



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



March 1995 — NO. 293

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

I want to share some thoughts on the peonies offered for Spring sales by garden stores and mail order nurseries.

"It's no trouble at all to get passionate about starting some peonies when it's Spring," commented a recent caller [one who is having poor results], "but in the Fall I have a hard time getting excited about that kind of thing." More experienced gardeners (Peony Society members, for example) realize that peonies have the same growth cycle as cool-season bulbs, such as tulips and daffodils. Admittedly, we don't plant peonies for a flower display the following Spring. However, we do want to give them the the best chance to survive. Like bulbs, peonies are naturally dormant in Autumn, can be handled with minimum stress, and have some time to "settle in" to the new site before shoot growth emerges above ground in early Spring. However, in the general nursery trade, peony plants are typically featured in Spring. How come?

The answer, of course, derives both from demand and supply. It is no surprise to readers of this *Bulletin* that Spring is when customers for ornamental plants are ready to buy in the greatest numbers. Also, a substantial portion of Spring-offered peonies come from overseas. The exigencies and requirements of entry to the U.S. (clearing them through health inspection) makes it impossible to have them available for Autumn planting.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, I do have some personal experience with Spring-acquired peony plants, and some general knowledge about their production. Some of the cultivars (cultivated variety names) are unique, often historic kinds, and kinds rarely offered by peony specialists, for reasons touched upon below. If for no other reason, one can easily become interested.

One should remember that these plants are produced to sell for lower prices. Expect small divisions. Expect a share of wrong names, not necessarily meaning fraudulent tagging. (I can certify, all good intentions to the contrary, the rogue plants will be there.) Growers who wholesale peony plants at low-end prices have a great deal of competition for personal effort at peony flowering time, when roguing needs to be done. Another consideration is that the named cultivars which can be found in the large quantities wanted for the Spring trade, are the legacy of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century cutflower fields—originally selected for field performance and florist requirements, not primarily chosen for displaying their flowers out-of-doors.

Spring planting can be successful with adequate care and smaller plants which survive sometimes take an extra year to reach typical flowering. Larger divisions, potted in generous-sized containers in Autumn (wintered with appropriate protection) are quite successful, but not competitively-priced against what goes for potted peonies in most garden stores!

Best wishes to all for a great gardening season.

Don Hollingsworth

CONVENTION 1995

Greta Kessenich

It was late in the year (1994) when Chris Laning mailed his last issue of *Paeonia*. Both he and Lois have published this hybridist newsletter for over twenty years. In addition to this work, they have sent out thousands of peony seed to Society members asking for them, which is no small task. This seed program is one of the features of the American Peony Society. Through all of these years, he has been quietly making select crosses, gathering seed pods, planting seed, dividing seedlings, and selecting varieties, and now, this year, he will see the fruition of his work. He has written that many exciting will bloom.

We have not had the opportunity to thank Lois and Chris for the work they have done, and the service they have rendered to the entire Society. They have asked all, both verbally and with a written invitation, to visit their garden, in the past. With this in mind, it was decided that the Convention must be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, so arrangements were made accordingly. It is time to say thank you [and with deep appreciation] for all the past work and services. Now we all will see their very beautiful garden.

Leila Bradfield, a very talented member of the Society, owns and operates the most beautiful landscaped 'Fertile Crescent Nursery.' She has her own profession, and while active in other affairs she also cares for her own nursery business: she is interested in Rock Gardens, and she sells a variety of plants suitable. She also grows and sells peonies, hostas, daylilies, and all other perennials that are so popular today. She is most active in the American Peony Society, a judge of peonies, a very talented floral designer, a member of the Board of Directors, and Vice President. To visit her nursery will be a pleasure awaiting you. We express our thanks to Leila, to Lois and to Chris for making this Convention such a memorable one, as we will see peonies in the gardens as well as displayed in the show room.

Chris will display some of his creations in the show room, also, as an added feature.

Don Hollingsworth will bring his new varieties, as well as other exhibition peonies for viewing, from his nursery in Maryville, Missouri. It has been impossible to see so many flowers of tomorrow in one place, until this Convention.

To achieve new colors and plant habit, takes years of patience and work. The beautiful **Pink Hawaiian Coral** on the cover of this *Bulletin* has taken years of work by Roy Klehm. This peony is one of the great corals of the soft color for the garden of the present and in the future.

Other hybridists that we know have given us magnificent flowers for the immediate present and future, such as the flowers coming

from the nursery of Myron Bigger of Topeka, Kansas. Most beautiful and outstanding peonies have been registered by Bob Tischler, of the Tischler Peony Garden, Faribault, Minnesota. Bill Krekler spent all his life working with peonies and now they are growing in the Klehm Nursery. Every year we see them on the show table and they are outstanding, always with a blue ribbon attached. Roy Klehm continues to produce the most glamorous varieties with so many new flowers that excel.

Dr. David Reath, a master in the field of hybridizing of our time, produces colors of exceptional beauty in both the tree and hybrid peony. Nassos Daphnis has given the peony world the greatest in the field, in the advancement of the tree peony. Steve Varner of Illinois has introduced some of the best in peonies. He has been hybridizing for years. His phenomenal work shows in his achievement with the cross of **Red Charm**.

There are other men and women interested and working continually, and will produce flowers of the future.

We would like to see you in Kalamazoo, and do bring some of your peonies from your garden. The peonies we all have in our gardens now were given to us by great and knowledgeable hybridizers of the past, and these peonies will remain with us.

A special invitation to all of our Canadian members to come to this meeting and exhibition, and to bring their peonies. They grow them big and beautiful!

LODGING

RADISSON — Downtown Kalamazoo, 100 W. Michigan Avenue; (Phone 616/343-3333).

Ask for special rate, \$75 (2 persons).

STUART AVENUE INN BED & BREAKFAST — 229 Stuart Ave. (off W. Main); (616/342-0230).

13 rooms, \$50 to \$75 (2 persons).

KALAMAZOO HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST, 447 W. South St. (downtown); (Phone 616/343-5426).

7 rooms, \$65 (2 persons).

BUDGETEL INN, 2203 S. 11th St.; (616/372-7999 or 1-800/428-3438).

\$46 (2 persons)

NOTE: THERE IS AN ART SHOW IN KALAMAZOO THE SAME WEEKEND AS THE PEONY SHOW, SO PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY.

(Please patronize the above, as very special arrangements were made, and for early reservations!)

DIRECTIONS

Arriving from east or west, I-94, exit #74 N. to U.S. 131, then exit #38 E. Turn east to Maple Hill Mall (about 1/2 mile).

Arriving from north or south, U.S. 131, exit #38, go east to Maple Hill Mall (about 1/2 mile).

Radisson is in center of city. Go east from Mall on West Main, about 2-3 miles.

Bed and Breakfast Inns are near downtown.

Budgetel—exit U.S. 131 at Stadium Drive, #36 West.

Ladies Library Assn. (Banquet)—333 S. Park Street, behind Civic Theatre which borders Bronson Park downtown.

Leila Bradfield's garden—Go west from Mall on U.S. 43 (West Main St.) to 8th St. Turn left (south), go about 3 miles to ML Avenue, turn right for about 2 miles, over RR tracks, turn right at 2nd drive (thru gate).

MAP CODE:

1. Maple Hill Mall
2. Radisson
3. Budgetel
4. Chris' "Unks" garden and Miller's garden
5. Chris' "farm" garden



**THE 92ND ANNUAL MEETING
90TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION
OF
THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
Maple Hill Mall
5150 W. Main
Kalamazoo, Michigan
June 2, 3, 4, 1995
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Friday, June 2

Flowers may be stored in the Community Room at Maple Hill Mall (air conditioned)

Saturday, June 3

7:00 - 11:00 a.m. — Set up and enter exhibits

11:00 a.m. — Judging begins. Lunch on your own—restaurants in Mall

1:00 p.m. — Open to public

2:00-3:00 p.m. — Seminar—"Integrated Biological Cybernetics re: Peonies"

"Praxis"—Samuel DeFasio and Patrick McKown

3:30-5:30 p.m.—Board Meeting at home of Leila Bradfield

6:30 Punch, 7:00 p.m.—Banquet at Ladies' Library Association, 333 S. Park St.

9:00 p.m.—Annual Meeting following Banquet; root auction

Sunday, June 4

Garden tours:

9:00-10:30 a.m.—Chris Laning's garden at "Unks," West F Ave., and garden of Ron and Anna Mae Miller, 6065 N. 16th

10:30-11:30 a.m.—Chris Laning's garden at the "farm," corner of N. 6th St. and G Avenue

12:00-1:00 p.m.—Leila Bradfield's gardens, 8110 W. ML Ave.

1:00 p.m.—Luncheon at Bradfield's

Cost of the Banquet is \$15 per person. Please send reservations and payment before May 26 to Lois Laning, 553 West F Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49004, with checks made out to Lois Laning.

NOTE: Flowers must be picked up before 5 p.m. on Sunday as Mall closes at 5.

