



# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



## Bulletin

DECEMBER, 1963 — No. 171

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message—Louis Smirnow .....	3
1964 Annual Meeting and Exhibition .....	3
Trip to Europe — Clarence O. Lienau .....	4- 5
Tree Peonies from Japan .....	5
Lizzie, Minnie, Emma — Mrs. Virginia P. Conklin .....	6- 9
Tree Peony Topics — Louis Smirnow .....	10
Tree Peonies — Leo J. Armatys .....	11-12
Tree Peony Philosophy — Anthony J. DeBlasi .....	13-14
Time to Move Trees and Shrubs .....	14
How to Landscape Your Own Home .....	14
Paeonia Lutea Ludlowi .....	15-16
Tree Peonies in the News — Boston Herald .....	17
Peonies—Ranch Style — Samuel E. Wissing .....	18
A Russian's Opinion of Peonies Outdoors and In— Alexander V. Astrov .....	18
Producing Polyploidy in Plants .....	19
New Members .....	19
Deaths .....	20
Coming Events .....	20
Krekler IGA '63 Award .....	21
Fusarium Rot in Peonies — John McGrath .....	23
Surplus Bulletins .....	26
OBITUARY—William Brown .....	27
Addition to Color Slide Collection .....	28
Department of Registration .....	29
The Moutan or Tree Peony .....	30
Notes and Suggestion from Members .....	16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

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George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

## 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



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DECEMBER, 1963 — NO. 171

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## *President's Message*

November 22nd is a day each and every one of us will long remember. On that day, within the span of a few hours, men and women in our country and practically all over the world were forced by one single, unthinkable accident to realize the role that chance plays in their destiny. In civil societies men try as hard as they can to protect themselves from blind chance. When a deranged man killed President John F. Kennedy, a cruel jolt was inflicted on countless human beings, who staggered and groped as if they had lost their bearings. This universal dismay was a tribute to our late President.

There then followed the important step of succession to the Presidency. About Lyndon Johnson's capacity to hold power there is no possible doubt. We all know him well now and have lived through the hour of transition with him. He asked for prayers and for help. Help sometimes requires criticism. Prayers imply confidence. He has our confidence, and we only hope that, in our own way, we may be of some help to him.

Just about the time when most of the arrangements were practically completed, word was received from the sponsoring organization

that they could not undertake the expenses of the National Peony show for the year 1964. Regrettably we found it necessary to seek another city for our annual meeting and show. We have asked the Queens Botanical Society to consider our application for June 1965. The Worlds Fair will still be in full force at that time. By the time this issue is printed we may know just where we will have the 1964 meeting.

Our resolution for the new year should be to get more members for our Society. Let us renew our interest in the Peony and in the Society so that we may continue to spread the joy which comes from the blooms of our favorite flower.

May the new year be a joyous one for you and your family, may it bring every blessing on your household—and above all may we have peace and prosperity in this glorious country of ours.

Louis Smirnow

### **The 1964 Annual Meeting & Exhibition**

As we go to press we have not heard definitely where this meeting will be held, but the probabilities are that it will be in Grand Forks, North Dakota, under the sponsorship of the North Dakota Peony Society.

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## *Lienau's Trip to Europe*

About the trip to Hamburg:

I had requested a letter, wire or cable from Mr. Nowara, notifying me when the peonies were in bloom. I received this letter by regular mail on Monday, June 17, informing me the peonies were in bloom. On Tuesday, 18th, after a lot of scurrying around, I located a seat on a Pan-American plane, which my good wife said was impossible to get. I left for Hamburg the same evening, June 18th, at 5:30 p.m. We stopped off in Boston for 40 minutes, then took off for London, arrived there Wednesday, 7 a.m. I boarded a plane about 10 a.m. for Germany, arriving in Hamburg about 12 noon Wed., June 19. Just imagine leaving my home about 5 p.m. Tuesday and arriving in Hamburg 12 noon Wednesday. That is what I call speed. It is hard to believe.

After arriving in Hamburg, 12 noon. I tried to contact Mr. Nowara but his secretary informed me he was in Norway; however, she said I could come over for a discussion. She arranged for me to have a guide, a wonderful man by name of Herbert Wertheimer. He proved to be a fine horticulturist and gentleman; had been head gardener in Auckland, New Zealand, now employed at I.G.A.; a German by birth.

We met at 10 o'clock at the office of Mr. Nowara and began our tour of the I.G.A. grounds. First off, we inspected the peonies. It was apparent I should have been notified about 10 days earlier. Needless to say, I was disappointed. The only peony that was in fair bloom was Charm, the others were through blooming. I inspected the others thoroughly and found they were growing poorly. I noticed my Red Charm had small pea-size buds that failed to open; others had thin

stems. Upon further examination I noticed the soil was black sandy loam which in my humble opinion is not suitable for peonies. I looked at Art Murawska's and also Krekler's and saw the same results. . . . Mr. Wertheimer and I walked the Planten un Blomen grounds from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., stopping only once for dinner which we had in the finest dining place in Hamburg, the original "Raths Kellar".

I must say all the other flowers were out of this world. The roses were in full bloom, as were delphinium, foxglove, and many other flowers and bushes. They had ground cover, trees and shrubs that I never knew existed. They had gardens of many, many nations.

The gardens are almost in the center of the city of Hamburg. There was a miniature railroad for the people who wanted to ride one way; also an overhead chair-lift where you could see the grounds from above and ride from one end to the other of the grounds. It was a fine exhibition with small lakes and streams enclosed in the park.

I was there in the middle of June. The attendance then was three million people, so I was told.

After leaving Mr. Wertheimer about 6 p.m., I stayed on until 10:30 p.m. I missed very little if anything.

The next day I was again furnished with a guide. A beautiful young lady by the name of Heidi Sommers: born in Bangkok, I believe she said she had an English mother and a German father. She studied the last three years in Eton in England and her Eton accent was a surprise. Miss Sommers was a very sharp lady; she could converse on any subject, and she also had the patience of a saint. She was my guide from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. We visited the Hamburg zoo

which is world famous. We also visited some of the fine public buildings, took a boat ride on their famous lake and did some shopping for my fine wife. This was about 5 p.m. when she said, "Mr. Lienau, there is one more thing you must see, and that is the harbor of Hamburg." That just about floored me. Well, we boarded a fine sightseeing boat and took a two-hour ride in the fabulous harbor of Hamburg. This really was a surprise. There were 163 ships of all sizes moored there, Russian, Chinese, etc, most being built, fitted, loaded and unloaded; also a small U.S. aircraft carrier stationed there. It was a pleasure seeing the U.S. sailors. Well, it was now 7:30 p.m. so I hailed a cab and drove my pretty guide home. I met her father, a fine gentleman, and after a nice 20-minute chat, drove back to my hotel.

I decided to make a stop in London for a day. I took the first plane out of Hamburg at 9 a.m. Saturday morning, arriving about 10:30 a.m. The London airport is the biggest I have ever seen. People were coming and going from all different countries, Egypt, India, Japan, Africa, Italy, etc., wearing many different types of colorful dress. I took a bus to London where I stayed at a very fine hotel. I asked the manager if he could furnish me with a guide which he did. The young man goes to college in Montreal, Canada and works as a guide during the summer. I spent 5½ hours with him. He used his car and drove me to all these places and we sometimes alighted, walking about. We saw Windsor Castle, London Bridge, Scotland Yard, St. Paul's Cathedral, which is magnificent, heard "Big Ben" chime, listened to some speakers in Hyde Park, etc. We also visited Westminster Abbey, and all the Squares and Circles. The guide said there are 11 million people in Greater

London, and I can believe him from what I saw. I went back to my hotel about 6:30 p.m. and rested for an hour. I was informed it would be daylight until 10:30 p.m. so I took a 3½-mile walk on Oxford St., one of the main shopping avenues in London. I was amazed to see so many people doing window shopping as all stores close for the week-end at Saturday noon. London is truly a fine city.

Early Sunday morning I boarded my plane and arrived at Met-Airport at about 2 p.m. Sunday. Due to time change you save several hours. It is amazing but true.

I donated my plants to the Plan ten un Blomen Gardens. However, I explained what must be done to grow better blooms. I received a letter from Nowara, informing me I won a silver medal; however, it must be for effort. I am sure it would not be for quality of bloom.

At present we have a nice covering of snow about 6 in. I have all my hybrids covered with evergreens. I intend to send an article for the next bulletin on unusual peonies inside of the next three or four weeks.

Clarence O. Lienau.  
Detroit, Michigan

#### TREE PEONIES FROM JAPAN

In a catalog just received we find the following tree peonies offered in two and three year old plants: EMPEROR (Taiyo) flaming red; BIRD OF RIMPO (Rimpo) purple; GLOBE (Godaishu) ivory white; LOTUS (Tama-fuyo) shell pink; GOLDEN PAGODA (Kinkaka) yellow double often fringed or striped with red. The description of tree peonies is quite accurate and true to fact. Also offered are three herbaceous, Mary Brand, Walter Faxon and Mme. de Verneville which are described in glowing terms as numbered among the highest rated by the A.P.S.

## Lizzie, Minnie, Emma—

### A Tree Peony Check Dilemma

Mrs. Virginia P. Conklin  
Stroudsburg, Penna.

