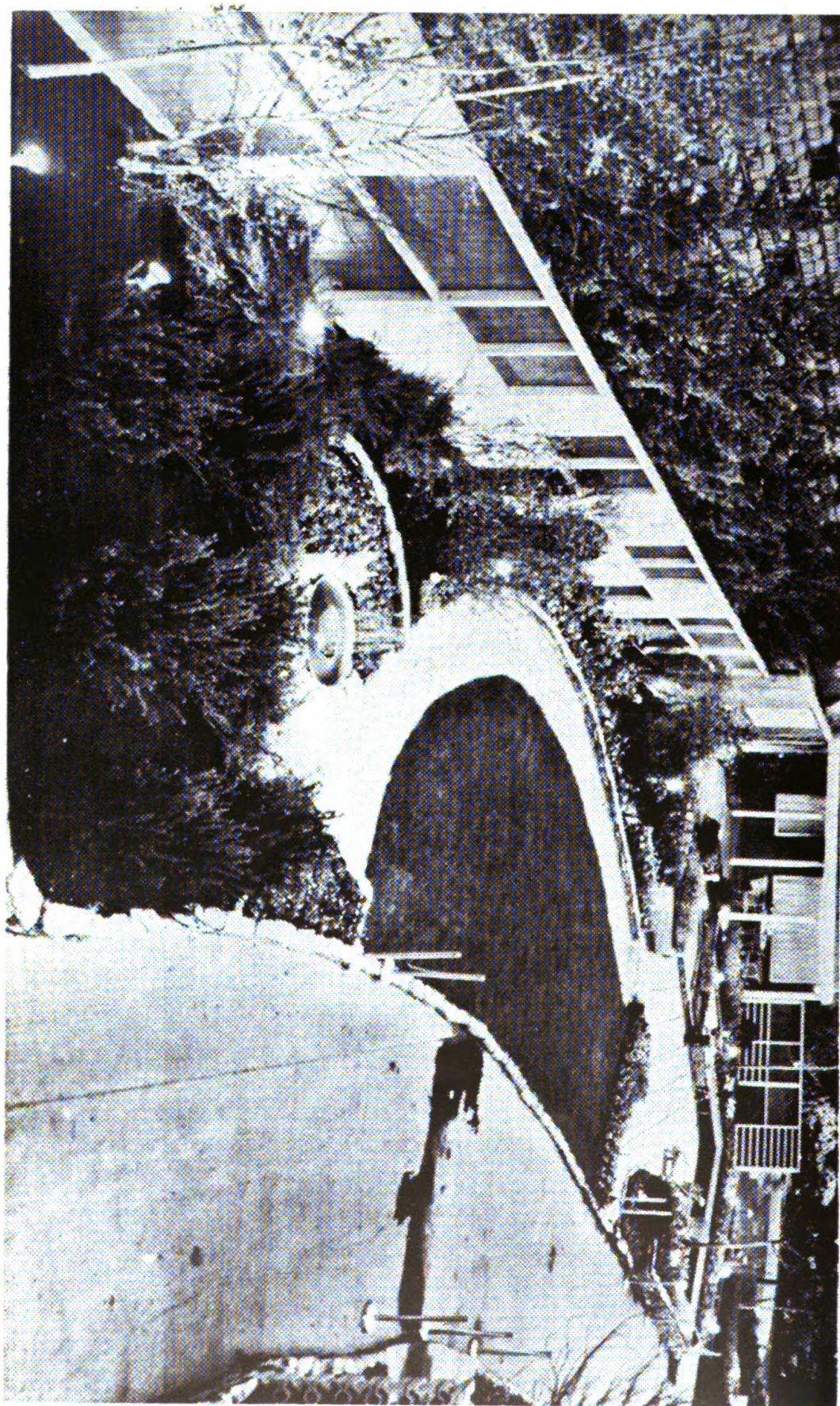
Kojiro Tomita,

Curator.

CHROMOSOME NUMBERS OF SPECIES PEONIES

For the benefit of those who may wish to know these, Mr. Harold E. Wolfe has sent us the list. They were determined by the John Innes Horticultural Institution. Where the chromosome number has been obtained from another source, the name and date of that authority is given in brackets following the name of the species.

