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The American Peony Society Bulletin



MYRON D. BIGGER—BULLETIN COVER

201 North Rice Road, Topeka, Kansas

As his last name implies, he grows them big in Kansas. **Kansas**, his gold medal peony, is as big and beautiful as the state for which it was named. Mr. Bigger has a way with peonies; he knows how to grow them. And well he should, as he began his peony interests in 1924. He started small and grew big. He had four peonies in the beginning, but very soon he had ten acres.

His cut flowers supplied the florist and customers. His peony roots supplied gardeners and orders that came by mail. At one time 6,000 to 8,000 dozen of his peonies were cut for the season. In Kansas one can almost always depend on the the bloom for Memorial Day if the season is normal.

He has introduced many of his own varieties, which are considered the best in peonies. To name a few, **Carrara** is as white as marble, a Japanese of unusual beauty. **Candyheart** is a white with splashes of red sugar candy on some of the center petals. **Hifalutin** radiates its crimson color with dignity in a full double rose type. A full double bomb of warm light pink is named **Jayhawker**. There is **Sparkling Star**, which lights up the entire garden, a pink of sparkling loveliness. **Spellbinder** is, as its name implies, a great single flower of pure white, and **Snow Mountain** is another beauty, a mountain of snow making a large bomb on a strong stem. **Westerner** is considered one of the most beautiful pink Japanese peonies. The center is full of delicate yellow staminodes that stand very firm and erect.

He has many more varieties of peonies that are of unusual beauty. All have won many blue ribbons and top awards at the national exhibitions. His gold medal peony **Kansas** has never been on a show table without winning recognition of some form.

He has grown seedlings by the thousands and selections were made of the peony that would perform to his satisfaction.

Mr. Bigger was recipient of the American Peony Society Medal for his fiftieth year of service in 1977. His peony **Westerner** is now up as a candidate for a gold medal. He was president of the Society from 1958-1960. He has served on the Board of Directors since 1956 and continues to give loyal support to all the various programs of the Society.

We now salute Myron D. Bigger as one of the peony greats and as one that has given the gardens of today and tomorrow so much beauty.



This car license says
MYRON D. BIGGER OF KANSAS.

PEONIES EXHIBITED ITHACA, NEW YORK

Photographs — Edward Michau



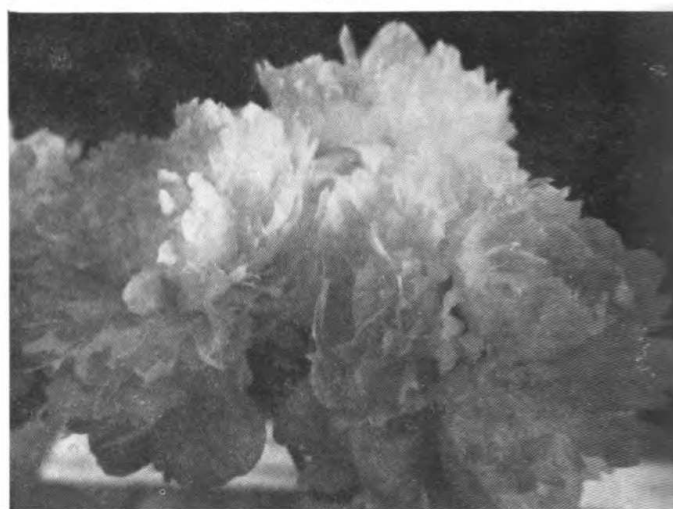
My Pal Rudy
Exhibited by Klehms



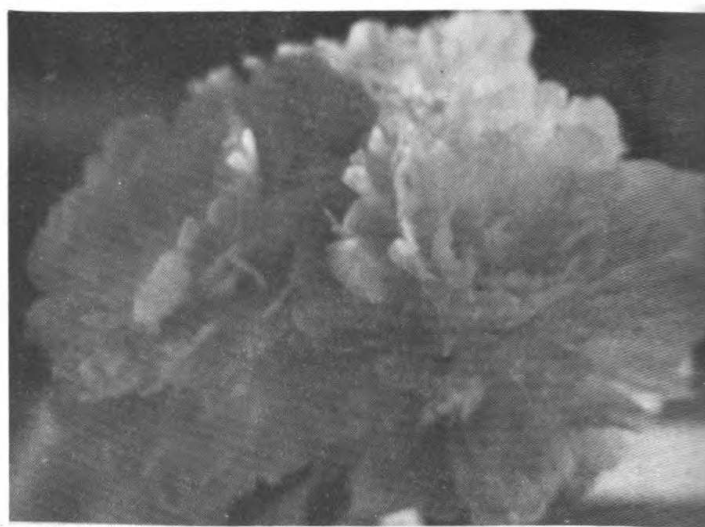
Flame
Exhibited by W. G. Sindt



Dignity (Japanese)
Exhibited by Frank Howell



Three peonies in a vase
Bowl of Cream
Exhibited by Clarence Lienau



Three peonies in a vase
Moonstone
Exhibited by Frank Howell

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

250 Interlachen Road (612) 938-4706 Hopkins, Minn. 55343

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Vice President.....Edward Lee Michau Bulletin Editor.....Greta M. Kessenich

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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 or member family.....	\$ 2.50
Single Triennial.....	20.00	Life.....	150.00
Family Annual.....	10.00	Commercial membership.....	25.00
Family Triennial.....	27.50		

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



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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We have just returned from the Convention at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. It is always amazing to me to see exhibitors come so far to exhibit their peonies. It was a good show with all types of peonies displayed.

I want to thank our past president, Chuck Klehm, for the time he has given to the Society away from his own work and for the various contributions in every way that have added to the progress of the Society. I also want to mention the very fine facilities at Cornell, where the flower show was held, and the many courtesies extended. We give our special thanks to Mrs. Davenport.

We welcome two new Directors: Frederick Roberts, Director of Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio; and Roy Klehm, of the Charles Klehm and Son Nursery, Arlington Heights, Ill.

This year I saw some hybrids that were outstanding in the new coral color. **Coral Charm**, a wide open semi-double flower with character, received much attention. **Cytharea**, a coral rose, was awarded the Gold Medal for 1980.

Why do we have these shows? The Articles of Incorporation states that we as a Society are to increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony and to stimulate the growing and introduction of new seedlings and crossings of the flower. You have a big surprise coming if you have not seen the new blooms that are being shown by the hybridizers. A studious and talented group have been at work and, as a result, are showing beauties.

Try to make the next convention and exhibition at Kingwood Center in June of 1981. While there, observe the flower from a viewpoint that it has been transported hundreds of miles in a florist box, perhaps having been in cold storage for a couple of weeks. It was cut in bud at the right time in order that it would open correctly for your viewing. In addition, the bud was covered with a brown paper bag so as to protect and hold this specimen flower. What other flower will endure so much?

I ask you to try to exhibit and to take an active role in the various programs. Write a message for the Bulletin and plant some peonies. This is the time now. Your neighbor is a good candidate for a membership in the American Peony Society.

PEONIES FROM CHINA

It was in 1967 that Louis Smirnow introduced to the peony-loving world a new peony. It was a double yellow with a red flare growing on a herbaceous plant with leaves of a tree peony. You know the story. It was sensational. The peony is known as the Itoh-Smirnow hybrid. (See Bulletin #184 and/or page 52 in the book 75 Years.)

Now in 1980 Louis Smirnow has again announced another startling and exciting accomplishment. He has brought back from China tree peonies of very large double blooms in colors of blues, greens, and bi-colors.

Mr. Smirnow has made several trips to China in the last three months, making all financial arrangements and completing the details that are necessary to have peonies exported from China to Louis Smirnow and Son, exclusively. They will have a limited number of these peonies this fall, but next year there will be a good supply. We can also look forward to the new and beautiful herbaceous peonies of the unusual colors that are now growing in China. Since they have the rights to these marvelous tree peonies, they are to be known as the Smirnow Chinese Peonies.

An article from the paper "China Reconstructs," submitted by Mr. Toichi Domoto of Hayward, California, Bulletin March 1977, tells of the extensive work that has been done with the peony in China. The article describes some of the varieties that Louis Smirnow and Son now have for the peony gardens of the world.

Editor

FROM CHINA COME NEW VARIETIES OF PEONIES WITH MAGNIFICENT COLORS Beautiful Blues, Greens, and Bi-Colors Now Available

Louis Smirnow, 85 Linden Lane, Brookville, N.Y. 11545

The point of origin of all tree peonies is China; from China they were sent to Europe, then to Japan and the United States. It was always the opinion of the tree peony dealers and collectors that all tree peonies in China were sent to places mentioned above.

Several years ago it was my good fortune to meet a Chinese gardener in Boston who was employed in China by one of the leading dynasties. He has been a gardener for over thirty years, always in the employ of the huge Chinese dynasty gardens. It was then I learned that several of these dynasty gardens never permitted any of their tree peonies to be taken out of their great gardens. So many of the beautiful tree peonies were never seen outside China. Peony lovers never knew of the beautiful colors growing in the private gardens of these dynasties.

It is most surprising to learn that there were blue and green colored flowers in tree peonies. In addition, there existed bi-colors of startling beauty. Now we have them here.

The Chinese, by the time of the 6th century A.D., already had two

kinds of peonies; they had been used as a motif for all the fine arts then beginning to flower in China. About 600 A.D. Emperor Yang Te of the Tang Dynasty introduced the tree peony as an ornamental plant into his garden where it continued through the ages as the Imperial plant.

During this period the tree peony acquired extraordinary fashion and commanded extremely high prices. Poets wrote about them and emperors placed tree peonies under their protection. Some of the varieties were above the usual rates of barter. One variety called Pe-Leang-Kin sold for one hundred ounces of gold, to give an idea of the love of peonies. Some were regarded as heirlooms, and not infrequently a prize tree peony was offered as a portion of the marriage dowry.

During the Tang Dynasty (618-906 A.D.) the tree peony achieved its pinnacle of fame in China when it was placed under the protection of the Chinese emperors. These tree peonies were cultured, developed, and later hybridized by the subsequent dynastic rulers of China. Under their protection and benevolent encouragement, the Chinese tree peonies have been developed to their present state of the art.

Louis Smirnow and Son, over the last few years, have made intense investigative efforts to locate these extremely rare beauties. Our efforts have been culminated this year by the several successful visits of Louis Smirnow to China, where he finally persuaded the highest authorities to exclusively release these tree peonies to us.

It is with great sense of pride and achievement that we now offer to the tree peony lovers the Stars of China. These include three shades of blue tree peonies and two shades of green tree peonies, plus a host of others, including a magnificent bi-color of reddish-pink blush (almost white), a full outstanding purest rich yellow double, and several other Oriental beauties.