Mr. Peyton is getting requests for a tree peony check list. It was bound to happen. It is too bad that so many people are embarrassed now that it has.

As a matter of fact, there are check lists available in both *The Peonies*, by Mr. Wister and Mr. Wolfe, and in Mr. Haworth-Booth's *The Moutan or Tree Peony*. If an interested collector cannot afford them, it is possible to borrow them from several horticultural libraries. It would be difficult for the Society to compile a better list, no matter how great the need, for what started as mild confusion has been growing worse every year because so many plants were imported and marketed before anyone attempted to register them. We simply do not have precise data on hundreds of cultivars. Who originated them? Who knows their pedigrees? Where are the dates of introduction? Who imported them? When? We may know the color of a flower, whether it is single, semi-double or double, but what about size, presentation, plant habit, bloom season? Ask any three nurserymen and, except for a small, well-defined group you are likely to get three different answers.

Take Tsuki-sekai, for instance. Nurseryman A offers a Tsuki Seaki. Is it the same clone or a different one? Only a Japanese authority would know for sure and he will tell you what he surmises you would like to hear. An American authority believes that the spelling of Seaki is wrong. And another American grower insists that the plant is really Gessekai under a different name. If you grow both and compare them when next they bloom together, they are

not the same. Gessekai, in your garden, may be a pure white with a center of creamy gold. When the flower is half open, the petals fold in points so that it is nearly square. It is a tall grower, moderately profuse in bloom. Tsuki is white, too, but the white is warmed by a glow of magenta filaments and the carpels are a tender green tipped with rose and gold. The plant is not nearly as vigorous as that of Gessekai. The flower is single rather than semi-double. Back in 1953 a picture of your Tsuki appeared on the cover of the old *Home Garden Magazine*. When readers asked what it was, the editors told them later that it was tree peony Gessekai. How mixed up can you get?

There is no question today that similar plants were introduced by different people at different times, some times under the same names, sometimes under different ones. And they have been propagated and sold in this country under labels that simple don't mean what we expect a label to mean when it is applied to a registered clone.

There are exceptions. I am always happy to recommend them to people who are sticklers for proper names. One is the sizable group of Chinese-European varieties—the great, heavy doubles beloved by our grandparents. They are out of fashion today but I'll bet a five-year-old Reine Elizabeth that they will come in again. There are people who just naturally fall for the massive rococo who will surely stock them. And there are the *lutea* hybrids. These were introduced and sold by men who kept meticulous, written records, dates, pedigrees, everything a botanist or breeder would want to know. And it has been easy to keep them straight because many are sterile



and there isn't the competition from seedling look-alikes to lead to confusion. But even here controversy can arise. Some of the French luteas were shipped to Japan where they were propagated under Japanese names. These in turn have come to the United States as Kinshi, Kinkaku, and Kinkow. They look just like Souv. deMaxime Cornu, Chromatella, & Co. And then, there is Aurore. In every garden club there is at least one member who loves to descend on neighboring gardeners, trailing a coterie of friends and armed with a check list. She (he) pounces on every visible label and proceeds to grill the unfortunate proprietor:

"What's that?" she shrills, "Aurore? You mean to tell me that's Aurore? Why, it can't be. It's red. See? It's right here. You don't think you know better than Mr. Nehrling, do you?" And she points to page 39 of *Peonies Outdoors and In* by Arno and Irene Nehrling where, sure enough, Aurore is listed as a "creamy pink" herbaceous variety introduced by Dessert in 1904. Does any one grow it today? I have never seen it listed anywhere else. But there is another Aurore, a *lutea* tree peony, yellow with an overlay of red, giving a brick-red effect in the garden, which was originated by Lemoine in 1936 according to Mr. Wister's list (page 206 of *The Peonies*) and in a number of catalogues and that is the one I grow. If I try to say as much to my visitor, however, I only compound my sins. If a flower isn't on *Her* list, it doesn't exist. Period.

It is no use arguing too much over such differences. Better that we accept them and decide where we go from here. Nurserymen face a serious dilemma when confronted with them because they have to answer charges of misrepresentation. If we could put typical

flowers of every plant under cultivation on a gigantic show bench next June and assemble the most knowledgeable people to judge them, we might arrive at some definite conclusions as to which is which. But such a lineup is impossible. The tool of the future will undoubtedly be the color slide. The Society already has the nucleus of a collection that will help to determine the identity of the more outstanding plants. We need many more. It is going to take time and money to assemble a definitive collection. In the meantime, nurseries are side-stepping the name problem in various ways. A few are listing their own origins only. Others are selling plants simply as white, red, pink, etc. Where there is a chance of confusion, a worthy seedling may be sold under number. In my garden, Saunders No. 226 is sufficiently good and individual enough to deserve a name, but I am familiar with only a tiny fraction of the pinks with which it competes. Mr. Haworth-Booth is introducing an Aline, Beline, Celine, and what you get is an early single white or a late double red, which is all that a lot of people care about anyway. For some years, The Wayside Gardens (one of the nurseries most highly rated for integrity in the world) offered plants "similar to Rimpo", "similar to Yachiyo-tsukaki", and so on. Lately, it has omitted the "similar". In due time, we will probably have registered varieties produced in this country and accepted everywhere as distinct.

When the question arises of how things ever got so mixed up in the first place, I can't help thinking of my first chickens. It was a year when eggs (fresh) were worth their weight in silver and my mother decided that I might as well keep some pets that paid their way rather than the dogs and cats that

ate their fool heads off and gave back nothing but priceless affection. So we visited a nearby poultryman and laid out good money for some pretty scrawny fowl. As we were leaving, solicitous for their tender feelings, I inquired what their names were.

"Their names—?" the man repeated after me in amazement, "What are their names—?" Then he recovered a measure of poise and assured me, "Why you can call these hens anything. Call 'em Lizzie, Minnie, Emma!"

In time I learned that I could call them all day and it wouldn't make a digit of difference in the number of eggs they laid.

I have a hunch that Japanese tree peonies were named with something of the same fine abandon.

Why not? There was no registry, that we know of, no check list, no law to prevent. Here were flowers that had been grown for generations, one here, another there, propagated from seed. Even today, Japan produces four-fifths of the food required by its astronomical population. Every square inch of fertile ground is cultivated intensely. If you have an iris, you may grow it on the roof of your house. A tree peony may be tucked into a corner too dry for rice, too small for a peach or plum tree. Roguing has always been drastic; there simply wasn't acreage for trial beds. Very gradually, through the centuries, the exquisite, airy singles and semi-doubles were evolved from the heavy doubles that had come from China. Out of a thousand seedlings, with luck, would come a masterpiece, truly a work of art. Watching it bloom for the first time was a thrilling ritual. It was studied, under the changing light, from the unfolding of the bud soon after dawn until the petals closed again in the last

rays from the setting sun. The excitement would be recorded in a poem. If it was really worthy, after much consulting of tradition, a fitting name was chosen. Crinkled petals suggested a brocade (*nishiki*-this, *nishiki* that). In a shaggy mass of petals there was a lion's mane (various *jishi*). Those luminous whites came right out of the moon, and a plant mound was simply another manifestation of Mt. Fuji. Thoroughly tested and found good, it was offered as a sacrifice to a cantankerous deity or tyrannical official and that is how the great collections at the shrines and in the Imperial Gardens were built up. In the tiny home plot, the work went on with a single graft, perhaps, or a handful of seed.

Then came war and the need for food was so great that it was decreed that the peonies must be destroyed entirely. (The slaughter of the innocents all over again!) That any survived is a miracle—but they did. Some, in the gardens of the gods and the Emperor (himself a god) were spared. We can only imagine how some of the others pulled through the crisis. Tops cut off at ground level grew again behind a screen of edible plants. Seedlings volunteered where their parents had perished. A graft might survive in a pot or a few seeds be put away on a shelf until it was permissible to grow them again.

With peace came a conqueror who, of all things, demanded tree peonies, hundreds of them—in a hurry. And money so desperately needed! A new god to be propitiated! Probably the whole story of the scramble that followed will never be told. Scions, any scions were grafted on stock, any stock. Seeds went into every spare bit of earth to be coaxed to grow, grow in a hurry! And, worst of all, was the expectation that what had been



practiced through the ages as a fine art turn into a science overnight.

It couldn't and it didn't.

Who is to blame for the resultant confusion? We. Because we asked the impossible. Who can rejoice? We. Because we got what we did. Grow these peonies any way you can and let time take care of the names.

This story has been told before. It is retold here because many of the old *Bulletins* are out of print and no longer available to the latest generation of fanciers. It is they who are writing the next chapter which should be the most exciting of all.

As for the Japanese names, I am all for clinging to them as long as we can. They are exotic, adding Oriental spice to the Occidental garden. They are most unusually suggestive and poetic; there is a lot more to be seen in a flower bearing one of them than in a Lizzie, Minnie or Emma with their humdrum associations. Anthologies of Chinese and Japanese poetry contain many allusions to these spectacular plants. Unfortunately, for us, they

are stringently copyrighted, so quotations are not allowed. But you can get a lot of fun out of writing your own. Some of the most successful models are the Japanese *Haiku*, tiny things of seventeen syllables. That is too much like a strait-jacket for my Muse. She will be brief but not *that* brief. Here is what she found to say about—

RENKAKU (*Flight of Cranes*)  
The Great White Heron circled,  
descending,  
Alighted gently, folded his wings  
and bowed.  
"Florida is far," he said, "from  
Penn's green woods and mountains  
"But I heard Renkaku calling—  
"And I came."

