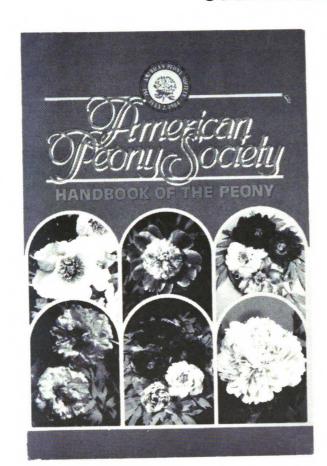
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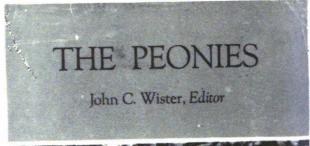
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The department was formed to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonles. All new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names.

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.

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A garden is a holy place
Where I may humbly pray and praise,
For when the stained glass sunset sheds
A heavenly light on bowing heads,
And starlight chancel candle shines
I worship in this place divine.



—Ernest Flint Kelsey; from the Sanctuary 1936, Bulletin No. 62





## May you have

The gladness of Christmas Which is hope;

The spirit of Christmas Which is peace;

The blessing at Christmas Which is love.



**-3-**



## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

**CHRIS LANING** 

There is a certain loveliness in almost all flowers that makes criticism indelicate, and the setting of standards of perfection for them a lack of understanding. Who, among us, is equal to the task of setting a criterion of excellence for the lovers of beauty? Serenity arrives when contemplation is given full sway. How happy is the thought of beauty in a monastery garden.

Now comes the season of snow that offers enchantment to him that is not blind to the ineffable and the exquisite. A blanket of white now covers all and affords a well-earned rest to the garden and the gardener.

But, no! Quiescence is not to be had—it's Christmas time, don't you know! 'Tis the season to be jolly with shopping for gifts and presents on the agenda, and banqueting in the offing. Crowds in a celebrating spirit throng the shops and stores; and what about the Christmas cards I must write or failed to write? When materialism (love of possessions) crowds out the joy of living and is rated more highly than service, (happiness is the by-product of service), and self is to be in the forefront, there comes a time for reflection, along with bills to be paid. In times like these, a **triple strength placebo** is needed. This, too, will pass.

Then comes the gardening catalog, the flower catalog, and the vegetable catalog. Happy Days Are Here Again!

But, did you take time out during this past season to truly give thanks to the Owner of the Universe for what you have, and what you are? I have!

Chris



#### TREE PEONY ODYSSEY

by Anthony De Blasi, West Newfield, Maine

Moving and gardening don't mix, unless you grow annuals and the few perennials, like iris and daylilies, that you can take with you as easily as luggage. When I moved from New York to New Hampshire in 1973, I had about 60 established peonies—most of them tree peonies. RIMPO had grown as tall as I was, with a fine umbrella top, and RENKAKU had recently produced 77 frosty-white blossoms on a bush about five feet high and wide. Putting the shovel to such large, well-formed plants felt criminal. But I would have regretted leaving them, for the new owners weren't gardeners and the tree peonies would have suffered neglect, or worse.

Our place in Sanbornville, N.H. had a nice garden spot, with deep, sandy loam, but we had no time to decide where to put what, so the peonies were planted hastily, about four feet apart, in rows. During breaks in the huge task—it wasn't only peonies we moved!—we admired the glorious foliage colors of New England.

A few peonies spread petals, as well as leaves, to the New Hampshire sky the following spring; among them, GUMPODEN and SOUVENIR DE MAXIME CORNU. Several tree peonies liked their new home and re-established themselves in the new soil within three years—not so, RIMPO, and not RENKAKU. Those that took hold would stay where they were, I figured, moving the others in the row-plantings to form a more pleasing arrangement.

Sanbornville turned out to be a temporary home for us and for the peonies. Next stop was over the border, into Maine. We had more time, this time, for transplanting. But, since the house wasn't built, I had to put the peonies "in the wilderness," out of the path of the bulldozer, among brambles, scrub pines, and staghorn sumacs—in the soil that was full of rocks, some larger than a bushel.

The imports from New York-New Hampshire were now scattered through the woods, along a winding footpath. As luck would have it, we had several dry summers before I could move them all to their "permanent" places around the new house. It was virtually impossible to water them. Many grew stunted and tangled with creeping blackberries. But several bloomed, even in the wilderness: stalwarts like TAMU FUYO and SOUVENIR DE MAXIME CORNU. RENKAKU, star performer in New York, was a twig in Maine. RIMPO, still healthy, refused to bloom.

Now, after three moves in twelve years, the tree peonies are at last where I want them. The odyssey proved too difficult for some, which I lost, like RENKAKU. Others took it in stride. Some are nicely reestablished, such as HANA KISOI and KINKADEN, HARVEST, and SOUVENIR DE MAXIME CORNU.

But RIMPO, as though harboring a grudge, will not bloom. ("How tree peonies fare in Maine" will be the subject of a future article.) -5



#### THE PEONY IS TOUGHER THAN IT LOOKS

By Art Kozelka, Gardening—Chicago Tribune (Permission given for reprint)

Flowers with such whimsical names as HONEY GOLD, PILLOW TALK, BUTTERBALL, and SUSIE Q have much more than their names going for them, for all are peonies, beloved hardy perennials that bring a touch of glamour to home gardens in spring.

Apart from their fluffy beauty, the peonies, including the aforementioned newer hybrids, as well as the familiar old favorites, are perhaps the longest-lived, least troublesome herbaceous plants, promising spectacular blooms year after year. No wonder they often are described as "lifetime" plants.

Autumn is the favored time for setting out peony roots—the time for beginners to start new plantings, and for confirmed peony buffs to expand their collections or simply add some new varieties. Specialist growers dig the roots for market at this time, and soil and weather are conducive to proper planting.

Since they will or can flourish indefinitely in the same location, they deserve the best planting site on the premises. This should offer full sunlight, soil that drains well, and be where their dramatic flowers will be highly visible for maximum enjoyment.

Unlike most other perennials, peonies do not have to be dug and divided every few years. As a rule, the only time they need be taken up is when adjacent shrubs or trees begin to encroach on their share of sunlight, which is important for good blooms, or when one wants to share some of his roots with gardening friends.

Dig the planting holes deep enough to comfortably accommodate the plant's entire fleshy root system, but the eyes [or buds] on top of the roots must not be set any deeper than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches below ground level. The latter is a critical point in planting, as deeper placement of the eyes is one of the more common reasons for the plants failing to bloom. Set the plants about 3 or 4 feet apart.

After holes are dug, mix some compost, dry manure, peat moss or other organic material into the subsoil, then add humusy topsoil to finish the planting. Water thoroughly and if the soil settles, add more to bring it to ground level, making sure that the eyes remain at the proper depth.

Peony roots can be planted throughout the fall season as long as the ground can be worked, but the earlier they go into the ground the better as they will have more time to become established before there is a freeze. Plants set out late in the season will benefit from a light mulch of straw or leaves, but there is no need for a mulch after the first winter.

The usually heavily foliaged plants also are favored by many for seasonal or temporary hedges along driveways and walks instead of



woody shrubs. When the foliage is cut down in fall, there's room for accumulations of shoveled snow, which can be safely piled over the dormant plants.

While blooms of all peonies are irresistible, the newer hybrids are especially appealing. Noteworthy in this respect are the peonies in the popular Estate Series which boost extra double flowers with improved forms and livelier colors. These are the result of generations of hybridization and propagation by Klehm's Nursery of South Barrington and formerly of Arlington Heights. Here is a partial listing of these modern varieties which are available for planting this fall:

Honey Gold, pure white with tufted golden tints; Bowl of Cream, creamy white; Pillow Talk, glossy pink with a hint of rose; Butterball, rose-pink with yellow center; Raspberry Ice, red highlighted with silver; Susie Q, bright pink; Dinner Plate, immense shell pink; and Moon River, pink and cream blend.

Selected varieties of the Estate and other peonies are offered through the catalogs of many mail order firms, including Klehms, Route 5, Box 197, South Barrington, Ill. 60010; Wayside Gardens, Hodges, S.C. 29695; and W. Atlee Burpee, Warminster, Pa. 18974.

#### **KREKLERS HOLD 60TH ANNIVERSARY**

Mr. and Mrs. William Krekler of Somerville, Ohio, and Whittier, Ca., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 29, 1985.

The Kreklers spend their summers on their farm in Ohio and winters in Whittier. Mrs. Krekler is a retired piano teacher. Mr. Krekler is a former landscape architect and nurseryman.

Last fall, Krekler gave the Whittier Parks Department over a hundred varieties of daylilies, valued at \$20,000. To date, he has created and registered 376 new peony flowers and 257 daylilies.

The Kreklers have three children—Norman, a nurseryman in Akron, Ohio, and Hermosillo, Mexico; Bruce, a farmer and nur-



Mr. and Mrs. William Krekler celebrate anniversary

seryman near Somerville; and Corinne Gray, a school counselor in Amherst, Ohio. They have seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.—Daily News, Whittier, California



#### TREE PEONY VARIETIES OF JAPAN

by Takahiro Somei (translated by Ron Ringdahl)

#### **Descriptive Characteristics:**

- I. Number of petals: single, semi-double, double and full double
- II. Flower form: 1. petals loosely incurving: refers to flowers with loosely or gently incurving petals; most characteristic of tree peonies, also called "peony" blooming.
  - 2. petals incurving: refers to flowers with petals more tightly or distinctly incurving than the above.
  - 3. having a crown: descriptive of some doubles, having a prominent crown.
  - 4. having streamers: descriptive of some flowers which have narrow petals ("streamers") dispersed among normal petals in the center. Referred to as "shishizaki" or "lion-blooming" in Japanese, for the ways these streamers seem to "dance" about among the other petals.
  - 5. Flat-blooming: petals tend to lie out flat like a plate, with little noticeable incurving.
  - 6. Windmill: an unusual type in which the petals are twisted and fluted and dispersed around the center, resembling a windmill.
- III. Flower size: small (less than 6" in diameter), medium-size (6-8"), large (8-10"), and gigantic (more than 10" in diameter).
  - IV. Tree height (assuming a five-year-old graft): tall (more than 3'), medium-height (1½-3' high), low (less than 1½' high).
  - V. Tree form: 1. spreading: tending to form a rounded tree, spreading out to the sides.
    - 2. random: simply tending to grow out at random, as most do. 3. reserved: tending to grow out neatly, with less distance between nodes.
  - VI. Other characteristics are self-explanatory.

