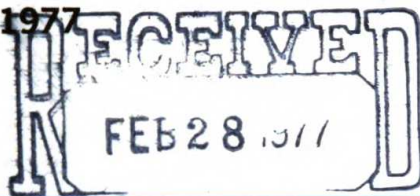


American Peony Society Bulletin

MARCH, 1977



No. 223

221



Tree Peony Bouquet

Spring pastels, (clockwise from top) Black Pirate,
Golden Bowl, Coronal, and Chinese Dragon.

COVER *Tree Peony Bouquet*

Tree Peony Bouquet is comprised of Black Pirate (Saunders, 1948), Golden Bowl (Saunders, 1948), Coronal (Saunders, 1948), and Chinese Dragon (Saunders, 1948).

PHOTOGRAPHS AND COVER FURNISHED BY

CHAS. KLEHM & SON NURSERIES

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60005



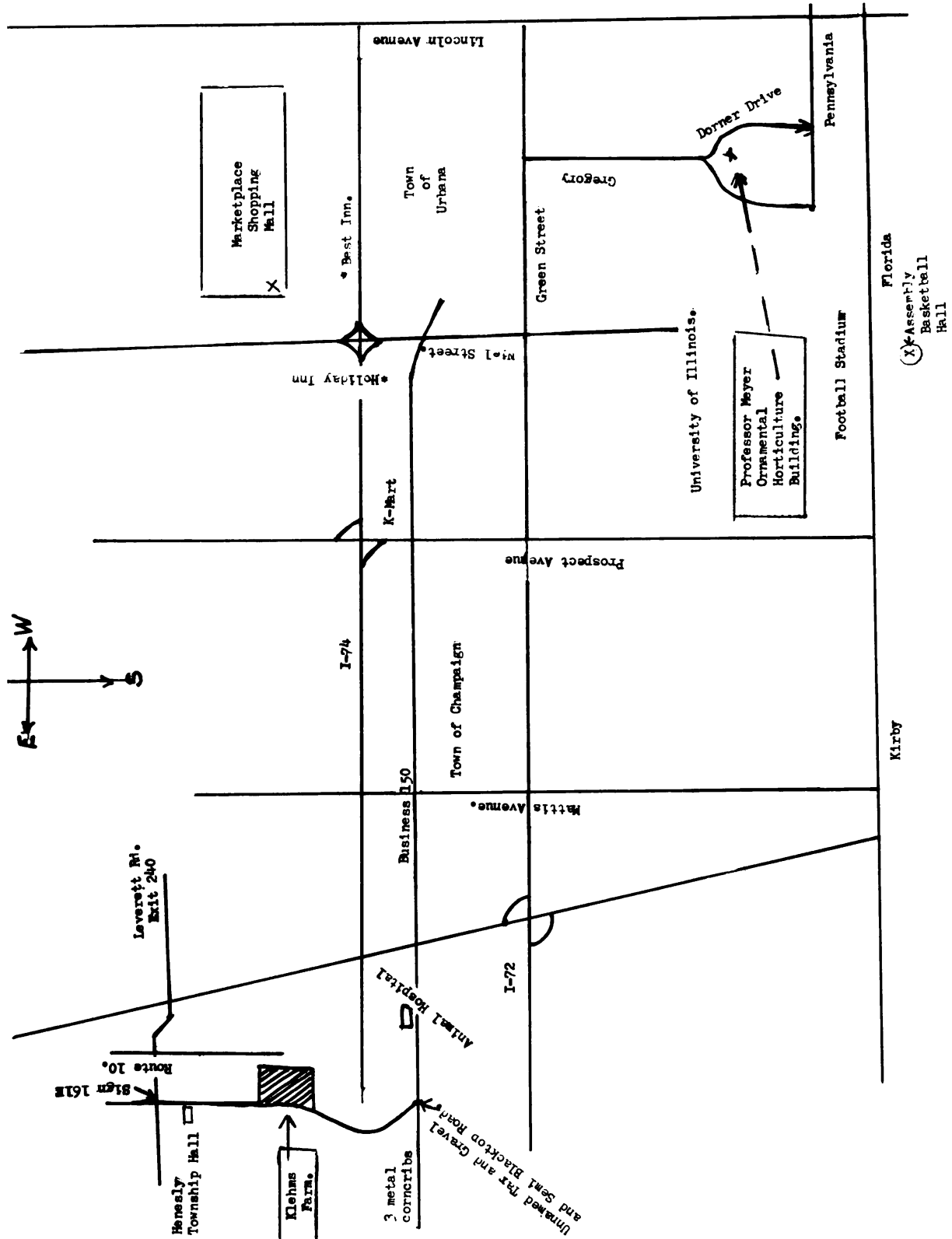
Miss America (Mann-Van Steen, 1936)

This garden "princess" greets the spring in purest white raiment. Miss America is a striking snow-white semi-double bloom. Deep within is a crowning coronet of gold.

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

MAY 26-27-28, 1977

THE MARKET PLACE — CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, ILLINOIS



AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

250 Interlachen Road

(612) 938-4706

Hopkins, Minn. 55343

President Joseph Glocka Secretary-Treasurer Greta M. Kessenich
Vice President Dr. Carl H. Klehm Bulletin Editor Greta M. Kessenich

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms Expiring 1979

Greta M. Kessenich
250 Interlachen Road
Hopkins, Minn. 55343
Joseph Glocka
12120 West Oklahoma Ave.
West Allis, Wisconsin 53227
Myron D. Bigger
201 N. Rice Road
Topeka, Kansas 66616
Edward Lee Michau
1412 N. Georgie
Derby, Kansas 67037
Ted R. Mysyk
P.O. Box 482
Woodstock Illinois 60098
Charlotte Sindt
14252 15th St. South
Afton, Minnesota 55001

Terms expiring 1978

Irvin Ewing
25039 Doris Court
Detroit, Mich. 48239
John E. Simkins
1246 Donlea Crescent
Oakville, Ont., Ca. L6J 1V7
W. G. Sindt
14252 15th St. South
Afton, Minn. 55001
Allen J. Wild
Gilbert H. Wild & Son
Sarcxie, Mo. 64862
Frank Howell
Rt. 1, Box 696
Newton, N.J. 07860
Peter C. Laning
553 West F Avenue
Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007

Terms Expiring 1977

Don Hollingsworth
5831 North Colrain Ave.
Kansas City, Missouri 64151
Marvin C. Karrels
3272 S. 46th St.
Milwaukee, Wisc. 53219
Dr. Carl H. Klehm
Charles Klehm & Son Nursery
2 East Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005
Clarence O. Lienau
9135 Beech Daly Rd.
Detroit, Mich. 48239
Dr. David L. Reath
Box 251
Vulcan, Mich 49892
Gary P. Seaman
Gratwick Tree Peonies
Pavilion, N.Y. 14525

DISTRICT V

President Bob Rose Sec'y Treas. Mrs. Bob Rose
Prairie Goose Farm, 1110 N. Route 47, Woodstock, Illinois 60098

DISTRICT VII

President Edward Lee Michau Sec'y-Newsletter Helen M. Titus

DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

The department was formed to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies. All new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names.
Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

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 kind of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held exhibitions, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor or in any other manner.

The AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN is the official Society publication. It is mailed postpaid quarterly to all members in good standing.

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	Junior of member family	2.50
Single Triennial	20.00	Junior non-member family	3.50
Family Annual	10.00	Life	150.00
Family Triennial	27.50	Commercial membership	25.00

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

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

For those who wish to further support the Society, the following special memberships are available.

Contributing	\$ 25.00	Supporting	\$100.00
Sustaining	50.00	Patron	250.00



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



March 1977 — No. 221

TABLE OF CONTENTS

National Convention, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. Map.	1
Officers and Directors	2
Table of Contents	3
President's Message	4
Contrasts, Peonies and Dreams — Anthony J. DeBlasi	5
American Peony Society Colored Slides — Richard Edblom	6
American Peony Society National Convention	
You're All Invited — Roy Klehm	7
Schedule of Events	8
Motel Reservations	9
Rules for Exhibits	10
Show Schedule	10
Artistic Schedule and Rules	14-15
The Home of Peonies — Submitted by Toichi Domoto	15-18
Artistic Designs	19
The Midwest Peony Exhibition, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	19
Hard Coat Seed Not the Problem — Don Hollingsworth	20-21
Indiana State Flower — Mrs. Earl Knapp	22
Why You'll Like Peonies — Henry S. Cooper	22
Pointers on Planting and Varieties to Insure Your Success This Fall	22-28
The Garden at Highdown Towers, England — C. Graham Jones	29-32
The King of the Perennials — Elva Hemphill	33
From Laddie to Elsa — Ted and Irene Mysyk	34
The Peony Patch — Ben Gilbertson	34-36
Picture, Past History 1955 — Submitted by Mrs. Hertha Hyde	37
"The Frost is on the Pumpkin"	
Fifth District Meeting — Greta M. Kessenich	38-39
Registration	39
Tree Peony Topics — Louis Smirnow	40-41
How Prize Peony Grower Does It — Bill Milkowski	41-44
Special to the Milwaukee Journal — Reprinted by Permission	
Words of Wisdom — W. F. Christman	44
First Edition, A History of Peonies and their Originations,	
Check List of Peonies	45
Advertisers	46-47-48



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

Those of us who live in the north central states should find the 1976-1977 season extremely interesting for assessing the hardiness of peonies. These states have experienced a brutally cold winter following on the heels of near drought conditions last summer and fall in many areas. It will be interesting to see how our peonies match the survival vigor of their Mongolian forebears. April and May will soon tell the story.

On a brighter note, however, all of us are looking forward to our two scheduled peony exhibitions this spring. The national show will be held on May 26, 27 and 28 at the Market Place at Champaign-Urbana in Illinois. Fifth District President Bob Rose and his committee are working diligently on arrangements for a show which is going to present a host of exciting activities including a visit to the Klehm's "Pretty Petals" farm to see acres and acres of peonies in bloom plus hayride tours and a country style banquet.

This exhibition will be followed by the Midwest District show to be held in Milwaukee June 17, 18 and 19 at the famous Mitchell Horticultural Conservatory.

I hope that upon arrival of this bulletin that your area is blessed with balmy breezes from the south, lingering sunshine, and snow-thawing weather. And, may all your peonies emerge to bear fragrant, colorful, spectacularly sculpted blossoms ready to be discriminatingly plucked for exhibition at one or both shows.

Joe Glocka

— 4 —

CONTRASTS, PEONIES, AND DREAMS

By Anthony J. De Blasi, E. Wakefield, New Hampshire

It is January and we are locked in the grip of a wicked winter. This one already appears eligible for recording in the books as one of the worst. Unrelenting cold and heavy snowfalls have become uncomfortably familiar lately. With such a thick blanket of snow, the deep frost, steely skies, and the thermometer's obsession with zero, one wonders if the earth will ever warm up again in time to allow a summer season.

I wondered about the opposite, last summer. As I sat on a lake beach, gazing at some old trees on the opposite shore, their lush green boughs baking in the hot sun and the air tingling with an almost tropical heat, I wondered how it was ever possible for the lake to be frozen solid just months before! Though the contrast may be grasped intellectually, the imagination limps in the effort to join the two differences into a comprehensive unity. What a grand, awful, and wonderful world to live in!

While we humans may not be completely at home among these contrasts, the peony is! Perennial Supreme of the Temperate Zone, the peony loves contrasting seasons and suffers where it is not cold enough in winter for it to slip into utter dormancy. As black is all the blacker the whiter its surroundings, the performance of the peony in spring and summer seems all the snappier, lavish, and exciting the bleaker the previous winter has been. As I was telling my wife, Janet, the other day as we drove through the snow-packed countryside, it is just such a winter as this that will make us enjoy the summer all the more!

January is an important month in the garden calendar. It is the time to dream about your garden. (One imagines, during these euphoric day-dreams, that the roots and buds and seeds buried out there in the wintry wastes are also "dreaming" about things to come—about the ways they will burst forth and develop, flower and fruit, overcoming all impediments that may come along the way to trip them up.) There is free play in fantasy and the mind can conjure up whatever picture or sequence of events it chooses. Never mind that the outcomes of the growing season may not check out with the dreams. It is not only fun to project but it is important to play out these ideas and plans to keep your garden moving in the right direction, no matter how distant the goal may seem. What better time is there than the dead of winter to peek in on the future and spy on those lawns, flower beds, borders, accents, shrubs, and trees, pictured just as you want them!

Your dream may be of plants that you will put in this year. If so, take your dream a few steps toward reality. Sketch out the positions of the new plants on paper, while your vision is clearest, then

you will remember exactly how you visualized the planting during your moments of ideal concentration. Next, place your order for the plants that you will need to consummate the plan. With peonies, you may delay this step until summer. You may find the contrast between what parades before your mind's eye and what shows through your wintry window an invigorating exercise capable of dissolving winter doldrums, dissipating aches and pains, or driving a cold into oblivion!