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*The Moutan or Tree Peony*, Hawthorth-Booth, Michael, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1963.

*The Peonies*, Wister, John C., Editor, American Horticultural Society, Washington, 1962. Pages 154-173, 206-213.

*The Home Garden Magazine*, front cover, May 1953, Garden City, New York.



Tree Peony "Flora", from Mrs. Conklin's Garden

99

# TREE PEONY TOPICS

By Louis Smirnow

85 Linden Lane, Brookville, Long Island, New York

The never ending argument about whether one should buy a small or big tree peony is still with us. I have maintained for years that the pros and cons are equally divided, and I still recommend a good 3-year plant with a young, strong root system as advisable. It is cheaper, more in the reach of the average gardener and many of them at that age will bloom the first spring after planting. The young plants establish quite readily. Several specimen plants transplanted were slow in becoming established. On the other hand specimen plants will bloom more freely.

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Have just contacted a former Japanese grower who will undertake to help solve the name problem of Japanese varieties. More about this next season.

It was my good fortune to visit a local garden last spring where I saw several well established tree peonies blooming against a background of lilacs in full bloom. The glorious sight just was beyond description.

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To my great surprise I found several plants of Gessekai in various gardens in the East improperly labelled. Several of them were white of course but had a pure white center or a tinge of yellow more like Renkaku. The true Gessekai, checked with Japanese growers, has some pink in the center.

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This past growing season was a good one for the European variety Reine Elizabeth. When this variety is in bloom it is a beautiful full

double—perhaps the best of all Europeans.

Some other noteworthy varieties were

Akatsuki-no-yuki, a delightful, blush flower, coquettish in appearance.

Arashi-yama—a large, rose pink, flower held up for several days.

Fuso-no-tsukasa—an immense white, really full double like a European double—a real beauty.

Maihime, another fine Jap, truly described as a scarlet pink.

Shugyo-kuden—as bright a red as we have, gorgeous semi-double, never fails to bloom.

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Those of you who grow La Lorraine, that old *lutea* hybrid, please note the beauty of the red blotches hidden in the centre, inside the pale lemon petals—note, too, its delightful fragrance.

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Our tree peony season starts with Tama-fuyo, the earliest of the Japanese, and ends with the *lutea* hybrid, Aurore, the last tree peony to bloom in our garden.

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Several varieties of Japanese tree peonies grafted on tree peony roots have again been imported here. Beware of these—there is no end of trouble with these plants for invariably the new growth from the understock overtakes the growth from the scion inevitably resulting in a plant with blooms from the understock only. Years ago, my friend John Wister of Swarthmore had a good deal of trouble with these plants. In 1951 I had to destroy 30 plants grafted on tree peony roots.

# Tree Peonies

Leo J. Armatys

Central City, Nebraska

Once a pleasure reserved for the wealthy, Moutan has descended the economic scale to those of more modest means. No single factor sparked the post-war upturn in demand for this exotic shrub, but Moutan's growing popularity does mark a significant trend. More people are searching out the finer things. In the process, they are discovering the rewarding virtue of patience. Those who grow tree peonies to maturity find it easy to forgive and forget the time-lag between the small graft and floriferous specimen.

## *Our Martyred President:*

All too seldom does such a man as John F. Kennedy pass our way. His classic grace in action was apparent at all levels. The world lost an illustrious leader. Gardeners lost a friend. He found time to transform the White House garden from a neglected patch of roses into a sanctuary of beauty. Anchored by a small group of tree peonies including top-rated GESSEKAI, the new White House garden was liberally spiced with Saunders hybrids. It may grow in beauty as the plantings mature but, somehow, it will never be the same.

## *Established Plants:*

Sometimes a 2-year graft will bloom the first year after planting. More often it will bloom the second year, or the third, but it will take somewhat longer to become really established. You'll know when it happens. Two of mine reached that stage in 1963. One was the Japanese UBATAMA; the other was a *lutea* hybrid, fine, regular bloomer, divided and re-set about 4 years ago. Both sent up sturdy new stems. Those on the *lutea* were three-quarters to an inch thick, looking for all the world like highly polished Malacca canes, mottled light chocolate and ivory. The leaves on both plants were pictures of health, not a blemish all season. Those on the *lutea* turned as dark in late October as the leaves on Crimson King maples.

It is from this stage on that tree peonies are most likely to infect gardeners with the virus that leads to Moutanomania.

## *Questions and Answers:*

Landscape nurseryman Earl Schiabile of Grand Island, Nebraska, passed along this question from Miss Maude Beck and her sister, who live in Grant, Nebraska: "Why hasn't our tree peony ever bloomed?" Quick as a flash came my answer. I'd trade the herbaceous Red Charm for the non-bloomer. The offer was accepted, and the tree peony reached me on Thanksgiving day. It was large, neatly balled, at least 10 years old.

I washed away the dirt and saw a mass of roots marred only by sizeable remnants of herbaceous rootstock, which I removed. Also removed with the help of a pruning saw were all stems (flush with the crown) except for a few first year stems. It is now planted in a 40% shaded spot, and somewhat more deeply than its first home.

To ease my conscience I have resolved to send a bonus plant to those gracious ladies next fall. It will probably be a tree peony. The non-bloomer was the only tree peony in their garden.

Any more questions?

## *Miscellany:*

The pure white tree peonies can be used any place. They can be used alone or in combination with any color of the rainbow. Not so

with some darker varieties. KINKADEN, for example, is one of the finest reds, many petaled, crinkled blossoms, full of fire in a dark, almost malevolent sort of way. Placed near flaming reds such as TAIYO or UKARE-JISHI, much of KINKADEN's richness is lost.

Flowering crabapples are high on the list of Moutan's companion plants. To those previously listed, add the white flowered 'David.'

#### *Information Please:*

The H. F. duPont garden, Wintertthur, is one of 38 illustrated in the recently published *Great Gardens of the Western World*, by Peter Coats. While I'm saving up \$22.95 to buy the book, will someone please tell me whether or not it describes or illustrates the Wintertthur tree peony collection.

Still on books: I am thus far unable to locate *The Picture Book of Peonies, Niigata Prefecture, Japan*.

#### *Growing Hints:*

You needn't reserve the choicest spots in your garden for tree peonies. Assuming blue sky above and good drainage below, Moutan does well in the colder, drearier sections of the garden, where the first hint of spring won't start premature growth.

#### *Another Good Book:*

A forthright, down-to-earth style reminiscent of our own Art Murawska won favorable reviews for Michael Haworth-Booth's book, *The Moutan or Tree Peony*. I was sorry to see non-existent Ukaregi-Ohi listed; and SATIN ROUGE is not a single red (not here, anyway). But with some 480 cultivars described, the book appears remarkably free from errors. I can even forgive the reference to my own section of the U.S.A. He says that the continuous destruction of trees opens up the country to the full force of winds, ". . . which

must sooner or later subject us to the horrors experienced in the corn belts of America."

TAMA-MIDORI is in color on the jacket. Some good black and white photos are included. The picture of *P. suffruticosa*, var. J. F. Rock, is alone worth the price of this book. (\$3.95 — St. Martin's Press, N.Y.)

#### *Editorially Speaking:*

Tree peonies are for pleasure, not for profit. Commercial growers, with few exceptions, seem to feel a bit sad when parting with their better plants. Many amateurs hesitate to invite anyone other than close friends or neighbors to see their choicest tree peonies in bloom. Pre-Mao Chinese nurserymen, too polite to turn down foreigners, often salved their conscience by weakening plants earmarked for shipment, or by making unwarranted substitutions. And almost everyone has heard of the Belgian amateur who kept several large dogs to stand guard over a prize tree peony.

If you begin to get the feeling that selfishness is the hallmark of those who grow tree peonies, reflect a moment . . . Can you not say in all fairness, "There, but for the grace of God and the lack of tree peonies in my garden, go I."

#### *Coming Sooner or Later:*

The rationale behind the interest of paleobotanists in *P. suffruticosa*.

Moutan's by-products . . . or . . . Harvesting honest dollars from the peony garden.

Gratwick's big three.

A garden calendar for the Midwest.

The coming power struggle. A hint: It is not between tree peonies and their herbaceous cousins.

Chlorosis—some of its causes and cures.

And more—about tree peonies!

## TREE PEONY PHILOSOPHY

Anthony J. De Blasi

The author would like, from time to time, to explore the source of Moutan's beauty. Although it is certainly true that no number of words can equal one glimpse of a tree peony in bloom, it is sometimes useful to try to explain such beauty for no other reason than it helps us understand ourselves.

I shall avoid the rigors of philosophic logic and the pitfalls of psychology and take, as far as possible, an imaginative, intuitive approach.

For the present essay I should like to tread on oriental esthetics, there to find a key to our problem. Central to Far Eastern esthetics is the attitude of *asymmetry*. It stems from Zen Buddhism.