RULES FOR SPECIMEN EXHIBITS

1. All entries must be completed and in place by 11:30 a.m. on opening day.
2. All entries must have been grown by exhibitors.
3. Entry tags supplied by the Society must be filled out completely as to class, variety, and name and address of exhibitor. In addition, each variety must be identified with a small wood tag with the variety name legibly printed thereon. Entry tags may be obtained in advance from the secretary of the American Peony Society. The exhibitor or his agent shall be responsible for proper completion of the entry tags.
4. Stems should be approximately 12" long (tree peonies excepted.)
5. Exhibitors are limited to one entry each in classes 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 201, and 301. In all other classes up to two entries of each variety are permitted; however, any number of different varieties may be entered.
6. The show committee may combine or divide classes if the number of entries warrants it.
7. Correct varietal labeling is mandatory in the Open and the Amateur classes. It is recommended in the Novice classes, but no entry shall be disqualified for failure to identify.
8. Standard containers will be furnished by the show committee and must be in all classes.
9. The American Peony Society Handbook will govern bloom types and color.
10. Anemone types such as Gay Paree shall be shown as Japanese.
11. Awards need not be given to unworthy exhibits.
12. Flowers are to remain as placed on the show tables by the exhibitor, moved only when necessary, and then the exhibits must be kept in the same position.
13. The decision of the judges is final—NOTE: See Page 14. Division VI—COURT OF HONOR CANDIDATE CLASS
14. The best seedling judged by the seedling committee will be displayed on the Court of Honor.

When the Peonies Bloom

May and June are months to select your peonies for fall planting.

DIVISION 1. Open to all Exhibitors.

- Class**
- 101 American Peony Society Award**
Twenty-five varieties, any color or type.
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 102 American Peony Society Award**
Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 103 American Peony Society Award**
Ten varieties, herbaceous hybrid only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 104 American Peony Society Award**
Ten varieties, Tree peonies only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 105 Five varieties, Japanese Type lactiflora only, any color**
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 106 Five varieties, single type lactiflora only, any color**
One bloom each in separate containers.

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Class | 117 Semi-double red |
| 110 Double white | 118 Bomb any color |
| 111 Double blush | 119 Japanese white or blush |
| 112 Double light pink | 120 Japanese pink |
| 113 Double dark pink | 121 Japanese red |
| 114 Double red | 122 Single white or blush |
| 115 Semi-double white or blush | 123 Single pink |
| 116 Semi-double pink | 124 Single red |

One Bloom Lactiflora Only

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Class | 138 Bomb white or blush |
| 130 Double white | 139 Bomb pink |
| 131 Double blush | 140 Bomb red |
| 132 Double light pink | 141 Japanese white or blush |
| 133 Double dark pink | 142 Japanese pink |
| 134 Double red | 143 Japanese red |
| 135 Semi-double white or blush | 144 Single white or blush |
| 136 Semi-double pink | 145 Single pink |
| 137 Semi-double red | 146 Single red |

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

Class

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------|------------------------|
| 150 | Double or semi-double white, blush or yellow | | |
| 151 | Double or semi-double coral | 155 | Single yellow |
| 152 | Double or semi-double pink | 156 | Single white or blush |
| 153 | Double or semi-double red | 157 | Single coral |
| | | 158 | Single pink |
| 154 | Japanese, any color | 159 | Single red |
| | | 159A | Itoh, hybrid any color |

One bloom Herbaceous Hybrid or Species

Class

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| 160 | Double or semi-double yellow | | |
| 161 | Double or semi-double white or blush | | |
| 162 | Double or semi-double coral | | |
| 163 | Double or semi-double pink | | |
| 164 | Double or semi-double red | | |
| 165 | Japanese, any color | | |
| 166 | Single yellow | 169 | Single pink |
| 167 | Single white or blush | 169A. | Single red |
| 168 | Single coral | 169B. | Itoh hybrid, any color |

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

Class

- | | | | |
|------|--|------------------|-------------|
| 170a | Japanese (Moutan) White, Single | | |
| | 170b semi-double | 170c | double |
| 171a | Japanese (Moutan) Pink, Single | | |
| | 171b semi-double | 171c | double |
| 172a | Japanese (Moutan) Red, single | | |
| | 172b semi-double | 172c | double |
| 173a | Japanese (Moutan) Violet single
(Really purple lavenders) | 173b semi-double | 173c double |
| 174a | Japanese (Moutan) Maroon single | | |
| | 174b semi-double | 174c | double |
| 175a | Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single | | |
| | 175b semi-double | 175c | double |
| 176a | Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single | | |
| | 176b semi-double | 176c | double |
| 177a | Lutea Hybrid, blend, single | | |
| | 177b semi-double | 177c | double |
| 178a | Lutea Hybrid, pink, single | | |
| | 178b semi-double | 178c | double |
| 179a | Lutea Hybrid, red, single | | |
| | 179b semi-double | 179c | double |
| 180a | Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single | | |
| | 180b semi-double | 180c | double |

One bloom tree peony only.

Class

185a	Japanese (Moutan) white, single	185b	semi-double	185c	double
186a	Japanese (Moutan) pink, single	186b	semi-double	186c	double
187a	Japanese (Moutan) red, single	187b	semi-double	187c	double
188a	Japanese (Moutan) violet, single	188b	semi-double	188c	double
189a	Japanese (Moutan) maroon, single	189b	semi-double	189c	double
190a	Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single	190b	semi-double	190c	double
191a	Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single	191b	semi-double	191c	double
192a	Lutea Hybrid, blend, single	192b	semi-double	192c	double
193a	Lutea Hybrid, pink, single	193b	semi-double	193c	double
194a	Lutea Hybrid, red, single	194b	semi-double	194c	double
195a	Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single	195b	semi-double	195c	double
196c	European tree peony				

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

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

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

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

One bloom lactiflora unless stated otherwise.

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

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

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

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

Class 305 Double any color

306 Semi-double, any color

308 Single, any color

307 Japanese, any color

309 Hybrid, any color

One bloom lactiflora, unless otherwise stated, in one container.

Class 315 Double white or blush

316 Double pink

320 Japanese any color

317 Double red

321 Single any color

318 Semi-double any color

322 Hybrid any color

319 Bomb any color

323 Tree any color

DIVISION IV: Seedlings and New Varieties.

Class 401 Seedlings.

Three blooms, one variety in one container, not currently introduced.

Variety must have been divided at least once.

Must be shown under name or seedling number.

402 New Varieties:

Three blooms, one variety in one container. Limited to varieties named and registered with the American Peony Society and introduced no earlier than five years prior to show date.

Awards given in the two preceding classes may be Certificates of Merit or Honorable Mention at the discretion of the judges, but no ribbon awards. Varieties having won either award in previous competition may not be shown again in that class, except that varieties shown in class 401 may be shown again in class 402 regardless of awards.

403 Seedlings:

One bloom. This class is for display only.

No awards will be given and any seedling entered in class 401 is ineligible.

DIVISION V: Special Entries.

Class 501 Commercial Exhibit.

Collection by commercial grower of 25 to 50 varieties in separate containers. A placard approximately 9" x 14" may be furnished by the exhibitor to identify his display.

502 Visitor from greatest distance.

Five different varieties any type. Mileage verified on entry tag.

503 Multiple bloom.

Single stalk not disbudded. Must show at least three open blooms.

Class 504 North Dakota Memorial Award

Five full doubles, named varieties, any color.

One bloom each separate container.

One entry per family.

This class not considered for Class VI.

DIVISION VI: Court of Honor Candidate Class

Court of Honor blooms will be selected from this Division.

Exhibitors are urged to enter their best bloom and are limited to two in each class.

Judges may select two blooms from the floor in addition to placements, for consideration of Grand Champion on the Court of Honor.

One bloom Lactiflora

Class 601 Double white

602 Double blush

603 Double light pink

604 Double dark pink

605 Double red

606 Bomb any color

607 Semi-double any color

608 Japanese any color

609 Single any color

One bloom Hybrid or Species

Class 610 Double any color

611 Semi-double any color

612 Single any color

613 Japanese any color

One bloom Tree

Class 614 Lutea any type or color

615 European any type or color

616 Japanese any type or color

Class 617 One bloom Itoh Hybrid any color.

Grand Champion

The best flower in the show will be selected from all named entries in the show.

DIVISION VII — ARTISTIC CLASSES

THEME: Beauty of the Garden

1. Peonies are to cherish—a design of your own choice
2. Grandmothers Garden—mass arrangement
3. A June Wedding—arrangement with peonies predominant, and other flowers may be used
4. Sunday Worship—a design for the Church Altar
5. Historical Beauty—your own interpretation with rocks and old wood.
6. Dappled Sunlight—a creative design using material as in rule #5.
7. Sunset Blaze—a creative design using vivid colors.