Or your dream may be of plants already in the ground and how they will appear this year. If you have peonies, the images are apt to stir you into a state of ecstasy. Here is a type of dream that may not check out with the outcome, for, no matter how gorgeous the forms you picture the actual forms will surpass the imagined ones. And regardless of the dazzling colors and wonderful textures you may be able to visualize, the upcoming facts will outshine the dream. I am reminded of the state of excitement that charged a group to whom I recently showed slides of tree peonies. Many had never seen them before. The audiences simply glowed with pleasure at the sight of the pictures. The viewers were evidently so pleased that I did not have the heart to tell them that the images on the screen did not even come close to the reality of the actual plants in bloom! The contrast between picture and fact, when it comes to peonies, is as startling as the contrast between winter and summer.

Contrast—that Promethean aspect of the world that defines the boundary of things, makes them distinct entities, and causes the varied differences to discharge many lights, to brush against one another, to chase each other into the infinite patterns of life—is something the peony is “at home” in. You may find it in its game of “Hide and Seek”—here in summer, gone in winter. You may see it in its breathless spring race to fill empty space with foliage and flowers. You may notice it in the endless irregularities cut into the leaves as a result of each leaflet's pull to be different from every other. Contrast—that great seeder of motion, celestial as well as earthly—seems heaven-sent to keep the muscles of the spirit in tone, ever ready to follow the next step in the Divine Dream.

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY COLORED SLIDES

Richard Edblom, 6917 45th Ave. N., Minneapolis, Minn. 55428

The color slide collection of the Society has been greatly enlarged by the gift from Miss Gene Wild of 131 slides. The new additions consist of 83 varieties of lactifloras and herbaceous hybrids as well as 15 field scenes of peonies grown by Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Inc.

As a result of this addition to the Society's collection, sets consisting of 80 lactiflora, herbaceous hybrid or tree peony slides now are available for rental. If desired, a set can consist of a mixture of these three types.

THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTION

May 26, 27, 28, 1977

*THE 74th ANNUAL MEETING AND THE 72nd ANNUAL
PEONY EXHIBITION*

The Market Place
CHAMPAIGN - URBANA, ILLINOIS

YOU'RE ALL INVITED

My Mom, Sarah, Chuck, Arnie and I would personally like to invite all members and friends to our farm in Champaign County for the American Peony Society National Peony Show, May 26-28. We would like everyone to enjoy the breathtaking sight of 100 acres of lovely peonies, hosta, hemerocallis, and iris.

Champaign-Urbana is the hometown of the University of Illinois—the alma mater of my father, my brothers, Sarah and myself. Our family has always admired the deep fertile soil in and around the university. This and the natural acquaintance with the area because of our college days prompted us to move all of our herbaceous perennial production onto this new farm starting in fall of 1973. We finished our four-year task this past season. All the fields should be at their peak next May, with the plants being 1, 2, 3 and 4 years old.

On the Farm, duly dubbed "Pretty Petals" by our good manager's wife, Gerry Smith, you will see:

(a) 40 acres of cut-flowers spaced 48" on center. We raise four named varieties and seven unnamed seedling varieties for cutting purposes. The flower harvest should be either at its peak or just complete during convention time. To be on the safe side, bring along your overalls and cutting knives. We may need help from everyone!

(b) Our peony plant fields from which the roots are harvested. No cut-flowers are taken from these fields; we don't want to impede eye and root development. You'll see the four age groups, all visibly labelled for your enjoyment and variety comparison. Our Estate Peony series will comprise a great portion of the plants. Twenty-six varieties have now been introduced as Estate Peonies. There are 21 more possible future "Estate" varieties also on the farm for further evaluation. Some of these unnamed varieties we have been observing since 1953 and 1954. Also many hybrids are on the farm including newer and rarer types from Bockstoce, Krekler, Sampson, Auten, Marawska, Wissing and Rudolph. Be sure to bring your cameras and plenty of film (although film supplies are close to the farm).

— 7 —

(c) Our collection of field grown hosta consisting of 9 or 10 varieties being propagated in full sun for sale through mailorder channels.

(d) Tetraploid and diploid *Hemerocallis* grown in long rows for maximum propagation. Many are newer varieties from Brother Charles Reckamp, Orville Fay and James Marsh. These won't be blooming during May, but one can observe how nicely the daylily fits into a peony farm propagation setup.

(e) Our patented bearded Iris "Juneau" hybridized and named by the late A.L. Murawska.

(f) Nathan Rudolph's most recent 16 iris introductions in his fine ruffled series.

(g) Iris propagated from Dr. Martin Meyer's tissue culture lab—and speaking of Dr. Meyer, his lab is only 3 or 4 miles from our farm. I am sure many people will be most interested in viewing the actual lab and the fine results Dr. Meyer is obtaining. Martin has agreed to show any American Peony Society members his workshop.

We plan to have a good time and relay on the hayride tours through the fields. As you will hear, our country style banquet and annual meeting will be outdoors in the good Lord's creation, right down on the farm. So come, you're all invited. Dress casually and enjoy a most unusual and interesting National Convention.

See you all in May,
Roy Klehm

CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Schedule of Events

Thursday night — May 26th. Arrival of Visitors and Members.

Friday — May 27

9:30 A.M. Board of Directors meeting. The Market Place.

Preparation for the show and set up of exhibits.

6:30 P.M. Professional Judging.

8:30 P.M. Amateur Judging.

Saturday — May 28

9:30 - 11:30 A.M. Tour at the University of Illinois, Horticultural Building — Prof. Martin Meyer

12:30 - 2:30 P.M. Tour of the Klehm Peony Farm. Hay rack ride through the fields.

3:30 P.M. Barbecue banquet at the Klehm Peony Farm.

Annual meeting.

Auction.

7:00 P.M. Board of Directors meeting. Suite at Ramada Inn.

Menu for the Bar-B-Que Banquet — 3:30 P.M.

Hickory cooked Top of Beef, w/Au Jus
(Sliced on the job as served)
Baked potato, w/sour cream, butter
Green beans, w/onions, ham hocks and red sweet peppers
Creamy cole slaw
Chilled chunked fruit
Rolls and Butter
Coffee and Orange drink
Mixture of pies or sherbet and cookies

Advance reservations are urged. Non-members are also invited.
Fee will be \$10.00 per person. Children \$5.00.

This includes registration, banquet gratuities and incidentals.

Send reservations directly to — Mrs. Arthur R. Landen, Jr.

Rt. # 3, Bowes Rd., Box 120

Elgin, Illinois 60120

MOTELS — RESERVATIONS EARLY

Make reservations directly with motel.

BEST INN — Bed and bath, only.

914 Bloomington Road, Champaign. Motel can be seen from
I-74, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Holiday Inn.

Phone — 217 - 356-6000.

1 guest — 1 bed \$9.88

2 guests — 1 bed \$12.88

2 guests — 2 beds \$14.88

\$3.00 for each additional guest.

HOLIDAY INN — Group rate for ten or more.

1505 N. Neil St., Champaign, Ill.

Located S.E. corner of Neil and I-74

Phone — 217 - 359-1601

1 guest — 1 bed \$14.50

Regular rate. 1 bed — \$16.50

2 guests — 2 beds \$20.00

2 beds \$20.00

\$3 for each additional guest.

\$3 for each additional guest.

RAMADA INN

1505 S. Neil-Champaign. One mile south of Florida on Neil.

Phone — 217 - 352-7891

Double beds — \$26.00 2 beds only.

\$3.00 for each additional guest.

Ozark Airline out of CHICAGO, direct to Champaign from O'Hara
Airport. Phone 726-4680

RULES FOR SPECIMEN EXHIBITS

1. All entries must be completed and in place by 5:00 P.M. on opening day.
2. All entries must have been grown by exhibitors.
3. Entry tags supplied by the Society must be filled out completely as to class, variety, and name and address of exhibitor. In addition, each variety must be identified with a small wood or plastic tag with the variety name legibly printed thereon. Entry tags may be obtained in advance from the secretary of the American Peony Society. The exhibitor or his agent shall be responsible for proper completion of the entry tags.
4. Stems should be approximately 12" long. (tree peonies excepted)
5. Exhibitors are limited to one entry each in classes 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 201, 301. Up to three entries are permitted in all other classes provided they are different varieties.
6. The show committee may combine or divide classes if the number of entries warrants it.
7. Correct varietal labeling is mandatory in the Open and the Amateur classes. It is recommended on the Novice classes, but no entry shall be disqualified for failure to identify.
8. Standard containers will be furnished by the show committee and must be in all classes.
9. The American Peony Society Handbook will govern bloom types and color.
10. Anemone type such as Gay Paree shall be shown as Japanese.
11. Awards need not be given to unworthy exhibits.
12. The decision of the judges is final.

DIVISION 1. Open to all Exhibitors.

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|---|
| Class | 101 | American Peony Society Award
Twenty-five varieties, any color or type, but not less than fifteen lactifloras or more than five trees.
One bloom each in separate containers. |
| | 102 | American Peony Society Award
Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers. |
| | 103 | American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, herbaceous hybrid only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers. |
| | 104 | American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, Tree peonies only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers. |

105 Five varieties, Japanese Type lactiflora only, any color

One bloom each in separate containers.

106 Five varieties, single type lactiflora only any color

One bloom each in separate containers.

Three Blooms, one variety lactiflora only, in one container.

Class

110 Double white

111 Double blush

112 Double light pink

113 Double dark pink

114 Double red

115 Semi-double white or
blush

116 Semi-double pink

117 Semi-double red

118 Bomb any color

119 Japanese white or blush

120 Japanese pink

121 Japanese red

122 Single white or blush

123 Single pink

124 Single red

One Bloom Lactiflora Only

Class

130 Double white

131 Double blush

132 Double light pink

133 Double dark pink

134 Double red

135 Semi-double white or
blush

136 Semi-double pink

137 Semi-double red

138 Bomb white or blush

139 Bomb pink

140 Bomb red

141 Japanese white or blush

142 Japanese pink

143 Japanese red

144 Single white or blush

145 Single pink

146 Single red

Three blooms one variety Herbaceous Hybrids or Species in one container.

Class

150 Double or semi-double white, blush or yellow

151 Double or semi-double
pink

152 Double or semi-double
red

153 Single yellow

154 Single white or blush

155 Single pink

156 Single red

One bloom Herbaceous Hybrid or Species.

Class

160 Double or semi-double yellow

161 Double or semi-double white or blush

162 Double or semi-double pink

163 Double or semi-double red

164 Single yellow

165 Single white or blush

166 Single pink

167 Single red

Three blooms, one variety, tree peonies only, in one container.

Class

170 Japanese or Moutan white

171 Japanese or Moutan pink

- 172 Japanese or Mouton red
- 173 Japanese or Mouton violet
- 174 European or Lutea Hybrid white
- 175 European or Lutea Hybrid pink
- 176 European or Lutea Hybrid red
- 177 European or Lutea Hybrid yellow
- 178 European or Lutea Hybrid blend or bicolor

One bloom tree peony only.

- Class**
- 180 Japanese or Mouton white
 - 181 Japanese or Mouton pink
 - 182 Japanese or Mouton red
 - 183 Japanese or Mouton violet
 - 184 European or Lutea Hybrid white
 - 185 European or Lutea Hybrid pink
 - 186 European or Lutea Hybrid red
 - 187 European or Lutea Hybrid yellow
 - 188 European or Lutea Hybrid blend or bicolor

DIVISION II AMATEUR: Open to exhibitors who raise peonies chiefly for pleasure, sell plants or cut flowers only casually, and do not grow more than 200 plants.

- Class** 201 American Peony Society Award.
Ten varieties, herbaceous only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.

Three blooms, one variety lactiflora only, unless otherwise stated, in one container.

- Class** 205 Double white or blush
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 206 Double pink | 210 Japanese any color |
| 207 Double red | 211 Single any color |
| 208 Semi-double any color | 212 Hybrid any color |
| 209 Bomb any color | 213 Tree any type or color |

One bloom lactiflora unless stated otherwise.

- Class**
- 220 Double white
 - 221 Double blush
 - 222 Double light pink
 - 223 Double dark pink
 - 224 Double red
 - 225 Semi-double any color
 - 226 Bomb any color
 - 227 Japanese any color
 - 228 Single any color
 - 229 Hybrid any type or color
 - 230 Tree, any type or color

DIVISION III NOVICE: Open to all amateur gardeners who exhibit peonies only at local shows.

Class 301 American Peony Society Award
Five varieties any type or color in separate containers.

