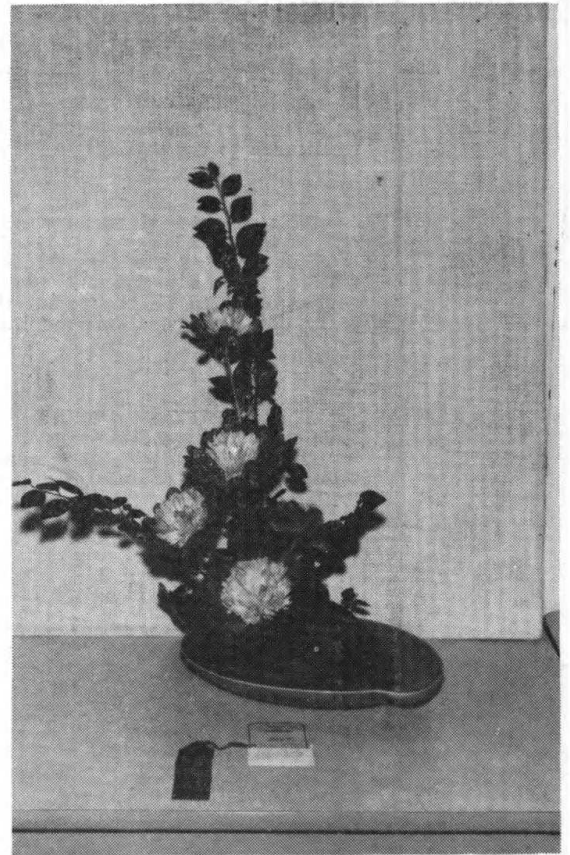


American Peony Society Bulletin

DECEMBER, 1971 — No. 200

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Peonies in Decorative Designs
Story on Page 21



AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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Complete listing of officers and directors, both District and National, will hereafter be published only in the September issue, following annual elections.

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. Dues are as follows:

Single Annual	\$ 7.50	Sustaining, Annual	\$20.00
Single Triennial	\$20.00	Junior of member family	\$ 2.50
Family Annual	\$10.00	Junior non-member family	\$ 3.50
Family Triennial	\$27.50	Life	\$150.00

Family membership, any two related members in same household. One Bulletin.

Junior membership, any age thru completion of High School. Separate Bulletin.

Dues are payable for the calendar year. Applications for membership should send remittance to the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY at the address of the Secretary, above.

REGISTRATIONS

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of Peonies". A register of all Peony names and their descriptions is held at the central offices of the Society, and new entries will be added as received to the permanent file. Applications, together with remittance of \$10.00 for each variety to be registered, should be sent to the office of the Secretary. A summary of all registrations for the year will appear in each March issue of the Bulletin.

THE BULLETIN

The AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN is the official Society publication. It is mailed postpaid quarterly to all members in good standing. Additional copies or back issues at \$1.00 each to members, \$2.00 to non-members, as available. Communications regarding editorial content or Bulletin advertising should be addressed to the Editor, 100 N.E. 81st St., Kansas City, Mo. 64118.

SPECIAL BARGAIN

The Society has a considerable number of back Bulletins from the year 1965 to date. In order to reduce our inventory and the storage space involved, the Directors have agreed to offer them at 12 issues for \$8.95, postage paid. These will be our selection, although if you are short one or two specific issues, they could probably be included. Earlier dated back issues will remain at \$1.00 each, as available. Send order and check to the Secretary.

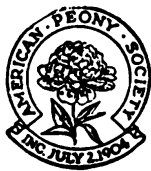
Published quarterly by the
AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

~~second class postage paid at Kansas City, Mo.~~

Kansas City, Missouri

Subscription to non-members \$4.00 per year

Allen Harper, Editor — 100 N. E. 81st St., Kansas City, Mo. 64118



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DECEMBER, 1971 — No. 200

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W. C. Sindt

From Your President

As I begin to write this, I am reminded in many ways that another season is drawing to a close and winter will soon be upon us. Jack Frost has visited and only those plants which have been covered against his icy breath still survive. The trees have shed their leaves which have been gathered and used to protect plants against the coming sub-zero weather. Looking back, I feel that this has been a crucial year for the American Peony Society, and as I look ahead, the future appears full of hope.

The 1971 show in Edina was a huge success. It was larger in quantity than any we have had for a number of years and at least equal in quality. Reviewing an old Bulletin, I find that some of the shows in past years were much larger. The 20th annual show, for example, which was held in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1923 had at least three entries in the class for "not over 100 named varieties double." Second place in this class was won by T. C. Thurlow and Sons of West Newbury, Massachusetts. Can you imagine the transportation problem by train for that distance? Class 4, "20 blooms one variety, light pink," had twelve entries. We still have a way to go to equal the enthusiasm and competitive spirit of our predecessors.

The large debt of the Society was a shock and seemed like an insurmountable obstacle. However, through the great generosity of so many of you, this is now fairly well under control. At the present time we are a society that is not exactly wealthy, nor can we subsidize expensive projects, but we are going to survive. It is because of you, the members, that we are continuing to stay alive and grow stronger.

The meeting of the Board of Directors held in the Chicago area in late October gave me personally a feeling that the A.P.S. is on the way up. It is not often that this many directors have managed to get together, even at the annual meeting. The directors came from California and New York, from Louisiana and Minnesota, and the states in between. These men and women gave of their time and money (each one paid his own expenses.) to spend a couple of days of hard work for the Society. There was no show or banquet to break up the meeting time—just concentrated effort. Every director present left with at least one specific responsibility for the society.

The annual meeting for 1972 will be at Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio on Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18. Details will appear in the March 1972 Bulletin. Plan your vacation or "sick days" so that you can attend.

By now you should have received a dues statement for 1972 from the secretary. Please—if you have not yet taken care of it, do so at once. The March Bulletin will go only to those whose membership dues for 1972 have been received. We wish it were not necessary to make this cut-off but I'm sure you realize that we cannot continue to send out free bulletins.

This morning there was a trace of snow on the ground and this afternoon I heard a program "Beauty and Legends of Christmas." The holiday season will soon be here and we will begin another year. I am taking this opportunity to wish all of you a pleasant and enjoyable Holiday Season and a year of exciting adventure with the peony. Although I should like to greet all of you personally, this will have to do.

Thank you all for your support. That is without doubt the life blood of the American Peony Society.

Cordially, Gus

Peony Standards, Show and Field

For some time now, Directors and officers of the Society have been concerned about the lack of up to date definitive evaluation of Peony varieties, both as they relate to judging on the Show bench, and as a guide to relative quality as a plant.

Many years ago the Society had devised a rating system which used the number 10 as assumed perfection, with points graded in tenths to indicate the degree of detracting. Apparently no attempt was made, however, to define the degree to which each characteristic such as flower form, color, plant habit, stem, etc., should contribute to the total score.

A second unfortunate result of this system was that the ratings tended to become permanent, and there was no subsequent reevaluation of varieties. So that these permanent ratings were copied and used by cataloguers in some cases long after the variety had been reduced to virtual obsolescence through the introduction of later, superior types.

As a result, the Society dropped the rating system in 1954, but did not at that time establish a substantive rating method. Inquiries from members and non-members alike have indicated that some kind of comparative evaluation is urgently needed. It may well be that the apparent decline in general Peony interest and the evident depletion of membership in the Society could be traced to our failure to provide varietal information. Other specialty groups which have expanded and publicized their Award winners, their Judges'

Choices, the Popularity Polls and their Comparative Ratings have shown healthy growth both in interest and membership, and there is no reason to believe that the American Peony Society cannot benefit in like measure through the rating systems now devised and published in these columns.

Almost as critical a need has been a score sheet for judging Show Peonies — as specimens and in collections as well. Here again earlier score sheets were not explicit enough in the assignment of relative values, nor were they accompanied by instructions in terms clear enough to be understood by judges at any level, from the National Exhibition down to the Peony section of a local garden club.

