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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



Bulletin

DECEMBER, 1964 — NO. 175

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OBJECTIVES

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send 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 C. D. Pennell, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.

STATEMENT

*To the Members of
The American Peony Society*

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AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



DECEMBER, 1964 — NO. 175

President's Letter

To every Member of The American Peony Society and our friends — whoever and wherever they may be * MERRY CHRISTMAS *

May we make this a time of the year when we praise and take an inventory of our personal activities for the past year, then ask ourselves if they are in keeping with the meaning of Christmas. May we all resolve to try and make the year ahead one which we can look back on with the feeling that we had a small part in making it a better year. May we with humility, regardless of our several faiths, be ever mindful of the great love for all mankind that was manifested by that birth which we celebrate at this season of the year.

Sincerely,
Frank L. Howell

MEMBERSHIP — A GOOD GIFT !

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A Letter To All Of You!

October 27, 1964

To the Members of the American Peony Society:

Due to the lack of a secretary and my inability to write, I have been unable to write to acknowledge the many letters received from the members since my illness. This is to express my sincere appreciation of them all. It was with a great deal of regret that I was forced to give up the secretaryship in so unceremoniously a manner. I am getting on as well as to be expected. I can walk about the house and outside weather permitting with some assistance. I am glad the secretaryship is in such capable hands.

With best wishes for the future of the Society, I am

Sincerely yours,

George W. Peyton

Reisinger's Home
Route No. 2,
Gordonsville, Virginia

* * * * *

Route 2, Gordonsville, Va.
11/16/64

Dear Members of the American Peony Society:

It is with heartfelt appreciation that I acknowledge receipt of so many birthday greetings and get well wishes since my illness. I wish I could answer them all in person.

I am able to walk about the house and also outside with some assistance for short walks.

I regret my sudden exit from office but congratulate you on your new secretary and assistant.

Sincerely,

George W. Peyton

EDITOR'S COMMENT: The above message was written by Mr. Peyton, himself, on a government card and as you note on his birthday!

Again our **CONGRATULATIONS** to you "MR. PEONY" for your remarkable recovery. Also our appreciation for your confidence in my assistant and in me. As you know the American Peony Society has meant much to me and the Peony flower is one of the most beautiful of all flowers.

Secretary and Editor

Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you George W. Peyton. You have the best wishes from all of the American Peony Society and your host of gardening friends throughout the land!

Mr. Peyton's address is: Reisinger's Home, Route 2, Gordonsville, Va. 22942

FICKLENESS OF TREE PEONY

REINE ELIZABETH

By Ralph H. Giff, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada

For the sake of brevity I direct the attention of readers of this article to A.P.S. Bulletins Nos. 151, 168 and 169 as comments therein constitute the foundation of what follows.

Before and after my "request for help," which appeared in Bulletin No. 168, I have approached the problem of bud decay in various ways — all of them, admittedly, "stabs in the dark" — but I am still floundering around and getting nowhere.

While I was never convinced that zero or sub-zero temperatures or freezing temperatures which are experienced over wide areas of the U.S. and Canada in the Spring had any adverse effects on Tree Peonies, yet out of respect for Mr. Stoke's years of experience (see his letter to me in Bulletin No. 169) tests I made in the winter of 1963-1964 bear considerable significance.

Last Fall, using as a guinea-pig the original plant which I imported from England several years ago and which had a dozen or so canes — all well budded — I tied half of them in one bundle. These I surrounded with wire netting and loosely packed the area with leaves. The remaining canes I left exposed all Winter. As usual, the early Spring days of 1964 stirred all the buds into growth — both protected and unprotected. However, as in previous years, all eventually withered.

Another experiment I made in the Fall of 1963 was to fully cover with leaves a well established **division** off the original plant. In addition to the leaves it was well sheltered by an adjacent building but here again dry rot set in.

Beyond the foregoing I have tried over the period of the last four years or more such experiments as

cutting off all the above ground growth in the Fall; complete change of soil; pruning off all herbaceous roots which had developed from grafting stock; organic and inorganic fertilizers; keeping the soil heavily watered to a depth of two feet or more during the growing season and finally full sun and part sun exposures. Please understand that all these alternatives were not carried out simultaneously but spread over a period of time. None of these has produced an answer.

Just to add a little more confusion to those who by this time are not thoroughly "mixed up," I still have "one iron in the fire." Five years ago I took two scions from the original plant I started out with and grafted them onto herbaceous stock. They developed in due course, one of them flowering in 1963. The bloom had good size, color and form. This year it bloomed again and while the size was good the color and form left something to be desired. It was rather ragged and the ends of the petals flushed an off-white. The companion plant flowered this year for the first time (two blooms). One of them was particularly beautiful, in fact gorgeous. The form was between the double and the so-called bomb type (see pages 73 and 74 of the 1928 Peony Manual). The color was a solid deep pink from the base to petal tips and the size approximately 5¼" dia. x 4" deep.

As a last resort I have already taken steps to establish a *clone, using as a basis the plant that flowered so beautifully this year. Due to

the fact it only had sufficient budwood for two scions, I made only one graft, it being essential to leave the other intact for 1965 as a "check plant" with a view to determining what stability the plant may possess, or if it is going to act in a manner such as my other plants have been doing.

Those who have had experience in hybridizing Lilies — as I have — they will have learned by this time that hybrids are notorious for instability. However, in some cases, after four or five years, they will settle down and remain stable.

Apart from what I have done or may still be able to do to come up with an answer to bud decay, am of the opinion that instability; heredity; genetics or some combination of these are at the bottom of it all. My readers may say "why all the fuss about Reine Elizabeth — just discard and forget it." I have no axe to grind with those who may so feel but I do have news for them — Reine Elizabeth is, in my opinion, well worth fighting for to preserve. I rate it among the top three of the Tree Peony family.

In conclusion, what may be achieved from the clone I have started on only our Creator knows. The sand in my life's hour glass is running low and I can only hope I may be spared to witness the end result.

* A clone is a selected plant propagated asexually.

Peony Interest Climbs

"A few years ago the Peony was in number 3 position with Iris first, Daylilies second...now the Daylilies are in number one position, Peonies in second and Irises in the bottom location", so writes Gene Wild, of Gilbert H. Wild & Son, Inc., Sarcoxie, Missouri.

BACTERIA AID GARDENERS

Soil suitable to plant growth is the home of innumerable living beings too small to be seen with unaided eyes. Every ounce of fertile soil normally contains a larger number of living organisms — bacteria, etc. — than the human population of the entire world. Over 50,000 bacteria could perch on a pinhead says Walter Haldeman of The Pennsylvania State University.

Bacteria are among the living forms active in building and maintaining soil fertility. Gardeners need to know that adding lime and organic matter increases bacteria population, benefiting plants by humus formation and "fixing" of nitrogen. Fixing of nitrogen is the conversion from gaseous to nitrate or other solid forms usable by plants in protein formation.

According to a Pennsylvania State University correspondence course, bacteria are both helpful and harmful. Cheese, sauerkraut, alcohol and penicillin are among their products.

But some bacteria grow within or on animals and plants, causing diseases. Tuberculosis and typhoid fever among humans, brucellosis in cattle, cholera in hogs, wilts, leaf spots and blights of plants are results of bacterial activity.

Bacteria are an ever-present threat in foods. Canning, refrigerating, freezing and pasteurizing are done in reduce bacterial action, the cause of food spoilage.

To present the many kinds of bacteriology — soil, medical, dairy, industrial and plant pathology — Penn State offers its course by mail. Anyone may enroll and receive a course copy by sending his name and address with \$3.00 to Bacteriology, Box 5000, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802.

Here's the article Mr. Leo J. Armatyz wrote about and from which we quoted in the June-September issue. The following appeared in a recent issue of the Royal Horticultural Society Journal on . . .

TREE PEONIES

Of the many plants introduced to cultivation in recent years few, if any, are as handsome both in flower and as a foliage plant as *Paeonia lutea* var. *ludlowii*. It is a hardy plant of beauty and easy disposition, growing with vigour on most soils and under very varied conditions. It well deserved the Award of Garden Merit which it has now received.

P. lutea var. *ladlowii* was raised from seed collected by Ludlow and Sherriff in 1936 in S.E. Tibet where it formed colonies at altitudes between 9,000 and 11,000 feet. It has set seed freely in cultivation and is now widely grown in gardens. It is a "Tree Paeony" and its stems, robust in appearance and unbranched like the shoots of a bamboo, may reach eight feet in height. The leaves which are glabrous, dark green above and glaucous beneath, are trifoliate but usually biternate in apical clusters. They can be as much as 18 inches long and are very decorative and striking. Unlike the flowers of *P. lutea* which are often concealed by the foliage, those of var. *ludlowii* are borne on almost erect stems above the clusters of leaves. They too are pure yellow but larger and more open cupped-shaped than those of *P. lutea*. As well as being so much more tall and robust, *P. lutea* var. *ludlowii* also differs from *P. lutea* in that it flowers in May, a month earlier. Perhaps it grows best in a sunny position but a moderate amount of shade does not prevent it from flowering freely. It grows equally well on chalk, light sand, heavy loam and poor gravelly soil. It does not object to wind and can be seen to great advantage, planted on either side of an alcove on the terra cotta-coloured wall of a house in Northern Ireland where it is subjected to almost perpetual draughts. With its yellow flowers, like so

many lamp shades, and its fine foliage *P. lutea* var. *ludlowii* is a great addition to gardens and can make a striking contrast when planted near shrubs with entire leaves and upright habit. In spite of its gaunt, naked stems, once it is clothed with its luxuriant leaves, its own form becomes somewhat rounded. It is easily raised from seed and frequently produces self-sown seedlings. Seed should be sown immediately it is ready to fall from the pod but the resulting seedlings take some time to grow away. *P. lutea* is the parent of many yellow-flowered hybrid Tree Paeonies, but so far there is no record of a successful cross between *P. lutea* var. *ludlowii* and *P. suffruticosa* or with any hybrid Tree Paeony.

P. lutea var. *ludlowii* received the Award of Merit in 1954. It is figured in the Botanical Magazine, n.s.209 and illustrated in the R.H.S. Journal, Vol. 85, Fig. 85.