NOTE: In regard to the original Japanese names, some which are descriptive or otherwise interesting I have rendered into English; others, such as the host of those having names regally or imperially propitious or those otherwise non-descriptive, for the most part I have not dealt with.

#### I. Dark Reds

- 1. IMASHOJO—Deep red to vivid purple; medium-size single, with incurving petals. Flowering period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, reserved, lacking vigor. Floriferous. Suitable for potting.
- 2. IMPUMON (Inpu Gate)—Deep red; large double, with incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for potting.



- 3. KENREIMON (Kenrei Gate)—Deep red; large double, with streamers. Fl. period: late. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Suitable for cut flower use.
- 4. KOZAN (Mountain of Light)—Deep red; gigantic double, with incurving petals. Fl period: early. Tall characteristics: tall, spreading, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for potting.
- 5. SHUGYOKUDEN (Shugyoku Palace)—Deep red; medium-size semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, random, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for cut flower use.
- 6. TAISHO-NO-HIKARI (Light of Taisho)—Deep red; large double, with incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, random, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for forcing.
- 7. TAIYO (Sun)—Deep red; large semi-double with incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, extremely vigorous. Suitable for forcing and cut flower use. Easily obtainable.
- 8. NISSHO (Sun Light)—Deep red; gigantic double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, spreading, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for potting.
- 9. HI-NO-TSUKASA—Deep red; large semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: early. Tree characteristics: medium height, spreading, somewhat lacking vigor. Suitable for potting.
- 10. HI-NO-DE SEKAI (Sunrise World)—Deep red; large semi-double with incurving petals. Fl. period: early. Tree characteristics: medium height, reserved, somewhat lacking vigor. Floriferous. Suitable for potting.
- 11. HOKI—Bright crimson; large semi-double, with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: early. Tree characteristics: medium height, spreading, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for forcing.
- 12. MIYO-NO-HIKARI—Dark red; gigantic double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for cut flower use.
- 13. YOMEIMON (Yomei Gate)—Deep red; large double, with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Suitable for cut flower use.
- 14. YOYO-NO-HOMARE—Deep red; medium-size semi-double, with incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: low, reserved, somewhat weak. Sparse bloomer. Suitable for potting.



15. SHIMA-NO-KAGAYAKI—Deepest of dark reds; large semi-double, with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, spreading, somewhat weak. Sparse bloomer. Easily obtainable.

#### II. Reds

- 1. IWATO-KAGAMI—Red; large double, with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, spreading, vigorous. Suitable for potting. Easily obtainable.
- 2. IWATO-KAGURA—Red; large double, with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, spreading, vigorous. Outstanding flower shape.
- 3. KA-O (Flower King)—Red; large double with crown. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Easily obtainable.
- 4. GEKKEIKAN (Crown of Laurel)—Red, fading out to lighter shades at the margins of the petals; gigantic flat double. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: low, spreading, reserved, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for potting.
- 5. SHISHIGASHIRA (Lion's Head)—Red; large double, with streamers. Fl. period: very early. Tree characteristics: tall, spreading, very vigorous. Suitable for cut flower use. Also known as ECHIGO-SHISHI.
- 6. SHIN-KAGURA—Red; gigantic flat double. Fl. period: late. Tree characteristics: medium height, random, somewhat lacking vigor. Sparse bloomer. Branches tend to be weak and bend.
- 7. DAI-O (Great King)—Red; gigantic single, with rounded, loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: very late. Tree characteristics: medium height, random, somewhat weak. Sparse bloomer. Stems tend to be slender.
- 8. DAI-KAGURA—Red; large semi-double, with loosely incurving petHls. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, random, somewhat lacking vigor. Floriferous.
- 9. CHOJURAKU—Red; gigantic semi-double, with rounded and thick, incurved petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Sparse bloomer.
- 10. TSUKASAJISHI—Red; gigantic double with crown. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, very vigorous. Floriferous. An old variety.
- 11. TSURUHA (Crane Feathers)—Red; gigantic semi-double, with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: early. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Suitable for forcing.



- 12. TOKIWAZU—Red; gigantic single windmill-type. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, random, vigorous. An unusual windmill-like flower.
- 13. HATSU HI-NO-DE (First Sunrise of the New Year)—Peach, tinged with darker shades of red; large semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for forcing.
- 14. ASAHI-NO-HIKARI (Light of the Morning Sun)—Red; large double with incurving petals. Fl. period: late. Tree characteristics: medium height, spreading, vigorous. Suitable for forcing. Easily obtainable.
- 15. HIGURASHI (Sundown)—Red; gigantic single with rounded, loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, random, vigorous. Suitable for potting. Easily obtainable.
- 16. BENI-NO-TSUKASA—Red; gigantic semi-double, with rounded, incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, random, vigorous. Sparse bloomer.
- 17. HOZAN (Treasure Mountain)—Red; large semi-double, with incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Branches and stems tend toward weakness.
- 18. HODAI—Red; large double with incurving petals. Fl. period: late. Tree characteristics: tall, spreading, vigorous. Suitable for forcing. Easily obtainable.
- 19. MAIHIME (Dancing Maiden)—Color in the peach to salmon range; large flat double. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, spreading, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for potting.
- 20. YACHIYO-TSUBAKI—Red; medium-size semi-double with incurving petals. Fl. period: late. Tree characteristics: medium-height, random, vigorous. Suitable for forcing, cut flower use. Easily obtainable.
- 21. SUKIDEN—Red tinged with darker shades; large double with incurving petals. Fl. period: late. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Sparse bloomer. Suitable for potting.

#### III. Light Reds, Pinks

- 1. OSARAKU—Pink; large double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: late. Tree characteristics: tall, spreading, vigorous. Floriferous.
- 2. KIRIN-TSUKASA—Pink; large double, with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, spreading, vigorous. Sparse bloomer.



- 3. GOSHOZAKURA—Pink with lilac overtones; large semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Easily obtainable.
- 4. SAKURAJISHI—Pink; large double with crown. Fl. period: late. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Sparse bloomer. Easily obtainable.
- 5. SHICHI FUKUJIN—Pink; gigantic semi-double with incurving petals. Fl. period: early. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for potting.
- 6. SHIHOZAKURA (Cherry Blossoms in All Directions)—Pink; large semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Suitable for forcing, cut flower use. Easily obtainable.
- 7. SHIN-TENCHI (New Heaven & Earth)—Pink; gigantic semi-double with incurving petals. Fl. period: late. Tree characteristics: medium-height, random, vigorous. Sparse bloomer. Easily obtainable.
- 8. SUIGAN (Inebriated Face)—Pink; gigantic semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: early. Tree characteristics: tall, random, very vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for cut flower use.
- 9. TAMA-FUYO—Pink; medium-size semi-double, with incurving petals. Fl. period: extremely early. Tree characteristics: tall, spreading, vigorous. Sparse bloomer. Easily obtainable.
- 10. TSUKUMOJISHI (Ninety-Nine Lions)—Pink; mediumsize full double with crown. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: low, spreading, somewhat lacking in vigor. Suitable for potting.
- 11. HANA-ASOBI (Flower Play)—Pink; large semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, reserved, vigorous. Floriferous. Easily obtainable.
- 12. HANA-KISOI (Flower Rivalry)—Pink; gigantic semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Suitable for cut flower use. Easily obtainable.
- 13. HARU-NO-AKEBONO (Daybreak in Spring)—Pink, dark red at center; large semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Suitable for forcing. Easily obtainable.
- 14. BENI—CHIDORI (Crimson Plowers)—Pink; large semi-double with incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Sparse bloomer. Easily obtainable.



- 15. HORAISAN (Mt. Horai)—Pink; large semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, spreading, vigorous. Sparse bloomer.
- 16. MIKASAYAMA (Mt. Mikasa)—Pink; gigantic double with crown. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, spreading and reserved, vigorous. Suitable for potting.
- 17. YAEZAKURA—Pink; gigantic semi-double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, very vigorous. Suitable for forcing, cut flower use. Easily obtainable.
- 18. YACHIYOJISHI—Pink; large double with streamers. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: medium height, random, vigorous. Easily obtainable.
- 19. YATSUKAJISHI—Pink; gigantic full double with crown. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Suitable for cut flower use. Easily obtainable.
- 20. YOSHINOGAWA (Yoshino River)—Pink; gigantic double with loosely incurving petals. Fl. period: mid-season. Tree characteristics: tall, random, vigorous. Floriferous. Suitable for cut flower use. Easily obtainable.