Coupled with the Popularity Poll as developed in the center pages, the Society should now be in a position to bring into modern focus most of the salient features of the great, the near great and the ordinary Peony varieties, so that connoisseur and novice alike may now be able to grow or show them with pride, or discard them without embarrassment.

Much of the work following, particularly in the final drafting, was developed by Marvin Karrels, whose list of personal favorites appears elsewhere. He was ably assisted in two different evaluation committees by our President, Gus Sindt, and by Myron Bigger, Clarence Lienau, Allen Wild, plus valuable assistance from W. A. Alexander, the Klehms, Roy and Charles, and others closely involved.

Floriade Invites You

The Nederlandse Reisvereniging is planning to set up one or more tours to Amsterdam in connection with the FLORIADE World Horticultural Exhibition in 1972. This Exhibition runs from March 30 to October 1, with varied shows at ten day intervals during the season. Amsterdam will also host the 1972 Olympic Games,

which provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to combine the ultimate in both Floriculture and sports. Tours can be arranged for large or small groups, which will include other European Gardens as well. An informative folder is available. If interested, write us and we will send you further information.

A New Guide for Exhibition Judging

Scale of Points for Exhibition Peonies

	Albiflora	Hybrid	Tree	Collection
Form	40	35	25	30
Color	20	25	25	20
Texture	10	10	15	10
Stem and Foliage	5	10	15	10
Condition and Grooming	15	15	15	10
Size	10	5	5	5
Distinction	—	—	—	15

FORM — Perfection of form is a most important consideration in the judging of exhibition peonies. Good form in any type of peony consists of the petals being uniformly and symmetrically arranged. The guard petals should be uniform in shape and length and firmly support the inner petals. On singles or Japanese type, outer petals should form a cupped pattern. Stamens on singles and staminodes on Japanese should be firmly held to make a compact center. In the doubles, the true rose type wherein the petals are of uniform length symmetrically arranged with the edges recurved holding a fine rose bud center, is the most perfect form. The bomb type and crown or conical types are subdivisions of the doubles, and when in good condition and form can go to the top.

Poor form is any relaxation or drooping which takes away from perfection of form. Guard petals drooping, stamens and staminodes not firmly held, or tufting in the Japanese type should be faulted as not good form. On singles and Japanese type the outer petals should not be incurved so much as to obscure the center (generally an immature bloom). Notching and uneven length or size of the guards or outer petals is not desirable.

COLOR — In judging peonies, there is no one best color. Red is not better than white, nor is white better than pink, per se. The color should be clear, clean and fresh. It is probably easier to evaluate color by enumerating color faults. The magenta tones in the pinks, muddy, cloudy tones in the reds or washed out appearance of some of the near whites. Some varieties that have good

color are Mrs. Livingston Farrand and Walter Faxon in deeper pinks; Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt in the light pink; Marilla Beauty, Moonstone, and Solange in the blush class; Corina, Red Charm, or Red Red Rose in the reds. When a bloom has more than one color (as in Japanese type), the colors should be harmonious. Flecking of color and shading of color must be considered as to whether it adds or detracts from the overall color. Artificial lights have a tendency to make some of the pinks and reds seem especially muddy, and care should be taken to recognize this if it occurs.

TEXTURE — Texture is the surface quality of the petals. Silken sheen characterizes good texture, but additional charm and interest may be provided by velvety, suede-like or satiny petals. The petals may be thin and delicate; but, if the exhibitor can show the specimen without loss of form or condition, it should be judged without prejudice. Poor sheen, lack of sparkle or glow and coarseness are faults.

STEM AND FOLIAGE — The stem should be straight and of sufficient strength to support the bloom in the exhibition container. Since most peonies cut for exhibition must be refrigerated and stored for some time, the foliage is not of major consideration. Leaving the foliage on reduces the length of time the bloom can be stored and reduces its quality. Also, in bagging the foliage is easily damaged. Any leaves left on should not show damage either physical or from insects or disease.

CONDITION AND GROOMING —

The specimen should be fully mature and at peak condition. Generally any faults in condition also adversely affect form. Fallen pollen is an indication that the bloom is past prime. Grooming is the manner in which the bloom is presented by the exhibitor. It should be set up to show off the best advantage possible using props in the container if necessary. Any torn or bruised petals should be considered careless handling by the exhibitor. Dust or spray residue are considered faults in grooming by the exhibitor. Actual presence of insects, with or without damage, is a fault. Failure to disbud, indications of too recent disbudding, or leaving stubs where side buds have been removed should be considered as faults.

SIZE — Size is impressive and as exhibition peonies are shown to impress, the importance of size is self evident. However, size in itself is meaningless if it is attained at the sacrifice of good form. To receive full credit for size, the bloom should be above average without becoming coarse.

DISTINCTION — This is for collections only and refers to a broad range of types and colors. A collection of peonies should contain the various types such as doubles, singles, Japanese, hybrids with as wide a color range in each type as possible. Where a collection is limited to one type, such as single, there should be a wide color range from white through red. A collection which is predominantly one color should be severely faulted. The purpose of a collection is to show off the wide range of variations in color and form that are available.

Members' Forum

—Our Readers Write

Cobleskill, N. Y.

—The 1971 season here for peonies was an excellent one. It started about ten days later than usual, but warm weather brought them along rapidly once the season was under way.

Most gratifying to me was that all varieties opened this year without blemish, including the oft-times imperfect LE CYGNE and SOLANGE. I

also had excellent bloom from two dark pinks, MONS, JULES ELIE and MARTHA BULLOCH which had foiled my efforts to get respectable specimen bloom for altogether too many years.

I have constantly urged the APS to run a rating symposium among its membership as an inherent motivating activity. I did my own rating this year of those varieties growing in my garden. I tried to evaluate my peonies over the years as to form, stem, plant, habit and fragrance. I enclose a copy of my efforts to identify the best among my peonies. (forwarded to our rating committee). I guess the ratings didn't divulge any secrets to me but it was rather a fun exercise.

I was surprised to find LA LORRAINE sharing top rating among my blushes with MATTIE LA FUZE and GEORGE NICHOLS. It is rarely mentioned with the elite of the peony world, but for me it is a top variety. Ditto LOTTIE DAWSON REA among the light pinks.

—Leslie J. Wiley

From Mrs. Jane C. Gustin, Stevens Point, Wisc.

"The Bulletins are so interesting. I was happy to find the names of a few of the old Peonies among the winners. I only have a few near the house and they are small but nice, with almost no care except feeding them a little bonemeal.

When people write about their Peonies I wish they would tell their type of soil and what they would fertilize with in sandy soil like we have in central Wisconsin."

Clinton, N. Y.

—A nice thing has happened. They have allotted me a good space in a bed in front of a huge new library here at Hamilton College with space for about 15 large plants of Father's best things. That will be so nice. I have worked for this for a long time.

—Silvia Saunders

(Ed. note: It would be a fitting gesture if the Society would provide a memorial tablet for this planting, thus tangibly honoring one who has done so much for the advancement of the Peony).

A. P. S. Symposium Rating Sheet

Name of Rator: _____

Address: _____

Date	FLOWER					PLANT							
Be sure that you are rating the true variety	Form	Color	Habit	Substance	Refinement	Distinctiveness	Size	Fragrance	Form	Stem	Vigor	Foliage	TOTAL
Base Values	15	10	10	10	5	5	5	1 to 3	10	10	5	5	90
Point Variance		1	1.	1.	1.	.5	.5	.5		1.	1.	1.	.5
Variety													

INSTRUCTIONS

Each variety rated must be at least in its third season of bloom. Observations and estimates can be made either from your own planting or from public or other private planting provided an adequate check has been possible.

REMEMBER the base value for each point of appraisal represents excellence. All point values **added** to the base must then be conservative. Points **deducted** from the base values will vary far more greatly. To express degrees of superiority or inferiority use the numerical table variants listed below the base table values on the face of this rating sheet.