We are delighted to receive the names of the new officers of the Duluth Peony and Iris Society. Duluth, Minnesota, namely; President, Mrs. L. J. Ellefsen; First Vice-President, Mr. Earl Gueno; Second Vice-President, Mr. James McClain; Secretary, Miss Mary Cooke; Treasurer, Mrs. Nuber Syness; Directors, L. J. Ellefsen, Mrs. Joseph Riley and Mrs. James Brojden. Miss Cooke's address is 731 Maple Grove Road, Duluth 11, Minnesota.

TREE PEONIES

Leo J. Armatys, Central City, Nebraska

The mind of man is not yet trained to register the myriad subtleties of color and the strange patterns of *p. suffruticosa*. There is, nevertheless, a growing awareness of the garden value of this paragon of the plant world. Its blossoms, large or small, command attention, and this woody shrub projects an aura of serenity seldom associated with American gardens. Both the species and hybrid tree peonies grow easily — almost casually — in their native China. Given the setting it deserves and a modicum of care, Moutan will do as well for you.

Interim Report:

The first hint of Harold Wolfe's pioneering work with Naphthalene acetamide appeared in John Wister's book, *THE PEONIES*. Bulletin No. 170 gave more detailed information about Wolfe's methods and results.

D-day in my garden was a 106 degree afternoon in July. First victims included a second-year seedling hybrid and a tree peony that seemed on the verge of death, plus a few sturdier plants. One fought back. A big albi-lobata hybrid showed few visible effects of the chemical shock treatment, then lost its leaves and some stems after a second, massive dosage of the powdered chemical. Tree peonies, by contrast, reacted quickly as the hydrocarbon vaporized. Within days the only life in the treated tree peonies was (hopefully) below ground.

Results will be known in May, but I've had a sneak preview. I dug near one treated plant in September and uncovered the fattest watery root-hairs I'd ever seen.

Miscellany:

If you must plant tree peonies in the spring, order now and plant as soon as the ground can be worked. They will likely live. Some will make good plants. However, those planted in late fall have a far better chance to survive and thrive. Many growers won't ship tree

peonies at any other time.

Well developed seed pods are sure signs of a healthy tree peony.

Some gardeners question the wisdom of deep planting. I know of no other way to ensure success with small tree grafts. Several nurseries have now adopted Mission Gardens practice of tying string around the stems at recommended planting depth.

Editorially Speaking:

Garden visiting is a two-way street, as enjoyable for the visited as for the visitor. I correspond with a small-town matron whose garden is a miniature Wisley. Last June she wrote that 16 new plants were blooming beautifully, ". . . and not another soul to see them."

There are few towns, however small, without at least one enthusiastic gardener. Why not search out a few on your next trip? Travelers who dash from one metropolis to another may by-pass a botanical bonanza. There are things to be learned and things worth seeing in many of the out-of-the-way places. Even more important — your visit can add a new and exhilarating dimension to the lives of the unsung gardeners in the hinterlands.

Coming Soon:

Grafting, amateur style.

Make room for the species.

And more — about tree peonies!

We are indebted to the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, for the privilege of reprinting the following article and wish to express our appreciation. The article was given as a lecture by the author before that splendid Society. Our thanks too to Mr. Louis Smirnow, member of our own Board of Directors for making it possible.

— The Editor

TREE PAEONIES

F. C. Stern, O.B.E., M.C., F.L.S., V.M.H.

Tree peonies are all indigenous in a wild state to South-East Asia, the most important species from the point of view of their flowers are *Paeonia Suffruticosa* and *P. lutea* var. *ludowii*, and possibly *P. lutea* itself, for its value for crossing with other tree paeonies. All the tree species are useful and attractive plants, but cannot compare for beauty with those mentioned above. *P. delavayi* has dark red open flowers about 3 to 4 inches across, and grows into a large bush about 6 feet high; there are a number of forms of this species, all varying in the size and the shade of colour of their dark red flowers. This plant is useful in the garden as it will do well under deciduous trees.

A smaller tree species, *P. potanini* and its varieties, are low growing, about 2 feet high with small flowers about 2 to 2½ inches across; there are several forms, some with yellow flowers, some with red and some white. These plants sucker freely, growing in sun or shade, and are suitable as undershrubs in the woodland garden.

The most beautiful of all the tree paeony species is *P. suffruticosa*, and its different forms, often known as the "Moutan" paeonies. "Moutan" is said to be derived from the Chinese "Mowtan", translated "Male Scarlet Flower". It is the national flower of China; and red form was considered by the Chinese to be the finest. The Chinese grew these paeonies in their gardens for literally hundreds of years. JOHANN HOFFMAN (1) quotes from the Chinese literature that the "Moutans" were well known and loved by the Chinese already in the eighth century. Although these plants were well known in China and Japan since the earliest times, they were unknown in Europe or America till about 1787. E. H. WILSON in his Monograph of Azaleas of 1921 (7) says that Chinese Buddhist monks introduced many plants from China and Korea to Japan as early as the eighth century and among them plants of tree paeonies.

In 1656 an Embassy of the Dutch East India Company was received by the Emperor at Peking. On their return NIEVHOF, in 1656 (2), described this journey and the plants they had seen, including the paeonies to which he gave great praise. But nothing seems to have been done about introducing these plants till a hundred years later. SIR JOSEPH BANKS is said to have read NIEVHOF'S report and also seen drawings of these plants by Chinese artists. He engaged a DR. DUNCAN, attached to the British East India Company, to procure a plant. It came back to England about 1787 when it was planted at Kew and another in 1789 was planted in SIR JOSEPH'S garden, later to be named *P. moutan* var. *banksia*, with double pink flowers; in 1825 it was said to be about 8 feet high and 10 feet in diameter. In 1802 (or perhaps in 1794?) SIR ABRAHAM HUME imported a plant to his garden at Wormley Bury in Hertfordshire, which in 1826 was recorded as being 7 feet high and 14 feet in circumference. This garden in recent years belonged to the late MAJOR PAM. This plant was named *P.*

moutan var. *papaveracea* and illustrated in *Botanical Magazine*, 1 2175 of 1820; it had white flowers with deep red markings at the base of the petals. I saw the remains of this plant still growing at Wormley Bury, with one flower, a few years ago.

Although tree paeonies were grown in gardens throughout China, Korea and Japan for a great number of years, the location of the wild plants was not known till about 1890 when SCALLON AND GIRALDI (3) discovered the true wild plants in the province of Shensi in China; they did not collect any living plants or seeds. In 1910 PURDOM found wild tree paeonies also in the province of Shensi. He sent a dried specimen to the Arnold Arboretum at Boston, U.S.A. and seed to PROFESSOR SARGENT and to Messrs, James Veitch in England. The young plants at Boston were eaten by rats; only one was raised by Messrs. Veitch which was sent to PROFESSOR SARGENT. In April 1914 REGINALD FARRER (4) found the tree paeonies in the province of Kansu in China, and he gives a glorious description of the plants in his book *On The Eaves of the World*, but he collected no seed or dried specimens.

The wild plant was not in cultivation till DR. J. F. ROCK sent seed back to the Arnold Arboretum, in 1926. The Arboretum distributed the seed and one plant was sent to us in 1936. When it flowered, it seemed to tally exactly with the wild plants described by FARRER. (R.H.S. Journal, 84, Fig. 104, 1959) DR. ROCK wrote from China that the seed sent back by him was collected from plants in the garden of a Lamasery at Choni, in South-West Kansu, and the Lamas told him that the plants came from the mountains of that district. This plant is now about 8 feet high and 12 feet in diameter.

SIR JOSEPH BANKS' plant mentioned above was described in his *Botanist's Repository* of 1804 (5), under the name of *P. suffruticosa*, which is now considered the correct name of the wild tree paeony of China.

A few garden "Moutan" paeonies were imported from China at the beginning of the nineteenth century, but few survived the journey. About this time seed seems to have been brought from China and Japan, for seedlings began to appear in French and American gardens. SIEBOLD (6) in 1844 brought back some especially fine plants to Germany from Japan. In February 1843 ROBERT FORTUNE was sent out to China by the Horticultural Society (as the R.H.S. was then known) at a salary of 100 £s. a year plus expenses. He was able in 1846 to bring back living plants of some of the best tree paeonies; these gradually came into cultivation in Europe and America. Some of the nurserymen in England later on began to catalogue these paeonies. Messrs. Kelway are reported to have offered them in their catalogue of 1889. All these plants are reported as having single or double flowers, pink, white or purple.

It was not until 1902 that a new phase in hybridizing the paeonies took place. Before this, there was no hybridizing, as far as is known, between the species of tree paeonies. In 1882 ABBE' DELAVAY, one of the French missionaries, discovered *P. lutea*, the yellow-flowered tree paeony species, in Yunnan and sent seed to France. This species flowered for the first time in England in the Temperate House at Kew in 1900. Soon after 1902 Messrs. Lemoine of Nancy, father and son, who were already famous for their hybridizing of philadelphus and lilacs, began to use *P. lutea* to cross with the "Moutan" garden tree paeonies. They produced some striking new hybrids with yellow flowers, such as 'L'Esperance' and 'Alice Harding' with double flowers of deep yellow; these double flowers are not

too heavy and are held well above the foliage. In some of the double-flowered forms, the flowers are so heavy that the stems cannot hold them up, especially after rain. An old hybrid 'Comtesse de Tudo', bred in France by CHARLES GOMBAULT in 1889, has large very double flowers, rose-du-Barri pink, about 9 inches across; it is not a good garden plant as these fine flowers fall over, but in a vase they are magnificent. It is still in cultivation in English gardens.

In 1917 PROFESSOR A. P. SAUNDERS, Professor of Chemistry at Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, U.S.A. began crossing paeony species in his garden. SAUNDERS is responsible for some of the finest crosses of both herbaceous and tree paeonies. His 'Argosy' is the best of the single yellows and his 'Black Pirate' has magnificent deep mahogany-red flowers (R.H.S. Journal, 84, Fig. 118, 1959). He has produced many other excellent hybrids.

In 1936 LUDLOW AND SHERRIFF collected seed of a variety of *P. lutea* in South-West Tibet at about 10,000 feet. Seed was sent to us under the name of *P. lutea*. Several plants were raised and because we did not think much of *P. lutea* as the flowers are usually held under the leaves, we thought we would try a tree paeony on the chalk rubble on the side of the chalk cliff. To our astonishment these plants became taller and taller and eventually large deep butter-yellow flowers appeared well up above the foliage, about 5 inches in diameter. This first-class paeony species was named after one of the collectors, *P. lutea* var. *ludlowii* (10) (Fig. 85). It is the earliest of the larger tree paeonies to flower in May, is perfectly hardy and seems happy in any soil. I have not heard of any hybrids made between this paeony and garden tree paeonies. We have tried and have not yet been successful.