C. W. Bunn [1885 - 1941] was one of the great peony men of Minnesota. He was an exhibitor of the fine peonies that he grew. Mr. Christman wrote, "The quality of blooms he displayed pays a glowing tribute to his method of handling. He was a master showman." He lived on Manitou Island, White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

#### **SELECTION AND CULTURE OF PEONIES**

By C. W. Bunn, Bulletin #21, August, 1925

Peonies will do well in any well-drained, fairly heavy garden soil where they have not been grown before. I should not try to grow peonies, and should not advise others to do so, in a very sandy soil. Neither do they thrive in peat. The clay loams, common in the north-western states, grow as good peonies as the world produces. Peonies should not be asked to compete with the roots of trees or even of shrubs, and anyone unable or unwilling to give them this freedom should plant something else. In the small garden, it is often necessary to plant a peony root where one stood before. But before this is done the old soil should be removed and replaced by new. A hole should be made as large as in planting a new bed; one which will hold enough fresh soil to feed the new plant for years. It will not thrive on its predecessor's leavings.

As to planting, the amateur's aim is different from the professional's. The nurseryman expects to divide and sell his roots by the



time his plants are three years old. He may commence dividing and selling when they are two, and will sell as fast as he can. His business is the growing and selling of roots and his interest is to sell roots while they are young. He plants each year a field of peonies to stand for a short time. As the roots are dug each field is for years given over to other crops. On the other hand, the amateur's main purpose is flowers. He wants plants to produce good blooms over as long a period as possible.

The professional grower is likely to plow under a cover crop before he plants a field and this furnishes good fertilization for a limited time. As he does not expect his plants to stand for ten years, there is no reason why he should make deep trenches and put ten years' supply of plant food in them. The amateur on the other hand expects his plants to stand for many years—certain varieties at least will do well for ten years or even more.

Hence, for the amateur, aiming for the best results with his comparatively few plants, advice is sound to excavate his ground two feet deep; to fill up the lower foot with a mixture of equal parts of good soil and manure, and fill up the top foot with the very best soil he has, which should be wholly free from manure. My peonies are grown where there is a great fall of forest leaves, of which I annually compost a large pile, mixing with them—as they are put up—a little dirt which promotes their early decomposition, and adding as the pile is made, some bone meal from time to time. Mixture of this compost or any other good vegetable compost, with the soil, will pay richly.

Let the amateur realize that he has many advantages over the professional and that there is no reason on the whole why he should not produce as good flowers. The professional grower has the advantage of choosing flowers from a great number of plants, but the amateur can give his few plants a better planting and give each plant a personal care and attention impossible for the professional. The professional has but one advantage (this is considerable)—a large number of plants. If he wants to show Martha Bulloch, he may be able to select blooms from thirty plants against the amateur's two. But the amateur can plant his plants better and give them better watering, cultivation, and attention than the professional. Therefore, he need not despair of competing successfully.

The needed care and attention consists mostly of water and cultivation, and, of these, cultivation is first. The plants should have an abundance of moisture while they are making their buds and blooming—from April to about the first of July in central Minnesota; also in August when next year's shoots are forming. Lack of rain during these periods should be supplied. Surface sprinkling is useless, or worse. What is needed is an occasional soaking, giving a quantity of water which will wet the ground deeply. Cultivate after every rainfall and after every watering; the more frequently the better.

One is frequently asked if peonies are not gross feeders, and how should they be fertilized. If planted as described, they need very little



other fertilization and will get on well without any. We tar and cultivation are the essentials. One sees more peonies ruined by manure than are injured by its absence. Manure should not be permitted unless it is buried at least a foot deep. By the time the roots reach down to it, it has ceased to be manure. An annual dressing of bone meal worked into the soil between the plants, not on them, is safe and useful, as are wood ashes similarly applied.

Beware of too deeply planting and by all means avoid the possibility of standing water. Peonies cannot be grown successfully where drainage is poor. Plant the eye two inches below the surface. An excellent method is to set the eyes just a bit below the surface and hill the soil up over the new plant, so that during the first winter its eyes may be buried at least four inches; remove in the early spring enough of this cover to leave the eyes two inches deep; and the plant standing on a slight hill insuring against standing water.

As the amateur's plants are to stand for many years he must give them corresponding room to grow. Three feet apart is a minimum and three and a half or four feet is much better. One is always surprised to find how in a few years peonies three feet apart crowd each other.

Be careful in cutting flowers to leave ample foliage on each plant; at least two branches with foliage on each stalk cut. I knew of a lady once who bought a fine and expensive root which the first year sent up one stalk and bore one beautiful flower. The flower was so wonderful she cut the stem practically to the ground to prove its wonders to a friend; but she ruined her plant. Every flower stalk cut below the foliage dies and rots; this rot will probably extend into the crown and seriously injure the root.

Well planted plants will bear flowers a number of years. Eventually they will need division. When a plant gets too big it sends up smaller stalks which bear smaller flowers. When these symptoms appear, or before, it ought to be divided. A plant that has stood two years or more should never be moved without division. To divide, dig the plant carefully, saving as much root as possible, wash the dirt off clean so that you can see where to make proper cuts, and cut the plant up with a sharp knife into divisions having anywhere from one to half-a-dozen eyes. A good root with one or two strong eyes makes a better plant than one with a large number of eyes and a poor root. Young plants from two to four years old make better divisions than old ones.

The only diseases of peonies are diseases of the root, which will not be serious if a few simple precautions are taken. One ought to be very careful to plant nothing but clean roots. Any stalk becoming rotten at the bottom and falling over should be promptly cut out as near down to the crown as possible and burned. If clean roots are planted where the drainage is good and manure is kept away from them they are very unlikely to develop root rot or other root disease. But if a plant is evidently doing badly, and does not recover good condition within a year or two, take it up in September. Doubtless, some root rot will be



found. Cut it out, divide the plant and replant in clean new soil. Dividing and planting peonies is best done in September. It may also be done later in the fall, but September planted roots do better the first year than those planted later. Spring planting is not advisable. Cut the tops after hard frosts and burn or remove them from the garden.

A common question is: how long should a plant stand? To this, there is no answer. Usually a plant produces its best flowers between its third and seventh year. But varieties differ greatly. Martha Bulloch makes slow root growth and I have two nine-year-old plants that were at their best last summer (at present one of them will be divided). One who will study each plant closely should be able to tell when division is required.

Peonies cut after the bud softens thoroughly will develop better flowers indoors than if left in the garden, and this is particularly true of varieties of delicate coloring. The sunshine, especially if hot and bright, and the rain and the wind injure and may play havoc with them. If the best flowers are desired, buds should be cut when they are partly out, when they are thoroughly soft to the touch of the fingers, and allowed to develop in a cool, dark room or cellar, their stems in as deep water as may be. Shortly before buds reach the stage to cut, cover the best buds with a paper bag, fastening it with a rubber band or with a wooden peg. When flowers are sent to cold storage for keeping, these bags can be left on them.

Disbudding—pinching off each side bud leaving one bud to each stalk—increases flowers in size. On a similar principle, size can be increased by removing all buds from a part of the stalks.

If flowers are to be shown, those blooming early will have to be kept in cold storage. A room kept at about 40 degrees will keep flowers in good condition for two weeks and longer. The beginner in showing will be interested to find that some varieties must be brought to much fuller development on the plants before they are cut, than others. For example. Therese is a difficult flower to show; it blooms early, must be sent to storage, and the flower must be nearly full out before cut from the plant. It should be covered with a bag well before this. There are other varieties that may be cut as soon as the buds become soft and may be relied on to come out at the show. Massive and closely built flowers should be left to develop more fully on the plant than loosely built flowers like Festiva Maxima. The getting of flowers to the show in perfect condition and learning the differences between the varieties for show purposes is of never-ending interest and is a field which is also open to the amateur. When flower shows are nearby it is good practice to cold store flowers in jugs well filled with water, caution being exercised to remove enough of the foliage so that remaining leaves, as well as the flowers, will stand above the water and remain dry. Flowers shipped to a distance are packed in boxes and sent dry.

There is a wide choice of varieties. Color, habit of growth, strength of stem, freedom and dependability of bloom are determining factors.



## Come to Minneapolis-St. Paul in 1986

#### American Peony Society National Convention

Plans for the 1986 American Peony Society National Convention have been in progress for several months. Please join us on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 13, 14, and 15.

A number of events are being planned which should make this meeting unique. The widely acclaimed exhibit "Peonies of Greece: Myth, Science and Art," which was at New York's American Museum of Natural History in the summer of 1984, will be at the University of Minnesota during our meeting. This is a superb show which reviews the history of the peony and describes new peony species recently discovered in Greece. More special events will be described in the March Bulletin.

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#### LYMAN D. GLASSCOCK

Lyman D. Glasscock was the originator of many hybrid peonies. Some favorites in the list of his many peonies were: RED CHARM, BURMA RUBY, CRUSADER, MOTHERS CHOICE, MAY DELIGHT and SALMON GLOW. His first hybrid was named LEGION-NAIRE.

Since his death, some outstanding varieties have been introduced. WHITE CHARM, OLD FAITHFUL and ILLINI ROSE were very small seedlings in the cold frame. There are still several unnamed and unregistered hybrid peonies which have been developed from seeds planted by Mr. Glasscock, long before his death in 1952. Several of these seedlings are quite promising.



Mr. and Mrs. Lyman D. Glasscock

In his later years he was trying to develop hybrid peonies that would bloom later as most of the hybrids bloom early to very early. He wanted to make the hybrid season longer and was successful producing some very good late-blooming hybrids.

-Elizabeth Glasscock-Falk



#### DR. PETER HUGHES

Peter Evans Hughes (b.-Melbourne, Australia, Feb. 3, 1924—d.-Melbourne, Aug. 14, 1985).