<i>anomala</i> var. <i>intermedia</i>	10
<i>arietina</i>	20
<i>Bakeri</i>	20
<i>Broteri</i> (Stebbins, 1939)	10
<i>Brownii</i> (Stebbins, 1939)	10
<i>Cambessedesii</i>	10
<i>Clusii</i>	10
<i>coriacea</i>	20
<i>daurica</i>	10
<i>Delavayi</i>	10
<i>emodi</i>	10
<i>emodi</i> var. <i>glabrata</i>	10
<i>japonica</i>	10
<i>lactiflora</i> (syn. <i>albiflora</i> <i>chinensis</i> , <i>sinensis</i> .)	10
<i>lutea</i>	10
<i>mascula</i>	20
<i>Mlokoewitschi</i>	10
<i>mollis</i>	20
<i>obovata</i> var. <i>Willmottiae</i>	20
<i>obovata</i> var. <i>alba</i> (Langlet, 1927)	20
<i>officinalis</i> (Saunders and Stebbins 1938)	20
<i>peregrina</i>	20
<i>Potanini</i> var. <i>alba</i>	10
<i>rhodia</i>	10
<i>Russi</i> var. <i>reverchoni</i>	20
<i>Russi</i> var. <i>leiocarpa</i>	20
<i>Smouthi</i> (Not a species)	10
<i>suffructicosa</i> , garden form	10
<i>suffructicosa</i> Rock's form	10
<i>tenuifolia</i>	10
<i>trollioides</i>	10
<i>Veitchii</i>	10
<i>Veitchii</i> var. <i>Woodwardii</i>	10
<i>Wittmanniana</i> var. <i>nudicarpa</i> ..	20
<i>Wittmanniana</i>	20



22

A June Garden For Outdoor Living And Color

Such was the heading in the official guide book of the Chicago World Flower Show, held on March 14-22 in the International Amphitheatre and sponsored by the Chicago Horticultural Society, the Garden Club of America and the Men's Garden Clubs of America, describing the ninety foot long display, designed by Harold O. Klopp, landscape architect, for The Charles Klehm and Son Nursery of Arlington Heights, Illinois.

It was of especial interest to all home owners, showing how house and garden could be unified to create delightful outdoor living space. It showed the facade of the house with full sized porch, attractively furnished. The garden itself had a practical, yet charming perennial border with roses, peonies, delphinium and other June glories in full bloom, with an inviting pool and fountain at one end and with large, fragrant philadelphus shrubs, also in full bloom, all set off with tall trees with fresh spring foliage, and backed by a closely planted hedge of tall evergreens to relieve the line of the unusually designed fence.

Mr. Theo. R. Mysyk, President of the Fifth District, sends us the following account of this show:

"My wife and I visited the Chicago World Flower and Garden Show in Chicago, yesterday, (March 14), but to our great disappointment, we did not find any peony garden in full bloom as previously advertised. Apparently due to forcing difficulties, only three bushes were ready for the show and we found them in the perennial border of a beautiful June Garden. A reproduction of the garden, found in the official

guide book, is enclosed. You will note that the display calls for quite a few bushes of peonies.

We were told that the two red varieties were Kuro-botan, dark maroon tree peony. The bloom as seen from the walk, appeared to be very good. There were three or four flowers on each bush, but the color, although bright, was not dark maroon. The other plant was the pure white single tree peony, Flora, although from our position it appeared to be a light pink. The peonies were striking, nevertheless, and drew favorable comment from viewers. It was the first day of the show and the Arena was packed".

