

American Peony Society Bulletin

JUNE-SEPTEMBER, 1970 — NO. 197



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A. P. Saunders — Lutea Hybrid



AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

107½ W. Main St.,
Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Area Code 419-232-0861

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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 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 exhibitions, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefore 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 for membership.

Annual dues are \$7.50. The year begins January 1st and ends December 31st.

Applicants for membership should send check or money order payable to the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY, c/o Secretary, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances.

THE BULLETIN

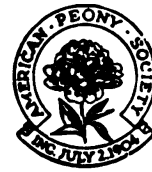
The AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN is issued quarterly. Issues of back years \$1.00 each, to members when available. \$2.00 to non-members.

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 Chas. D. Pennell, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Fee is now raised to \$10.00 for each variety registered.



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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Mr. W. G. (Gus) Sindt

It is with deep appreciation of your confidence in me that I start this term as the president of your American Peony Society. I feel very humble to be following some of the great peony personalities that have served as president. I am not a hybridizer, I am not a commercial grower, I do not have a large garden with hundreds of varieties, but I do like the peony and enjoy exhibiting and promoting it whenever and wherever I can. As a member of this organization I know you all share this enthusiasm and although we may differ in our approach to this beautiful flower, we have much in common.

Each of you is a vital part of the American Peony Society and I hope will take an active role in the matters of the society. Suggestions for any type of improvement or increased service to you its members will always be acceptable. Please do write to me with your ideas. We need them.

Plans for the next year are already under way. The annual show and meeting will be held in Southdale Center, Edina, (Minneapolis) Minnesota, June 19 and 20, 1971. It is hoped that this may become a full two day program that will have interest for all who attend. A meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Van Wert, Ohio, October 16, 17, 18 this year. Plans for the show and other society affairs will be discussed. If you have any suggestions, please write me before the above date.

Perhaps you would like to know a bit about me. I am a quality control supervisor at 3 M Company in St. Paul, Minnesota. We have a son with a theological degree who is studying for his master's degree in Social Work at the University of Michigan. Our daughter lives with her husband and small son at Bloomington, Indiana, where her husband is on the faculty at Indiana University. Peonies, iris, and glads are my favorite flowers. My wife, Charlotte, shares my interest in flowers and has accompanied me to a number of national shows and participated in the artistic section of the show.

Roy Klehm did a tremendous job in setting up the show in Chicago this year. Thanks a lot, Roy, and I hope that we in Minnesota can make our guests feel as welcome in 1971.

Again may I say that if you have any suggestions for the good of the society, please write them to me. If you don't—write anyhow and I promise a letter in return.

My friends call me Gus.



HYBRIDIZING WORKSHOP A-GROWING

By Silvia Saunders

Whereas the Hybridizing Workshop audience a year ago at Mansfield had numbered about 25, mostly members of the Society, the Workshop this past June at the Morton Arboretum must have had 40 in its audience, of whom not more than half were known to me. So we are expanding, there seems no doubt about that.

David Reath was the leader this year. With him were Dr. Robert Griesbach who was to be our Banquet Speaker that evening, Orville Fay of "hem" fame, and Roy Pehrson of Mankato, who is acting as Instructor of our new Hybridists' Newsletter.

With this team at the helm, and this larger audience, it was obvious that the discussion would move on into advanced material almost from the start. And it did. After David Reath had described the act of pollinizing, using both single and double blooms, some in bud, some open, the use of the small water-color brush, containers for pollen, etc. Roy Pehrson rose and described his own methods and tools: the little finger instead of "that good-for-nothing brush", and small film-cans rather than Reath's little plastic boxes. I felt right off that a discussion such as this is of the highest usefulness, for it illustrates as nothing else can, that different workers, even expert ones, have widely differing tools and methods of work; with the implication that any one of us might discover a method or a tool that would be better yet; the field is wide open for experimentation and discovery.

Reath then handed out small pieces of paper on which the audience were invited to write questions for the panel. These were varied and interesting, and showed that we had indeed moved forward a long way since Mansfield. To the question: "Is there a display of the Ito Hybrids in the Show?" the answer was "Yes, one bloom in a vase just near the entrance door." This gave rise to a discussion of these hybrids. Dr. Griesbach remarked that they were all probably diploids and probably sterile. From this the talk went on to chromosomes. The use of root tips rather than the anthers, for the counting of chromosomes, then on to the doubling of chromosomes by the use of colchicine. If the root tip is dipped in colchicine, the roots will develop double the number of chromosomes, and any adventitious buds that are formed along these roots will also have their chromosomes doubled. This is the shorter way of doing this. Triploids whose roots are treated thus will become hexaploids.

Question: "Is there an exhibit of flowers in the show whose chromosomes have been doubled?" Answer: "No; that would be an interesting exhibit for some hybridist to bring to

the Show another year." Question: "Are such alternations permanent?" Answer: "Yes." There followed a consideration of the crossing of two distantly related plants without using the blooms at all. It was agreed that we should double the chromosomes of as many peonies as possible.

Someone pointed out that a plant (even a full "bomb" double peony) that is in serious difficulties will often take on added fertility. Example: a plant that is choked by weeds; a recently transplanted division; over-large clumps; a plant that has suffered an injury; that is in a poor spot in the garden; suffering from poor nutrition; drought; tree competition, or a plant whose first sprouts in spring have been cut off—in other words, when a plant

feels it may die, it redoubles its efforts to keep its race alive.

Most species are diploids. A few are tetraploids. Triploids are man-made; in nature, they are few and short-lived. There is one triploid species in *hemerocallis*; a very vigorous one. And one in lilies, *Tigridium*, but these are the rare exceptions to the rule.

The latent possibilities in the peony are tremendous. Almost, one might say, unlimited. The peony is a very ancient and primitive plant, that has remained almost untouched by man.

Note: will someone kindly write an article for this Bulletin on the Peony as a "Primitive" plant? I never understood the full meaning of this.

ARBORETUMS—A LINK WITH TIME

The Morton Arboretum, located at Lisle, Illinois, site of the 1970 June Peony Show, is an outdoor museum of living woody plants. Historically, this Arboretum was founded in 1922 by Joy Morton, eldest son of J. Sterling Morton, originator of Arbor Day.

How true it is that an Arboretum can be a link with Time, for this one certainly is true to the physical definition. The name "arboretum" comes from the Latin *arbor*, meaning tree and *etum*, a suffix added to noun stems to designate the place of a thing, thus together meaning "the tree place" or where trees grow. One was immediately instilled upon entering the grounds with a feeling of calm and being at peace with the world. It has been said that an Arboretum shares many traits in common with other institutions, particularly museums of all types, including zoological gardens, botanical gardens, and nature reservations.

We are aware of this for it has come to our attention due to correspondence from Arboretums through-

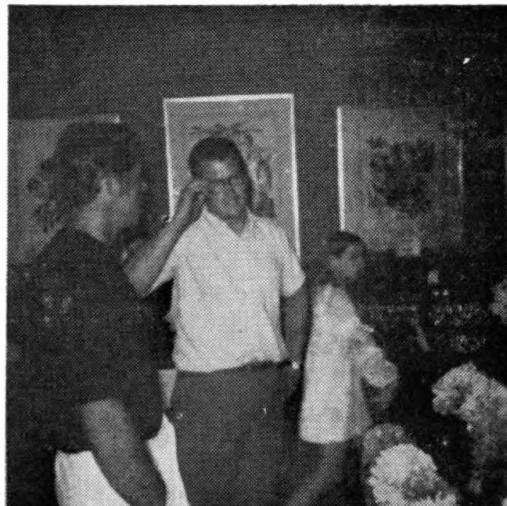
out the country. There has become a great deal of interest in collecting and preserving, not only what is already in existence, but rare native plants from all parts of the world. The Peony is becoming recognized as a very important flower, due to the plant history, but because of the efforts of many in hybridizing.

The Thornhill Conference Center facilities were more than adequate. The spaciousness of the show room, coupled with the splendid cooperation between the Morton Arboretum staff, Roy Klehm, General Chairman, and his staff from the Charles Klehm & Son Nurseries, were key factors in the staging and excellence of the show.

The Directors and all members in attendance are grateful to Mr.

Marion T. Hall, Director, who graciously extended the use of Godshalk Hall, for the Directors meetings and Workshop, the Amphitheater, near the Outpost, for the root auction. Miss Carol Doty, staff editor, was a charming and helpful hostess.

We hope it may be possible for the American Peony Society to return someday and stage another annual show. This was the first flower show to be held in the Arboretum and we are sure it will not be the last. Final attendance figures were well over two thousand on Sunday alone.



JUDGING IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS

The National Peony Show has long been recognized as a place where new varieties are exhibited and tested for show quality. Not only were the varieties of good quality this year but the staging of the show excellent due to the spaciousness of the surroundings.



Judging is a serious business. The Chief Judge was heard many times to announce to the judges, over the speaker system—"Time and the public are demanding your pushing to complete your work". However, the hundreds of visitors patiently waiting on the outside of the Thornhill building, exemplified that old saying "patience is a virtue". Oh's and ah's were heard repeatedly as they

pressed forward for a glimpse, through the floor to ceiling windows of the entrance way, the green carpeted three tiered tables where the entries arrangements of beautiful blooms awaited their closer scrutiny.

954 persons availed themselves of an opportunity to name the peony bloom they most admired; also their second choice bloom. This was a remarkable number of the more than 2,000 persons visiting the show on Sunday alone and a thousand on Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Dorothy Kralik, 2624 W. Montrose Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60634 was winner of the first prize (\$15) worth of peony roots; Mrs. Chris Derrick, 4717 Northcutt, Downers Grove, Ill., second prize and Miss Mary Pat Martin, 836 N. Spring Ave., LaGrange Park, Ill., third prize.

Space does not permit our giving votes for all varieties, however Cytheria was high with 185 votes; Princess Margaret 122; Red Charm 62; Dinnerplate 35; Coral Charm 31, Kansas 22; Bu-Te 21; Pink Camero 18; Mrs. F.D.R. 16; Golden Hind 15; and many others.

65TH ANNUAL PEONY EXHIBITION

June 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1970

AWARD WINNERS

Court of Honor	Variety Name	Winner
Double White or Flesh	Dorothy J	Marvin Karrels, Milwaukee, Wis.
Double Light Pink	Pink Cameo	Clarence Lienau, Detroit, Mich.
Double Dark Pink	Princess Margaret	Karrels
Double Red	Mary Brand	Lienau
Semi-Double White	Miss America	Lienau
Semi-Double Pink or Red	Harry L. Smith	Lienau
Japanese	Bu-Te	Lienau
Single	Pico	W. G. Sindt, Stillwater, Minn.
Hybrid or Species	Cytheria	Karrels
Tree Peony	Golden Hind	Steve Moldovan, Avon, Ohio

Mr. Marvin Karrels, 3272 South 46th St., Milwaukee, Wis., the winner of the American Peony Society Gold Medal Certificate—Division I, Section A Class I—25 varieties, any type, one bloom each in separate containers, each labeled as to name.

His entries were —Gardenia, White Cap, Black Monarch, Roy Klehm, Diana Parks, Ava Maria, Ensign Moriarity, Dr. J. H. Neely, Komanchi, Princess Margaret, Cytheria, Red Charm, Rose Bowl, Henry Bockstoco, Elsa Saas, High Falutin, Nick Shaylor, Kansas, Norma Volz, Heritage, Madylone, Walter Mains, Dorothy J. Prairie Moon, Florence Nichols.

Mr. Karrels was also the Silver Medal Certificate winner with his entry in Class 2 of the same Section and Division requiring 15 entries, any type; one bloom each in separate containers, each labeled as to name.

Mr. Clarence Lienau, 9135 Beech Daly Road, Detroit, Mich. was the second award winner sharing honors with the Charles Klehm & Son Nurseries of Arlington Heights who were Honorable Mention award winners also.

The Charles F. Wassenberg Trophy donated by the Van Wert, Ohio

Foundation for best entry in Class I (25 varieties) was awarded Mr. Karrels.

While the Klehm Nurseries, Mr. Karrels and Mr. Lienau garnered many awards, it was noted that there were many winners of blue ribbons from New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, Kansas, Nebraska.

Members were also in attendance from California, Montana, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Canada, and other states in the area.

Mr. Roy Klehm, son of Carl Klehm, a member of the Board of Directors for the past 2 years, was elected Vice-President of the American Peony Society at the annual meeting held Saturday evening. Mr. Klehm is the grandson of the late Charles Klehm, founder of the Charles Klehm & Son Nursery and a charter member of the Society.

Mr. W. G. Sindt, Stillwater, Minnesota, was elected president, succeeding Miss Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York, daughter of the late A. P. Saunders, Hamilton College, a world re-nowned hybridist of peonies.

Other officers are Mr. Charles D. Pennell, Van Wert, Ohio, Treasurer and Catharine Pennell, (Mrs. Chas.

D.) Secretary-Editor; Miss Saunders, retiring president; Mr. Leo J. Armatus, Central City, Nebraska and Mr. W. J. Simpson, Ontario, Canada, are members of the Editorial Committee.

Section B

3 blooms in one container.
Lactifloras (albifloras) only.
One variety.

Class 3—Double white or flesh—1st, **ELSA SASS**, Lienau Peony Gardens, Detroit, Mich; 2nd, **GARDENIA**, Marvin Karrels, Milwaukee, Wis.; 3rd, **FRANCIS MAINS**, W. A. Men., **NICK SHAYLOR**, Charles Alexander, Bowling Green, O.; Hon. Klehm & Son Nursery, Arlington Heights, Ill.

Class 4—Double light pink—1st, **DORALADELL**, Lienau Peony Garden; 2nd, **DINNERPLATE**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery; 3rd, **DINNER PLATE**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery; Hon. Men. **MRS. F.D.R.**, Charles Klehm & Son

Class 5—Double dark pink—1st, **PRINCESS MARGARET**, Marvin C. Karrels; 2nd, **PRESIDENT F.D.R.**, W. A. Alexander; 3rd, **VIVID ROSE**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery; Hon. Men., **VIVID ROSE**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery

Class 6—Double red—1st, **SIR JOHN FRANKLIN**, Lienau Peony Garden; 2nd, **FELIX SUPREME**, Lienau Peony Garden; 3rd, **PAUL M. WILD**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery; Hon. Men., **JACQUALENE HONRATTA**, Lienau Peony Garden

Class 7—Semi-double white—1st, **LOIS KELSEY**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery; 2nd, **SUSAN WHITE**, Lienau Peony Garden

Class 8—Semidouble other than white—1st, **LIEBCHEN**, Frank L. Howell, Newton, N.J.

Class 9—Doubles, one each red, white & pink—1st, **TEMPEST**, **PRINCESS MARGARET & NANCY NICHOLS**, Frank L. Howell; 2nd, **KANSAS**, **AUTENS PRIDE**, **VIVID**

ROSE, Lienau Peony Gardens; 3rd, **BOWL OF CREAM**, **SARA BURNHART**, **JAY CEE**, Charles Klehm & Son

Class 10—Bomb type any color—1st, **MADYLONE**, Marvin C. Karrels; 2nd, **GARDENIA**, Marvin Karrels; 3rd, **DOROTHY JAY**, Marvin, C. Karrels; Hon. Men., **SYLVER**, Lienau Peony Gardens

Section C

Specimen Classes

One, Lactifloras only.