Peter was born the elder son and grandson of dairy folk. Under full scholarship, he received his secondary education at Scotch College, and tertiary education at the University of Melbourne, graduating with a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery (combined equivalent of the American M.D.). In 1948, during his internship at Royal Melbourne Hospital, he met Mary Isobel Wilkinson, a nurse assigned to the same operating theater. They were married in 1950. Peter spent several years in private practice before leaving it to undertake cancer research at the University of Melbourne. For his work on chemical carcinogenesis he received a Doctor of Philosophy and a Doctor of Medicine (an award for outstanding contribution to Medical Science-no American equivalent). He also became a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (similar to the Food and Drug Administration). His medical research took him to many places, including a year in Wisconsin (1959), and London (1967). This latter visit was to the Chester Beattae Cancer Institute as an Eleanor Roosevelt Research Fellow. In 1970 with weakened evesight. he left research to return to private practice. He was greatly respected as a doctor and attracted a large personal following. Following the sudden death of Mary in 1984, he returned to academic life for one year as Visiting Professor to the Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, at Yale University.

Peter inherited his love of horticulture from his grandfather. He gave it firm foundation by extensive reading of botanical books as a child. In 1960, after returning from Wisconsin, he established one of the largest rose gardens in Melbourne, a garden in which he spent many happy days. This garden (surrounding his suburban home) became the background for his work towards his goal of developing a blue rose. In 1980, following the development of cataracts in Mary's eyes, he abandoned his interest in roses, in favor of peonies, so that she could continue to share his interest. (As his grandfather, who would not grow roses, had told him as a boy, rose thorns are cruel to those who do not see them.) The years that immediately followed were some of his happiest. He valued the warmth and hospitality of his friends in the American Peony Society. The honor of being the first overseas member elected to the Board of Directors of the Society was something he cherished. This past year he visited peony nurseries in France and Japan, as well as in the U.S.A., intending to add to his collection in Australia. He had established a garden of some onethousand tree peonies on a hill overlooking the Southern Ocean at the family farm, a hundred miles west of Melbourne. It is there that his, and Mary's, scattered ashes rest. Peter is survived by a son and a daughter, and four grand-daughters.



#### EDWARD J. BENES

(Edward J. Benes, Chicago, Ill., passed away July 31, 1985).

He was 94 years old. Mr. Benes had been a member of the American Peony Society since 1928. Every year, at the same time, his membership dues were paid, with many times sending a contribution.

He never married, and lived alone in the same house for 70 years. He was never active in attending meetings of the Society but he was one of the silent supporters, as he continually sent clippings to this office of news articles about peonies, varieties, peony personalities, and out of the ordinary peony stories.

In his quite unassuming way, he had a profound interest in the American Peony Society, and over the years his concern was reflected in his letters and financial support.

He grew hundreds of peonies of all varieties in his field, and also many other flowers and vegetables. He grew lilies in abundance. He maintained this garden himself until about a year ago when he fractured his hip.

The peony blooms were always given to friends, children, schools, churches, weddings, and all kinds of festivities. Every visitor to his garden left with a smile and a bouquet of peonies, at blooming time.

His generosity in giving happiness to so many with his peonies, maintaining an open garden over the years, is a memorial to this modest and remarkable man.

\* \* \* \* \* \*

Memorials have been sent to the American Peony Society in loving memory of: MRS. JOHN (Maggie) THARP, Winfield, Kansas; died July 28, 1985.

From: R. W. Ewers
Felix Garcia
Hilda Ray

St. Francis Tele-Communication Group

Merry Makers Club

\* \* \* \* \*

Nature is painting for us, day after day, pleasures of safinite beauty if only we have eyes to see them.

oh huskin



#### REGISTRATIONS

#### RASPBERRY CHARM (Samuel Wissing).

Hybrid, bloomed about 1968. Raspberry, Japanese, semi-double, reliable, excellent stem strength. 32" height, clean foliage. Plant habit of Coral Charm.

Registered, Roy Klehm

#### CORAL SURPRISE.

Originator unknown. First bloomed about 1970. Coral pink single hybrid. 26-28" height. Average amount of bloom, early, clean light green foliage.

Registered, Roy Klehm

#### COPPER ROSE tree peony.

Originator unknown. First bloomed about 1945-1946. Blend of rose, ivory, cream and yellow. 36" height, midseason bloom. Good foliage. Presently propagated by Reath and Klehm.

Registered, Roy Klehm

#### CHINA ROSE (Officinalis).

Species, double bomb shaped, salmon-rose. 26" height. Listed 1955. SUNNY BOY (Chris Laning) October, 1985.

Seedling #99—also known as "Laning's Best Yellow." Parentage, Quad F3 x Moonrise. First bloomed 1975. Full double of medium yellow color with purple red flares at the petal base. Foliage deep green, 30" height, standing fairly erect. Sets seeds and reports are that the pollen is highly effective on difficult crosses.

SUNNY GIRL (Chris Laning), October, 1985.

Seedling #66—similar to Sunny Boy but without flares at its base. Parentage Quad F3 x Silver Dawn F3. First bloomed 1978. Full double of medium yellow color. Foliage dark green with stems very erect standing 36 inches tall. Has good pollen and sets seed.

FRANCES JEAN THOMPSON (Robert F. Schmidt), Brecksville, Ohio, July 27, 1985.

Seedling #S-10, parentage unknown. First bloomed 1984. Japanese type. White, cream center, good substance, reliable. Average amount of bloom, flower 6". Strong stems, blossoms held high above the glossy dark green foliage. (Named for wife of originator).

FANNY BELL NIGGEMAN (Robert F. Schmidt), Brecksville, Ohio, July 27, 1985.

Seedling S-20. Parentage unknown. First bloomed 1982, single lactiflora. White, above average bloom, petals slightly ruffled, 5-6" blossoms, slightly cup shaped, strong stems 28-30" height. Dark green foliage. (Named for Mother-in-law of originator).

LYDIA CHARLOTTE GAEDE (Robert F. Schmidt), Brecksville, Ohio, July 27, 1985.



Seedling #S-4. Parentage unknown. Single, light pink lactiflora, cup shaped, bloomed first in 1982. Reliable. 30" height, early, dark green foliage. Mildly fragrant. Named for Originator's mother.

NANCY ELISABETH (Robert F. Schmidt), Brecksville, Ohio, July 27, 1985. Seedling #S-28. Parentage unknown. First bloomed 1983. Single light pink lactiflora, cup shaped, early glossy dark green foliage. Named after oldest daughter of Originator.

KATHY ANN (Robert F. Schmidt), Brecksville, Ohio, July 27, 1985.

Seedling #26. Parentage unknown. First bloomed 1983. Single white lactiflora, reliable. 36" height, 6" blooms on strong stems with dark green foliage. Named after second daughter of originator.

BARBARA SUSAN (Robert F. Schmidt), Brecksville, Ohio, July 27, 1985.

Seedling #S-24. Parentage unknown. First bloomed 1982. Single, medium pink lactiflora. Has prolific amount of bloom, early to midseason, reliable. 36-38" height, dark green glossy leaves. Named after youngest daughter of originator.

OUR LADY OF CUENCA (Robert F. Schmidt), Brecksville, Ohio, July 27, 1985.

Seedling #S-11. Parentage unknown. First bloomed 1982. White bomb with 5-6" blooms on good strong stems. 32" height, good substance, reliable, dark green glossy foliage. Midseason.

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY OLD PEONY CATALOGS?

Dr. Kent Crossley, 1245 Delaware Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota 55118

Much of the history of horticulture is documented in records which are unfortunately ephemeral. Bulletins of our Society are a good example. In five years of reading catalogs of all of North America's book dealers that specialize in horticultural materials, I can remember only one entry of three or four A.P.S. Bulletins. Even Boyd's 'The Peonies'—printed in large number and sold by the Society for many years—is only rarely available.

Nursery catalogs, I would guess, have survived even less well. I am concerned that most of us have discarded our old Peony Nursery catalogs. Our Society publications are probably of less concern. Some libraries have nearly complete collections of our Bulletins, but who has a Lins Catalog or one of A. P. Saunders? Where is an original Auten or Sass list?

Why should we care about old nursery catalogs? The answer is that they contain interesting and important information about the history of the peony. Catalogs also include valuable details—often from the perspective of the original grower—about varieties and their attributes. Surely, I'm not the only person in our Society interested in learning as much as possible about the peonies we grow.

What can we do? My hope would be to eventually develop a collec-



tion of catalogs and a way to make them available to interested members. The Society might do this.

I think we need to act now to preserve our old Nursery catalogs. If you have a pile of unwanted Peony catalogs, I will be glad to provide storage for them. Because of my own interest in reviewing (and photocopying) as many old catalogs as possible, I would also reimburse shipping costs for catalogs which are sent to me. Any catalogs I receive will be deposited with our Society.

If you have old catalogs, or are interested in plans to develop a catalog collection, I would very much like to hear from you.

#### **PEONY SEED**

Peony seed are free for the asking. This 1985 crop is an excellent one. Good selection from choice peonies. If you grow a garden, you can grow peonies from seed.

Send \$1.50 for postage and handling, also your selection of variety wanted.