Some young plants without names were brought to us many years ago from Japan. They grew well on the chalk soil; some had white flowers and some good pink ones. One with an extra fine pink flower with a sheen on the petals was named 'Silver Pink'. From seed of this plant in open pollination we raised some lovely plants; one named 'Mrs. George Warre' had rose-pink flowers about 10 inches across, and another with large light-pink semi-double flowers was named 'Cassandra'. It is fascinating to raise seed of the tree paeonies, but alas the seedlings take five or six years to flower! A friend sent us seed from some of the best plants growing in the gardens in the South of France; they came in all colours of white, purple, and pink, but one turned out to have real rich scarlet flowers, an unusual colour and is now named 'Sybil Stern' (R.H.S. Journal, 83, Fig. 142, 1958).

The cultivation of tree paeonies is not difficult as long as they have well-drained soil. They require a good loam with or without lime. They dislike animal manure. When we started to grow these plants we thought they ought to be well fed. They did not like the cow manure and some died. It was interesting to read lately in Paxton's Magazine of Botany, XVI (1) of 1849, in a translation of HOFFMAN'S articles on tree paeonies from old Chinese and Japanese writings, that "the use of animal matter as manure has proved to be injurious". We have never given the plants any animal manure nor any old mushroom manure for the last twenty years or so, but just very old leaves in autumn.

All tree paeonies are perfectly hardy plants and will stand any amount of frost as long as the young growths have not started. The real danger with tree paeonies is that they are apt to get the young growth injured in a mild winter and spring. This new growth, which holds the flowers, comes

very early in the year and may get injured by a late frost or even a cold east wind. In order to circumvent this, we have tried to make the plants delay their early growth by planting them in half shade among deciduous shrubs and small trees, and also on the north side of evergreen shrubs away from the morning sun and protected from the east wind.

The crossing of tree paeonies is not easy. The flowers have a mass of anthers which have to be removed before the flower opens. It is a tiresome job and one is apt to get lumbago doing it in an east wind. The pollen of the male parent has to be dry and fresh and in May the pollen on the anthers is very often damp. We find the best plan is to cut the flowers of the male parent just before they open and put them in water in a warm room so as to get the pollen as fresh and dry as possible. In raising seed, it is most successful to sow the seed as soon as the capsule begins to open. In this way germination of the seed is much quicker and more even. This is true of all paeony seed. It is very interesting to read in the translations of HOFFMAN from the original Chinese works of 1596 that, "Seeds should be sown immediately after they are ripe as soon as the seed vessel commences to open and show its seeds within".

The best time to move tree paeonies in the south of England is the first week in October. They dislike moving and often die back after moving but soon recover.

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LET'S TALK ABOUT MULCHING

The regular rule of good mulching applies to newly planted peonies. We mulch or place a blanket of mulch material over newly planted roots after the ground freezes to keep them in place. Newly planted roots or late plantings have not had the opportunity to anchor themselves and when freezing and thawing in March comes in certain soils then they are apt to pop up like corks. Mulch material ranges from marsh hay to oak leaves and through the synthetics or even spun glass. Here is a good place to utilize you Christmas tree boughs.

Summarizing — the ideal time to plant is in September, based upon the principle that some root growth will be made and the soil is firmly adjusted to the new root, thereby keeping it in place.

TREE PEONIES! CAN YOU MOVE THEM?

In the December, 1963, *Bulletin* was a note that the Pennsylvania State University reminded everyone that now is the time to move trees and shrubs. Mr. Peyton asked the question: "How about tree peonies? What do our experts say about this?"

To the best of our knowledge no one has answered this as yet. What say?

Bob Tischler of Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minnesota, sent us the following interesting article that appeared in his local newspaper that we thought you as members would be interested in reading.

—The Editor

WHAT A TREE

"If you'd like to see a tree that's really a tree . . . , take a drive to Brand Peony Farms on Faribault's east side. There's a whopper there that has been judged in state competition as the largest Slippery Elm in the state.

Yes sir, the Jan.-Feb. issue of the Conservation Volunteer (a monthly mag.) reports that Orwin A. Rustad, who teaches biology at Shattuck, was one of the winners in the Izaak Walton-State Conservation Big Tree contest. Rustad listed as his entry the huge elm near his home . . . across the street at the Peony farm.

With a circumference (at breast high) of 208 inches, which is over 17 feet, this giant of a tree was topped by only three others. They were a cottonwood, Minneapolis, 319 inches around; a willow, St. Paul, 257½ inches and an American elm, Dayton, 243.6 inches around.

The Fairbault Slippery Elm, fourth largest tree in the state according to this contest, has caused "a terrific number of comments", says Archie Tischler. The Tischler brothers, Archie and Bob, say "practically every visitor at the Peony farm is attracted to the tree. Thousands of pictures have been taken of it." When in full foliage, it's a mammoth green umbrella.

But do you know, when searching around for a photo of this beauty, not a single picture of it could we find. Thousands of photos taken . . . by out-of-towners. We take it for granted. Isn't that the way it goes so often?"

Yes Mr. Bailey (writer of the column Views from Woody's Window) you are so right. So often the wonderful creations in Nature are not preserved and how good it is that the Tischler brothers, Archie and Bob, say "we hope it keeps right on growing". We know they will take care of the Faribault Slippery Elm at the Peony farm. Have you the reader something of beauty in your community to perpetuate and are peonies planted in your city parks ? ? ?

* * *

Sir George Taylor, director of the celebrated Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, near London, England, arrived in this country in October. Sir George visited the Arnold Arboretum outside Boston, Morton Arboretum and Skokie lagoons in Chicago, Illinois as well as advised on the prospective Chicago Botanical gardens which hopefully will be cultivated on 300 acres next to Edens Highway in the Skokie valley in Illinois. We understand William A. Pullman, president of the Chicago Horticultural society, is hoping to develop these gardens for the pleasure of Chicagoans. We hope the tree peony will find a treasured spot in the gardens. Of course, there should be a planting of prize peonies. Do you agree ? ? ?

Sequel — After this article was ready for the printer we received information that a contribution of \$50,000 was presented to the Chicago Horticultural Society to help finance this outstanding botanic garden. Philip Hampson, executive director of the Robert R. McCormick Charitable Trust, sent the check to Mr. W. A. P. Pullman, president of the Society. The society must raise the million dollar goal necessary to start the

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garden project, before December 31, 1965, to obtain a contract for use of the 300 acres of forest preserve land, this provision being a part of an agreement with Cook county forest preserve district.

Sir George Taylor is said to have been enthusiastic about the possibilities as the grounds have a "natural appeal that will be emphasized thru the dramatic features contemplated in the botanic garden plans. Just imagine," Sir George Taylor continued, "being able to start a huge, magnificent botanical garden from scratch. The challenge is exciting." John Simonds, landscape architect, drew the plans for the garden which will include educational and research programs as well as displays designed to promote gardening.

* * *

Sir George Taylor's visit to the United States has recalled something we read recently, in fact, it appeared in Ellis Rawnsley's column (he is garden editor for the Cincinnati Post). Mr. Rawnsley was commenting on the uses of flowers — he called them "posies" and stated that "it's a little odd to reflect that the original purposes of corsages was as much medicinal as decorative." "Furthermore," he stated, "at the opening of each session of the celebrated Old Bailey courts in London (in May and late October) the judge and other dignitaries, including the Lord Mayor of London, march in parade, each carrying a bouquet and that there are other ceremonies in which flowers play a part. At the election of the Lord Mayor, of London's city sheriff's, and of officers of some of the remaining guilds and even at some royal ceremonies, posies are carried just as they were centuries ago."

The Month of Christmas – December

Don't forget the publications for sale by your own American Peony Society — and for other Christmas gifts use sets of handy tools, a set of trowels, an order from one of our own nursery advertisers, dated for the proper planting time, a beautiful vase with a note inside telling the recipient to fill it with peonies in the blooming period.

The writer spent one Christmas holiday season in the hospital. One of the nicest gifts she received was a beautifully inscribed card from the giver, also a communication from the nurseryman stating that at the proper planting time a root would be delivered to be planted in the writer's garden. That was nine years ago. The plant still brings much joy and remembrance of a thoughtful friend.

It is in December when during the mild winter days we may prune trees, shrubs and vines, that is if you live in the north. On the west coast, you may begin pruning and planting trees and shrubs. If you live in the south we are told that shrubs which make their bloom on new or current season wood can be pruned from now until February, while plants are dormant. True?

Don't forget your garden when decorating for Christmas. A living Christmas tree with gay lights is always a joy to see.

Remember you can still plant peonies up until the ground freezes hard. This applies in Ohio. Certainly farther south. Does it where you live?

The Root Glen And Its Foundation

By **Silvia Saunders, Clinton, N.Y.**

There will be many I am sure among my friends who will be glad to learn that the lovely wooded ravine of seven acres, situated here in Clinton and long known as the Root Glen, has now been provided with care and supervision "in perpetuity."

Mrs. Edward Root, widow of the well-known art collector, is herself known to some of you. Her husband's grandfather, Oren Root, arriving at Hamilton College in 1849 to teach All the Sciences, bought the ravine, then a "savage wilderness" and began straightway to tame and civilize it with trees and plants, some of them the gift of his friend and colleague Asa Gray. That the college campus across the road remains a particularly beautiful one is greatly due to their care and to their plantings.

And so the Glen was for 115 years cherished by one member or another of the Root family; most recently by their grand-daughter-in-law. She and her husband spent happy years: they extended the carpet of myrtle on the ravine's steep wooded slopes; they shaped the red shale paths that lead you naturally down to the little brook at the bottom; they planted a swampy hollow with the tall gay candelabras of Chinese and Japanese primulas. Grace Root would, I think, tell you that her consuming interest in plants stemmed partly from the Glen and its history, and partly from my father's own infectious enthusiasm for plants and plant breeding. For more than 60 years our families have been neighbors and affectionate friends.

The idea of establishing a Foundation, so that the Glen might "always" be here, was for years a dream. Now at last it is a reality.