EXPLANATION

Form — Symmetrical outline of the bloom as a whole is the basis of good form. Uniformity of petal arrangement, guard petals firmly supporting inner petals, crowns and col-

lar free from undeveloped or abortive petals. In the single and Japanese types the cupped and symmetrical even length of the guard petals and the compact well formed center cushion free of tufts or feathering determines good form. **NOTE** - type of bloom such as Rose, Bomb; Globular; Conical or informal do not indicate a degree of good form.

Color — Good color quality should be: Clear, Clean, Pure, retaining a reasonable freshness throughout the blooming cycle. Detractions from good color quality are - Dull, Insipid, Burning, silvering off and pronounced fading of the deeper pinks, the intensifying of the blue in reds producing an unpleasant magenta or dull purplish tone. Richness of color tones such as the creamy pink, buff blends as found in the varieties Alice Harding, Solange and Tourangelle and variations of these blends in other varieties should be considered high color tone quality. **Luminosity**

of color tones is also a high color tone attribute. The glow of the delicate pink and lemon centered varieties should also be considered high color tone quality.

Habit — As considered here it is the ability of the bud and flower to open completely. Floriferousness is also a quality to consider under this Point of Appraisal. This point of appraisal demands rather careful discernment and study. Botrytis blight or frost damage often may cause a bud to fail to open. It is one of the most highly controversial faults of a peony variety. It may vary considerably depending upon geographical location and then it may vary from only a few buds on each plant to complete failure. The full 10 points should be given this point of appraisal only if it opens regularly and reasonably completely. Point variations will almost always become a penalty in all instances.

Substance — Thickness and firmness of petal structure, stability and lasting qualities. Detractions are a proneness to wilt quickly, softness. This point of appraisal also requires careful discernment as weather and over fertilization often affects substance.

Refinement — This is a rather somewhat elusive and intangible quality. However, this quality is readily noted in some varieties while in others the opposite or coarseness is also readily seen. The quality of refinement can generally be described as; Appeal, charm, delicacy of petal formation.

Distinctiveness — This point of appraisal is of somewhat questionable value but it is a visible factor and should be treated conservatively in point estimates. It can be described as an evident or pronounced difference in form, color, or the combined effect of both plant and flower causing it to be outstanding and individualistic.

Size — In all varieties size is a fixed quality, varying only by the action of soil, climate, care and fertilization. Size is an evident point

of appraisal but should not influence rating total unduly. A gauge to use might be as follows: Very large (10 inches and over) 6 points; large (8 to 10 inches) 5½ points; normal (6 to 8 inches) 5 points; medium (4 to 6 inches) 4 points; small (miniatures) (2 to 4 inches) 4 points.

Fragrance — This point of appraisal is only a plus quality with added points only of 1 to 3 depending upon degree and quality. Faint, mild, strong, sweet. If no fragrance is present give it 0 for fragrance.

PLANT

Form of plant — Symmetrical shape, erectness, compactness, stalks of even height as contrasted with sprawling or spreading habit.

Stem — Sturdy, thick, heavy, with ample strength to hold blooms upright.

Vigor — Vigor of growth; resistance to disease; ability to hold shape under stress of weather and bloom; good propagator and healthy root growth.

Foliage — Brightness of color; freshness of appearance; good texture; evenly spaced from ground up; healthy and free from spotting. Faults - coarse and rough; narrow, sparse, poor color.

Topeka Property Sold

The property advertised on the inside back page of the September issue has been sold. However, the sellers have reserved rights to the Peonies until December, 1972. There are about 20,000 plants involved, mostly Festival Maxima, Edulis Superba, Mons. Jules Elie and Judge Voris (red). A small quantity of other varieties is available. Some 500 to 1,000 of these plants have been reset in the past three to five years. If interested, write the seller as shown in Sept. Bulletin.



TREE PEONIES

Leo J. Armatys

Get the very best plants you can find. Buy from specialists, and don't be unduly concerned with pride. After a dozen years in your garden, the choice cultivars will be truly priceless.

Sellers Market

Tree peony dealers range from one-man seasonal operations to the sprawling giants. Most grafts still come from Japan. Some are sold right off the boat, others lined out in fields for a year or more. The problem of getting true-to-name plants from Japan remains a thorn in the side of importers.

Nurserymen will replace plants that prove to be mis-named. But in the case of tree peonies, replacement covers a small fraction of the true loss. My time (and yours) is money. For example, my small graft of lutea hybrid "Renown" grew into a strong plant, over 4 feet tall and as wide within 6 or 7 years. I waited for its small, nondescript blooms to be transformed into the true bright light copper-red with yellow over-tones; then it dawned on me! I not only had the wrong plant, but a poor one at that. There was nothing to do but discard and replace it with the real RENOWN.

I've had similar experiences, mainly with some of the fancier Japanese tree peonies. "Impumon" is a highly regarded scarlet semi-double. Mine grew well, but first and second year blooms (which I realize must be discounted) were carbon copies of the unwanted magentas. It will have to give up its spot here, but I will wait at least one more season. After all, the extended bloomer, TRIA, wasn't even named until it was 20 years old.

Moutanomania

Excitement reminiscent of the 17th Century Tulipomania in miniature, erupted in late September, 1971. It was triggered by a low-key announcement from William Gratwick's effervescent sales manager, Gary Seaman, in Pavilion, New York: Divisions from 30 tree peony hybrids were being released for sale at \$25 and \$35! These included many back-cross seedlings (Lutea F1 X F2A or F2B), three F2A seedlings, five F1 seedlings including one from the Daphnis Hybrid ARTEMIS; and such assorted things as (Red Cloud X F2A) X Choni, (Arcadia X F2B) X F2B, (Marchioness X F2B) X Choni, (Wings of the Morning X F2A) X P. Moutan, and a seedling of No. 76, which was from the Goldfinch X F2A back-cross.

Seaman was bombarded with mail, air-mail and special delivery orders, and even a few phone calls. Several hybridists wanted the entire batch. Some settled for third or fourth choices. Too many enthusiasts were left with nothing but refunds. While I didn't get my first choices I did get several good plants, and I'd like to arrange a division-for-division trade in a year or two with someone who managed to get hold of No. 257, No. 259 or No. 294.

This offering was for hybridists. It didn't include those cultivars earmarked for possible future introduction, but the buyers got their money's worth. Hybridizers got blood lines unobtainable elsewhere, and amateurs have some rare conversation pieces.

Peony Breeders' Bonanza

by Silvia Saunders

Peony Breeders got a real Bonanza this year. Roy (E.L.) Pehrson of Mankato, Minnesota, told me at the Peony Show in Edina in June, that he probably would have "a few extra roots of number 12128 this year, and would I like some for my customers?" "Oh yes, thank you" I replied. Then it developed that besides 12128 there might be a "couple of roots of Moonrise." "These are plants I'll no longer need, as my concentration on certain specific lines of breeding increases," Roy explained. Again, gladly accepted.

Then mid-August arrived, and with it, the Pehrson roots. By mid-September, four big boxfuls had come in, containing 60 plants in all. And not a one that looked as if it were a division, or had had a division cut out of it. All huge, entire, bursting with great pink buds and exuberant vigor—and not a plant among them that is over five years old. I began to send them out to my customers—my Hybridist Customers, for these are precious breeding material. Some of the plants contain 5 species bloods, and are therefore Quintuple Hybrids. Quad F-2 x Roselette, for instance, contains: *lacti*, *officinalis*, *Mloko* and *macro* (from the Quad side) and *lacti*, *tenui*, *Mloko* (from the Roselette side). TWO shots of *Mloko*.