Zen is a way of rising above the objective and subjective aspects of the world and identifying one's spirit with the absolute, universal spirit which is believed to underlie the world of appearances. This experience is *nirvana*—an emancipation which arises from transcending everything, including the fear of life or death. It is an experience that cannot be described in words. However, in an attempt to express this experience, some of the earliest Zen monks turned to art. But here they were faced with an insurmountable paradox. Since, to the Zen Buddhist, the world of appearances is not the real world—since the true world (that which he wishes to share) is the world of the timeless, undifferentiated abode of the spirit of the universe, the moment he tries to express this ineffable world through visual means he finds himself dealing with the very world of appearances that he wishes to avoid.

Is there a way out of this dilemma? No, but the Zen Buddhist feels that his basic *attitude* toward

*nirvana* can be visibly coded in such a way as to *suggest* that experience, or rather, to incline the observer toward that experience.

The preoccupation of the early monks with this important problem of finding codes and symbols for the approach of *nirvana* resulted in a Zen culture which influenced all phases of Japanese culture, from the tea-cult to architecture, from gardening to poetry.

Because Zen dislikes to conceptualize and formalize what is conceived in living experience, this attitude assumed the code of *distortion*. And one of the basic means of distortion was found to be *asymmetry*.

This is everywhere evident in Japanese art—from bonsai to flower-arrangement; from calligraphy to *sumi* painting. Anyone who has worked with the Japanese style of flower-arrangement is familiar with the insistence on asymmetry and the avoidance of even numbers. What, perhaps, some Westerners are not aware of is the fact that these art forms, including the relatively humble one of flower-arrangement, have a deep significance to the Japanese, a profundity that reaches down to the roots of their moral being. There is an intimate union in the Japanese mind between the beauty of art and nature and the truth about themselves in the world, a fact that is often missed by Westerners, who tend to keep art and nature in a separate compartment, bearing but remote relations with everyday life, and turned on and off as the need arises for relaxation or inspiration. It may be that the Japanese, through the intuitive insights of the early monks, were able to solve that august equation voiced by Western poets of the early nineteenth century: "Truth equals Beauty."

Is asymmetry strictly an oriental attitude? I would say no, recalling to mind the cogent Western principle of graphic composition that no area should be divided into two equal parts. However, it was Zen that fully exploited this principle.

I am not suggesting that asymmetry is the only ingredient in oriental esthetics. (There are others: simplicity, essentiality, naturalness, profundity, unworldliness, and stillness.) But it is, I believe, the strongest, most easily grasped key or "code" to Zen philosophy—one that is concrete in an almost mathematical sense. Rarely, in metaphysical speculation, do we find such a tangible link between substance and spirit.

Asymmetry, then, is the key I am looking for. Flowers that are perfectly symmetrical, such as wild daisies, pompon dahlias, formal camellias, are extremely charming, but how much more expressive and attractive they become as their petals break away from their formal caste and assume irregularities of shape and formation! Symmetry tends to make them static, and no matter how intricate the detail of their form, they remain uninteresting. Asymmetry moves toward the dynamic and creates interest since it appears to disturb the balance of form without actually doing so.

I believe that one of the qualities that makes the tree peony so exciting is its asymmetry. Its petals are typically irregular in their contour and placement. All of its irregularities of cut, twist, wrinkle, and wave combine to give the Moutan blossom a highly dynamic quality which has often been characterized as artistic. (I believe I have now given enough clues to explain why.) Coupled to the radiant colors of the tree peony, the beauty of this asymmetry is often overwhelming.

Study the leaves of Moutan. You

will find here yet another startling affirmation of the principle of asymmetry. Is it of no significance that the tree peony has been considered sacred in China? Is it an accident that Moutan's artistic "distortions" are so strongly attractive to us? I think it is no mere coincidence that the tree peony was introduced to Japan by Buddhist monks.

Might not Moutan be a "code" which, when deciphered through contemplation, traces a path to the timeless, undifferentiated abode of the spirit of the universe?

Perhaps not; the intellect resists such speculations, but the imagination and the heart seem to say, "yes."

Floral Park, New York  
December 1, 1963

## TIME TO MOVE TREES AND SHRUBS

We are reminded in a communication from the Pennsylvania State University that now is the time to move trees and shrubs, how about tree peonies? What do our experts say about this?

## HOW TO LANDSCAPE YOUR OWN HOME

This is the title of a new book just issued by Rodale Books, Inc., Emmaus, Pennsylvania, \$9.95; Thumbled index edition \$10.95; Special deluxe edition \$15.00 all postpaid. This book contains 1544 pages with many fine illustrations. It contains some excellent matter on the Peony. We hope to give you a better account of this book in a future Bulletin. But from a rather hasty preview, it is one of the best of such books. The authors, J. I. Rodale and Staff and supervised by Dorothy Patton Franz, write from an organic point of view, but the use of chemical fertilizers is recommended in many cases.

### PAEONIA LUTEA LUDLOWI

This variation of *Paeonia lutea*, the yellow tree peony, has been the subject of much discussion since its discovery a few years ago. It is said to be a much larger flower than the species and also that its flowers are carried well above its foliage and do not hide under it. Great hopes have been held out that a much superior race of hybrids could be produced by crossing it with varieties of *P. suffruticosa*.

So far these hopes have not been realized. The plants, grown from seed usually, grow well and even rampantly, especially in England and we also suppose in Ireland, and also flower abundantly, but in the United States it has not yet produced flowers. The only hybrid of it that is known to us, was exhibited in the Chelsea Show by the Earl of Rosse, M.B.E., Birr Castle, Ireland, and awarded an Award of Merit. It was named "Anne Rosse" and is described in our Bulletin No. 165 for June, 1962. However this one was the result of a cross with *P. delavayi* which is also a variation of *P. lutea*. It is a lemon yellow, faintly streaked with red. It is stated that seedlings from this cross, vary widely in shape, size and color of bloom, many being small dull purplish flowers of no merit.

Miss Silvia Saunders lists *Ludlowi* in her 1960 catalog and describes it as follows: "*Paeonia lutea* var. *Ludlowi*. I now have a few plants of this new variety, discovered only in 1936, to offer to the public. They were grown from seed sent me from England, where the plant is described as six feet tall with larger, more open flowers than *P. lutea*, and held well up above the leaves. I have yet to hear of *P. Ludlowi* blooming in any of the dozen or more gardens in America where it is growing.

Perhaps we coddle the treasure too much." Miss Saunders has just sent us two letters regarding this variety. One is from a correspondent in England and reads as follows:

"I incline to think your notice in your catalog, about *Paeonia lutea* var *Ludlowi* too flattering. It is a rapid grower, sets seed freely, and they germinate easily. Established plants are surrounded by self-sown seedlings. In a few years, a plant in my garden was some six feet high and seven to eight feet wide.

"I pulled it up and burnt it, as I did not consider it was worth the space in my garden. I regret that now, as it is a good foliage plant, and I could have moved it to a mown meadow in which some shrubs are planted. A seedling of *Ludlowi* from a friend's garden will go there."

It will be seen that this gardener has no trouble in growing and flowering this peony and that it sets abundant seed which germinate well. However no mention is made as to whether any hybrids have been produced from it.

The second letter is from a gardener in Victoria, B.C. It reads:

"This was raised from Royal Horticultural Society (England) seed which was sown in 1954. The first plant bloomed in 1962, and this year all of the half-dozen plants we still have, bloomed, except one which is rather smaller than the others. In 1962 there were only one or two blooms on each plant; this year, although I did not actually count them, there seemed to be several—perhaps four or five. Furthermore, on the largest bush there are three seed-pods, though whether the seed will ripen remains to be seen.

As to why we have the only flowers in North America, I would suggest that our climate is a little



like Southern England, with significant differences: for instance, our average rainfall of 28"-32" falls about 80% between November and March. The summer may be warm, with temperatures in the 80's, or cool (as this year), ranging from 65 to 75 degrees; but it is invariably dry.

Our soil is an excessively poor gravel, with superlative drainage. The peonies are grown under a sawdust mulch, with an annual dressing of ammonium nitrate. The chemical analysis varies in different parts of the garden, but it is roughly slightly on the acid side of neutral.

The winter climate varies from a few degrees of frost and no snow, to several days of howling north-east gales and a temperature of 19 degrees Fahrenheit. We have as much as 40 inches of snow spread over several months. In a word—"unpredictable". The plants themselves are about four feet high and in perfect health.

Perhaps from these few clues it will be possible to find an answer to the question.

Mrs. Nancy C. Barton  
Gayborder Gardens  
R.R. No. 5  
Victoria, British Columbia  
Canada

This letter is proof that *Ludlowi* can be and has been successfully flowered in North America, but maybe only when conditions are exactly right for it to do so.

Certain questions now arise. Would plants grown from grafts taken from these plants in Mrs. Barton's Garden, bloom in other gardens? Maybe Mrs. Barton will try this herself or allow others to do so.

Since all the known flowering plants of *Ludlowi* are grown in other mild climates, has any one the South or as far North as Maryland, ever tried to grow this

variety? If not, why not try? We may have the answer soon.

In addition to Miss Saunders, Mr. Louis Smirnow offers *Ludlowi* for sale. His description of it is: *Lutea Ludlowi*. Large flowers, new, sensational. Holds flowers above foliage."