-Chris Laning, 553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

From Mr. and Mrs. DeReamer (all seeds are open pollinated)

1. Charles White	.e	it	'n	V	V	68	r	8	Ch	. (	1
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- 3. Dark Red Single
- 5. Medium Pink Single
- 7. Spoon Petals (Jap seedling)
- 9. Pale Pink Seedling
- 11. Primevere

#### From Chris Laning

- 1. Lactiflora mix
- 3. Quad F4
- 5. Tetraploids from pink clones
- 7. Vista x Archangel
- 9. Quad F3 x Moonrise
- 11. Tree peony seed (suffruticosa)
- 2. Quad F3

10. Mixed

2. BoPeep

6. Lotus Queen

8. Walter Marx

4. Sanctus x Silver Dawn F3

4. Doreen type (Jap seedling)

- 6. Roy Pehrson's Best Yellow F2
- 8. Serenade F3
- 10. Quad F3 x Archangel

#### From Gus Sindt

- 1. Kansas
- 3. Miss America
- 5. Dawn Pink
- 7. Florence Bruss
- 9. Pico
- 11. Gay Paree

- 2. Spellbinder
- 4. Krinkled White
- 6. John Gardner
- 8. Kay Tischler
- 10. Vanity
- 12. Sea Shell

From Mr. Toichi Domoto

Tree Peony (suffruticosa)—These seeds are very special.

If you cut a tree, plant a tree. It is nature's replaceable energy.



#### (From Helene Groysillier, granddaughter of Felix Crousse, Hotel Club de Nancy, Saint May, France.)

I believe that my grandfather's house was burned down during the war of 1914-1918 and therefore I have no catalogs, books, nor photos of this beautiful Horticulture establishment, but I have found in my address book, a New Years card. It is a photo of the peony, Mons Jules Elie, from him.

Helen Groysillier is now retired in a nursing home near Nancy, France. The city of Nancy asked her for a biography of Felix Crousse, on the occasion of the great begonia fest where a new variety was dedicated to Felix Crousse. She has sent this beautiful manuscript to the American Peony Society written in French.

## FRANCOIS, FELIX CROUSSE BIOGRAPHY

by Madame la Generale Helene GROYSILLIER

(Translation by Mrs. Heather Watkins, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265)

Francois, Felix CROUSSE — Born in Nancy, France, October 2, 1840 Died in Nancy, France, August 25, 1925

His secondary studies were very advanced beyond his baccalaureate at the High School of Nancy. He was very good at Greek and Latin which helped him a lot in later years. He would have liked to have continued his studies towards a Bachelor's Degree but as the prospect was frail he listened to the advice of his father and departed for five years to take courses, as a foreigner, in some very renowned establishments in the major towns of that time. He learned many foreign languages and was received everywhere in a charming manner—this taught him a lot on the professional level and gave him, above all, a taste in the pursuit of seedlings and hybridization, etc.

In his absence, his father had prepared for his return by constructing a spacious house of two stories (half residence, half for renting) which still, to this day, exists, and is an immense piece of land situated outside of the town to the west end which leads to the foot of the Avenue de Boufflers (between the present Avenue Foch, 1'Avenue Raymond Poincare, la Rue due Temeraire and the lane or alley Jeanne d'Arc), and overall to the proximity of the train station, then newly constructed by the Roads Company of the East in 1860 in order to facilitate his exportations—the same routes having served the royal houses of Austria and Russia. An extremely accessible area for its day.

He married in 1864—near Gerberviller—had three children who, unfortunately, died very young, as did his first wife, who had a prodigious future. She helped to make easier the most delicate research and contributed largely to the success of obtaining CROUSSE cultivars.



At the death of his father, Louis Crousse, who was buried at Porte Desilles, Felix Crousse assumed the establishment of many acres and enlarged his property, enabling the town to open the Boulevard Charles V and so enlarge the district of the three houses (Trois-Maisons). This offered Felix Crousse equally the pleasure of possessing a marvelous vineyard in the upper section of the Rue de Boudonville called "The Earned Cross," adjoining just above the Route de Toul. The year, 1893, remained for a long time in the memory of the people of Nancy (Nanceiens) for the quality and quantity of her wine from these vineyards.

The oldest Crousse branch of the family remained in Epinal to still carry on.

## THE PROFESSIONAL LIFE OF FRANCOIS, FELIX CROUSSE from 1863 - 1905:

He at once moved into his new and large home on his very vast land (for those times). His father left him this new establishment (largest freedom—"for the young to show what they can do" he would say) which had started off and prospered normally until the War of 1870 which compulsorily stopped all activities—a second un-mooring had only begun in 1872 when Auguste Callot, specialist in peonies, passed his collection to Felix Crousse and dedicated his last finding to his godchild, Alice Crousse.

During his 45 years of activities, Felix Crousse attained some enormous success in various fields: Peonies, Tuberous Begonias, and the hybridization of Pelargonium-Lierre, in very subtle shades—Asters, Delphiniums and Fushias—from which is a unique specimen caused considerable attention at the Museum of Natural History in Paris. This specimen had the peculiarity of having the round flowers raised upward. No one at that time had worked to perfect this venerable ancestor.

Possibly it's necessary to recall to the young amateur lovers of Peonies some facts. The beginning of the Peonies—originally from China, from the Province of Yunnan, were introduced in Europe by a company from the Indies—these vanished very quickly from Europe and at the beginning of the French Empire, the Empress Josephine, who loved flowers, was upset by not being able, at that time, to acclimatize at Malmaison, Paris, the flower of Martinique. It was then that the Emperor of China offered her some solid specimens of Peonies which multiplied and prospered at Malmaison. At the end of her life the Empress gave them as a gift to the Count of Cussy, who took care of them until he reached old age—no one succeeded him and he gave them to a professional friend, Mister Auguste Callot, horticulturist in Douai—a good friend of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Crousse, his contemporaries. Mr. Callot had been one of the first possessors of magnificent



Peonies, of which one very beautiful cream white, very fragrant, still exists today as one of the most beautiful and which was dedicated to Mrs. Louis Crousse in 1856 (Mother of Felix Crousse) who had lived for a long period of time in Douai. When he (Felix) went to Nancy in 1864 and married, he asked Mr. and Mrs. Callot to be his witnesses, and the last peony obtained in 1872 by Mr. Callot, bore the name of Alice Crousse, his God-daughter (these details are to explain the many branches). After having given all of his collection to Felix Crousse, entrusting him to commercialize and multiply, which practice was done at the start of 1872 most widely, Mr. Callot retired. It is through events like this that the peony bearing the name of Mr. Lemoine, having been obtained by Callot, would appear in the catalog of Mr. Crousse . . . an irony of sorts, this ensemble of collections would appear in catalogs starting in 1877 and ending with 300 varieties, all very beautiful and very valuable, up till the present day and certain ones, such as "President Jules Elie" are still being propagated. Mrs. Alice Harding, an American, in 1917 wrote a magnificent book on Peonies pointing out the cultivars of Callot and Crousse in glowing terms.

#### - II -

The Tuberous Begonias (double). These flowers, or rather tubers, restored from Martinique by one of the first Governors, The Baron Begon (from whom the name 'Begonia' comes) were perfected and multiplied in the hands of Felix Crousse, who obtained some hues and flower behavior unknown at that time. Double arched flowers, well presented, in spite of their weight (an important fact) which the florists would beg "show it!" One of his achievements was a white begonia (for marriages, baptisms, communions, etc.) which was easy for commercial reasons—it was obtained by Felix Crousse as being one of the first, if not the very first, beautiful very double. According to certain documentations, it is called "White Jeanpierre." Because of the first name and because it was obtained the year of the marriage of the daughter of one of the 20 workers in the Crousse's home where a family life prevailed, it is thought he named it for this young person.

All these inquiries were obtained and collected according to the lists taken to date by the Royal Institute of Belgium by Mr. Haegermann, former Director, and the Royal Academy of London by Mr. and Mrs. Buxton, deceased. Creators of the "Begonia Publicist" of Los Angeles (updated publication by Mr. Estrada) as well as by a very big specialist in Santa Barbara, Mr. Rudolph Zeisenhenne, a very close friend of Helen Van Steyne, Countess Graft Von Zeppelin of the R.F.A.

The number of varieties or cultivars obtained by Felix Crousse was about 600 all checked off by Mr. Moore, Director General of The Gardens of New York. To this majestic census we are able to add some more modest cultivars, namely 45 Fuschias counted by M. Besnier (one of which has been previously uniquely cited), about 20 Asters and a few more Delphinium.



We don't want to forget all the hybrid series of Pelargonium-lierre and the delicate colors—series entirely created by Felix Crousse, who, with this creation, made the beauty of the balconies, vases and urns of the Chateau of Versailles. The old Conservator and benefactor of Versailles (actually retired but active at Giverny in order to renovate the estate of Monet) Mr. Van der Kempf wanted for the final ediction of luxury for his book on "Versailles and her Parks," a photograph of one of the urns garnished with Pelargonium roses which adorned the parade and her basis in order to brighten up a page of some flowers amongst so many beautiful interiors and exteriors, some statues, perspectives of trees during autumn, cascades and other marvels. This very beautiful book of art is edited in many languages (it is bought often by tourists) and it resulted in the Pelargonium, creation of Crousse, being represented in the libraries around the world.

I must end on the greenhouses of wild Orchids that Felix Crousse (one of the first in France) presented since 1875 which he developed for the love of art and named for a commercial goal—he shared the cost of transport and the remuneration of explorers with a large house in Brussels.

The Crousse House welcomes everyone and above all the artists, such as Emilie Galle, the Majorelle brothers, Bussiere, Gruber, Prouve (they found support there and encouragement of all types). Since Emile Galle needed rare flowers such as Orchids, it was at Felix Crousses' where she would find them graciously and nowhere else. Louise of Goussaincourt, a painter together with all of these artists found inspiration, friendship at Faubourg Stanislas, and not to be forgotten, the Japanese student, Tacca-Cyma, who came to take the Classes of Waters and Forests. Tacca-Cyma valued his time during the three years he spent with the Crousse family where he was often invited in order to meet young French artists at Faubourg Stanislas.