The first Director, 30-year-old Hendrik W. van Loon, comes to us direct from Connwood, in Cheshire, Connecticut. He has a B.S. in Forestry from Marlboro College, worked in the Arnold Arboretum, is a conservationist and is presently engaged in a five-year study of the effect of ground fire in a Norway Pine Plantation near Marlboro, Vermont.

His responsibilities, besides those of maintaining the planting and trees, are too manifold to describe here. Those of us who have met him agree that we are indeed most fortunate in this first appointment; we are delighted to see him and his wife already happily established in the community. His working year will be shared with Hamilton, which he will serve as College Forester and Landscape Planner. His young wife is a musician, and granddaughter of Hamilton's Robert Wicks, class of 1904.

Within the Glen boundaries is a sloping half-acre bordered on three sides by an ancient hemlock hedge. The garden within, planned less than a year ago by Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Foster of Falls Village, Connecticut, already contains several thousand Spring bulbs, 400 azaleas and other shrubs, Saunders hybrid peonies, iris, heathers and lilies, and two raised Alpine beds, one sweet, one sour, each containing vast numbers of tiny Alpines from the roofs of the world. The two beds are an almost year-round mass of small bloom, even under the snows.

Lincoln Foster is President of the American Rock Garden Society, and Laura Louise Foster did the exquisite illustrations in Boughton Cobb's Field Guide to the Ferns, Plantsmen and landscapists of the

highest selection, both serve on the Advisory Board of the Foundation. At this very moment they are in the Rocky Mountains, (this article was written in July, 1964 - The Editor) on what is anticipated to be the first of yearly expeditions, to collect and establish in the Glen rare plants suitable for subsequent introduction to you, the great gardening public of America.

Mr. van Loon, at the receiving end of this expedition, already has 350 tiny plants in the ground, under his fatherly eye.

Should you care to be in touch with the Root Glen Foundation, you may for \$1.00 become one of its "Friends" and receive an occasional sheet describing its researches and activities. Also, please feel welcome at any time at the Root Glen, though May and June are best here, as they are everywhere. And do allow an extra hour to visit me close by and see the Saunders Hybrid Peonies.

A WORD ABOUT HYBRIDIZATION

It is possible for the plant breeder who has time and patience in abundance, to literally build a flower to his own specifications. Through — in-breeding of the parent stock; through examination of thousands of "in-breds" to find the very few that may have one or two of the sought for characteristics, through year after year of fixing those desired features in what will be the foundation stock of the hybrids to be; through more growing seasons where the fixed characteristics of the in-bred are united in crosses; then through union of the crosses the desired characteristics of many single in-breds are finally brought together in a glorious new hybrid.

In the plant world, as in the world of animals, vigor is a fixed trait of the hybrid. Vigor to live, to thrive under adverse conditions, vigor to grow to maturity and to produce blooms of breath-taking beauty.

Half of the fun in gardening comes in knowing the varieties, and the species and their individual habits, then more fun in knowing how to unite two plants, and watch the progeny which may be dominant one way or recessive another, and then making the decision of which way to breed the progeny.

The suspense of waiting six years to see the seedlings bloom, and then selecting the candidates for fame, for further crossing, until the ultimate has been achieved.

Don't miss another season of Peony breeding, you need only to have the courage to start, the humility to ask, when you don't know, and soon all the facts necessary to make your program succeed will be made available to you.

In each of the bulletins, we hope to have some suggestions to help our Amateurs get going in this rewarding adventure.

— Samuel E. Wissing.

* * * *

The Editor is most appreciative of your kindness Mr. Wissing in submitting the above information for our readers. Your contribution should be most helpful in stimulating members to participate in the practice of Peony breeding.

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- Q. What is the flower commonly called "Piney" years ago that grew year after year with hardly any care?
- A. *Paeonia officinalis* is the correct name. Yes, "Piney" was the old fashioned name for the early peony that one associates with Memorial Day.

Drought . . . 1964

One of the worst drought's on record hit a large area of the populous Northeastern United States including New York, Pennsylvania, part of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and Delaware as well as an area stretching from Nebraska south to west Texas.

This was the third dry summer in a row for some localities in the east, in fact, as one writer stated, the driest conditions since early 1800's. It was the second year of drought over much of Virginia, West Virginia, and possibly two-thirds of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Western Kansas and eastern Colorado had the second dry summer in a row. The month of November brought some relief. It is to be remembered that it was in this area in the 1930's that the dust bowl began.

The question has been — What's causing the drought?

We ask the question and turn to an authority for the answer !!! None other than Lyle Rexford Fletcher, a former Climatologist U.S. Weather Bureau, now serving as Associate Professor of Geography, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.

A review of past weather records indicate that we are in the midst of the most severe and one of the most prolonged droughts in this century in the northeastern United States. It also surpasses in duration and intensity, droughts of the previous century for which adequate records are available for comparison. Although the trend to below normal rainfall is generally conceded to have commenced over the upper Mississippi and upper St. Lawrence River Basin in mid-year, 1961 a study of some local rainfall statistics indicate the move to below normal precipitation commenced

ed in March, 1960.

Although monthly rainfall amounts may show wide variations in small areas, a persistent deficiency in precipitation over many months at one station generally indicates less than normal precipitation over wide spread areas. In other words, low rainfall may be recorded at a local station for a particular month with nearby stations generally showing above average amounts, however, persistent low rainfall at one station will be reflected in lower amounts at other stations over a much wider area as the drought at the first station intensifies.

In the absence of more recent data for stations over the eastern United States due to a time lag in publication of these statistics the author confined his study to local data at Bowling Green, Ohio, which extends back to the middle of the last century. In these data three prolonged periods of drought are to be noted and it may be observed that these periods of local drought in each case is shared by wide spread areas in the eastern United States.

Since severe drought conditions are a result of accumulated deficiencies in moisture fall over a considerable period of time the local precipitation records were scanned for the end of the last wet period. Local records reveal that above normal precipitation was reported at Bowling Green in 1954 through 1959. State climatological records also indicate a general above normal rainfall amount during this period although there are some exceptions. However, beginning in March, 1960, rainfall amounts were below normal in all months except June and the total for the year was 23.79 inches, almost 10 inches below the

average. State records follow the local records except for a considerable variation in July.

Using the below normal precipitation of March, 1960, as a starting point the accumulated deficiency below the expected average was computed through October, 1964. At the end of 1960 the deficiency was almost 10 inches, at the end of 1961 it was down to eight inches, at the end of 1962 it was 14 inches, at the end of 1963 it was 26 inches and at the end of October it has reached 30.01 inches. This deficiency, although not as great, is reported elsewhere over the northeastern part of the nation.

Another serious drought period is revealed in the data for the year 1930 through 1936. At the end of 1930 the deficiency was 11 inches and it increased each year reaching 23 inches in 1934 after five years of drought against the present figure of 30 inches. The drought of the 1930's continued two more years through 1936 and the deficiency reached 34 inches. Another noted period of dryness occurred from June, 1893, through May, 1896, but in this period the accumulated moisture deficiency reached only seven inches. However, temperatures during the summer months of both of these earlier periods reached unprecedented highs and many station extreme temperature records were set during the hot summers of 1934 and 1936.

Now what are the results of the prolonged dry spell? Well, many and serious. Crops have been considerably curtailed in many instances, although the eastern United States has such a favorable climate for crop growth that the rainfall may drop well below the normal and through favorable distribution, lack of high temperatures and strong winds, above average crops result. It has lowered the levels of

the Great Lakes to a point where it interferes with shipping. It has resulted in many springs and wells going dry necessitating other sources of water supply. It has undoubtedly stunted perennial plant growth cutting the future harvest of forest products and also has lessened the growth of our perennial plants including peonies. It has contributed to increased labor and material costs wherever artificial irrigation has been resorted to for growth stimulation.

What are the prospects for a change? It will change and we will move into a wet cycle, but when? These cycles are extremely irregular and although there is still considerable popular belief in a regularity to these cycles — that is — a seven year, eleven year, and so forth cycle — I know of no climatologist who has discovered a regular cyclic periodicity in wet weather or dry weather. There is a certain persistency in weather phenomena and although the drought of the decade of the 1930's lasted longer there is indication from past records that we may be nearing the end of the dry period.

By Lyle Rexford Fletcher
Assoc. Prof of Geography
Bowling Green State Uni.
and former Climatologist
U.S. Weather Bureau

Change of Address

Please notify this office immediately regarding any change of address. If you have moved, the delay in your receiving the next issue of The Bulletin will be greatly reduced. You will note Return Requested is on every envelope. This office must pay 10c for every Bulletin returned because of inability to deliver by the Postal Department. Please help us by notifying us. Clip out the form in this issue if needed.

New Varieties And Names

By W. A. Alexander

The registration department of a plant society is a good indicator of the interest and activity of at least that segment of the society's membership which is concerned with the improvement and advancement of their favorite flower. Most flower lovers are not content to have the same old things year after year. They visit gardens during the summer making notes of interesting things that are new to them; then they study the catalogs during the winter months and succumb to the lure of highly colored illustrations and glowing descriptions, finally coming up with a list of things they want to try. Usually this list has to be tailored to fit their available space and pocketbook. But a few new things are sure to be squeezed in.

New varieties of some of the most popular perennials appear by the scores, even hundreds. Hemerocallis and Iris buffs have a real problem in choosing something out of the wonderful new things offered each year. Rose growers always have a long list of new, patented varieties for replacement of the ones they lose. The fun and excitement of seeing new varieties come into flower the first time generates an interest that never wanes, but grows through the years.

Very few new varieties of Peonies are being named and introduced compared to Iris and Hems. Is this indicative of indifference and lack of interest? There are those who say this is a good thing, that the offering of so many new varieties serves no good purpose, is discouraging and confusing to the average buyer. This belief I cannot subscribe to. Admitting that so many new varieties may be somewhat confusing, I think the stimulation of interest more than compensates. In comparing Peonies with Iris and Hems, certain fundamental differences must be recognized. Peonies are more permanent. Who would want to dig out a fine clump of Mons. Jules Elie just because it is an old variety dating back to 1888? Especially when it would mean digging out a bushel or more of soil and replacing with fresh before planting another. Growing seedling Peonies to blooming age is a far different matter than with most other flowers. The time required is seldom less than five years. Then one is still years away from having any stock for sale after the seedling has proved itself worthy of being added to the list of fine peonies. To be a Peony breeder, one should begin when he is 15 and live to be a hundred! Is it any wonder that there are fewer varieties of Peonies being developed than of flowers that can be bloomed from seed in two or three years, and fewer people breeding Peonies than there are breeding such flowers? Peony breeders must be real optimists and enthusiasts.