No other grower of tree peonies in this country, whose list we have on file, offers it, but we have only a few. Others may have it.

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Mr. Armatys adds a note to a letter: "Glad to hear about blooming *Ludlowi*. I have a feeling mine will bloom some day."

Our most famous tree peony grower in Virginia, Mr. Harvey F. Stoke of Roanoke, says he does not have a plant of it.

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## MISSOURI

Mr. Allen Wild of Gilbert H. Wild & Son, Inc., reports that they have bought all of Mr. Edward Auten's peonies except a few he reserved and have planted them in a new location along Interstate 44 which is the main highway from Chicago to Los Angeles. This large planting of about forty acres should make a grand display in a year or two and be seen by thousands who travel that highway.

They have stopped growing peonies for the cut-flower trade and planted that acreage in daylilies. They expect a grand display this year.

Jim Wild, the son, has gone into the horse business in a big way. He has nearly 150 of the Appaloosa breed and shows from Coast to Coast. His latest winnings were at Santa Barbara, Calif., where he won grand champion, reserve champion and many firsts, seconds and thirds.

## VIRGINIA

One of our tree peony devotees, Mr. Austin D. Killam, of Charlottesville, Virginia, has also offered a good suggestion which we wish could be carried out. He suggests that we publish a check list of tree peonies by color. It is indisputable that such color lists are of great benefit to those who wish to make collections or select varieties for their gardens. We have several check lists of tree peonies available, but we may say they are confusing to some of us and also they are not readily available to many. The Society has not published such a list since the September Bulletin in 1944 No. 95, which is now out of print and it seems almost impossible to find any copies of it whose owners wish to dispose of it. Also it needs some additions and revisions.

We really have no good description of tree peonies by color and whoever undertakes to publish such a list will run into many troubles as witness the notes on that probably best known of all *suffruticosa* varieties, Gessekai. Is it pure white or has it yellow or pink tints? or what is the real color of the true variety? Does any one really know, and that includes the Japanese nurserymen also. Some say that the variety Tsuki-sekai which evidently has pink tints is the same as Gessekai, but is it? It is said that one area in Japan grows it as Gessekai and another as Tsuki-sekai, but are they identical? Who is going to say who has the authority to make a decision? We confess we do not know. The same condition exists regarding many tree peonies imported from Japan. We hope that Japanese who has offered to endeavor to straighten out the mess, can do so. Possibly the Japanese Peony Society will have something to say on the subject. Also possi-

bly Dr. Wister may have something to say as he probably has had more experience with tree peonies than anyone now living in this country as he has been growing them almost his entire life. Some of our earliest bulletins have articles from his pen on them.

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## TREE PEONIES IN THE NEWS

That tree peonies sometimes make the headlines is evidenced by the clipping from the *Boston Herald* of October 20, 1963, here given:

### TREE PEONIES IN ALL COLORS EXCEPT BLUE

Within the last 10 years the tree peony has staged a remarkable comeback. This is due primarily to the imports from Japan of the loose petaled varieties in all colors that produced better than the previous European varieties with rather unpredictable blooms.

Why don't you try some next year, or at least think about one or two of these spectacular beauties for future landscaping? That they can be successfully forced for early bloom has been shown by the beautiful exhibits in recent Boston flower shows, but, of course, such an extension of the season cannot be expected outdoors in the N.E. garden. However, for three to four weeks in May and early June the tree peonies will put on a brilliant display.

Tree peonies come in all colors except blue. Kamadafuji, under the best conditions, is a wisteria blue. For an extensive list of all kinds of peonies, write to the secretary of the American Peony Society, Box 1, Rapidan, Virginia. A *Handbook of the Peony* also is ready for distribution at a cost of 25 cents each, no stamps.

## PEONIES — RANCH STYLE

Lombard, Ill.

Nov. 20, 1963

Dear Friend Peyton:

I am enclosing a picture of one of my seedlings which I believe could start a very interesting new type of *lactiflora*. I started back in 1939 to try to inbreed *Arcturus*, but it would not cooperate, so the second year I just took a pod of seed and planted them. When the progeny came, I selected only the plants with short stems, and foliage all the way down, and crossed them. Then I proceeded with the progeny of this new group to select only the shorties, and those with foliage all the way down. It seems that I have gone about as far as I can go, as this year they would not cooperate, when I tried to cross them again, but the pollen is viable when crossed to *lactiflora* and also on *Arcturus*.



Plant No. 605, Line Bred, *Lactiflora* "Arcturus," 3rd generation. Height 20". Bloomed 3 years and "no laterals."

The stems are about 20 inches in height, *Arcturus* is 36" so we have succeeded in getting a shorter stem, and a bonus which I did not breed for: I lost the laterals. This is the third year they have bloomed without laterals and this fall I divided to see if the shock of division would reinstate them; I hope not.

The color is good, the flower is about 4½ inches across, and single. So maybe we have the start of a range of "Ranch Style Peonies". They are cute little plants, and should make excellent landscapers.

Sam Wissing

### A Russian's Opinion Of "Peonies Outdoors and In"

The following letter will doubtless be of interest to our readers:

Nov. 4, 1963

Dear Mr. Nehrling,

Some time ago owing to the kindness of Mr. William Krekler (Somerville, Ohio), the nurseryman of the young peony plants of best quality, I received a copy of your book "Peonies, Outdoors and In." I would like to congratulate most sincerely both of the authors, Mrs. Irene Nehrling and you, as the authors of this excellent book. It has attracted here the attention of many specialists and horticulturists, and I have an idea to write a review of it and, thus, to popularize it among the more wide circle of our readers.

I take a courage to send you by surface mail, a bulletin "The New Books Abroad" (No. 4, 1963), in which you will find my review. This bulletin is published periodically in Moscow by the Publishing House of The Foreign Literature.

I think it will be interesting to you pleased to have a Russian review of your book. Flowers and horticulture are an excellent field of mutual interest, and I would like to wish you every success in this matter.

With best greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Alexander V. Astrov

Head of the Exchange Div.  
of Main Botanical Garden  
of USSR Acad. of Sciences  
Moscow 276

Botanicheskaya Street, 4.

## Producing Polyploidy in Plants

After publication of the article on this subject in our September Bulletin, No. 170, pages 4-8, many of our readers desired to try their hand at this experiment.

Since rather conflicting reports came in as to the availability of the chemical used to produce the changes necessary in the plants treated, the matter was referred to the source from which the chemical could be obtained. A prompt reply was received and here is the substance of that reply:

"A practical grade of N-1-Naphthylacetamide may be obtained from Distillation Products Industries Division of Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York 14603, at the rate of \$2.25 per 100 g. and \$6.10 per 500 g., f.o.b. Rochester. The Practical grade should be satisfactory for this application, however, *orders will only be accepted from private nurseries or other recognized institutions upon their letterhead request.* Because of labeling restrictions, *individual requests cannot be honored.* Shipment can be made via parcel post."

We hope our readers will carefully note the above and not send orders that violate the conditions of sale and have them refused.

Mr. Hapeman of the Distillation Products Industries, who sent us the information, also tells us that these organic chemicals are primarily intended for use within industries and institutions and not labelled for private individual use.

There is a higher grade sold for \$5.25 per 100 g. and \$21.15 per 500 g., f.o.b. Rochester. It may also be noted that the 500 gram unit is approximately equal to one pound. The transportation charges should be remitted with your order. For the 100 gram unit the postage would be about 10 or 12 cents to any point while the 500

gram unit would require the zone rate from Rochester to your post-office. Again note no orders from private individuals accepted.

There seems to be a number of ways of spelling this chemical. The label on the containers spells it 'Naphthaleneacetamide'. It is spelled 'Naphthylacetamide' in letter quoted above. Others spell it 'Naphthalene acetemide' dividing it into two words.

One correspondent reports that it is available from distributors in two sizes 25 grams for \$4.10 or \$100 gr. \$13.00, minimum charge \$10.00. It would seem from the prices quoted that they apply to the higher grade and not the practical grade as quoted in Mr. Hapeman's letter.

Those who purchase it should note that it should be kept away from children and animals and it would be better to have it kept in some place outside the dwelling, where there would be little chance of an accident.

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### NEW MEMBERS

Daniel D. Brach, 1074 Union Rd.,  
West Seneca, New York 14224  
Centennial Peony Unit, c/o Mrs.  
Jim Wright, 425 S. W. 54th.,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
Mrs. Peter Motza, 6028 Shady Oak  
Street, Dayton, Ohio, 45424  
Miss Irene Speed, Hiway 62, Horse  
Branch, Kentucky 42349  
M. R. Thompson, Toledo, Iowa  
52342  
Hilbert Hinterwirth, Cementwerk,  
Kirchdorf/Krems, Upper Austria,  
Europe  
Mrs. Mabel A. Wernimont, Fill-  
more Gardens, 1119 E Street,  
Geneva, Nebraska, 68361  
Mrs. A. Wilensky, 450 Minder  
Place, Lincoln, Illinois 62656  
Mrs. Vincent Wroble, 1596 N. W.  
Beaumont, Roseburg, Oregon  
97470

☞§ 19 ☞

## DEATHS

A letter from Mr. Myron D. Bigger tells us of the death of Mrs. Bigger's father, Mr. William B. Duncan of Manhattan, Kansas, on December 21, 1963, and his burial on the 24th. Mr. Duncan was born in Andrews, Scotland, Dec. 6, 1884, and came to this country when 18 years old. He had lived in Manhattan for 28 years and was a retired building superintendent. He is survived by his wife, a son, three daughters and a sister.