There were 24 with five bloods; 16 with four bloods, 9 with three bloods, and the remainder, 25, had two bloods. In order to send Quintuples to a few more people I was able to do a little dividing, and in the end there were 74 roots sent out. In addition, many bagfuls of fine robust seeds, of these same or other equally precious parentages. By all odds the most exuberant roots and seeds I have ever had the pleasure of distributing. Somewhat later, David Reath sent me a great number of mixed seeds which, again, I was happy to distribute to these and other "Hybridists, Actual or Potential."

These plants, as well as anything could, give us a picture of what Roy Pehrson is up to and has been up to for these past years. Any one of us could have done it, but he

DID it. He criss-crossed his hybridizing every which way, and although it may well be that none of these plants, when they bloom, would be worthwhile putting on the market as Garden Peonies, the genes they carry make them Treasures to all of us.

And they should give a great Shot in the Arm to our beloved *Paeonia*. So, who knows? 1971 may go down in Peony History as a Vintage Year. What 1911 was to Champagnes, 1971 may prove to be for Peonies.

Twenty-six hybridists took part in this bonanza. Sixteen were known to me from previous years, plus ten new names. They received at least one (and some got four or five) of Roy's Peerless Plants. The sixteen "upperclassmen" are all on a list called "50 plus 30 Hybridists, Actual or Potential" (this exists in typed form, for anyone who is interested in seeing it). Unless I miss my guess, there is going to be some pretty lively correspondence among them, come Spring, 1972.

Mrs. E. L. Bennett, 1933 West Lawn Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53711; Dr. John Dumanski, 180 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey 07055; Mr. Cameron English, 41 Citation Dr., Willowvale, Ontario, Canada; Mrs. Carl F. Hertz, R.R. No. 1, Nevada, Iowa 50201; Mr. David J. Hochstein, 1114 East 48th Street, Brooklyn N.Y. 11234; Mr. David W. Hudson, P.O. Box 127, Amberg, Wisconsin 54102; Mr. August Krupien, Bethmour Road, Bethany, Connecticut 06525; Mrs. George Modderman, Alexander, Iowa 50420; Mr. Harold Rogers, 20 Vernon Terrace, East Orange, New Jersey 07017; Mr. Richard J. Sloan, 6450 Jonathan Lane, Gurnee, Illinois 60031.

I have added the name of Mr. Dara Emery, Horticulturist, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California 93105. Mr. Emery is keenly interested in peonies, and we should all know him. Perhaps he will be willing to publish a list of the places where the species peonies may be obtained. He is on the list as John Wister, Brian Mulligan and Silvia Saunders are; no hybridists they, they try to make themselves count by helping out in other ways.

Difficulty with Controlling A Bug Known As "Thrip"

"I had heretofore advised you over the telephone that I was having great difficulty with controlling a bug known as 'thrip' in connection with approximately seven acres of Peonies which I cultivate on my ranch located near Beaumont, Calif., or more specifically Cherry Valley. I stopped at Julian, Calif. last week and had an extensive conversation with a Mr. Woody Barnes whose family owns the Manzanita Ranch there and who also raises peonies but has only approximately three acres of peonies.

We have tried rotenone; malathion 25 percent wettable powder, and also DDT. In addition, we have used a liquid known as "diazinon" as an insecticide. We have sprayed various insecticides on the flowers beginning at or about the time they emerge from the soil until blooming time by having made four applications. However, we nevertheless continue to lose about 50 percent of the peony flowers for the reason that the bug "thrip" gets into the bud of the flower and kills it before it has an opportunity to open. The petals become brown in color.

I received a letter from San Diego County Agricultural Department, San Diego, Calif. but they had nothing to offer over and above that which we have heretofore known. In the event your former associates, Shell Chemical Co., should have an opportunity to work on this problem, I would be most appreciative and so would the Manzanita people.

It so happens that I am a member of the Peony Society which has an Annual Convention and I do attend their annual conventions. If Shell Chemical Co. should be able to develop an insecticide that would be effective against this bug, above - mentioned, I would be most happy to advise the convention - at - large of this accomplishment." — Cordially,
Calvin L. Helgoe

Peonies More Exciting Than Apples

Frank Ruppert, our distinguished member who lives in Julian, California, about 40 miles inland from San Diego, wrote us recently about the terrible fires that ravaged that part of the state last fall. We quote from his letter, dated November 4th, 1970:

"The fires were about six or eight miles away, which is far too close for comfort. They started on Friday, September 25th, and were swept along by warm dry winds from the Salton Sea area to the east of us. Things were very dry, as we had had only one or two small showers since last May. Winds that were up to 65 miles per hour kept the fire front moving westward at about four miles per hour. The first fire was caused by a power line breaking, but there is some thinking that later fires were started by people, either by carelessness or by intention. There was great loss of woods, wild life, and many homes, plus a number of injuries, and four deaths.

Later, fire broke out near the Julian High School. All the equipment was out at the other fires, so the townspeople locked their stores and homes and turned out to fight it with wet sacks, mcps or whatever was handy. They literally stamped it out. Fortunately it only covered a few acres.

We were away on vacation in Washington State during the fires so we missed some of the problems, but we phoned back to neighbors and our daughter and family came down and checked up on things.

Since returning, I have been busy getting my peonies ready for winter, plus planting some more. I still have twenty to plant tomorrow. Most of my space is taken now, and I will need to throw something away or cut down some of my orchard. As a matter of fact I have been considering the latter for some time now. I wish I had done it five years ago when I bought the place. Peonies are more exciting than apples."

Submitted by Silvia Saunders

PAEONIACEAE

"Morphology of the Angiosperms"

by Arthur Johnson Eames

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(While the following article may be highly technical and perhaps boring to the casual Peony grower, it establishes a new concept in the position of the Peony in the entire Horticultural scheme, and as such we believe it deserves a place in our permanent literature.)

The taxonomic position of *Paeonia*, as a member of the Ranunculaceae, long was in question. The genus has been placed in the Berberidaceae and in the Magnoliaceae. The suggestion that it should be segregated as an independent, unigeneric family was made in 1830 and again, seventy years later. In the twentieth century, evidence from cytology, floral anatomy, and ontogeny has given this change strong support and shown that the new family belongs in the Dilleniales.

In general flower structure, *Paeonia* differs from the genera of the Ranunculaceae and the removal of the genus from this family is justified. In gross structure, the flower of *Paeonia* differs from that of all genera in the Ranunculaceae. The perianth is not sharply limited. The phyllotactic spiral is continuous from leaves through bracts, sepals, petals, stamen trunks, and carpels (in herbaceous species, reduction of the carpels to very few may break the series). The receptacle is somewhat concave, in contrast to the convex apex in other genera, and a prominent, lobed disc surrounds the gynoecium. The fasciculate stamens mature centrifugally. The ovules are large, with a massive outer integument, and borne on placental projections. The nucellus is absorbed before flowering, so that the inner integument encloses the embryo sac. The micropyle is closed, and the seed coat has three major layers. (Other genera have one or two layers.) Pollination is largely—in woody species, perhaps wholly—by beetles. Beetles lick the lobes of the prominent fleshy disc. The disc is, anatomically, a part of the androecium; the lobes receive vascular supply from the sta-

men trunks, as do the stamens. The disc perhaps corresponds, morphologically, to the staminodia of *Eupomatia* and *Calycanthus* where inner staminodia are also modified as adaptations to beetle pollination. (In *Paeonia*, the staminodia are secretory and the "food" is fluid.)

Other characters of *Paeonia* supporting the removal of the *Paeoniaceae* from the Ranales are: pollen unlike that of any of the ranalian families; persistent sepals; arillate seeds; hypogeal seed germination, in contrast to that of true ranalian families, which have epigeal (except in part of the genus *Clematis*); petals that are, in petal-trace number, bracts in *Paeonia*, whereas those of the Ranunculaceae are sterile stamens.