In 1981 we will be able to supply a full range of unusual Chinese herbaceous peonies in addition to Chinese tree peonies at attractive prices.

The Chinese have developed a different system of propagation than we normally are used to. Upon inspection, the root systems will have no gray lines, no herbaceous roots, and no heavy bulbous tubers. The tree peonies are grown from the intrinsic roots of the parent plant. A lay plant is dug during dormancy and several of the largest tubers are carefully cut from the parent plant.

These tubers are nurtured until a matured plant is developed. The Chinese Tree Peonies have the same root system that the original tree peonies have had. They establish quickly.

BRAND PEONY FARM

The famous name of Brand will continue. The new home of the Brand Peony Farm is St. Cloud, Minnesota. The owners are Gerald and Irene Lund, P.O. Box 842, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301. A catalog will be published in 1981. At present a list of their many varieties of peonies is available.

75th ANNUAL AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY EXHIBITION

June 6-8, 1980, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

COURT OF HONOR

Grand Champion and Best of the Show — Miss America —
Frank Howell, Newton, New Jersey

Double lactiflora

White — **Cheddar Cheese** — Chuck Klehm
Blush — **Norma Volz** — Chuck Klehm
Light pink — **Pillow Talk** — W. G. Sindt
Dark pink — **Myrtle Tischler** — W. G. Sindt
Red — **Douglas Brand** — W. G. Sindt
Bomb lactiflora — **Top Brass** — Chuck Klehm
Semi double — **Miss America** — Frank Howell
Japanese — **White Cap** — W. G. Sindt
Single — **Pico** — W. G. Sindt



Miss America

Hybrid or species

Single hybrid — **Athena** — Marvin Karrels
Semi-double hybrid — **Coral Charm** — Chuck Klehm
Double hybrid — **Red Charm** — Chuck Klehm
Tree peony — **Hana Kiso** (Japanese) — Chuck Klehm
Savage Splendor (Lutea) — Chuck Klehm



Zu Zu
Exhibited by Klehms



Cytherea
Exhibited by Marvin Karrels

Photographs — Edward Michau

DIVISION 1. OPEN TO ALL EXHIBITORS

Class 101

1st won by Chuck Klehm.

CHOCOLATE SOLDIER, LE JOUR, CORAL CHARM, PAULA FAY, RED CHARM, MIKADO, NICK SHAYLOR, HAPPY DAYS, HANA KISOI, ROMAN GOLD, BLACK PIRATE, MARCHIONESS, ZUZU, HONEY GOLD, NORMA VOLZ, MOTHER'S CHOICE, LOIS KELSEY, SPLENDOR, PILLOW TALK, WHITE CAP, CORA STUBBS, BEST MAN, FIREBIRD, FLORENCE NICHOLLS, FIRST LADY.

2nd won by John Simkins.

BU-TE, TRIA, AURORA, OTME NO PLAI, PRAIRIE MOON, BRIGHT KNIGHT, MOON RIVER, JANICE, HANA KISOI, ANYA NO HIKARI, FLORA, HANDAI, PRINCESS, AGE OF GOLD, TAYIO, TANIRIM, SAVAGE SPLENDOR, LOVELY ROSE, DAPHNE 268, JEWELL, SHIN ABOWKIU.

Class 103 — Ten varieties herbaceous hybrids.

1st won by Marvin Karrels.

FRIENDSHIP, WALTER MAINS, ILLINI BELLE, LOVELY ROSE, PAULA FAY, DIANA PARKS, ATHENA, FLAME, OLD GLORY.

2nd won by Chuck Klehm.

CARDINAL'S ROBE, FLAME, DIANA PARKS, CHOCOLATE SOLDIER, DAINTY LASS, ILLINI BELLE, BLAZE, DANDY DAN, CORAL CHARM, RED CHARM.

3rd won by Frank Howell.

CYTHEREA, PRAIRIE MOON, DANDY DAN, CHOCOLATE SOLDIER, DAINTY LASS, ILLINI BELLE, GOLDEN GLOW, RED RED ROSE, ROSE NOBLE.

Class 104 — Ten varieties of tree peonies.

1st won by Chuck Klehm.

RENOWN, SAVAGE SPLENDOR, HIGH NOON, ROMAN GOLD, MARCHIONESS, SOUVENIR DE MAXIME CORNU, HANA KISOI, BLACK PANTHER, CHINESE DRAGON.

2nd won by John Simkins.

FUJI NO AKEBONO, SILVER PLANE, ALHAMBRA, D 203, AURORA, CORONAL, SHUGTOKO DEN, WISTER 58, SAVAGE SPLENDOR, TRIA.

3rd won by Marvin Karrels.

GOLDEN HIND, ROMAN GOLD, CHINESE DRAGON, BLACK PIRATE, GAUGUIN, YAE ZAKURA, MARCHIONESS, AGE OF GOLD, SILVER SAILS, GOLD SOVEREIGN.

Class 105 — Five varieties Japanese type.

1st won by Chuck Klehm.

DO-TELL, NIPPON GOLD, WEST ELKTON, LARGO,
BREAK O DAY.

2nd won by W. G. Sindt.

TERRY GRUDEN, GAIL TISCHLER, KAY TISCHLER,
FARIBO GOLD, WHITE CAP.

Class 106 — Five varieties single type.

1st won by W. G. Sindt.

TOPEKA GARNET, PICO, KRINKLED WHITE,
SEASHELL, FLORENCE BRUSS.

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY, IN ONE CONTAINER

- Class 110** 1. Clarence Lienau — "Bowl of Cream"
2. W. G. Sindt — "Gardenia"
3. Chuck Klehm — "Elsa Sass"

- Class 111** 1. Frank Howell — "Moonstone"
3. Chuck Klehm — "Lord Cavan"

- Class 112** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Pillowtalk"
2. Chuck Klehm — "H.M."

- Class 113** 1. W. G. Sindt — "Andrew Muehlig"
2. Chuck Klehm — "First Lady"
3. W. G. Sindt — "Princess Margaret"

- Class 114** 1. W. G. Sindt — "Bonanza"
2. Chuck Klehm — "Best Man"

- Class 115** 1. Frank Howell — "Miss America"
2. Chuck Klehm — "Zu Zu"
3. Clarence Lienau — "Miss America"

Class 116 and 117 — none

- Class 118** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Top Brass"

- Class 119** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Nippon Gold"

- Class 120** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Cora Stubbs"
2. W. G. Sindt — "Gail Tischler"

- Class 121** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Nippon Gold"
2. W. G. Sindt — "Terry Gruden"
3. W. G. Sindt — "White Cap"

- Class 122** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Krinkled White"

- Class 124** 1. W. G. Sindt — "Florence Bruss"
2. W. G. Sindt — "Topeka Garnet"

ONE BLOOM LACTIFLORA ONLY.

- Class 130** 1. W. G. Sindt — "Gardenia"
2. W. G. Sindt — "Gardenia"
3. Chuck Klehm — "Mother's Choice"
Hon. Men.: Chuck Klehm — "Mother's Choice"

- Class 131** 1. Chuck Klehm — “Nancy Nicholls”
2. Chuck Klehm — “Nancy Nicholls”
3. Clarence Lienau — “Ave Maria”
- Class 132** 1. Chuck Klehm — “My Pal Rudy”
2. W. G. Sindt — “Pillow Talk”
3. W. G. Sindt — “Pillow Talk”
- Class 133** 1. Chuck Klehm — “First Lady”
2. Clarence Lienau — “Princess Margaret”
3. W. G. Sindt — “Myrtle Tischler”
- Class 134** 1. Chuck Klehm — “Best Man”
2. W. G. Sindt — “Kansas”
3. Chuck Klehm — “Best Man”
- Class 135** 1. Frank Howell — “Miss America”
2. Clarence Lienau — “Miss America”
3. Chuck Klehm — “Lois Kelsey”
- Class 136** 1. Chuck Klehm — “Zu Zu”
- Class 137** 1. Clarence Lienau — “Rose Glory”
- Class 138** 1. Chuck Klehm — “Charley’s White”
- Class 139** 1. Chuck Klehm — “Raspberry Sundae”
2. Chuck Klehm — “Angel Cheeks”
3. Chuck Klehm — “Top Brass”
- Class 140** — none
- Class 141** 1. W. G. Sindt — “Faribo Gold”
- Class 142** 1. W. G. Sindt — “Kay Tischler”
2. Chuck Klehm — “Do Tell”
3. W. G. Sindt — “Gay Paree”
- Class 143** 1. Frank Howell — “Dignity”
2. Clarence Lienau — “White Cap”
3. Frank Howell — “Dignity”
- Class 144** 1. W. G. Sindt — “Pico”
2. W. G. Sindt — “Spellbinder”
- Class 145** 1. Clarence Lienau — “Seashell”
2. Chuck Klehm — “Dawn Pink”
3. W. G. Sindt — “Seashell”
- Class 146** 1. W. G. Sindt — “Florence Bruss”
2. Clarence Lienau — “President Lincoln”
3. Clarence Lienau — “Imperial Red”

THREE BLOOMS ONE VARIETY HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS OR SPECIES IN ONE CONTAINER.

- Class 150** 1. Frank Howell — “Prairie Moon”
- Class 151** 1. Frank Howell — “Cytherea”
2. Marvin Karrels — “Paula Fay”
3. Chuck Klehm — “Coral Charm”

- Class 152** 1. Marvin Karrels — "Red Charm"
 2. Chuck Klehm — "Crusader"
 3. Chuck Klehm — "Buckeye Belle"
- Class 153** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Crusader"
- Class 154** 1. Marvin Karrels — "Athena"
- Class 155** 1. W. G. Sindt — "Nadia"
 2. Chuck Klehm — "Dainty Lass"
 3. Chuck Klehm — "Flame"
- Class 156** 1. Clarence Lienau — "Walter Mains"
 2. Frank Howell — "Golden Glow"
 3. Chuck Klehm — "Illini Warrior"

ONE BLOOM HERBACEOUS HYBRID OR SPECIES.

- Class 161** 1. Marvin Karrels — "Coral Charm"
 2. Chuck Klehm — "Coral Charm"
- Class 162** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Cytherea"
- Class 163** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Illini Belle"
 2. Clarence Lienau — "Helen Matthews"
 3. Landen — "Red Ensign"
- Class 165** 1. Chris Laning — "Moonrise"
 2. W. G. Sindt — "Easter Morn"
 3. Frank Howell — "Rose Noble"
- Class 166** 1. W. G. Sindt — "Flame"
 2. John Simkins — "Good Cheer"
 3. Chris Laning — "Ludovica"
- Class 167** 1. John Simkins
 2. Chuck Klehm — "Scarlet O'Hara"
 3. Chris Laning — "Red Red Rose"
- Class 168** 1. Clarence Lienau — "Yellow Crown"
 2. Chuck Klehm — "Yellow Emperor"
 3. Chris Laning — "Yellow Heaven"

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY, TREE PEONIES ONLY, IN ONE CONTAINER.