ARTISTIC DIVISION RULES

1. All artistic exhibits must be made by the exhibitor.
2. An individual may make only one entry in a class; however, he/she may enter as many classes as desired.
3. No artificial foliage or flowers permitted.
4. Peonies must be used in all designs—flowers need not be grown by the exhibitor.
5. Accessories, mats or bases may be used in all designs, as well as other flowers, foliage, and grasses with moderation.
6. Entries may be placed from 7:00 a.m. Saturday until 11:00 a.m., June 3.
7. Properties belonging to the exhibitor should be marked with the owner's name, not in view. While the show management will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, it cannot assume responsibility for injury or loss.
8. Personally-owned properties must be claimed just before the show closes at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 4th.
9. Qualified judges will be used in the Artistic Division. Decisions are final.

If more information is required, contact Leila Bradfield, 8110 W. ML Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009.

★ ★ ★ ★

DISBUDDING

Removing the side buds from a stem will make the center or terminal bud a larger, better flower. This should be done when they are about the size of a pea. Take the bud between the thumb and forefinger and give it a quick outward twist and it will break off with no damage to the stem. If the main stem is damaged in the process, it may cause the center bud to die.

Usually the terminal bud will open before the side buds do which often open all at once.

1994 PEONY SEASON

Harold A. Toms, Fazewell, Virginia

Now for a few notes on our 1994 peony season.

We have a total of about 150 peonies, a few of which are duplicates: **Red Charm**, **Douglas Brand** and a few others. Dan's favorite is **Cytharea**. Dottie's favorite is probably **Red Charm**. I have a lot of favorites: **Red Charm**, **Diana Parks**, **Douglas Brand**, **Cytharea**, **Blaze**, **Carina**, **Burning Bright**, **Kansas** and a number of other reds, pinks and whites, but possibly my top favorite is Don Hollingsworth's **Garden Treasure** with is (some years) deep yellow and lovely red flares. The double red fernleaf—*rubra flora plena tenuifolium*, a name almost longer than its 16 to 17 inch long stems—is a truly delightful and very different peony. I had two of them, but I lost one and almost lost the other plant. I liked **Elsa Sass** very much, but no longer grow it. It bloomed so late that it usually blasted in our hot climate here, at its blooming time.

Pink Derby is lovely with its pink outer petals and whitish center tuft which is larger than a tennis ball. We like **Christmas Holiday**, **Heritage**—a vigorous dependable performer. **America** has so many bright red blooms with golden centers. I have two versions of **Alexander Woolcott**, but only one has the glossy foliage, and it is a very deep red semi-double. **Sylver**, **Moonstone**, **Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt** are very fine. **Karl Rosenfield**, **Philip Rivoire** and **Carol** are choice red doubles, with **Carol**, a fire engine red, a special favorite.

Of the double whites, mention should be made of **Mother's Choice**, **Le Cygne**, **Bowl of Cream**. **Marcelle** (or it is **Marcella**?) is super for me. **Festiva Maxima** is probably my oldest white (1851 or 1852).

My largest and best pink doubles are: **Princess Margaret**, **Myrtle Tischler** and **Martha Bullock**. **La Pearle**, **President Taft**, **Sweet 16**, and **Helen Hays**, my latest pink. **Pillow Talk** is a very vigorous light pink. **The Fawn**, a speckled pink, is very different. **Mons. Jules Elie**, is dependable, my oldest pink double (1888). **Doris Cooper**, is a vigorous light pink double.

Of corals and coral pinks are: **Coral Charm**, **Coral Sunset**, **Coral Supreme** and **Salmon Chiffon**, all very lovely.

Of bicolors: **White Cap**, **Cardinal's Robe**, **Show Girl** and **Cora Stubbs**. The latter is very pretty and very vigorous, and lots of blooms.

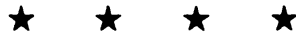
Jay Cee, light American beauty red, has been very slow to bloom, but it finally seems it's going to put on its show. **Red Grace**—well, I'm still waiting for it to perform! Hope it does eventually, for it has such a good reputation. **Better Times**, also slow to bloom [but hope it does], for it was lovely in Mrs. Walrad's garden in northern Virginia.

Raspberry Charm is a lovely, deep raspberry red single to semi-double with gold center. **White Charm**, lovely blooms, a rather slow

grower for me, but has the loveliest white bomb of all my white doubles.

And this coming season we hope to see some new ones bloom: **Favorita, King Midas, Illini Warrior, Dad**, and one or two others.

God is a lover of the beautiful, for He made all lovely and beautiful things. But the beauties of the natural world is but a faint reflection of the beauty and loveliness of our Savior Jesus Christ and the beauty of character. The beauty of His agape love is pictured for us in I Corinthians, chapter 13, sometimes called the hymn or Psalm of love.



LIFE'S JUST A BED OF PEONIES AND DAYLILIES—SARCOXIE, MISSOURI

From Cappers, Topeka, Kansas

Greg Jones' job is no bed of roses. It's a panorama of peonies, daylilies and iris.

"It's a fun business, a great way to make a living," said Jones, standing thigh-deep in a fragrant field of 30,000 peony plants blooming in shades of red, pink and white. Every yard in Sarcoxie, Missouri is dotted by at least a few peonies.

Jones is co-owner of Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Inc., a large grower and hybridizer of peonies and daylilies.

The company's 300 acres of rich, rocky soil in fields north of town are a viewing splendor in Spring and Summer, and have been the setting for numerous weddings. From the edge of the Ozark Mountains, Wild's offers 2,800 varieties of daylilies and 330 varieties of peonies. It has customers around the world, including Australia to Moscow's botanical garden.

Jones, and partner John Hutsing, both 38, quit as executives at a big mail-order nursery in Michigan to buy the company in 1981 from Jim and Gene Wild, who were the last descendants of the company founder and were nearing retirement. The Wilds wanted to sell to family men who would preserve the Wild name.

"We didn't pay what the business was worth because frankly we couldn't afford to," Jones said. "But it was more important to them to meet the family criteria than the money."

Hutsing manages the finances, while Jones tends the growing, processing and shipping.

Wild's has 15 year-round employees and hires up to 40 at the peak of the season. The Wilds did much of their field work by hand, but Jones and Hutsing have modernized and added more machinery.

"We're doing a lot more advertising and trying to up the awareness of peonies and day lilies," Jones said. "We think the future is nothing but bright."



IT'S A GIRL!

Donna Robatto, Bedford, New Jersey

Well, sort of! I had ordered the peony **Sunny Boy** which I admired ever since I had seen the picture in the *American Hybrid Peony* book. To my knowledge, several nurseries sell **Sunny Boy**. I always mark my orders NO substitution, and one particular nursery tried hard to please me. The tag attached to the roots read **SUNNY BOY**; however in the invoice the **SUNNY BOY** was crossed out and someone had written in pencil SUNNY GIRL. Either way I was pleased, and was confident that I would be able to identify its "gender" (when it bloomed) with the aid of the *American Hybrid Peony* book.



I had even prepared a marker as I awaited the "blessed arrival."

The peony bloomed in the Spring and it had two beautiful flowers. Because it lacked reddish flares at the base of the petals, I knew right away that it was a girl!

I had planted many peonies in the Fall of '93. We had some chilly weather here, then it warmed up until Dec. 20 and then the ice storms began, one after another. Before the storms, to my horror, I noticed that all three **Sonata** peonies broke dormancy and were growing. For sure, I thought, I would lose them. Many months I waited and wondered about them. Next Spring, all three came up, not as sturdy as they might have been, but, nevertheless, had at least 2-3 stems, and one even had a gorgeous flower, and showed it off proudly. Such tenacity, such determination to survive—and shine! I thought.

Many times I have thought about it and it has always amazed me, that no one has ever captured the lovely fragrance of the peony and put it into a bottle. The scent of Jasminium, Gardenia, Rose and other flowers, have all been synthetically reproduced many times. Why not the peony?

In catalogs, many peonies are described as having a Rose fragrance. I also grow roses. No one has ever described a rose as having peony fragrance. This Summer I made a small, but very significant, discovery. There is a new rose on the market which has a lovely peony fragrance. This dandy rose blooms from May to November (here in New Jersey), zone 6 or 5 in color, and form resembles **Mons. Jules Elie**, on the smaller side (as no rose is as large as peony, of course). This rose is David Austin's **Mary Rose**. Smelling is believing. If you get sentimental about your peonies in late Summer or Fall, plant **Mary Rose**.

Pick a flower; close your eyes, inhale deeply and see what magic happens next!

TREE PEONIES

The tree peony found its way into the gardens of the Chinese aristocracy hundreds of years ago. It was later brought into Japan and about 150 years ago, Europe received it from the Orient.

The tree peony is a shrubby counterpart of the familiar herbaceous perennial and is distinguished principally by its woody stems. The branches do not die back to the ground in Winter as do the herbaceous types. It puts forth its buds in the Autumn and thus develops somewhat faster in the Spring. By the time it is several years old, it is capable of blooming in great profusion. Tree peonies usually are taller than the herbaceous kinds and have larger flowers—which are produced two or three weeks earlier. The plant may grow to a height of 4-5 feet and may become 3-4 feet in diameter. Grafted varieties will occasionally exceed this size but seedlings have been known to grow larger.