Anatomically, *Paeonia* differs from its former sister genera chiefly in the type of vascular bundles and wood structure. The vascular bundles of ranunculaceous genera approach the amphivasal type; the xylem is V-shaped in cross section, with the phloem between the arms of the V. The bundles of *Paeonia* approach the amphicribral type; the xylem is unforked, the phloem is distal and lateral, spreading and overlapping the xylem. The vessels of *Paeonia* are scalariform.

Differences in the traces of the floral organs also set *Paeonia* apart from the Ranunculaceae. The sepals and petals have few to several traces; in other ranalian genera, the sepals usually have three traces and the petals one. A stamen-trunk system is characteristic of *Paeonia*.

The vessel of *Paeonia* are small, solitary, and scalariform, in contrast with the large, usually clustered, simple vessels of the Ranunculaceae. The fibers have distinctly bordered pits, in contrast to the libriform fibers of the Ranunculaceae. The phloem has little or no sclerenchyma; that of the Ranunculaceae has many fibers and stone cells. Accessory, cortical, vascular bundles, suggesting those of

Calycanthus and those in flowers of Magnolia, are present in Paeonia, absent in the Ranunculaceae. The Paeoniaceae are a good example of the value, in phylogenetic classification, of characters other than those commonly used in taxonomic treatments. The basic number of chromosomes also sets Paeonia (five) far from that of the Ranunculaceae (seven to nine).

Relationships of the Paeoniaceae have long been in question; resemblances to various ranalian families have been seen. General flower structure suggests the Magnoliaceae, Annonaceae, and Calycanthaceae. The concave receptacle, cortical bundles in the stem, beetle pollination, and especially the peculiar staminal disc, make resemblance to the Calycanthaceae, perhaps, the strongest. Resemblance has been seen in leaf form to Hydrastis, Actaea, and Cimicifuga and, in habit of the herbaceous species, to Podophyllum and other berberidaceous genera. But the Paeoniaceae

clearly belong in the Dilleniaceae, though doubtfully near the Crossosomataceae, as has been suggested. The wood of Crossosoma, with its simply perforate vessels, is unlike that of Paeonia. All the dilleniacean families have centrifugal stamens, but the value of this character in determining relationships of major taxa has been, perhaps, overemphasized.

The Paeoniaceae, like the Nymphaeaceae, are an example of herbs with some highly primitive characters. The peonies show a series from woody shrubs to typical perennial herbs. Within the genus Paeonia, the section Moutan (woody shrubs) has ten to fifteen carpels, and primitive vessels and fibers; the herbaceous species have two to four carpels (with additional, abortive carpels in some species) and advanced vessel and fiber types. The section Moutan is of special interest as representing ancestral peony stock surviving in the mountains of China, "a region noted for its wealth of relic types."

Peony Popularity Poll, 1972

It has been ten years since a comprehensive list of the most popular herbaceous peonies has been published by the American Peony Society. Prior to that time, lists were frequently compiled by George W. Peyton, then Editor of the Bulletin.

The last decade has seen a strong upsurge in interest in the Hybrid types. In addition, a number of new lactiflora varieties have also been introduced and found favor with the Peony buffs. It is anticipated, then, that a new sounding of the membership may turn up a number of new names among the 100 most popular Peonies, which it is sincerely hoped will prompt both members and non-members to add some of these varieties to their collection.

The Peony Society can do a great service to the general gardening public by publishing the choices of its members in order to stimulate greater interest in the Peony. Too often these

gardeners are exposed to Peony varieties only thru catalogs of general mail order houses, whose listings seldom encompass more than a half dozen varieties, in three colors, red, white and pink.

Now, whether you grow hundreds of varieties and consider yourself a connoisseur, or are a relative novice with perhaps a half dozen proven favorites, fill out the enclosed ballot as completely as you can, and send it in promptly. Obviously, the tabulation

will be both more meaningful and impressive if a majority of our members participate. After we have tabulated the ballots, results will be published both as to the leading vote getters in each type and color class, and to show the 100 favorite Peonies, regardless of type or color.

While we would like to receive ballots as quickly as possible, we will accept them until March 15. They can then be tabulated in time not

Peony Popularity Poll

	LACTIFLORA DOUBLE				LACTIFLORA SEMI DOUBLE		
	Early	Midseason	Late		Early	Midseason	Late
White	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Dark Red	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	BITONE OR BICOLOR	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Blush	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Pink	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Red	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Light Pink	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	White	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Deep Pink	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Pink	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Light Red	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Red	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

LACTIFLORA JAPANESE

White to Blush	Early	Midseason	Late
Light Pink Self			
Deep Pink Self			
Pink Bitone or Bicolor			
Red Self			
Red Bitone or Bicolor			

HYBRID SEMI DOUBLE

Deep Pink	Early	Midseason	Late
Red			
White to Blush			
Light Pink			
White to Blush			

HYBRID JAPANESE

Light Pink	Early	Midseason	Late
Light Pink			
Deep Pink			
Red			

[illegible]

How long have you been growing Peonies?_____. About how many varieties have you grown or seen blooming?_____.

How many are you now growing? Lactiflora_____ Hybrid_____ Species_____.

..... Fold here and staple or tape at bottom

From: _____

American Peony Society Bulletin
Allen Harper, Editor
100 NE 81st St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64118

only to make our June Bulletin, but the results distributed to National Garden magazines for their June publications. In this manner, information will be in the hands of potential buyers at or near blooming time, when interest is always at its peak.

In filling out your ballot, select ONLY varieties which you are growing, or have seen often enough to establish a good impression as to their desirability in your own garden. If you are not certain as to blooming time, consult your nearby Peony specialist, or refer to publications such as listed on page

The Bulletin is contemplating a new Advertising service, of particular value to the small grower or the individual offering or seeking a limited number of choice or scarce Peony varieties. Any Peony-related advertising will be accepted, however.

Copy will be set in typical Want Ad style. Cost 50c per line — average 6-7 words per line. Name and address charged as one line. Minimum ad, four lines (\$2.00). Copy and check for ad should be mailed to the Editor by February 10, 1972 for the next Bulletin issue.

TREE PEONIES



WILLIAM GRATWICK
PAVILION — NEW YORK 14525
(40 miles south of Rochester)

How About Some Little Peonies?

P. C. Laning, Kalamazoo, Mich.

The great big single, semi-double, and and full-double peony flowers are grand! At the show we see them at their very best, but on the way to Kingwood Center (in 1969), did you notice the Prima Donnas standing in the rain? No, they weren't standing, they were hanging their heads in the mud. What a pity!! All people who raise these big beauties should stake them up. Peonies dressed up in their Sunday-best should be protected — maybe with even a lawn umbrella overhead so they don't get drenched before going to church!

Small and very small doubles and semi-doubles, ever hear of them, or see them? Well, neither have I. But teenie weenie singles with their pollen-bearing stamens and carpels showing up beautifully, with fifteen posies to the stem, this is something I could really go for.

Five years ago I sowed peony seeds and have done so each year following. So now there are 39 four year olds, seven of which have bloomed, plus many two and three year olds, and a host of one year seedlings. Probably nearly all of these seedlings will be average sized singles. Well, I like them too!

This year I have changed from being a seed sower to a hybridizer. I'm on my way to the creating of very little peonies, a bouquet on each stem. Care to join me? Or else you can disbud, but this time pick off the big buds and leave the little side buds. That would be different and will work fairly well, though even these side buds develop into fairly large flowers. Shouldn't you, too, try to develop little gems?

Ain't I having fun!

If I Could Grow Only 25 Peonies

by Marvin C. Karrels

Is it possible for one to limit himself to a list of 25 Lactiflora varieties after one has grown many times 25 for many years now? What criterion, what yardstick, what personal preferences or prejudices should be used to select but 25 from the many fine Lactiflora peonies we now have? I have kept a personal symposium (numerical values in box score form of plant and flower) since 1953, of more than 400 varieties and found more than 200 rating better than 90. Of the remainder none rate under 85. I think this indicates that we have many more fine choice peonies now that we have ever had in our history. The numerical values are my own and really have no sanction or standing by the A. P. S.