Three blooms one variety lactiflora, unless otherwise stated, in one container.

Class 305 Double any color
306 Semi-double, any color **308 Single, any color**
307 Japanese, any color **309 Hybrid, any color**

One bloom lactiflora, unless otherwise stated.

Class 315 Double white or blush
316 Double pink
317 Double red
318 Semi-double any color
319 Bomb any color
320 Japanese any color
321 Single any color
322 Hybrid any color
323 Tree any color

DIVISION IV: Seedlings and New Varieties.

Class 401 Seedlings.
Three blooms, one variety in one container, not currently introduced.
Variety must have been divided at least once.
Must be shown under name or seedling number.

402 New Varieties:
Three blooms, one variety in one container. Limited to varieties named and registered with the American Peony Society and introduced no earlier than five years prior to show date.
Awards given in the two preceding classes may be Certificates of Merit or Honorable Mention at the discretion of the judges, but no ribbon awards. Varieties having won either award in previous competition may not be shown again in that class, except that varieties shown in class 401 may be shown again in class 402 regardless of awards.

403 Seedlings:
One bloom. This class is for display only.
No awards will be given and any seedling entered in class 401 is ineligible.

DIVISION V: Special Entries.

- Class 501 Commercial Exhibit.**
Collection by commercial grower of 25 to 50 varieties in separate containers. A placard approximately 9"x14" may be furnished by the exhibitor to identify his display.
- 502 Visitor from greatest distance.**
Five different varieties any type. Mileage verified on entry tag.
- 503 Multiple bloom.**
Single stalk not disbudded. Must show at least three open blooms.

Court of Honor. All blooms in Division I, II and III eligible.

Best Double white	Single white
blush	pink
light pink	red
dark pink	Hybrid yellow, white or
red	blush
Semi-Double white	pink
pink	red
red	Tree white
Bomb white	pink
pink	red
red	yellow
Japanese white	violet, blend,
pink	bicolor
red	

Also best bloom from Division II and Division III

All blooms in Court of Honor to receive Rosettes printed COURT OF HONOR.

Best Double, semi-double, Japanese, single, Hybrid and tree to receive larger rosettes.

Division II printed: BEST AMATEUR; Division III printed: BEST NOVICE.

Best in show purple Rosette printed: "GRAND CHAMPION."

ARTISTIC THEME

1. Dixie Land
2. Cotton Candy — Novice
3. Road to the White House
4. Cherry Blossom Time — Novice
5. Our Third Century
6. Solar Energy
7. The Good Earth
8. Peonies Excel — Novice

ARTISTIC DIVISION RULES

1. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class.
2. All artistic work must be the origination of the exhibitor.
3. Peonies must be the dominant flower. Entries may include any type of plant material except artificial.
4. Peonies need not be grown by exhibitor and some will be available from the committee.
5. Mats, bases, accessories, and backgrounds may be used in all classes. If a background is used, the exhibitor must provide means of support.
6. Exhibitors are requested to register entries so space may be provided for each arrangement.
Register in advance — Mrs. Arthur Landen, Jr., Registrar.
Box 120, R. R. Bowes Road, Elgin, Illinois 60120
7. Final entries of arrangements, Friday, May 27th. 4 P.M.
8. While the show management will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, it cannot assume responsibility for injury or loss.
9. Exhibitors are requested to claim their property immediately after the close of the show at 5 p.m., on Sat., May 28.
10. Judging will be done by qualified artistic judges. Their decision will be final.

THE HOME OF PEONIES

From "China Reconstructs" August, 1973

Submitted by Toichi Domoto, Hayward, California

Hotse County in Shantung Province is well known as the home of moutan, the tree peony. The local people call late April, when the peonies bloom, "the season of flowers."

Cultivated in China 1,400 years ago, the moutan's large and gorgeous blooms make it the "king of flowers." Its original home was in north China, and the wild peony can still be found today in the Chinling Mountains of Shensi province. Hotse began to cultivate peonies in the 16th century.

When we arrived at the county's Chaolou production brigade of the Chaolou People's Commune, a sea of magnificent peonies spread before our eyes. The paths between the long stretches of square peony beds were crowded with visitors, either taking pictures or painting these beautiful flowers. Most of them were artists or designers in textile mills from 20 places in China. One from Liaoning province in the northeast told us that his plant's quilt covers with peony designs were especially popular with the customers.

The peonies of Hotse county possess a high medicinal value. When the roots are four years old, the peasants dig them up and peel them. The dried peelings become **tanpi**, effective in reducing fever and in regulating menstrual flow. Because of suitable soil, climate and careful cultivation, Hotse produces abundant high-quality **tanpi**.

Chao Yung-chen, an old peasant and vice-secretary of the Communist Party branch of the brigade, told us that aside from the peony plots run by the 11 production teams, 13 hectares of peony fields were under the care of a special group of flower growers whose job was to improve the method of cultivation and increase the variety of flowers. In their special fields, known as the "Ten-thousand-flower Garden," peonies of eight main colors grow—yellow, white, pink, red, violet, ink-black, green and blue. Ink-black and green are the most rare. Petals may be of one or many layers and the flowers belong to old varieties and new ones recently developed by the group.

The "Black Dragon in a Dark Pool," large and black tinted with purple, with yellow stamens, is supported on yellow-green stems with pointed leaves. The "Three-change Beauty," standing proudly on tall, slender stems with thick and round leaves, is jade-green when it first opens, becomes tinted with red in full bloom, and turns snow-white as it begins to fade.

A new red variety recently developed by some veteran growers is particularly brilliant. It is shaped like a ball of flame with many layers of large, thick petals. The "Kunshan Night Glow," white like pure jade, gives viewers a delightful feeling, and at night they resemble snowballs swaying in the gentle breeze in a sea of flowers. The "Yao Family's Yellow" has layers of light-yellow petals, deep-yellow stamens and fills the air with its fragrance.

Today's bright fields of peonies give no hint of the sorrows and difficulties of peasant flower growers in the old society. In those dark days, vice-secretary Chao Yungchen and old peasant Chao Yungtai told us, the landlords and Kuomintang reactionaries seized the flower fields and stole the carefully-bred varieties to make profits.

On the eve of liberation, only a few hectares of peony fields and a few dozen varieties were left in the once-flourishing "home of peonies."

In the autumn of 1948 the new people's government came to power in Hotse county. It gave the peasants interest-free loans and supplied them with soybean-cake fertilizer. The state pharmaceutical company set up a purchasing center here, sent technicians to help process the **tanpi** and bought it at a good price. Since 1955, Professor Yu Heng of the horticulture department of Shantung

Agricultural College has come every spring and autumn to work with the peasants, studying cultivation methods, analyzing experience and developing new varieties.

In the winter of 1956 when agricultural cooperatives were formed throughout China, the peasants pooled their scattered peony plots into the cooperatives for collective cultivation. The formation of the people's commune in 1958 further broadened the prospect for peony growing. As the plant thrives in high and dry terrain, the commune, under a general plan, marked out the sandy soil as peony fields, with each square devoted to one variety. Special peony cultivation groups were formed in most of the production brigades and production teams. Veteran flower growers became technical advisers, their skill growing rapidly with the new freedom to use their initiative to the full.

During our visit, young members of the special peony groups were busy with artificial pollination. Their 63-year-old adviser, Chao Shou-chung, told us that the development of traditional medicine and pharmacology required more *tanpi* and the movement to beautify the urban centers increased the demand for more varieties. "For years our peony groups," he said, "have been trying to improve the method of cultivation. Artificial pollination is one of the best ways we've found to increase the number of varieties."

To breed peonies in the past, Hotse flower growers used to dig up the roots in the fall every four years, split each into three or four pieces and replant them. This slow and laborious method could not produce new varieties and kept the output of *tanpi* low. Natural pollination seldom gave more than a killogram of seeds over several hectares.

To find the secret of getting more seeds, Chao Shou-chung stayed in the flower patches when the peonies were in bloom, observing and pondering. Other peasants artificially pollinated corn, and he wondered if the same method could make peonies give more and better seeds. He told his idea to the young members of his group.

As an experiment, they picked the seedless variety **Chao Family's Pink**, with beautiful blooms and high yield of *tanpi*, pollinated 20 flowers and got good seeds from most of them. Then they experimented on more flowers and after 10 years of effort they succeeded in making peonies yield seeds over large areas. The "Ten-thousand-layer Peony," long regarded as seedless, also began to bear seeds. Last year the 13 hectares of peony fields produced 140 kilograms of seeds.

The good features of crossbreeding show in the new varieties.

The plants grow faster, the flowers have more layers of petals, are more beautiful and the roots are bigger and firmer. The **tanpi** produced has finer texture and yields more dried powder. The per-hectare yield increased from 6,000 kilograms from the best old variety to as high as 9,750 kilograms.

For five years Chao Shou-chung and his helpers grafted thousands of tree peony stems onto the roots of the herbaceous variety at seven different times from late September, checking the survival rate the following spring. Now they are clear as to which variety should be grafted at what time of the year.

Today, 28 of the 34 production brigades of the Chaolou commune have special peony fields, their area totalling 200 hectares. **Tanpi** output is almost three times as much as 1965, before the cultural revolution. Chaolou commune's magnificent flowers are grown in the Summer Palace and Peihai Park in Peking, Hsuanwuhu Park in Nanking, West Lake Park in Hangchow and many other scenic places. Last year alone, the commune supplied nearly 8,000 rare varieties of peonies to 17 cities in different parts of China.

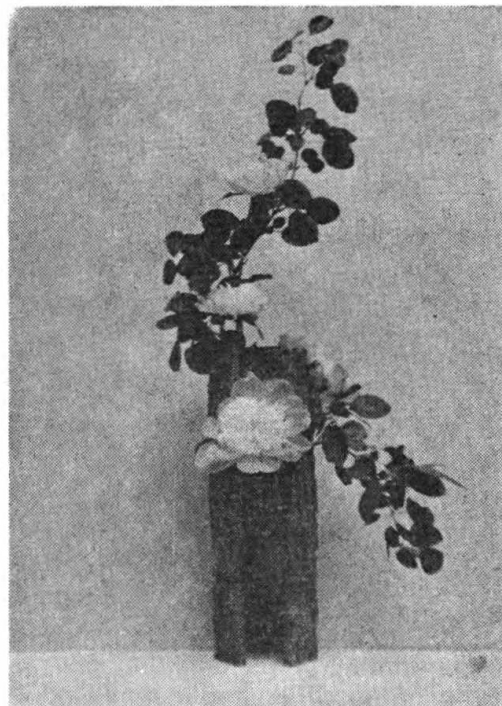
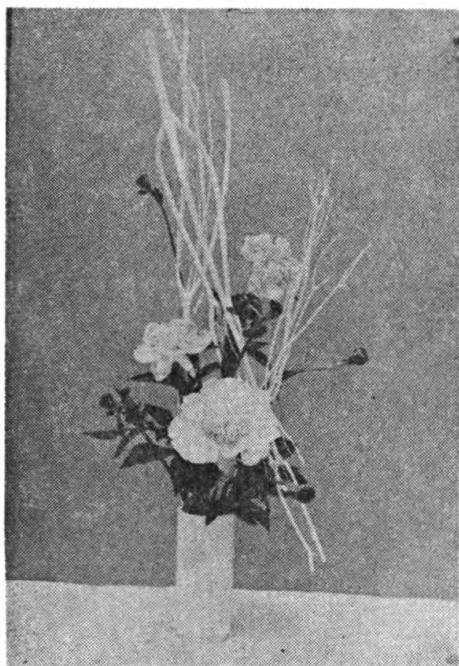
The income from the peonies has strengthened the collective economy of the commune. Peonies give the Chaolou brigade 100,000 yuan a year, 20 percent of its total income.

The living conditions of the flower growers have greatly improved. We visited the home of old peasant flower grower Chao Shou-mi. Facing the main street of the village, the spacious yard, with three rows of tall elms and poplars, was shady and cool. The new three-room house was bright and clean. Now 68, a broad smile on his weather-beaten face, he greeted us and told us about his life.

Before liberation, he had neither house nor land. He, his father and two brothers were hired hands for a landlord. Though they worked like beasts, they could not escape hunger and cold. His mother had to walk the roads begging for food. For nearly forty years the whole family lived in a tumbledown temple, and for this reason the villagers had called him Chao Shou-miao (Chao the Temple-keeper).

"When the People's Liberation Army arrived in 1948," he said, "I thought of changing my name. When I received rooms and land in the land reform, my life got better and better—as sweet as honey. So I changed my name to Chao Shoumi (Chao the Honey-keeper)." The old man chuckled heartily.

Chao Shou-mi told us that his wife and daughter also work in the commune. Last year, with a total of 700 workdays, they received 300 yuan after deducting food and other expenses. Their new house was built last year.