Choosing names for new varieties should be done with much careful consideration. It goes without saying that duplications in naming must be avoided and near duplications are nearly as bad. The names CHARM and RED CHARM are often confused although the former is a fine lactiflora of Japanese type and the latter the well known prize-winning hybrid. The function of the Society's Department of Registration is to maintain a check list so that names can be cleared and authorized. However, the avoidance of duplications is not the only consideration in choosing a name. The practice of naming a variety for a current hero or heroine can be a risky thing. When he first appeared on the politician horizon, Fidel

Castro was well thought of by most of us in the U.S. But it would have been a disaster to name a peony for him. Using the name of any controversial political personage as a variety name is likely to result in narrowing the market for that variety. I remember the visitor to my garden who was much attracted to Mrs. F. D. R. but canceled his order for it when he learned the name.

Using the name of a relative or dear friend does not always result in satisfaction either to the originator or the person so honored. Unless it proves to be a top-notch variety that does well in all areas, it may prove a dubious honor. I have always felt that it is regrettable the name **GEORGE W. PEYTON** was given to a variety which does poorly in many localities. A gold medal variety should bear that name. Overly long names should be avoided. One or two word names of two, not over three syllables, are more easily remembered and written. That fine variety, **MRS. LIVINGSTON FERRAND**, was not helped by the name.

Short descriptive names are probably the most desirable; but superlatives should be avoided. Such names as **RED CHARM**, **KRINKLED WHITE** and **SEA SHELL** are ideal. They are short, easily remembered and are briefly descriptive. **PAUL BUNYAN** says plainly to anyone familiar with the mythical giant of the north woods that it is a peony of huge size. Most, perhaps all, of the Japanese tree peonies bear descriptive names, but unfortunately they are not understood by those of us who do not know the Japanese language, and are difficult to remember; nor do they translate easily into short English names. I have always been intrigued by the imagination and ingenuity in the naming of the Saunders lutea hybrids (tree peonies): **ARGOSY**, **BLACK PIRATE**, **CORSAIR**, **SAVAGE SPLENDOR**, **DAMASK**, **GOLD DUST** and **GOLDEN ISLES**, to mention a few. They are unusual, but simple, short and easily remembered, and usually carry a hint of description.

What I have been trying to say is this: Flower lovers are continually on the quest of new and better things for their garden. The plant speciality people who do not cater to this desire for the new and unknown will find themselves and their flower lagging behind and losing out in popularity. Peony people are far behind certain others in the number of new varieties being developed and offered for sale. But it is unfair to say Peony people are not progressive, lack initiative or have little interest compared to other groups because the Peony does not lend itself to mass production. The time requirements for blooming seedlings, proving them and propagating in quantity rule out all those except the most ardent and the ones endowed with the most patience.

In naming a new variety, it should be kept in mind that a name can be either a help or a hindrance in popularizing it. Short, descriptive names are to be preferred. If it is a little out of the ordinary, so much the better. Names of people should be used with caution; never if they are too long or are harsh sounding. And it is risky to use the name of anyone in political life or any public personage who is at all controversial. Lastly, one should be very sure he has something really fine and outstanding if he names it for a relative or friend, lest it bring dishonor where honor is intended. But of course no Peony should ever be named and offered for sale unless it measures up to the highest standards, or has some very unique characteristic.

Our Slide Library

The American Peony Society is the proud possessor of a very fine Slide Library and indebted to our Mr. George W. Peyton for his many, many contributions as well as many other members. It has been a source of much pleasure to prepare the boxes for distribution to Clubs for programs. Since transferring the office to Van Wert we have sent slides to and from Minnesota, New-Mexico, Illinois, Kentucky and Canada. Added joy comes from the letters received from the persons renting the slides after they have used them.

Herewith a few quotes:

"Thank you so very much for your courtesy and expediency in sending the A.P.S. Slides. We have surely put them to good usage and enjoyed them thoroughly in our Garden Club Council." . . . Mrs. Edward S. Lewis, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This one from Harry Buckley, P.O. Box No. 35, Westervelt, Illinois, who is interested in Tree Peonies and would like to hear from our growers who sell Tree Peonies. "I am surprised so few pictures of tree peonies were in the set of slides, but what few there were were beautiful! Enjoyed the slides."

Miss Mary Cooke, Duluth, Minnesota, wrote "I am enclosing \$5.00 for rental of the Peony slides by the Duluth Peony and Iris Society. They were very much enjoyed." It is interesting to note we now have members from that area in our Society family. Could the slides have helped the membership committee?

Mrs. Glen Ropp, Glasgow, Kentucky, said in her letter "The slides came the day after you mailed them and I had such fun running them, trying to decide which ones to use and of course not to have duplications. This is the second time

I've used the Society Slides. I used them about three years ago and these are much better than the first ones I had. Thank you for answering my letter so promptly and also for the flattering request for my talk. However, I'm sure you wouldn't want casual small town exchange of successes and failures."

Now that's where you are wrong, Mrs. Ropp! We found your letter in answer delightful and are taking the liberty of sharing it with our members.

Dear Mrs. Pennell:

I can't tell you how very flattered I was about you asking for a copy of my talk. However, I'm quite sure you wouldn't want it for I'm quite amateurish; but as I told them in my talk, what I lack in knowledge, I make up in my enthusiasm.

I've been growing peonies for more than 20 years and still find them the most exciting thing in the world.

My garden club is an old one. Just recently two new clubs "After Five" and "Heritage" have been organized. I spoke to the After Five Club. They are all working women and to me the peony is a perfect plant for them. Why? Because, if properly planted and given a minimum amount of care (after five) they will give wonderful returns. I simply told them a bit about the history of the peony and my personal history with them. Five years ago we bought a very old home and restored it, but the first thing I did was move all my peonies.

I have about 125 plants but not more than 45 varieties. These Slides made me want so many new ones. However, I don't know a good source for Tree Peonies. I only have five and haven't been as lucky with them as the others.

The Christmas after we moved

into our old house my Garden Club had a Holiday House here. Our newspaper and publicity chairman kept saying you **must** name your house so we can print programs. Finally, I call it "Paeonia Place." My husband and children think that's very "corny," but I like it. These are the sort of things I told the After Five Club hoping to interest them in growing Peonies.

Sincerely,
Frances B. Ropp

We know that if we ever are near Glasgow, Kentucky, we will not miss the opportunity of stopping at Paeonia Place and meeting personally, Mrs. Glen Ropp, Secretary of The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc., who lives at 601 South Green Street.

. . . The Editor's Wife

NEW SLIDES FOR SOCIETY COLLECTION

Recent donations of slides for our Slide Library collection have been made as follows:

From Mr. Samuel E. Wissing:

605 Dwarf=No Laterals

Species Anomala

A. Woolcott

Burma Ruby

2nd Yr. Bloom Satan, formerly
Seedling 635

3rd Yr. Bloom Coral Charm, formerly
Seedling 640

1st Yr. Bloom Coral Supreme, formerly
Seedling 689

Debonaire Pink, formerly Seedling
636

Arthur Murawska Wins Again

Arthur L. Murawska, Bensenville, Illinois, one of our membership family was honored this year and we want you all to know about it. An article appeared in the Milwaukee Road magazine, May-June issue, 1964 of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad as well as his picture in the Chicago Tribune. We think the tribute to Mr. Murawska is deserving of mention in our Bulletin. The article was as follows:

"Under the heading of "Surburban Gardners Honored" retired Locomotive Engineer Arthur L. Murawska of Bensenville Yard broke into the news recently as one of three Chicagoland hybridizers who received "cream of show" awards for entries in the International exhibition held last summer in Hamburg, Germany. At a reception in the German consulate in Chicago which honored the competition winners, he was presented with a silver medal for the creation of a large and fragrant bicolor blue iris named City of Hamburg.

Art Murawska's success as a show exhibitor, which has been reported from time to time, is based on a long-range specialization program that has extended over most of his 50 years of service with the railroad. In gardening circles he is known as the originator of about 10 types of iris and 15 original peonies.

The more notable of his iris creations include Aladdin's Wish, a sweet scented type that takes precedence in gardens for the blind; the Princess Margaret, a large planting of which may be seen in the garden of the Queen Mother of England; and the unique salmon-colored Mary Mac-Arthur, named for the late daughter of the actress Helen Hayes. Among his prize winning peonies, outstanding varieties include the pink Liebchen, a rare single type, and the hybrid Moonstone, which won the coveted gold medal of the American Peony Society in 1959. In the course of a lifetime

of flower breeding he has donated many plants to public and private botanical gardens in both this country and abroad.

Since Mr. Murawska retired last September, practically all of his activities have centered on the cultivation of his beautiful three-acre garden on the Des Plaines River in suburban River Grove, Illinois. The iris section contains about 150 varieties, which he grows both as a hobby and for the commercial trade. Like gardeners everywhere, he likes to find homes for his surplus plants, and in addition to keeping his neighbors and former co-workers well supplied, he offers them to other amateur growers for the mere cost of handling and shipping (Milwaukee Roaders who are interested should write to or visit Mr. Murawska at 8740 Ridge Street, River Grove).

Gardening, as practiced by Art Murawska, is a painstaking pursuit of perfection. For instance, one of his long-time ambitions is the creation of a perfect yellow peony, a project which requires 20 years to bring to completion. In the pink family, new varieties he has to his credit include the Kate Smith, the Helen Hayes, and the Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. With time these days to follow his own traveling schedule, he plans to exhibit them, along with his famous Moonstone, at the National Peony Show in Grand Forks, N. D.

Flower lovers will have an opportunity to see his latest iris creation, City of Hamburg, at the National Iris Show in Chicago in June. As a prize winner in the international show, this plant has attracted worldwide interest among gardeners, including attention in the Iron Curtain countries. Among professional growers he had previously won recognition as the originator of Juneau, a large white iris which drew the record sale price of \$1,000, and which is now being established by the owner for presentation on the commercial market."

Congratulations . . . Mr. Murawska!