- Class 170 A** 1. John Simkins
 2. John Simkins * "Kogane Zome"
- Class 170 C** 1. John Simkins — "Yuki Zaza"
- Class 171 C** 2. John Simkins — "Ruby Queen"
- Class 172 B** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Yaiyo"
- Class 172 C** 2. John Simkins — "Yomei-non"
- Class 173 A** 1. John Simkins — "Beni-kamada"
- Class 173 B** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Kamada Nishiki"
- Class 176 A** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Roman Gold"
 2. John Simkins — "Silver Sails"
 3. Chuck Klehm — "Hawaii"
- Hon. Men.: Chuck Klehm — "Angelett"

- Class 176 B** 1. John Simkins — "Tria"
- Class 176 C** 1. John Simkins — "Age of Gold"
2. Chuck Klehm — "Age of Gold"
- Class 177 A** 1. John Simkins — "Savage Splendor"
- Class 178 A** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Themes"
- Class 179 A** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Chinese Dragon"
2. Chuck Klehm — "Renown"
- Class 180 A** 1. John Simkins — "Black Pirate"
2. Chuck Klehm — "Black Pirate"
3. John Simkins — "Delwaye"
- Class 180 C** 1. John Simkins — "Black Douglas"
- Class 185 A** 1. John Simkins — "Godaishu"
2. Clarence Lienau — "Yaso-okina"
- Class 185 B** 1. John Simkins — "Fiji-no-mine"
- Class 186 B** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Hana Kiso"
2. Chuck Klehm — "Yae Zakura"
3. John Simkins — "Shuchiuka"
- Class 186 C** 1. John Simkins — "Usu Geshow"
2. John Simkins — "Arashi Yama"
- Class 187 A** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Renown"
2. John Simkins — "Toshiro"
- Class 187 B** 1. John Simkins — "Towgen"
- Class 188 A** 1. John Simkins — "Muensai"
2. John Simkins — "Beni Kamada"
- Class 188 B** 1. John Simkins — "Truly Yours"
2. Chuck Klehm — "Kamada Nishiki"
- Class 188 C** 1. Chris Laning — "Kama Fuji"
- Class 189 A** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Thunderbolt"
- Class 190 B** 1. John Simkins
- Class 191 A** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Roman Gold"
2. John Simkins — "Silver Sails"
3. Chuck Klehm — "Spring Carnival"
Hon. Men.: Chuck Klehm — "Marchioness"
- Class 191 B** 1. John Simkins — "Tria"
2. W. G. Sindt — "High Noon"
- Class 191 C** 1. John Simkins — "Age of Gold"
2. Clarence Lienau — "Age of Gold"
3. Marvin Karrels — "Age of Gold"
- Class 192 A** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Savage Splendor"
2. John Simkins — "Mystery"
3. Chuck Klehm
- Class 192 B** 2. Marvin Karrels — "Marchioness"
3. John Simkins — "Gauguin"
- Class 193 A** 1. John Simkins — "Hesperus"

- Class 193 B** 1. John Simkins
- Class 194 A** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Renown"
2. Chuck Klehm — "Banquet"
- Class 194 B** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Taiyo"
2. Chuck Klehm — "Summer Delight"
- Class 195 A** 1. Chuck Klehm — "Black Pirate"
2. John Simkins — "Black Pirate"
- Hon. Men.: John Simkins — "Delwaye"

DIVISION II. AMATEUR

Open to exhibitors who raise peonies chiefly for pleasure, sell plants only casually, and do not grow more than 200 plants.

Ten varieties any type or color.

- Class 201** 1. William Uhde
- Class 205** 1. William Uhde — "Festiva Maxima"
- Class 206** 1. William Uhde — "Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt"
- Class 211** 1. Helen Titus — "Sea Shell"
2. Helen Titus — "Krinkled White"
- Class 220** 1. William Uhde — "Bowl of Cream"
2. William Uhde — "Kelways Glorious"
- Class 222** 1. William Uhde — "Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt"
- Class 224** 1. Helen Titus — "Paul Revere"
2. Helen Titus — "Paul Revere"
- Class 225** 1. William Uhde — "Miss America"
- Class 227** 1. William Uhde — "Mrs. Wilder Bancroft"
2. William Uhde — "Do Tell"
- Class 228** 1. Helen Titus — "Seashell"
2. Helen Titus — "Krinkled White"
3. Helen Titus — "Arcturus"
- Class 229** 1. William Uhde — "Red Charm"
2. William Uhde — "Prairie Moon"

DIVISION III. NOVICE

Open to amateur gardeners who exhibit peonies only at local shows.

- Class 322** 1. David Risch — "Red Charm"
3. David Risch — "Golden Glow"
- Class 323** 1. David Risch — "Age of Gold"
2. David Risch — "Age of Gold"

DIVISION IV. SEEDLINGS

John Simkins — Oakville, Ontario, Canada

Chris Laning — Kalamazoo, Michigan

DIVISION V. SPECIAL ENTRIES

- Class 502** 1. Ed Michau — Derby, Kansas, 1300 miles
2. Marvin Karrels, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 885 miles

DIVISION VII. ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

"In the Williamsburg Manor" 3 arrangements

1. Gay Uhde, Great Ring Road, Sandy Hook, Conn.,
GRAND CHAMPION
2. Linda P. Kabelas, 1410 Hanshow Rd., Ithaca, N.Y.,
RESERVE CHAMPION
3. Mrs. W. Hamilton, Jr., 614 Highland Rd., Ithaca

"Salute to the Orient" 6 arrangements

1. Linda P. Kabelas
2. Gay Uhde
3. Mrs. W. T. Miller, 100 Sunset Park, Ithaca, N.Y.
H.M. Lucille S. Kemple, 22 Stormy View, Ithaca, N.Y.
H.M. Mrs. W. J. Hamilton, Jr.
H.M. Mrs. H. S. Liddell, 116 Schutler Place, Ithaca, N.Y.

"Cornell Victorious" 4 arrangements

1. Gay Uhde — Special Award
2. Linda P. Kabelas
3. Mrs. W. C. Heasley, Jr., 707 The Parkway, Ithaca
H.M. Mrs. W. J. Hamilton, Jr.



*Peonies and Lupines
Arrangement by Gay Uhde
Sandy Hook Coun.*



*Salute to the Orient
Linda P. Kabelas
Ithaca, New York*

Photographs — Edward Michau

SOME NOTES ON THE 1980 AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION

L. J. Dewey, Richmond, Virginia

The 1980 American Peony Society Convention and Exhibition at Cornell University is now history and what a history it is! First of all, one had to be impressed by the beauty of the Cornell University campus situated "high above Cayuga's waters." The natural beauty of the campus has been enhanced over the years by the planting of large numbers of trees and ornamental plants. Many of us attending the convention chose to stay in one of the student dormitories, giving us more time to enjoy the spectacular views of the gorges and waterfalls on the campus as well as the breathtaking vista of Lake Cayuga, which lies at the foot of the hills on which the campus is situated.

Although not all of us were exhibitors, we were still allowed to wander freely through the workroom and exhibition hall Friday night as the growers brought in their blooms and began selecting the best ones for exhibition the next day. One could feel the excitement build as bag after paper bag was opened revealing the beautiful flower within. There were also moments of keen disappointment when bags were opened to reveal a shattered bloom, the long trip and the heat having taken their toll.

By Saturday morning the exhibition hall was filled with peonies, but the place was still a beehive of activity as the growers completed their entries and replaced blooms that did not meet their standards of show quality. Sometime during the night or early morning, four large, strikingly beautiful basket arrangements appeared. Two were placed in the entrance lobby and two were facing the exhibition hall through large expanses of glass from the terrace outside. We learned later that Professor Fox, who is on the Cornell staff and had been responsible for the flower arrangements for the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York, had overseen the arrangement of these baskets. There was an unmistakable professional touch in the work. Peonies were the predominant flower in all the arrangements, but some very interesting plant material had been collected from the Cornell campus to complement the peony blooms. Other flowers included the exotic lily of Peru (*Alstroemeria*), the delicate white flowers of the fringe-tree (*Chionanthus*), varieties of *Gladiolus* and the lacy white flowers of *Viburnum plicatum* Mariesii. For foliage there were giant *Hosta* leaves, fern fronds, and branches of purple beech and pine. All the baskets were dramatic demonstrations of the beauty of peony blooms in floral arrangements.

After the judging of the entries, it was time to tour the exhibition all and inspect the winners. There were so many excellent specimens in the various classes, the task of the judges had to be a difficult one. It

did not stop with the judging of the classes, but the best blooms had to be selected for the Court of Honor and the very best in the show for the Grand Champion. The judges did an excellent job this year.

Hybridizers were particularly interested in the seedling table. Chris Laning brought in an impressive collection. There were double herbaceous hybrids which showed the progress achieved in the development of a yellow variety. One eye-catcher was an Itoh hybrid single with peach-colored petals darkening to flares in the center. For the Moutan enthusiasts among us, Chris showed a number of blooms of seedlings raised from Domoto seed. They were mostly singles with good form and size. One especially beautiful pink bloom lingers in the memory. The exhibition of seedling bloom should be encouraged, and it would be particularly helpful to breeders if the parents could be clearly identified.

Another practice to be encouraged is the exhibition of species bloom. At least one, a small, dark, single flower of *P. delavayi*, was entered at this show. We may not find the species flowers attractive enough for the garden, but their exhibition would have a certain educational value. Hybridizers could get a feel for the amount of variation which occurs in species especially if seedlings were exhibited. A comparison of species bloom with the show flowers should impress visitors with the progress breeders have made in the development of garden varieties and remind Society members of just how far we have come from the wild types.

For tree peony fanciers there were the large collections brought in by Chuck Klehm and John Simkins. Both the Japanese varieties and the lutea hybrids were well-represented by magnificent specimens. These tables were a good place to catch peony fever, and it is likely that more than one want list was expanded by the sight. Without trying to describe the colors, a list of especially impressive varieties might include Taiyo, Kamada Nishiki, Beni Kamada, Tama Midori, and Howdai.

A comment made by one visitor in the Exhibition Hall should be passed on to Society members. The gist of it was the visitor could not decide which he liked better, the peony people or their flowers. This says volumes about the kind of people who grow peonies. They are a gentle lot.