It is winter as I write these words, but my mind flies forward to the spring, to those joyous days when I shall labor again in my garden with head and heart and hands. Then every thought and every effort shall be trained upon the task of the moment. But through my work shall pierce my enchanted senses: the sweet smelling earth, the fragrant breeze, the exulting sunlight, will all insist upon an occasional pause that I may revel in a sheer surge of joy. The droll singing of a young robin whose changing voice is lifted in the apple tree will compel a space of rest for delighted laughter. Then to the full may I taste the "spiritual gusto which lends a savor to the meanest act of living," as Lytton Strachey has so keenly phrased it.

Yes, it is good to have a garden, and it is better still to work in it.

—From the book, "Peonies in the Little Garden,"

Mrs. Edward Harding

THE MIDWEST PEONY EXHIBITION

MITCHELL HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY

South Layton Blvd. and West Pierce St.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

June 17, 18 and 19th

The permanent show schedule as it appears in this issue of the Bulletin will be the same schedule used for the Midwest Pony Exhibitor. There will be a new Artistic Theme, only.

HARD SEED COAT NOT THE PROBLEM

Don Hollingsworth

This is written in the spirit of a minority opinion on the question of whether hard seed coat is a significant problem in the production of peony seedlings. My conclusion has been that it is of little concern in starting either fresh or dry peony seeds until challenged by statements of Giess and Meyer in their very enlightening article, "Dormancy and Survival in Perennial Plants," (APS Bulletin, December 1976). One point discussed in some detail is the role of seed dormancy mechanisms in timing the emergence of peony seedlings. Hard seed coat as a block to entry by water and oxygen is described along with two nursery practices used to overcome this condition—mechanical scarification and etching with sulfuric acid. Early planting while seed coats are barely mature is also suggested.

When peony seeds are permitted to become dry, the loss of moisture from the embryo and endosperm arrests the progress of development. In types of seeds that develop the hard seed coat condition upon drying, a block to the re-entry of moisture then exists and the embryo remains in an arrested state until the block is reduced or the embryo dies. It is on the question of what may be required to induce dry peony seeds to again take up moisture that I differ with Griess and Meyer. The answer to the question is of crucial importance to hybridists who frequently need to get every possible seed germinated, owing to low seed production of some hybrid crosses. They need to understand the nature of the critical blocks and to find the available ways of overcoming them.

Accordingly, I undertook a re-evaluation of my conclusions concerning possibility of hard seed coat as a significant deterrent to peony seed germination. Four separate lots of peony seeds of the current season's crop were on hand in early December (1976). The seeds were set to soak in cold tap water in glass jars. The total number of seeds was 137. Of that number, 133 floated at the outset. When these took up enough moisture to sink in the water, they were judged to no longer have a block to the entry of moisture. Within five days, 69 had taken on enough water to sink. At the end of 11 days eight seeds of Lot Be remained afloat, all others having settled to the bottom. The test was terminated at that time, and the remaining eight were cut open for inspection. Five proved to be hollow—no endosperm, so worthless—and the other three had shrunken endosperm, presumably not having taken up water yet at that time.

Three remaining sound seeds of 128 floaters (adjusted for the five found hollow) reflects only 2.3% of these four seed lots remaining resistant to the entry of water after 11 days. The following table displays test readings selected to illustrate the chronological progress of the seeds' imbibing of moisture.

— 20 —

Seed Lot and Condition		Number of Days Soaked in Tap Water					
		0	2	5	7	10	11
A	Float	53	26	5	0		
	Sink	0	27	48	53		
B	Float	31	31	24	17	15	8
	Sink	0	0	7	14	16	23
C	Float	7	4	0			
	Sink	1	4	8			
D	Float	40	40	23	11	0	
	Sink	3	3	20	32	43	

Lot A is *Paeonia brownii*, reported to have been collected in mountain range areas and received from Peggy Goldsmith of the Goldsmith Nursery, Edmonds, Washington. The others are from the tree peony cultivars, **Domoto**, **Pink Seedling**, **Rock's Variety** and **Guardian** of the Monastery, in that order, furnished by Mrs. Leo Armatys of Central City, Nebraska.

In **Woody Plant Seed Manual** (U.S.D.A., 1948 edition), commonly occurring blocks to germination are discussed, including hard seed coat and its management in nursery practice (pp. 31-35). I believe the following quote describes a situation similar to what I observe in peony seeds. "Seeds approaching the borderline between dormancy and merely sluggish germination respond to soaking in cold water. . . . The improvement in germination caused by soaking in cold water is ordinarily attributed to softening of the seed coat or the insuring of complete absorption by the living tissues . . ."

What, then, explains the delay in seedling emergence until the second year after harvest which is typical when seeds have been allowed to become dry? I believe the cause is the loss of active development time while the environment is yet warm during late summer and early fall. Griess and Meyer also give an account of the physiological development requirements of germinating peony seeds. One of the requirements is a substantial period of warm moist environment prior to root emergence. Any loss of development time due to drying increases the risk that the warm development phase will not be completed during the first fall season. In outdoor germination, this is normally expressed (in a seed lot made up of a sizeable number of seeds) by a reduction in the proportion which root during the first year. If the period is shorter than meets the needs of any of the seeds, none will root.

For a fuller discussion of my analysis of how we may use these conclusions to advantage in hybrid seedling production (advanced generation hybrids appear to be much less predictable in germination timing than are those of less mixed lineage) see articles on germination in the **APS Bulletin** of June 1975 and **Paeonia** (hybridists Newsletter) of September 1974.

INDIANA STATE FLOWER — THE PEONY

Mr. Rusty Young, who is in charge of the floral decorations in the White House, called the president of the Indiana Garden Club on the telephone. He asked that the Garden Club create replicas of the Hoosier state flower, which is the peony to decorate a bicentennial Christmas tree for the Blue Room in the Executive Mansion.

One half dozen cornhusk peonies were made. The cornhusk was decided to be used because it is typical of the state of Indiana. Garden clubs representing other states are making their state flower out of their natural material.

A full flower, representing the peony was made by dampening the cornhusks and curling the ends on a pencil to fill the center. The outside, four curved petals were used, arranged to hold the center curls, which were fluffed, representing the ball of the flower.

It took about two hours to make one of the peonies. They looked like the old-fashioned peony, when completed. They were sprayed a Christmas red and were quite beautiful.

Submitted by Mrs. Earl Knapp, Indiana

WHY YOU'LL LIKE PEONIES

Henry S. Cooper was born at Attica, Ind., June 10, 1858, died Kenosha, Wisconsin, Oct. 25, 1924.

Henry S. Cooper, the author of this article, was President of the Cooper Underwear Company in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and one who loved peonies and his peony gardens more than any other material thing in the world.

He was well known for his many charities. According to the Milwaukee Journal, May 27th, 1923, plans were underway to send ten peonies in a bunch to each occupied bed in hospitals where the sick were being treated in public or semi-public places in the state of Wisconsin. Through the State Board of Health, stenographers, etc., the occupied beds totaled 15,696 of which 156,760 peonies were to be sent. Shipping clerks, his gardeners, the Express Company were called upon for this project. The demand for peonies to fulfill the commitment would total 200,000 peonies.

At the time of the writing, out at the 40-acre Cooper estate, a half million buds swell with their exertions to be among the blossoms in this big bouquet.

Mr. Cooper was one of the peony authorities of the day. He knew his subject through love and through practical experience and through painstaking study.

He was elected Treasurer of the American Peony Society and had only held the office a few months before his death.

POINTERS ON PLANTING AND VARIETIES TO INSURE YOUR SUCCESS THIS FALL

Peonies are so different from all other flowers in their method

of growth that people who are used to raising annual flowers from seeds, or who are used to raising ordinary perennials, even rose garden or an old-fashioned hardy garden, are usually at a loss just how to select and plant peonies. These remarks will be intended largely for beginners, because those who have been raising peonies usually are more or less informed on the best practice.

The most remarkable fact in connection with peonies is the astounding and astonishing ignorance prevailing among flower growers as to the wonderful qualities and wonderful possibilities with peonies.

The peony is so different in almost every respect from other flowers that it is difficult to illustrate the wonderful hardiness and wonderful persistence in growth and more than all to convey an adequate idea of the wonderful beauty of the best and new varieties. This condition arises largely from the fact that so many are acquainted with the old-fashioned "Piney" of our grandmothers, and they have not yet learned that the modern peony is in almost no respect the same as or similar to the old-fashioned red "Piney."

Perhaps it is best to start off by saying that the herbaceous peony, which is what we are now discussing, originated in northern China and Siberia. It therefore is absolutely hardy and it seems to be more and more hardy as you go north into Canada clear up to the place where flowers are no longer grown. Peonies are raised in Alaska where the summer season is extremely short and where it is by some supposed that the ground never thaws out excepting on the surface. The reader, therefore, will readily recognize why it is so difficult to compare the peony with other flowers, because with the peony the question of hardiness against frost is absolutely not worth consideration and with every other flower this is one of the very first considerations. It follows, therefore, that for the north there is no flower that can compare in adaptability to the climate. Then again the peony will stand all kinds of abuse. I have dug peony roots and left them on top of the ground more than sixty days in September and October, which are the most trying months, without damage to the roots which grew readily when planted. Peony roots, of course, dry out in the hot sun, and in the hot wind, but when they are dry they can be put into a tub of water over night which will swell out the roots to their original shape and upon being planted they seem to be not harmed in the least.

Then to go to the opposite extreme, I have known peony roots to lie on top of the ground all through the winter and also in places where they are protected by drifts of snow, and the eyes would swell out in the spring, and if the root was planted it would successfully grow. It seems, therefore, that within reason abuse from heat or from cold, does not seem adverse or to affect the growth of peony roots if properly planted. It is seen, therefore, that there

is absolutely no other flower that can be compared with peonies in these respects, absolute hardiness to frost and the rugged determination to withstand and overcome abuse. It would be easy for us to imagine what would happen to roses, to dahlias, or almost any other flower one can think of if the roots were treated as I have described. If, since the peony is absolutely hardy, if it is almost impossible to kill it and if, in addition to these wonderful qualities, it possesses the quality of the most beautiful flower possible to raise in the northern climate, does it not seem that it deserves the reputation it is rapidly earning, namely "The King of Flowers," where the rose has so long claimed to be "The Queen"?

Comparing culture of the peony with that of the flower just named: Dahlias must be dug up in the fall; the roots must be kept where they will not freeze and must be kept cold enough so that they will not sprout; and they must be kept dry enough so that they will not rot. With peonies you just leave the roots in the ground when the frost comes and forget them until next spring. Do not even cover the ground with mulch, particularly if the ground is covered with snow. Now to compare them with the rose. One who has tried to raise roses must vividly remember the necessity of laying them down carefully every fall and as carefully covering them with straw or leaves to prevent their winter killing, that is with the hardiest of all roses. (Then it is unnecessary to go into the matter of the aster bugs on the dahlias and the rose bugs on the roses.) Peonies have no pests whatever. When we consider the fact that flower lovers will go into raptures over the culture of dahlias and roses, not to mention other flowers, then when we think that peonies have absolutely none of the drawbacks prominent in other flowers as far as culture is concerned, you may readily dismiss that aspect of the question of culture, and take up that of comparative beauty of the bloom.

Those who have never seen the improved peonies, which includes peonies introduced within the last twenty years, have no conception of the wonderful beauty and wonderful fragrance of this beautiful flower. In fact, they range from the purest waxy or milky white to the various shades of cream, flesh, shell pink to the many shades of red even to the variety Mons. Cahuzac which has been called the black pony. In size it is not unusual for them to be six, seven or eight inches in diameter while unusual blooms even exceed this in size. Many of them also have a depth of bloom of four to six inches. We find them self colored in the various shades as well as in combinations and graduations of the most exquisite tints. In addition to size and color of bloom, many peonies have a most delightful fragrance bearing the odor of the rose, of the water lily, indeed there seems to be a peony with every delightful fragrance.

One hesitates to write all of the wonderful points of superiority because it seems so contrary to all other experiences that we can with difficulty believe it when we are told that in peonies at last the most surpassingly fair and lovely are to be found in combination with the easiest to raise.

Those who raise and originate new varieties in peonies become so infatuated with the interest in and beauty of this wonderful flower that they go to great pains and trouble in the cross fertilization necessary for the production of new varieties. It is a fascinating occupation, but one that requires many years for its successful accomplishment. Let me illustrate: All new varieties are produced from seeds. All old established varieties are perpetuated by division of roots. Peonies never come true to variety from seeds when planted. It is necessary to plant thousands of seeds to procure one first class new and acceptable variety. The seeds if allowed to dry before planting require two years to germinate. It is at least five years from planting before the flower is produced. It takes thirteen or fourteen years from the planting of the seed before the new variety can be multiplied for the roots to be marketed. This is the reason that new varieties are very scarce and very difficult to obtain and why so few flower lovers are familiar with the newest and best varieties of peonies. There is also another reason, which is that peonies are very slow in multiplication. A prolific variety will double each year so that it takes about ten years to produce five hundred plants from one. Whereas with roses it is not at all difficult within two or three years to produce thousands of any new variety. Dahlias are not so rapidly propagated, but by slipping they can be multiplied by scores.