Class 11—Double white or flesh—1st, **NICK SHAYLOR**, Marvin Karrels; 2nd, **PINK CAMEO**, Lienau Peony Gardens; 3rd, **DORIS COOPER**, Lienau Peony Gardens; Hon. Men., **MRS. F.D.R.**, Charles Klehm & Son

Class 12—Double light pink—2nd, **PINK CAMEO**, Lienau Peony Garden; 3rd, **DORIS COOPER**, Lienau Peony Garden

Class 13—Double dark pink—1st, **PRINCESS MARGARET**, Marvin Karrels; 2nd, **DINNER PLATE**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery; 3rd, **EMMA KLEHM**, Lienau Peony Gardens; Hon. Men., **VIVID ROSE**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery

Class 14—Double red—1st, **MARY BRAND**, Lienau Peony Gardens; 2nd, **KANSAS**, Marvin Karrels; 3rd, **KANSAS**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery; Hon. Men., **KANSAS**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery

Class 16—Semi-double pink—1st, **BETTER TIMES**, Lienau Peony Gardens

Class 17—Semi-double red—1st, **HARRY L. SMITH**, Lienau Peony Gardens; 2nd, **COL. ROBERT MCCORMICK**, Frank L. Howell; 3rd, **HOOSIER LAND**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery; Hon. Men., **HOOSIER LAND**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery

Class 21—Three blooms of pink, same variety; in one container—1st, **WHITE CAP**, Marvin Karrels; 2nd,

BREAK O DAY, Frank L. Howell; 3rd, **FANCY NANCY**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery; Hon. Men., **GAY PAREE**, Lienau Peony Gardens

Class 22—Three blooms of red, same variety; in one container—1st, **HARI-AI-NIN**, Lienau Peony Gardens; 2nd, **SUNDANCE**, Charles Klehm & Son

Class 23—Specimen bloom, white—1st, **BU TE**, Lienau Peony Gardens; 2nd, **LOTUS QUEEN**, Lienau Peony Gardens

Class 24—Specimen bloom, pink—1st, **LE CHARM**, Lienau Peony Gardens; 2nd, **KAY TISCHLER**, Lienau Peony Gardens; 3rd, **COMMANCHE**, Marvin C. Karrels

Class 25—Specimen bloom, red—1st, **MRS. WILDER BANCOFF**, Lienau Peony Gardens

Section E

Single Type Lactifloras

Class 26—Collection of 5 varieties, any color or colors. Separate containers—1st, **IMPERIAL RED**, **PICO**, **PRESIDENT LINCOLN**, **VIRGINIA DARE**, **SEASHELL**, Lienau Peony Gardens; 2nd, **FLORENCE BRUSS**, **ONATONNA**, **PICO**, **SEASHELL**, **SPELLBINDER**, W. G. Sindt

Class 27—Three blooms, white same variety. One container—1st, **PICO**, W. G. Sindt; 2nd, **KRINKLED WHITE**, Charles Klehm & Son

Class 28—Three blooms, pink, same variety, one container—1st, **DO-TELL**, Charles Klehm & Son; 2nd, **SEA SHELL**, Lienau Peony Garden

Class 29—no entries

Class 30—Specimen bloom, white—1st, **PICO**, Frank L. Howell; 2nd, **VIRGINIA LOUISE**, Charles Klehm & Son; 3rd, **BU-TE**, C. Dan Pennell, Van Wert, O.; Hon. Men., **VIRGINIA DARE**, Lienau Peony Gardens

Class 31—Specimen bloom, pink—1st, **LE ENTENCENTE**, Lienau

Peony Gardens; 2nd, **FANCY NANCY**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery

Class 32—Specimen bloom, red—1st, **PRESIDENT LINCOLN**, Lienau Peony Garden; 2nd, **SUNDANCE**, Charles Klehm & Son; 3rd, **SUNDANCE**, Charles Klehm & Son

Section F

Hybrids (inter-species crosses)
and species except
lactiflora and moutan

Class 33—Collection of ten varieties, one bloom each, hybrids only. In separate containers, each one name-labeled—1st, Marvin Karrels; 2nd, Lienau Peony Gardens; 3rd, Marvin Karrels.

Class 35—Collection of three double varieties of hybrids—1st, 2nd, **RED CHARM**, **MARTHA MAINS**, Lienau Peony Gardens

Class 36—Collection of three semi-double varieties of hybrids—1st, **ILLINI BELLE**, **FIRE BELLE**, **CYTHERIA**, Marvin Karrels; 2nd, **CYTHERIA**, **LAURA MAGNUSSEN**, **CARRARA**, Marvin Karrels; 3rd, **RED RED ROSE**, **CYTHERIA**, **CARINA**, Lienau Peony Gardens

Class 37—Collection of three single varieties of hybrids—1st, **PRAIRIE MOON**, **FRIENDSHIP**, **LAURA MAGNUSSEN**, Marvin Karrels; 2nd, **FRIENDSHIP LOVELY ROSE**, **PRAIRIE MOON**, Marvin Karrels; 3rd, **MAY DAWN**, **GARDEN GEM**, **LOVELY ROSE**, Lienau Peony Garden

Class 38—Specimen bloom, double. Hybrid or species—1st, **HARRY BOCKSTOCE**, Marvin Karrels; 2nd, **RED CHARM**, Lienau Peony Gardens; 3rd, **CAROL**, Frank L. Howell

Class 39—Specimen bloom, semi-double. Hybrid or species—1st, **CYTHERIA**, Frank L. Howell; 2nd, **CORAL CHARM**, Charles Klehm & Son Nursery; 3rd, **RED, RED ROSE**, Lienau Peony Gardens

Class 40—Specimen bloom, single. Hybrid or species—1st, **CARINA**, Marvin Karrels; 2nd, **GARDEN GEM**, Lienau Peony Garden

Class 41—Specimen bloom, Japanese type. Hybrid or species—1st,

2nd, **WALTER MAINS**, Lienau Peony Gardens

Section G

Tree Peonies and Lutea Hybrids

Class 42—Collection. Tree Peonies, 6 varieties, any type, any color—1st, Gary Seaman, Pavilion, N.Y.

Class 43—Collection Tree Peonies, 3 varieties, any type, any color—1st, **CHINESE DRAGON**, **SILVER SAILS**, **GAUGUIN**, Gary Seaman; 2nd, **VESUVIAN**, **GOLDEN HIND**, **CORONAL**, Steve Moldovan, Avon, Ohio

Class 44—Specimen Bloom — Tree Peony, any type, any color — 1st, **GOLDEN HINND**, Steve Moldovan; 2nd, **GOLDEN HIND**, Steve Moldovan; 3rd **SOUV. DE MAXIM CORNU**, Gary Seaman; Hon. Men., **KOKAMON**, Gary Seaman

Class 45—Seedlings, not yet introduced. Tree Peony, any type, any color — Hon. Men., **D-63BC**, Gary Seaman; Hon. Men., **V500 LUTGA**, Gary Seaman

* * * *

DIVISION II—Amateurs Only

Section H. Collections.

Lactifloras only except as noted

Class 46—Ten varieties, one bloom each, any type, any color. Hybrids permitted. Separate containers. Name labeling not mandatory, but advisable—1st, **ANNISQUAM**, **KANSAS**, **FLAME**, **MOONSTONE**, **MRS. F.D.R.**, **RED CHARM**, **MARTHA BULLOCH**, **DR. J. H. NEELY**, **HERITAGE**, **THERESE**, Dee Garrison, Milwaukee, Wis.; 2nd, **FLAME**, **RED CHARM**, **SALMON GLOW**, **KAN-**

SAS, **THERESE**, **MOONSTONE**, **ANNISQUAM**, **DR. J. H. NEELEY**, **MARY E. NICHOLLS**, **MRS. LIVINGSTON FARRAND**; 3rd, **VICTORY**, **PHIL. REVOIRE**, **WESTERNER**, **CARRERA**, **MARY NICKLAUS**, **MRS. LIVINGSTON FARRAND**, **ROSADA**, **NICK SHAYLOR**, **CATHARINE VAN DORN**, Joseph Glocka, West Allis, Wis.

Class 47—Three double varieties, one each red, white and pink. One container—1st, **KANSAS**, **MRS. LIVINGSTON FARRAND**, **MARY E. NICHOLS**, Dee Garrison; 2nd, **DINNER PLATE**, **JAYCEE**, **NICK SHAYLOR**, Lisa Cunningham; 3rd, **NICK SHAYLOR**, **DINNER PLATE**, **VIVID ROSE**, Diane Gieske; Hon. Men., **KANSAS**, **DR. J. H. NEELEY**, **DORIS COOPER**, Dee Garrison

Class 48—Three semi-double varieties, any color. One container—1st, **LOIS KELSEY**, **RED CHARM**, **DO TELL**, Sheila Cunningham, Barrington, Ill.; 2nd, **LOIS KELSEY**, Pat Cox, Barrington, Ill.; 3rd, **CORAL CHARM**, Diane Gieske; Hon. Men., **SANTA FE**, Diane Gieske

Class 49—Three Japanese type varieties, any color. One container—1st, **KAY TISCHLER**, **VANITY**, **FARIBO**, W. G. Sindt; 2nd, **RASHOOMON**, **DEPARTING SUN**, **NIPPON GOLD**, Dee Garrison; 3rd, **NIPPON SPLENDOR**, **CARRERA**, **RED SPLENDOR**, Joseph Glocka; Hon. Men., **SANTA FE**, **FANCY NANCY**, **RED CHARM**, Kathy Cunningham

Section I.

Specimens—one bloom.

Lactifloras except as noted.

Class 52—Double white—1st, **MT. EVEREST**, W. G. Sindt; 2nd, **NICK SHAYLOR**, Dee Garrison; 3rd, **FESTIVA MAXIMA**, Patty Cox; Hon. Men., **DR. J. H. NEELEY**, Dee Garrison

Class 53 — Double Pink — 1st, **SARAH BERNHARDT**, Marcia Em-

erson, Barrington, Ill.; 2nd, **DOUBLE PINK**, Joseph Glocka; 3rd, **DINNER PLATE**, Marcia Emerson; Hon. Men., **MOONSTONE**, Kathy Cunningham

Class 54—Double red—1st **KANSAS**, Dee Garrison; 2nd, **KANSAS**, Mary Jo Cysewski, Arlington Heights, Ill.; 3rd, **EMMA KLEHM**, Mary Jo Cysewski; Hon. Men., **SPARKLING STAR**, W. G. Sindt

Class 55—Semi-double, any color—1st, **ELIZABETH HUNTINGTON**, Dee Garrison; 2nd, 3rd, **LOIS KELSEY**, Cathy Emerson

Class 56—Japanese type, any color—1st, **KAY TISCHLER**, W. G. Sindt; 2nd, **CARRERA**, Joseph Glocka; 3rd, Pat Reardon, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Hon. Men., Pat Reardon

Class 57—Single, any color—1st, **SEA SHELL**, W. G. Sindt; 2nd, **OWATOMMA**, W. G. Sindt

Class 58—Hybrid or species, any color, any type—1st, **CYTHERIA**, Dee Garrison; 2nd, **HERITAGE**, Dee Garrison; 3rd, Lisa Cunningham; Hon. Men., Lisa Cunningham

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DIVISION IIA—NOVICE

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Class 58B—1 double white or blush—1st, Pat Reardon; 2nd, Patty Cox; 3rd, Patty Cox; Hon. Men., Mary Jo Cysewski

Class 58C—1 Double light pink—1st, **SARAH BERNHARDT**, Doris Crouch, Rockford, Ill.; 2nd, **MANDELEEN**, Doris Crouch; 3rd, **GUIDON**, Doris Crouch; Hon. Men., **MINUTE**,

Class 58D—1 Double dark pink—Doris Crouch
1st, Doris Crouch; 2nd, **EMMA KLEHM**, Lisa Cunningham; 3rd, **VIVID ROSE**, Corky Gieske, Barrington, Ill.; Hon. Men., **VIVID ROSE**, Patty Cox

Class 58E—Double red—1st, Patty Cox; 2nd, **RED CHARM**, Lisa Cun-

Class 58F—1 Single—any color—ningham

1st,
2nd, **KRINKLED WHITE**, Leonard Jugle, Elmhurst, Ill.; 3rd, **GUIDON**, Leonard Jugle

Class 58G—1 Semi-double any color—1st, Kathy Cunningham; 2nd, Mary Jo Cysewski; 3rd, Kathy Cunningham

Class 58H—1 Japanese any color—1st, Pat Reardon; 2nd, Pat Reardon; 3rd, Kathy Cunningham; Hon. Men., Pat Reardon

Class 58I—1 Hybrid any color or type—1st, Lisa Cunningham

Class 58J—Groups of three in one container any type or color—1st, Sheila Cunningham; 2nd, **FRANCES MAINS**, Patty Cox

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DIVISION IIB—Garden Clubs

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Class 58K — Ten varieties — any type or color in separate containers—1st, New Springfield Garden Club, New Springfield, O.

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DIVISION III

Seedlings and new varieties.

Open to all.

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Section J.

Seedlings

Class 59—Three blooms of one variety that has not been offered for sale, but has been divided one or more times. It must be designated by name, number or code. In one container — Hon. Men., **831-W**, Charles Klehm & Son, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Hon. Men., **776-A**, Sam Wissing, Lombard, Ill.; Cert. of Merit, **844-Y**, Charles Klehm & Son; Cert. of Merit, **831-X**, Charles Klehm & Son

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DIVISION IV

Commercial growers.

Licensed Nurserymen only.

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Section L.

Commercial Exhibit

Class 61—Collection of not less than 25 nor more than 50 varieties, one bloom of each in separate containers, name labeled—1st, Clarence Lienau; 2nd, Gratwick Tree Peonies, Pavilion, New York

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DIVISION V

Visitors from out of State

Section M

Collection

Class 62—Five specimen blooms, any type, any color. Separate containers. May be the same or different varieties—1st, **MRS. F.D.R., HARD-GROVE HUDSON, KANSAS, NIPPON PARADE, SOUV. DE MAXIM CORNU**, Mrs. Hollis Cornell, Johnsville, N.Y.; 2nd, **JAMES PILLOW, DOROTHY J, CATHARINE CRANE, PICTURE, MRS. J. V. EDLUND**, Frank L. Howell; 3rd, **AVA MARIA, MADYLONE, NICK SHAYLOR, KANSAS, MABEL GORE**, Marvin C. Karrels; Hon. Men., **W. A. Alexander**

Section N

Greatest Distance

Class 63—Exhibitor from greatest distance. Must exhibit one or more blooms in this class, and state on entry tag distance from Chicago—1st, **KANSAS, MRS. F.D.R., ELLA CHRISTIANSEN**, Mrs. Hollis Cornell; 2nd, **CARRENA, ILENE, FLORENCE NICHOLS & LE CYGNE**, Frank Howell; 3rd, **AMBER GLOW, RAPTURE**, Frank Howell; Hon. Men., **RAPTURE**, Frank Howell

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DIVISION VI

Court of Honor

(a) double white or flesh, **DOROTHY J**, Marvin Karrels; (b) double light pink, **PINK CAMEO**, Clarence

Lienau; (c) double dark pink, **PRINCESS MARGARET**, Marvin Karrels; (d) double red, **MARY BRAND**, Clarence Lienau; (e) semi-double white, **MISS AMERICA**, Clarence Lienau; (f) semi-double pink or red, **HARRY L. SMITH**, Clarence Lienau; (g) Japanese, **BU-TE**, Clarence Lienau; (h) single, **PICO**, W. G. Sindt; (i) Hybrid or species, **CYTHERIA**, Marvin Karrels; (j) tree **GOLDEN HIND**, Steve Moldovan

Champion of the Show

The finest flower in the Court of Honor, **CYTHERIA**, Marvin Karrels

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DIVISION VII

Arrangements

Class A. Peonies at the Wedding

62. Church—an elaborate display of peonies for display on a pedestal—1st, Lillian Dushek, Lisle, Ill.; 2nd, Charlotte Sindt, Stillwater, Minn.; 3rd, Isabelle DeJardin

63. Bride's Bouquet—1st, Mrs. Marilyn Christensen, Arlington Heights, Ill.; 2nd, Mrs. Tillie Lienau, Detroit, Mich.; 3rd, Don Laughead, Arlington Heights, Ill.

64. Bridesmaids' baskets—1st, Mrs. Les Schrank, Arlington Heights, Ill.; 2nd, Mrs. Hollis Cornell; 3rd, Mrs. A. Warner, Chicago, Ill.

65. Corsages—Mother of the Bride, Groom—1st, Mrs. Les Schrank; 2nd, Mrs. Tillie Lienau; 3rd, Mrs. C. Wagner, Arlington Heights, Ill.

66. Arr. for bachelor dinner—1st, Mrs. Isabelle DuJardin; 2nd, Mrs. Charles Moser, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Hon. Men., Lillian Dushek

Special award—Bride's Headpiece—1st, Mrs. Dorothy Wagner, Arlington Heights, Ill.

67. Presentation basket—1st, Don Laughead; 2nd, Mrs. Hollis Cornell

68. Stage arrangement—1st, Mrs. Hollis E. Cornell

69. Arrangement for graduation buffet—1st, Don Laughead; 2nd, Isabelle DuJardin; 3rd, Lillian Dushek

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Class C. Peonies for Anniversary "At Home"

70. Arr. suitable for foyer—1st, Lillian Dushek; 2nd, Isabelle DuJardin; 3rd, Meg McEachron

71. Arr. suitable for coffee table—1st, Charlotte Sindt; 2nd, Meg McEachron; 3rd, Don Laughead

72. Arr. suitable for dining table—1st, Lillian Dushek; 2nd, Charlotte Sindt; 3rd, Mrs. Hollis Cornell

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Class D. Peonies on Vacation

73. Bon Voyage bouquet for steamer—1st, Don Laughead; 2nd, Charlotte Sindt

74. Centerpiece for Bon Voyage luncheon—1st, Isabelle DuJardin; 2nd, Lillian Dushek; 3rd, Meg McEachron

75. Arr. for lobby in Country Inn—1st, Don Laughead; 2nd, Lillian Dushek; 3rd, Meg McEachron; Hon. Men., Mrs. A. Warner

75. Arr. for guest room in Country Inn—1st, Isabelle DuJardin; 2nd, Lillian Dushek; 3rd, David Ray, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Hon. Men., Mrs. Hollis Cornell

TAKE ONE TO A DOZEN — PEONIES, THAT IS

By Glen Colby

That is just what a number of very talented flower arrangers did at the National Peony Show this past June. The results were outstanding and added an extra touch to a successful and beautiful Show. From simple designs using only one peony, to formal arrangements with a dozen large blooms, the arrangers proved that the peony is truly at home in all surroundings, from banquet halls to country guest rooms.

Too many years ago I studied Latin. All that remains in my memory is that "all Gaul is divided into three parts." Most garden clubs are divided into three parts, also. There are the diggers. They love to plant, weed, and cultivate, and get their hands into the good earth. Secondly, there are the arrangers, who get great joy and satisfaction from making artistic and creative designs. Then of course there are the coffee drinkers.