The following list is not in the order of my preference.

Nick Shaylor (96) Full double - good plant - choice quality flower. Will always rank with the best.

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt (94) Full double - good plant - fine soft pink color that literally glows with some back light. Top quality flower.

Miss America (95) Semi-double. Strong robust plant. Flower of great charm and large size. Rates by far as best Semi-double in my book.

Nancy Nicholls (92) Full double. A bit above excellence in every respect.

Dr. J. H. Neely (95) Approaching perfection every point of appraisal. Finest fragrance. Near the top as my finest white double.

Mothers Choice (95) One of the newer fine peonies that should stay up there for many years to come. Bloom is a perfect rose form.

Marilla Beauty (90) The charm and beauty of this informal type is unique. Stem is a bit weak but heavy. I am willing to stake this one as it has everything else.

Pico (96) As a peony plant this one has no peer. Nearing perfection in the single type.

Red Splendor (88) Finest garden peony I know of. Foliage from the

ground up and grows like a bouquet out of the ground. Color - rose red. Jap.

West Hill (92) Early full double pink with lighter center. Strong plant. This flower has great refinement.

Largo (90) Big strong Jap. Many stems, very floriferous. It feathers some but those blooms that don't are perfect. Fine pink.

Blanche King (92) This is still the finest dark pink flower. The plant is sprawling though heavy stemmed. Finest fragrance.

Princess Margaret (92) My favorite dark pink double. This is the only flower that I ever exhibited that won as best in its class three years in succession.

Norma Volz (94) Creamy - pink double with some Solange coloring. Very strong plant. I have grown this new one now for eight years and divided it once. I rate it as very fine in all respects.

Nippon Beauty (92) Still the best red Jap in my garden.

Moonstone (95) Light pink with pearly tones. Fine form, good plant and some fragrance.

Annisquam (94) Large creamy pink double of perfect form. This one has the potential of being the finest flower in the show almost any year. Strong plant.

Ann Cousins (92) Large fine formed fragrant full double. If this one had a good plant under it it would rate 96. I'm willing to stake it.

Carrara (92) Pure white Jap. Even the thread like stamens are white. Stigmas white tipped. A real top quality Jap.

Ave Maria (94) Semi-double to full double. Large, well formed and early. Strong plant.

Alice Harding (94) I am unwilling to drop Alice Harding from my list of fine peonies. It is large, fine formed with an extra strong plant. It is still one of the finest colors in peonies. Unhealthy roots do not seem to affect the plant growth.

Noel (90) A fine double red. Medium to dark red. Seems to have a varnished coating. Good plant and fine flowers every year.

(Continued on Page 25)

For Peony Seedsowers And Friends Sept., 1971

from the Peony Newsletter

David Reath writes in his Peony Brochure:

Rock's peony has proven to be the hardiest of all tree peonies in our nursery. Perhaps the reason for this is the tendency it has to mature its growth very early in the season. Its branches harden early in July; buds likewise develop early and are very resistant to cold. It has a very attractive large white flower with maroon blotches at the base of the petals. It is perfectly hardy to 30 degrees below zero and is easy to cultivate. Attempts are being made to combine this hardy suffruticosa variety with P. POTANINI TALL YELLOW. A few two year old grafts will be sold this year.

Do you wonder why all the information on tree peonies? Well, we are interested in herbaceous ones and their development but it now seems possible to borrow desirable traits from the T.P.'s (as in the "Ito Crosses"), so don't reject it, a most welcome tool! Should you fall in love with it though, and want to add this line to your present hobby, you will have lost nothing.

Taking a sidetrip while at the Peony Show last June, I visited Roy Pehrson's peony garden. There I saw the great lacti x T.P. crosses, real (Ito type crosses. I suppose seeing these plants was as exciting to the hybridizer as rocks from the moon to the scientist. And it seemed that there were a hundred plants there showing tree peony foliage on herbaceous plants. A Great Sight!!!!

Roy Pehrson, our instructor, writes of his 1971 successes:

Here are the interesting seedlings of this past season — out of about 700, mostly five year olds.

1. Supposedly Laura Dessert x Emodi-mloko, but has to be a pure lacti, I think. A small pink full double without stamens or carpels. Never saw such a small double before and

it's real appealing. Could be very good though foliage seems ordinary.

2. The only true L. Dessert x Emodi-mloko hybrid in the group. Foliage much divided, flower quite small purple-red. Fertile — very tiny pods with fine looking seeds. Might cross with the Windflowers?

3. A stray whose origin I don't know but it could be a Quad F3. A loosely formed double but has plenty of stamens with good pollen and carpels too. Color is creamy with very pronounced brilliant red flares at the base. Could be a good breeder, and I'm calling it "Super Double" in crosses. Got to call it something.

4. Sanctus x Su. Dawn F3, pink bomb. An extremely poor plant. Foliage already dried off.

5. Archangel x Nancy. Big pink jap of fine form. Leaves not dark green like Archangel, but stems arch over the same way. I don't like this part. Time will tell. Nice flower though and clearly different than the lacti japs. Seed fertile.

6. Quad F2 x Moonrise F2. Quite big and much more yellow than Moonrise. About as yellow as my plant of mloko. Foliage passable — different than, and possibly better than Moonrise. Fertile.

Mrs. Kostiuck tells me she has 12 seeds of Laddie x Suffruticosa. Already germinated and planted out.

Chris Laning, Editor

Obituaries

Donald G. Kozak, Willoughby, Ohio was killed on October 9 when his mail van was struck by a car. He had been an active member of the American Peony Society since 1937.

Some years ago he participated in the Hybridizing Workshop at the Mansfield, Ohio meeting. More recently he was co-editor of the Peony Hybridizer's Newsletter.

He was a graduate of the North American School of Conservation. He served in the American Air Force during the Berlin Airlift. The Society will miss his valued services and extends its sympathy to the family.

Life Members

- Myron D. Bigger, 201 N. Rice Road,
Topeka, Kans. 66616
- Mrs. W. S. Bockstoe, Union National
Bank of Pittsburgh, Box 837,
Pittsburgh, Penn. 15230
- Brother Charles Reckamp, Mission
Gardens, Techny, Ill. 60082
- Mrs. Clara Denlinger, 5362 Free Pike,
Dayton, Ohio 45419
- Pharon B. Denlinger, 5362 Free Pike,
Dayton, Ohio 45419
- Loren Franklin, 3905 N. Fernbrook
Lane, Minneapolis, Minn. 55427
- C. V. Goodman, 906 Waban Hill,
Madison, Wisc. 53711
- Hoyt S. Haddock, 7012 Oak Forest
Lane, Bethesda 14, Md. 20034
- Earl A. Holl, 8812 Nora Lane,
Indianapolis, Ind. 46240
- Clarence E. Hubbard, 4155 Lincoln
Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60618
- Miss Jane Hyde, 810 Bonnie Brae,
River Forest, Ill. 60305
- Mrs. D. Sanford Hyde, 810 Bonnie
Brae, River Forest, Ill. 60305
- Marvin C. Karrels, 3272 S. 47th St.,
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- Mrs. Arthur Knorr, 15 Central Park
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Road, Somerville, Ohio 45064
- S. S. Pennock Co., Stokely St., N.
of Roberts Ave., Philadelphia,
Pa. 19129.
- Howard Phipps, Westbury, N.Y. 11590
- Harvey F. Stoke, 1436 Syracuse Ave.
N.W., Roanoke, Va. 24017
- Mrs. Earl B. White, 250 University
Blvd., Daytona Beach, Fla. 32018
- Gene Wild, c-o Gilbert H. Wild and
Son, Sarcoxie, Mo. 64862
- Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Inc.,
Attention: Allen Wild, Sarcoxie,
Mo. 64862
- Jim Wild, c-o Gilbert H. Wild and
Son, Sarcoxie, Mo. 64862
- Dr. John C. Wister, 735 Harvard Ave.,
Swarthmore, Penn. 19091
- Harold Wolfe, 24 S. 86th St.,
Belleville, Ill. 62223

Peonies in Decorative Designs

As illustrated on our cover, Peonies can be effectively used in floral arrangements, both formal and informal. In Flower Shows, particularly, their size and brightness of color command attention, while in the home a colorful accent to the room or table decor is most often enhanced by a delightful fragrance.