Leaving the excitement of the Exhibition Hall, more treats were in store for us as Dr. Richard Lewis, director of the Cornell Plantations, took us on a bus tour of the campus and the Plantations. The Cornell Plantations is responsible for 2,600 acres of University land used for outdoor laboratories, both as natural areas and arboretum. Currently 150 acres are maintained as arboretum collections.

At the edge of the campus proper, we stopped for the dedication of the new American Peony Society Garden. This lovely garden is the result of a generous gift from Marjorie Dean Cornell. The peony varieties were supplied by a number of herself. The garden was designed

by Ann Pashal, a graduate student at Cornell University. For those interested in more detail, Miss Pashal has described the conception and design of the garden in a very interesting article in the Summer 1980 (Vol. 36, No. 2) issue of *The Cornell Plantations Magazine* (available for \$1 from Mrs. Audrey H. O'Conner, Editor, The Cornell Plantations, 200 Judd Falls Road, Ithaca, New York 14850). As the plant material becomes established in the coming years, this should be one of the most striking gardens in the Plantations.

During the reception after the dedication, some of us wandered through the nearby collection of rhododendrons and mountain laurels. Red varieties of the latter were new to us. Also within walking distance was an extensive collection of *Hosta*, some with giant leaves.

When our tour continued, we saw three other peony collections in the Plantations. The tree peony collection, recently moved to its new location in the Sculpture Garden, is thriving in its new home, we are pleased to report. Nearby is the peony nursery, which contains a number of the herbaceous species along with the Itoh hybrids, a few lutea hybrids, and some herbaceous garden varieties. We passed the Herbaceous Peony Collection on the way back to the campus. This is a test garden which very effectively displays a number of the herbaceous garden types.

In the evening we all gathered again for the social hour and some pleasant conversation about peonies and the day's events. Following this we moved to the dining room and a sumptuous banquet. On each table was a handsome flower arrangement featuring the peony. The climax of the evening came as Clarence Lienau began the peony root auction. As the participants warmed up, more and more root donations were made directly from the floor. Even so it was difficult to get enough *Cytharea* roots to satisfy the demand. This had to be a highly successful auction. Many of us came away with a considerable addition to our collections.

The next morning after touring the Exhibition Hall for the last time, the exodus from Ithaca began. Even as we said farewell to friends, old and new, everyone was looking forward to our next Convention in Mansfield, Ohio.

NATIONAL SHOW AT ITHACA, N.Y.

Leslie J. Wiley, Cobleskill, N.Y.

I attended the National Show of the American Peony Society this year for the first time. Before some of the show's details that interested me fade from my memory, I do want to relate some observations and impressions that I have retained of the show.

First, the Society owes an expression of gratitude to peony

growers and fanciers from outside New York State. The weather pattern this year in New York State produced comparatively few show type peonies by June 7. From my own plantings here in the central part of New York, only **Red Charm** was close to being ready for the show tables by June 7. No further blooms of this magnificent variety were needed at Ithaca this year to consolidate its primacy as one of peonydom's red doubles, although I still prefer **Kansas**, **Highlight**, and **Philippe Revoire**. But thanks to the response of those whose peonies were in bloom, there seemed to be plenty of excellent peony specimens for the 1980 show.

Wandering from table to table, I came upon the herbaceous hybrids and immediately discovered my next direction in the acquisition of new varieties for my modest plantings. The break in colors as I saw them in **Cytharea**, **Paula Fay**, **Coral Charm**, **Carina**, and others convinced me that except for a very exceptional herbaceous double (**Norma Volz**, for one) and a couple of singles and Japanese varieties, I have about ended my acquisition of the herbaceous varieties. The hybrids excite me because of their colors, which are like no herbaceous variety except for the singular **Mrs. Livingston Farrand** of the unrivaled pure pink. Their early habit or season of bloom is also attractive to me as a means of filling between **Tenufolia** and my 125 herbaceous plants.

The seedlings exhibited were of interest, particularly a couple of yellow doubles—hybrids, I presume. As seen at the show, the yellow is several shades duller than I would wish for, but now that yellow is beginning to appear in the new cultivars, a variety of shades and forms cannot be far behind.

The banquet was fun. I seemed to be the only first-timer at the table where I sat surrounded by commercial growers, directors of our Society, and former officers of the Society. I listened much and spoke little and learned. The auction of peony roots donated by members of the Society left me wondering, "Who is **Madylone**?" At \$50 a root (and apparently a bargain at that price), she should rival the doll in Franz Schubert's "Who is **Sylvia**?" I wish that I had her—**Madylone**, that is.

Now a word about the season here in Cobleskill. Early varieties seemed a bit smaller than usual. I wonder whether the generally cool and very dry May had anything to do with it. Flowers opened well, including matchless **Le Cygne**. It was June 14-15 before the herbaceous varieties opened in any number.

A hot spell around June 24-27 browned the edges of many of the late ones, but particularly **Solange**, **Hansina Brand**, and **George J. Nicholls**. I also had trouble getting good blooms from any of my several plants of **Paul Bunyan** open. In my garden, it has never performed as well as **Dolorodell**, **Gardenia**, **Tondeleyo**, and **Ensign Moriarty**. Should it? I may also be having some trouble with thrips in the late ones.

FIFTH DISTRICT PEONY EXHIBITION

June 14-15, 1980, Woodfield Mall, Schaumburg, Illinois

Grand Champion and Best of the Show — CHEDDAR CHEESE —
Kenny Klehm

Double lactifloras

White — **Cheddar Cheese** — Kenny Klehm

Blush — **Annisquam** — Marvin Karrels

Light Pink — **Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt** —
Klehm Nursery

Dark Pink — **Suzie Q** — Chuck Klehm

Red — **Hifalutin** — Marvin Karrels

Semi-double — **Minnie Shaylor** —
Chuck Klehm

Single — **Sparkling Star** — Marvin Karrels

Semi-double hybrid — **Coral Charm** —
Chuck Klehm

Double hybrid — **Old Faithful** — Kit Klehm

Tree peony — **Marchioness (lutea)** —
Klehm Nursery



Cheddar Cheese
GRAND CHAMPION



Joe Glocka and his peonies in the workroom

Photographs — 5th District

FIFTH DISTRICT PEONY SHOW

Eldred E. Green, Horticulturist, Chicago, Ill.

The Fifth District Show was held June 13 and 14 at the Woodfield Shopping Mall, Schaumburg, Ill. The Woodfield Mall was said to be the largest in the world at the time it was constructed a few years ago.

— 20 —

It is a huge place with many levels connected by hanging stairways and ramps.

The Peony Show was held in an area in front of the Marshall Field Store. The place was illuminated by skylights and artificial lighting. The colors looked natural in the good light. A balcony at the second floor level enabled many people to view the show from above. A comfortable lounge was adjacent to the exhibit. Although the day turned hot on Saturday, the air-conditioned mall kept the flowers in fine condition and made viewing the show a pleasure.

Woodfield Mall is just a stone's throw from the famous Klehm Nursery at Arlington Heights. Consequently many facilities and personnel from there were used to set up the show and aid the exhibitors. Klehm's production fields are only a few miles west of the Mall so field-fresh flowers were brought in with a minimum of handling.

There were many exhibitors from the Chicago and Wisconsin areas. Some from other places found the strain of having the National and the Fifth District shows on consecutive weekends a little too much where traveling was involved.

All groups were well represented in the show with the tree peonies of the lutea class showing up very strongly. The arrangement classes were exceptionally well-executed.

The Grand Champion of the show was a fine bloom of Cheddar Cheese, fresh from the field, that was exhibited by Ken Klehm. Ken is the younger brother of Kit Klehm, who took the Grand Champion at last year's National at Champaign. In the Court of Honor the winners were Annisquam (blush), shown by Marvin Karrels, and Mrs. F.D.R., from Klehm's Nursery (light pink). Susie Q took top honors in dark pink with a flower shown by Chuck Klehm, and Highfalutin, shown by Marvin Karrels, was top red.

In the semi-doubles, Minnie Shaylor, shown by Chuck Klehm, made the Court of Honor. Sparkling Star, shown by Marvin Karrels, was the best single in the show. In the hybrids, Coral Charm, grown by Chuck Klehm, was the top semi-double, while a new red, Old Faithful, was the best in the double class. It was exhibited by Kit Klehm. The best lutea tree peony was Marchioness, grown by the Klehm Nursery.

The show was better than had been anticipated, as heavy rains just a day before had injured many flowers that were just beginning to open. It was a fine display both in number and quality of exhibits.

After the judging, Mrs. Lois Klehm and the Klehm Nursery provided a tour of the nursery plant at Arlington Heights and a delicious buffet. The display garden, featuring many of the Estate Peonies and a collection of unusual plants, the Doll Museum, with a fabulous collection of dolls of all sizes and styles, the sales yard and supplies shed, and the beautiful chapel were all part of the tour.

It was a fine show and well-executed.

MINNESOTA PEONY SOCIETY EXHIBITION

June 21-22, 1980, Har-Mar Shopping Mall, Roseville, Minnesota

GRAND CHAMPION, Best of the Show — double light pink, Hansina Brand — W. G. Sindt

Double lactifloras

White — Mrs. J. V. Edlund — W. G. Sindt

Blush — Frances Mains — W. G. Sindt

Dark pink — Myrtle Tischler — Floyd Kimball

Double red — Douglas Brand — The Edbloms

Semi-double — Miss America — The Klehm Nursery

Single — Krinkled White — Floyd Kimball

Hybrid — Moonrise — Greta Kessenich

Japanese — Patricia Hanratty — Floyd Kimball

Tree — Alice Harding — The Klehm Nursery



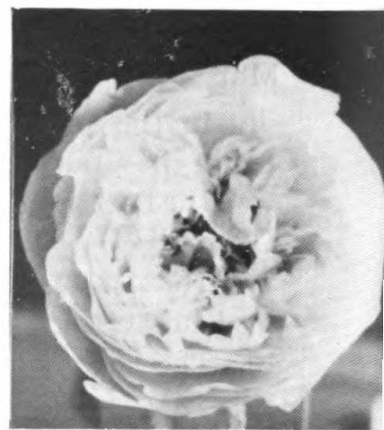
**GRAND CHAMPION
Hansina Brand**

Photograph — W. G. Sindt



**Minnesota Peony Society Show
Minnesota, June 21-22**

Photograph — W. G. Sindt



Alice Harding, tree peony

Photograph — Edward Mich

LES FLORALIES INTERNATIONALES, MONTREAL, CANADA

Don Hollingsworth

Les Florales Internationales, an annual floral exhibition staged in North America for the first time in 1980, is being held in Montreal. The outdoor production began May 31 and runs until September 1. Valencia, Spain, was the host of the show last year and Paris was the site the year before.