For some reason most of the strongest competitors, in the classes for Cut Specimen Blooms in our annual peony shows, are men. They put on a gorgeous display of blooms this year. The competition was keen, and the judges had a difficult task. There were Singles, Doubles, Japs,

Hybrids, Tree Peonies, and some interesting new Seedlings. It was an education in peonies to take time out, to identify the different blooms and select new varieties for future planting. It was a joy to see many of the old favorites holding their own among the new varieties. A really good peony never goes out of style.

The Society owes a big vote of thanks to the dedicated men (and women) who took the time and trouble to make 1970 a great show. Not only do they bring their beautiful blooms, but also find time and patience to answer questions and give advice to us amateurs.

But in future shows—the men will have to look to their laurels. The ladies have discovered the pe-

only as the most versatile of flowers for arranging. There were no less than sixty-four Designs in the show this year, and they created great interest on the part of the visitors. Though I myself belong to the "Digger" group, I will try to set down some impressions here.

The containers ranged from formal silver urns to simple pitchers, and included large urns, wicker baskets, Japanese vases and almost every size and shape of bowl. The peony was at home in all of them. For a Church Wedding, there was a mass arrangement of twelve single white peonies which was magnificent. Another church arrangement featured five graduated-sized double peonies with clipped pine in a tall white chaste vase. In a Japanese container was a design using two white peonies and bare branches, which was very creative.

For the Bachelor Dinner, one arranger used twelve large double peonies in two harmonizing shades of pink, in a huge white urn. It was a sight to behold! Another arrangement for the Bachelor Party caught my eye. In a shallow round bowl containing water, the designer used five double red peonies with gladiolus foliage. This was placed on a black base, and alongside it as an accessory was an empty liquor bottle. I wondered if the black base was symbolic of Mourning over the End of Bachelor Days, and the empty bottle a symbol of change of habits! You have to watch these arrangers! Not only do they paint a pretty picture, but often there is a story, too, concealed in their designs.

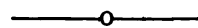
I noted a "Bon Voyage" arrangement of twelve deep pink double peonies in a pillow formation. What a lovely way to say "Happy Journey!" Another design featured a crescent arrangement in a shallow flat basket.

For the Bride's Head-piece, two small white peonies and a bud were attached to the front of a shoulder-length veil in a very attractive way.

From the elaborate designs for Weddings, Graduations, and Banquets, the arrangers went on to designs for a Guest Room in a Country Inn. Two stand out in my memory. One large red double in a simple vase was proof of what one peony can do. The foliage used here was a curled vine. Another design was created in a low plain double pitcher. In it were four pink-and-white peonies (White Cap?), a few buds, and some green foliage. This was placed on a white cloth mat, and would be a gay welcome for a guest.

Out of the total of sixty-four, you see I have been able to mention only a very few. I am sorry if I have failed to include your favorite, or haven't told you about the Hogarth lines, etc.—but as I've said, digging is my category. I hope to see many of you creative ladies at the show next year in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Bring your containers. All the peonies, from one to a dozen or more, will be available for your designs. As for me, I can hardly wait until next spring when my peonies bloom. I'm thinking of trying my ten thumbs on some arrangements for our local shows. It would be so gratifying for an older digger to get a blue ribbon for design! And—with **peonies**—it just might happen!

See you in Minneapolis-St. Paul, June 1971.



JUDGING PLAN ADOPTED

This year we added to our list of Judges seven outstanding Garden Editors. Over the years the Society has received requests for accredited Judges. We are now maintaining records, having unofficially adopted a rule whereby those persons who

have judged at three or more National Shows can be recommended for regional activities when judges are requested. New rules for accrediting our Judges will be adopted by the Board of Directors.

The National Peony Show has long been recognized as a place where new varieties are exhibited and tested for show quality.

Without a doubt our many fine judges have been thoroughly steeped

in their evaluation of new introductions. By the inclusion of new candidates for judging we hope to obtain more critical appraisals of the actual flowers and thereby get away from the new variety winning all the awards.

The records are being maintained in this office and regional flower show chairmen requesting judges of peonies will receive our recommendations of qualified persons.

PUBLICITY PAYS

"Publicity is the life-blood of any organization." This old saying was proven factual this year by the attendance at the Peony Exhibition. Reviewing Fred Brolin's many articles in the Lisle Township Sun, Lisle, Illinois, and keeping a listening ear to visitors' comments were proof.

Fred Brolin, member of Garden Writers Association of America is writer of the column "Growing Up" appearing weekly in that newspaper. Not only did we learn the

Peony Show was publicized several weeks in advance, but the fact that the Naperville Garden Club, in the area has a restricted membership of 200 persons, with a waiting list. All are dedicated to the improvement of their community with plantings of flowers, shrubs and trees.

Just think what an organization like that can do in community beautification. We were glad to learn that **peonies** are important in so many gardens in Naperville.

ALLEN HARPER COMMENTS

"I've said this before, but I think that Peony Society members are losing a great part of the benefits of membership by not attending these National Meetings. Association with the really important people in the Society impresses one with the fact that we have a warm, friendly and outgoing group, each one willing to share his experiences with fellow members, and to give advice when asked. Nowhere else can one get the feeling that we are a group of similar minded and warm hearted individuals, and not a cold organization interested only in collecting our dues.

You cannot begin to realize the great progressive strides being tak-

en by our hybridizers in modernizing the Peony, without talking to these people first hand. The fact that in the Peony world these efforts take so long to materialize into new cultivars available to the public, perhaps, tends to deglamorize the effort, but some serious work is being expended to shorten the interval between seed production and marketable stock, and we may yet see the day when Peonies are available within a few years of first bloom."

Editor's Note: We heartily agree with and appreciate Mr. Harper's ideas, We say thank you! Mr. Harper!!

WINNERS' ADDRESSES

Many requests have been received, in the office, for the names and addresses of award winning exhibitors at the 1970 Annual Peony Show, The list is as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Alexander, W. A., 145 Eberly Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402 | Jugle, Lenard, 361 West Grantley, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126 |
| Christensen, Mrs. Marilyn, 2314 W. Brighten, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004 | Karrels, Marvin, 3272 South 46th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53219 |
| Cornell, Mrs. Hollis E., Johnsonville, New York 12094 | Charles Klehm & Son Nursery, 2 East Algonquin Rd., Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 |
| Cox, Miss Pat, 139 Lake Shore Drive, Barrington, Illinois 60010 | Laughead, Don, 2230 Goebbert, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 |
| Crouch, Mrs. Doris, 1318 Taylor Avenue, Rockford, Illinois 61103 | Lienau, Clarence, 9135 Beech Daly, Detroit, Michigan 48239 |
| Cunningham, Miss Kathy, Rt. 2, Walnut Lane, Barrington, Illinois 60010 | Lienau, Mrs. Tillie, 9135 Beech Daly, Detroit, Michigan 48239 |
| Cunningham, Miss Lisa, Rt. 2, Walnut Lane, Barrington, Illinois 60010 | McEachron, Miss Meg, MacClan Farm, Salem, New York 12865 |
| Cunningham, Miss Sheila, Rt. 2, Walnut Lane, Barrington, Illinois 60010 | Moldovan, Steve, 38830 Detroit Road, Avon, Ohio 44011 |
| Cysewski, Miss Mary Jo, 6 E. Park Street, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 | Moser, Mrs. Charles, 810 N. Dunton, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004 |
| DuJardin, Mrs. Isabelle, Route 1, Glen Ellyn Road, Addison, Illinois 60101 | New Springfield Garden Club, c/o Mrs. Kathryn Brown, Box 71, New Springfield, O. 44443 |
| Dushek, Mrs. Lillian, 633 Gamble Drive, Lisle, Illinois 60532 | Pennell, C. Dan, 107½ West Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891 |
| Emerson, Miss Cathy, Rt. 2, Penny Road, Barrington, Illinois 60010 | Ray, David, 2230 S. Goebbert, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 |
| Emerson, Miss Marcia, Rt. 2, Penny Road, Barrington, Illinois 60010 | Reardon, Pat, 318 W. South Street, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 |
| Garrison, Dee, 4512 North 64th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53218 | Schrank, Mrs. Les, 908 North Ridge Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004 |
| Gieske, Miss Corky, Rt. 2, Bartlett Road, Barrington, Illinois 60010 | Seaman, Gary P., c/o Gratwick Tree Peonies, Pavilion, New York 14525 |
| Gieske, Miss Diane, Rt. 2, Bartlett Road, Barrington, Illinois 60010 | Sindt, Mrs. Charlotte, R.R. 4, Box 276, Stillwater Minnesota 55082 |
| Glocka, Joseph, 12120 West Oklahoma, West Allis, Wisconsin 53227 | Sindt, W. G., R.R. 4, Box 276, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 |
| Gratwick Tree Peonies, Pavilion, New York 14525 | Wagner, Mrs. Dorothy, 805 S. Walnut, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 |
| Howell, Frank L., Box 485, R.D. 1, Newton, New Jersey 04860 | Wissing, Samuel E., 93 S. Lombard, Lombard, Illinois 60148 |

REFLECTIONS ON TWO FLOWER SHOWS

By Eldred E. Green

Just prior to World War II I had been a judge for the regional peony shows co-sponsored by the American Peony Society and the Midwest Horticultural Society. These shows were held in the large show greenhouse of Garfield Park Conservatory where I was a horticulturist.

At that time the midwest was one of the major centers of peony culture. The regional show was attended by such greats as William Christman (secretary of APS), Edward Auten, Hans and Elmer Sass, Lyman Glasscock, Charles Klehm, Paul Battey, and R.A. Napier. Mr. Napier always entered in A-1 which called for 125 varieties at that time. (It's only 25 now.) Mr. Napier was non-professional. He certainly was no amateur but he did not grow commercially. His garden in Blue Island, a suburb of Chicago, attracted visitors from nearly a hundred miles away on the weekend he had open house. Traffic in the town was disrupted. I always made it a point to visit his garden the day before the event as I only lived about two miles from him and the garden was sure to be at its peak then. These private tours were most delightful and highly educational as Mr. Napier was an ardent plant grower and student.

Although Northbrook is quite a distance from my house I visited Northbrook Gardens many times to talk with Bill Christman and learn peonies in the field from him. Paul Battey was associated with Bill in this venture.

Charles Klehm was the leading grower of cut flower peonies and stored thousands of flowers in cold storage for use in the summer months for weddings and similar

uses. His fields at Arlington Heights were a sea of color in blooming time. It was a breathtaking spectacle.

As a result of learning peonies from these masters I was introduced in judging the shows by them. That, too, was memorable. They were tough judges but extremely fair and conscientious. The speed and meticulous observation that they possessed was amazing. Varieties at that time were almost all albiflora. One or two species would get in such as *tenuifolia* or *officinalis* from some northern grower. The standbys in the show were Sarah Bernhardt, Mons. Jules Elie, *LeCygne*, Mons. Martin Cahuzac, *Festiva Maxima*, while such newer ones as *Duluth*, Mrs. John M. Kleitsch, *Hansina Brand*, *Elsa Sass* were just coming on the market. One of my entries of Mrs. Kleitsch took best of show in its class one year. Quite an achievement when the competition was considered.

In 1939 the show was almost broken up. Lyman Glasscock arrived from his farm in Elwood, about 50 miles away, with a car load of his hybrids between *officinalis* and *albiflora*. This was the very first exhibit that he had ever made of these and about 35 varieties were represented. The rest of the show was neglected while everyone was fascinated by the marvelous glowing salmon, coral, scarlet, white, pink, flesh, lavender, and purple shades

of the flowers and the translucent quality of the petals. Naming had just been started on the varieties and the first ones were marketed within a few years. There was nothing in the schedule to cover this group and the judges awarded a special award.

In reflecting on this year's show and, let's say the 1939 regional, I was struck by the great change in varieties that had occurred. There were a few of the old timers. Sarah Bernhardt was there but most of the others were gone. Glasscock's hybrids had expanded into a separate class and included many marvelous new kinds. Tree peonies have increased in number and beauty although Souv. de Maxine Cornu was still exhibited.

Perhaps one of the interesting developments has been in sturdier stems. This had been noticed in such varieties as Duluth, Elsa Sass, and some of the others back in the old days. Now many varieties had good stem substance and the weak necks were in a minority. The flowers seemed to be somewhat larger but this may reflect improved cultural practices rather than varietal differences. Back then no one fertilized peonies as it was thought to injure them.

While the peony has improved and the classes and varieties have expanded in the same way that most other plants have undergone changes, one part of the show has not

changed. That is the character of the people who make the show. I have worked with and officiated at many shows—roses, iris, daylilies, dahlia, and mixed. There is nowhere a finer group of people than the peony growers. The peony does not attract the show off, the dilettante, the four flusher, the glory seeker, or the fast buck artist. The peony enthusiast must have a deep love of the plant and a keen appreciation of nature. Time is such a factor that the person seeking prizes, glory, and admiration just cannot rush in and be a hero in a few years time with a bunch of seedlings that were started just two years earlier.

I have stated many times that the peony growers and exhibitors were the best group that I have ever encountered. I am willing to modify that some as I have found similar characteristics among the rhododendron people. But the factors of time and patience and deep appreciation are present in both groups.

In comparing the two shows there are two points that I have tried to remember. One is that the first experiences of youth are likely to be colored by awe, and the freshness of the ideas. The other that time does dim many recollections. However, as I viewed this show I noticed that the names had changed both for varieties and the persons but the basic characters were still there. The peony is still the Queen of Perennials and the peony lovers are still the Salt of the Earth.

TOO BAD, NO CENTENARY EXHIBIT THIS PAST JUNE

It was too bad that in the end it proved impossible to make any sort of show of the originations of Felix Crousse or even of Dr. Earle B.

White, at our recent Exhibition at the Morton Arboretum. At least I did not see any. We should, at any rate, have had a huge bouquet of Mons. Jules Elie there to celebrate its illustrious creator. Nor did I see any Claire de Lune among the exhibits. As I said, too bad.

Perhaps some One Person should be asked to take charge of this aspect of our Shows, to try to make the necessary arrangements in advance, see to it that the proper blooms are brought, and act, in general, as General Manager of Centenaries.

We may still of course continue

to try to see whether this project cannot be developed into anything interesting and instructive. Next year, when I understand the Show is to be in the Minneapolis vicinity, we have the 100th Anniversary of the births of Archie Mack Brand, and of Ernest Flint Kelsey, both born in 1871. Brand, the son of O.F. Brand who founded Brand's Nurseries, was also a Director of the Society for 31 years. We will write to the Tischler Brothers, who now own Brand's, to see whether they can undertake to promise a substantial exhibit of the many fine Brand introductions in 1971.



THE 1970 PEONY SHOW

By W. A. Alexander

Every national show has something different which makes it outstanding and memorable. The 1969 show will be long remembered for several reasons: the memorial to Dr. Saunders, the wonderful display of tree peonies, the most interesting educational program, and to me, the most important of all, the first beholding of those

marvelous new "inner glow" hybrids bred, produced and brought to the show by Mr. L. W. Cousins of Ontario, Canada. May he live to see them become widely distributed among peony lovers. Our 1970 show was no exception to the rule. There were several features which will cause it to linger in ones memory and to be looked back to with pleasure.

Perhaps the most unusual feature was the locale, the place it was held. The Morton Aboretum is a delightful place for any horticultural event. But I will admit I had grave misgivings when I first saw it. It seemed so far from the city, and was not an easy place for a stranger to find. I wondered if anyone would come to see the show. But people came. Attendance was good,

considering the rainy weather. Another thing which made me doubt the wisdom of holding it there was that the work area, most of it, was so far from the exhibit room and involved climbing a long flight of stairs. I had visions of the Karrels, the Lienaus and others with large numbers of flowers being overcome by fatigue before they got half their flowers to the exhibit tables.

However, Roy Klehm, on whom fell the main burden of planning the show and managing it, had foreseen that problem and taken care of it. He brought along a bevy of young teenage girls who had worked for him in the peony fields disbudding, cutting, etc. to do the leg work. The girls, besides being nice to look at, were eager, quick and efficient. The flowers were carried

to the tables as rapidly as the exhibitors could get them ready. In fact, Roy proved himself a far-sighted planner and most capable manager. It seemed every contingency had been anticipated and provided for. Dan Pennell supervised the placing of exhibits and the result was most pleasing from an esthetic point of view.

One notable feature which might not impress any but a veteran of many shows, was the excellent balance of this exhibit. All types and classes of peonies were well represented, and the arrangement classes, which occupied one whole side of the room, were quite outstanding and attractive. Because of the very early blooming season, I had expected to see few, if any, tree peonies, and not many hybrids. But Gary Seaman and Steve Moldovan came with a nice display of trees which they had had in storage for weeks and which came out surprisingly well, although they did not last quite as well as usual after being unpacked.

The display of hybrids was above average, in my opinion. RED CHARM did not dominate as it usually does. Perhaps it was a bit off in quality while some others were outstanding. CYTHERIA was much in evidence, and deservedly won top honors. Among others attracting attention because of their form and quality were DIANA PARKS, CAROL, WALTER MAINS and HENRY BOCKSTOCE; the last not often seen and new to many of us. A new one never before seen at a show, and not yet being sold I understand, was Sam Wissing's CORAL CHARM. This nice size single

with perfect cup shape is of a color new to the peony world, and has a sheen and polish which looks like wax. If it is a forerunner of things to come from the new generation of hybridists who are using the latest findings of science in their procedures, we can expect some exciting things very soon.