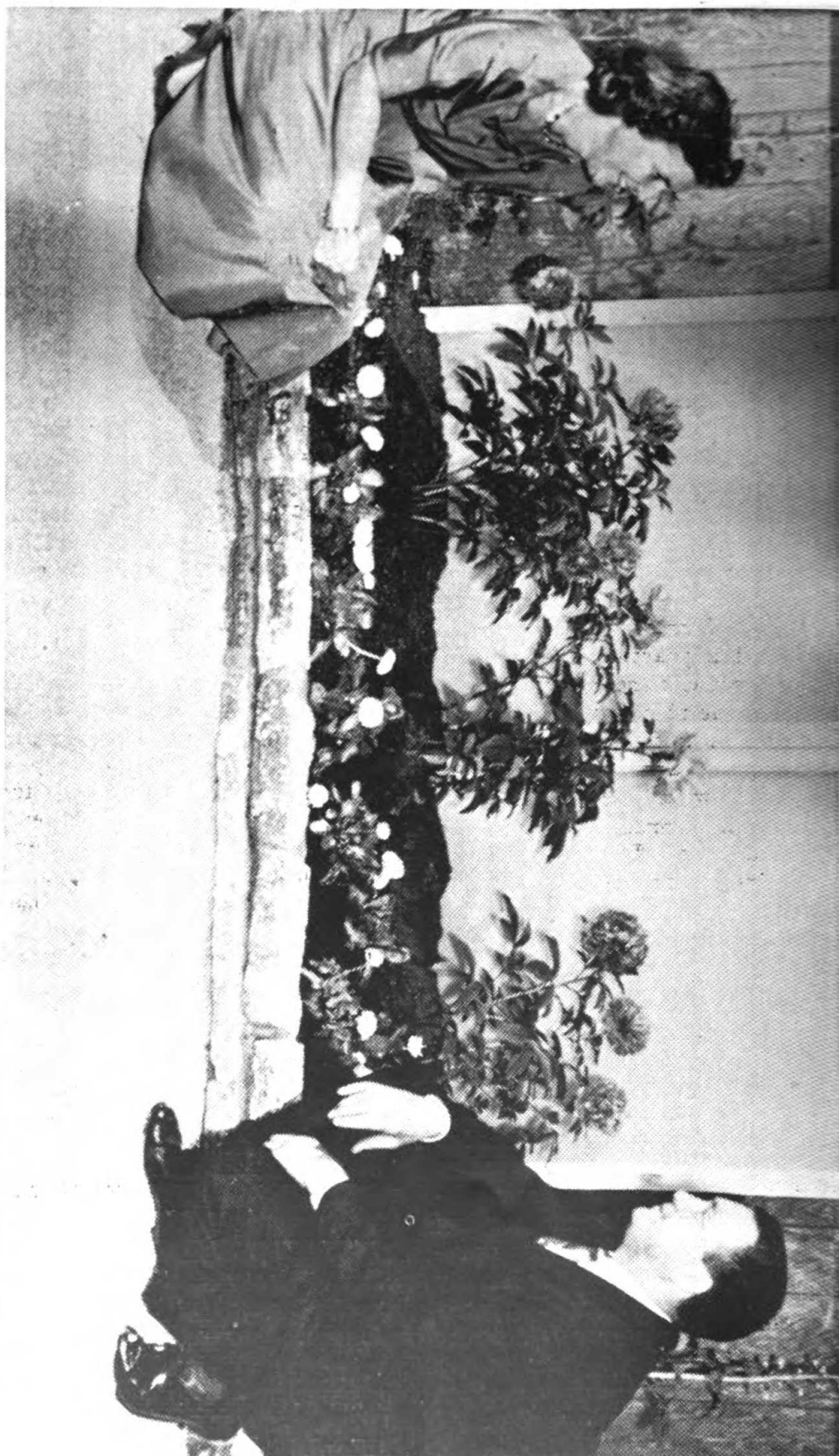
A letter just received from Mr. Klehm gives us this additional information: "In our garden, we had peonies in three locations. Tree peonies were in the bed on the extreme right. One white had three flowers in bloom. In the center, by the walk, we had a hybrid Veritas (red single to double) in bloom. The blooms of these two types lasted only 3 or 4 days. The herbaceous type lasted the entire show, 9 days. Mr. Thim, a deep pink single, was flanked on each side with an early seedling of our 79G which is a deep pink rose type that normally blooms a week ahead of Mons. Jules Elie. We had quite a lot of comment about the peonies at the show.