The American Peony Society was represented at the conference on irises and peonies June 12 with the presentation of two lectures. Henry Landis spoke on tree peonies and I gave a program on the new strains of garden peonies currently being originated. These presentations are to be published in a proceedings under the auspices of the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture. Thus, there is promise that they may eventually reach significantly wider audience.

Dr. Landis brought to the conference information on tree peonies that went well beyond the tenets of the conventional North American literature on tree peonies. I often found it to be especially refreshing, for what he had to say sometimes dealt logically with observations of my own which are not satisfactorily met in the familiar and prevalent literature of tree peony culture. Landis grows many tree peonies as was evidenced by the display of flowers from approximately 100 cultivars which he brought to the conference. He reports his soil to be heavy in texture and not naturally rich in humus, a condition that prevails throughout much of the midwestern and southern United States and which is often the chief cause of gardening difficulty in urban residential areas.

Drawing upon his own experience and the counsel of Mr. Somei, a tree peony authority of Japan, Dr. Landis dealt with the following items which were among those which especially captured my interest. Planting depth: The graft union placed three to five inches below the surface, being cautious about going too deeply, especially in heavy soils. Although there are what I believe to be authentic accounts of entirely satisfactory performance from planting tree peonies much more deeply, I speculate that these successes depended upon the presence of a unique soil profile that is not commonly found across the continent as a whole. Mulch: Tree peonies have roots fairly close to the surface. Being understory plants in their native habitat they would typically be surrounded by a "duff" of leafy and twiggy litter the year around. Especially on sites fully exposed to the sun the insulation value of a mulch may be especially valuable. Pruning: From Mr. Somei, thin the branches of tree peonies and allow only three to five stems from the ground in order to promote the finest flowers and the free circulation of air against fungus diseases. Periodically cut out thin stems in order to promote the formation of sturdier, stouter growth from below ground.

Fertilization practices: Mr. Somei is reported to use a four times

per year program of fertilization. Landis reports following a three applications per year schedule. He de-emphasizes phosphate, upon the ground that excess phosphate interferes with trace element availability, particularly iron and zinc, a deficiency of which is believed to lead to the chlorotic condition that sometimes is seen in tree peony foliage. He uses an organic source of nitrogen. I fully endorse the idea of periodically adding fertilizer. This approach to lawn fertilization is well established as necessary to get maximum growth. It has also been incorporated into processed fertilizers by creating slow-release formulations. Mother Nature provides the original continual release fertilization through the continuous decay of organic matter. When it is present in sufficient quantity the results are generally excellent. Mr. Somei is quoted to the effect that he has excellent production from an 80-year-old tree peony which has been cared for under his fertilization program. The idea makes perfectly good sense to me.

We hope that in due time both presentations can be published in full by the American Peony Society. However, publication rights are now reserved.

Only the traditional peonies seemed to be well known by members of the conference audience. Accordingly there is good reason to expect that an expanded interest may have been cultivated among some of the audience members. We, the American Peony Society, were treated to an excellent setting in which to communicate what is new and interesting in peony growing. We are indebted to Mr. Pierre Bourque, Director of the Montreal Botanic Gardens, Ms. Agn  s Ratelle, conference coordinator and Jacques Dore, who was chairman of the conference, for their hospitality and creativity in arranging the program and including the subject of peonies.

BILL KREKLER WRITES

The Society is one big family. We that are getting older have tried to talk about the peony in just about every way to help those that needed help. We have tried to direct those that might carry on this fine institution and to explain what we have done in the past so that it might be easier for you.

Over the years the peony has made progress. The singles, Japanese, hybrids, and tree peonies have made their way to the front. Now it is in your hands, but progress will be more rapid because of the past. You have learned well, but that is not all.

It is your duty to write of the various things that are being done; make a record in the Bulletin for the future. Tell briefly of yourself, your interest in the peony, the new flowers that have been introduced and how they perform in your garden, your pleasures, and your successes and/or failures. Tell of the weather and of your spraying program and what it does for you. There are new colors and new forms of peonies that we never dreamed would come about. Plant some of them this fall.

Become an active member and feel a part of this Society.

DISTRIBUTION OF PEONY SPECIES: THE TREE PEONY

by Don Hollingsworth

The woody-stemmed species of peony come from one geographical area in China, where, it is believed, they were able to remain relatively undisturbed when the glaciers ravaged the vegetation of much of the North American and Eurasian continents. This area of China is well known for the relict species which occur there, some of which have counterparts in the southern mountains of North America, where more northerly species found sanctuary and have survived in restricted areas to the present time.

Paeonia is one of the genera of which the present geographical occurrence of the species and the directions of evolutionary change among them reveals something of the impact of the glacial epoch upon plant speciation processes. The tree peonies of southwest China, those which comprise Stern's subsection *Delavayanae*, and the two herbaceous species of western North America are believed to have remained relatively sedentary in the range occupied and to be the oldest surviving species of the genus. They are the oldest in phylogenetic terms, having the least specialized forms present in the genus. In other words, they are the more primitive species of *Paeonia*. In contrast, the species which have evolved the most specialized forms are found mostly in Southern Europe. Presumably these represent surviving lineages from ancestors which formerly occupied more northerly ranges, the lineages which were able to adapt to the great ecological stresses of repeated glaciation and to migrate southward. As the glaciation subsided and local climates returned to their former warmth, some of these peonies found suitable ecological niches in the cooler and more humid climates at the higher elevations which were afforded by the mountains of southern Europe.

The accompanying map, reproduced on page 27, from Stern's *A Study of the Genus Paeonia* (RHS 1946) represents a geographic area of southeastern Asia. It encompasses the sites at which natural populations of the woody-stemmed peonies have been referenced by plant explorers. In order to most clearly place this area in its larger geographical context, it will be best to consult a suitable encyclopedia or other reference work. Generally, the portrayed area is central China reaching approximately to the southern border and including a portion of other lands at the extreme lower left. Excluded parts of China are the humid eastern lowland and northeastern region, the arid lands to the north and northwest, and the western mountains and plateaus which lie north of the Himalayas, reaching to the borders with Kashmir and the Soviet Union.

In the upper right quadrant of the map, the Tsin ling shan mountains divide the drainage between China's two great river systems, the Hwang Ho (Yellow) River to the north and the Yangtze, the fifth

longest river in the world. It is in the uplands stretching each way from this divide and northeastward across the Hwang Ho that the most convincingly wild sites of *Paeonia suffruticosa* have been located. The problem of correctly placing this species in its natural habitat is that it has been grown and collected for domestic use for many centuries. It is quite plausible both that the sites believed to be associated with native traditions of origin have been denuded of the species through generations of collecting roots and that current natural populations arose as escapes from cultivation.

In the southwest area, where the *Delavayanae* species have been found, there is little controversy as to the authenticity of origin. In addition to the topography being relatively inhospitable to extensive cultivation, no tradition of domestic interest in these peonies in the native culture has been reported.

After gleaning the botanical references on the woody-stemmed peonies, Sir Frederick C. Stern concluded that the material divides into four species with two botanical varieties (he later added a third variety in separate publication) and one form which is not shown on the map because no specimen referenced from a wild site was available. The mapped collection sites reflect the following:

Paeonia Delavayi

Paeonia lutea

Paeonia Potanini, *sensu stricto*, meaning the type upon which the name was originally published. Syn. typical: *Sensu lato* refers to the members of the species, all sub-classifications, taken as a whole.

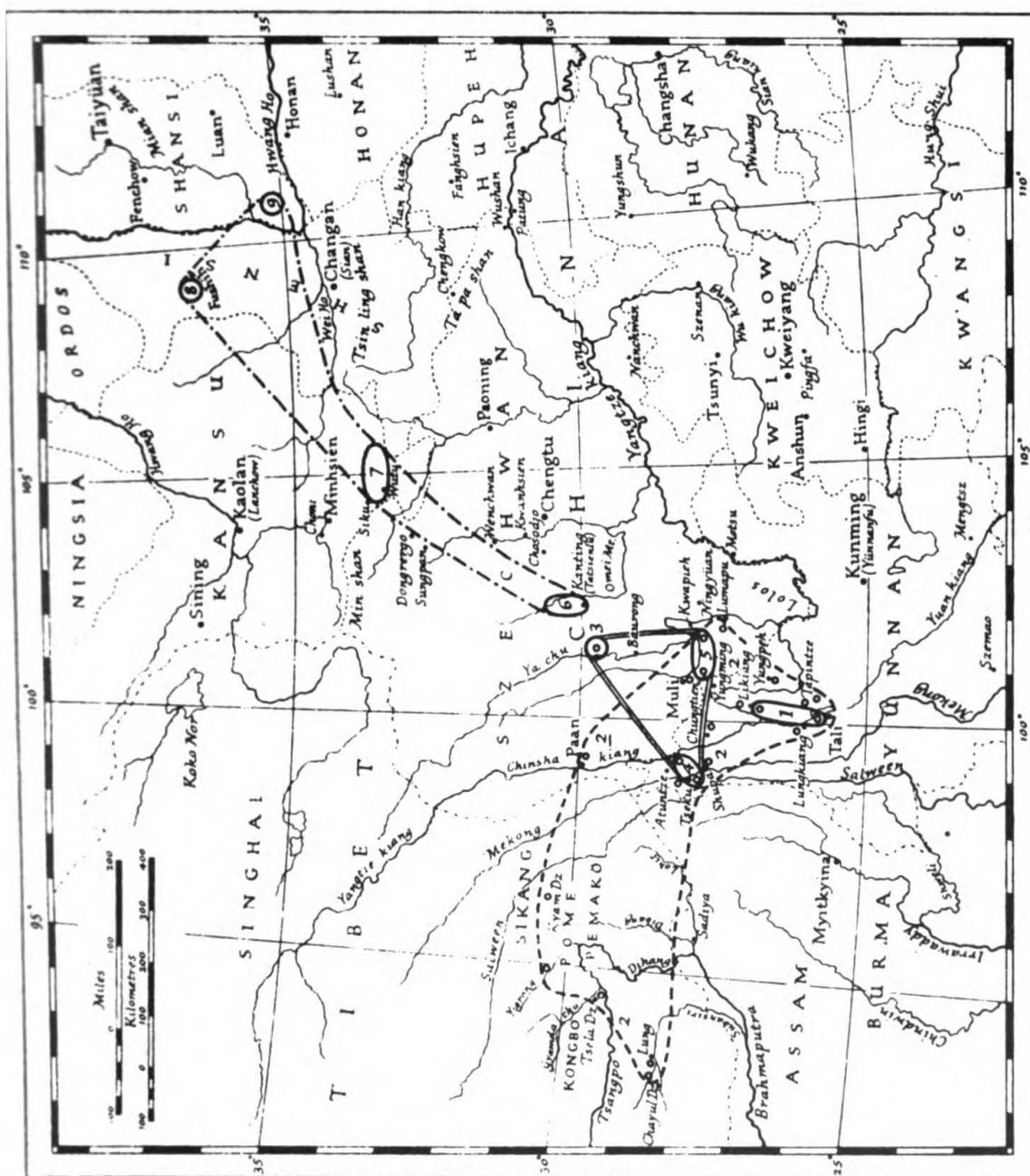
Paeonia Potanini var. *trollioides*

Paeonia suffruticosa

Paeonia suffruticosa var. *spontanea*

Stern described *Paeonia Potanini* forma *alba* in the text of his monograph, referring to it as an albino and self sterile as it grew in his garden. A pink-flowered hybrid of it appeared, however, presumably a hybrid with *Paeonia Delavayi*. In other publication, Stern described and named *Paeonia lutea* var. *Ludlowii* from collections made in Tibet shortly before World War II. See Wister, John C., *The Peonies*, for an account of the species classification of the genus *Paeonia* by Stern.