The tour of the Klehm nursery, planned as a side event for show goers, proved to be an outstanding attraction. Two hundred acres of peonies is an impressive sight, even when most of the bloom is gone. A few late varieties were still making a lot of color. The Klehms had planned it as a promotion day and had given it wide publicity. A heavy rain at the arboretum that morning made the outlook for the tour very discouraging, but word came that it had not rained at the nursery 30 miles away. So the buses ran, but some people did not go because of the threat of rain. However, people flocked in from miles around, and there were not many of the thousand chicken dinners which the Klehms had provided left by evening. Flat-top trucks pulled by tractors took us over the 600 acre nursery in comfort and slow enough so we could see everything. Roy acted as tour guide, explaining their operations and answering questions.

I left for home feeling that I had attended one of our better shows, and with the memory of a fine banquet and interesting address by a distinguished plant breeder, as well as the great pleasure of seeing again old friends from many states and the never-to-be-forgotten experience of seeing that fabulous peony planting.

THE PEONY BEGINNER

By John E. Simkins

It seems that some members would be interested in the experiences of

a beginner in the growing, propagating and hybridization of Peonies

—a sort of “blow by blow” description. The writer has been a gardner of sorts for the past 20 years, with main interest in propagating primarily in seeds.

The story begins last fall when I purchased 7 herbaceous plants from Miss Saunders and Age of Gold. This gave me 7 tree peonies and 20 herbaceous, mostly Saunders hybrids (singles). There are also 20 seedlings, mixed herbaceous and tree now 3 years old. Miss Saunders also sent 7 seeds of *P. Californicum* and of 16350, as well as a root of *P. Californicum*.

The *P. Californicum* root was placed in a large pot in the greenhouse as my sources (“Peonies” by Wister and Bailey) indicated it is tender. During the winter it rotted. The seeds were placed in a plastic sandwich bag with spagnum moss and the end folded in to make it air tight. This was placed on the rafters in the cellar, (Temp. about 70°F). Other seeds were placed in vermiculite (fine grade) in plastic cups, (burn a hole in the bottom with a soldering iron or in soft ones, punch with a pencil. Use a piece of the soft cups to cover the hole.) Each cup was placed in a plastic bag with an elastic to hold it and placed on the rafter. I put about 3-5 seeds per cup. After a month or six weeks I looked at the seeds to see if any white shoots were evident. This may take 3 months, but if one gently presses the seed with the finger and it goes “squish”, it should be taken out of the bag as it is rotted.

When white shoots were noticed on a seed $\frac{1}{2}$ ” to $\frac{3}{4}$ ” long, the seed was planted individually in a plastic cup with the white shoot down about $\frac{1}{2}$ ” deep in vermiculite or spagnum moss. Each cup was placed in a plastic sandwich bag and held with an elastic band and placed in the refrigerator.

After 6-8 weeks watch for a little shoot to show. When this happens, take the cup out of the bag and place in a window or under fluorescent lights. Use a dilute soluble fertilizer. When the danger of frost is past, plant in the garden.

Using this procedure, most of the seeds germinated and I now have *P. Californicum* seedlings in the garden and in pots in the greenhouse. I am wondering what to do? Leave them out to freeze or bring them in to rot, or half and half!

All the other plants grow well. This spring I crossed each flower with another or with its own pollen, even obtaining some pollen from a neighbor. Each was identified with a tag. Unfortunately the rain has washed the ink off the tags so I have about 30 seeds, but can only identify one parent. These are not ripe yet (August). Emmy Swan set no seeds. The Alba Lod and Roselettes child have pods but they feel empty.

This spring I visited Mr. Ralph Giff, in Sarnia. He has a collection of about 50 tree peonies, 20 of these are Souv. de Maxime Cornu. As he had propagated these himself, I asked him how he did it. (I had tried a few grafts using Free’s propagation in pictures. Here the illustration shows a large rootstock and instructions are to plant in the ground. I had no success.) Mr. Giff uses herbaceous rootstock just a little thicker than the scion. He grafts from August on, using a cleft graft. He cuts the scion about 6-8” long with two straight cuts on opposite sides of the stem. He splits the rootstock which is about 6” long and inserts the scion into the root and ties them by wrapping a cut elastic band around, looping the end under.

He puts these in pots, using a sandy soil and places the pot on the cellar floor, after watering. After

several weeks, or in the spring, he plants them in the garden.

I have tried several grafts to date, in fact I think I can hear my herbaceous peonies groan as I dig beside them to steal a root or two. These are about 4 weeks old now, but the stems have all gone brown and they look dead except at the tip. I am going to try a few more but finding some good scions which have grown from the ground this year is a problem.

I also cut a few buds from the tree peony as outlined in Wister's book. These are cut shallow with

a leaf attached. The leaf is reduced to $\frac{1}{2}$. These were planted in the aquarium in the greenhouse in 4" of perlite and the aquarium covered and shaded with plastic. These are still alive but I don't know if they have rooted yet.

This has been an enjoyable summer with the peony. I am now placing orders for the fall planting and awaiting with impatience the ripening of my crosses.

I am still not sure of what to aim at in the making of new plants, but hope one will become apparent as I learn the techniques.

PEONY FLOWER PIGMENTS

Editor's Note:—The Bulletin presents herewith an article by Mr. Fred Cooper of Ottawa, Canada, on the coloring matter in our peony blooms. So far as is known, we have never before published any information on this subject. Somewhat erudite if you will, but today's gardener is becoming more and more specialized and erudite; far more so than yesterday's. We feel this discussion has a very definite place in the pages of the Bulletin, and we are delighted to present it, and to introduce Mr. Cooper to our readers.

Fred Cooper, 41 years of age, has a background in chemistry and biology. He is employed as a Technical Officer with the National Research Council of Canada. He began growing plants over ten years ago, and soon developed a passion for the peony. He has been actively hybridizing for four years. The present article is based on information scattered throughout the scientific literature, plus some of his own personal observations.

* * * *

One of the most important factors that induced early man to cultivate ornamental plants was undoubtedly flower color. The contrast of a colored bloom with a predominantly green background is aesthetically pleasing, and if the flower happens to be large and of beautiful form it

is virtually irresistible. In Central China the cultivation of the Shaoyao (p. lactiflora, our common herbaceous peony) antedates recorded history, and the Moutan (p. suffruticosa, our tree peony) has been cultivated for at least 1500 years. Starting with a probably quite limited color range, countless years of cultivation in the Orient gradually developed the high degree of perfection we know today. Modern breeders have despaired of making any significant advances (at least within a human lifetime) in extending the color range by working entirely within these, our two finest groups in the peony kingdom. However, the introduction of hitherto unknown species of peonies with entirely new colors has given great stimulus to hybridization in the last 75 years or so. This approach has

been extremely rewarding, as the lutea hybrids (p. lutea x p. suffruticosa) and the lobata hybrids (p. lactiflora x p. lobata) well testify.

For the last 60 years chemists have been working on chemical structure of the plant pigments and today virtually all of them have been characterized. However, the separation and identification of all the pigments in, say, a flower petal, had been nearly impossible until the advent of paper chromatography. Anyone who has ever applied a drop of colored ink to a piece of blotting paper and observed the series of concentric rings of different colors or shades that form, has demonstrated in a crude way the principle of paper chromatography. Refined techniques involve placing a drop of concentrated pigment mixture near one end of a strip of porous paper and allowing a suitable solvent to wash the components down the strip. The rate at which each pigment moves is dependent on both its solubility in the solvent and its adsorption on the paper. Thus we obtain a series of colored spots along the length of the paper; the distance travelled being characteristic for each individual pigment. While a complete knowledge of all the pigments in a flower may be necessary for a scientist, for the peony breeder an understanding of only a few individual pigments and a few broad pigment classes may prove quite useful.

Reds and pinks are probably the most prominent colors in the peonies. Very low concentrations of red pigment are found in blush and light pink varieties; moderate concentrations give deep pinks and reds, and high concentrations give "black" reds. All the reds found in peonies are produced by a class of pigments known as **anthocyanidins**. In the plant kingdom about sixteen anthocyanidins are known, embracing yellow, orange, scarlet, crimson and

violet, but many are extremely rare, being confined to a single plant family or even to one species. Only six are at all widely distributed, and in the peonies only three are known to occur. These are the scarlet **pelargonidin** (the name being derived from pelargonium zonale, the greenhouse geranium from which it was first isolated); crimson **cyanidin** (from Centaurea cyanus, the blue cornflower) and crimson **peonidin** (from paeonia lactiflora). Delphinidin, petunidin and malvidin, all at the violet end of the spectrum, are quite common but entirely missing from the peonies. Nearly all our red and pink peony species and varieties are pigmented by peonidin accompanied by mere traces of cyanidin. In p. lobata the same pigments occur but in this case in about equal proportions.

The scarlet pigment pelargonidin is found only in the tree peonies (p. suffruticosa) and provides the glorious pinks and scarlets of color classes III and IV (as given in Bulletin No. 95, September 1944, edited by John C. Wister). The question arises as to how one crimson pigment can produce the vermilion of p. lobata, the true deep red of p. tenuifolia and the many purplish shades found in numerous cultivars such as Vera and Rimpow and in species such as p. coriacea, p. bakeri and p. decorata. The answer lies with another class of pigments, related to the anthocyanidins, known as **flavones**.

The **flavones** are, in general, weak pigments of palest yellow. In fact all our white peonies are pigmented by flavones which simply provide "body" to petals that would otherwise be a translucent, ghostly white. In higher concentrations we obtain creams and ivories as in the variety Mrs. Frank Beach. A few flavones however are capable of providing pale yellows as found in p. mloko-sewitschi and Oriental Gold. It may

be mentioned at this point that the anthers of nearly all peonies contain substantial amounts of yellow flavones, and it is these pigments that provide the yellow of the petaloids in varieties such as *Primevere* and *Golden Dawn*, where genetic control of pigmentation is temporarily shared between petals and anthers. Unfortunately the petal genes soon dominate, and production of yellow flavone ceases, followed by rapid fading to the basic petal color.

Returning to the question of color within the reds, we find that a mixture of yellow flavone with crimson anthocyanidin causes a shift in color, as one would expect, towards orange. Thus *p. lobata* (including such cultivars as *Fire King*, *Sunshine* and *Sunbeam*) is valuable not only for its own fine color (which closely approximates that of pelargonidin in some of the tree peonies) but also for its potential ability to yield yellows superior to any we now have in the herbaceous peonies. Paradoxically we find that the flavones also participate in the color shift from crimson to purple. In this instance flavone and anthocyanidin combine chemically to, in effect, produce a new pigment which is essentially violet in color. As we lack violet anthocyanidins in the peonies this offers an alternative for extending our color range in this direction. Indeed we already have hints of the potential of the anthocyanidin-flavone combination in *The Lavenders* (*lactiflora* x *coriacea*) and in the tree peony *Kamada Fuji*. Using the best of our existing purples, plus peonies with high flavone content (bearing in mind that not all flavones are suitable, as for example *p. lobata* and its offspring) should give improvements in this area.

Our most important yellows are to be found in the tree peonies. The

deep intense yellow of *p. lutea* and its variety *ludlowi* is beyond compare, and the *lutea* hybrids clearly indicate its great value in breeding. These hybrids have yielded the expected yellows, yet are strangely lacking in the orange shades that might also be anticipated. In place of orange we have a series of beautiful and curious blends and suffusions of yellow with red. The reason for this lies in the nature of the pigment in *p. lutea*. This pigment belongs to an entirely different class known as the **carotenoids** (the name being derived from the carrot whose orange pigment belongs to this group). First of all, the carotenoids are generally water-insoluble pigments, and secondly, they occur within specialized cells known as plastids, which may be regarded as tiny cells enclosed in the normal plant cells. Both these factors prevent the carotenoids from mixing with the anthocyanidins, which are dissolved in the cell sap. Even more important is a third fact: that the two classes of pigments tend to occupy different cell layers within the petal. Anthocyanidins are known, in the peonies, to be located in the sub-epidermal or inner cells, whereas it appears that the carotenoids are found in the epidermal or outer layer of cells. The overall impression gained from viewing one color through another is of earthy or dusky hues and shades.

Another important but neglected yellow-flowered tree peony is *p. potanini trollioides*. While not as intense or as opaque a yellow as *p. lutea*, it is nonetheless a fine clear color that can be found in the *Wilson Horticultural Chart* as *Mimosa Yellow 602*. This yellow belongs to a class of pigments known as **chalcones**, which are compounds related to the anthocyanidins and flavones. Unlike the carotenoid pigment of *p. lutea*, chalcones are miscible with

red anthocyanidins and should give clear orange shades. Theoretically, there seems to be no reason why trolloides should not cross with *p. suffruticosa*, and the results are likely to be novel and rewarding. Nor is there any longer a reason for not trying to cross trolloides, or any other tree peony for that matter, directly with the herbaceous peonies. The now famous "Ito Hybrids", which are derived from the white lactiflora variety Kakoden crossed by the yellow lutea hybrid Alice Harding, are not only of great interest in themselves, but even more important, they have demolished the myth of incompatibility barriers between the herbaceous and the tree peonies.

To obtain a race of hybrids combining the chalcone of trolloides with the fine qualities of herbaceous peonies, may require the making of this cross in any case, although it might be better to proceed by crossing trolloides with the lutea hybrids and then cross the resultant hybrids with the herbaceous. Thus (and we are still in the realm of "in theory at least") we would obtain a complicated race of hybrids in which we have herbaceous qualities combined with all the color pigments that are now found only in the tree peonies: pelargonidin, chalcone, and carotenoids.

Mention was made earlier of plastids in connection with the carotenoid pigments. Actually to the plant itself the most important plastid pigment is chlorophyll. This is of course the universal green pigment found in all leaves. Petals are really modified leaves, in which a genetic mechanism has evolved to inhibit chlorophyll formation. In the bud stage petals often appear greenish, and occasionally even in mature petals chlorophyll inhibition is not totally complete. The greenish tinges found in *p. wittmanniana* and

its hybrids such as Green Ivory and Ballerina are examples, and further breeding along these lines should be interesting.

True blue is probably the rarest color in the plant world. In all the popular flowering plants that lack blue, breeders have sought for years to introduce this color. Yet today the blue rose remains a dream, and some claim, an impossibility. When we examine the nature of the blue flower pigments, we discover that there is no blue pigment as such, but rather a complex or combination of an anthocyanidin (such as cyanidin, as in the blue cornflower, or delphinidin, as in the delphinium, with certain metals such as aluminum, iron or magnesium. It is also known that pelargonidin and peonidin, because of their chemical structure, are unable to combine with these metals. However, as cyanidin and delphinidin are so widely distributed in the plant world, and few plants (unless nutritionally deprived) are likely to be wholly lacking in the appropriate metals, we must conclude that some additional factor is involved. A plausible explanation, and one that can be confirmed in the test tube, is that formation of the blue pigment is also dependent on the relative freedom from acidity of the cell sap, and that most saps are simply too acidic. In the peony the only species containing cyanidin in substantial amounts is *p. lobata*, and we might cross this with as many other peonies as possible, hoping to hit one that has cell fluids of the proper acidity. The chances of success are slim, but the fine color of *lobata* should ensure that this would not be an entirely wasted exercise.

Space does not permit a full discussion of the other factors related to color, such as fading, and color patterns, but it is sufficient to state

that improvements can and should be made along these lines. Mutation by either physical or chemical agents is also of interest. Without going into the reasons, we will simply make a few rather dogmatic predictions. Mutations from peonidin to cyanidin and pelargonidin are almost certain; all other anthocyanidins are virtually impossible. Yellower flavones are quite unlikely, but chalcones are a possibility. Chlorophyll and carotenoids will be reduced in quantity, but variegated leaves are certain.

Readily available today are peonies in an almost bewildering array of colors that would have been undreamed-of, not too many years ago, and undoubtedly the future will offer even more. One wonders however, if even the most exciting novelty can ever supplant in our affections the exquisite loveliness of a Minnie Shaylor or a Fuji no Akebono.

* * * *

SUMMARY OF PIGMENTS

I. Plastid pigments

- A. Chlorophyll (green) All leaves. Traces in *p. wittmanniana* and its derivatives.
- B. Carotenoids (brilliant yellow) Only in *p. lutea* and its hybrids.

II. Flavonoids

A. Anthocyanidins

1. pelargonidin (scarlet) Only in some *suffruticosa*, and hence perhaps in some of the *lutea* hybrids.
2. peonidin (crimson) Major pigment in *p. lactiflora*, *tenuifolia*, *arietina*, *broteri*, *cambessedesii*, *daurica*, *decora*, *mollis*, *officinalis* (not including *lobata*), *delavayi* and many *suffruticosa*.
3. cyanidin (crimson) Traces in the above species, and as a 50-50 mixture with peonidin, in *p. lobata*.

B. Flavones (white to pale yellow) Probably all peonies have at least some of the palest flavones. Yellower flavones are in *Oriental Gold*, *p. mloko-sewitschi*, *lobata*, and probably *tenuifolia*.

C. Chalcones (clear yellow) Only in *p. trollioides*.

D. Complex pigments

1. Anthocyanidin combined with flavone (to give violet or purple). Common in *lactiflora*, *suffruticosa* and many other species. Usually reddened by excess anthocyanidin.
2. Cyanidin combined with metals (to give blue). Not found in peonies as yet, but possible.