PEONIES — THE MANUAL OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

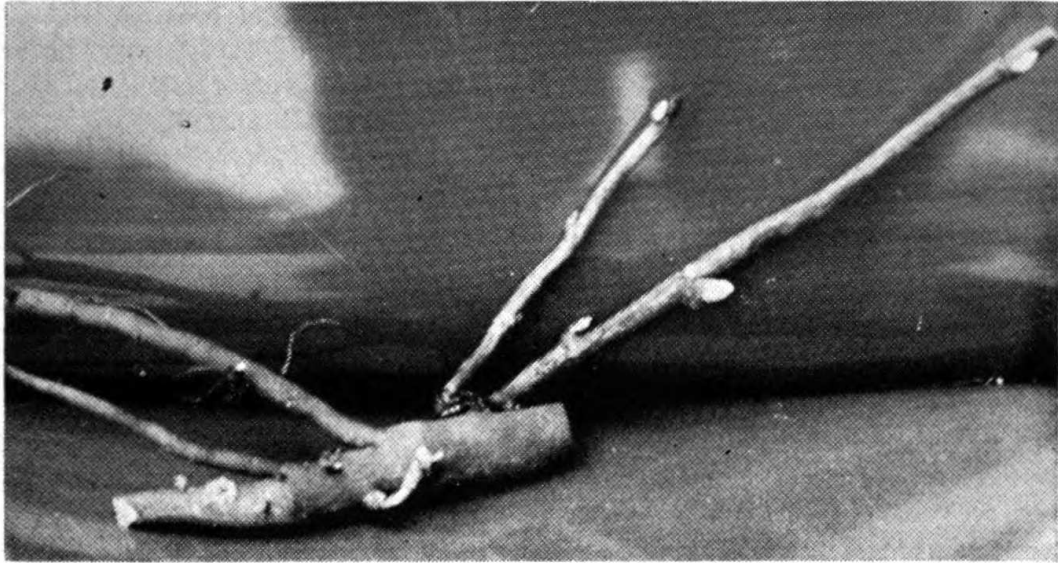
Mr. Henry Clifford of Rock Rose, Radnor, Pennsylvania, wishes to secure a copy of the above book. If any of our readers has one he would be willing to sell, please communicate with Mr. Clifford.



Part of "June Garden" Mr. and Mrs. Carl Klehm, viewing Mr. Thim, dark pink single, center, and unnamed dark pink double both



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INTERESTING ROOT OF SOPHIE

We reproduce here a picture of a root of Sophie, a brilliant semi-double cherry hybrid, (*lactiflora x lobata*) which was left in ground when original root was dug by Mr. Bigger. It developed the shoot

shown, though there was no crown material present. The second spring it bloomed. Be sure to save all pieces of roots of these expensive hybrids and plant them. You may get valuable plants from them. But you may not. It is worth taking the chance.

NOTES FROM CORRESPONDENTS

Mr. Harry W. Claybaugh one of our past presidents and a former director, writes us how much he enjoyed our visit to him last summer and also that he especially enjoyed the last (December) Bulletin.

He had intended spending the winter in Florida and had rented an apartment at Vero Beach. His plane tickets were all purchased and his daughter had come from Albany to go with them when his wife was taken suddenly ill and the trip was cancelled. The illness fortunately proved only temporary.

He wishes he could attend an annual meeting once more and meet his old friends again, but it does not seem possible for him to do so.

Mr. Winthrop H. Thurslow, another of our past presidents and former director says his peony business is now largely with visitors who come when the plants are in bloom.

His cut flower business has suffered from the fact that the florists now use Florida grown gladiolus and chrysanthemums almost the year around. He has now gone into azaleas and rhododendrons and also evergreens for which there is a strong demand and the weight of the plants keeps outsiders from competing.

He has also been having some trouble with an eye, but that is improving. He says he would like to see his friends once more and hopes he can do so. He has been a member of this Society for well over fifty years.

STRUCTURE OF A PEONY SEED

One of our members, Mr. Arthur Rigby, of New Castle, Pa., would like to see an article in Bulletin on internal structure of a peony seed, perhaps carrying through the entire process from germination to seedling stage. He suggests that drawings would help make it more understandable. He says his reason for asking this is that it is impossible to see any divisions of the sections when a seed is cut up. Can any of our members do this for us?

PEONIES IN SWITZERLAND

Mrs. Clara S. Pedigo of Bluefield, West Virginia, tells us that she went to Europe last summer, sailing from Montreal on June 26 and landing at the same port on September 3rd.

She saw peonies in Canada before she sailed and on July saw them again in Switzerland where she had her picture taken beside a large plant on July 9. As her peony season in Bluefield is in May, she enjoyed peonies for nearly or quite two months.

She says she enjoys the Bulletin a great deal.

MURAWSKA HONORED

Mr. Art Murawska is to receive a Silver Pass, good for lifetime travel on all Milwaukee Road trains, in recognition of forty five years of service on that road. It will be presented to him by the President of the road, Mr. William J. Quinn, in person. Art is still employed as a locomotive engineer in the Chicago Terminal area. Lately having been afflicted with severe arthritis, Mr. Murawska is in Hot Springs, Arkansas, for treatment.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

In order to get this issue of the Bulletin in the mail anywhere near on time, we were obliged to make it a small one. We hope to get the June issue prepared and in the mail in May or early June. It will be mainly devoted to the coming annual meeting and exhibition in Grand Forks.