On Christmas Day Mr. Bigger's father, Mr. James William Bigger, died at the age of 97 and was buried on the 28th. He was born in Cass County, Indiana, on November 30, 1866, and came to Topeka, when he was 19. He operated a dairy farm about sixty years. Since his retirement from the dairy business he had lived with his daughter and helped Myron with the peonies until a short time before his death. He leaves behind a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and many great-great-grandchildren.

His picture, wielding a scythe just a few days before he was 95, was published in our Bulletin No. 163, December, 1961. He was in good health, practically all his life, until just three weeks before he died.

Our sincere sympathy is extended Mr. and Mrs. Myron Bigger in their loss.

## COMING EVENTS

### The Williamsburg, Virginia Annual Garden Symposium

Theme: Our Evolving Garden Heritage.

This 18th annual event will be held from Sunday, March 15, 1964 at 5:30 p.m. with a special showing of the film *Williamsburg—The*

*Story of a Patriot* and ending on Friday, March 20, 1964, at 8:30 p.m. with a candlelight concert in the Governor's Palace Ballroom.

The mornings will be devoted to addresses by visiting horticulturists of national fame and the afternoon will have guided tours of many famous gardens, except that on Wednesday, the 18th, there will be a visit to the camellia and botanical gardens of Norfolk, Virginia. On other afternoons there will be informal teas at 4:15 when panels of experts will answer your garden questions. At 8:30 p.m. each day there will be some kind of entertainment provided. Reservations should be made in advance and must be accompanied by a check for \$30.00 per person, which will cover the lectures, tours of Williamsburg gardens and Exhibition Buildings, teas, clinics and concerts, but NOT meals and lodging.

For more definite information anyone who wishes to attend should write Mrs. Mary B. Deppe, Registrar, Goodwin Building, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

### International Flower Show, New York City

Sponsored by the Horticultural Society of New York and the New York Florists Club, this 47th annual show will be held in the New York Coliseum at Columbus Circle, March 7-15, 1964. Write International Flower Show, Inc. Essex House 160 Central Park South, New York, New York 10019 for information.

### New England Spring Flower Show

This will be held in Wonderland Park. Revere, Massachusetts, Mar. 14-22, 1964. Full information may be obtained from Mr. Arno H. Nehrling, 300 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, Massachusetts 02115.

## KREKLER AWARD IGA 1963

Our readers may recall that several of our members sent plants to this exhibit a year or two before it was held, where they were planted in the gardens for an outdoor show. So far we have had no report on their performance. However, the copy of the letter presented here, tells us of Mr. Krekler's success.

Internationale Gartenbau-  
Ausstellung Hamburg, 1963  
Gesamtleitung IGA 1963  
26 April-13 Oktober 1963

Mr. William H. Krekler,  
"Krekler Peony Farm"  
614 East Short Street  
Whittier, California, USA  
Dear Mr. Krekler:

The International Jury awarded you for your participation in the competition of "Perennials in the open air" in the IGA 63 the following prizes:

**GOLD MEDAL** of the Federal  
Association of German Horti-  
culture, Vegetable-and Fruit-  
Growing

*For:* overall performance, particularly for single flowering Paeonies

(\*Goldmedaille des Zentralverbandes des Deutschen Gemuse-Obst-und Gartenbaues e. V.—für Gesamteinsendung, besonders für einfach blühende Paonien)

The certificate of honour which will be issued of the awards will be delivered together with the prizes at the close of the exhibition of the IGA 63.

After the close of the International Horticultural Exhibition Hamburg 1963 all exhibitors having received an award will be listed in a special register. This list will be forwarded to the International Bureau of Exhibitions (Bureau International des Expositions) in Paris for registration. From there the list of prizes awarded at the IGA

63 will be sent to the International Bureau for the Protection of Industrial Property, Bern, Switzerland.

Prize winners may only make use of their awards if the exact name of the IGA 63 is mentioned after the award. Exhibitors that take part in the competition for other firms are under obligation to mention the name of the producer.

On behalf of the exhibition management I wish to congratulate you on the prizes awarded. We are glad of your success.

Yours faithfully,

Nowara

October 10th, 1963

N/Am.

Hamburg 36

Planten un Blomen

### California

Our good friend Mr. William H. Krekler, now enjoying the balmy breezes of California instead of the wintry blasts of Ohio, sends us the following suggestion, which I am sure all of us wish could be put into effect, but from what we have heard about the present management of the New York World's Fair, only at excessive cost could such a suggestion be carried out. If this is the attitude of those in charge of the Horticultural Section, it is entirely different from that of the former New York Fair held in 1938-39. They welcomed such shows and had space available at no cost to the exhibitors and even would stage any exhibits sent in. Due to some misunderstanding our Society did not take advantage of this situation. When I visited this Fair in June, 1939, I talked to the head of the Horticultural exhibits and he urged us to send in exhibits and a few local peony growers did do so, but many more could have done so, if they had been so inclined. Would that

such a situation existed at this Fair.

Mr. Krekler's suggestion is the following:

"If the A.P.S. desires that millions of potential peony lovers see how superb our modern peonies really are, then there is no question that our opportunity is coming this May and June at the large New York World's Fair. We should forget about our big usual two-day June Show and instead obtain a small GOOD location at the Fair where we can show a few dozen of our FINEST blooms each day during all of May and June.

"Besides such a fair location we will need some dedicated local folks to take the blooms from their storage refrigerators each morning and stage our exhibit. Our enterprising Southern growers would deliver the first blooms (by air or car) and our Canadian members deliver the last with the others in between delivering theirs as they opened enough.

"At the season's end our able President could make any due awards. Many of us could see the great fair at that time.

"Perhaps other flower groups could use our location both before and after May and June.

"I suggest that a committee of three to work with our President to make this a peony-advertising record success."

While the financial obligations would probably be out of the reach of the Society, yet certainly the advertising value would be great. Maybe some of our enterprising growers could join together and make such a venture successful.

## MISSOURI

Mr. C. Allen Harper of Kansas City, Missouri, describes his 1963 season as being somewhat disappointing with some as always being good. He says: "The 1963 bloom here was somewhat disappointing. A wet winter without snow cover was followed by a mild, fairly wet early Spring which hastened stem and foliage growth. However, late April and most of May were dry and hot, resulting in bloom smaller than normal. Some late full doubles failed to open properly.

"I can not fail to comment on the good performance of some which failed to make the Recommended List or seldom get named in the most popular group. Strangely most of these are reds, including Big Ben, Mary Brand, Highlight and Tempest. Of the whites, the much maligned Mrs. Edward Harding, Mother's Day and Mrs. J. V. Edlund performed best, the last with a better stem than usual. From blush to deep pink, few were worthy of special mention. Lillian Wild, Odile, Mons. Jules Elie, Ella Christiansen (always good here), Ozark Beauty, Walter Faxon were all that came up to expectations.

"Of the Japs, Aureolin, Shaylor's Sunburst, Nippon Gold and Nippon Brilliant upheld their reputation, while in singles the old trio of Krinkled White, Seashell, Imperial Red plus President Lincoln completed the relatively small group of good performers.

"I have only two hybrids of adequate maturity, Bright Knight which was excellent and Red Charm which was puny and disappointing.

"Best personal wishes for 1964 and a hope that some of these days a normal Spring will come to the Mid-west."



## FUSARIUM ROT IN PEONIES

Dec. 8, 1963

Dear Sir:

I have had a lot of tree peonies die from a decaying root condition. I sent several plants to the Washington State University, and they found a species of fusarium had caused this root rot.

This rot is not confined to my tree peony planting but seems to be quite wide spread here.

The local nurseries have lost hundreds of plants infected with the same disease. I also sent plants from the local nurseries to the University and they identified the root rot as fusarium.

I have about 18 *lutea* hybrids. They do not seem to be bothered with this disease as much as the Japanese varieties.

What can you tell me about this disease? Is there a cure or preventive for it?

This rot seems to attack young grafts as well as 8 & 10 year old plants. There was no Botrytis found on any of these plants.

The University reports that my specimens were the second time this disease has ever been isolated on a peony in this area.

I would appreciate it if you could give me any information on this.

Thank you.

John McGrath

421 S. 35th Ave.

Yakima, Washington.

Can anyone help Mr. McGrath?

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## WISCONSIN

Mr. Marvin C. Karrels says they are having a severe winter in Milwaukee with so far a solid week of sub-zero weather and only a four inch snow cover, which he hopes will be sufficient.

He also tells us that Mr. Roy Gayle is now living in Arcadia, California, and may be has moved there for good.

## TEXAS

Mrs. J. E. Meador of Denison, Texas, tells us that her peony season last Spring was quite disappointing. Here are her remarks:

"We certainly hope the coming year will be more conducive to peony growing than 1963 was in this particular area. We started off with a very dry winter, having only one inch of rain between December 1, 1962, and March 15, 1963 and it was also a cold winter. The bonemeal I put around the plants in the Fall had not disintegrated when I dug the trenches in late Feb. to apply the superphosphate.