A tree peony is a striking plant and should be given a place of honor. So placed, a single specimen may become the focal point in an intimate garden. A group of them is spectacular and when backed by Lilacs, is unbelievably beautiful. Landscape architects have recently recognized in the tree peony, an excellent small shrub for their planning.

At the present time, three distinct groups of tree peonies can be distinguished: the European, the Japanese, and the Lutea hybrids. Though the European and the Japanese types are from the same ancestry (*Paeonia Suffruticosa*), they are quite different in appearance. The European tree peonies are usually very double and have broad foliage; the Japanese types have single or semi-double blooms and the leaves are much finer and thinner than the European. Also, the Japanese tree peonies usually have in their centers, a beautiful cushion or circle of yellow stamens. The Lutea hybrids are the product of crossing *Paeonia lutea* with *P. Suffruticosa*. These are difficult to propagate and are rare.

The colors of both the European and the Japanese tree peonies range from pure white through pale pink, rose, cherry, violet, salmon and cerise, to deepest red. The Japanese have a much broader color range than the European types. Lutea hybrids display colors and shades all their own. Yellows ranging from clear tones to orange tints, vie with combinations of yellow and red for the viewer's attention. Some of these are unsurpassed even by the Rose. In the Japanese tree peonies, there are clear whites, pinks, salmons, reds, purples and maroons that cannot be described in words. Their Japanese names may come close to it. The refreshing daintiness of the semi-doubles and the airiness and sparkle of the full double blooms of any of the tree peonies defy description.



THE CORAL PEONIES

Greta Kessenich

It took Mr. Wissing over 26 years to achieve the beautiful and unique coral hybrids. He gave the peony world **Coral Supreme**, **Coral Sunset**, **Coral Charm**, and according to Bulletin #182, he registered another, **Coral Destiny**. It is due to the Klehms that we can enjoy these beautiful peonies.

On the cover of this *Bulletin* is the photograph of **Pink Hawaiian Coral**, hybridizer Roy Klehm. It first bloomed in 1972 so this delightful double has been tried and tested for 22 years. This flower is a very soft color of coral with a tinge of pink. It grows to be 36" in height, with good foliage and excellent stem strength. Any of the Corals are magnificent with good strong stems. If you live in a place where there is wind in the Spring, it is advisable to tie a soft type rope around the plant and anchor it with a stake. Any flower that has large blooms on a 30-36 inch stem, even though strong, a support is just good insurance for it to remain standing in wind or heavy rain.

Ann Berry Cousins from the Cousin Nursery, is a soft coral, single, profuse bloomer, a medium-size flower, grown in the Klehm Nursery, and made available for the gardens of today.

Coralie is another beautiful coral, by Prof. Saunders. It is a single, a good coral pink. About 30-32 inches in height, strong stems. and with foliage to the ground level.

Coral Fay is a fragrant plant, semi-double, with lovely foliage. It grows to about 30" in height. The flowers are smaller than some of the other corals.

Now for a few other outstanding varieties.

A new peony by Bob Tischler of the Tischler Peony Garden, Faribault, Minnesota—**Leona Weinberger**, an arranger's delight. It is a small flower, has strong stems holding the flower high above the foliage. Just right for cutting. It is a pink bomb type and blooms in midseason.

Another outstanding peony by Mr. Bigger of Topeka, Kansas, is **Pink Derby**. A strong plant with foliage to the ground. A garden value and a beauty for the house as it has lasting qualities. It retains the color of rose red guard petals which hold a lighter pink to white large bomb.

To you, **Mr. Krekler**, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** on Feb. 18th, 95 years young! We salute you for the peonies you have given the peony world, and our own individual gardens, especially for the beauty in every one which radiate your care and love for the flower.

You broke the mold when you presented some of your magnificent creations such as: **Brides Dream**, **Bessie**, **Cora Stubb**, **Silver Daubed** and many others. Your peonies will be growing in all gardens for years to come.

SEEDS

The American Peony Society does have a good seed program under the capable direction of Chris Laning, 553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004. Letters are received here asking how to plant seed, and what to expect—for a good answer from one that has had years of experience in growing peonies from seed.

Mr. Edward Auten, Jr. wrote this article in 1949 and it does answer many questions about raising peonies from seed and what to expect.

* * * *

Seeds should be planted immediately after picking. If hard and dry when planted, say in September, most of them will lie dormant all the next growing season. In late Fall they send down a long root and then the second Spring leaf growth appears. However, if the seed is picked before it gets hard, planted and kept moist until Winter, many of the seeds will send down their root the same Fall and send up leaves the first Spring. Seed does not ripen evenly and it is impossible to tell just when it is safe to pick it. If too green, it will rot and thus perhaps the very variety that would have paid for your work may be lost. So, if using seed from hand crosses or from extra special kinds, it is safest to let the seed get ripe and take the extra year.

Seeds should be planted in well-drained, rich soil, without fertilizer and in the full sun. Sow one inch deep in rows six inches wide, the seeds an inch or two apart. Or, if one has plenty of room, plant in single rows, seeds four or five inches apart. They can then be left until they bloom, saving a year or two, but it means much more work than to plant the seed thickly and then transplant it.

If the ground is dry, soak the bottom of the row before planting the seed and again after covering. A light mulch of lawn clippings will help to hold moisture the first Fall and thus hasten germination. Very fine results have been obtained by making the top three inches of soil of the seed bed a mixture of one part small grained Vermiculite with two parts of soil. This works as well as, or better than, a mulch. Any mulch should be taken off very early the first Spring. If seed is hard when planted, a rinsing in a mild solution of permanganate of potash, with a complete rinsing afterwards with clear water, will kill any blight spores which might be present. Never plant seed where peonies have been grown.

It is commonly said that it takes five years to get a peony bloom from seed. With a combination of favorable conditions, bloom might be obtained in three or rarely in two years. The first leaves on a seedling come in varying shades of green and red. Occasionally, a plant will appear with white or almost-white leaves. These are the runts, those endowed with the poorest factors of the genus line, and almost invariably die the first year.

Do not try to originate new kinds unless you have patience, persistence, and can stand innumerable disappointments. The ultimate in peonies of the pure *P. lactiflora* species has not yet been attained. In selecting seed parents, look first to plant vigor, rapidity of increase, resistance of roots to decay, resistance to blight, and then to color and type. The whole process is a gamble; you may get a magnificent double where you expected to get a Jap; you may get a hideous color from outstanding parents, good color from poor color. In other words, you do the work and take what Nature decides to give you. A dozen poor seedlings from one certain cross does not prove the uselessness of that cross. It might take hundreds of that cross to get the best characteristics in one new variety. The only way to make sure of getting good results is to study your kinds carefully when choosing parents and raise in quantity. Do not think all doubles are worth saving, don't worship size, and do be familiar with all the fine kinds now in existence so that your standard of judgment will enable you to know a good new peony when you get it.

★ ★ ★ ★

REGISTRATIONS

ZLATA'S JENNIE (Zlatana Jennie Draskovich), Gary, Indiana, Nov. 13, 1994.

Seedling #013, Parentage: Saunders **High Noon** x Daphins **Leda**. First bloomed 1993.

This tree peony is yellow with red edging. Good substance, 6-8" fully double blooms. Very reliable, has seeds, pollen and stamens. It does have weak stems, grows to 25 in. height, extremely hardy.

Zlata's Jennie is a fully double bomb-shaped bloom on a medium green tree peony. Mildly fragrant. The large blooms are held high on weak stems. The yellow petals with mauve red edges are very ruffled.

SEPTEMBER (G. D. Bowne), Edinboro, PA, Nov. 12, 1994.

This is a sport of an unnamed tree peony. First bloomed 1992.

A cupped yellow flower with basal blotch, with stamens, seeds and pollen, fragrant. Grows to 6 feet and blooms in late Summer and/or early Fall. This plant has only two stems to date with medium-sized flowers. The blooming season has been the same for three years. This plant comes from the roots in the center of the parent plant.