Generally, the full doubles lend themselves best to mass arrangements, and can be shown effectively with other floral material, preferably of less massive form. Recent trends toward modern design have also made use of single bloom specimens, with accompanying material or accessories almost austere, creating a most dramatic effect.

Japanese and single types may be used more freely in formal combinations, and with a greater range of companion materials. Some striking arrangements have been effected by removing the guard petals completely, or by using such unusual forms as exhibited by the variety Lois Kelsey.

Preparations of Peony blooms for exhibition in arrangements is not too difficult, but a few basic precautions should be employed. Perhaps the first of these is disbudding of the plant. For those not well familiar with this procedure, the following suggestions should help.

First, watch plants carefully for

bud formation. When the side buds have reached the size of small peas and have stems long enough to grasp comfortably, take thumb and forefinger and twist off right at the leaf axil. In this manner no stub should remain. Be sure to remove all but the terminal bud, unless your ingenuity or artistic sense has suggested some cluster treatment or you prefer smaller blooms.

In selecting bloom for the show, the date is of course quite important. However, many flower shows are scheduled coincident with the Peony bloom season, so it becomes not quite so important to cut and store as it might be for specimen entries. Generally, bloom should be cut according to your design, making use of stages of opening from fairly tight bud, but showing color, at least, to nearly full double, altho a fully opened flower should never be used, especially if it is a two day show, or the room is not properly air conditioned.

When cutting, stems should be immediately plunged nearly full length in cool water, and kept dark and cool until ready for use. If at all possible, blooms should be transported to the show in deep containers and designs completed at the show area. An hour or two before using, bloom should be transferred to water of room temperature, with stems recut to absorb as much water thru the stem as possibly.

Even if you don't fancy yourself an artist in flower arranging, we think you will find some real satisfaction in making a try at it. Many times a most simple placement of bloom will prove most effective, and blue ribbons have often been won by individuals with no formal experience. Try an Arrangement this year!

Ideas for Consideration

from J. Franklin Styer,
West Chester, Pa.

" — If a meeting were called to discuss peonies, with prepared presentations by professionals, or at least the best speakers, I would probably

spend the money to attend, if not scheduled in May or June.

The Bulletin could thereafter reprint these talks for the rest of the non-attending members. If the Bulletins were to become a simple mimeographed or offset four page news letter, I would cheer.

It takes a long time to grow, select, test and propagate 100 or more plants of a new variety, at least 10 to 15 years, as you know. Then for Heaven's Sake, why have a National Show every year? Who, may I ask, gives a damn what variety or what grower took second place in Class 26? Where Peonies are locally important, let these local people put on a show when they want it, but spare us the routine records. Instead, fill the News letter with breezy reports, featuring new material.

The Royal Horticultural Society, with something like 8000 members does just that and their total space allotted to shows, of which there are dozens, amounts to about six pages per year, about 1 percent of the space available.

Mr. William H. Krekler, from his California winter address, wrote as follows: "I wish to submit an idea for consideration to the American Peony Society.

As there just are not enough of us to pay the expenses of a Peony Society as we know it should be, I feel we might be better off to try and join with another hardy flower society, such as the American Iris Society. Many expenses thus shared would be less for both.

Iris and Peony flowers mostly bloom in the same locations and at the same time. They go together quite well, especially with the addition of yellows and blues of the iris. Also so many of us, as well as flower folks in general, are quite interested in both flowers. I mention just a few growers of this group — Wilds, Klehms, Fisher, Brand, Murawska, Bigger, Moldovan, Harper (who could serve well as directors of such a new society).

Editor's Column

We do regret that this issue had to be mailed so late in the publication month. If recent experience with the Postal Service is any category, many of you will not receive this issue before Christmas. For example, two very critical mailings from the Secretary's office took nine days AIR-MAIL to reach us.

Due to lack of space and response, we could not give you anything on cut flower growing, and a proposed article on Registrations will have to be deferred until the March issue, when it will preface the list of Registered Varieties for 1971.

This being the 200th Bulletin, we wanted to review its history and progress, but earlier copies were among the material delayed in the mails. Our Beginner's Corner isn't all that we'd like it to be. This could be a most valuable column, but that depends largely on member response. Let us know what problems you have or what information you'd like and we'll either print the answers from data on hand, or get one of the experts in the particular area in question to provide the latest information.

Many thanks to the contributors to this issue. May we wish them, and you a most joyous Holiday season, and the very best of enjoyment of your Peonies in 1972.

Beginner's Corner

We're often disturbed by information published in general garden literature regarding planting, growth and care of the Peony. Much of this material is traditional, having been handed down from one source to another for perhaps upward of 50 years. No doubt some of this collection of half truth and misinformation has been aided and abetted by the Peony Society, not so much through direct endorsement as by failure to correct, or to offer new suggestions in the light of current experience.

Some of the material offered here may sound heretic, but it is based on the writer's personal experiences

over the past 30 years. Should any of our even more experienced growers care to differ, I will be most happy to publish their reactions, and retract or defend my advice accordingly.

Perhaps the paramount question asked by the novice is "Why don't my Peonies bloom?" The classic answers are "They are planted too deep" and "They have Botrytis." I don't subscribe to either.

True, Peonies can be planted too deep, but generally these represent extremes resulting from failure to follow planting instructions. I am reminded that at one time my planting instructions began, "dig a hole two feet deep" and I have found a time or two that the plants were actually laid in the bottom of such a hole and covered up. At other times, Peonies were planted like Dahlias; on their sides and from six to eight inches deep. These gross errors will, of course, deter bloom or even growth. However, the admonition to plant with the eyes exactly two inches below the surface of the soil is subject to too much variability to be made a hard and fast rule. Climate and soil greatly affect optimum planting depth. In general, planting may be made as shallowly as one half to one inch deep in the South to as much as three to three and a half inches in the North, with the 40th parallel being about the median point for the two inch depth. Also, the sandier the soil, the deeper the planting can be, and lastly the type can influence optimum planting depth, so that generally singles can be planted more shallowly than doubles, with Japs and anemones somewhere in between.

Now, I'm a commercial grower of sorts, albeit a small one, and I do most of the planting myself without much mechanical assistance, so I just can't take the time to measure depth precisely at each planting hole. We still get around 65 percent first year bloom, and of those retarded ones about 90 percent bloom the second year. When we dig three and four year plants we find that if they were planted originally too deep or too shallow, they have compensated by setting eyes up the stem from the

original crown, or below the crown, depending on the relative original planting depth. Oddly, perhaps, we dug some plants this year which showed new buds at four different levels covering perhaps six inches in total depth, which may be the ultimate answer to planting depth tolerance.

On this Botrytis thing, again it could be the factor, but I do not believe that this malady is as wide spread as is indicated, and there are certainly ways to detect Botrytis which might separate this problem from many others responsible for lack of bloom.

In the first place, Botrytis blight can be detected long before buds have set and blasted. Shortly after the early spears poke through the ground, the initial pair of leaves will turn black and drop off. If infection is not severe the plants may continue to grow, apparently quite normally until the bloom buds just begin to form. At that time some greyish mold-like filaments may appear just under the buds, or on the under side of the leaves; there may be some cancerous lesions appearing on the leaves. In the last stages before expected bloom, the stem will darken and shrivel just under the bud, and the buds will turn brown and fail to open. When broken open the buds will often contain thread like mycelia of the Botrytus fungus.