Then between the middle of June and late September we had only slightly more than an inch of rain. I watered the plants vigorously all year, but of course that wasn't like Nature's watering. It only kept them alive. By midsummer Denison had to tap the water supply in Lake Texoma, a large lake nearby and so many chemicals had to be used to purify it that many of us lost valuable shrubs and plants. It will be with much uncertainty I await the coming of Spring and the peeping through the ground of my lovely peonies. I just hope I did not water them too long, but Summer lasted until November and I just could not stand by in hot weather and not give those peonies a drink."

Mrs. Meador is one of the most successful growers of peonies in Texas. She lives just north of the Fort Worth-Dallas area near the Oklahoma line.

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## WYOMING

Mr. Nelson H. James of Greybull, Wyoming, tells us that they are already having winter there (Dec. 16) and that it was nineteen-below a few days before. He says his tree peonies suffered a lot of winter injury last winter as it was 38-below several times.

55 23-80

## MINNESOTA

Dear Mr. Peyton:

Thank you for the nice letter in early summer. I intended answering right away, but you know how it is. We were particularly interested in the old roses you mentioned that were growing in Virginia so long ago. I met a woman from Michigan at the Nashville, Tenn., Rose Convention who has a rose, originally from Virginia, that she is trying to have identified—with no success.

We enjoyed the last Peony Bulletin very much, especially the article on Atabatics, by Virginia Conklin. If you remember our location, guess we picked the proper "lay of the land." We are South facing, sloping gently to the lake, with quite a steep hill below. Altho' we have big trees, we keep them trimmed very high. Our soil is what is known as Minnetonka Clay, hard to work up, but very fertile. After they are once established, everything grows and multiplies too fast for me. I'm always dividing and transplanting the perennials. Our peonies were beautiful this year, but they were all too tall around this part of the country. As there was no peony show, we did not disbud many of them and had side buds opening way into July.

Bob Tischler sent us one of his new red seedlings to try out. We have "Peyton Place" on our front terrace and it was much admired by all who saw it.

The Franklins left for Arizona the first of November and imagine they have their home all furnished by this time. Howard Englund is very ill, but heard that he is at home now. Earl Maffett hasn't been well either and expects to retire next month. I didn't think he was that old but says that he will be sixty-six in spring.

We have been having very cold

weather, down to 20-below, but fortunately have some snow. The lake level is very low and fishing was very poor this year. We have four connections from the lake and two from the house, so we can use all the water we want for our gardens, but nothing takes the place of good soaking rains.

Fortunately, with our location, or lay of the land, we do not get the frosts and have roses and other blooms way late in fall—even had roses and mums for Thanksgiving this year as it was such a wonderful fall.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Leone M. Hanratty  
Saga Hill, Lake Minnetonka  
Box 360, Mound, Rt. 1  
Minnesota  
12-17-63

## NEW JERSEY

We hear from Mr. Frank L. Howell of Newton, New Jersey, that Mr. van Loon, who was so active in our Society for many years, is now located at Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and expects to plant some peonies there.

Also Mr. Howell is having quite a lot of winter as seems to be the case with most of us. He has planted several of the finest hybrids. His best Christmas gift was the return of his wife from the hospital where she underwent surgery, but, we are glad to report, is now almost fully recovered.

## OHIO

In a letter just received from Dr. Harold Tinnappel, he makes two interesting suggestions: "Perhaps in a later letter I can explain a proposal I discussed with Walter Alexander, that of applying for a support of research in problems of the peony from one of the Foundations.

A second suggestion is that each of the Directors be requested to

5 24 8

send in the names of the books they have in their libraries, which they believe have useful information on the peony. A few lines of comment might be interesting. . . If you think my suggestion of running a series of articles on the literature of the peony has merit, I would be happy to submit a list of the books I have with a few words of description, if you would like me to do so."

Both of these suggestions are excellent ones. Regarding the first, we seem to be running into more and more difficulties growing peonies each year. We have published reports from Wisconsin about a beetle that destroys all blooms unless they are bagged. Members in Massachusetts have had much trouble and at least one was advised by his State Department of Agriculture to give up growing peonies because of the serious infection of his soil with some disease. Also the same thing happened to one of our members just outside Indianapolis, Indiana, and see the article from Washington, in this issue on fusarium rot in roots. No one seems to know how to combat these conditions. That we have no Research Department or program was one of the main criticisms made of this Society by Mr. Gale Whitsett in the June, 1959, Bulletin. If such a project could be started, it would be of great value to peony growers.

The second suggestion is also a good one. While we have published remarks and reviews of a few recent books, yet we think a comprehensive list of literature devoted to the peony would be of much value to us. Perhaps not a great many of our readers know about much of the literature on the peony available. We hope we can inaugurate such a series of articles as suggested. Let us hear from our readers on these two subjects.

## MICHIGAN

A good long letter from Mr. Clarence Lienau of Detroit just received, gives us an account of his moving his gardens this fall to a new location and the troubles he encountered. Also he gives an account of his trip to Europe, which is published in this issue.

## WISCONSIN

Dear Mr. Peyton:

Dues time rolls round again. This is a finn I don't mind paying out.

The folks here in Wisconsin are having a fine preview of winter, -20 for several days now. Thank goodness I covered the hybrids.

Last bloom season was the poorest I can remember. Five days of 90° weather at midseason and then a day of 45-mile wind. It looked as though a dozen people were picking chickens. Peony petals in the air a quarter mile away down wind. Most of the lates did not open. The earlies opened and blew in a day.

Peony Marietta Sisson again demonstrated its ability to perform well under the most adverse conditions. When other peonies bloom well, she is no great shakes, but last spring she sure looked good.

Added a dozen new ones last fall and discarded Festiva. Therese Loveliness, Juneau. Now grow some 75 varieties and about 20 hybrids.

Let me wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The '64 season is bound to be good. Nothing could be worse than '63.

William Bringe  
West Salem, Wisc.

## NEBRASKA

We learn from Mr. W. C. Noll, of York, Nebraska, that one of our long-time members, Mr. Les Foster also of York, has moved to Cal-

ifornia and likes it. Mr. Noll also says they are having real winter with some snow.

### SURPLUS BULLETINS

We have on hand at the present the following back bulletins with prices for each. It will be noted that we have a large number of some and that many numbers are also now out of print.

Price \$1.00 each: Nos. 17 - 97 when available and Nos. 156 and 158.

50c each: Nos. 98 to 113, 123, 124, 129, 130, 131, 138, 139, 143, 148, 151, 154, 157, 160, 162, also 155 without 4-page cover.

25c each: 114 to 121, inclusive, 125, 126, 127, 128, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 141, 142, 144, 145, 146, 152, 153, 159, 161, 163 to 171 inc.

If order is for less than one dollar add 15 cents for each bulletin ordered to cover cost of mailing.

We have complete files for the years: 1945; 1951; 1957; 1958, 1959, 1960 for \$2.50 per year, as there are only one or two sets for each year available.

For 1946, 1947, 1949, we have about ten sets for each year for \$1.50 per year.

For 1950, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1961, 1962, 1963 we have a great many sets, price \$1.00 per year.

The following are now out of print and only available when we are able to find some one who has one or more for sale. The price for each will be one dollar each: Nos. 1 to 16 inc., 19, 23, 26, 28, 29, 33 to 50 inc., 55, 57, 59 to 64 inc., 66 to 71 inc., 73, 74 77, 78, 80, 82, 84 to 87 inc., 90 to 93 inc., 95, 96, 109, 122, 134, 140, 147, 149, 150, and 155.

If any one has any of those now out of print or in the scarce category, who wishes either to sell or donate to the Society, please let us know. Please do not destroy scarce numbers.

### ILLINOIS

In your last letter you spoke of need for more late *Albiflora* doubles—as late as Philippe Rivoire.

Well, in 1962 June number of Bulletin I advertised 10 new introductions. It included 2 *officianalis* hybrid bombs, Peter Piper and Simple Simon, both very fine; one pink and yellow *Albiflora* Jap; one early red anemone bomb, Lady Jane; and I think all the rest were late red doubles. All outstanding red, stem just ordinarily good, but color is stand out. Siren small, very dark. Carnival, a very strong grower, stiff stem, good color. Off hand, I don't remember the names of the others. But the whole 10 were quality enough to establish an originator's reputation if that was all he had done.

My Garden Glory is late. I don't know how bloom date compares with Philippe Rivoire, but it is the last word in dark, *durable* color. My *latest red*, Cleopatra, is a lighter shade the florists like, but no comparison to my other reds. It is good under artificial light.

My white Plymouth is very late. I have been told Carl Klehm has five acres of it and uses it as his latest white. For a very late pink double, Joyce, tall, small fragrant, a seedling of the ugliest Jap I ever saw, that came from a Jap. Stems have short hairs. These three are my latest. I think very large late double blooms are not desirable, not so sure to open. None of my late red doubles are large.

Edw. Auten, Jr.

Princeville, Ill.