★ ★ ★ ★

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

The average composition of fertilizers commonly used and the relative availability of each is shown in the following table: (From Minnesota Horticulturist)

Material	Nitrogen Per Cent	Phosphoric Acid Per Cent	Potash Per Cent	Relative Availability
Superphosphate	4-5	14-20		Quick
Bone meal (<i>raw</i>)	1-2	20-24		Very slow
Bone meal (<i>steamed</i>)	6-9	25-30		Medium to slow
Tankage	13-14			Slow
Dried blood (<i>red</i>)	6-12			Medium to slow
Dried blood (<i>black</i>)	15-16			Medium to slow
Nitrate of soda	20-21			Very quick
Sulphate of ammonia	1-5			Quick
Tobacco stems		1.5	6	Medium
Wood ashes (<i>unleached</i>)		2.4	5.7	Medium
Kainit			10-13	Quick
Muriate of potash			48-50	Quick
Sulphate of potash			48-50	Quick
Calcium nitrate	15			Very quick
Urea	46			Very quick
Potassium nitrate	14		45	Quick
Sludge	6		Little	Medium
Dried fish	7-9	Little		Slow
Horse manure (<i>fresh</i>)	0.58	6.9		Slow
Horse manure (<i>rotted</i>)	0.44	0.3	0.52	Slow
Cow manure (<i>fresh</i>)	0.44	0.35	0.5	Slow
Cow manure (<i>rotted</i>)	0.32	0.16	0.4	Slow
Sheep manure (<i>fresh</i>)	0.75	0.15	0.47	Slow
Sheep manure (<i>shredded</i>)	2.25	0.50	0.45	Slow
Hen manure	1.6	1.0	2.0	Slow
		1.75	0.90	Medium

OVER 80 YEARS SHE'S MADE CITY MORE BEAUTIFUL PLACE

By Jana Salmon-Heyneman, Albuquerque Tribune, April 16, 1993

At 88, Rosalie Doolittle is a master of Albuquerque gardening whose legacy of flowers has helped beautify what used to be a dusty, barren cow town.

Doolittle has devoted her life to cultivating beauty through horticulture—and has shared that knowledge with other gardeners.

"What it takes to be a good gardener is love and patience," said Doolittle. "It's just a basic love of nature, a love of everything you see, and the miracle of it. It's just a love of everything you find that's different and everything that grows."

Although Doolittle has scaled back her schedule in recent years, she still raises her own garden of earthly delights, growing more than 40 types of roses along with peonies, iris, daffodils, chrysanthemums, Canterbury bells, hyacinths, forget-me-nots, tulips, crocuses, and various flowering shrubs. She also raises tomato, cucumber and other seedlings in her greenhouse.

In the Winter of her years, this first lady of gardening still grows a springtime of flowers.

"I do an awful lot in this little garden," said Doolittle, recalling when in her gardening heyday she raised 600 tulips, 400 roses, hundreds of daffodils, and 40 flowering trees.

But then throughout her life, Doolittle has promoted, inspired, and taught horticulture.

Now a widow, she was married to George L. Doolittle, a prominent Albuquerque businessman.

"I started gardening when I was 5 years old and I've been gardening ever since," she said.

"I was very unhappy when we moved to Albuquerque," she said. "I used to cry because it was so ugly. We lived on a hill in a little tent house. I remember one day my mother gave me seeds for some irises and morning glories."

Then she noticed that people noticed her flowers.

"They made over me and that encouraged me to keep gardening."

As time went on, her reputation and experience grew. She taught, wrote and pioneered techniques that made her synonymous with Southwest gardening.

Doolittle wrote a local column, was the host of various radio and TV garden shows, contributed to *Better Homes & Garden* magazines, and served on the national boards of the American Rose Society and the American Daffodil Society. She is also the author of an award-winning gardening book, *Southwest Gardening*.

Yet for all her many awards and honors, Doolittle is proudest of the Biblical garden she planned and grew at the Cathedral Church of

St. John.

"I worked for three years on this, studying it," she said. "I really worried over it. I don't know what made me think of a Biblical garden. It must have been divine inspiration."

★ ★ ★ ★

LETTERS

Enclosed is my renewal for 1995. It is one of the best bargains anywhere!

I read my *Bulletin* from cover to cover and have responded to several of its ads over the years. Nowhere can one find a better guide to peonies and sources thereof. And your additional use of colored pictures in recent years makes it not only more attractive, but more informative. You are to be congratulated for your wonderful dedication to producing an informative and worthwhile publication. I think of several organizational publications I have received in years gone by, which have lain on the table largely unread.

My interest in gardening with peonies grows over the years. Of my several hobbies and interests, it remains number one. And I derive satisfaction and challenge from it year 'round. As living things they constantly change from year to year, and even within each growing season. From the time each plant emerges from the ground to the time I cut the foliage back to the ground in the Fall—and even after that in the planting of new plants or the dividing of older clumps—they give a challenge and lift to the human spirit. The flowers themselves are the highpoint of each season, but the whole growing season is a joy and pleasure.

As you can tell I have a love affair with peonies and have had all of my adult life. They are the backbone of my garden at all times during the growing season—in bloom or out!

My best to you for 1995. Thanks for the service you render to us as peony growers.

—Ken Liberty, Maine

"Our weather has been very mild and no freezing weather as of now. I hope we get several morning temperatures of 28-32 degrees in January and February. That would be sufficient cold for my hybrids and tree peonies."

—Henry Cangelose, Shreveport, Louisiana

"We had a good peony harvest this year despite a late freeze. Next year will be our sixth year for our patch of one acre. We talked by phone to Myron Bigger and Calvin Bigger several times this year, and purchased 140 roots of Kansas. We are anxious to see them come up this Spring. I learn so much from the quarterly *Bulletins*. Keep up the good work."

—Duane and Sharon Allen, Kansas

"The McHarrie's Legacy of Baldwinsville, New York has just finished planting thirty peony plants at their schoolhouse Museum. The roots came from the old Indian Springs Peony Farm. The peony farm was a major industry locally from 1920s to the mid-1940s. We have yet to identify the peonies except for a few outstanding varieties, but we are beginning to address this problem. If any of the *Bulletin* readers have any knowledge of the Indian Springs Peony Farm, we would like to hear from them."

—Doris Cross, McHarrie's Legacy Horticulturist
3695 Cold Springs Road, Baldwinsville, New York 13027

"Last Spring was an outstanding one for our 200-plus peonies, no botrytis. Bill made another garden outside our property line in the front. He planted **Frances Willard**, and in-between, and at each end, red tulips. It is a long row and in three years it will be a real show."

—Leola and Bill Remple, St. Paul, Minnesota

"This was a good year for our peonies. My peonies are planted 30 inches apart, and I keep the soil loose, about one-eighth to one-fourth inch, except around the eyes. The rows are clean of weeds and in the early Spring I spray with a good fungicide for blight.

"I hope that I can have another good year and I thank all the folks from the Peony Society for their information."

—Roosevelt Turner, Reform, Alabama

"I'm making a large peony bed in 1995, 200 varieties. I really enjoy the American Peony Society. The books are great!"

—Gerald Buckman, Sebringville, Ontario, Canada

"After such a nice bloom this Spring, I couldn't resist adding to my peonies this Fall, especially after the new catalogs arrived. I've added **Do Tell**, **Tom Eckhardt**, **Karl Rosenfeld**, **Felix Supreme** and **Lingerie**.

"I've also been trying my luck at growing peonies from seed. I now have ten three-year-old plants, I'm hoping will bloom. I had a good crop of seeds this year, enough to plant two fifteen-foot rows. Spring will tell how or if they'll germinate."

—Ron Chinnock, Virginia

MINNESOTA PEONY SOCIETY EXHIBITION
JUNE 9-10-11
SIGNAL HILLS MALL, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

THE CULTIVATED HISTORY AND PRESENT CONDITION OF TREE PEONY IN LUOYANG, CHINA

By Wu JingXu, agronomist working in Luoyang suburbs seeds company (address: No. 3, Daonan Rd. of Luoyang City, China)

Known as the "king of flowers" since ancient times, the peony is popular the world over for its large brightly colored flowers and diverse varieties.

Also called *fu gui* (wealthy and honorable) and *bai liang jin* (one-hundred *liang* of gold), the peony bush is native to Northwestern China and belongs to the *shaoyao* (herbaceous peony). It was mentioned as a medicinal herb in *Shennong's Materia Medica*, which was published in the Qin (221-206 B.C.) and Han (206 B.C. 220 A.D.) periods. During the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420-589), peonies were cultivated as decorative plants. Bred and refined by generations of horticulturists over more than a thousand years, the peony now has 600-odd species identified by distinct blossom colors and shapes. The blossoms' basic colors are red, pink, purple, yellow, white, blue, green, and black, with the last two being the rarest and most valuable. The shapes include lotus, sunflower, rose, "imperial crown," silk ball, and skyscraper varieties. Their flowering seasons vary widely.

Peony cultivation in China goes back about 1,500 years. In the city of Luoyang the flower became well-known as early as the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Luoyang, in central China, is endowed with fertile soil, a mild climate, and moderate rainfall, all of which are ideal for peonies. The city was a capital or companion capital to more than a dozen dynasties, such as the Eastern Zhou, Eastern Han, Wei (one of the Three Kingdoms), Western Jin, Northern Wei, Sui, and later Tang and, as the nation's political and economic center, had a thriving culture.

The people of Luoyang have been flower lovers since ancient times. Elegant dignified peony blossoms, tended by local horticulturists, have inspired poets and painters for years.