* * * *

And from a recent letter from Mr. Cooper:

I've just completed the examination of the petals Gary Seaman kindly sent me from the Gratwick Nursery. They fall into three pigment patterns:

1. Pelargonidin with minor amounts of peonidin.
Group II Hi-ow, Sakura jishi
Group III Shinkagami, Hinode sekai, Shin kagura
Group IV Hino tsukasa, Kinkaden, Impumon, Kippukurin, Hatsu hinode
Group V Ori hime.

(The "Groups" are the color groups as given in the Tree Peony Article by John C. Wister in the Peony Bulletin for September 1944. No. 95.)

2. Peonidin with no detectable pelargonidin:

Jap tree peony Guardian of the Monastery (would be in Group VII)

Lutea Hybrids: Angelet, Apricot, Happy Days, Harvest, Pastoral, Marchioness, from Saunders catalog, the "Tea

Rose" group. Also Saunders F-2-A and F-2-B.

Daphnis Hybrid: Guaguin.

Saunders lutea hybrids from "Strawberry" group: Banquet, Chinese Dragon, Hesperus and Renown.

3. Peonidin with minor amounts of pelargonidin.

Saunders lutea hybrids Summer Night and Tiger Tiger

From the Gratwick Nursery, No. D-240.

It would appear that these latter three were derived from pelargonidin-containing tree peonies, but that peonidin is dominant over pel-

argonidin. So the blend of scarlet and yellow remains to be created. However, this can easily (?) be done if we cross 1 and 3. The type should be found then, in one out of every four seedlings.

The only thing that disturbs me is that so few of the lutea hybrids show these traces of pelargonidin. However it should be noted that several, e.g. Angelet, Harvest and Pastoral, yielded so little anthocyanidin pigment that one could not be absolutely certain that pelargonidin was not present. These perhaps could be re-examined after extracting a larger number of petals.



TREE PEONIES

By Leo J. Armatys

Human nature impels us to search for an escape from the ordinary. Tree peonies have proved to be one answer—a most satisfying answer when these majestic plants are safely settled in your garden.

Now is the Time

Order tree peonies in September. The named kinds are in short supply. Growers like David Reath in cold northwestern Michigan will ship only in September. William Gratwick prefers October or later. Louis Smirnow has an even more flexible timetable. All growers agree fall is the best planting time.

Full Circle

I have an amateur contact in Japan, Masao Kobayashi, of Hachiji-Shi, who is enthusiastically searching for new tree peonies. He found a yellow hybrid for me (which may be the French hybrid ALICE HARDING in disguise) and last month triumphantly announced discovery of a black tree peony! This will likely turn out to be an old maroon, but it is fun and prices in Japan are still reasonable.

Mr. Kobayashi pots these plants pending winter shipment, and sends photos of each stage of growth and bloom. Note that he leaves about half the graft root above ground. This wouldn't work in Nebraska, but I do wonder if we may be going over-board on deep planting—burying the plant with just a bit of the top above ground. As mentioned in "The Peonies," deep planting makes for own-roots and a wealth of subterranean buds, most of which develop into new stems. But perhaps we'd have more tree-like tree peonies if we didn't over-do the deep planting bit. I'll try shallower planting this fall—but not with any of the fancier cultivars; not yet anyway.

Kaleidoscope

As my plants become established they provide a succession of welcome surprises. The flamboyant Daphnis



Yellow Hybrid Tree Peony

Masao Kobayashi

Hachisi-Shi Japan

Picture sent to Mr. Leo J. Armatys

hybrid, GAUGUIN, sent up a late and very tall stem with a perfect flower several weeks after the main plant had bloomed, and the Saunders hybrid, AMBER MOON, followed suit a month later. TAMA FUYO produced some of the prettiest pink blooms I've seen—rather small but different, and so nicely substantiated. It would be at ease among any of the glamour varieties.

And the Saunders hybrid, HESPERUS, finally burst forth in all its glory. I can see now why Gratwick listed it among the top dozen Saunders varieties. The catalog description gives no inkling of its beauty. There is a halo effect of rose bordering a yellow background,

striking to say the least.

My little colony of Daphnis hybrids continues to flourish. It isn't difficult to see that ARTEMIS has blood of GUARDIAN OF THE MONASTERY coursing thru its veins. Nor is it difficult to see that each of the Daphnis cultivars differs from anything that has gone before.

Note to Hybridists

Now that you represent a sizeable percentage of the membership we hope for a lot more articles of the calibre of those by Fr. Fiala and Mr. Pehrson in Bulletin 191. Keep them simple enough for us common folk to understand and we may join you.

WINTER PROTECTION FOR TREE PEONIES NEAR MINNEAPOLIS

From Miss Frances Drake, Box 1207, Minnetonka, (11 miles S.W. of Minneapolis) Minnesota, come the following ingenious instructions for

protecting Japanese Tree Peonies in winter: "Contrary to things I hear, tree peonies do as well for me as any others. I got my first ones in

1962 so they have had plenty of time to prove themselves.

First I tie up the branches in strong twine, to hold them in so that no breakage can occur. Then I take two "slabs" of baled hay or straw. Big pieces 2-3 inches thick. I like the bales; they make such nice solid pieces. Usually two pieces is enough, and I tie them together tight enough so the plant is enclosed. I then put a few mothballs on the ground around the base of the plant. Finally, a big plastic bag over the whole thing, and tie it up well.

This year, because I have several plants that are now about 40 inches

tall, I shall have to build up my supports for them. I think I'll use large pieces of cardboard, and stuff hay on the inside, next to the plant. Then tie the card together hard, and use the big plastic bag to cover. I'll drive down a steel post on the north side of the plant, and tie the whole thing to this post.

I also have a Wisteria vine that I grow in a 5-gallon can, and take it indoors for the winter. But I simply don't have the time to fuss with many of the tender plants.

I hope these notes may be useful to some of the Bulletin's Readers."

MRS. GILBERT CULLEN — TOP DESIGNER



Mrs. Gilbert Cullen, Marietta, Ohio, (member of the American Peony Society since 1964) served as top designer for the opening day of the advanced Judges and Exhibitors School, held May 19th, sponsored by the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs.

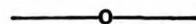
We were delighted to see the photograph of Mrs. Cullen together with a complimentary article about her lecture and demonstration, that appeared in a Columbus, Ohio paper.

Mrs. Cullen covered the history of flower arranging, showing that our American designs are a combination of line arranging from the

orient and mass arranging from the European countries. She demonstrated arrangements of both symmetrical and asymmetrical mass arrangements (line arrangements and massed arrangements) which are a combination of each of the other types.

Mrs. Cullen has served at State Chairman for Flower Show Awards and Judges' and Exhibitors Schools and Clinics.

Mrs. Cullen and Mrs. Albert C. Pool, (former State President, now serving as a Counselor of the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs) also a resident of Marietta, Ohio, have attended our Society Exhibitions held at Kingwood Center, Mansfield Ohio. Both have been active bidders and purchasers at the Peony Auctions.



Give instruction to wise man, and he will be yet wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

. . . Proverbs 9:9



MR. JOHN A. MAYER

Mr. John Mayer, who has a very beautiful small garden in Greenwich, Connecticut, where he specializes in rock plants, hybrid peonies, and lilacs, is shown here standing beside a Japanese Tree Peony trained up an 8-foot high post. The garden is in Bellagio, on Lake Como in Northern Italy.

Mr. Mayer feels the tree peony is probably our old "Banksi" which, he says, "are everywhere in Italian gardens, and SO floriferous!"

The date of the photo was April 28.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS PEONIES FOR SALE

In Warrensburg, Illinois, ten miles northwest of Decatur, lies the nursery of the former Ralph Schroeder, who died last January, according to word received recently from his sister in Washington, D.C. Mr. Schroeder, a lifelong admirer of the Peony, and a former member of the Society, grew, over the years, a great number of varieties in his gardens. Although Mr. Glasscock lived at some distance away, the two men were friends, and a good many fine Glasscock varieties found their way into Mr. Schroeder's so-called "Village Garden."

As happens nowadays all too frequently, there is now no close relative with the time, or perhaps not even with the inclination, to carry on this nursery, and with the added possibility that the land may be sold, the plants are now up for sale. Those interested should contact Miss Ruth Schroeder, Warrensburg, Illinois 62573, and make whatever arrangements are necessary.

Buyers shall do their own digging, so bring your spade, labels and baskets.

If we give below a fairly complete listing of the many fine peonies to be found in these gardens, we should not have to add to Miss Ruth Schroeder's labors by trying to find out whether specific kinds are there, though of course for an appointment, one would presumably get in touch with her ahead of time. Most of these kinds are in one clump each:

LACTIFLORAS, about 35: Ann Bigger, Ann Cousins, Arcturus, Auten's Pride, Cleopatra, Dawn Pink, Dolorodell, Doris Cooper, Elsa Sass, Felix Supreme, Flower Girl, Hans Sass, Hansina Brand, High Fashion, Jay Hawker, John Howard Wigell, Kansas, Kickapoo, Karl Rosenfield, Lady Orchid, Laura Kelsey, Liebchen, Mrs. F.D.R., Minnie Shaylor, Miss Dainty, Mons. Jules Elie, Moonstone, Nancy Nicholls, Ruth Clay, Snow Mountain, Therese, Ton-

delayo, Victory, and Vivid Rose.

JAPANESE, eight: Ama no sode, Charm, Dignity, Carrara, Do Tell, Hari-i-nin, Nippon Brilliant and Tamate-Boku.

HYBRIDS, seventeen: Carol, Claire de Lune, Dainty Lass, Defender, Eventide, Flame, Gay Cavalier,

Golden Glow, Great Lady, Illini Belle, Mahogany, Nancy, Red Charm, Salmon Princess, Starlight, Victoria Lincoln and wildlife.

This does seem an excellent opportunity to obtain some fine peonies, for those who live near enough to take advantage of it.

DR. HILDRETH HONORED

Dr. Aubrey C. Hildreth was the recipient of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Garden and Horticultural Award, one of the most important in the United States, at the June commencement exercises of Swarthmore College.

This award was founded in memory of Arthur Hoyt Scott, treasurer of the American Peony Society and a founder and treasurer of the

American Iris Society.

Dr. Hildreth, leading authority on Plains Horticulture, is Director Emeritus of both the Denver Botanic Garden and the Cheyenne, Wyoming, Experiment Station. He has earned numerous awards in his life's work of finding out how plants adjust to drought and cold, and in developing better horticulture in the high, dry, cold, bright climates.

DOUBLENESS

by E. L. Pehrson

Why of course! Now why did I never notice that before? Have you ever responded in this manner when something which ought to be perfectly obvious has been explained to you? In the present instance, I've had to formulate my own theory. Let me outline it, to see if someone may agree with me.

I think there are two distinctly different kinds of doubleness in peonies. If this should be true, each kind would necessarily be controlled or determined by different genes.

One kind of doubleness would be that which results from transformation of stamens. The other kind I prefer to think of as "multi-petaly" or simply a proliferation of guard petals. I will refer to these two types of doubleness as type 1 and type 2, to save time and space.

The mildest expression of type 1 is seen in the Japs. In many of these, the "staminodes" show ample evidence of their origin.

The so-called "anemone" type carry the transformation a step further. Here the "staminodes" have become wider "petaloids". Some small evidence of their stamen origin may still remain in the form of transient yellow coloring.

The "bomb type" doubles such as Mons. Jules Elie and Red Charm represent a still greater development of type 1 doubling. Guard petals are still distinctly recognizable in normal single-row placement. Carpels are still but little changed, or perhaps even still normal in function.

The ultimate in type 1 doubleness occurs when the carpels too become petalized. Some doubles, such as Festiva Maxima and Kelway's Glorious produce some center petals with red tips. These are the transformed carpels.

If there is a comparable graduated range of expression in type 2 doubling, it is admittedly harder to re-

cognize. Nevertheless it may also exist. Minnie Shaylor and Silvia Saunders are surely examples of one such stage. The petals all look like guard petals; the stamens do not appear to have been diminished in number. Alteration of flower parts into petals seems to extend to the carpels also, as these are a little more numerous than in many peonies. Beyond the degree of expression seen in flowers such as these two, the evidence becomes less clear-cut. Such full doubles as Kansas and Margaret Lough have a small cluster of good stamens and small carpels in the very center. May they be type 2? Can petal widths tell us anything?

I suspect that for breeding purposes, type 1 varieties are better sources of doubleness than are type 2. Here I will make some assumptions. At the very worst, I would think these are approximately correct:

1. Type 1 doubleness is "recessive".

2. Type 2 doubleness is also "recessive".

3. Tree peonies possess only type 2 doubleness. There are no "Jap", "anemone" or "bomb" types as in herbaceous peonies—all type 1.

4. "Lutea" yellow is surely dominant.

Mr. Ito crossed a type 2 lutea hybrid (Alice Harding) onto a type 2 lactiflora and got type 2 seedlings. Apparently the gene for type 2 in the luteas and in lactiflora is the same—so the seedlings are homozygous.

Two conclusions logically follow:—

1. If we cross type 2 lutea hybrids onto type 1 lactifloras (Japs or anemone types, we should get only singles—but with yellow content.

2. The second generation would produce some type 1 yellow doubles. We might predict percentages if we knew whether linkages may exist. I suspect they do not. This should follow a "di-hybrid" pattern.

What do YOU think?

GROWING TREE PEONIES FROM SEED

by Mrs. Ellery Sedgwick—Mrs. George L. Batchelder

Tree peony seeds have a double dormancy and take two seasons to germinate. This slow process can be hastened by stratification: 3 to 4 months of warmth produces a root and after a cooling space of 2 to 3 months the leaf buds appear.

The seeds should be collected when they are light brown and glossy. Not all the seeds in a pod reach this state together and maturity may be spread over two weeks or more. A white seed is liable to decay and a black seed may get too hard and dry to germinate easily.

Put the seeds in a little compost in polyethylene bags and be sure they don't dry out in the course of a winter. An inspection once a month is a good precaution. Keep them in a warm place 60-68° F: we

use a shelf in the living room. When the roots appear, between Christmas and February, move the bags to the bottom of the refrigerator 36-40° F. and in April the leaves will be incubating in the bags.

This is the time to plant out the seedlings in flats, $\frac{1}{2}$ sand and $\frac{1}{2}$ peatmoss with a little lime added, water them with captan, against damping off, and set in an open frame, somewhat shaded.

A John Innes compost gives the best germination. 1 part peat, 1 part sand and 2 parts sterilized soil.

To every 4 quarts of compost add $\frac{1}{8}$ Teaspoon lime and $\frac{1}{4}$ Teaspoon superphosphate. To sterilize the soil drop it dry into $\frac{1}{2}$ inch boiling water and simmer at 180° F. for 10-15 minutes. This destroys the weedseeds, fungus spores and insect eggs, but is not hot enough to destroy the bacteria which will activate the soil. When sterilized the soil is mixed with the other ingredients, which are presumed to be sufficiently clean.

The nursery bed should be raised

and in the acid soil of our Eastern Seaboard, should have lime and superphosphate added. Tree Peonies flourish in sharp drainage, which also prevents the formation of ice on the beds.

Other methods of germinating these seeds are advocated, but are not satisfactory in the short season of northern climates such as Zones V and VI where the seeds ripen late and the ground freezes early.

Editor's Note: Our contributors live in Beverly, Massachusetts 01915.

FLOWERING OF PAEONIA LUTEA VAR. LUDLOWII

by Mrs. Ellery Sedgwick

I wonder if any of your members have flowered *Paeonia Lutea* var. *Ludlowii* in the colder areas of North America? Here in Zone 5, north of Boston, it seems that the season is too short for the new wood to harden. With the MOUTANS the wood matures during the summer, but the new shoots of *Paeonia Lutea* Var. *Ludlowii* are still soft and half green when the killing frosts come, and as the flower buds tip the new growth they are lost.

My plant is 8 years old from seed which may be considered mature in a Tree Peony. In the nursery bed it was in full sun with a mulch of salt hay against winter, and invariably killed to the ground. After 4 years it was moved to a sloping bank in half shade and casually protected with evergreen bough in winter. In the spring of '67 the plant was fertilized early to hasten maturity as suggested by Prof. Lapin of Moscow (Arnoldia, March '67) and that winter received extra protection with a circular windbreak of fern held between two layers of Turkey wire.

This winter an inner protection of a strong polyethylene bag has been added. The plant grows about 4 ft. in a season and with all these efforts has now 1-2 ft. of hard wood at the base!

It would be interesting to know in which Zones this Tree Peony has

produced flowers and if so whether protection is used or fertilizers to hasten maturity.

The MOUTANS here are hardy enough but lose their oldest wood, so that they never form the thick trunks seen in Oriental Art. The true reds are more delicate and go underground in a bad winter. *P. DELAVAYI* kills back frequently. However, being quaint rather than beautiful it is not seriously missed.