### CANADA

Our Canadian Director, Mr. Charles H. Stewart of Ottawa, reports that it was 30-below in Ottawa the morning he wrote (12/31). He has his first and lone tree peony well bundled up. It is Souvenir de Maxime Cornu.

## WILLIAM BROWN

Mr. William Brown of Elora, Ontario, Canada, died on January 6, 1964, at the Fergus, Ontario, General Hospital after a stay of six weeks.

For many years he was a prominent figure in his home town of Elora. If our readers will refer to our Bulletin No. 141, for June, 1956, they will find a full page picture of him and some additional facts of his life which were sent us by Mr. L. W. Cousins, of London, Ontario, a long-time friend of Mr. Brown. We find he was of highland Scottish ancestry and a cabinet maker by trade. He was active in all local horticultural projects and at one time was president of the Ontario Horticultural Society. He was also a past Grand Officer of the Masonic Order and of the Oddfellows.

Born on September 30, 1880, in Elora, he was a son of the late John Brown and the former Mary-an Morris. He was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora, and was married to the former Anna Craig Burt in Elora in 1908. She died in April, 1946.

Mr. Brown is survived by one son, W. Burt Brown, of Elora, and two sisters, Mrs. Jean Gallagher, and Mrs. Mary Edmondson, both of Windsor; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, one brother and three sisters.

Mr. Charles H. Stewart of Ottawa, our Canadian Director, who reported Mr. Brown's death to us, and was a close friend of Mr. Brown, says this of his connection with him: "I spent a week-end with Bill about six years ago and when my wife asked me what we did she would hardly believe me when I said we looked at and talked about peonies. The highlight of Bill's year was the peony season when bus loads of members from gardening societies would come to

Elora to see his peonies and chat.

"The week-end I was there, Mr. L. W. Cousins dropped in and Bill was talking about Ann Cousins and the magnificent blooms shown at Guelph in 1948. Mr. Cousins remarked that with originations like Doug's White (since named Douglas Brown) and Donna Jean, Bill could be proud of his achievements in the Peony World.

"Bill seemed to lose his desire for life when his son Doug was drowned, as Doug had planned to take over the peony gardens and was an ardent hybridizer. A few years later he sold his peonies to a neighbor, Walter Gilbert, who is carrying on.

"The highlight of his peony career was the National Peony Show which was held in Guelph, not only his own exhibits, but being responsible for the show.

"I feel we have lost an outstanding figure in the peony world in Canada as well as a man who proved he was a good citizen, father and friend."

Mr. Brown has been a member of this Society for many years and was a director from June, 1947, to June, 1949, when he resigned.

At the Guelph show he won the A. P. S. Gold Medal for his exhibit in that class which called for 50 to 60 different varieties. He also had nine places in the Court of Honor and his seedlings Nos. 551, a semi-double white, and 19xx, a rose pink Jap, were awarded Certificates of Honorable Mention. He also made a display of about fifty named varieties and ten of his own seedlings. He personally attended the annual shows in Lansing in 1938, Rockford in 1946 and Lake Mohawk in 1952. He was a large exhibitor at Lake Mohawk and we note he showed two seedling tree peonies, the only tree peonies in the show. He had intended to come to Van Wert in

1960, but was unable to make the necessary arrangements. It was while this show was in progress that his son, Doug, was drowned.

Your secretary has had the honor of counting Mr. Brown among his personal friends for many years and he remembers his visit in Mr. Brown's home following the Guelph show with much pleasure.

Besides peonies, he grew many other flowers, among them iris, delphinium, begonias, lilies and especially a grand collection of native wild flowers which were one of his hobbies.

His peony collection was up-to-date and he was the originator of a number of excellent varieties, a list of which is given elsewhere.

The sympathy of the Society is extended the surviving members of his family.

#### **Originations of William Brown Elora, Ontario, Canada**

**ATHELSTANE** (1938). D. M. Large cup-shaped bloom of an unusual shade of lavender pink carried well above the foliage. The side buds are often as large as the average peony.

**DOUGLAS BROWN** (1962). First named Doug's White. D. LM. Pure white, large and deep. Strong stems carry the blooms erect.

**ELGIN** (1952). D. Large double pink with a touch of lavender. High built.

**ELORA** (1949). D. White with a few faint markings of crimson on some petals. Fragrant. Strong stems.

**FAIRLEIGH** (1938). D. M. Blush pink, slightly deeper towards the center. Fragrant. Strong stems. Tall, late.

**ILLUSTRIOUS** (1952). D. Medium pink. Early and long lasting. Tall. Strong stems.

**JANICE SMITH** (1952). D. Deep rose pink. Midseason, pleasing fragrance.

**MARYAN** (Before 1938). D. M. Pink, true rose form. Not listed in Mr. Gilbert's catalog, nor in the Gist check list. See Bulletin No. 91.

**SHANNON** (1952). D. L. Medium dark pink. Occasional stamens show. Large. Strong stems.

**DONNA JEAN** (1949). J. M. Blush pink. Petals, staminodes, carpels all the same color. A beautiful flower.

**ROSAUREA** (1952). Striking two-toned Jap. Guard petals bright pink. Staminodes straw color.

**SUSIE SMITH** (1950). J. Light pink guards, straw color staminodes, stigmas tipped pink.

All of the above are listed by Gilbert's Gardens, Elora, Ontario, Canada, except Maryan.

Donna Jean and Rosaurea are pictured in Bulletin No. 169, June 1963.

#### **ADDITION TO THE COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION**

Mrs. Virginia P. Conklin of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, has lately donated eleven new slides to our collection. They are President Lincoln, red single, W. E. Blanchette, The Mighty Mo, red semi-double; E. F. Kelsey, white SD.; Helen, pink single; Lobata-Sunshine, bright red single; Filigree, red Jap; Gay Paree, pink and light yellow anemone or Jap; Horizon, blush white single hybrid; Suigan, bright pink tree peony fading much lighter, semi-double; Okina-jishi, white semi-double tree peony, almost single.

All of them are exceptionally well photographed and the reds are of unusual brilliance. We thank Mrs. Conklin for her contribution.

She also sent us a Japanese postage stamp depicting a beautiful light pink tree peony bloom, which is really a work of art as are all Japanese color pictures that we have seen. Mrs. Conklin says that

so far she has been unable to get the Roumanian stamp picturing *Paeonia romanica grandia*. Does anyone know anything about this peony? We have never heard of it before.

### THE OLD MANUAL "PEONIES"

A member has just notified us that he has five copies of this book in the original packing, that he will sell. Anyone wishing it, please advise your Secretary at once, and he will be given the address of the member who has them. No price has been quoted. That matter will have to be arranged by the parties concerned.

### DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

The following cultivar (variety), whose name has been approved by the Nomenclature Committee, is presented for registration:

By Edward Auten, Jr., Princeville, Illinois, originator:

TELSTAR (Auten, 1963). D.E.R. No seedling No. given, Parentage unknown, but it is pure *lactiflora*. This double dark unfading red has

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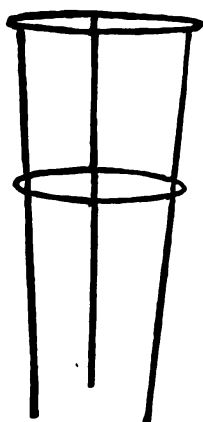
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### WANTED

One of our members wishes to purchase small or large collections of tree peonies. If any of our readers has such or knows of any for sale, please write the Secretary, giving details.

### THE MOUTAN OR TREE PEONY

Referring to our note on page 17 of the September Bulletin, 1963, No. 170, we are advised that this book may be obtained from the New York Botanical Garden only by members of that Society. Those who are not members of that organization may obtain it by sending their order to St. Martin's Press, Inc., 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10010. Price \$3.95.

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## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

**HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY.** 36 pages of articles on why, when, where and how to plant, care, propagation, culture of peonies. 8 pages on Tree Peonies. How to prepare, show and judge exhibition flowers, with scale of points. Short lists of varieties, 3 line drawings, 8 black and white illustrations. Sources of supply. Price: 25c each; 20c each in quantities of 25 or more to one address.

**MOST POPULAR PEONIES -1962.** 4-page leaflet listing most popular peonies of all kinds: 10c each. In lots of 25 or more 5c each, while supply lasts.

**RECOMMENDED VARIETIES.** 6-page leaflet of herbaceous peonies compiled by our Board of Directors, about 200 varieties, 15c each. 10c each in quantities of 25 or more to one address.

**PROPAGATION OF TREE PEONIES** - by Harvey F. Stoke, small leaflet, 15c each.

**PEONIES OUTDOORS AND IN** by Arno and Irene Nehrling, Hearthside Press Inc., New York, 288 pages, 100 black and white illustrations, 11 color plates. Contents similar to those in Handbook with addition of section on Peonies Indoors and arrangements. About 40 pages on Tree Peonies. Price to members of the American Peony Society: \$4.95, to non-members, \$5.95.

Order all of the above from  
The American Peony Society,  
Box 1, Rapidan, Virginia 22733.

No stamps nor checks for less than one dollar, please

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**THE PEONIES.** Edited by John C. and Gertrude S. Wister. American Horticultural Society, 1600 Bladensburg Road N.E., Washington 2, D.C. Paper Backs \$3.50. Cloth-bound \$5.50.

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