The taxonomic methods employed by Stern relied heavily upon vegetative form (morphology of stem and leaf) and flower color. This was because he chose as a standard of the study that he would consider only those characters for the final determination of species classification that he could observe on all material considered. This resulted in an emphasis upon herbarium specimens as the source of data for judging how closely related are the various different wild plants. In herbarium specimens, the most reliably observable characters are the leaves and stems, the vegetative characters. Flower morphology is best observed on living specimens, simply because the detail is so easily obscured in pressing and mounting the material. This is especially



MAP OF WESTERN CHINA AND ADJACENT REGIONS,
 SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF PAEONIA SECT. MOUTAN:

Delavayi (———); 2. *P. lutea* (———); 3-5. *P. Potanini*, sensu lato (———);
Potanini, sensu stricto; 4. *P. Potanini* var. *troiliioides*; 5. Intermediates between *P. Potanini*
 ar. *troiliioides*; 6-9. *P. suffruticosa*, sensu lato (—— · —— · ——); 6-7. *P. suffruticosa*; 8-9. *P.*
itica var. *spontanea*. ° and ° indicates localities.

nted from Stern, F.C., A Study of the Genus Paeonia (1946), with permission of the Royal Hor
 ural Society.

so in large flowered plants wherein there is seldom more than one flower on the herbarium sheet. Thus, Stern's separation of the peonies into species relies heavily on vegetative characters, leading to what taxonomists refer to as a morphological concept of the species.

Morphology is basic in plant classification because it is the principal basis of recognizing what plant is being considered. Until the rise of genetic theory, morphology was all taxonomists had upon which to attempt an understanding of how closely various plants are related to others in the scheme of nature.

Fatefully, at about the time Stern undertook to collect and compile the accumulated information on the genus *Paeonia*, Dr. A. P. Saunders of Hamilton College in New York undertook his landmark work in hybridization among the peony species, or what was being taken for species at the time. While he was not able to consider the peonies in nearly so comprehensive a way by this method as Stern did working from morphology, Saunders brought important new data to bear on the question of peony species relationships. While Saunders' goals appear to have been primarily in the area of the production of new horticultural strains, he developed a body of data which came to be of special interest to a young cytogenetic taxonomist at Colgate University, G. Ledyard Stebbins, Jr. Dr. Stebbins was prepared in the use of microscope techniques for studying differences and similarities in chromosomes, by then well understood to be the primary vehicle for transmission of characteristics of one generation to another, including morphological characters. He studied the Saunders hybrids, their morphology compared to that of their parents, their chromosome behavior at meiosis (the critical step in germ cell formation and fertility) compared to that of the parent species, and the extent of fertility or sterility in the hybrids. This last factor now is considered to be especially important in determining whether two morphologically different forms are more closely related or more distantly related. The ability to interbreed and form fertile progeny is now understood to indicate that the genetic complement of two populations of wild plants is very nearly the same, despite the observable differences in form, flower color or other characters.

Stebbins, considering the same published descriptions, some of similar herbarium specimens (U.S. herbaria, however) and living plants in the Saunders collection, came up with different conclusions than did Stern with respect to the tree peony species from southwest China. Stebbins concluded that they comprise one species and the various forms stand no higher than sub-species and varieties within the species. Since *Paeonia Delavayi* is the oldest name with valid description, it becomes the type of which the others are sub-classifications. The reason for Stebbins' conclusion is that these forms interbreed and form fully fertile hybrid progeny. The differences in flower color and plant habit are then considered variations within the variability of the species as a whole.

Being oriented to hybridizing, I find the Stebbins construction of the Delavay species to be entirely reasonable. However, since I am interested in the various forms for what they may individually contribute to a breeding program, I find that the Stern names make it quite convenient to keep them differentiated in my references and in communication with others. I find no difficulty or incongruity in remembering that these forms interbreed as a single species while speaking of them with separate identities that seem equal in the hierarchy of terms to that of the obviously more distantly related *Paeonia suffruticosa*. Perhaps this is because I am more a horticulturist than I am a systematic botanist. Meanwhile Stern's book enjoys the dominant position in the literature of peony classification and, rightly or wrongly, other taxonomists are left with the role of taking exception to him.

Additional Bibliography

Saunders, A. P. and G. L. Stebbins, Jr., "Cytogenetic Studies in *Paeonia* I: The Compatibility of the Species and the Appearance of the Hybrids," *Genetics*, Vol. 23, pp. 65-82, 1938.

Stebbins, G. Ledyard, Jr., "Notes on Some Systematic Relationships in the Genus *Paeonia*," *University of California Publications in Botany*, Vol. 19, No. 7, pp. 245-266, May 1939.

LETHAL MARIGOLDS

French marigolds (*Tagetes patula*) kill root-knot and root lesion nematodes—if used properly.

Some varieties are more effective than others, reports the University of Georgia (Athens, GA 30602): "Tangerine" gave better control than "Goldie," "Petite Gold," and "Petite Harmony." Also, it is not enough to interplant marigolds with crops needing protection. "Rutgers" tomatoes planted among "Tangerine" marigolds were as severely injured by nematodes as tomatoes planted alone.

The marigolds should be planted as a solid crop and grown for 90 to 120 days before planting anything else. The University recommends growing them 7 inches apart in all directions and keeping down weeds, which serve as hosts for nematodes, until the plants are large enough to shade out weeds. At this spacing, the marigolds' roots will thoroughly penetrate the soil mass and reduce nematode populations to near zero.

Marigolds appear to kill nematodes by excreting a toxic substance, but Extension Specialists Ralph Motsinger and Gene Moody say there is some indication that they may also "act as a trap crop, allowing the nematodes to enter the roots but not allowing them to complete their life cycle."

—Reprinted permission of The Avant Gardener

The association between the T'ang dynasty scholar-poet-officials Po Chu-i (Po Lo-t'ien, 772-846) and Yuan Chen (Yuan Wei-chih, Yuan the Ninth, 779-831) was one of the great legendary friendships in the Chinese tradition. Verses by Po Chu-i have appeared earlier in the American Peony Society Bulletin, together with bibliographical reference. For a study of Yuan Chen, see Angela C.Y. Jung Palandri, *Yuan Chen* (Boston: G.K. Hall, Twayne Publishers, 1977). Yuan also frequents the pages of Arthur Waley, *The Life and Times of Po Chu-i* (London: Allen & Unwin, 1949. See p. 14 herein for another of Po's poems on the peony). The two men addressed much correspondence to each other, including poems on the subject of the tree peony, translated below.

*Translated from Chinese by John Marney,
Associate Professor of Chinese, Oakland University*

Po Chu-i

At Autumntide Writing about a Tree Peony Thicket

On a late thicket, the white dew of evening;
Upon faded leaves, the chill wind of dawn.
Their blushing luster has long since declined;
Jade-green fragrance now too has passed.
This recluse sits before them,
His thoughts in sympathy with their desolation.

Relict Tree Peonies at [Yuan] Wei-chih's Residence

Their relict blush leaflessly bare, and no one there to enjoy them;
Rain-struck and wind-torn, their flowers no longer whole.
Everywhere, whene'er they're espied, how depressed I am to look!
What then when I come before Yuan the Ninth's small courtyard!

[Translator's note: This is one of the many poems of parting and separation, commonly exchanged among colleagues in active service for the imperial government.]

Viewing the [Ch'ien] Hui Household Tree Peonies and in Fun Presented to Li the Twentieth

Their fragrance excels a lighted orchid [candle], their blush excels
the sunset clouds.
Within the City they're most prolific at His Honor's household.
After the throng has gone away, you certainly must behold them—
Back at home in Chiang-nan these flowers don't exist.

[Translator's note: Ch'ien Hui, 755-829, was an official colleague of Yuan and Po. I suspect a textual error in "Li the Twentieth." Perhaps it should be Li the Twelfth, i.e., Li Chien, 764-821, another colleague.]

Spreading Tree Peony Cuttings

With gold coinage I bought some tree peony cuttings.
Whenever they part from the thicket, another master [root] appears.
Blushing and fragrant, so lovable, but also such a nuisance!
A hundred places they've spread; a hundred places they flower.

At Hsi-ming Monastery when the Tree Peonies were in Bloom, Thinking of Yuan the Ninth

Where last year we wrote our names,
Today I'm here to view the flowers.
While at the one post at the Rue,
Thrice I beheld the tree peonies bloom.
Surely it's not only for the flowers that I'm so sad,
Aware now of old-age's gloom urging on!
How much more so since my friend with whom I sought the flowers
Went to the Eastern Capital and has not yet returned.
How could he know that waiting upon their blush and fragrance,
Springtime ends and my thoughts lie far away.

[Translator's note: The Palace Library, to which both Po and Yuan had been appointed, was known as "rue," because this substance was used on paper as an insect repellent. Waley, whose rather freer translation of this poem appears on p. 34 of Life and Times, places composition at 804.]

In Compassion for the Tree Peony

In vexed disappointment before the steps, the blushing tree peony;
As evening approaches only a couple of sprays remain.
In the brightening morn a wind arises and blows them bare.
By nightfall I pity their faded blush, holding a light to see them.

Ditto

In lonely desolation its luxuriant blush droops before the rain;
Scattered abroad its ruined beauty disperses upon a following wind.
Bright radiance falls upon the ground as though in vexed
disappointment.

How much more so when windborne into the mud!

[Translator's note: The pure lotus growing in mundane mud is a popular Buddhist image, often cited allegorically to represent the pure official in a corrupt regime.]

Yuan Chen

Tree Peonies at Hsi-ming Monastery

Their flowers face the glazing as they grow upon the ground.
In a light breeze, their splendor turns in a glory of purple cloud.
Ever since the Goddess of Heaven appeared in a bowl,
Until this day, my eyes have been brighter.