Editor's Note: When this interesting piece came in from Mrs. Sedgwick, who resides in Beverly, Massachusetts 01915, we were reminded that some time back we had published a letter from British Columbia, from a lady who said *P. Ludlowii* had flowered for her. The first instance (and thus far the only one we know of) of *Ludlowii*'s blooming in the Western Hemisphere. We looked up our back bulletins, and sure enough in the De-

cember 1963 issue we found it. To save our Readers that trouble, we will quote her letter again, in part:

"This (*P. Ludlowii*) was raised from Royal Horticultural Society (England) seed which was sown in 1954. The first plant bloomed in 1962, and this year all of the half-dozen plants we still have, bloomed ... Furthermore, on the largest bush there are three seed-pods, though whether the seed will ripen remains to be seen.

As to why we have the only flowers in North America, I would suggest that our climate is a little like Southern England, with significant differences for instance, our average rainfall of 28"-32" falls about 80% between November and March. The summer may be warm, with temperatures in the 80's, or cool (as this year) ranging from 65 to 75 degrees; but it is invariably dry.

Our soil is an excessively poor gravel, with superlative drainage. The peonies are grown under a sawdust mulch, with an annual dressing of ammonium nitrate. The

chemical analysis varies in different parts of the garden, but it is roughly slightly on the acid side of neutral ...

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

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

We recall also a note from Mr. Henry F. du Pont of Winterthur Gardens, Delaware, quoting Sir George Taylor (the Director of Kew Gardens in England, and who was with Ludlow and Sherriff in 1936 when they found *P. Ludlowii*) as saying: "You'll never flower *P. Ludlowii* in America; you coddle it too much." Mrs. Sedgwick quotes Sir George as saying that it "grew on gravel terraces, and shone like gold in the sunlight."

She feels that perhaps the gravel is important; also sharp drainage, but she suspects it needs a warmer climate than her Zone (Boston, Mass.) provides.

THE QUEST OR THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

by Raymond L. Scheele

In *The Peonies*, John Wister summarizes the tremendous contributions of Professor A. P. Saunders, stating "Few would deny that in his thirty years of hybridizing he succeeded admirably in his quest." (pp. 42-43). And indeed, many of today's breeding programs still start with Dr. Saunders' achievements. But one quest remained an 'impossible dream' for him, despite repeated and determined efforts. "In 1916," Wister quotes him as saying, "I put *P. lutea* pollen blooms of many different peonies, both herbaceous and tree. In 1917 again, I made some 250 pollinations." Saunders assigned "top place among the failures" to "the attempt to cross the trees with the herbaceous" — (pp. 44) the impossible quest, the impossible dream.

It was not until 1967 that that impossible dream was fulfilled — when Mr. Louis Smirnow introduced the first known cross of tree and herbaceous peonies. The first

varieties were Smirnow's now famous Yellow Crown, Yellow Dream, Yellow Emperor, and Yellow Heaven. As Father Fiala summarized the accomplishment in his excellent

report (see our bulletin 191), "somehow the seemingly impossible had happened." As the priest concludes, the "new race" of golden peonies" had "managed to break all accepted rules." (pp. 5-6).

The significance I attribute to these four varieties prompts this preliminary report on them. It now seems that the full import of the Smirnow introductions is only beginning to be recognized and explored. Certainly Father Fiala's article on how this cross inspired him to make a series of parallel crosses with Alice Harding and with other lutea hybrids on several other herbaceous varieties, is a landmark in peony history—and indicative of the range of possibilities Smirnow opened. Father Fiala records "We now have a number of herbaceous varieties, including lactiflora, officianalis, and triple hybrid, all crossed with Alice Harding." Father Fiala used other luteas such as Thunderbolt, Black Pirate, and other herbaceous varieties such as Battle Flag. These crosses took and his enthusiasm for the resulting seedlings suggests their garden value: "magnificently beautiful—bold face they look directly up at you" (p. 11). And as he so correctly concludes, the beauty of current seedlings—plus the hybridizing possibilities they yield—open new horizons of peonies yet undreamed of: "All are marvelous oracles of things to come." (p. 6)

Apart from the genetic feat they represent, what are the values of Smirnow's introductions? What are the special merits of Yellow Crown, Yellow Dream, Yellow Emperor and Yellow Heaven? Just what is it that recommends them as garden plants, and as contributors to the creation of new varieties?

As Garden Plants: First, let me consider them as garden subjects. For brevity, one can make certain generalizations about the four be-

cause they bear a striking family resemblance, showing their common parentage. Yet, like so many children who look like siblings, each one is also distinct.

As garden subjects, all four represent an improvement over Alice Harding, or any other full double lutea variety. They are superior in the carriage of flowers, the color of their yellow, and their foliage. As Miss Sylvia Saunders notes, "They have no hanging or bending of the stems but stand straight upright." I concur that the flowers are held well and much better than any other lutea but not all stand straight upright. I prefer their yellow to other full doubles as it is brighter and carries farther. Finally the foliage is, on all four, distinguished by an unusually vibrant and glowing green that aids in offsetting and enhancing the yellow tones of the flower. Miss Saunders notes that "it is more glossy, less lobed, and lacks the sheer elegance of tree peony foliage." (Vol. 194, p. 6). I do not know how to measure her elegance, but I do know that after the bloom period the foliage of these new introductions seems more eye-catching to many than Alice Harding or any other peonies in Mr. Smirnow's garden. The new plants are relatively short

—within the 20-30 inch height range of Alice Harding—which yields certain advantages to garden subjects; and the impressive size of the blooms is rendered even more-so in relation to overall plant size. The new plants bloom slightly later than Alice Harding and as a front-of-the-bed plant prove an excellent companion for many herbaceous varieties—especially some of the hybrids blooming at the same time.

Home gardeners are pleased by their shade tolerance. They flourish in an area receiving only a few hours of direct sunlight. Thus far,

they have responded to shade more in the manner of a tree peony than that of a herbaceous, and certainly as well as their parent Alice Harding.

The four plants of the new breed offer one more important advantage from the standpoint of the home gardener. They are the easiest peonies to divide—so much so that the home gardener can divide them himself. It is not even necessary to cut them: one just pulls them apart. Thus, after a few years, the home gardener can divide his original plant into two or three plants.

In summary, in numerous respects, the 'new race' represents improvements over previous garden subjects.

As Breeders: In the three years since their introduction, these four varieties have indirectly resulted in a vast number of new seedlings with tremendous potential. Father Fiala has emerged as a leading breeder of the 'new race' but a number of others have also been experimenting with original crosses. My own yard now boasts a few new seedlings from all sorts of crosses, only three years ago believed impossible—until Smirnow's introductions knocked down the "don't" barriers: "don't waste your time," "don't cross ..." etc. The numerical possibilities thus opened are staggering to calculate because now, the believed previous possible crosses of a few years ago within the herbaceous group or within the tree group have been increased geometrically with the possibilities of crosses between the two groups and with the 'new race.' More specifically, these four new varieties constitute a brand new type or category, extending the peony family. Whereas the family formerly consisted of just two major sections—"tree" and "herbaceous"—there is now a third main grouping or

branch. *Onaepia* with its two American herbaceous species is not considered a major section for hybridizing or gardening—as of this time. Botanically the 'new race' is not of the same taxonomic level as the other three; but to the hybridizer they are becoming a major group. And what a wonderful pool of genes the four new varieties of this growing group thus constitute! For the venturesome gardener, it is a real gold mine of genes.

Because fertility of the 'new race' was necessary to really fulfilling the quest for an herbaceous-tree peony cross, Smirnow has been anxious from the start to test the fertility of his introductions. That testing is still under way. As in so many cases, fertility seems to be increasing considerably with plant maturity. Results last year were somewhat disappointing, with virtually no yield of pollen and no pods. (No pollen dehissed last year and that gathered by cracking was sterile.) By contrast, pods have developed this year on all four 'new race' varieties—and from pollen obtained from such widely different sources as regular *lactiflora* or Chinese, tree species, and hybrid herbaceous peonies. It is possible, of course, that these pods will hold no developed seeds since false pods have been associated with lutea hybrids (including Alice Harding). are becoming a major group.

But the full look and feel of the pods as of the end of June offers grounds for real optimism. And pollen from the four new varieties has created pods on the few plants on which it was used this Spring. (An unusually wet season suggested using the still-scarce pollen very frugally. Some pollen is being stored to be placed on the early varieties and species next year).

As this report reflects Mr. Smirnow has a systematic testing pro-

gram under way and we will soon know how the 'new race' will perform as seed and pollen parent, when crossed with a wide variety of other leading peonies. Meanwhile progress to date offers considerable promise of as yet undreamed of peonies to come. A yellow herbaceous may only be a few seasons away, and even further wonders may soon be forthcoming.—For during the snows of last January, Mr. Smirnow received two brand

new plants, siblings of the four previous introductions called Yellow Gem. The newcomer demonstrated its stamina in surviving a seven weeks long trip, and its cellar sojourn before Spring thaws could permit permanent planting. Thus, we are surely seeing the dawn of a new era in peony history. It is a most exciting set of events to be watching with the fulfillment of one impossible dream giving rise to many others.

MEMBERSHIP IS MEANINGFUL

Perhaps the most outstanding asset with membership in the American Peony Society might well be said to be the unselfishness of our associated members in their wholesome efforts to advance the efforts of Peony growing for all members, whether amateurs or professionals, and their willingness to share their ideas, opinions and experiences with other members. An excellent example is the recent correspondence in answer to two requests. The first letter was regarding a request for Stern's *Study of the Genus Paeonia*. The request was forwarded to Leo J. Armatys, a Director of the Society. His answer is worthy of putting in the Bulletin.

"Stern's *Study of the Genus Paeonia*, 1946, is a big, big beautiful book, published with the help of a grant from the R.H.S., also hard to get because it is of such quality that it appeals to people who never heard of peonies. I know that Sir Frederick Stern himself had only one copy, and surely his widow wouldn't part with it. Several dozen members of the APS have it too, but more have been looking for it, and I know of no one who wants to part with theirs. Mine came from the Quaritch Bros. in London—\$56.00 three years ago. I enclose copy of my invoice on this

book. I'd say Quaritch would be the logical place to try to buy a copy. I did hear of one for sale for \$200 a couple of years ago, but it was probably snapped up by someone wanting to match covers in a fancy library. There are other books, as Mrs. Pennell mentioned. Michael Haworth-Booth's "The Moutan or Tree Peony", St. Martin's Press, N. Y. (1963) is or was a bargain at \$3.95.—I am looking for some of Reginald Farrer's books—"On the Eaves of the World", etc. Any ideas?"

The second request was with regard to sparse-blooming tree peonies, not only was the following answer given but included was a diagram representing a ten or twelve year old Peony on its own roots. The legend under the drawing is worthy of also mentioning. This may be found at the conclusion of the quotes from the letter.

"There are three general types of tree peonies—(a) Chinese; (b) Japanese; and (c) Lutea Hybrids. If I knew from whom you got your tree peonies, and what they called them, it would help.

If they are actually the Chinese type tree peonies, they just don't bloom so well as most of the Japanese or hybrids. In fact one. Chinese type, known as Reine Eli-

zabeth, is a notorious non-bloomer—sold by nurserymen as it grows well and propagates easily.

The first thing I'd check is the location in your garden. They don't like a cold, damp corner of any garden, and their prime requirement is good drainage. Any water standing around them for even a few days with either kill or stunt them. Fertilizer isn't an important item. If anything is used, it is usually a couple handfuls of steamed bone meal worked around the plant spring or fall or both. Some use a little superphosphate, but it shouldn't be necessary.

You say these plants are 3 years old. Most of those that I plant don't bloom (or at least no representative blooms) for at least that long after they are planted. That is one of the biggest obstacles to widespread acceptance of these plants—they are the most beautiful of all, but many gardeners want blooms right away, and are unwilling to wait for these plants to get thoroughly established. Sometimes development of good specimens can be hurried along by some judicious pruning of mishapen or older stems—being sure to make the cut at the stem's juncture with the root—which usually means gently going below surface to find that juncture. Otherwise the "stump" that is left may not heal properly, and the plant may pine away and eventually die. I'm enclosing copy of a sketch I made a lady in South Carolina a couple of months ago, who asked how tree peonies should be pruned. Normally, no pruning is recommended; but if a problem develops, then it is worth trying. If you decide to prune these plants, I'd recommend that you leave unpruned the good younger stems—on the enclosed sketch that would

be the ones to the far left and far right.

I'd also recommend that you plant several of the Japanese kinds, and some of the Saunders Lutea Hybrids (or some of the Daphnis Hybrids, if money is no object!) in addition to those you now have. They are truly the most beautiful plants in the world, when well established and happy in their location. And, being woody-stemmed, get bigger and better with age.

If you will give me the information on where your plants came from, and names (if they were named), I can probably give you more information on just what to expect. I'd also be glad to recommend some of the better kinds to plant. The best plants by the way, come from those nurserymen who specialize in tree peonies. Those sold by the general nurserymen are usually imported grafts, sold by color only, and less easy to establish in your garden."

(The following legend accompanied the above article.)

"This represents a 10 to 12 year old tree peony, on its own roots, and the red quarter-moons show the only pruning cuts that should be made, if pruning is contemplated or if a damaged or diseased stem makes pruning necessary. Any cuts at the top of the plant are made above the top bud, just to clean up its appearance. Side branches are cut flush with the main stem. The only other pruning permissible is removal of the entire stem, at its juncture with the root; except as shown on the second stem from the right, where the cut is made above a strong underground bud. Proper time for pruning is late summer, so any underground buds forced upward by removal of a stem won't surface before the following spring."

MID-WEST ROBIN NO. 1

Director, Allen Harper
Letter November 15, 1968

My garden interests were pretty well described in my 1968 catalog, which I think all of you have. Currently I am growing about 175 varieties which include about 30 herbaceous hybrids, 16 tree varieties of which only 10 are verified, and the rest are lactifloras. I am particularly fond of the Japanese types, as I think they offer the greatest variety in color combinations and interesting forms.

Our season generally begins here about the first week in May with the Tree Peonies and runs through till around the first of June.

I don't profess to be a hybridizer in the strict sense, but have been planting seeds from "bee crosses" for years, and by some selection have kept about six, which might be worth registering. My one successful pod from a planned cross (Pres. Lincoln x Bright Knight) produced nine seeds two years ago, but so far no germination. I did get three of the Saunders Hybridists Headstart, so you see at age 60 I haven't yet given up on getting some worthwhile results in hybridizing.

* * * *

Leo Armatys
Central City, Neb.
Letter November 18, 1968

By way of introduction I am a small-time small-town lawyer, with six kids, three now in college and another who hopes to be there next fall. My wife Dorothy, is 1968 Champion ladies golfer at the local country club, and needless to say, beats me consistently.

I can't recall seeing any herbaceous peony to compare with tree peony blooms on an established plant. The only thing I do that differs from the established planting directions for herbaceous peonies is

that mine are planted with eyes at ground level rather than the recommended two inches below. I do mound up several inches of dirt over each plant in the fall, and level the mound back each spring.

I've read everything I could find on grafting tree peonies, and just this fall I did get some to really take, and they are doing fine. I left the grafts in a moist shaded spot under a faucet covered with a little sphagnum moss, for 3 weeks or so before putting them in the ground.

I hope we can shift our national emphasis from Shows to Gardens—with a "Garden Census" of all members as a start.

My pride and joy at the moment is a group of the Daphnis F-1 tree peony hybrids. Tria Gauguin, Artemis, Kronos, Demetra and Redon. When these grow up I have high hopes that they will fulfill the promise they show as young plants.

* * * *

The Rev. Joseph Syrový
Vining, Iowa
Letter November 23, 1968

I am a Catholic priest, situated in a very small town, so small in fact that it is hard to find on the Iowa map. Two years ago a tornado almost wiped us out, nothing was ever rebuilt, and even old stores were torn down, so there is nothing to see "downtown". But if you drive on top of the highest hill where you see a church, you will find about every kind of peony that you can think of! We do have an ideal climate for peonies in our section. For this reason we should have more members right here in our own back-yard. After all not everyone is able to go to the big Annual Peony Shows, so we in the Midwest Section should have "Open House" during peony season, or we could have our own "Little Show."

About hybridizing, I managed to get some pollen from Red Charm onto Alexander Woollcott and got at least a pod of seeds.

* * * *

Willis J. Smith
Sigourney, Iowa
December 3, 1968

I first became hooked on peonies in 1925 when I visited the National Show in Des Moines. I went home, started planting seeds and have been at it ever since.

* * * *

Sam Wissing
Lombard, Ill.
Letter December 5, 1968

I have been trying to get a wider range of clearer colors and also attempting to get some new style into our flower. I have had bloom in 4 years from time of pollination, but this is not to be expected on a regular basis.

I don't believe genetics alone will do the trick. If we could change the chromosome counts to get more vigor into some of our species, such as officinalis and lobata, and then breed them to lactifloras also at the Tetraploid level, then we will begin to see some very good improvements. Our hybrids will all be better when they have more lactiflora genes in their make-up.

Forty-four years of my life I spent in the textile business. In my first year, 1916, rayon appeared on the market, with instructions to keep it in a dark place as it would turn red in 30 days if the light strikes it. Naturally rayon was condemned and resented, as all new things are. Later on, those who had condemned it were asking for this terrible thing because they found it had merit. It was better than cotton for sleeve linings; it had slip, and you put your coat on so much more easily. So today we see the benefit of having faith in trying to do things better. And so it is with the peony, the

most neglected of all our perennials. It simply has not had the attention it deserves.