We have on hand an article from one of our new members, Mr. Gale Whitsett of Decatur, Illinois, in which he proposes some changes in the organization of the Society. Time and space were lacking to publish these in this issue. We shall endeavor to do so in the June issue.

As these notes are being written, March 27th. our peonies in Virginia are fast breaking through the ground, in fact some are nearly a foot high. and showing buds. The most advanced are Seraphim, Helen Matthews and Smouthi, the first of which has buds as large as filberts. We hope late frosts will not take their high toll this year.

We especially call your attention to the dates for the shows listed. Our members are offered the unusual opportunity to visit four of the major shows in just a little over two weeks, unless the Weather Man decrees otherwise. All who can possibly do so, are urged to be present at all of them and to make exhibits if possible. It will be well to check the dates carefully before you start out as some may have to make some changes. If we have any to report, we shall do so in the June Bulletin.

Our September issue will be devoted to accounts of the shows. Good, clear black and white pictures of the best flowers in the shows are requested. As many as possible will be used. They should show the details of the flowers

clearly. It takes correct timing and lighting to get good pictures that will reproduce well. A red peony will need a light background. Unless there is one, in a flashlight picture, a red or dark pink may be almost eliminated by the background.

We request that the Show Chairman of each show, send us now as soon as can be done the date finally set for their show and also send a schedule. Then as soon as the show is over, send us a class by class report of the show, which should give the winning varieties as well as the persons winning the awards.

Mr. and Mrs. Arno H. Nehrling of 3 Carey Road, Needham Heights, Massachusetts, are preparing a book on Peonies which will feature arrangements with peonies as the main component. They need many good photographs of such arrangements. If your show has such, be sure to send them good, clear pictures of any you consider good enough for this book. They can use color transparencies but not kodachromes.

HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY

Second Edition

On a following page you will see reproduced the first cover page of our new Handbook of the Peony, which has the Table of Contents in it.

This Handbook is now being mailed to all who have ordered it. If you do not get your copies by May 1, please let us know as all should have been received by that time.

You will note we have used several pictures and drawings to illustrate the text and we hope they will make the directions given, more easily understood. These illustrations were taken

mainly from our old Manual as they were the best we could find for our purpose. Two of the drawings were from the book "Peony Culture in Virginia," edited by Prof. A. G. Smith of the Department of Horticulture of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia, and published by them. They were drawn by Mrs. Joan P. Young of Blacksburg and modified by Carl A. Schumacher of the Orange Review Staff. We are indebted to Gilbert H. Wild and Son for the illustration of Claire de Lune.

The lists of varieties are published following each type of peony and the varieties are those that have been chosen by the members of the American Peony Society, who sent in questionnaires, as the most popular. Any criticism of them should be directed to the members of the Society and not to the editor. Also those who did not send in their questionnaires and so had no part in the choice of varieties, have no kick coming. But they are all good varieties, though some are not as good garden varieties as others.

The text used is mainly that of the first edition with some changes and additions.

We printed 15,000 copies of which nearly 10,000 have been sold. We were disappointed that more of our commercial growers did not take out listings in the Classified Directory. Only seventeen did so. The first edition had 38. However all had ample opportunity to do so, as special letters were sent to all members.

We are sorry we did not have a good black and white picture available of a tree peony so we did not published an illustration of one.

We are pleased at the excellent publicity given us by the several

garden magazines. We are daily getting orders from their notices.

We have inserted a department letter or letters in the address of each firm listed in the classified directory and we hope these firms will note them and so make some estimate of the value of this listing to them.

We hope each members of the Society will make an effort to push the sales of this book, especially to the members of the garden clubs in their neighborhoods. We find they sell readily whenever a talk on Peonies is given. We shall be glad to send a sample for display at any of these meetings.

Finally, we are much indebted

to the entire staff of the Orange Review for their interest in making the job a good one.

The price will be kept at twenty five cents each for less than fifty and 20 cents each for all orders for fifty or more copies. Transportation will be paid on all orders. The prepublication prices are withdrawn. We can only furnish copies with the Classified Directory. We reserve the right to change these prices at anytime, if circumstances make it advisable to do so. Any further advance in postal rates might make it necessary. No free copies will be distributed by us, except under extraordinary circumstances.

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

The following sources of supply are classified by the classes of Peonies they sell. Other miscellaneous items sold are listed after the addresses. All are paid advertisements.