**Presenting Li the Twelfth a Tree Peony Petal
at a Parting Feast**

Bitter the lingering song of an oriole, catkins fall in the wind.
The tree peony flowers are finished, their leaves form thickets.
How sad to part from their colors for a whole year—
By the vermeil balustrade I've retrieved a slip of red.

[Translator's note: Palandri, p. 105, offers a much freer version of this poem. She cites it as an example of a poem of parting.]

**Matching Po Lo-t'ien's At Autumntide Writing
about a Tree Peony Thicket**

My humble abode is beautified by these mountain plants,
But since we parted, long do I sigh.
I hum over your "on a late thicket,"
And seem to see their "torn and ruined" colors.
Should [others] laugh at the one left behind,
Let them pass by the "late thicket."

Tree Peonies

Clustered stamen e'er damaged by the wind;
Tattered red freshened in the rain.
I see them blown to the ground
And we're parted until springtime next year.

Ditto

Purples and greens merge wholly with the shadows;
Fading reds display their gradual decline.
If lifted once upon a light breeze,
They can for the moment still be seen.

TREE PEONY TOPICS

Louis Smirnow, 85 Linden Lane, Brookville, N.Y.

As I do every year, I visited several gardens this past growing season and was pleasantly surprised to see so many peonies at their best. This past year was an excellent one, for everywhere the peonies were plentiful, especially the tree peonies. In one garden I saw a plant of Taiyo eleven inches by six deep. The plant had nineteen blossoms on it. Near Allentown, Penn., I saw Godaishu on an old plant at least twelve inches in diameter. Apparently the mild winter and rainy spring were helpful.

I also saw a number of young plants improperly planted; several were planted only a few inches from a tall hedge, and I noticed the roots from the hedge were growing into the tree peony plants. This is a mistake. Keep at least three feet away from hedges.

I also saw several young tree peonies planted so that the point of the graft was on level with the ground. It should be at least two or three inches below ground level to encourage new growth from the root

system. I also saw peonies planted only a foot apart. They should be at least three feet apart.

Tree peonies, no matter how small, should be planted in a deep hole, plenty wide, with fertilizer mixed with the soil not at bottom of the hole. If soil is slightly acid, be sure and put two handfuls of lime in the soil.

We have been asked for early blooming peonies. In this area, as in most areas, tree peonies are earliest bloomers, along with some herbaceous hybrids. Japanese tree peonies are earliest bloomers, followed by the lutea hybrids a week later.

Most people report that they find super phosphate an excellent fertilizer—also 5-10-5.

We had a visitor from Ohio who has many tree peonies. I quote him: "I will never buy my peonies in the spring. I have very little success with peonies planted in the spring; those planted in the fall always do better for me."

Landscape architects are using tree peonies more than ever. They have done well with them for their clients.

Try tree peonies for huge flowers and better colors.

NEWSLETTER: PAEONIA

Editors: The Lanings

Summarized by Bill Seidl

JUNE 1979, Vol. 10, No. 2. Don Hollingsworth praises the genuine doubleness of some of Chris Laning's early hybrids. Commenting on his own seedlings, Don has observed a high proportion of Itoh hybrids with distorted petals. Some of the better ones have longer stems and a yellow color free of red pigment as compared to the Itoh-Smirnow hybrids. From lactiflora x Good Cheer fine colors have appeared, some very large flowers, and tall stems. Full-petalled centers have been obtained from certain Japanese lactis: Mikado, Nippon Gold, Nippon Splendor. Moonrise pollen on the triploid hybrids has given colors ranging from pale salmon and pink to red. The opaqueness and muting of the reds, along with the appearance of the emerging shoots and foliage of Moonrise, lead Don to believe Moonrise is not a true F2 (both parents from the same F1 family) but the offspring of an outcross, probably with an "early yellow" clone. Moonrise crossed with Paula Fay produces fine plants in gorgeous pastel tints with excellent petal substance.

David Reath describes his new lobata hybrids: induced tetraploid lactiflora x P. Peregrina var. Otto Froebel. These are fertile tetraploids growing to about three feet tall with long-lasting flowers. He is crossing these with other tetraploid hybrids, finding especially useful the seedlings of Paula Fay x Moonrise. He goes on to list some peonies

(lutea, potanini, suffruticosa clones) valuable to the hybridizer and which he is making available to them.

SEPTEMBER 1979, Vol. 10, No. 3. The early hybrid Laddie (*P. lobata* Otto Froebel x *P. tenuifolia*) appeals to Don H. because of its earliness, red color, and surprising fertility for a supposed triploid. He has seedling from lacti x Laddie coming into bloom, single, with good pink or red colors and comparatively narrow foliage. He believes the red color of Laddie could well be incorporated into the robust early flowering hybrids which are dominated by pastel colors. Herald might also make a similar contribution.

In another article Don argues that shallow planting of tree peonies is better for their health than deep planting. This is especially true if the soil is heavy, poorly aerated, and devoid of earthworm activity.

Several comments by Roy Pehrson, some made in 1973 and some in 1978, about the cross Mikado x Good Cheer, are reproduced by Chris and they reveal Roy's unhesitating judgment this is THE most successful cross ever found.

DECEMBER 1979, Vol. 10, No. 4. David Reath describes his method of seed germination. (1) Gather only fully matured seeds, (2) dry for one or two weeks, (3) plant in good garden soil, one-half inch deep, up to 50 seeds per 5½-inch azalea plastic pot, labeled, (4) moisten with an insecticide and fungicide solution, (5) place pots in plastic bags, seal, and hold at 60-70° F. for three months to allow roots to develop, (6) open bags and add about four ounces of clear water to each pot, (7) reseal and hold for three months at 40° for top growth to begin but be prepared to expose to light if any shoots break ground, (8) remove soil mass from pots and transfer undisturbed to outside beds, one foot between potfuls in rows two feet apart, (9) label, (10) shade young plants from sun for 6-8 weeks, (11) water carefully and control weeds, (12) leave in place for 2-3 years, (13) line out plants 12 to 24 inches apart, the wider spacing for most valued crosses, (14) mulch with wood shavings, and (15) control weeds with 5 percent Treflan.

MARCH 1980, Vol. 11, No. 1. A worthy breeding project is the combining of the full double flowerform of certain lacti clones with the new colors of the early hybrids. So says Don. H. and he cites one of his seedlings as an example. It's a pale yellow double with pink suffusion and results from Lady Alexandre Duff x Claire de Lune. The main problem is to induce the lactiflora parent to produce flowers with functional carpels and Don suggests removal of primary shoots (at what growth stage is open to question) and root pruning as techniques to use.

JUNE 1980, Vol. 11, No. 2. In response to a query from Father Syrový, Chris reports that he never succeeded in obtaining any hybrids with *P. californica*, nor does he know of any success by anyone else.

Two plants originating in Bill Seidl's garden are described by him.

One is a white-flowered mutation of Yellow Emperor. The other is a lutea hybrid (Age of Gold x D223) which exhibits variegated foliage, about a third of the leaves having chartreuse-yellow patches and striations. This lighter color remains throughout the season and in fall is enhanced by the addition of red coloring.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From June 1, 1979, to June 1, 1980, the American Peony Society has maintained a steady growth and a favorable financial status. The cost of printing the Bulletin has increased considerably as well as the cost of postage.

In November statements were mailed to all the membership for payment of dues for the following year.

Bulletins are mailed under our permit number two weeks before the designated month for publication. Your change of address before that time is requested. Bulletins will not be delivered if any part of your address is incorrect; in addition, the Bulletin is not returned, only a notice of your address with a postage due of 25 cents.

In September 1979 the book "75 Years" was ready for distribution. We are most gratified with the response to the book. It is an accurate summation of our 75 years of articles and manuscripts as written by members over that number of years.

Three peony exhibitions were held this year: the National Convention at Urbana, Champaign, Ill., the Fifth District Show at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the Minnesota Peony show at Roseville, Minnesota.

We continue to write about the Bulletin, which is one of the main features of our Society. A Society is all people with one related interest—the peony—forming this vast group of members. This publication should be informative on the subject, and only you, individually, can help make it so. The pages are open to you with an invitation for a contribution. Our thanks goes to all the members that have written articles or submitted material this past year.

We have met all commitments for the year. The Life Membership Fund has been established. All accumulated assets are in savings certificates with interest ranging from 8 to 12 percent. All bills have been paid in full.

It is opportune at this time to express gratitude from the President, the Board of Directors, and myself for the support you have given this past year in the purchasing of our publications, the renewing of your membership, and also the encouragement. The financial report reflects our concentrated activities in this office for the year. We continue to be conservative in keeping our expense at a minimum and by carefully appraising every avenue. This controlled management will be continued.

Greta M. Kessenich
Secretary-Treasurer

This has been a good year.

77th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Board of Directors Meeting

June 6, 1980, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

The business meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society was called to order by President Carl H. Klehm of Illinois. Directors present were Marvin Karrels, Wisconsin; Frank Howell, New Jersey; Chris Laning, Michigan; John Simkins, Oakville, Ontario, Canada; W. G. Sindt, Minnesota; Irvin Ewing, Michigan; Edward Michau, Kansas; Clarence Lienau, Michigan; and Greta Kessenich, Secretary, Minnesota.

The first order of business was to present names as nominees for the Board of Directors whose terms were expiring this year, 1980. Two additional vacancies were to be filled that had occurred during the year.

The Board of Directors were appointed to serve as the nominating committee. A motion was made to nominate the outgoing 1980 members to serve for the following three years. Motion was approved. Marvin Karrels made a motion nominating Fred Roberts of Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, with Chris Laning nominating Roy Klehm of Barrington, Illinois, to fill the vacancies that occurred during the year. It was unanimously approved, the names to be read at the annual meeting by the Secretary.

A discussion followed about the gold medal being awarded this year for a peony. The last award was given in 1975. Roselette was proposed for consideration. No definite decision was made. This discussion will be resumed at the June 8th meeting.

It was stated that correct names of the registered varieties of the peony be honored. The American Peony Society does have an accurate nomenclature and it is imperative that it be kept intact. It was stated that mistakes are occasionally made, but they can be rectified.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M. Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

June 7, 1980, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

The annual meeting of the American Peony Society was held in the banquet room of the North Campus Union Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

The business meeting began at 7:30 P.M. The nominees for the Board of Directors were read by the Secretary. Since there were not any nominations from the floor, the nominees—Don Hollingsworth, Marvin Karrels, Dr. Carl H. Klehm, Clarence O. Lienau, Dr. David Reath, Mrs. Hollis Cornell, Frederick Roberts, and Roy Klehm—were unanimously elected.