Having started with what is known as a division of roots having two to five eyes or sprouts, one should plant it so that the eyes will be not less than two inches and not more than three inches under the grade line of the soil. Now as to the soil, clay soil is the best soil for peonies as in clay soil they will be more healthy and the flowers will have a better or stronger color.

But any soil should be made quite rich to start with because peonies live so many years without moving. The soil should be made as rich as what you could call a rich garden soil. There is a possibility of overdoing the enriching of the soil. Well rotted barnyard compost is the ideal fertilizer. No fresh barnyard manure should be used. Bone meal is an excellent fertilizer. Peonies need lime and potash in moderate supplies. The deeper and more thoroughly the ground is stirred and prepared in advance, the better results in the way of large flowers.

Then again another important point is the right time for planting. As I have said, you can plant peonies almost any time and they will grow, but what you want is to get the most flowers and the

best flowers possible to which end you should plant between the first of September and the time when the ground freezes up in the fall. The earlier you plant after the first of September the more successful you are sure to be. This is the reason: When peonies have finished blooming in June, they start at once to make new eyes or buds or sprouts on the top of the roots which will be new stems for the following year. As soon as they have made these new sprouts, they rest. The old leaves begin to look as though they had done their duty and were ready to discontinue their work as soon as frost comes. The roots also seem to ripen and take a rest in August. When, however, the fall rains begin, they put out a lot of new fibrous roots which is the way the plant gets ready to start as early as possible in the spring after the frost has gone out of the ground. Now if you buy your new roots and plant them soon after the first of September, they will have time to make these new roots in the fall, and you will gain almost a year in results; because, if planted very late in the fall, the roots will lie idle and will have to wait to make the new roots the following spring. And while they are waiting to start the new roots, you are losing the opportunity for the early spring growth. I always advise ordering early and planting as early as possible after September first.

Right here I might say that it is a great mistake ordinarily to take up large clumps of peony roots and replant them. It is very seldom indeed that they ever give satisfaction. A large clump of roots when it must be moved should be taken up September first, the roots divided and then planted to make several new plants out of one. The method of dividing I cannot explain here for lack of space.

Now while on this subject of planting, let me say that it is absolutely fatal to peonies to be planted where the roots will stand in wet soil. They will not stand for wet feet. Then again putting fresh barnyard manure against the roots of peonies is also fatal.

Now a word on the subject of varieties: The newest and most sought after are very high in price—running from ten dollars to twenty-five, fifty, and one hundred dollars per root. I would not advise the beginner to buy roots at that price. There are, however, connoisseurs who are glad to pay the price and who deem them a bargain at any price. These, of course, are people who are infatuated with the culture of the very finest peonies obtainable and their name is legion, because the finest peonies are so surpassingly beautiful.

There are many peonies that have been in cultivation for many, many years for which reason they have been multiplied and have become so plentiful that they can be had for very reasonable prices. These peonies that have been under cultivation for so many years are usually very dependable and many of them delightfully beautiful.

ful. Take Festiva Maxima for instance. It was introduced in 1851, some seventy years ago [article written in 1922] and it is acknowledged to this day to be one of the finest peonies ever introduced. It is plentiful and can be bought at a very reasonable price. There are a number in this class which are known as the commercial cut flower varieties, because they are used by growers who produce them for the cosmopolitan cut flower markets. This is a business by itself, some firms devoting hundreds or more acres to the production of cut flowers. It stands to reason that they will tolerate no varieties but such as are very dependable, healthy and strong, that produce large crops of bloom every year, and that are not too high in price because it would take an almost fabulous amount of wealth to plant hundreds of acres of the highest priced varieties.

It follows, therefore, that those who will plant the varieties that are selected and adopted by the cut flower growers will have the most reliable varieties, the most prolific and the most reasonable in price. Because they are reasonable in price it does not follow that they are not very beautiful flowers. In fact many of them are as good as varieties that cost fifty dollars or one hundred. It is the abundant supply of some varieties that reduces the price.

After one has become accustomed to growing peonies, it is certain that they will not be satisfied with anything but the very finest. There is something about growing of peonies that leads one quickly to become enthusiastic about them and you would be surprised to know how many people belong to the American Peony Society who travel hundreds of miles every year to attend the annual peony show that is staged by the society in different cities.

When you are at one of these shows, you will wonder how so many people can talk so much about peonies. But when you come to get acquainted with peonies and get to realize the difference between them as well as the wonderful grace and beauty of the flower, the exquisite odors together with the hardness of this flower, you will be ready with the "fans" to concede that the peony excels all other flowers in the north in yield of bloom and dependability, grace, beauty and fragrance.

One of the first questions usually asked me is: "What are those bags for?" I usually select the very best and strongest stems with the best buds. These I disbud by taking off the lateral buds, leaving only the terminal ones. Then I take paper bags and put them over the bud fastening them on with a rubber band. This I leave over the buds to protect them from the sun and the weather, and that is the way that the flowers are protected if they are intended to be shown at the peony shows, because ordinarily one wants to take his nicest flowers as far as possible for exhibition. It looks odd to see paper bags on the peonies, but this is the only way we have of caring for those that we wish to cut later on for show

purposes.

I see that I am making this paper entirely too long, and there are dozens of questions that are asked me that could be interestingly answered. For instance: "How do you keep the ants off?" The answer is: don't keep them off, they do no harm.

The next: "Do you cut the peonies off when they are through blooming?" The answer is do not cut them off until the ground is frozen up in the fall. Then cut them off and burn them up. This is to prevent any possible spread of disease.

Another question: "Why don't my peonies blossom?" If your plants are three years or older, they should blossom unless there is something radically wrong with the plant. The roots may be diseased, or the soil not rich enough to support the growth and blossom of a large plant. Sometimes the plants need water if the season is dry before blooming time. If the plants are five years old, without having blossom, it is better to dig them up and try again with good healthy plants divided to the proper size and planted in the fall.

I am often asked: "Why do not my peonies have such large flowers as yours?" The answer to this is undoubtedly the question of soil and soil preparation. My recommendation is that all fertilizer, preferably good rotted manure, should be put in the sub-soil about two feet below the surface. To prepare in this way, the top soil of one foot deep should be thrown out of the trench. The manure should then be thrown into the trench and mixed thoroughly in the sub-soil so as to loosen it and fill it full of humus. The one foot of the soil can then be thrown back and fertilized with bone meal and the thorough cultivation and water should be relied upon for results.

Then there is another interesting thing that I have noted which is that those who come while the early peonies are in bloom select and buy early varieties, as they cannot believe that mid-season or late varieties can be nearly as beautiful as those they have seen. Then those who visit the grounds later when the late varieties are in blossom, order all late varieties, because they in turn cannot believe that the early varieties are more beautiful than the ones they see in blossom at the time they visit the grounds.

—Henry S. Cooper

The sequel to the story of peonies that were to be given to all Wisconsin hospitals by Mr. Cooper:

MY BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT

At peony season I had several hundred thousand surplus peony blossoms, and I sent them to various hospitals in the state of Wisconsin, so that each patient could have a bouquet of peonies.

After sending them out, I received some very wonderful letters

saying that the flowers were the means of brightening up the rooms of many patients.

Among the letters, I received one from a little boy of Quebec. It was such a nice letter, and was from such a little boy, that I thought you would like to read it; so I am printing it here.

Magog, Quebec, Canada, Dec. 19, 1923

DEAR MR. COOPER: I am a little boy eight years old. I was operated on by Dr. Brown, of Milwaukee, on June 12, and was in St. Mary's hospital there when your bunch of peonies came. My mother was reading in the paper that you were sending them when they arrived. She sent the clipping to my dad, and he cut your ad from the Garden Magazine and sent it to me. He says after that he will get his peonies from you. I live 1,000 miles from you.

I thank you for the flowers, sir, and wish you a Merry Xmas.

Yours truly, Neil Hunter Campbell

That letter was the best Christmas present, I think, that came to me last Christmas.

THE GARDEN AT HIGHDOWN TOWERS

By C. Graham Jones, England

The late Sir Fredrick C. Stern will be known to most members for his work contained in his masterpiece, "The Study of the Genus *Paeonia*," which although controversial in some views, only shows one side of this remarkable man. The other side is his work in producing a beautiful garden out of a disused chalk pit on Highdown Hill, which is situated on the south face of the Southdowns in Sussex, 100 feet above sea level. Highdown Towers was built about 1820, for a previous owner. It was not until 1909, when Fredrick Stern lived there, that the thought of producing a garden started to materialize. This was not fully implemented until after his marriage in 1919, when with his wife they decided to consolidate this idea.

Lady Sybel Stern died in 1972, leaving this wonderland haven of plant history to Worthing corporation, in memory of Sir Fredrick. The nine and one-half acres are now open to the public, the results of over sixty years work.

The garden as it stands contains many original plants in this country, grown from seeds sent back from expedition, by such famous botanists as Ludlow and Sheriff, Kingdom-Ward, Wilson, Forrest and Rock. Some fine specimens are to be seen as "*Davida-Involucrata*" and "*Clerodendron Fargeni*," twenty of "*Galanthus*," just to name a few. It was not until 1920 that the horticulturists of that time started to take an interest in this garden growing on chalk. Many adverse comments were expressed; however one notable advisor, H. J. Elves suggested that the soil, about five inches

deep on limestone would be suitable to grow peonies and recommended that the European species in the Mediterranean area, which is limestone, would be suitable. He suggested that seed should be obtained from the species growing in the wild to avoid the confusion which existed with names, at that time. Seed was obtained from many sources, such as *P. Coriacea*, found in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. *P. Cambessedessi* from the Baleric Islands, *P. Russi* from Corsica, *P. Mlokosewitchi* from the Caucasus, *P. Emodi* from Kashmir, the peony species collecting never ending.

An interesting species hybrid arose through planting *P. Mascula* next to *P. Emodi*. An open cross occurred and eventually seedlings appeared around the base of *P. Emodi*, which when flowered gave a white bloom, the size of *P. Mascula*. It was a strong grower and named *P. Emma*. It was given an award of merit by the Royal Horticultural Society committee. The name being the first two letters of the parents.

P. Mascula, although originally from France is the only herbaceous peony that is found growing wild in the eastern area of the British Isles, the site being identified where a monastery was previously located. All the species did not flourish, such as *P. Rhodia*. It did not survive. *P. Cambessedessi* still exists but requires shelter and is still growing on the south side of the gardeners retreat.

In the early days, the work in growing seedlings and garden planning was in the hands of the head gardener, Mr. Buckman. When he retired, his replacement was Mr. John Bassendale in 1947.

I first became acquainted with Mr. Bassendale in 1972. After reading the "The Study of the Genus *Paeonia*" decided to go to Sussex. (140 miles to the gardens.)

The photographs sent by the publicity department of Worthing gave me an idea of the lawn with a large herbaceous border but to my surprise, when we found the site, the entrance gate between two lodge buildings, off the Littlehampton Road vanishing up a hill, edged with grass and large hedges, for about one quarter mile. At the top is the house, "Highdown Towers" on the left, with a car pool on the right. The first thing to be seen is a double greenhouse, one now dismantled, with a central potting shed and a notice "To The Gardens."

The path to the gardens is lined with *Prunus* trees, to a wooded area, and it is not until you clear this area that you suddenly see the beauty.

My first visit was in May, to see as many peonies in bloom as possible. I came across one of the four gardeners working on the site and asked for the head gardener. A loud whistle, obviously the recognized method of communication brought a sandy-haired, well-built man with a quiet northern voice to the spot. This was my

first meeting with John Bassindale. I told him the purpose of my visit was to obtain as much information as possible on the *Paeonia* family. He met us after lunch, took us through the gardens, nine and one-half acres, naming the species, hybrids, seedlings, etc. This was too much for me to remember. Now I have become more familiar with the location of the peonies because of my visits there.

I started my interest in the Peony family by deciding on the Tree. The tree peony grows well on this heavy chalk clay and from notes, I have a record of tree peony seedlings. Seedling No. 120, a fine light pink, named in 1967 **Peggy Lynge**. She is the wife of Patrick Lynge, the editor of the R.H.S. Journal for many years.