HERBACEOUS PEONIES — REGULAR

Lienau Peony Gardens, Dept. R.P.,
25804 Joy Road, Detroit 39, Mich.
Also oriental poppies.

E. H. Lins, Dept. R.P., Cologne, Minnesota. Also amaryllis seedlings and The World's Most Beautiful Gladiolus.

Franklin Page, Dept. R.P., Hamilton, North Dakota.

The Sarcoxie Nurseries, Wild Bros. Nursery Co., Dept. R.P., Sarcoxie, Missouri. Also hemerocallis, iris, trees, shrubs, evergreens, fruits, flowers.

Wassenberg Gardens, Dept. R.P., Van Wert, Ohio. Also hemerocallis, iris, poppies.

HERBACEOUS PEONIES — HYBRIDS
Mrs. Elizabeth Glasscock Falk, (Successor to Lyman D. Glasscock) Dept. H.P., Route 1, Plainfield, Illinois.

HERBACEOUS PEONIES— HYBRIDS AND REGULAR

Myron D. Bigger, Dept. H.R., 1147 Oakland Avenue, Topeka, Kansas. Also hemerocallis, spuria iris.

Brand Peony Farms, Dept. H.R., Box 408, Faribault, Minnesota. Also chrysanthemums, gladiolus, hemerocallis, iris, lilacs, phlox, poppies, perennials.

Groveside Gardens, Edwin C. Freed, Owner, Dept. H.R., 501 Sixty Third Street at Grand Avenue, Downer's Grove, Illinois. Also garden supplies, cultivators, sprayers, tools.

Hebron Peony Farm, Dept. H.R., Hebron, Illinois.

Hillside Garden, Adrian Gibson, Dept. H.R., Route 3, Cannon Falls, Minnesota. Also hemerocallis and iris.

William H. Krekler, Dept. H.R., West Elkton Road, Somerville, Ohio.

River Drive Peony Garden, A. L. Murawska and Sons, Dept. H.R., 8740 Ridge Street, River Grove, Ill. Also iris.

Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Allen J. Wild, Manager, Dept. H.R. Sarcoxie, Missouri. Also daylilies, iris.

HERBACEOUS PEONIES —HYBRIDS AND REGULAR— TREE PEONIES

Mission Gardens, Dept. H.R.T. Highway 42-A, Techny, Illinois. Also bearded iris, hemerocallis.

Louis Smirnow, Dept. H.R.T., 85 Linden Lane, Brookville, Long Island, New York. Also tree peony seed.

HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS AND TREE PEONIES

A. P. Saunders Hybrid Peonies,
Miss Silvia Saunders, Dept. H.T., Clinton, New York. Also seed.

—\$285—

American Peony Society

Handbook of the Peony

Second Edition

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Published By

American Peony Society

George W. Peyton, Editor, Rapidan, Virginia

APRIL, 1959

45298

SELECTION OF PEONIES FOR OTHERS

Many requests are received by the Secretary for lists of varieties to plant, especially from those who are more or less confused by the glowing descriptions given, not only in catalogs but in articles published in magazines and even in our Bulletin, your Secretary sometimes being the guilty party. The beautiful blooms seen in our shows occasionally add fuel to the fire.

In answering such requests, it must be remembered that every individual has his own idea of what he wants in his garden and so, for another to make the selection is rather dangerous as the varieties chosen may be far from those that will please. For this reason it is always wise to call the attention of the inquirer to this fact. He is also advised that this Society pub-

lishes lists of the ones that have been chosen by the members as those most popular.

If the inquirer still insists that a specific list be recommended, it is done. Then if the ones listed do not please the inquirer the Secretary's skirts are clear.

Picking varieties at an exhibition is often not a satisfactory way of doing the job. Flowers shown in exhibitions are there to win prizes, and are not shown for garden effect and use. Every lawful device, such as bagging to prevent injury and preserve color, and disbudding and fertilizing to produce size is employed—and it is proper for the exhibitor to do so. For this reason varieties for garden use should be picked if possible in a garden, where they are grown as they would be by the ordinary gardener. Then, if a "lemon" is chosen, the buyer did it with his eyes open.

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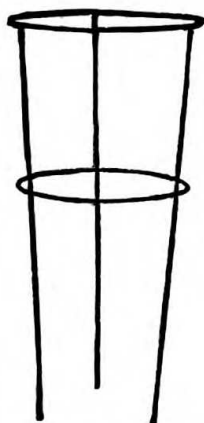
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