CALIFORNIA — WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Under date of September 16, 1964, a card was sent to Mr. George W. Peyton, former secretary, Rapidan, Virginia, and received in this office at a later date. The card and 25c were enclosed in an envelope postmarked Belmont, California, with request for a copy of The Handbook of the Peony. The card was signed by Mrs. Don George, State Chairman of Flower Show Schools. Mrs. George forgot, however, to put any return address either on the card or the envelope.

We sent a copy of the Bulletin to her at Belmont, California. The Bulletin was returned October 23, 1964 (return postage 10c), with

statement, insufficient address.

Will someone please send us the address of the California Garden Clubs, Inc., if there is an office, or the names and addresses of the officers? We have the 25c. We could not return it even if we had nothing to send in compliance with the request. Your help appreciated.

Mrs. Opal Hamilton, 4415 North Bartell Road, Oklahoma City 11, Oklahoma, was appointed Membership Chairman at the Annual Meeting of the Society held in Grand Forks, North Dakota, last June. This office is endeavoring to assist the new chairman in bringing our files up to date. Your assistance in giving us any change of address will also be appreciated.

1965 Williamsburg Garden Symposium

The 1965 Williamsburg Garden Symposium will be co-sponsored by Colonial Williamsburg and the American Horticultural Society according to an announcement issued today at the American Horticultural Congress in New York.

Speaking on behalf of the Society's 169 affiliated organizations, President Russell J. Seibert said, "We are delighted with this new sponsorship and look forward to a most fruitful partnership." Seibert further noted that such a cooperative venture furthers the purpose of the Society: "To accumulate, increase and disseminate horticultural information."

The 1965 event, to be held in this one-time colonial capital of Virginia, March 21-26, will combine 18 years of Symposium experience by Colonial Williamsburg officials and the experience of the Society's authorities.

Details of the five-day program were formulated by representatives of both organizations. The American Horticultural Society was represented by President Seibert; Dr. Donald Wyman, horticulturist of the Arnold Arboretum; and Harold Epstein, president emeritus of the American Rock Garden Society.

Colonial Williamsburg staff members who collaborated were: Edward P. Alexander, vice president and director of the Division of Interpretation; Alden Eaton, director of landscape construction and maintenance; and Donald H. Parker, landscape architect.

Open to both amateur and professional gardeners, the activities of the Symposium will center around the theme, "New Horizons in Horticulture." Participants will see slide-commentaries by 12 outstanding horticultural and landscape design specialists from greenhouse

management to the raising of orchids. On the practical side, clinics will offer solutions to individual gardening problems, and experts will give demonstrations.

"New Horizons in Horticulture", theme for the Symposium (don't forget the dates are March 21-26) draws to the platform as Landscape Architect Brooke E. Wigginton, FASLA of Wheeling, W. Va., who will speak on "Wither Garden Design"; Oscar T. Eichman, soil consultant, Huntington Station, N. Y., "Soil Preparation and Fertility"; Donald Wyman, horticulturist at the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass., "Low Maintenance Gardening"; Charles W. Cares, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Michigan speaking on "Let's Improve Our Public Gardens", and many others.

For further information write Mrs. Mary B. Deepe, registrar, Williamsburg Garden Symposium, Post Office Box C, Williamsburg Va.

The 90 gardens in Colonial Williamsburg's 132-acre Historic Area — varying from the elaborate 10-acre formal layout at the Governor's Palace to small herb plots — will serve as an appropriate setting for the conference. Special tours will also take visitors behind-the-scenes to see Colonial Williamsburg's extensive garden and planting operations.

Additional special features will be the showing of the winners of the American Horticultural Society's Horticultural Film Festival. Visitors will also preview the new Colonial Williamsburg film, **The Colonial Naturalist**, based on the Williamsburg adventures of English plant and animal artist Mark Catesby.

The 19th annual Symposium, one

of the educational events of the Williamsburg Forum Series, will be held in the new Williamsburg Conference Center, adjacent to the Historic Area. Further information may be obtained from Mrs. Mary B. Deppe, registrar, Williamsburg Garden Symposium, Post Office Box C, Williamsburg, Virginia.

How about a slogan for 1965? Here's one we offer: "Peonies for Preference." Send your slogan along. Let's come up with a good one for the 1965 Annual Meeting and Exhibition. We will have a nice award for the best slogan.

* * * *

Is there someone's name on your Christmas list to whom you could send a membership in the American Peony Society?

We are receiving so many inquiries about Tree Peonies. We feel the American Peony Society is quite fortunate to have several members who can speak with authority on the subject and the Editor is indeed grateful for your articles. In the June-September issue we carried articles by three contributors, Leo J. Armatys, Anthony J. DeBlasi and Louis Smirnow. We should have told you that Mr. Smirnow's article was reprinted from *The Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, Vol. LXXVIII Part 6, etc. We received permission from Mr. Smirnow to use the article and even though he said it was "not necessary to note it had appeared in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*" we think it a compliment and are taking the liberty of telling you about it.

Happy New Year!!!

Reading, seeing, planning and preparing — all this comprises the January calendar. There are many good garden books for January reading. Especially Arno and Irene Nehrling's *Peonies Outdoors and In*, and our own handbook. Don't let the weather dispel your plan to walk around the garden this month. Maybe you'll find a spot where the mulch has blown away, and you'll certainly be surprised to find something that's sure to bring pleasure to you.

If you cannot draw a garden plan, surely you have something in mind to improve your garden next summer, maybe a new outdoor living room area with a new planting of peonies and iris to be included in your landscape in the future.

If you live on the west coast we are sure you will be busy sowing your last planting of poppies, snap dragons, *Scabiosa*, annual chrysanthemums and many other seeds as well as transplanting a number of your perennials.

Someone has told us that the New Orleans Garden Society suggested January as the best time for the beds to be spaded so that the clods may be mellowed by the frost. The southern gardeners are fortunate to have many blooming plants at this time of the year.

February will be here before we know it and our Bulletin will be going to press again so that you may receive it the first of March or soon after. Don't forget to prune your grapevines if you live northward. If you have planted evergreens in your window boxes remember they need water even in freezing weather. You will be aware of the mice and rabbits around your fruit trees if you haven't protected the trees with wire netting or painted the trunks with sulphonated oil.

Peony Queen!!!

The following letter was forwarded and reached our desk today. Through the cooperation of our printer we are able to include it in our December Bulletin. We feel every member and advertiser receiving the Bulletin is entitled to the thrill of the message this letter contains, therefore we print it in its entirety!

November 16, 1964

THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
Box 1
Rapidan, Virginia
U.S.A.

Attn: Mr. George W. Peyton

Dear Sir:

During a summer visit to Europe last June I was shocked by the beauty of a surprising flower of inefable splendor. I was caught by it first in Vienna, then in Paris, then in Rome and, afterwards in every great city in the Continent. It was the fashion to display it and let it catch the eyes and sensibility of people. Awed by its singular form and shape and contexture, I was even more surprised at the discovery of a name very familiar to me in the Chinese and English poetry; PEONY, suggestive of delicate, feminine beauty, of love and nostalgia . . .

That experience has proved to be true to its meaning for no matter the months passed since my semantic discovery I have not been able to forget the flower and the impression it produced on me.

Those are the reasons for this letter. I am asking for your help to get in touch with professional producers of such marvelous flower. I think we could buy several hundreds of diverse varieties, maybe thousands if the price is available to our resources. We have already four acres of greenhouses in our farms in Galeras de Colon, Queretaro, and we are starting to ship roses to Mexico City — where I do live and where I would very much appreciate to receive your answer.

Can it be that we receive prompt attention in our asking of such a great favor?

Please accept my compliments and allow me to subscribe as your friend and servant.

Very truly,
Alfredo Kawage Ramia

Flores 442 Tlacopac
Mexico 20, D.F.
M E X I C O

EDITOR'S COMMENT: We must all continue to urge "City Fathers" to see that the Peony has its rightful place in all civic plantings!

The Editor

Would a copy of the Bulletin @ 50c be a nice "stocking stuffer" for the fireplace mantel on Christmas morning? We're thinking of the owner of the stocking being a GARDEN and a PEONY LOVER!

Remember to turn to page 36 of the June-September and this Bulletin where there is a list of publications for Sale—any one or all of those listed would make ideal Christmas gifts.

FATHER — NOT SON

Apologies to you Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., for confusing you with your fine son Robert! We had a memo sent us that the Board of Directors voted Gold Medal Certificates to you for the many fine introductions over the years — to Walter Mains for hybridizing and George W. Peyton for long service to the society.

We would like the membership to know that Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., was 83 years old in September and that he retired in 1963. He originated and named about 275 different varieties of peonies. His son Robert W. Auten, started as a research chemist with the Rohm & Haas Chemical Co., of Philadelphia. "After about 25 years there he was an assistant director of research, but was asked to move to Tokyo to head his company's operations in all of the Far East not communist. This includes Japan, South Korea, Formosa, Hong Kong, Phillipines and Thailand." Mr. Auten continues, regarding his son — "He was never especially interested in flowers, but one Summer about 1931 or 1932, while still a student at Illinois, I put him to work one busy afternoon polenizing. I had found that the full double LeMoine variety Marie Lemoine had a few narrow yellow petals in the center what had swollen edges. So I told Robert to split those yellow lumps carefully with his thumbnail, and put any pollen he got on the best white Jap type from Japan, Isani Gidui, very fine bloom on an unsatisfactory plant. He got enough pollen that the total yield was three seeds, but we got just exactly what we wanted, a top notch yellow center, darker than most white Japs, and on a fine plant. This I named Moon of Nippon, and it is one of the three best of the 70 new white

Japs I raised from seed. Robert did a little other work that day, and I may have saved three or four others that he had worked on, of different parentage. While he was doing this pollenizing a visitor gave him a big bawling out for not using camels hair brush, when as a matter of fact those few grains of pollen would have been lost forever in a brush. I often spread pollen with knife blade.

Now I already have a gold plated medal of the Society dated May 28, 1950, "For outstanding work in hybridizing peonies" and I wonder whether I am entitled to a second medal or certificate — but must say some of my finest stuff came after 1950."

The Board of Directors are appreciative of your progress in the past 14 years Mr. Auten and since this is the way in which recognition can be rewarded by the Society, you are to receive a second gold plated medal dated June 26th, 1964. Not only the entire membership of the American Peony Society is proud — the town of Princeville, Illinois, should be proud of your fine contribution to the finest therapy in the world today — aiding Mother Nature in giving beauty to the landscape through developing finer blooms.