In order to end this long expose', we must not forget to mention a Crousse invention—this is to say the forcing of Lilies in Autumn in order to have flowers for Christmas. Unfortunately, the Crousse collections no longer have protectors. The establishments to which Felix Crousse would have entrusted them have in turn disappeared:

- 1) The Billiard House at Vezinet for Begonias
- 2) The Doriat House at Lapalisse (Allier) for Peonies

The latter has been attended to with a lot of care by a certain Francios Marionnet, at Mur-de-Sologne, but he does not answer our advances—this is unfortunate!

## HISTORY OF THE STREET OF THE BEGONIAS ITS CREATION, ITS USEFULNESS AND ITS CONSTRAINTS IN 1860

The establishment was situated from the extreme West of Nancy to the following address (a suburb):

Felix CROUSSE: 47 and 49 Faubourg Stanislas — NANCY
 26 —



The establishment was a very good estate situated from one part of the suburb, Stanislas, and included the impass, Joan of Arc, the suburb, St. Jean and the Street of the Temeraire, and was opposite the Greff Brewery. On this estate was constructed a large house with two stories—this large building from 1860 still exists. It is more than 100 years old but it is by no means out of date with its low ceilings (for economy). Built by Louis Crousse, the estate essentially contained flower and vegetable gardens and orchards which reached down to the Street of Grand Verger belonging to the Nanceiens, who were without direct communication with Laxou (the Avenue of France having only been opened much later), and the cemetery of Preville, created by the generosity of an old family who had been made a gift of this area until they learned after the War of 1870 that the town was looking for a place for the tombs of soldiers and for a monument for the dead worthy of them.

After 1900, the horticultural exploitation was at its height winning large successes in France and the foreign lands (there were a few amateurs, enlightened and wealthy, who were on the look-out for the end of catalogs in order to procure very quickly the "innovation" in varieties of all types). Felix Crousse was beginning to sense the closeness and invasion by very numerous embarrassing constructions and projected to break out—(if one can say)—having bought a vast piece of land between the Place-du-Bon-Coin and a large section of Sedillot (a section deserted like the street of the same name).

But the series of numerous griefs and accumulated annoyances caused Felix Crousse to decide to stop his activities from 1904 to 1905 without looking for a good successor, and concentrate on his idea of opening in the middle of his estate an area to create this street baptized by himself ("Street of the Begonias").

Genuinely concerned all of his life, although he had a love of finery, he took care of all the hard labor of laying plans and their viability which compelled him at the time. He made it so that all the estates and establishments in all styles would divide themselves at the cost of the municipalities. The Crousse children having helped this plan work have preserved all the factors—which would seem today bewildering.

In order that this new street beautified this section, which was constructed very quickly to his bliss, Felix Crousse, in order to preserve a certain elegance, innovated and imposed some constraints on the new riverside residences in requiring by contract that there would not be any boutiques nor iron curtains (shutters)! Only beautifully carved doors in wrought wood, and a limited number of stories.

The eight greenhouses of the Establishment have been sold including the Orchid greenhouse. The largest very tall ones containing some Palm trees which prospered have been dismantled and the named Palm trees offered to the town—impossible to imagine otherwise, it seems!



Since the inauguration of the named street, the Municipal Council offered to Felix Crousse their thanks by naming the street after him—for his valor and his universal notoriety—and also for the capacities of forgetting his fellow-man as he preferred to give it a name of flowers (more durable it would seem and more pleasant, these flowers which he had obtained in great number and that he had so liked.

A pleasing anecdote to inject to this description is an old Governor of Martinique, under Louis XIV, a certain Baron Begon, who would have told tales in France of the first tubercles - from where 'begonium' (in the singular according to the custom of (in those days) writing in Latin), and 'begonia' (without an "S" like the "maxima') would have come together with a number of others and would have been shocked at the name of the street. Felix Crousse still wrote "Culture of Begonia"—"Specialist of Begonia." So the town, since it had been obligated to replace the blue plaque next to Raymond-Poincare, had an "S" put at the end but the plaque from the base "Avenue Foch" (more lasting) remains without an "S." This isn't very important, but funny, and brightens a little riddle to the case where some purists would ask questions!

These are the few lines, given to the little girl, of Felix Crousse, who collected all of this documentation, anecdotes and favors, from live voices, and are due to the large memory of the interested who she listened to and attended to for four years.

It is certain that those who weren't there are always wrong ... and that, if this little girl of Felix Crousse would have remained in one place, the oversight would not have been included on the memory and the merits of her grandfather, but if she would not have circulated and been realistic of other continents, she would not have had the possibility of rendering herself countable to the name of "Crousse" and it would still not be known overall in the scientific horticultural world—a lot more than in France, in general, and in Lorraine, in particular.

California is the paradise of flowers, this is well known—what would the actual horticulturists say who are now heating by oil (fuel) if they would have to rise each night to recharge the coal boilers of many greenhouses, especially those of the Orchids?

Nancy, September 13, 1984 On the occasion of the "Holiday of Flowers," which will take place in Nancy, from the 21st to the 30th of Sept.



Our records show that Myron D. Bigger of Topeka, Kansas, and C. D. Pennell of Van Wert, Ohio, both became members of the American Peony Society in 1926.

— 28—



## LONG HILL — BEVERLY (114 acres) SEDGWICK GARDENS, MASSACHUSETTS

Larry Simpson, Superintendent

#### A Brief Profile

Long Hill, summer home of the late Ellery Sedgwick, distinguished author and editor of Boston's famous literary magazine, the *Atlantic Monthly*, from 1909 to 1938, is now a property of The Trustees of Reservations.

Some 114 acres of field, forest and wetland in Beverly and Wenham, Massachusetts, Long Hill will be preserved in perpetuity for conservation purposes. It will officially open to the public on Monday, June 2, 1980. A major feature of the property is its remarkable collection of trees, shrubs and flowers.

Long Hill was given to The Trustees of Reservations by Ellery Sedgwick, Jr., S. Cabot Sedgwick, Henrietta E. S. Lockwood, and Theodora Sedgwick Bond. Endowment for its continuing maintenance was provided by Mrs. Marjorie Sedgwick by bequest. Mrs. Sedgwick died in November, 1978.

The Trustees of Reservations is a charitable corporation founded in 1891 to preserne for the public, "beautiful and historic places" throughout the Commonwealth. Other properties of The Trustees of Reservations on the North Shore include Crane Beach and Castle Hill, Ipswich (1,352 acres); Crane Wildlife Refuge, Ipswich and Essex (705 acres); Misery Island Reservation, Salem Bay (85 acres); Halibut Point, Rockport (12 acres); and Mount Ann Park, Gloucester (87 acres).

The gardens at Long Hill were originally created by Mrs. Mable Cabot Sedgwick who purchased the property in 1916 as a summer home for her family. After her death in 1937, they were further developed and extended by Mrs. Marjorie Sedgwick. Today, the gardens provide enjoyment for as many as 1,500 visitors each year and are widely admired by horticulturists throughout the region. Long Hill offers delightful views of the surrounding countryside as well, including Sagamore Hill where English explorer Bartholomew Gosnold reported that he saw "vegetable gardens" growing in 1602.

The primary structure at Long Hill is a fine reproduction of a Charleston, South Carolina house of the early 1800's. Its story is fascinating. Visiting Charleston in 1916, Mr. Sedgwick discovered the Isaac Ball House built in 1802. Its interior woodwork was magnificent—beautifully carved mantels, cornices, dados and doorways, but the building itself was a derelict and was scheduled to be renovated as a dormitory for railroad workers. Mr. Sedgwick contacted the president of the railways, purchased the carvings and other architectural details and shipped them to Boston by schooner. With



Philip Richardson as architect, construction of the house at Long Hill began in 1918. Bricks used in the building came from an early mill in Ipswich.

Other structures at Long Hill include a 19th century farmhouse and a caretaker's cottage. The gateway to the property is located on Essex Street. Long Hill is Headquarters of the Northeast Management Region of The Trustees of Reservations.

The gardens at Long Hill will be continued with the advice and assistance of the North Shore Garden Club. The plant collection at Long Hill was first begun in 1925 by Mrs. Mabel Cabot Sedgwick, an avid gardener herself, and author, in 1907, of *The Garden Month by Month*. Initially, the landscape included lawns, hedges, weeping cheeries and mountain laurel, and a large collection of bulbs, snowdrops, scillas and chionodoxas. Lilacs, roses and azaleas were planted later.

After Mrs. Mabel Sedgwick's death, Mrs. Marjorie Sedgwick added koelreuterias, oxydendrums, sophora and autumn foliage, such as Japanese maple, to the collection to prolong the flowering season through summer and fall. Forty crab apples were planted along the lower drive. Yew hedges were set at the front door. Throughout the later development of the gardens, Mrs. Sedgwick worked closely with the Arnold Arboretum until today the plant collection contains some 400 different species. Thanks to Mrs. Sedgwick, whose skill as a horticulturist was widely admired and respected, each is identified and catalogued with its scientific name.

Life at Long Hill was always lively as Mrs. Marjorie Sedgwick reports: "Four children grew up in the house and literary friends and contributors of their father's made for varied and interesting company." Mr. Sedgwick's distinguished literary career ended with his death in 1959. He was editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* for 29 years and author as well of *Atlantic Harvest* and *The Happy Profession*.

The history of the Sedgwick family stretches far back into early America. Its members include Judge Theodore Sedgwick of New York and Stockbridge, Massachusetts, who served as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives during the second term of President George Washington; Ann Douglas Sedgwick who in the mid-nineteenth century was one of America's first well-known women authors, and Henry Sedgwick, brother of Ellery Sedgwick, and author, in the early part of this century, of histories of France and Italy.