According to historical records, the peony was first grown in Luoyang in the Sui Dynasty (581-618) but became best-known during the Sang Dynasty (960-1279). In 604 A.D. the Sui emperor Tang ordered the cultivation of peonies in the West Garden then under construction in Luoyang. During the Tang Dynasty, Luoyang, then the eastern capital, enjoyed equal importance with the capital city of Changan (present-day Xi'an). The imperial family built palaces and gardens in Luoyang on a large scale, while nobles followed suit in erecting mansions there. Changan's taste for peonies spread to Luoyang and the flower, originally an unimpressive mountain bush,

was bred into an ornamental plant of diverse varieties. The last days of the Tang Dynasty suffered from the chaos of successive wars, yet quite a few species of peony survived into the following Five Dynasties (907-960).

The establishment of the Northern Song, in 960, marked the end of more than 50 years during the Five Dynasties of separatist regimes and warfare. Luoyang became a companion capital. Palace complexes and gardens were constructed in great numbers and as peony cultivation resumed, the flower's varieties increased to more than 100. History books claim that, at the time, every household in Luoyang grew peonies. Local residents considered other plants beneath their dignity, and there was a saying that "the peony is the only real flowering plant under heaven." Whenever a famous specimen blossomed, everyone in the capital went to look, so that the streams of viewers and carriages often caused traffic jams. The price for a rare type was equal to the amount of taxes levied on 10 households of moderate income.

By the time of Northern Song, Luoyang lacked no famous strains of peonies. A local family by the name of Yao, in Baisimaban at the foot of Mount Mangshan, bred a rare variety called *yao luang* (the Yao yellow). The light-yellow flowers with waxy lustrous petals measured more than 1 foot across and gave off more fragrance. *Wei zi* (the Wei purple) was grown by a Wei family. Each flower, tall and erect like a cylinder, had as many as 700 petals. Of all of China's peonies, these two strains top the list as the "king" and "queen." The other species include *yu ban bai*, *ye dizi* and *er se hong*, as well as green and black peonies. These graceful flowers are large and beautifully colored, with a profusion of petals, and are highly ornamental.

The appearance of double-petaled peonies marked a breakthrough in Chinese horticulture. At first, since people had never seen a double-petaled flower, they called the new strain a "monster plant" and an "evil being." But they were also fascinated by this new variety.

As a symbol of beauty, the peony has often caught scholars' imaginations. Bai Juyi, Sima Guang, Su Shi, and Lu You, noted literary figures, all wrote poems in the praise of Luoyang's peonies. Ouyang Xiu, a celebrated man of letters from the Northern Song Dynasty, wrote several works on the peony. While working in Luoyang, he composed *Note on the Peony in Luoyang*, vividly describing peony cultivation, the local strains, and their characteristics. He made comparisons with strains grown elsewhere but wrote, "Peonies from Luoyang are the best." In the reign of Emperor Ren Zong, Ouyang Xiu revisited Luoyang and noted astonishing progress in peony cultivation. Full of emotion, he composed a long poem entitled *The Peony in Luoyang*.

Tall tales grew up around Luoyang's peonies as the flower's fame

spread nationwide. A story about the "banishment of the peony," is still told in the city. One snowy day, Tang Empress Wu Zetian was whiling away the time drinking wine and writing poems. On a whim, she improvised an edict: "I am going to the Upper Garden tomorrow morning. The plants there must bloom this very night, before the wind comes up at dawn." Every plant except the peony submitted and was in bloom overnight. The next morning, when the Empress got to the park, she became angry and relegated the peony to Luoyang. Unyielding, the peony burst into full blossom as it touched the Luoyang soil. Consumed with wrath, Wu Zetian ordered the peony set on fire. Fire charred all its branches, but the peony blossomed again the next Spring. The tale shows the people's love for the peony and their own fearlessness before brute force.

In 1126, the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234) army attacked and captured the capital of Northern Song. Luoyang was also destroyed in the war and its peony cultivation declined. Fortunately, the Luoyang peony spread to other parts of the country. Chenzhou (present-day Huaiyang), a town not far from Luoyang, had already gained considerable fame from its introduction of fine Luoyang peony strains at the end of the Northern Song Dynasty. Later, Tianpeng (present-day Pengxian County) in Sichuan Province, known as "mini Luoyang," emerged as a peony producer. In *Notes on the Peony from Tianpeng*, Lu You, a great poet of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), listed more than 60 peony varieties, nearly half of which were from Luoyang. In the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), peony cultivation was in fashion in Haozhou (present-day Haoxian County) in Anhui. Fine breeds from Luoyang such as *wei zi*, *yu ban bai*, *zhuang yuan hong*, and *yu lou chun* were mentioned in the *Roster of Peonies in Haozhou*. Caozhou (present-day Heze) in Shandong Province became the nation's principal peony grower toward the end of the Ming Dynasty and the beginning of *Qing* (1644-1911). According to *The Peony in Caozhou*, an amateur gardener once traveled from Caozhou all the way to Luoyang and returned with a dozen types of peonies, pointing to a reciprocal relation between Caozhou and Luoyang in peony breeding.

After that, changes in China led peony cultivation into a decline, and by the end of the 1940s, only about 30 species remained in Luoyang.

The founding of New China gave the peony a new lease on life. The Luoyang municipal government has attached great importance to the restoration and development of peony cultivation. Horticulturists and technicians were mobilized to collect scattered species and breed new ones. Traditional methods in cultivation were improved and new methods were adopted to crossbreed, propagate cuttings, and grow potted and miniature peonies—and at the same time, were viewed and admired in peony gardens or beds. Within a short time,

the peony regained its former vitality in Luoyang. To beautify the city and enrich people's lives, members of the standing committee of the Luoyang municipal People's Congress met in 1982 and agreeing that the peony would be the city flower, decided that a peony fair should be held every year between April 15 and 25. In response, factories, Party and government organizations, schools, army units, and research institutes began planting peonies. Families planted potted peonies in their courtyards. Peony species have multiplied from 30 varieties in the early liberation days to more than 500 now, and the total number of plants in Luoyang has risen from less than 1,000 to more than 300,000, and sold to more than 320 provinces, cities and counties or regions. Now Luoyang has become a peonies cultivation and marketing center in all the state, and the suburbs is its most important base. My company is the main peonies production, research, and selling organization in Luoyang.

The peony fair opens each Spring at the end of the traditional Clear-and-Bright Festival. Colored flags flutter in the breeze along tree-lined streets. Hundreds of thousands of peonies are in vigorous bloom, making the parks, flower beds, and nurseries a riot of color. Horticulturists, painters, writers, photographers, and journalists come to Luoyang from other parts of the country before the fair officially begins. Many peasants from the suburban counties, men and women old and young visit the fair, and foreign friends and overseas Chinese often make a special trip. Statistics show that the visitors number in the millions each year, and Wangeheng Park, the most popular spot in the city, sometimes gets as many as 250,000 visitors in a day.

A lantern show is held at which hundreds of novel lamps selected from neighboring districts and counties are on display. As night falls, the colorful lanterns add to the festival atmosphere. Local painters, calligraphers, writers, and musicians sponsor other activities.

As an ancient capital, Luoyang was noted for its parks and plants, and it bequeathed to us precious peony strains. Today its thousands of peonies make Luoyang even more charming.

"NEW" PEONY SPECIES

Galen Burrell, P. O. Box 754, Ridgefield, Washington 98642

Not long ago I received, from Leo Fernig, a recently translated copy of "Caucasian representatives of the Genus *Paeonia* L." by L. M. Kemularia-Natadze. It was translated by two Ukrainian botanists, Nikolay Kravchuk and Valeriy Kuznetsov. Amazingly enough, this document was published in Russia in 1961. For me, it is hard to believe that this important publication by a Russian botanist has only recently been translated into English. It is an excellent example of the language barriers that still impede the dissemination of important information in this so-called "computer age."

What is even more amazing about this publication than its age is that it lists 7 species of peonies that have not before been mentioned in any of our peony texts. It will take more study to determine if these are truly "new" species. But luckily for us there are now two graduate students at different universities studying the taxonomy and evolution of the Genus *Paeonia*. So hopefully one day we will have a true list of species and subspecies that make up this complex genus.

For now, here is a list and a partial description of each of the "new" peony species.

Paeonia steveniana—the plant is similar to *Paeonia wittmanniana*, but for peony lovers the main difference seems to be that it has yellow flowers instead of pale yellow or cream flowers as does *P. wittmanniana*. Its leaves are not glossy green like those of *P. wittmanniana* but are more grayish.

Paeonia ruprechtiana—this species has pink or reddish-pink flowers and broad, shiny leaves. From the one photograph I have seen of this species, it appears to be a very beautiful plant.

Paeonia lagodechiana—it is very similar to *Paeonia mlokosewitschii*, but instead of yellow flowers it has large, pink flowers. Any peony that is similar to *P. mlokosewitschii* must be beautiful!

Paeonia caucasica—it has large red flowers and large leaf lobes. In the past it has been called *Paeonia daurica*.