—The Editor

1965 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

Please note — Membership DUES are due for 1965. The fiscal year is January 1st, to December 31st. We have been earnestly endeavoring to bring our membership files up to date. To all of you who forgot to send in your 1964 dues until recently, we thank you! We also express our appreciation for including with them your 1965 dues.

State Convention O.A.G.C.

The following letter was received from the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs relative to the State Convention of that organization:

The American Peony Society
107½ West Main Street
Van Wert, Ohio
Dear Sir:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and your Society for the response to my request for pamphlets and information regarding the activities of your organization.

I received the material and it was incorporated in the Educational display at our State Convention of the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs at the Biltmore Hotel in Dayton, Ohio, August 13th and 14th. This display was put in the lobby of the Hotel and not only was much interest shown by the delegates and members attending the Convention, but also by the hotel guests and the many visitors from the Dayton area.

I am sure that the people in the gardening world will profit by increased knowledge from the display and you will reap benefits from their newly awakened interest in peonies.

Very truly yours,
Ohio Association of Garden Clubs
Mrs. F. R. Schuster
Coordinating Chairman of Educational Displays

R. R. 1, Box 586
Vandalia, Ohio

P.S. I talked to Mr. Denlinger and enjoyed it so much. He was quite a bit of help and I referred several people to him. The Staging Committee was kind enough to fix a rack for the display. Thanks so much.

1965 CHICAGO FLOWER SHOW

The 1965 Chicago Flower Show will be held March 20 to 28 in McCormick Place. Frank Dubinsky, managing director, has announced that many of the feature gardens will have an international aspect.

The Show is being designed again by Harold O. Klopp of Arlington Heights, landscape architect who designed the previous seven shows. Bruce Krasberg, of Winnetka, Illinois, an industrialist and amateur gardener, was elected president of the Chicago Flower and Garden Show Corporation. He succeeds W. A. P. Pullman of Lake Forest, president of the Horticultural so-

ciety; a past president of the Men's Garden Club of America and a former director of the American Horticultural Society. Mr. Krasberg will be assisted on the executive Board by Mrs. Lawrence McClure of Highland Park, vice-president; Robert P. Wintz, of Hinsdale, vice-president and treasurer, and Lorentz B. Knouff of Barrington, secretary. Directors to the corporation include Fred Byington, Jr., of Glencoe; Dr. R. Milton Carleton of Hinsdale; Irving W. Colburn of Lake Forest; Mrs. Albert D. Farwell of Lake Forest; Mrs. C. Kenneth Hunter of Barrington; Mrs. S. Austin Pope of River Forest; Lewis J. West of Wilmette, and W. A. P. Pullman of Lake Forest.

1965 Annual Meeting And Show

I wish to report at this time that plans for our next regular meeting of the American Peony Society and Show are coming along in good shape. I have met with the manager of the Lake Mohawk Country Club and everything is in order so far as the Club is concerned. I am waiting for a date for a meeting with the President of the Ladies Flower Group to pick a date that is satisfactory to both our group and theirs. So far as I can say at this time the Show will be June 18th and 19th, 1965, providing directors and all concerned are in agreement. I think that a good many of our members who attended the show at Lake Mohawk in 1952 still remember the fine atmosphere and surroundings of the Club House where the Show is to be staged.

Sincerely,
Frank L. Howell, President

Peonies In Small Areas

For three and one-half years, your Associate Editor conducted a fifteen minute radio program on a local station, entitled Garden Club. It was during this experience she became acutely aware of the growing need to be of assistance to the many persons purchasing ranch type houses on small lots.

Turning one day to the book shelf the writer remembered the delightful book "Peonies in the Little Garden", written by Mrs. Edward Harding. Alice Harding, as she will always be remembered, wrote the first book The Book of the Peony, so it was said. This book created a great interest in the beautiful peony.

Mrs. Harding always stated that "the little garden offered opportunities for affectionate understanding between the gardener and his work, not always in the possession of the owner of a large estate — that no garden can really be too small to hold a peony — and that if she had "four square feet of ground at my disposal, I would plant a peony in the center and proceed to worship." One day after a visit to Anne Hathaway's cottage as she was walking back toward Stratford on Avon she saw what she termed was one of the most amazingly interesting little

gardens — literally eight by eight feet. One peony — a large plant — coupled with talk bearded iris and yellow blooms of St. John's-wort gave the owner much joy, as well as the passerby.

Winnipeg, Canada, adopted the peony as its civic flower — 42 years ago and started a campaign to plant a peony in every garden and yard. Thousands of roots were planted.

The peony — long-lived in every little or big garden — is ideal for civic planting.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Our Address was:

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Change to:

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.....

When getting your holly wreath be sure it is from the female holly tree.

DO YOU USE STEEL EDGING?

We should ask, how do you edge your lawn and flower gardens? Do you have the problem of having your ground cover usurping increased areas of your lawn?

We asked if you have used steel edging? Of course you can use almost anything providing it is substantial material, such as brick, wood, steel or concrete block. However, it would seem that a steel edging, which would be flexible enough so that you could bend it into tight curves, might be very practical and last a long time. What do you think?

WE NEED BACK COPIES

Anyone having the first published report of the Society — willing to contribute to the Society's office files will certainly be blessed by the officers. We only have one copy of Bulletin No. 15 and No. 16 and would appreciate these.

WANTED: The following early issues of the American Peony Society Bulletin: Nos. 1-12-59. Will pay cash or give herbaceous hybrid peonies in exchange . . . Leo J. Armatys, Box 598, Central City, Nebraska 68826.

May the holiday season be a most happy one for you and yours.

West Virginia forests were closed in November to all persons except those on authorized business until "climatic conditions permit the reopening of the forests" according to a directive issued by National Resources Director Warden Lane. The forest closure stemmed from the fire situation, particularly in the southern part of the state.

Southern Indiana forest trees were ravaged by fires spreading over vast areas. We understand there were many severely damaged areas throughout the country.

Praise For Mr. Peyton

The following excerpt from a letter written the Editor by Arno H. Nehrling, Director of Exhibitions, Massachusetts Horticultural Society — "We were very pleased to read "Our Hats Are Off To You . . . George W. Peyton" in the June-September issue of the Bulletin. We can't begin to thank or praise Mr. Peyton enough for the assistance and cooperation he gave us while we were writing our book "Peonies Outdoors and In" and his knowledge was endless."

GOING ABROAD?

Are you planning a trip abroad and if so planning to attend any shows or botanical symposiums? If so, please write us so we may share your experiences with the members of this Society.

Will member Clubs and Societies send us the names of your officers? We would enjoy increasing our acquaintances in the flower-loving populace, for we are sure there are many who have the knowledge, know-how or whatever you wish to call it in knowing and growing of peonies, to whom we would like to turn in request for sharing with others their experiences.

Watch for that gravity defying Nuthatch at your feeding station.

Dr. D. S. Hyde, Obstetrician Dies At Home

(Taken from The Chicago Tribune)



Dr. D. Stanford Hyde

Dr. D. Sanford Hyde, an Obstetrician living on Bonnie Brae, River Forest, died May 24th in his home after a three month illness.

Dr. Hyde, 62, a River Forest resident for the past 13 years, was born in Park City, Utah. He obtained a B.A. Degree from Mt. Carroll University, Helena, Montana, a B.S. Degree from the University of Chicago and a Medical Degree from Northwestern University. He was on the staff of both Lutheran Deaconess Hospital, Chicago and Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge.

A veteran of World War I, Dr. Hyde's hobby was growing peonies. He won three Grand Champion Awards, 1954 Minneapolis, 1955-Chicago, and 1960-Van Wert, Ohio.

Surviving is his wife, Hertha; a daughter Jane and a son Fred, both at home; two brothers, Edward E. Hyde of Chile, and Frank W. Hyde of Leesburg, Va.; and two sisters, Mrs. Martha Johnson of Los Angeles, Calif., and Mrs. Altha Gerleman of Seattle, Wash.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 27th at the Drechsler Funeral Home with the Rev. Lloyd Osness, Chaplain of Lutheran Deaconess Hospital officiating.

THE DOCTOR

A Tribute From His Wife

I feel rich in having had him rather than poor in having lost him. In Dr. Hyde's life his new-born babies came first, his flower babies next, and then his family. I always kidded him about this but since we had arms and legs we could do for ourselves.

He was a most devoted man to The American Peony Society and had the greatest admiration for the wonderful work our "Mr. Peony Society"—that is Mr. George W. Peyton, did for the Society. Dr. and George used to have a great time joshing each other.

When a show was scheduled, his only thoughts were that it be the best ever, if he could help make it so. Doctor enjoyed a show where there was keen competition. His only vacations were the shows.

In going through one of the desk drawers I found the envelope from Mr. Karrels containing the two white ribbons Doctor had won at the show in Milwaukee in 1947. This was the first show he had ever attended; and at that time we had about two dozen peonies (half of them misnamed). After meeting all of the peony enthusiasts at that show he was a confirmed exhibitor. Doctor certainly loved his flowers.

We both enjoyed all of the Peony Society meetings and the many, many friends we met while attending them.

—Hertha L. Hyde

We enjoyed knowing you and Dr. Hyde, Mrs. Hyde. Both my wife and I had an opportunity to observe the tremendous enthusiasm of both of you when exhibiting. We well remember your driving in very, very late the night before opening of the Van Wert Exhibition—and the way in which you both worked to help make the show the tremendous success it was.

The picture of Dr. Hyde, the last one taken of him—was taken at the Van Wert Show.

—The Editor

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the year 1965 be the best year of all years for the Peony growers and all gardeners, amateur, professional and commercial! In other words, we hope Santa Claus is good to each of you and yours!

The finest birthday gift we could give Mr. George W. Peyton would be a total membership figure of 1,000 new members. Let's set our goal to give him this for his 91st birthday gift in 1965?

* * * *

Plan Now To Attend And Exhibit Your Blooms
At The 1965 Annual Show And Meeting
Of The American Peony Society

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Peonies In The Garden And In The House

In our December, 1963, issue you read about the review of the Nehrling's book about peonies appearing in a bulletin "The New Books Abroad" and written by Alexander V. Astrov, Head of the Exchange Division of Main Botanical Garden of U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, Moscow 276, Botanicheskaya Street 4. In view of the fact this is timely when selecting books for Christmas sharing, we are pleased to include in this issue that review sent to our former Secretary under Mr. Astrov's heading Peonies in the Garden and in the House.