* * * *

Miss Gene Wild
Sarcoxie, Mo.
Letter January 16, 1969

My activities this year have been too many. I have just turned over the books of the treasurer of the American Hemerocallis Society after serving for five years. After June 5th, I'll be a past president of the Missouri State Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. At present I am still president, and have a convention to plan and a program for June 3rd to 5th, to write. As for peonies, this season was about the most perfect one we have ever had. I never saw them more lovely.

* * * *

Don Hollingsworth
Kansas City, Mo.
Letter January 30, 1969

A little background of myself and family. I grew up in the St. Joseph, Missouri area, and am now 40 years of age. I work for the Division of Continuing Education, University of Missouri in Kansas City. My wife Bernice and I have three children, two in college and one in the second grade. My interest in plant and/or animal breeding goes back to my high school days when I owned a registered Duroc gilt of noble lineage. At one time too I managed pedigreed Polled Shorthorn breeding cattle herds in New York State and Texas.

* * * *

SECOND ROUND OF MIDWEST ROBIN:

Allen Harper
Kansas City, Mo.
Letter February 1, 1969

We now have enough new members to start a second Robin—around fifteen in all.

In back of my mind is the fond hope that some day there might be

a spot in our District for the mass growing of seedlings from all our breeders, both so that comparisons can be made with existing varieties, and to give the public a sort of preview of things to come in the peony world of the future.

After the second Robin has made its rounds, we may regroup, with the serious hybridizers and larger growers in one, and the amateurs and casual growers in the other. Three members have sent in articles for the Newsletter, which are offered here in somewhat condensed form.

In the Kansas City area, we intend to organize a local group in two ways. First, some time in late March or early April we plan to hold an open meeting, inviting all those interested, via newspaper articles, the local Garden Center, and thru Garden Clubs. The programs of the Peony Society and of our own Midwest Group will be discussed, as will our Peony Show, scheduled for the Garden Center on May 25. Although only three of us are currently active in these plans, that should be enough to go ahead with, making converts as we go. If

this could be done in a half dozen or so larger metropolitan areas in the District, we could have a vigorous organization in no time at all. Why don't you get together with your neighboring A.P.S. members and try to develop a similar plan.

Now best wishes to all. May 1969 be a most enjoyable year, made more complete with generous peony bloom.

Allen Harper, Editor

Editor's Note: An excellent report of the first Peony Show was reported by Allen Harper in September, 1969 American Peony Society Bulletin No. 194, Page 28.

—o—

A Portugese Proverb—Experience is the fruit of the tree of errors.

* * * *

And what is Faith? Faith gives substance to our hopes, and makes us certain of realities we do not see.

. . . Hebrews 11:1
(The New English Bible)

* * * *

From a 73-years young member:
"I simply **must** get to work and learn how to graft tree peonies."

SILVER ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Four National groups are joining forces for the 25th American Horticultural Congress as stated in The American Horticultural Society News and Views, a quarterly publication. The American Horticultural Society officers and members are excited about the upcoming 25th American Horticultural Congress, November 1-4, planned jointly with the American Society for Horticultural Science, The American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, and The Garden Writers Association of America.

Headquarters for the four-day Congress is Miami Beach, Fla., where a subtropical climate will assure AHS'ers of swimming, tennis and other outdoor activities as well as a chance to see some of the most interesting and unusual collections of flora and fauna in the United States.

"Everywhere, Everywhere—Horticulture in the 70's," the theme of the 1970 Congress will be the subject of panel discussions, member workshops, and lectures by noted speakers throughout the four-day Congress. Specific areas of concentration include: Horticulture in Action, Communications, Water, Green Survival, Container Gardening, Youth, and several other timely aspects of horticulture today.

DDT . . . (And Beyond)

A Comment by Anthony J. DeBlasi

It is a sad fact of life that what is bad can be made to appear attractive. From the time of ancient Greek sophistry to present day legal practice, rationalizations have been proffered that would make the guilty appear to be innocent, the destruction of lives, products of art and literature to be essential to the general welfare, enslavement and blind conformity to be virtuous, and war to be good—to cite just a few of history's more salient examples of rationalistic camouflage.

The list is endless. And it includes the presentation of DDT as "a friend of man." DDT is a killer; it was so designed. No daredevil in his right mind—not even Houdini, were he alive,—would take a bath in DDT as one of his stunts: that would be risking too much.

Contrary to the claim by a Cuban physician that "little is known of DDT's danger to man," there is plenty of indicting evidence of the direct and indirect dangers of DDT: to wildlife, to the balance of nature, and to man himself. Remembering that any danger to any part of nature is a potential danger to man, we should view the emergence of DDT out of the realm of potential and into the role of actual villain in many documented instances as fair warning that we cannot afford to gamble with it.

If the concern for air that is bad to breathe, water that is bad to drink, food that is contaminated with toxic agents, species that are endangered, and the backlash of natural forces resulting from indiscriminate meddling with the balance of nature can be characterized by some journalists as "self-gratifying frenzy over ecology"—then it is clear that we have not yet grown into a mature and responsible society, that we are still a bunch of youngsters playing with dangerous toys. Stop the use of DDT altogether? Who needs it? The loss,

if any, to man would stand no comparison to the benefits if DDT were chucked. We simply cannot have our cake and eat it. We have already created too many situations of irretrievable loss in other fields that we entered with similar disquieting abandon in the name of research, in the name of defense, in the unnamed sponsorship of selfish interest.

It is a real question these days whether the Faust Complex in us has not already signed away our souls or whether it is still possible for us to gracefully discard such destructive "toys" as pesticides, combustion-engine automobiles, atomic power, "miracle" products, and the "candy" of Progress for Progress' Sake, classify them as Mistakes of Technology, and learn from such mistakes that it is impossible to fight Nature—we must join her.

Would this be defeat? No—it would be an acknowledgement that we accept the challenge of living a life of significance within the vast, BUT LIMITED, confines, of the "Paradise Garden" floating in the harsh wastes of interstellar space, which we call Earth.

FOOTNOTE

A bibliography to this "comment" would be presumptuous; however, the following brief list of works will serve to bring more information to those seeking it:

Carson, Rachel, **Silent Spring**.

Commoner, Barry, **Science and Survival.**

Curtis, Richard and Elizabeth Hogan, "The Myth of the Peaceful Atom," **Natural History**, March 1969.

Dubos, Rene, **So Human an Animal.**

Graham, Frank, Jr., **Since Silent Spring.**

INVITATION RECEIVED

American Peony Society members have been extended an invitation to attend the Central Atlantic Conference of the National Council of State Garden Clubs. This will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio October 5, 6 and 7th.

Mrs. William H. Barton, National Council President will be an honored guest.

Theme of the Conference will be "Flyways-ByWays" and will give, according to the invitation, instructive and amazing insight into inter-

esting subjects.

We have been given the opportunity as National Council affiliate to have an Educational Exhibit including our publication, pictures, specimen root division, etc. We hope many of our members will make an effort to attend, especially those residing in the area of Cincinnati. The Sheraton-Gibson Hotel will be headquarters for the Conference. Programs were not "off the press" at the time of our own printing.

FLASH!

Word has just reached us of the passing of our valued friend — Sam Wissing. It is in deepest sympathy to Clara that not only the Directors, but all of whom have come in contact with this fine and gentle man that we express appreciation for his loyalty and dedication in the field of peony growing.

Our Readers Write . . .

AUSTRALIA

Miss Irene Booth, 31 Orrong Crescent, Caulfield, Victoria, Australia, wrote "I have been interested in Tree Peonies for some time, however, I understood that they were very expensive, then four years ago a nursery advertised some for sale. There were Japanese hybrid grafts (not named) and I bought three — a purple, a red and a pink. Since then I have asked if more are available, and I have been told no, that no more are to be imported.

Since then I have got some species seeds from the Royal Horticultural Society, England, and the oldest plants are now three years old. Seed is available from time to time here, but it is unlabeled hybrids.

Tree Peonies are grown here, but not many. A friend has one which was grown from a cutting, but those

two plants are the only ones I know of personally.

Wishing to know more about Tree Peonies I wrote to the R.H.S. who referred me to the American Horticultural Society and their book on Peonies — which is how I found out about the American Peony Society.

The reason why Tree Peonies are not grown much in Melbourne (where I live) may be because it may be too warm. Each year there are several days over 100° F in summer, and there are many days over 80. In winter it does not snow and seldom goes under freezing. Rainfall is only about 24" per year, and fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. It is, therefore, necessary to water the gardens in summer.

(Camellias grow very well here (I have a number), and in spite of

being told to put them in semi-shade, they seem to do better in the full sun — this applies to all types.)

In the Peony Wishbook I have noted that I am interested in hybridizing but I will have to wait until my Peonies are old enough to flower before I can do any hybridizing.

Does the Society have a seed exchange? Are there growers in the U.S.A. who sell named hybrid seeds?"

—

John G. Noble, 27 Hume Street, Armadale, Victoria, Australia 3143 wrote, "I am writing to enquire if it is possible to become a member of your society. In Australia, we have no such organization and consequently any information is rare — usually of English origin, but when looking through some bibliographies the name of your society and particularly its Journal appear frequently.

If membership is not possible, would any copies of the Journal be available? In particular those relating to the Tree Peonies.

Any advice or information you can give would be greatly appreciated."

* * * *

CANADA

Ralph H. Giff, 189 Cecil Street, Sarnia Ontario, Canada wrote, "At last I have picked up enough energy to acknowledge communications you have directed my way.

My garden got into a terrible state as during 1968 and 1969, when due to illness, I was hardly able to lay a hand to it. My herbaceous peonies for 1969 were a complete failure due to a combination of too much rain plus cold weather. Strange to say, however, my Tree Peonies for 1969 were exceedingly good and I could have staged a wonderful showing at Mansfield but I was in no fit condition to travel.

May I call your attention to an article in Bulletin No. 192 in March of this year dealing with Tree Peony "Lutea Ludlowii". In 1965 I imported 3 plants from Sir Fred. Stern — 2 for a close friend and ardent gardener and 1 for myself. Mine died during the winter of 1965/66 but those for my friend lived.

In the Fall of 1967 I imported one plant from Sir Frederick and while it seemed to thrive during the winter of 1967/1968 yet it winterkilled during the 1968/69 winter. While those of my friend are still alive yet they have never flowered nor are there any flower buds on them for the 1970 Season.

Reading "between the lines" of the article in Bulletin No. 192 I am holding to the opinion that Lutea Ludlowii is not for the U.S. or Canada. Furthermore, despite remarks to the contrary, I have a strong suspicion that the flowers possibly leave something to be desired. My friend and I are working together on the two he still has alive but I respectfully decline to "clutter" up this letter with steps we are taking, not only to preserve the life of them, but hopeful of encouraging them to bloom." Have you had any encouraging reports on the variety? If so, please write Mr. Giff.

* * * *

CALIFORNIA

Frank Ruppert, Green Mountain Ranch, 4700 Julian Highway 78, Julian, California, wrote in June, "We have had a very mild winter here with the result that a number of varieties are nearly ready to bloom. I have been disbudding one to two plants. Janice is showing considerable color. However, the weather has turned cool and frost threatens both the flowers and the fruit. My cherry blossoms look rather bleak and it will be a day or so before I know if they have been frosted.

Miss Saunders and others have sent me seeds of peonies in the recent past and now I am enjoying growing some seedlings of peonies. I have 73 little seedlings growing in pots waiting to get big enough to take a place in the garden. I had what I thought to be a very good success as about 80% of the seeds germinated. I planted them in builders sand in the Fall of '68 and suddenly this mid March they all began emerging. I hope to make a few crosses of my own this spring."

—
Dara E. Emery, 517 W. Junipero Street No. 2, Santa Barbara, California, wrote us recently, "In a seed catalog I came across the name **Paeonia Steveniana** (stev) Kern-Nath. My only good reference is "The Peonies" edited by J. C. Wister and the name does not seem to be listed there. Can you give me any information on this species. I am particularly interested in knowing where it can be found (climate and country) growing wild.

Maybe next year the first of my herbaceous species will flower in which case I will write you a short article for the Bulletin. So far the only thing I have been able to flower from seed is **Pdelavayi** and **Pdelavayi x Plutea** or perhaps the cross (not mine) was the other way. In any case the flower was not interesting to me being rather nodding. There is still a chance that **P. lutea** and/or **P lutea ludlowii** will flower this spring. Sorry I never get to the flower shows but it is so far from here."

—
John R. Diaz, 918 Ann Arbor Ave., Ventura, California 39003, when writing for information concerning membership stated he is interested in new varieties as well as members experiences in growing Peonies in different localities. Mr. Diaz is in-

terested also in the setting up of local shows.

—
John Ura, 42154 Palm Ave., Fremont, California 94538, joined the Society June 28, 1970, stating that he is interested in decorating his home grounds as well as interested in a commercial membership, in the future.

—
Toichi Domoto, 26521 Whitman Street, Hayward, California 94544 has been one of our loyal and interested members. He recently ordered 5 Bulletin binders as well as sending us two new members.

* * * *

COLORADO

Mrs. Mary McGlothlin, 417 West Corona Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado writes, "Please will you cross my name off the Peony Society list? I only joined for one year to see, in the quarterlies, which Peonies won at the National Show (I have now bought several of them) and as I can never attend the show I will just drop out, as I have been a Peony grower for many years, and from what I read, am as successful as the average person. I thought there might be some "magic" formula to make late bloomers open well when the weather turns very hot, but there doesn't seem to be any such thing; so I will just continue with my present methods, with perhaps the addition of a little extra superphosphate. Wishing you success in your work."

* * * *

CONNECTICUT

C. J. Herman, Millerton Road, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039. Mr. and Mrs. Herman recently moved from Hinsdale, New York to the above address as Mr. Herman has retired. Mrs. Herman wrote us they have bought a small house to remodel. "The bushes and shrubs are

very overgrown and the grounds need a landscaping job. We have several lilac bushes "but" only one peony bush. It may take time but we'll change that."

* * * *

ILLINOIS

Eldred E. Green, 2334 West 110th Street, Chicago, Illinois 50843, is a Horticulturist and Garden Editor, Chicago Sun-Times. His experience with Peonies "goes back to the 1930's." He was one of the judges at the regional peony show sponsored jointly by the American Peony Society and the Midwest Horticultural Society. "I was one of the judges", Mr. Green wrote, "at several of those shows and worked with such men as William Christman, Edward Auten, Lyman Glasscock, Charles Klehm, and many others. One of our shows had the first major display of Glasscock's hybrids."

Mr. Green told us in 1968 he had 84 varieties listed, covering the entire range—species, doubles, singles, Japs, tree.

—

Philip G. Seitner, 736 W. Waveland, Chicago, Illinois, writes, "My attendance at the show and meeting at the Morton Arboretum had to be sandwiched between other things and most of my time was spent in the hybridizing symposium—a very fine afternoon. I hope the balance of the program was as rewarding and I suspect it was."

In running through my summary of the exhibit, I have a note about a blush pink tagged as **Pink Lemonade**. There was no one at the moment whom I could ask about it and I have a note advising me to get it. It seems to be on no nursery listing. Was it a seedling? Is it registered? Can I obtain a plant? Thanks for whatever you can suggest." He now knows it was Klehm's flower.

—

Sam E. Wissing, 93 South Lombard Avenue, Lombard, Ill. 60148, wrote us a few weeks ago—"Last year I did not see the Peonies at all except from my bedroom window. This year, while I am weak, I have enjoyed looking over my seedlings. Two have bloomed, one on May 10th and another on May 12th. Have about 60 candidates for fame, all of which will bloom before June 1st—my 31st year with the seedlings." Several of our hybridizers have kept Sam abreast of things in the hybridizing field, (he has had serious surgery) for as he says "while it is no fun to be ill, I still remember my blessings." He further stated he was anxious to watch over "all my little ones and evaluate them for keeping or discarding. "I have never tried to get just big flowers; we have them now by the thousands, but I have tried to get color breaks, get more crinkling, bi-colors, and bring our fine flower up to date. Our Japs can be a very interesting class, also the anemones."

Sam wasn't able to make the show this year, but we had a good visit with him via telephone. Sam is the man who arranged the excellent educational display showing the techniques of hybridizing, when we met in Milwaukee, 1968.

* * * *

MAINE

Mrs. E. J. Holden, Old Lewiston Road, Topsham, Maine 04086 letter sent to the former Society office address in Virginia was forwarded to us in which she requested information about the American Peony Society. We are delighted to report that Mrs. Holden became a new member August 28. She stated she not only was interested in raising Peonies as a commercial venture but wants to learn to hybridize Peonies.

Mrs. Holden resides at the following address from October 1, 1970 to June 1, 1971—Mrs. Elizabeth Holden, 3090 West 12th Avenue, Hialeah, Florida 33012.

* * * *

MARYLAND

Mrs. John J. Hollowell, 9860 Singleton Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20034, enrolled July 7, 1970, as a new member at which time she stated, "I have a beautiful peony collection planted last fall. Put out 13 plants. 12 bloomed this spring. I should be pleased to be enrolled as a member of the American Peony Society."

* * * *

MASSACHUSETTS

Arno and Irene Nehrling, 3 Carey Road, Needham Hts., Mass. 02194, "You do a wonderful job with the Bulletin and we always find much of interest in each issue." We are always delighted to hear from them for their encouragement always sustains us in our efforts. They wrote early in June, further stating, "We've had an unusually good Peony season this year. The tree peonies at the Arnold Arboretum have been at their peak this week and are excellent. It has been an excellent year for both the herbaceous and tree peonies, we are happy to report."