Paeonia Majko—Kemularia-Natadze says that "it is a beautiful, very decorative plant with its leaves and pink flowers that closely resemble *Paeonia hybrida*." *Paeonia hybrida* is a western Siberian species.

Paeonia carthalinica—Kemularia-Natadze says that "it is very closely related to *Paeonia tenuifolia* from which it differs with broader leaf-lobes and grayish pubescence of ovaries and fruits."

Paeonia bieberstaniana—as far as I can discern from reading the description it is very similar to *Paeonia tenuifolia* but there are slight differences that need further study before its species status can truly be determined. In my opinion, any plant that is similar to *P. tenuifolia* would have great garden potential.

Another "new" peony species from the Crimea, so it was not reported on in this Caucasian peony paper, is *Paeonia lithophila*. It is also similar to *Paeonia tenuifolia* but it is reported to have more than one flower per stem which could make it a much sought-after garden plant. It is also said to be shorter which could mean that it would not need staking like *Paeonia tenuifolia*.

Due to the efforts of Leo Fernig, other SPIN members, and a few Russian botanists, some of these "new" species will be available to the peony lover in the not-too-distant future.

★ ★ ★ ★

(An explanation given for the meaning of some names of the Japanese peony, and the analysis of the beauty in tree peonies.)

WHAT IS SHISHIZAKI?

Ryoji Hashida, 1-2-11 Honcho, Tatebayashi, Gunma, Japan

Symmetrical Flowers and Asymmetrical Flowers

Flowers of wild plants which are not bred as horticultural variety, are generally single-petaled, and they have, as a rule, symmetrical form. We try to examine flowers of horticultural plants which are large and have double-petaled flowers. Some parts of these flowers are double and symmetrical. But most parts of them are not symmetrical in exact meaning, because their petals have twisted form or stand twistedly. We try to examine the last group of flowers furthermore. Most parts of them are not symmetrical in exact meaning, but give us an impression of symmetry at a glance. Then some parts of them are asymmetrical because of twisted forms of petals and twisted rows of petals, but these flowers express a beauty of asymmetry. Japanese people set high value on this asymmetrical beauty, and call the type of these flowers "Shishizaki." They have bred for almost one hundred years seeking these types of flowers.

I will investigate flowers of familiar horticultural plants, and explain symmetrical or asymmetrical flowers in a concrete way. Daisy, sunflower, daffodil, water lily, etc., have symmetrical flowers, though they have bred and improved as horticultural plants. Most part of camellia's variety have not symmetrical flowers in exact meaning, but give us an impression of symmetry at a glance. And then some parts of them have the flowers expressing asymmetrical beauty. The type of these flowers are called "Shishizaki."

Cf. Photo 1: In case of rose some old fashioned varieties have flowers with round petals, and these flowers look like symmetrical. Many varieties bred afterwards have flowers whose petals are bent backward and are seen somewhat pointed. These flowers are not symmetrical in exact meaning, but give us an impression of symmetry at a glance: The form of their petals and row of petals are not twisted in comparison with tree peony.

How are the flowers of herbaceous peony? The flowers of Japanese-type and double varieties are not symmetrical in exact meaning, but they give us an impression of symmetry at a glance.

In the case of tree peony, many varieties give an impression of symmetry. But some of them express a beauty of asymmetry. This type of flowers is called "Shishizaki."

Cf. Photo 2: These varieties are named "____ jishi" in general. Jishi=shishi, "Shi" changes to "ji" in successive pronunciation. But

some varieties such as "Myokono Takara," "Gekkeikan," "Chiyonomaï," etc. have not the name "____ jishi" and bloom in Shishizaki.

On the contrary "Nishikijishi," "Konronjishi," etc. do not bloom in Shishizaki. The meaning of Shishizaki is difficult to understand, even among Japanese people.

Among the varieties which bloom in Shishizaki a few of them bloom in extraordinarily unbalanced form once in a while. This extra Shishizaki does not appear in all flowers of one bush, and does not appear every year.

Cf. Photo 3 — Photo 4: Photo on cover of this *Bulletin*.

Beauty which Japanese people have sought in flowers—I think Japanese minutely observe flowers and find subtle beauty in them. I will explain this fact setting limit to tree peony. When Japanese observe a flower whose outer petals are large and inner petals are small, they find a beauty where little petals are arranged side by side and jostling each other. Furthermore, in case inner petals are long and stand up, they find a beauty of piled up petals. Or, in case petals are large and opened in twisted form, they remind of Japanese elegant dancing in this flower. When they pay attention to waved or twisted petals, they find subtle and delicate beauty there. Because Japanese discern various kinds of beauty in tree peony flowers, they have bred many varieties in long, long years. When they pursued a beauty of asymmetry, Shishizaki varieties have been bred. Shishizaki flowers are seen in camellia, Japanese iris, morning glory, etc. not only in tree peony.

Chinese and European people set a high value in a double flower with many petals. In case of tree peony, a many-petals flower which is seen like a ball, gives us an impression of symmetry at a glance. Shishizaki is not found in such ball-type varieties.

Tree peony flowers preferred by Japanese lose their delicate beauty in afternoon sunlight. Flowers open to excess degree or go out of their beautiful shape. It says that tree peony flowers must be seen early in the morning. Ball-type flowers do not change their form in afternoon sunlight. I think Chinese and European do not seek delicate beauty, but they like beautiful and unchangeable flowers in a rough way.

The Origin—Why It Is Called Shishizaki

Please read variety name "Yatsukajishi" in Photo 2. Yatsuka means Yatsuka town where tree peony saplings are cultivated in many nurseries. Jishi=shishi means lion. If we translate Yatsukaji into Yatsuka lion, we cannot understand its meaning. Yatsukajishi means a Shishizaki variety bred in Yatsuka. Now we must suppose a lion mask worn in lion dancing is not an animal lion. Lion dancing is danced wearing a lion mask assuming the shape of a lion's head. Lion dancing and its music was introduced to Japanese court about one thousand years ago. In later ages, lion dancing and its

music were held at Japanese shrines in many regions of Japan. About 400 years ago its dancing began to be danced in many villages, and countrymen enjoyed it. Its music was simplified in long periods of time, and its dancing has been changed to quick rhythm dance. Its costume has been turned to simple, and fitted for quick action. But lion masks have not been changed, because Japanese knew the lion mask, but has not seen animal lion in a long time. Cf. Photo 5

Underjaw of lion mask can open and close, large eyes and snub nose are molded, and long mane is attached. While lion dancing is danced in quick rhythm, its mane sways and is disheveled. And when Japanese people observe a symmetrical flower, they are reminded of the lion mask with disheveled mane. For this reason they named this type of flower "Shishizaki."

SHISHIZAKI and BOTANZAKI

In case of Japanese iris and morning glory, Shishizaki is asymmetrical in high degree. Cf. Photo 6. In Botan (tree peony) extraordinary Shishizaki do not appear every year. Shishizaki in many varieties gives an impression of particular and beautiful flower at a glance, and by close observation we can find asymmetry of petals. In the case of camellia, the flower has many petals and a few stamens appear and disappear in central petals which is asymmetrical in high degree, and is called "Shishizaki."

Cf. Photo 1: Another flower which has fewer petals and whose petals appear few among stamens, and which is asymmetrical in lower degree is called "Botanzaki." I think the reason is found in the fact that Botan's Shishizaki is asymmetrical in lower degree.

SPRING CARE OF PEONIES

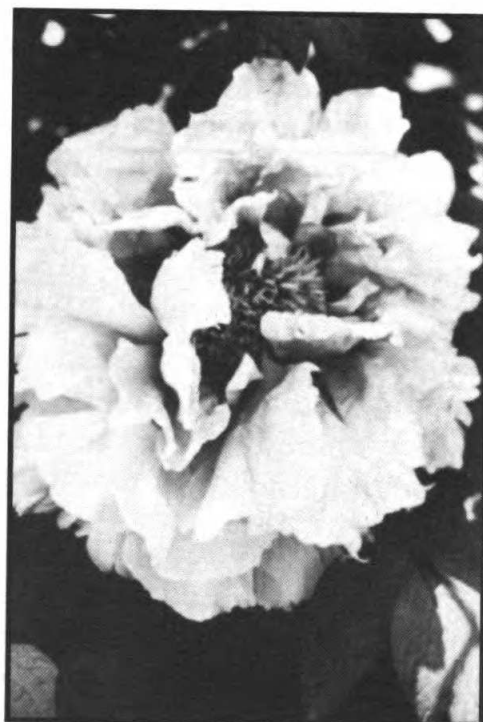
Cultivation should begin as early in the Spring as the ground can be worked. The eyes, stems, and roots of a peony are very brittle in the Fall and Spring, and, when cultivating or working around, or with the plants, take every precaution to prevent damage to these parts. If they are broken or otherwise damaged, the plant will be set back in growth and, though new growth may appear, it will be much less vigorous than it would have been if the plant had not been injured. If you are uncertain where the new growth will appear, it is best not to work around the plant until it comes up. A stake, set over the plant, will show its location and protect it. All varieties do not come up at the same time in the Spring. Young plants are particularly slow in appearing, at times. Some will be a month later than others.