Chief administration for the property is Wayne N. Mitton, Supervisor of The Trustees of Reservations Northeast Management Region. Mr. Mitton, his wife, Linda, and daughter, Jennifer, occupy the farmhouse at Long Hill. Larry J. Simpson is Superintendent and lives in the cottage. Robert Murray is the Assistant Superintendent.



## TREE PEONIES AND SPECIES PEONIES IN THE GARDEN

**Argosy** Colchis Seedling Denman Ross Seedling Felicity Seedling Hakuo Jishi, ("King of White Lions") Hana Daigin, ("Minister of Flowers'') Hatsu Hinode Hira No Yuki, ("Mountain of Sunlit Snow'') Howsan, ("Mountain Treasure") Lady Glencora Seedling Okina Jishi, ("Aged Lion") Renown Shintenchi, ("Between Heaven and Earth") Tama Fuyo, ("Jewelled Lotus") Ubatama

Chinese Dragon Companion of Serenity Edith Evans Seedling Gessekai, ("Moonworld") Haku Raku Ten, ("Poet of China'') Hana Kisoi Harry McKean's Red Seedling Hino de Sekai, ("World of the Rising Sun") Hope-hybrid herbaceous Kinkaden Moutan x Lutea Seedling Reine Elizabeth Rimpo Shujakumon Silver Sails Thunderbolt

#### **SPECIES**

P. emodi P. peregrina P. mlokoseiwitzii

P. tenuifolia

P. wittmannianaP. suffruticosa (Dr. Joseph Rock's Var.)

#### AN APPRECIATION OF THE PEONY

By W. F. Christman

Nature has been lavish indeed in the almost limitless number of beautiful creations that are to be seen on every hand, and God, in His infinite wisdom, has made it possible for us all to possess a love for the beautiful. True, our tastes may be very dissimilar and what might be termed beautiful by one might be deemed only passing by another. It is well that we have these diversified tastes to give expression to our favorite flowers and pastimes. In the field of floriculture, however, there seems to be a more general unification of opinion along this line. We have the rose enthusiast who places his flower on the highest pedestal of beauty, and surely it enjoys an enviable reputation, and rightly so. Some feel that the Iris is the most lovely flower imaginable, and when one has had an opportunity to see some of the beautiful creations of the species, it cannot be denied that they have good grounds for their contentions. The gladiolus of the present day has a host of admirers and it must be admitted that it is one of the most beautiful



flowers grown, comprising, as it does, the widest latitude in coloring and variation in form; lacking only fragrance to place it in a class by itself. Others can see more beauty in the dahlia than any other flower that grows, and with the many beautiful creations of the modern dahlia, their enthusiasm must be given due credence. The peony enthusiast feels that his chosen flower is the acme of perfection with its many commendable qualities, and thus we might continue to laud the beauties of the different flowers and find worthy adherents in each class. But while we might admire them all, we generally give more attention to certain flowers than others.

Some of the most beautiful flowers require the greatest amount of care, and when it is not possible, or perhaps practical, to devote this attention, we most naturally choose the flower that will give us the greatest amount of satisfaction with the minimum amount of effort expended to produce results.

Wonderful strides have been made during the past few years in floriculture, and it would seem that the zenith of perfection had been reached, but this thought is being constantly dispelled by the appearance of some new creation displacing all rivals for the coveted position of queen of them all.

In the Northwest, where rigorous winters are experienced and where the selection of hardy plants is imperative, there can be found no more desirable flower than the peony. Its extreme hardiness is unquestioned, which, at once, finds popular favor and commendation; its bold magnificence, when in bloom, carries us with a new sympathy into nature; enables us to more fully comprehend how lavishly beauty can be expressed; encourages dormant power of observation; creates within us noble desires and aspirations, and opens up possibilities for research and study that are pleasing in the highest degree.

How wonderful and beautiful nature has expressed herself in the bloom of a peony; how majestic and dignified is her stately carriage; how harmonious and pleasing is the formation of her bloom; how etherally delicate and lovely is the substance of her petals; how entrancing and refined is the perfume wafted upon the breezes.

To behold a field of Peonies in bloom the first time, is to be enthralled and stupified in amazement and wonder. A sea of exquisite beauty greets the eye and a delicate perfume fills the nostrils. Exclamations of surprise cannot be suppressed; a longing for acquisition becomes dominant in our thoughts, and if we have entertained any prejudice against the peony, it is quickly dispelled.

It has been my good fortune to conduct many through such experiences, and I have yet to find a single person who has not been deeply impressed, and nearly all express their sincere admiration for this stately queen of beauty.



As I recall my boyhood days in the good old Buckeye State, I can well recollect that during the latter part of May there would be ushered in a grand display of peonies that would be on dress parade Memorial Day. These, of course, were the old Officianalis varieties of red, white and pink; lacking in fragrance of the later originations but possessing beauty to attract the passerby. These old-time favorites are still admired on account of their earliness of bloom, but have been superseded by scores of far more beautiful originations, that were undreamed of at that time.

With the steady march of progress, a transformation in floriculture has been wrought that has not been exceeded in any line of endeavor.

I have often been asked the question: "What caused you to acquire such a fondness for the Peony?" I can only reply that it was the enthusiasm created in my boyhood days when I would behold each spring the gorgeous "Piney" in all its splendor. What utter neglect it suffered in its sod-bound environment; how the winter storms would lash with fury the dead foliage that had been resplendevt in its robes of green throughout the summer and fall months; still, with the first breath of spring, it would arouse from its winter's sleep, and the struggle for existence would soon be manifested by the tender shoots as they peeped out once more to resume their conquest and to prove that hardiness and vigor were possessed to the fullest extent.

These commendable attributes influenced me more than any one thing to start a collection of peonies. This collection has grown until it now comprises the best peonies to be secured, and as years pass and new ones of merit appear, they, too, will be added, for my admiration for the flower has never ceased; in fact, it has been greatly strengthened with the passing of years.

The satisfaction of sharing the admiration of others, when you acquaint them with the individual characteristics of the different varieties, and present them with bloom that their impressions may be passed on to others, is a source of great delight; to dispense cultural directions to the beginner and give a practical demonstration of same, affords added pleasure; to assist in every way possible the solving of their problems as to what varieties to select, what location they should occupy to give the best results from a landscape point of view as well as artistic effect, proves continued satisfaction. In this manner, our interest increases, and our admiration for our chosen flower progresses without abatement.

The love we acquire for the peony broadens our vision for the beautiful, and it is rare indeed to find the peony admirer satisfied with this flower alone.

The iris, with its delicate colorings and artistic poise, its hardiness



and drouth-resisting qualities, the stately Delphinium, the royal Lily, the dainty Cypsophila, and many other charming perennials, all find a hearty welcome in our garden.

The number of nurserymen who are growing the Peony for commercial purposes, bears mute evidence of its increasing popularity. This popularity has been steadily gaining ground, due chiefly to the satisfactory performance of the flower under most adverse conditions, and to the activities of the various flower societies who are championing its cause.

After its blossoms have gone, leaving an indelible impression of loveliness on our minds, there still remains beauty in the stately plant, that can be easily pruned to any desirable shape to conform with the surroundings. The deep, rich green of the foliage is retained until heavy frosts are experienced. To grow the Peony is to be enamored with its possibilities; to know it, is to find these possibilities fully expressed. Give it the same attention you would bestow upon any other of your favorite flowers, and most satisfactory results will be reflected from this treatment. Let it suffer neglect that would mean total failure to most perennials and you will still get results that will well repay you. Why, then, should we countenance neglect when such admirable results can be accomplished with but little care?

Plant peonies more generously and you will experience a delight that will prove a continued pleasure with the passing of years, and materially strengthen your love for the beautiful, so admirably expressed in the bloom of a peony.

NOTE: Above article appeared in March, 1922, number of the Flower Grower—Editor.

#### MY CLAY COURT PEONY GARDEN

James Mason, Chicago, Illinois—Bulletin #123

Our neighbors think the peonies in our patch terrific, but we are in Chicago. It is when we get into competition with some of the past-presidents that we run into good natured kidding.

At the Cleveland show, one of these past-presidents said: "Mason, how do you stunt 'em like that?" I just grinned. The chances are that spectators look at specimens from my garden and say: "That looks like those we grow."

The wise peony grower, especially in a city, sprays his foliage to protect the flowers from thrips. The spraying should be started about the time he normally disbuds the plants, approximately one month before the first buds start to open. Three sprayings ten days apart should reduce the thrips population to a minimum, while aiding the late bloomers to open. The work is not too much when results are considered.



Last spring I took some choice specimens to a business friend who remarked: "Your peonies do not have thrips on them." I explained about my spraying program. As a matter of fact I do not confine this spray program to peonies, but the whole garden, even the grape vines, squash, sweet peas, gladiolus, irises, etc. The ant population is reduced too, but never eliminated. Since the ants do no harm to plant or flower and no noticeable good, I am indifferent to them. There is one type of ant which is untouched by spray. The ants are smarter than you and because they can tell far in advance if a bud will produce a flower, they do not visit dud buds.

Aside from the treatment for thrips, I have only one absolute rule: in the fall the dead tops must be removed and burned. A couple of years ago I bought a flame thrower which I now use after the tops are brown and dry and while the ground is frozen. The hot flame will remove the foliage and stems to the ground level. I have no trouble at any time with botrytis in my patch. This may be due in part to the fact that the gravel beneath my top soil goes down four or five feet, providing wonderful drainage at all times.