. . . The Editor

Advances in the selection of flower-decorative plants for the last quarter of a century have afforded the opportunity to cultivate in gardens plants of a beauty not seen earlier. The book under review acquaints (us) with achievements abroad in this province in the case of peonies — one of the most important flower cultures. It is the most extensive work on peonies in American horticultural literature for the last 40 years.

At the beginning of the book is cited interesting information from the history of the culture of peonies (chap. 1), beginning with ancient Greece and Rome, and then in China, England, France and the U.S.A. However, this historical survey suffers from incompleteness: absent is information on the history of the culture of the peony in the U.S.S.R. and many other countries.

The classification of peonies (chap. 2) is set forth quite fully and at the same time simply. This, first of all, is a botanical classification of the genus *Paeonia*, where are indicated all three of this group: herbaceous (*P. lactiflora*, *P. officinalis*), aborescent (*P. suffruticosa*, *P. arborea*) and the subgenus *Onaepia* having no significance in floriculture. Then there follows a clear and laconic morphological description of the blossom and the other parts of the plant and, finally, is given a classification of the garden forms of the peony according to the type of blossom. There are five such types: 1) with simple not double blossoms, 2: Japanese type with modified stamens, partially or totally devoid of pollen (so called staminoids), 3) anemone, 4) semi-double, 5) double. For each type is cited a detailed characteristic, illustrated with drawings and photographs, are shown characteristic sorts, their coloration and decorative qualities. Noted are the excellent features of the aborescent peonies, both morphological as well as according to their demands for the conditions of culture.

The geographical survey of the culture of peonies in the U.S.A. could be utilized also in our conditions in the growing of peonies in regions with an analogous climate.

(63) The authors rightly note that in the corresponding selection of sorts and kinds and care for the plants peonies can flower at least in the course of eight weeks. Illustrating this position the authors cite a list of kinds and forms of peonies according to the periods of their flowering, beginning with the earliest (*P. tenuifolia*, *P. Wittmanniana*) and up to the latest to flower (*P. lactiflora*). Right here (chap. 3) there is a very useful calendar of garden works, connected with the culture of peonies.

Part II of the book is devoted to a description of herbaceous peonies. Very interesting is chapter four, in which is examined the disposition of

peonies in the garden, a combination of plantings with the landscape, relief, construction, the utilization of peonies for the borders along foot-paths, avenues and public roads, the plantings of peonies before groups of shrubs and, finally, the selection of other perennials accompanying peonies with the aim of the creation of prolonged flowering. In the special chapter five briefly are characterized the sorts of peonies, recommended for various purposes and for different regions.

A survey of hybrid sorts is inserted in chapter six. Here briefly is set forth the history of the creation of the first European sorts of peonies and in more detail is told about the works and achievements of American selectionists. The number of American hybrid sorts is very high and at the present time constitutes a very big list of peonies with great diversity of coloration.

In chapter seven it is told briefly how to set out new plantings, how to select planting material and a place for planting, how to prepare the soil, when and how to transplant peonies. Chapter eight contains indispensable information about care for plantings. In chapter nine are enumerated disease and pests and are indicated measures for their control.* Chapter 10 is devoted to the propagation of peonies; in it is included interesting material about the winter and the early spring forcing of the colors.

In Part III are characterized the adorescent peonies. Long age known in China and Japan, from time immemorial they have been enjoyed there with great love and have served as a poetical symbol of spring. In chapter 12 are examined the origins and differences of two basic types of adorescent peonies — varieties introduced at the end of the XVIIIth cent. in Western Europe from China, with double blossoms and with stems drooping under the weight of blossoms, and Japanese varieties with straight-standing stems and usually simple or semi-double blossoms. The authors consider that the Japanese arborescent peonies are less sensitive to damage by frost and flower more abundantly than the sorts of the Europe-Chinese type. Indicated are the botanical kinds, constituting these groups: **P. suffruticosa**, **P. delawayi**, **P. lutea**. The last kind, crossed with (64) **P. suffruticosa**, gave the start to a series of hybrid sorts with yellow and orange colors.

The hybrid sorts of arborescent peonies were first obtained by V. Lemoine in France at the end of the XIXth cent., then A. P. Saunders continued this work in the U.S.A. They created new, improved sorts, increased the periods of the flowering of peonies, broadened the diversity of their coloration.

In chapter 13 is told about the possibilities of the utilization of the arborescent peonies in gardens: there are cited examples of plantings on hilly, level or terraced lots, etc., there is communicated a great enumeration of trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and annuals, recommended for plantings together with herbaceous peonies. In the short chapter 14-16 are given valuable recommendations for the arrangement of new plantings of arborescent peonies and their care, pest and disease control,* propagation by cuttings and graftings, and the growing from seeds.

In chapter 17 are described the sorts of arborescent peonies, grouped according to types (Europe-Chinese, Japanese and hybrid sorts); there is cited an enumeration of the 82 most widely distributed sorts.

In Part IV of the book is collected material about the application of peonies for the design of social and living accommodations.

The special chapters 20 and 21 introduce the reader to a range of questions, connected with techniques and conditions of the cutting and the keeping of cut, live blossoms and the drying of them for the making up of winter bouquets; characterized are the best sorts of herbaceous and arborescent peonies for cutting.

The method of management of flower shows in the U.S.A. is elucidated in chapter 22. The organization of shows, the classification of displays, the disposition of material in the guise of collections and of separate specimens, the keeping of fresh cutting, the scale of ratings, the judging — all these features are reflected quite clearly.

The book is well illustrated. One cannot help mentioning the highly useful appendices, making up Part V. Here we find lists of 33 private and 25 public gardens of the U.S.A. and Canada with brief characteristics of the collections of peonies there gathered and an enumeration of 61 nurseries for the raising of peonies. In the same part there is placed a list of registered sorts of peonies, numbering 1,300 names, with brief information about each of them. The alphabetical index, found at the end of the book permits one to orientate himself in it easily.

The book, undoubtedly, merits the attention of specialists, working in the field of decorative horticulture, landscape architecture, and garden building. The considerable and many-sided material gathered in it, the clear construction, the great number of clear practical counsels — all this is its (65) great value. It, undoubtedly, will be read with profit by workers in botanical gardens, selectionists, and amateur-floriculturists.

A. V. Astrov

* Lit., "measures of the struggle with them."

* Lit., "struggle with pests and diseases."

A Letter To The Members

It is my painful duty as Treasurer to report to you that our Society is in serious financial difficulty. Our expenses since June first, the beginning of our fiscal year, have exceeded our income and exhausted the treasury. No organization or business can function long without funds. The financial position of the Society has been deteriorating for several years. The normal income from membership dues, sale of literature, registration fees and advertising has not been sufficient to pay the expenses of publishing the Bulletin and maintaining the secretary's office.

We have managed to make up the deficit by having a root auction each year at the annual meeting. Growers have been most generous in donating roots and members in attendance have bought them at good prices. Although we had a very successful auction at the Grand Forks meeting this year, it was not enough. Much extra expense was incurred when we were forced to move the office from Rapidan, Virginia, to Van Wert, Ohio. All expenses from postage to printing have increased. Income from memberships must be increased. It is cold comfort to know that several other plant societies are having similar troubles.

The question is what to do — what can be done to save the Society? For a time it seemed doubtful that we could print this Bulletin. Then several of the directors came through with generous contributions. I am sure that every member is most anxious to have the Society continue to live and function. Without it, how could we keep informed of peony events

and peony people? How would we know about new varieties as they are developed and offered to peony lovers? And a thing we often overlook which is of the greatest importance to both buyers and sellers, there would be no agency to maintain a check list and authorize the naming of new varieties. Without the Society's registration service, there would soon be a hopeless confusion of duplicate and near-duplicate names and inaccurate descriptions. I am hopeful and optimistic for the future. Our new secretary, C. Dan Pennell and his wife Catharine, are capable people and are undertaking their work with tremendous enthusiasm. They believe they can make a go of it, and they deserve the opportunity to try. If we can pull through this crisis, next year's dues will soon begin to come in and give us some working capital.

The future of the Society is up to you, the members. If you want to keep it alive, there are several things you can do immediately, and at least one which should be a long range, continuing action. First, you can give the Society a cash Christmas present. So reach for your check book immediately and write the check before that Christmas account is depleted. As mentioned previously, several of the directors, with President Howell leading the way, have made very generous donations. Second, you can send your 1965 dues in early. Third, pay up any back dues or advertising bills that are in arrears. If memberships are renewed and all bills paid without reminders by the secretary, there is a considerable saving in postage as well as time.

Then, beginning now and as a continuing effort, get others to join our ranks. We are getting new members all the time, but not enough. The loss by death and drop-out has been somewhat greater. If each of you would get one new member, our financial problems would be solved and the future assured.

Send your donations to me and your membership dues to the secretary. Make the checks to the American Peony Society.

W. A. Alexander, Treasurer,
145 Eberly Avenue
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Let's Teach Our Children

Introducing youngsters to the miracle created by seeds is the best way to instill the love of gardening for the growers of tomorrow. Mothers, have them pot a few citrus seeds this winter, then watch them slowly sprout and grow into small trees. Seeds of grapefruit, lemons, tangerines and oranges will germinate in a few days between layers of damp blotting paper, after which they can be planted directly in pots. Select only the plumpest seeds for the experiment, set about an inch

below soil level in deep pots to accommodate the long tap-like root. Add a little leaf mold to the potting soil. Several seeds may be planted in a six-inch pot, and when each has produced several leaves, transplant into individual containers. They will tolerate some shade but full sun will insure better development.

Then in the spring take the youngsters out into the garden and introduce them to the Peony. Have them watch that plant grow — enuf said ! ! !

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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. 144 Pages Herbaceous peonies; 69 pages tree peonies. Many black and white illustrations and line drawings. Order direct from publishers.

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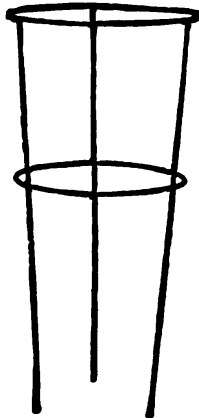
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