Now, suppose you DO have Botrytis. Again, the classic answer is "Spray with Bordeaux." While Bordeaux is effective, it leaves a lot to be desired as the ideal fungicide. First, for predicted effectiveness, it should be prepared FRESH, from copper sulphate and hydrated lime, and used within a few hours of mixture. The commonly sold dry mixtures are not more than half effective, often less so if carried over from season to season, or if exposed to moisture in the interim. Concentration is also fairly critical, although Peonies are fairly tolerant to a variance in strength or concentration of application.

In the mixed border, however, many plants are not nearly so tolerant of copper and continued seasonal use

of Bordeaux will result in a copper toxicity which will create an unfavorable condition for companion plants.

Many effective fungicides are now available and just as effective in combatting Botrytis. Most of the carbamates, under trade or generic names, such as Fermate, Marlate, Zineb are good. These can either be used as a dust (preferable as a soil surface treatment) or a spray, starting as soon as leaves begin to unfold. As far as is known, these products do not build up a soil toxicity and are generally safe on all types of plants. Newer fungicides include Captan, Phaltan, Benlate and the newest and supposedly specific, Botran. Directions should be followed explicitly, and often a query to the manufacturer will produce information not found on the label.

In the next issue we will discuss several other factors which do affect Peony bloom. In the meantime inquiries to the Editor regarding your particular problem will be most appreciated and answered through these columns as promptly as possible.

25 PEONIES — (Continued)

Sea Shell (90) Single pink. Very large and fine form. Best of the Pink singles.

Sir John Franklin (91) Full double. Red, no stamens. Medium red of varnished appearance. Not too large but good every year.

Kansas (91) Light red double. Very strong plant. Flowers are of fine form in a lighter tone of red. It has received some criticism as having too much of the blue influence. I'll keep it until something better comes along. It still stands alone in its class.

This is my selected 25 for this year and it will undoubtedly receive some criticism as there probably never has been a list drawn up that didn't meet with some disapproval.

There are many of the newer varieties, a number of which I am growing which still need careful evaluation, but which could replace some of my current favorite 25 in time.

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, Oct. 23-24, 1971

The Board of Directors Meeting of the American Peony Society was held at the offices of Charles Klehm and Son Nurseries, 2 East Algonquin Rd., Arlington Heights, Ill. on October 23, 1971. The members present were: W. G. Sindt, Pres., Roy Klehm, Allen Harper, Mrs. Glen Monday, Marvin Karrels, Gary Seaman, Clarence Lienau, Allen Wild, Charles Pennell, Calvin Helgoe, and Greta Kessenich, Secretary. Kenneth Sampson, President of District V, attended by invitation.

The meeting was called to order by President Sindt at nine o'clock.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the balance of the deficit to the Rockford Press. Three thousand dollars has been paid on this account as of September 1971. Mr. Karrels moved that this issue be tabled until the next meeting in June. Roy Klehm seconded and it was approved.

Mr. Helgoe asked that a petition for a non-profit organization be filed with the State of Minnesota for the American Peony Society.

The 67th Annual Exhibition will be at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio on June 17-18, 1972. Plans for the show were outlined and committees appointed. The proposed areas for future shows were suggested as follows: 1973 — Frand Forks, North Dakota; 1974 — Detroit or N. Y. area; 1975 — Midwest (Omaha). The show program will be published in the March issue of the Bulletin, also proposed show sites. Arrangements have been made in the past to return to Kingwood Center every third year. Information about the 1972 show is to be sent to Garden Editors of national magazines. A registration booth will be at the entrance of the showroom. Designated knowledgeable people of the American Peony Society to wear large buttons "Ask Me" giving out information to viewers. Annual Meeting of the American Peony Society will be at Kingwood Center, Saturday, June 17, at 3:30 p.m. The Directors Meeting will be Sunday a.m. on June 18, 1972. A room will be available at the Center.

A Nominating Committee was appointed by Pres. Sindt. They are Roy Klehm, Gary Seaman, and Marvin Karrels. Six directors are to be elected. Each nominee is to be contacted for his consent. Names of nominees to be published in the March Bulletin, if possible.

Membership (New Members) — A flyer is to be outlined and printed telling prospective members what the American Peony Society offers — i.e., bulletins, shows, general information, Handbook of the Peony, culture, varieties, etc. Mr. Helgoe made a motion that permission be given commercial members to give a customer a single annual membership at \$5 each for a certain minimum purchase of peony roots (their own decision). Motion seconded by Mr. Karrels and approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Harper, seconded by Mr. Helgoe and passed that the dues be established as follows: Single Annual, \$7.50; Family Annual (two adults in same house, one bulletin), \$10.00; Single Triennial, \$20.00; Family Triennial, \$27.50; Sustaining, \$20.00; Junior Membership (through high school and parent a member), \$2.50; Junior Membership (If parent not a member), \$3.50; Life Membership, \$150.00.

Dues for the commercial members were not changed at this time.

The Secretary is to write the "Farm Journal" and the "Prairie Farmer" about classified ads and insert same, also "Flower Grower" and "Flower & Garden" to list shows and dates under "Events to Come".

A 1972 statement of dues payable to be sent to all members in early December 1971. Also included will be a personal letter approved by the Board. The letter is to be in long-hand.

Plans for the American Peony Society Bulletin were discussed. Suggested topics are as follows:

1. Judging of Peonies
 - a. Exhibition
 - b. Garden plants
2. Popularity Poll in center of Bulletin
3. "Beginners Corner" page
 - a. How to grow
 - b. Varieties
 - c. Soil
 - d. Disease
 - e. Climatic conditions in different areas.
 - f. Blooming dates
4. Reprints from old bulletins
5. Cut flowers
6. One page Classified Ads

Messrs. Charles Klehm, Lienau, Wild, and Karrels will write a symposium rating. Mr. Alexander will be asked to bring the Gold Medal peony names up to date. The scale of advertising rates will be ready January 1, 1972. The Editor will determine rate of classified ads — charge by line.

Mr. Richard Edblom, 6917 - 45th Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55428, will be in charge of the Color Slide Collection. The rental fee will be 80 slides for \$7.50.

New registrations will be directed to the Secretary who will properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties. Registration fee remains at \$10. One copy of registration to be forwarded to Kingwood Center. Messrs. Klehm, Wild, Bigger, and Krekler. A peony must be registered before it can be shown as a named variety at exhibitions. The March issue of the Bulletin will contain all new registrations and descriptions of peonies.

Bulletins are to be sent to all present members for December.

Stationery is in need and should always be printed, "American Peony Society" with seal only. Names of officers omitted. 1,000 letterheads and 2,000 envelopes.

The "Handbook of the Peony" is to be sent to all new members.

It was agreed that 12 bulletins for \$8.95 after the 1964 issue could be sold.

Four hundred dollars was voted for each issue of the Bulletin.

The American Peony Society die, to make medals, has been repaired. Information must be acquired as to price of medals.

—Respectfully submitted,
Greta Kessenich, Secretary.

PUBLICATIONS

Handbook of The Peony—A 36-page booklet containing concise articles on why and when to plant, the care, culture and propagation of peonies of all kinds, including 8 pages on Tree Peonies. Three line drawings, and 8 black-and-white photographs are included, as well as lists of varieties and sources. Price: \$1.00 each. 25 to 49 copies, \$.75 each. 50 or more copies, \$.50 each. Revised and reprinted December 1969.

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, New York 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.

The Peonies, edited by John C. Wister (1962). Published by the American Horticultural Society, 901 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314. 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. Price to Members, Clothbound \$3.50, Paperbound \$2.50.

Send check or money order for the above literature to American Peony Society, 250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, Minnesota 55343.

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- (3) Slides must be ordered at least 4 weeks in advance of date to be shown.
- (4) Slides are to be returned promptly. Return postage, including insurance, must be paid by the renter, and be insured for \$50.00.
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