Those of you who live as far north as Faribault, Minnesota, or Sheboygan, Wisconsin, may not have trouble with nematodes, may not know what they are or what they do. They produce swellings on the small roots which cause the plant to waste its energy producing more roots, great quantities of roots. Production of flowers is reduced. Sometimes the plant quits producing flowers.

The top layer of my garden is heavy soil because the plot was a clay tennis court, abandoned twenty years ago. Whenever I plant a peony I put it in heavy surroundings. The fact is I give the peony plant an atmosphere of solid clay in a hole two feet wide and two spades deep. It takes my peonies longer to reach maturity, perhaps one extra year, but I get results for many years because the clay discourages nematodes.

When I plant, I measure very carefully to be sure that the eyes are not more than two inches deep.

So far you have heard all the troubles I have faced and, Eureka, they have been solved. How wonderful to know that common clay, a flame thrower, and a four gallon sprayer have done the trick! For evidence of success, I have the Peony Shows, where I have won many ribbons, even purple rosettes in Courts of Honor. This is not bragging, just assuring every home gardener that success with peonies is easy.

There isn't a tree within fifty feet of my peony patch. My garden hose is three hundred feet long and it reaches every plant when necessary. It soaks the ground thoroughly if and when rain fails to do so. No hard and fast rule is followed about watering. Just do the job well when you think you should, especially just prior to blooming and during the blooming season.

In some years, when peonies bloom, it is always a good bet in



Chicago, that Nature's great watering system will operate at its greatest efficiency. I can remember seasons when this was not the case. There have been times when the skies were overcast throughout the blooming season and only gentle rains fell, unaccompanied by winds. Then we see the pink peonies at their exquisite best. Those rich pink tones are something you want to share with your friends.

Many commercial plantings in the midwest area have one thing in common, their soil turns up brown when plowed. To me this is evidence that the men who specialize in producing peony roots of quality, were encouraged to do so by their own natural success. They happened to own land which gave superb results when peonies were planted. The gardener just kept on growing peonies and sharing them with others until his business was big and mildly profitable.

You can have success as an amateur peony grower, no matter with what conditions you start, provided you can plant in full sun, and are willing to put your heart and soul into your task. When I started my work on the abandoned tennis court, I had to remove a cottonwood tree about thirty feet tall which had grown in the center of the court. Weeds of many kinds, short and tall, and thick sod, had to be dealt with. My next door neighbor scoffed at the idea of starting a garden on a tennis court and predicted complete failure. When I planted my vegetables (except carrots), I used Vigoro generously. Bumper crops of lettuce and sweet corn encouraged me. Thorough soaking at judicious times with the garden hose, have contributed to my success.

In a single season that corn would be fed three times with Vigoro in a complete circle around each plant. I am sure the crops cost more than I would have invested for the same number of ears from a vegetable stand, but our corn was always fresh when we ate it and awfully good. The neighbors got some of it, particularly the one who had been skeptical.

There are now more than two hundred peony plants out there and about the same number of iris clumps. The peony rows are three feet apart and in each row there are fourteen peony plants and thirteen iris clumps, alternating. The iris clumps must be reduced occasionally to give the peonies room to expand. Between the rows I am adding red tulips, sort of naturalized. When red tulips and irises bloom together, the color effect is nothing short of breath-taking. A tall late variety of red tulip should be used with irises. Some years the iris garden is at its peak with early red peonies starting to bloom and the tall red tulips still around. When that happens the visitors are numerous and we get little work done because we just walk and walk through the patch, absorbing every charming vista. Then the visitors are so enthralled that they forget to tell me about their own gardens. That, I believe, is the highest tribute a visitor can pay me.

After ten years of experience, I am beginning to add singles and



Japs because their garden value is great when they bloom. They stand up well in rain and wind.

A new color clarity is supplied by some of the hybrid herbaceous peonies from Auten, Glasscock and Saunders. Salmon pink is one of the new shades. Another is orange pink or light red-orange. The deep red hybrids have a charm which is irresistible. I refer to John Harvard, Veritas and Illini Belle.



#### **MULCHING FOR WINTER PROTECTION**

The practice of mulching is very important where there is danger of heaving during the winter months. All new plantings should have a light mulch of straw, wild hay, or some coarse material, until the plants become firmly set. A well drained location is not subject to heaving like a poorly drained section. Avoid the latter condition at all times. Most heaving is done in early spring by alternate thawing and freezing.

\* \* \* \* \*

Cultivation should begin as early in the spring as the ground can be worked. Keep well away from the crowns of the plants, to avoid breaking the new shoots before they appear above the ground. It should be often enough to keep the weeds down and the ground well aerated. To prevent a crust forming, the ground should be broken after every hard rain. Cultivation should never be deep enough to damage the roots. Two or three inches is enough near the plants. It may be deeper in the centers between the plants.

\* \* \* \* \* \*

The peony plant consists of a crown underground from which all growth springs, the roots growing downward and outward underground and the stems upward above ground. In some species the roots taper to a point while in others they grow like sweet potatoes, being joined to the crown by a small stem. The stem-buds or "eyes," as they are called, are formed soon after the blooming season, at the base of the stems. They are the beginning of the next year's growth and are covered with a sharp pointed sheath which splits open when it gets above ground in the early spring, after which the stem grows upward and the leaves gradually unfold from a tight head and the flowers form at its top. These stems may be green, pink, red or a combination. Each variety has its distinctive stem and foliage color, which is of value in the spring landscape. They gradually turn green, though the red may persist for a long time. The leaves are of many shapes from the grass-like foliage of the tenuifolia to the broad leaves of the macrophylla group. They are always some shade of green.



#### AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 13-14-15, 1986 Information and schedule of events, March Bulletin

#### PEONIES FOR THE SOUTH

by Pope M. Long, Cordova, Ala., June 1928

Peonies certainly grow nicely as far south as Atlanta, Ga., and Birmingham, Ala., and possibly as far south as Montgomery, Ala., but I have never seen any grown there. My home is the same in latitude as Birmingham. I have successfully grown peonies for 25 years. I never plant the late full rose type as they rarely do well over a period of years. The buds often refuse to open. The semi-rose type, also the bomb and crown type, in the early and mid-season bloomers are more reliable. I plant so that the buds are barely covered with earth. I know of no better fertilizer than a 50-50 mixture of bonemeal and wood ashes. The best soil is a clay or a loam with a clay foundation either red or yellow.

I have tested out hundreds of varieties and while it is hard to limit myself I know that the following are good for the South:

KELWAY'S GLORIOUS. All Kelway varieties seem to just suit the South.

FESTIVA MAXIMA. Old but nothing better for general planting.

PRIMEVERE. The best yellow and white. A most lovely peony.

WALTER FAXON. A wonderful pink. I rate it as the best peony of American originations. Fine bloomer, too.

FELIX CROUSSE is equally as good but not as strong in growth.

MIKADO. All southern gardens should include several Japanese as they are the best bloomers of all. MIKADO is a fine red. I have counted 100 perfect blooms upon one extra large clump. KING OF ENGLAND is just as good but no better, as they are almost identical.

FUYAJO. A man's peony of deep crimson. Most spectacular peony I have in my garden. It simply will not be ignored.

ISANI GIDUI. Nothing superior in a white Japanese.

The best blossom in my garden in 1927 was from MARTHA BULLOCH.

Peonies recommended for the south- early varieties:

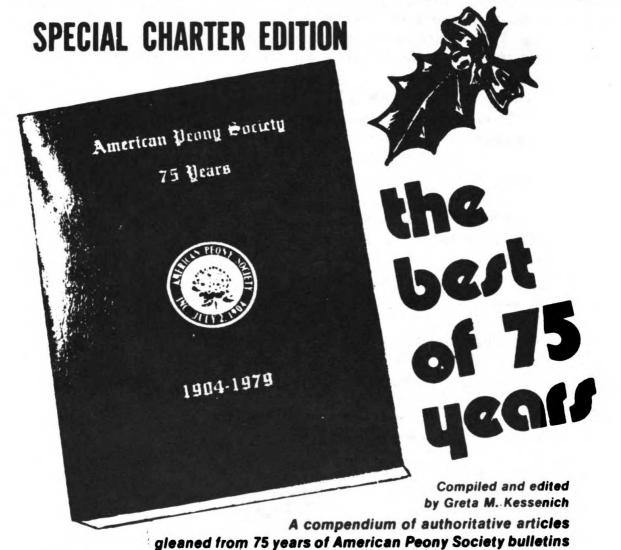
Pico, Sea Shell, Sparkling Star, Bu-te, Westerner, Gay Paree, White Cap, Miss America, Mons Jules Elie, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Edulis Supreme.

Hybrids—Red Charm, Lovely Rose, Cytherea, Firelight.

Tree Peonies—all varieties.







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Bylines such as Saunders, Auten, Peyton, Wister, Gayle appear throughout supported by such contemporaries as Krekler, Wild, Hollingsworth, Lienau, Karrels and scores of others . . . all ex-

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It will be good news to the nurseryman that people are going peony mad. It was high time they did, too! We are, of course, all peony mad; at least all the world thinks us so, because we have known something of the charm and beauty of the flower while others have been blind to them. What a day would dawn for the growers if we should drift into a peony mania like the tulip mania that struck the Dutch in the seventeenth century? How would some of our friends feel, I wonder, if some fine morning they should be offered for a precious root of Le Cygne, the inventory of goods once swapped in Holland for a single tulip bulb of the variety. Viceroy, to wit: Two lasts of wheat. four lasts of rye, four fat oxen, eight fat swine, twelve fat sheep, two hogsheads of wine, four tons of beer, two tons of butter, one thousand pounds of cheese, a complete bed, a suit of clothes and a silver drinking cup? Bulletin of Peony News A. P. Saunders, Secretary No. 2

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