The tree peony collection was started in 1938. The seeds that were sent from Ludlow and Sheriff were thought to be *P. Lutea* but when grown were found stronger with larger flowers, stronger stems and when in bloom a difference was also seen, where most flowers only produced one carpel. Seed was also received of *P. Suf-fruticosa*, **J. F. Rocks**, white and pink forms and these original grown plants exist today.

As the interest in tree peonies increased, a number of unnamed seedling plants were received from Japan and from these seedlings came "Silver Pink," described as high pink. This produced seeds from an open cross. These seeds gave us **Mrs. George Dame**, semi-dark rose pink. **Cassandra** came from the original batch of seedlings and is described as slight rose pink, semi-double and the final one was **Constantia**, described as deep cerise of excellent shape. This seems to be the start of the hybridizing cycle. One seedling that was described as one of the finest raised at Highdown is named **Sybel Stern**, after **Lady Stern**, a cerise red. The parentage is not known. It is a glorious sight when the sun filters through the leaves of the overhanging trees. Grafting wood of this plant is at a premium, but I did manage to obtain one eye in 1974. By sheer luck it is growing.

In September this year (1976), I wrote to the Mr. Bishop, the surveyor of Worthing and John Bassendale to arrange a visit to collect seed and grafting wood for A.P.S. members in Canada and the U.S.A. After a long delay, received a letter from Mr. Bishop announcing that John Bassendale had passed away on August 14th. This news was received with much sadness, as my contact with John was very friendly. With his passing, twenty years of knowledge has been lost.

Mr. Bishop suggested that a meeting be arranged between the Park Supt. and myself to discuss the position they found themselves in at this time.

When in Sussex, we stay at a 14th century farmhouse about ten miles away. On our journey there, the heavens opened up

and the roads were awash. We arrived at Highdown only a few minutes late in this very heavy rain. Mr. Reed was already at the gardens with his staff, in the potting shed. I was greeted with a remark: "This is the first rain we have had for three months!" I had a very useful discussion with Mr. Reed which included identification of the garden. My knowledge of the peony plantings was greater than that of the existing staff.

Because of the great loss they had just suffered, I proposed to chart the peony planting in the garden for them, starting in May 1977 as a service from the American Peony Society. This offer was greatly appreciated, so much so that he gave me the freedom of the gardens for my stay and supplied me with a scale plan of the gardens.

We decided to have lunch in the potting shed as the heavy rain was still descending. After lunch, with no change in the weather, we decided to go out and collect seed, clad in Wellington boots, anoraks and head gear. Of the time we had available, we obtained about 400 seeds from the tree peony seedlings and herbaceous species. We also reconnoitered the garden for the next day to collect grafting wood. I found parts of the garden that I had never seen before.

We collected wood on this visit from the numbered seedlings which were available in one area. Before we left on Wednesday afternoon, all the bundles of wood were identified where possible and prepared for export.

The best stroke of luck that I could have expected came my way, when saying cheerio about 4 P.M. I had the pocket book of the late John Bassendale in my hands, with permission to borrow it for a few weeks. This little book had entries dating back to 1954. With Wednesday just about over, this completed a very wet but perfect visit.

I kept thinking of the wealth of information I had in my pocket to take home and study. However this did not clarify the entire position as I remember being shown a herbaceous plant in flower that was called *Platts variety* and no entries can be found.

This is one of the problems facing me in future visits, with plenty more to come. The thought of taking on this exciting task of going back to examine and photograph every paeony in this wonderland is like planning expedition into the unknown not knowing what will be found around the corner. This thought of sheer beauty will keep me occupied during the dark winter months while preparing for my next visit in May 1977.

NOTE. After a 3½ month drought, in early Sept. the rain came and continued for the following six weeks, with a total of 14 inches. To this day 11/11, it still continues.

THE KING OF THE PERENNIALS

Elva Hemphill

The Peony is one perennial that no other perennial plant has ever surpassed, in the beauty, and hardiness with such a minimum of care. For many years we thought of the peony as a cut flower only for Decoration Day. Once it was planted properly, it would thrive and bloom for more than half a century in the same location without being divided and replanted. It never failed to bloom; the flowers were always there for this special day.

In Grandmother's garden, the peonies were cared for by digging a shallow trench a few inches from the crown of the plant and filling it with barnyard manure, packed it down good and then covered it with the soil she removed. The fertilizer nurtured the plant to provide spring bloom. She would then sprinkle green wood ashes over the crown of the hill to keep the plant disease free. This provided the potash the plant required.

In this day, the peony is planted in the perennial landscape. It is the backbone of the garden, with the early bloom, so large, so glorious and is an excellent companion plant with iris, daylilies, poppies and delphinium, the lacy gypsophila, the shasta daisy and coral bell adds to this continuing bloom, with the beautiful foliage of the peony as a background.

Two years ago, I bought more peony plants than I had room for in the regular garden. A peach tree seedling had come up in another area of the yard, and it always had perfect sweet disease free fruit. It had become such a favorite of a few neighbors that would come over for just enough peaches for a peach cobbler or to make a jar of peach butter. So the tree had to remain. The tree had come up where there was at one time a huge bank of wood and coal ashes.

I planted my surplus peonies out a few feet from the base of the tree. The collection was **Mary Brand**, **Tempest**, **President Lincoln**, **Kansas**, **Marie Crousse** and **Edulis Superba**. Between the plants, some of the newer choice iris were planted. On the corners there was space for early chrysanthemums. Also planted hardy carnations in the open spaces of the cement blocks that had been filled with fertile soil. An old bark wren nest was secure in the peach tree branches and we enjoyed not only all the flowers but three hatches of Carolina wrens.

My garden consists of years of work—when it did not have the space to plant all the flowers, a small plot, correctly planned provided that pleasure. Peonies were the first to be located and always a few singles and Japanese types were included. **Lovely Rose** attracts more attention than any other single and **Mrs. Wilder Bancroft**, red, is next in line. **Largo** is a beautiful hardy pink Jap, and

Sitka, a dependable pure white, and for that touch of yellow in the Jap peonies, I prefer **Carrara**. The pastel blend of color **Do Tell** never fails to bloom. Give that one plenty of space.

FROM LADDIE TO ELSA

Ted and Irene Mysyk

Our first peony to bloom last May, and almost every year, was **LADDIE**, a beautiful red hybrid single that opened on May 16th. This is our signal to start visiting various peony gardens and shows in the Midwest. Our favorite peony gardens are located in Whitnall Park near Milwaukee which we visited early to view the tree peonies, particularly some large plants that we were planning to add to our garden.

Golden Hind and **Angelet**, two of the largest yellows, were very nice. **Thunderbolt**, **Kamata Futi**, **Black Panther** and **Shin Kaura** were some of the largest reds that we have seen. Beautiful whites were **Renkaku**, **Kimo-Gayo**, **Gessekai**, **Haku-Banriv**, **Kakuo** and **Yo No Nohismare**. These are all large flowering plants. I wish I had room for all of them. We jotted down the names of a few others that caught our fancy. **Beikoku**, pink Jap, a yellow **Segovia**, **Jeanne D'Arc**, **Tsuke-Moi-Tiske**, **Renoun**, **Salmoner** and **Ukaepgi-oh**, a pink.

Our next important stop was at the Midwest Peony Show in Glencoe, Illinois. Many beautiful early flowering peonies were exhibited. The peony **High Noon**, a yellow, was a Court of Honor winner. **Chinese Dragon**, **Black Pirate**, **Thunderbolt**, and **Princess**, an orchid, were beautiful.

Outstanding *Chinensis* at the Midwest were **Black Mountain**, **Flame**, **Bowl of Cream**, **Vivid Rose**, **Angel Cheeks**, **Heritage** and **Golden Glow**.

The Minneapolis show was just tremendous, and we never enjoyed one more. The show was well written up in a prior bulletin, and we will not dwell on it here. It was a good peony year.

On July 1st we sadly said good-bye to our last bloomer in our garden, **Elsa Sass**.

THE PEONY PATCH

Ben Gilbertson, Kindred, N. Dakota

I did not get around to writing a "Peony Patch" for the Bulletin in 1975, I think mostly because there was nothing good that happened that year "peony wise." I would not go so far as to call '75 a disaster year but rather a year when nothing was accomplished.

First, the peonies came out of the ground extra early. Then we had several severe freezes after they were quite tall, which blasted the buds on all of the early varieties. Then when the **Lacti's** started to bloom, we had a period of 12 days in which we received some 20 inches of rain. The peonies were standing in water days at

a time and pollination was impossible, as one could not get near the plants without sinking into the mud several inches and on top of that the open blooms were waterlogged all day long. We had very few seeds that fall.

Then '76 came along with an excessive amount of soil moisture but no rain from April 10 on. We had several showers of .10 to .20" which is nothing once it gets dry. The peonies again got an abnormally early start which was followed by two mornings in very early May when we had 21 degrees both mornings. This again finished most of the early hybrids, but the *Lactifloras* gave us some fine bloom.

The U.S.S.R. imports should have all bloomed in '75, but only *Anomala L.* gave one small, nodding bloom of a purple-red color. It is a specie plant which I was never successful in purchasing here in this country. I purchased four plants from four different growers over a period of years and received the same type plant each time—the hybrid *Smouthi*. The foliage is very different, being much coarser, about half ways between *Smouthi* and *Lactiflora*. The bloom is single and nodding and is self-pollinated and sets seed freely, which *Smouthi*, a hybrid never does. This year it had gone back to only two stems and no bloom. *Poceda* did have four very full and heavy medium pink flowers which the stems could not support. It seems to be a pure *lactiflora* and has no pollen or carpels. 'Novostj' *Altaja* is a vigorous grower, had 21 stems each with a small bud on each in very early May when we had several freezes which again blasted all early buds. It seems to be some kind of a hybrid. The fourth plant of this lot is a Fernleaf which is listed as *Hybrida Pall* and still has not bloomed.

As to new seedlings, I saved out only two plants, one a large light pink bomb type double and the other a semi-double red of a very fine color. This year I had four plants that I felt were good enough to keep. One of them turned out to be identical twins and had two snow white ball-shaped bomb type doubles, and I had marked each stem with a flower with a piece of white tape. When I dug them I noticed that the two stems came out of the ground about 1/2 inch apart, so I dug the two together and found that the two stems each had their separate root. The roots, as well as the flowers looked identical, and I replanted them as one variety—two divisions of each. The parentage of these are *Plainsman*, seed parent and *Archangel*, pollen parent. One other was of the same parentage and was a very large white ball-shaped double which never really completely unfolded, perhaps because it was already getting dry.

The other two were also very similar but developed some 20 feet apart so they just could not be twins. They were a medium pink sort of between bomb and rose type and were from *Hedge-*

master—open parentage.

Last fall I received six peony roots from my contact in Lithuania, U.S.S.R., and I sent them some of my better varieties in exchange which were not delivered. I air mailed the peony roots from here on Sept. 3rd and about a month later had word that they had not been delivered. This morning, Dec. 11, I received the package back with a notation on the box in what I believe is Russian which I of course do not read nor understand.

I sent the address label and other writing back to see if I can do better next year. I owe them the roots and will do what I can to get them there.

Next year I will have a good supply of **Goldilocks** of blooming size, and since I have no prospects of viable pollen carrying yellow genes from any of my stock, I called on some of our hybridizing friends for any help I could get to solve the problem. The response was much above expectation as Roy Pehrson sent me a plant of his best yellow, and in digging it the one next to it also came out and he sent that also. He said it had not yet bloomed, the appearance of the roots were very much alike, so most likely they are siblings.

Don Hollingsworth came along with 8 plants, all of possible yellow gene stock including one Itoh type hybrid. All were planted and well watered down and covered with a mulch which will prevent repeated freezing and thawing through the winter months. I expect them all to come on fine next spring.

The Itoh type from Don has a woody stem and buds above ground. I found that I also have one seedling on this type, about three years old. I used single tenuifolia pollen on **Haku Jishi** tree peony and got about a dozen seeds which were planted fall of '72. Four plants came up and still survive. Three are typical tree peonies in every way and now have woody stems 4 to 5 inches tall. The fourth one came up looking exactly the same but is still very small and had two very small tree peony leaves on a stem this summer which died down to the ground after the first hard freeze. I dug them all and transplanted them. The three had large tree peony roots and the little one came out of the ground with a nice clump of dirt on the root which I did not disturb except at the root collar, and there was a nice live bud waiting for spring. The stem is not woody, and there were no buds above ground. Does this one qualify as an Itoh? It is the reverse cross from Itoh.

I have disposed of all standard varieties of peonies except a few **Red Charm**, **Prairie Moon** and **Claire de Lune**, a good supply of tenuifolia both single and double plus some of my own breeding stock.