Secretary Greta Kessenich read the financial report, with com-

ments on various items in the statement. Mr. Marvin Karrels reported that the treasurer's book had been audited by him and was in order. The financial report was unanimously accepted.

The Court of Honor recipients were read. Mr. Frank Howell of New Jersey won the Grand Champion of the show, with Miss America.

The business meeting was adjourned and the banquet followed.

After the banquet the annual auction of peony roots was held. Mr. Lienau was the auctioneer. We thank you, Mr. Lienau.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 8, 1980, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Carl H. Klehm at 8:00 A.M. Directors in attendance were Marvin Karrels, Frank Howell, Chris Laning, John Simkins, Clarence Lienau, W. G. Sindt, Roy Klehm, Irvin Ewing, Ed Michau, Marjorie Cornell, and Greta Kessenich, Secretary.

The first order of business was a discussion of using colored slides in showing planting, culture, and exhibition of the peony in an educational series. Joe Glocka was suggested to write the theme, with Marvin Karrels to direct the project. It was moved and seconded with unanimous approval. It is understood that time is involved with the mechanics of writing and photography.

Peony Roselette was under discussion for the recipient of the Gold Medal. The award was postponed at this time. Peony Cytherea was nominated by Chris Laning. It was approved by all of the Board of Directors to be the recipient of the Gold Medal 1980. Six peonies were named as possible candidates for this honor in the future; namely, Roselette, Black Pirate (tree peony), Bowl of Cream, Hani-Kosi (tree peony), Westerner, and Burma Ruby.

The election of officers followed. A motion was made that the following officers be elected: Irvin Ewing, President; Ed Michau, Vice President; and Greta Kessenich, Sec'y-Treasurer. It was unanimously approved.

The convention sites for the following years are as follows:

1981 — Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio; June 12, 13, and 14

1982 — Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; dates to be announced at a later date by John Simkins

1983 — Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1984 — Kingwood Center

A motion was made and unanimously approved regarding the judging of flowers placed on the show table. Flowers are to remain as placed by the exhibitor, moved only when necessary to enlarge the classes; and then exhibits must be kept in the same position as they were placed. The head judge is to give instructions to all other judges regarding this important policy.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 A.M. Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 1, 1979 — June 1, 1980

Balance on Hand June 1, 1979 \$12,356.23

Receipts:

Membership dues \$4,381.95
Advertising 348.00
Rent: Colored Slides 52.50
A.P.S. Auction 763.00
Registration, Nomenclature 240.00
Contributions 100.00
Miscellaneous 76.27

Publications:

Bulletins \$ 74.50
Handbooks 188.37
"The Peonies" 105.50
"Peonies Outdoors and In" 31.40
History of Peonies and Their Originations
. 342.00
Book, A.P.S. "75 Years" 3,526.50

Total \$4,268.27

Interest on Savings 842.35

Total Receipts \$23,428.57

Disbursements:

Publications:

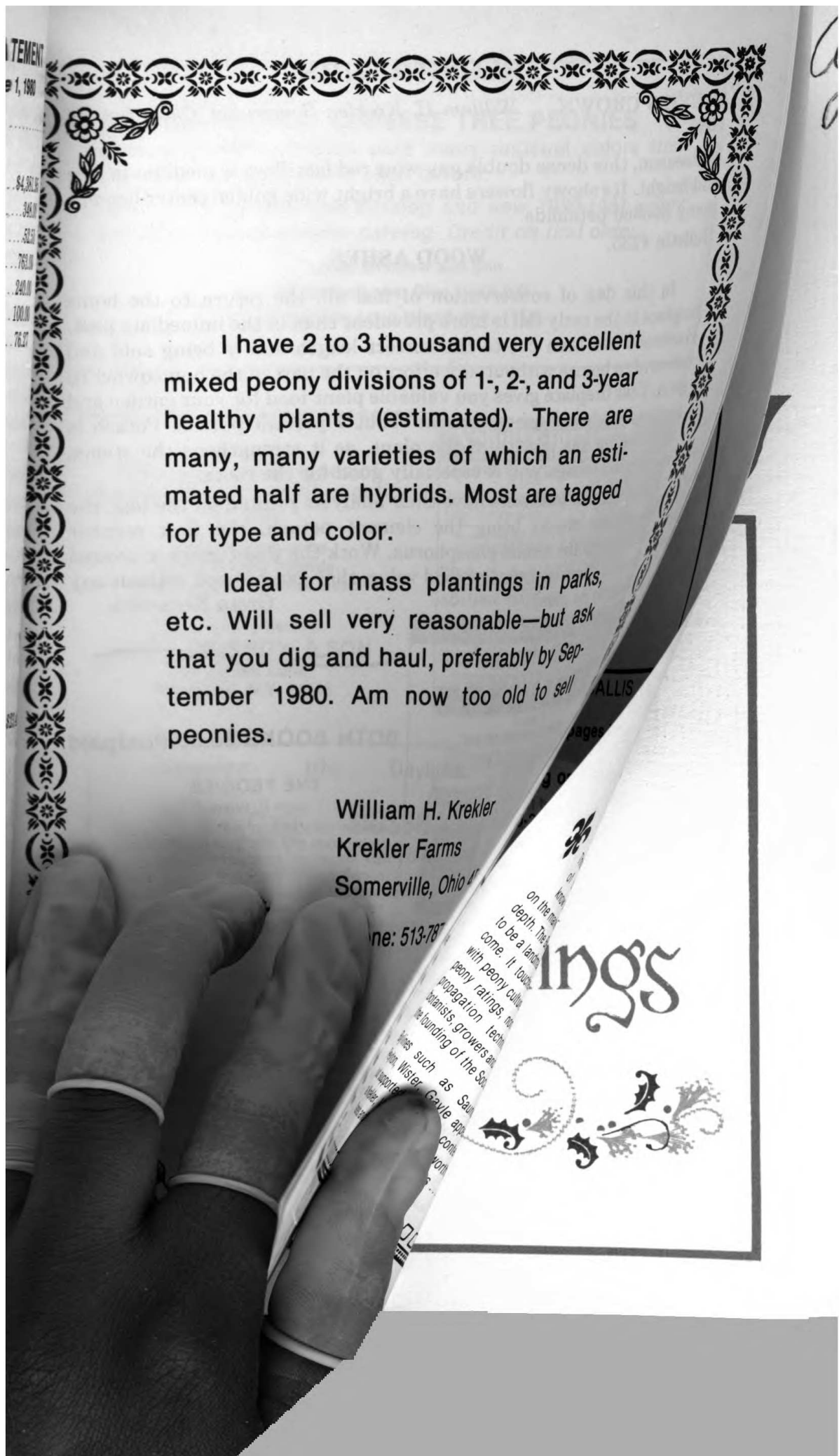
Four Bulletins—June, Sept., Dec., March. \$ 2,742.59
American Peony Society Postage 933.01
Office Supplies 211.38
Exhibitions 294.99
Printing 1,017.50
Refund 22.00
Telephone 11.34
Miscellaneous 93.07

Total Disbursements \$ 5,325.88

Balance June 1, 1980 \$18,102.69

\$23,428.57

Greta M. Kessenich
Secretary-Treasurer



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REGISTRATION

STEVE'S CROWN
1980

William H. Krekler, Somerville, Ohio, June 5,

Midseason, this dense double gay wine red lactiflora is medium in size and height. Its showy flowers have a bright wide golden center band of many hooked petaloids.

Bulletin #235.

WOOD ASHES

In this day of conservation of fuel oil, the return to the home fireplace in the early fall is more prevalent than in the immediate past. Hardwood has been cut to the correct length and is being sold and delivered to homes without any effort on the part of the homeowner to get it. Your fireplace gives you valuable plant food for your garden and peonies. Hardwood ashes contain about 7 percent potash. Potash is necessary for the growth of the plant, as it strengthens the stems, makes good foliage, and is especially good for the roots.

Commercial fertilizers have their analysis printed on the bag, the last number always being the element potash, the first number nitrogen, and the second phosphorus. Work the wood ashes in around the plant. Because of the low food value, they can be used without any danger to the peony.

Greta Kessenich

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HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY

Official Handbook of the American Peony Society, recently edited and published. Designed to provide informational basics on all peony subjects. Simple step by step culture instructions made this work indispensable for the novice and a great "refresher" source for the professional.

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1-2 page	65.00	20.00
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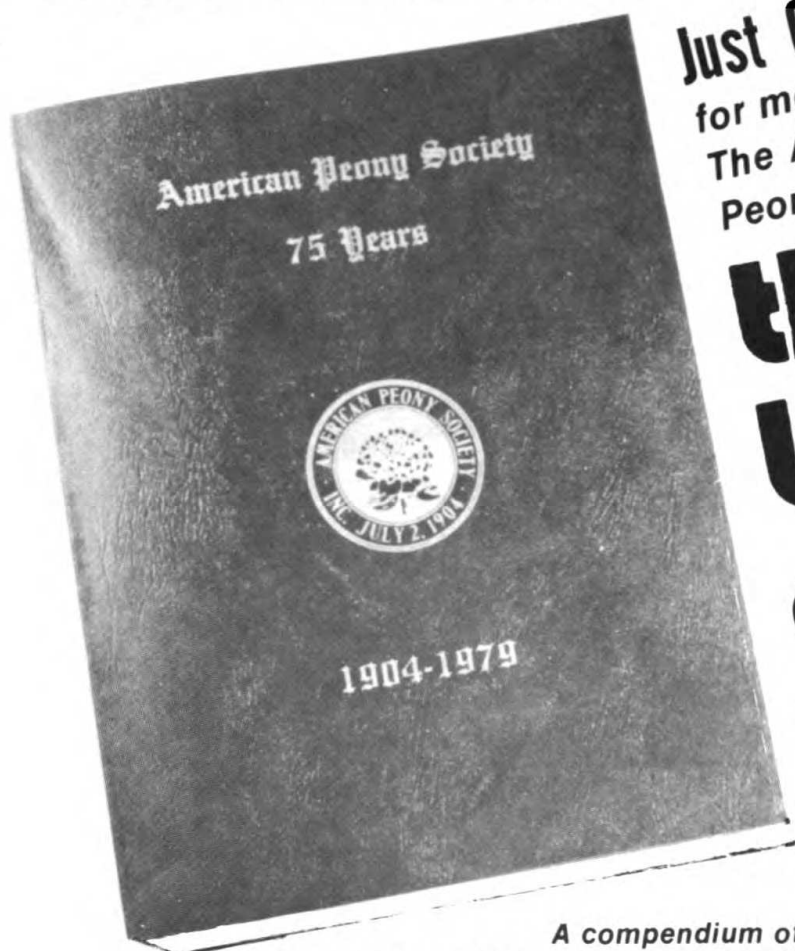
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