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MINNESOTA

Frances Drake, P.O. Box 1207, Minnetonka, Minnesota writes, "Gardening is a hobby with me yet, but hope to go full steam ahead some day.

I have around 35 tree peonies, started in 1962, never lost a one. I have about 150 named double and single including herbaceous reg. and hybrids also several species. The difficult ones grow as well as the others for me. Oriental Gold had two 3 inch blooms this year, Wittmanniana and Mlokojewitschi and

other so called delicate ones do very well for me.

I cover only the hybrids to hold them back in our cold spring, I also tie the tree peony branches in and put a bunch of hay against the bush and tie again, put a few moth balls at the base and put a plastic bag over them. I don't get out to my home every day so depend on holding them that way.

I have about a thousand seedlings in different stages, some have bloomed. I treated some seeds with moist heat and vibrations generated by an electric current. I had the current on strong enough to literally jolt me off my feet and the heat quite high. I also raise iris and treat them that way. My experimental plants have not reached blooming stage. I generally get a few blooms of peony and iris the third year."

* * * *

NEW JERSEY

James Gordon Irving, 400 Sunset Avenue, Haworth, New Jersey 07641, wrote "My wife and I have a small collection of tree peonies that have done very well this year. We selected them so as to give about one month of tree peonies. About 50, they begin with purple and go through white, the various pinks and red and end with the yellows as they are doing this week."

—

Mrs. Roland D. Larrison, R.D. 3, Box 480, Wharton, New Jersey 07885, was a volunteer at the registration desk at Morton Arboretum during the 1970 Peony Show. She wrote an enthusiastic letter upon her return stating—"I thought it was a wonderful Show and thoroughly enjoyed the whole affair."

—

Mrs. D. J. McNamara, 68 Brooktree Road, Hightstown, New Jersey 08520 wrote, "I am enclosing a list

of 10 varietal names, recommended as top exhibition and garden varieties

Mons. Jules Elie
Festiva Maxima
Richard Carvel
Edulis Superba
LeCygne
Tomate Boker
Igani-Gidui
Hausina Brand
Martha Bulloch
Red Charm

Could you suggest better, which are available at a price around \$2.50?"

Can you help her?

—
Miss Vera Wallash, 9 S. Argyle Avenue, Margate City, New Jersey 08402, wrote "In the September 1969 issue of "Horticulture Magazine" I read a very fine article on Tree Peonies, written by Silvia Saunders, American Peony Society. The only thing she did not cover in the article was the type of fertilizers that should be used on these plants.

The fertilizer is what I am writing about. I planted two peony trees in May 1968; "Renkaku" — white, "Yaezakura" — pink (This spelling may not be absolutely accurate as the wooden labels had very faint printing).

They were inexpensive plants, as I wished to experiment with them ...to see if they could be grown in this area. They have only grown about a foot...put out leaves... but have not bloomed. One is planted in open sunlight...the other in filtered sun. We live about a block and half from the ocean. Our soil is good and we have fine drainage, because of the sand below.

Any information you can give me as to the growing of the above, will be most appreciative. I think these plants are absolutely beautiful ... and have been extremely disappointed that they have not bloomed

at all. Do you have a variety list available? Do they ever have peony shows in this area?"

* * * *

NEW YORK

Mrs. Kenneth B. Robinson, 39 Kallina Drive, Saugerties, N.Y. 12477 — joined July 6 and stated she wished to raise Peonies to decorate her home grounds and work with Peonies in Flower Arranging. Mrs. Robinson is desirous of knowing other Peony lovers in her area and commercial Peony growers in or near her locality.

Members! Please take note and write her, or better yet, if not too far from her — why not a visit in her garden?

—
Anthony J. DeBlasi, 81-18 261st Street, Floral Park, New York 11004 "Am planning to go to Scotland this summer; hope to bring back some horticultural observations of interest to the Society. (See article in this issue).

Spring was a disaster this year. It dragged its feet at first; then it grew hot (to 93°) in early May forcing many flower buds into premature bloom; and as the Japanese tree peonies reached their peak of bloom, it rained for over a week. That was the end of the Japanese types. Outstanding inspite of all were Renkaku, Koku-tsuru, Kinkaden, Gumpuden, Kamada-fuji, and Hira-no-yuki (54 blooms on Renkaku!) The lute hybrids faired better since they came into bloom after the rains. Outstanding were Thunderbolt and Angelet. Am hoping the weather is kind to the herbaceous peonies just now beginning to make their annual "statement". From the looks of things, Alexander Woolcott, Flame, and Kansas will assume the honors for top performance.

After having seen many many beautiful flowers (including rare

orchids, camellias, and rhododendrous), Janet and I are of the opinion that **the** most beautiful flower is the Japanese tree peony."

* * * *

NORTH DAKOTA

George E. Tollefson, 366 Elmwood Avenue, Fargo, North Dakota 58102, wrote, "Keep up the good work. Not able to make the Nat'l. convention but will certainly show at our state and local shows. Have contributed and planted 60 Peonies at "Bonanzaville" a county Heritage society complex of pioneer homes, stores, churches, etc."

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OHIO

Mrs. Herman E. Emig, 2551 Sherwood Road, Columbus, Ohio 43209 wrote "So rushed! People pouring in to see the garden already and the buds are only beginning to open! Mr. Emig is improving and helping in the garden, though he is still very foggy from the strokes. Many times he doesn't know who I am, but the Parkinsons Disease seems under control so far."

Robert F. Schmidt, 5320 Oakes Road, Brecksville, Ohio wrote, "Regarding my own plantings and our weather: I faced a good deal of frustration in my plans. We had an exceptionally wet summer last year and this prevented my preparing the bed I wanted to use for my peonies the way I wanted to. I had proposed to use silt from a pond I had to clean out as my planting material and this did not work out because it turned out to be gluey instead of sandy as it appeared on the surface and it would not dry out. Eventually it had to be removed and more valuable time was lost—some of the roots were already on hand (we had ordered 96 plants, 72 single and Japanese and 24 doubles,) and we had not yet replaced the silt. Finally we did but it is

quite clayey soil and the bed is not raised as much as I wanted it and I may be faced with a drainage problem. I thought the fall weather was quite good and we had a good winter with a fairly steady low temperature with good snow cover. In February I mulched the bed heavily with straw and am now removing it because I feel it has been keeping the bed too wet. About 20-25 roots have not yet sent up shoots and I am getting concerned. Most of the others look quite good and so far we have had two very nice Clair de Lune blossoms, and one each from Nancy and Montezuma. Many of the other plants are also showing buds that will bloom. The bed is about 40 x 90 and the plants are 4' on center. Miss Saunders sent me some seed which I kept in potting soil until Christmas inside the house and then put into the icebox (the same one), and I must have about two dozen little plants up now at the end of the bed. I had no luck at all with the tree peony seeds which I treated the same way, but I did plant them outside the same time and will be interested to see if any come up.

I am planning to keep as accurate records as I can as to the performance of each of the plants I planted and hope that I made a good selection of plants.

My children gave me a tree peony, Gessekai, for Father's Day last year which thrilled me, while at the show in Mansfield we bought 3 others: Hana Kisoi, High Noon, and Tama Fuyo. They look like they were quite well established. I already have one, un-named bargain, well established pink which we think is truly beautiful and this year it had its largest number of blooms—15. We cut one and brought it inside and I don't think I will ever forget how beautiful it was. We bought the 4 new plants

from Steve Moldovan and they were of excellent size and quality. Also bought Yae Zakura from him to present and plant as a living memorial at my father's home in honor of his wife's mother's death last August. It also is doing well. Had two lovely blossoms on High Noon.

I am anxious to have my new bed establish itself well because next year I would like to try hybridizing. As you can see, I want to be involved with all aspects of Peonies. I have been in love with them for over 30 years, and since the malady seems to be getting worse, am glad my wife is also so interested and sympathetic."

* * * *

OKLAHOMA

Mrs. Muryle Kostiuk, 713 S.W. 45th Street, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109 wrote after her return from the Annual Meeting and Show, "I sure did enjoy the Show and Banquet—I'm ordering peonies. We took some pictures early Sunday morning at Klehm's then headed back to Oklahoma...made it by 11:00 p.m." (Ed. Comment—Mrs. Kostiuk, husband and daughter attended. If they could drive to Oklahoma from northeastern Illinois in a day, certainly many of our members can attend the '71 Show and Meeting in Minnesota.)

* * * *

OREGON

Mrs. Allen Bateman, Harriman Rt., Box 24, Klamath Falls, Ore. 97601 joined the Society August 17. Mrs. Bateman stated she is interested in raising peonies as a hobby and to decorate her home ground. She is interested in knowing commercial growers in her area.

* * * *

RHODE ISLAND

Judge and Mrs. John G. Carroll, 15 Brownlee Blvd., Warwick, R.I. 02826 received a membership in the American Peony Society in August

—a gift from their daughter. The Carrolls also wish to decorate their home grounds and would like to know commercial growers in their area.

* * * *

VERMONT

Francis Rohr, 4 Greenleaf Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301 is another new member as of July 6. Mr. Rohr wishes to raise Peonies as a commercial venture and also wishes to learn to hybridize Peonies. Mr. Rohr would like to know other Peony lovers in his area as well as Commercial growers.

* * * *

VIRGINIA

Mrs. O. L. Brandenburger, 1301 Scott Run Road, McLean, Virginia wrote us in August, "Spring comes earlier here in McLean, Va., than in last two places where Peony Shows have been held.

If I could have shown my first one or two Elsa Sass, they would have rated right along with the ones shown at Morton Aboretum. At least I think they would have! This Peony blooming season had rain at the right times, and the weather some cooler! Some years only the first few Elsa Sass are at all good blooms. Kansas, my only other double, always blooms beautifully!

Most of my Peonies are singles or Japs. I am partial to them, or was because I never saw one until we grew them here ourselves. All ordered from Gilbert Wild & Sons. Since attending the two shows, I am ambitious to grow some of the doubles that have received prizes.

Favorite singles are Pico, Seashell, Imperial Red. And among the Japs Isani Gidui, and Western. Oh, and of course Mikado. At the shows I have seen many that Mr. Brandenburger and I both would like to have in our garden. We think the semi-doubles may do well here as

do the singles. We wish to try Moonstone; La Lorraine never had a good bloom. The shows have caused my husband, (known as Brandy to everyone who is on speaking acquaintance) to become more interested. Now he really notices Peonies more, and knows one or two by name!

He just helps me with my gardening, doing as I ask him. Tells everyone I have a green thumb—because among my ancestors are Burpees, and Luther Burbank a distant cousin of my Mother's. A great Joke, and I claim he only likes grass because he came from the Plaines States."

Charles B. Reynolds, 1233 Warren Avenue, Richmond, Va. 23227 "We had a slightly late and cold spring. It was also wet enough so that all my plants put on a beautiful show. I have about 15 plants of double peonies, ranging from white to a deep red. The deep red predomin-

ate most of my plantings. I am thinking seriously of replacing any azaleas (that die) with more of these large and beautiful peony plants.

I seem to have lost any name plates that came with them so I can't give any names. It has been some time since I have had to get any new ones. If any grower has a color catalog, I would like to have one to know what the new ones look like."

* * * *

WISCONSIN

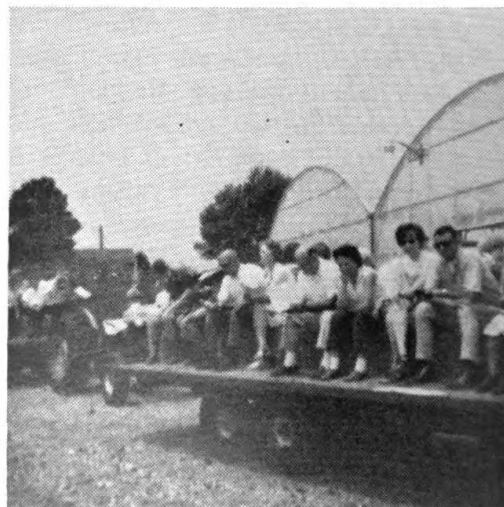
C. F. Spangler, Rt. 3, Box 43, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin wrote, "This has been a rather satisfactory peony year in southern Wisconsin. The rains have been rather ample, though not too severe. The flowers have opened well and not taken too much of a beating from the weather. Bloom in my garden (less than 50 plants) is about finished."

KLEHMS HOST MEMBERS AND GUESTS AT SUNBURST FARM

The Sunday program planned by the Klehm family for members of the American Peony Society and guests was outstanding. Tributes could be heard from every person returning from the Farm, comprising 490 acres in Cook County, Ill.

Buses were provided that left the Morton Arboretum Sunday morning on a pre-announced schedule. The threat of inclement weather did not deter the thousand persons who accepted the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Klehm.

Upon arrival at the Farm, guests were transferred to open wagons which were pulled by tractors. Guests sat upon bales of straw facing the rows of peonies as they were driven through the fields.





Roy Klehm served as guide and his excellent explanation of seedling names and history of origination was most interesting. Many of the guests took advantage of the opportunity to walk between the rows and pick peonies.

Roy Klehm is certainly one of the most knowledgeable young men in the field of paeonia culture. The Society is proud to have this young man (grandson of the late Charles Klehm, charter member of the American Peony Society) serving as vice-president on the Board of Directors.



Roy Klehm

A delicious chuck-wagon luncheon was served to more than one thousand guests.

SAVE THE PEONY!!!

Let the voices of justice speak out. Save the peony as Indiana's state flower!!

There is a legislative plot afoot to replace it with the tulip tree flower. In fact, while we have all been diverted by lesser matters, a bill to make this change has moved through the Senate Natural Resources Committee, been passed by the Senate and sent to the House.

For 14 years the peony has bloomed gloriously each spring, blushing with pride in the knowledge that it represented Indiana in the floral galaxy. Now it is baffled and confused by the possibility that its lovely fragrance may become unofficial.

The tulip tree is already the official state tree. Why should its flower be the official state flower, as well? Simplicity you say, so a Hoosier can remember more easily what his state flower is? The argument is fallacious. The truth is that insidious forces are scheming to gain

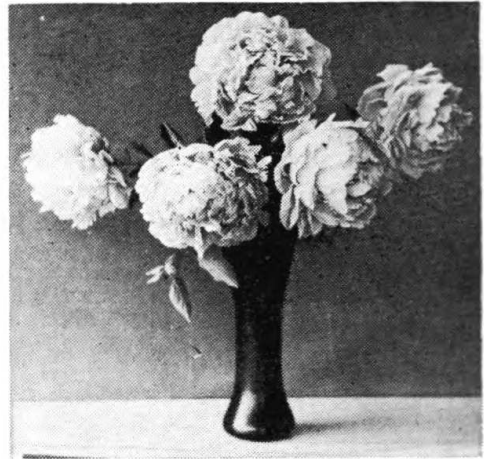
a monopoly for the tulip tree fanciers.

Speak up Hoosiers. Save the PEONY! Down with herbaceous dictatorship!!

Ed. Comment: The above is a reprint of an editorial that appeared in the Daily Herald-Tribune, Bloomington, Indiana. We are writing to every member of the Indiana Legislature asking them to "leave well enough alone". We are also sending re-prints of the picture that appeared on the cover jacket of the June 1966 American Peony Society Bulletin. **We are calling on every member of the Society to write to the Governor of Indiana asking him to do every-**

thing in his power to defeat this movement. He can veto the bill.

Hoosier Heritage, a new introduction of R. A. Jones, a Hoosier Hybridizer, former owner of Tuckdaway Gardens, residing in Peru, Indiana. This peony was a blue ribbon winner in the 1966 Annual Peony Show, held at Kingwood Center Mansfield, Ohio. Mr. Jones named this peony in honor of the Indiana Sesquicentennial.



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Back Bulletins. Current Issues, \$1.00 each, to members. \$2.00 to non-members.

Peonies Outdoors and In by Arno and Irene Nehrling (1960). Hearthside Press, 381 Park Avenue, South, New York, N.Y. 10016. 288 pages, including 11 color plates and 118 black-and-white sketches and photographs. A complete guide to selecting, growing and using herbaceous and tree peonies. A 50-page section on Peonies Indoors including Arrangements, and How to Stage a Show. About 40 pages are devoted to the Tree Peony. Price: To Society members, \$4.95. To non-Members \$5.95. Send check or money order to American Peony Society, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

The Peonies, edited by John C. Wister (1962). Published by the American Horticultural Society, 2401 Calvert Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008. 220 pages, packed with up-to-date information on Herbaceous, Tree and Hybrid Peonies. Many techniques of growing, propagation and breeding. A must for every Hybridizer. Profusely illustrated. Send check or money order to American Peony Society, 107½ W. Main Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891. Price to Members: Clothbound \$3.50 Paperbound \$2.50. Non-Members, \$5.00 and \$3.00 respectively

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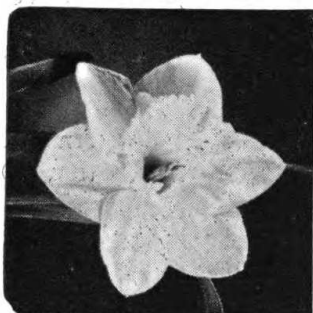
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