My knees have deteriorated steadily the past few years until fall of '75 I was about ready for a wheel chair, a prospect I did not

relish very much, so I had my worst or left knee operated on and the joint relined with plastic and aluminum and now that one functions very well, so next week I am going for surgery on the other one. I felt that one at a time was all a fellow could handle, and I believe that I was right.



Picture — Courtesy Mrs. D. Sanford Hyde

Left to right: Messrs. Mascarella, Pettele, M.C. Karrels, director; Harold E. Wolfe, Vice President; W. A. Alexander, President; William F. Christman, director; G. W. Peyton, Secretary-Editor; Dr. D. Sanford Hyde; President 5th district; Mr. Kosmach, President St. Paul Federal; Mr. L. W. Lindgren, Treasurer; Honorable A. J. Cilella, Alderman of the 36 Ward; Miss Silvia Saunders, director; Mr. Allen J. Wild, director.

The above picture was taken June, 1955. The 51st Annual Exhibition was held at the St. Paul Federal Savings and Loan Ass'n of Chicago. Mayor Richard Daly proclaimed Sunday, June 5th and Monday, June 6th to be NATIONAL PEONY DAYS IN CHICAGO—(Bulletin #138).

The GRAND CHAMPION of the show — peony **James Pillow**, exhibited by Dr. D. S. Hyde.

In the new check list book, the Grand Champion was omitted for 1955, page 161. Peony JAMES PILLOW should be recorded.

*"THE FROST IS ON THE PUMPKIN
THE CORN IS IN THE SHOCK"*

and the peonies are in their dormant stage, Nov. 14, 1976.

Greta M. Kessenich

With the cares of the past peony season in a state of reflection, President Bob Rose of the Fifth District sent invitations for the annual reunion of its members. A luncheon meeting to be held at "The Abbey" on Lake Geneva, in Fontana, Wisconsin.

"The Abbey" is a place of charm and beauty, nestled on the shores of Lake Geneva. The peony banquet room overlooked the lake, with a distant view of silent beauty, the trees were bare of leaves and the grassy slopes were a delicate brown, while inside the tables were festive in their autumn color, with centerpieces of potted chrysanthemums. The most beautiful elongated arrangement of flowers on the speaker's table was of a size comparable to the football mums of gold and white. Intermingled were long stemmed cushion mums of tangerine and yellow, which lengthened the design. Intermingled throughout were delicate touches of gypsophila and bittersweet gently falling, giving way to amber and maroon leaves. It had a stately expression of friendliness which radiated a welcome to all in attendance. All the flowers were gifts of the Klehm Nursery.

A laden table of food was for the connoisseur, as the entire length was so arranged that ices reflecting lovely colors were used for food of that degree of coolness, while the hot foods were steaming with delicate aroma. A variation of breads, cakes and cookies were in abundance, beautifully displayed.

The program was so enjoyed as Mr. Karrels talked on peonies, varieties and the National show. Len Jugle's demonstration on the making of permanent peony markers for the garden was of great interest. Mr. Martin and Mr. Green explained the kind of fluorescent tubes to be used for indoor lighting, for the growing of plants. American Peony Society President, Mr. Joe Glocka, made known the dates of the two coming exhibitions in 1977, also insights as to activities. Mr. Roy Klehm gave us a verbal glimpse of the fields of peonies that will be seen at the National Convention at Champaign-Urbana, Ill., in May.

A short business meeting re-elected Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rose, President, Sec'y and Treas. Mr. Roy Klehm gave a brief talk about the new publication, "The History of Peonies and Their Originations." Nineteen books were purchased and with a unanimous voice of the Fifth District Members, I was presented with a beautiful new typewriter. At this time, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Fifth, for both the kind words spoken and for the most appreciated gift.

The auction is always enjoyed, for it is then that the buyer desires a certain root. It is the opportunity to plant the last peony before the winter freeze up. All the roots were beautiful, strong pink eyes, each one a picture and were of choice varieties. Roy Klehm was the auctioneer, he told of the parentage, also gave a description of the flower. Every root was in demand.

A new type of fern to me was introduced to the auction buyers, by Mr. Green, Horticulturist. It was *Lygodium Japonicum*, known as the climbing fern. A most interesting plant. A very successful auction for the Fifth District.

This is a day of togetherness, authentic stories are related, of which one that I heard, tells of the sense of humor of past days. It seems as though a prized peony was so exploited and admired by the owner. One night in the fall that particular plant disappeared from his garden. Heartbroken and perhaps more angry, he was able to carefully trace the telltale marks to where it had been taken and planted. He left it there until early spring, then returned one night, dug up his peony and before taking it back to his home, planted a potato in the same place!

Dr. and Mrs. Reath of Michigan drove miles for this gala event. Mr. Hubert Fisher was in attendance, just returning from his trip to various Botanical Gardens in Italy and Russia. It was a pleasure to meet so many people that are so interested in the peony.

I caught a glimpse of spring as our member from Holland, Mr. Dick de Vroomen left his business card, showing lovely colored flowers of tulips and daffodils.

To that we look forward, when again we will see the pink eye of the peony push through the warm soil.

REGISTRATIONS

DR. MARTIN SMIRNOW Tree Peony (Smirnow 1977, Brookville, L.I., N.Y.) Parentage Yuki gasane x Shirotae. Pure white, fullest double, large size 10-12 in. flowers. Luminous petals, free bloomer, flowers held high on straight stems. Easy grower. Registered Louis Smirnow. Bulletin #221

C.B.ers TAKE NOTICE!!

Can't get that yellow double in your peony patch?? Try channel 13 on your C.B. when you are near Derby Kansas. One of our members got a C.B. set about Thanksgiving and decided to take the "handle" Yellow Double. Since installation of a base station, the sign off is: YELLOW DOUBLE ON THE PEONY PATCH BASE. 10-4?

— 39 —

TREE PEONY TOPICS

by Louis Smirnow, Brookville, L.I., New York

Do you believe there is such a thing as horticulture therapy? During the last blooming season, I visited a great tree peony fancier in Connecticut. Unfortunately three years ago he suffered severe injuries as a result of an auto accident and has been bed-ridden since. He cannot wait for spring when all his peonies are ready for blooming. At that time he has his bed moved under a tent, among the peonies for several weeks so that he can enjoy seeing them bloom. It was at that time when I visited him. He was in excellent spirits enjoying every minute. His wife told me that he looked forward to these occasions. That to me is horticultural therapy.

There are a few more fundamentals that the novice grower of peonies should remember in order to achieve success in the growing of any peony.

1. Peonies do not have to be divided every few years. They can grow in the same spot for many years.
2. If you wish to divide them, do so in the early fall when they are dormant. Normal division is 3 to 5 eyes.
3. Do not plant in the same hole where peonies grew previously unless you replace the soil.
4. Do not place fertilizer at the bottom of the hole but mix it well with the soil. We find two handfuls of super phosphate to be the best fertilizer.
5. Dig the holes for all peonies a minimum of eighteen inches deep and eighteen inches wide.
6. Tree peonies are not easily divided. They may be divided when plants are no less than six years old. The older they are, the easier they are to divide. Be sure that every time you cut or break a piece from the main plant or root system, that the piece removed has a root system on it. Very often even the old plants cannot be separated or divided, hence the reason for grafting tree peonies. Again always, in the early fall.
7. Do not remove branches that appear to be dead until the plant actually is in bloom or in full growth, to be sure that the branch is actually dead.
8. Remember that a tree peony perpetuates itself by new growth from the underground root system. This new growth will form the new branches replacing the dead branches. For that reason, tree peonies should be planted so that the point of graft (where the union of the root system and the scion is joined) is two to four inches below the level of the ground.
9. Never cut down herbaceous peonies or hybrid herbaceous

after blooming. Wait until the green foliage turns yellow, often in November or December. They remove the stems.

10. Ants on herbaceous peony buds is no indication of disease. The buds secrete a sweet juice which attracts ants. As soon as the buds open into flowers, most of the ants will disappear.

11. In tree peonies, should you notice that new growth from the root system shows foliage not like a tree peony, it is herbaceous understock that is sending up herbaceous growth. You can easily detect the difference in the foliage. Immediately destroy this herbaceous growth, removing it down to the root system itself. This is one of the reasons that grafting should be done on herbaceous understock instead of tree peony understock. If grafting is done on tree peony understock, it would be difficult to ascertain whether the growth from the root system is from the understock or the scion. You would not know until the plant actually blooms.

12. The peony is an ideal lazy gardeners plant. No coddling, very little attention required. We have seen tree peonies ten to twenty years old, never sprayed, seldom cultivated, do very well. We feed our peonies two to four weeks after blooming by digging a trench two inches deep and filling the trench with super phosphate, then cover with soil. No fall feeding, plants enter their dormant period then.

HOW PRIZE PEONY GROWER DOES IT

by Bill Milkowski. *Special to The Milwaukee Journal*

The brilliant reds, whites and pinks are gone from Dee Garrison's backyard peony garden at 4512 N. 64th St., but you can bet they will all appear again just as brilliantly next May.

Garrison, 72, swept top honors with his peonies in June at the American Peony Society's national show and convention in Minnetonka, Minn. He collected 34 ribbons and placed four peonies among the show's court of honor winners.

With all the awards they collect at peony shows each year, Garrison and two other local growers, Joseph R. Glocka of 12120 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis, and Marvin C. Karrels of 3272 S. 46th St., have just about put Milwaukee on the map as the peony capital of the country.

These are true peony lovers and the care that goes into their gardens is proof.

'A Sure Thing'

But Garrison will be the first to admit that growing peonies in Milwaukee is no struggle. It's one of the few perennial flowers that can be called "a sure thing," he said. "It's the easiest plant in the world to grow, if you start it right."

But there is a difference between merely growing peonies and producing prize winning peonies. There are few tricks to the trade and Garrison has learned them all.

The two key elements in successful peony growing, according to Garrison, are buying good roots and planting them at the right depth.

"You can find peony roots in a lot of dime stores and super-markets, but to get a good peony you have to know who you're buying from," Garrison said. He advised home growers to buy their roots from a large nursery that grows peonies.

There are about a dozen large growers in the Midwest whose nurseries are recognized by the American Peony Society. Garrison buys many of his roots in Arlington Heights, Ill., at the Charles Klehm and Son Nursery, a large family firm which has been in the peony developing business for the last 150 years.

From \$1 to \$100

The price of roots varies, ranging from \$1 for the more common peonies to as much as \$100 for the more rare ones.

"It isn't the beauty of the peony that dictates the price, it's the scarceness," Garrison said.

An ideal depth for planting, according to Garrison, is about 1½ inches and the nodules or "eyes" of the root should never be planted deeper than 2 inches.

"That's where most people make their mistake," he said. "If you plant them too deep you'll never get peonies. They'll just die out on you and rot."

Peonies are popular in Milwaukee because they are so easy to grow. Some plants will flourish for a hundred years without anything done to them, but eventually the flower gets smaller and smaller as it grows older. "That's why you split them and divide them and replant," Garrison said.

Planting Tips

There are a few other tips on how to make your peonies prosper. Prepare the hole and soil in advance, keeping in mind that a sunny location with good drainage is essential. Soil with low nitrogen content and high in phosphorus and potassium will give the best results. The plants should be spaced about 4 feet apart.

Garrison recommends digging a hole 18 to 24 inches deep about a month before planting in order to give the soil a chance to settle. He also advises filling in the bottom of the hole with small stones for drainage.

After filling in the hole with new soil, Garrison fertilizes with dairy compost and steamed bone meal. "If you fertilize correctly when you put the roots in, you won't have to touch them for maybe

three years," he said.

The only care that is required during that time is periodic loosening of the soil, according to Garrison.

"It always gets me when I drive around and see a dozen peony plants in somebody's yard and they just let them grow, never cultivate them or never fertilize them," he said. "They'll keep growing alright, but you don't get your big prize peonies from that."

Some 5,000 Varieties

There probably are more than 5,000 kinds of peonies grown all over the world. This herbaceous flower originated in China centuries ago, was imported into France and England and eventually made its way over to America with the Pilgrims and the Mayflower.

Of the 150 peonies and 75 varieties in his back yard, Garrison's favorites are **Miss America, Mrs. FDR, Flame, Red Charm, Cytherea, Nick Shaylor, Sea Shell and Kansas.**

The most prolific grower in Garrison's collection is his **Kansas** peony, which was given to him by Karrels in 1955. "That was my first peony, and it got me pretty excited about growing," he said. The **Kansas** stem grew to about 4 feet that first year and about five blooms come up the next year. Today that same peony bush has over a hundred blooms on it.

Garrison continued buying roots and dividing plants until he eventually ran out of space on his 60 by 140 foot lot. He entered his first peony competition in 1960 and became more involved in his hobby as he started winning awards.

This year was the most satisfying in all of Garrison's 21 years of growing peonies. His blooms had won several award on the amateur level in the past but 1976 was the first year that he competed in the open division against the big peony growers from nurseries all over the country.

Trip to Show

Transporting the 300 blooms he entered in the show at Minnesota was no small task for Garrison. He started cutting and collecting his buds the first week of May, and he left them in refrigeration at 35 degrees until two days before the show on June 18.

"You cut them at a certain stage when the bud is a certain color, and you pray that you've cut them at the right time," he said. "They keep growing after they're refrigerated and they hold up well all that time."

All of his 300 entries were bagged, stored in gallon water jugs and carted up to Minnesota in Garrison's station wagon. He and his wife Delia worked on them all night Friday to get them ready for the show Saturday afternoon.

Late bloomers like **Dorothy J. and Ann Cousins** were cut only

two days before the show. "Sometimes you're not able to take all your blooms into the show because they haven't bloomed out yet. But this year I was real lucky," Garrison said.

Size is considered an asset by peony show judges, but they look mainly for form, color and good stems.

Patience Needed

It takes about three years to cultivate a good peony, Garrison said. Many don't even come up in their first year, which can be deceiving to the novice grower.

"A lot of people see that nothing comes up the first spring, they think the plant is no good, so they dig it up and throw it away," Garrison said. "But by the second year it probably would have come."

It takes about five years before a peony bush reaches its peak. After that time it may be necessary to remove the peony from the ground and divide the root. The best time for dividing is in the fall, according to Garrison.

"August is a good time to divide, but you don't have to cut the foliage then," he said. "I keep the foliage through October, and to me it's like going up north to see all the colors."

Now that he is retired, Garrison plans on spending more time in his backyard peony garden experimenting with new varieties and raising more prize winners.

Reprinted by permission The Milwaukee Journal, Oct. 17, 1976

* * * * *

It takes unlimited patience and years of hard work to be a successful gardener. One cannot achieve this ambition over night. It affords great satisfaction to meet the gardener who is not easily discouraged but who smiles at his failures and tries and tries again. This person is bound to succeed.

Life is not always easy, it wasn't intended to be so by our Maker. Ruskin has beautifully expressed it in the following lines:

"God has lent us the earth for our life. It is a great entail. It belongs as much to those who are to come after us and we have no right by anything we do or neglect, to involve them in any unnecessary penalties, or to deprive them of the benefits which was in our power to bequeath."

By passing on the knowledge we have acquired during our lifetime we can enrich the lives of others and make the road to success just a little easier to travel.

I have never met the person who has not experienced failures. They are scattered along the journey of life as stepping stones to greater achievements and perseverance.

—W. F. Christman

FIRST EDITION

PEONIES

A HISTORY OF PEONIES AND THEIR ORIGINATIONS

Compiled and edited by Greta M. Kessenich in cooperation with the
nomenclature committee of the American Peony Society

In Three Parts

1. VARIETY CHECKLIST

Based on a list compiled and edited by Mr. & Mrs. Byron Gist, completed in 1956, and kept on file at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio.

2. REGISTERED PEONIES

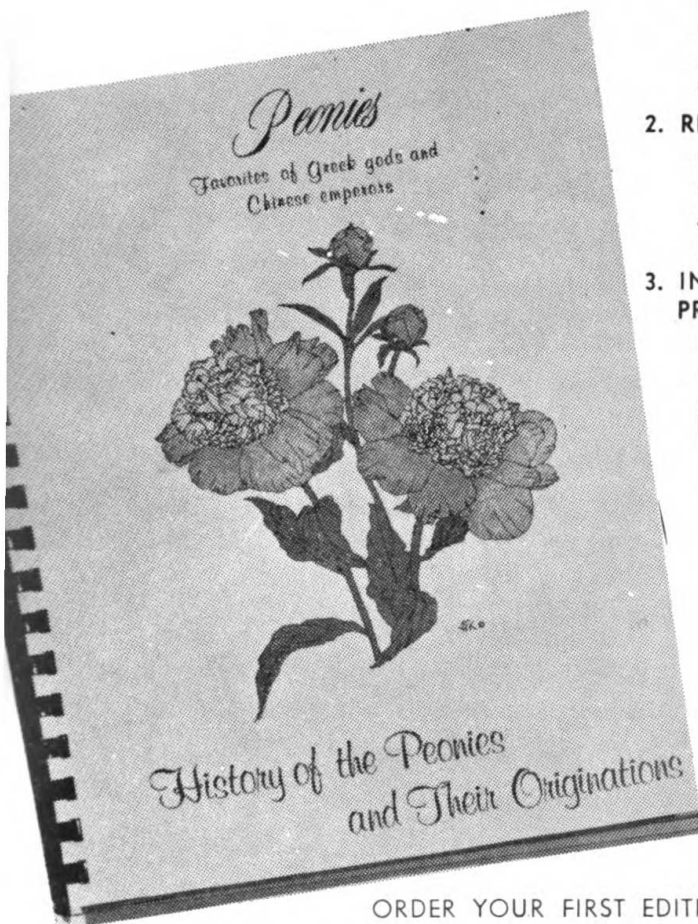
Compiled and edited by Greta M. Kessenich from bulletins of the American Peony Society. All varieties registered with the American Peony Society are listed.

3. INTRODUCERS OF PEONIES AND THEIR PRODUCTIONS

Peony varieties listed by growers and developers with emphasis on information provided by George W. Peyton during the years he was secretary and editor.

5,000 INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

Peony growers who have had to rely on fragmented sources for tracking down peony varieties and their origins can now avail themselves of this magnificent work—a spiral bound, 9x12 inch book which lists and presents a capsule history of all varieties in commerce. It is the result of a monumental research, compilation and editing effort by Greta Kessenich and the nomenclature committee consisting of three American Peony Society past presidents: Roy G. Klehm, Marvin C. Karrels, and Clarence O. Lienau.



ORDER YOUR FIRST EDITION COPY NOW!

You'll enjoy this fine companion to your interest in peonies and will refer to it many times during the course of your peony gardening activity. It bears a beautiful color cover, contains 162 pages and is printed on fine stock. Cover and all artwork contained inside is the work of artist Joseph F. Kuczek. Price per copy \$10.00



American Peony Society
250 Interlachen Road
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343



Please send me copies of "The History of Peonies and Their Originations" at \$10.00 per copy for which I enclose \$.....

Name

Address

City State Zip

PUBLICATIONS

The Peonies, edited by John C. Wister (1962). Published by the American Horticultural Society, Wellington, Mt. Vernon, Va. 22121. 220 pages, information on Herbaceous, Tree and Hybrid Peonies. Many techniques of growing, propagation and breeding. A must for every Hybridizer. Price to Members, Clothbound \$3.50, Paperbound \$2.50.

Peonies Outdoors and In by Arno and Irene Nehrling (1960) 288 pages containing information in all phases on the herbaceous and tree peony. Society members \$4.95.

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

The history of Peonies and their Originations is an authoritative reference book that every peony grower should have for information. Over 5000 peonies are recorded, the name of the hybridizer, description of each flower, plant, also the year it was introduced. Price \$10.00

TREE PEONIES



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

Display Advertising Rates Schedule

Size of Ad	Single Insertion	4 Insertions
1-8 page	\$ 7.50	\$ 25.00
1-4 page	12.50	40.00
1-3 page	15.00	50.00
1-2 page	20.00	65.00
Full page	30.00	100.00

A NEW DISCOVERY IN AMARYLLIS

*Write for our circular.
Sent upon request.*

*Louis Smirnow
 85 Linden Lane
 Brookville, Long Island, N.Y.
 11545*

Joe's Bulletin, America's oldest flower garden magazine. Resourceful, unequalled ad section. Buy, sell direct—save. Sample, 13 cents postage. Write IAMOCO, Box 144, Lamoni, Iowa 50140.

TREE PEONIES WANTED

We will buy your tree peonies — all ages and sizes —
 small or large quantity — send details

Louis Smirnow, 85 Linden Lane, Brookville, New York 11545

HERBACEOUS AND TREE PEONY HYBRIDS

DAVID REATH

VULCAN, MICHIGAN 49892

HEMEROCALLIS (Daylily)



Enjoy this wonderful flower from spring to autumn frost. Its long blooming season will greatly expand your garden enjoyment.

Constant improvements in color, size, form and habits insure rapid growth of interest in this fine perennial.

Three quarterly Journals and a large Yearbook are filled with informative data on varieties, culture, performance and progress. Many Round Robins open to participation.

Annual Membership—\$7.50

Join THE AMERICAN HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Mrs. Arthur W. Parry, Sec'y.-Editor

Signal Mountain, Tenn. 37377

INTERESTED IN DAFFODILS?

Join THE AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.



MEMBERSHIP BRINGS YOU . . .

Basic information on daffodil culture, types and classification, recommended varieties, show procedures and places to buy bulbs.

The Daffodil Journal, a quarterly of the Society, just full of information you should have.

The privilege of attending local, regional and national meetings.

And new friends all over the USA, all enthusiastic about Daffodils.

Annual Membership—\$7.50

Don't delay. Send your check today to:

MR. GEORGE S. LEE JR., Executive Director
89 Chichester Rd. New Canaan, Conn. 06840

COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION

Color Slide Collection: The American Peony Society maintains several groups of excellent sets of peony slides for rental. Each set contains 80 slides. A complete set can be requested of all tree peonies, herbaceous hybrids or lactifloras or a combination of these three types.

Slides should be ordered three weeks in advance of date to be shown. Return slides promptly. Return postage, including insurance must be paid by the renter. Insurance \$50.00. A charge of \$2.00 is made for every missing slide. Count slides when received and again before sealing for return. A duplicate of any slide is not accepted, when returned.

Send request and check to: Richard Edblom, 6917 45th Ave. N., Minneapolis, Minn. 55428

KLEHM'S
ESTATE
PEONIES

SEND FOR FREE FULL COLOR BROCHURE

Klehm's championship and award winning peonies are fully guaranteed. Your satisfaction is assured.



CHAS. KLEHM & SON

SINCE 1852

KLEHM nursery

2 E. ALGONQUIN ROAD 312/437-2880
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60005

Charter Member American Peony Society

PEONIES — IRISES — HERMOCALLIS

Send \$1.00 for our 92nd Anniversary Catalog — 96 pages in color
(1977) deductible from first catalog order.

PEAK PEONY BLOOM USUALLY THE 20-22nd OF MAY

GILBERT H. WILD & SON, INC.

Dept. APS-377

Sarcoxie, Missouri 64862

TREE PEONIES

**America's Tree Peony Headquarters and
The home of the NEW RACES of Peonies— the Itoh-Smirnow hybrids.**

Also herbaceous, herbaceous hybrids and species

Send for our list of new tree peonies imported from mainland China
and for our new catalog with features for all peony enthusiasts—

- Tips for the Home Gardener
- Aid to the Hybridizer
- 166 new photographs

LOUIS SMIRNOW

85 LINDEN LANE, GLEN HEAD P. O. BROOKVILLE, L. I., N. Y. 11545

"You are more likely to find it here than anywhere else in the world."

Colored catalog \$1.00. Credit of \$2.00 on first order.



Whopper

(Klehm Estate Peony, P.A.F.). This early double beauty is a fantastically large soft pink with ruffled guard petals and a pleasing fragrance.

JAPANESE PEONY — The center of the Japanese peony is a fluffy cluster of staminodes that resemble shredded petals. Petals are thick and full framing the bold center.

SINGLE PEONY — Single peonies usually have one or two rows of petals around a center of tightly packed yellow stamens.

SEMI-DOUBLE — Semi-double peonies consist of outer petals with other broad petals, sometimes inter-mixed with the center.

DOUBLE PEONY — Double peonies are composed of many fully developed petals which completely hide any stamens in the center. Often immense in size.



Paula Fay (Fay, 1968)

An early hybrid bloom to awaken your garden to summer, Paula Fay is a semi-double deep, vivid pink. Waxy, vibrant petals could almost glow in the rain.



Glory Hallelujah

A Klehm Estate Peony, (Plant Patent 3271). This late blooming double peony is a massively lovely rosey red.

Peonies bring a breathtaking show of color and size to any perennial garden in June, and the rich green of peony foliage is the ideal setting for the endless variety of rainbow hues they bear. Simplicity of care, and the abundance of performance, indeed, make the peony a grower's delight all through the growing season. Spring color, summer fragrance, and a perpetual backdrop for other annuals and perennials encourage even the beginning gardener.



Hoosierland

(Klehm, 1968)

A Klehm Estate Peony (Plant Patent 2954). Hoosierland is an early, compact double of intense red. Glossy deep green foliage accents its peony red color. Plants are compact and strong.

**KLEHM'S
ESTATE
PEONIES**
OUR VERY FINEST