Botrytis is a fungus that attacks all peonies. It is more prevalent in wet seasons. This blight first wilts the young shoots and then turns them black. It is controlled by spraying the plant and ground with Bordeaux mixture or other fungicides. Begin a spraying program as soon as the eyes begin to show in the Spring. Spray again in two weeks and again in four weeks.

★ ★ ★ ★



*Left: Photo 1
Shishizaki in case of camellia.*



*Right: Photo 2
Shishizaki flower of tree peony.*



*Left: Photo 3
Ordinary Shishizaki
of "Tsukumojishi".*

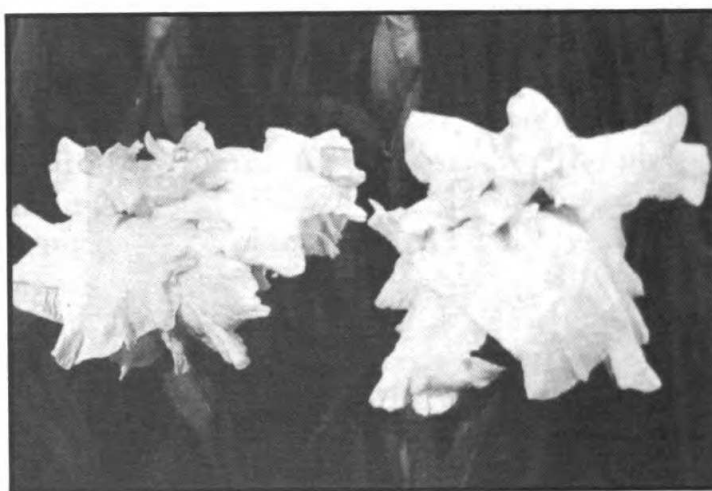


*Left: Photo 4
Extraordinary
Shishizaki of
"Tsukumojishi".*



*Left: Photo 5
Lion mask and garb in
lion dancing.*

*Right: Photo 6
Shishizaki in case
of Japanese iris.*



OUTSIDE THE HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

By C. E. Cary

Some philosophers interpret all human action as a result of a desire to realize personal happiness. Consideration of that personal happiness, centers around the great and beautiful wish that most of us cherish, to have a home or to have a better home. Is it any wonder, then, that so much effort in thought and time is expended in making this wish an accomplished fact?

Naturally, our first thought is for the building in which we live. It is always the house first, for that means comfort and shelter. The usual course is to begin by satisfying these demands. This is unfortunate, because it often leads to a complete neglect of consideration for the exterior. There is frequently no thought given to the setting of the house and to the fact that there should be outdoor rooms as carefully planned and furnished as those indoors. It is forgotten that as much pleasure can be had from planning and developing the grounds as from planning and furnishing the rooms within the house.

But where there is cause for sorrow, there is also cause for joy, for more and more is this condition being righted. More and more is the realization of the importance for the proper consideration of the grounds being felt; and an increased number of people are getting out into their grounds and spending leisure hours in that delightful contact with nature, familiarizing themselves with the joyous art of gardening.

Every properly planned place adds that much more to the cause. Improvements are observed, interest is aroused, and a more extensive and general desire is created. That which was considered non-essential is becoming to be looked on as an essential.

The homeowner who has previously thought little of the landscape development of his grounds, now turns with an inquiring eye to see what his neighbor has done, and looks over his own place to see what he can do. Is it any wonder that in this evolutionary state there has been considerable experimental work done and mistakes made from misguided effort?

But this only proves that the universal wish is for the better type of home which means better houses and better grounds. So a house, to be a house beautiful, needs the softening influence of trees, shrubs, evergreens, vines and flowering things. Growing, living walls of green will present an ever-changing spectacle to delight the eye, the sense of smell and our hearts and souls.

In these trying days, we need the benign influence that only growing things can give. The environment of shade and shelter means much to the life of the family both young and old. Looking back to your childhood days nothing stands out quite so vividly as the trees and shrubs on the old home place. What wouldn't you give to have those memories live again!

The charm of flowering plants tastefully arranged is irresistible; and the prospect of planning a place out-of-doors, which is attractive, liveable and comfortable, and where the whole family can find countless hours of enjoyment, is fraught with gay adventure, don't you think?

Such a room will naturally be closely related to the living room within the house—perhaps directly connected to it by doors or a living room porch. If this is impossible, the views from the living room windows will overlook this outdoor area, and make it seem but an extension of our home life into the grounds.

This relationship between the house and grounds suggests that the outdoor living room would be located to the side and rear, for as privacy is the first essential in making this new outdoor room liveable, the house itself forming a screen or barrier from the passing public. Neatly trimmed hedges, vine-clad fences, or borders of mixed trees and shrubs will serve as living walls of green to screen out all that is undesirable while framing the garden pictures. Here and there a specimen tree will be planted for shade or fruit. The evergreens will lend all year 'round enchantment and provide a foil against which the masses of nodding flowers will be displayed.

Such an outdoor room may be developed to express the home owner's individual preferences for certain kinds of plants, as even the smallest of home plots has sufficient room to give the garden hobbyist full sway. An arbored nook will provide a shady spot for rest; the sturdy trees, a branch from which Junior may hang his swing; a group of evergreens may extend their protecting arms about a corner for play, and a rug of growing green will carpet the entire room underfoot.

Ask anyone who has planned and planted an outdoor living room all their own, and you will hear an enthusiastic tale.

First, you will hear about the joy of planning it—how first hours were spent contemplating possible arrangements. These are the dream hours, and there is as much pleasure in dreaming how you will furnish the outdoor rooms, as planning new things for the inside.

Then you will hear of the Spring days—plans made with the nurseryman, visits to his growing, glowing acres—of the excitement when the plants were delivered and set out; and of how, suddenly, dreams became real. Lines on the plan turned into graceful leafy shrubs which burst into flower year after year. Beds drawn on paper became glowing masses of flowers with gay blossoms nodding us a welcome. Little circles on the sketch now became living, leafing trees, ready to plant their part in the picture.

Every day offers new pleasures if one has an outdoor living room. Guests will come to admire and enjoy; family meals may be served amid the charm of flowering plants. Again, there is ever changing spectacle in the plantings themselves. First, in Spring, the bulbs and

birds appear; then waves of hardy flowers flaunt their gay colors. As the blossoms come and go, the blaze of Autumn colors fades into the fairyland beauty of gleaming frost on naked twigs.

As you plan for the development of an outdoor living room in your own backyard, you will soon discover that there are countless arrangements which can be given to the plants and garden furniture which you desire. The so-called formal type of development seems to be most in keeping with the size and shape of the limited area available on the average home grounds today. Such a development extends the line of the house out into the grounds in the form of living plants, and to further accent the architectural influence, a garden axis starting from the house itself might well terminate in a smaller feature reflecting the design and materials of which the house itself is constructed. This garden axis may actually be constructed in the form of a path. It may simply be a panel of grass, or a line of view from inside the house. In any case the formal outdoor living room need not be so faultless that its use and enjoyment would be limited.

The informal type of development suggests the freer flowing curves of nature. In place of studied regularity there will be broad-sweeping curves encircling the masses of shrubs, trees and evergreens, and against these walls borders of hardy flowers and bulbs so arranged as to give color and life throughout the growing season. These secluded bays formed by the shrubbery walls may frame a rock-bound pool; an informal garden seat, or a grouping of tables and chairs for family picnics right at home.

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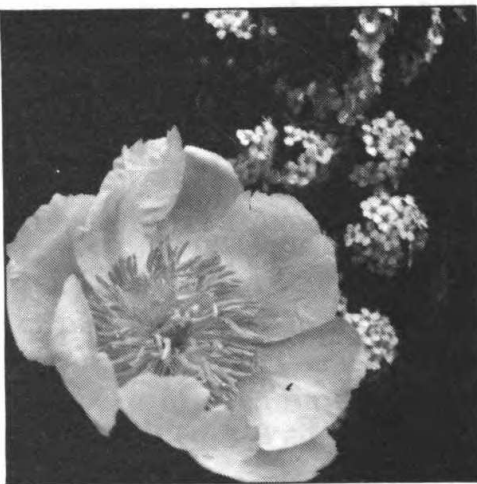
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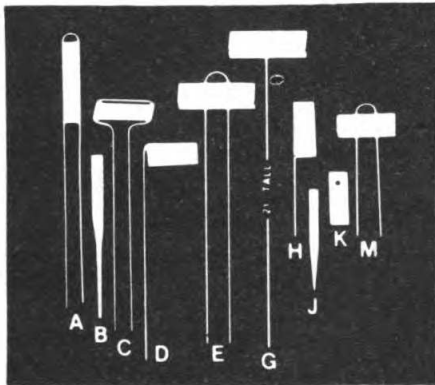
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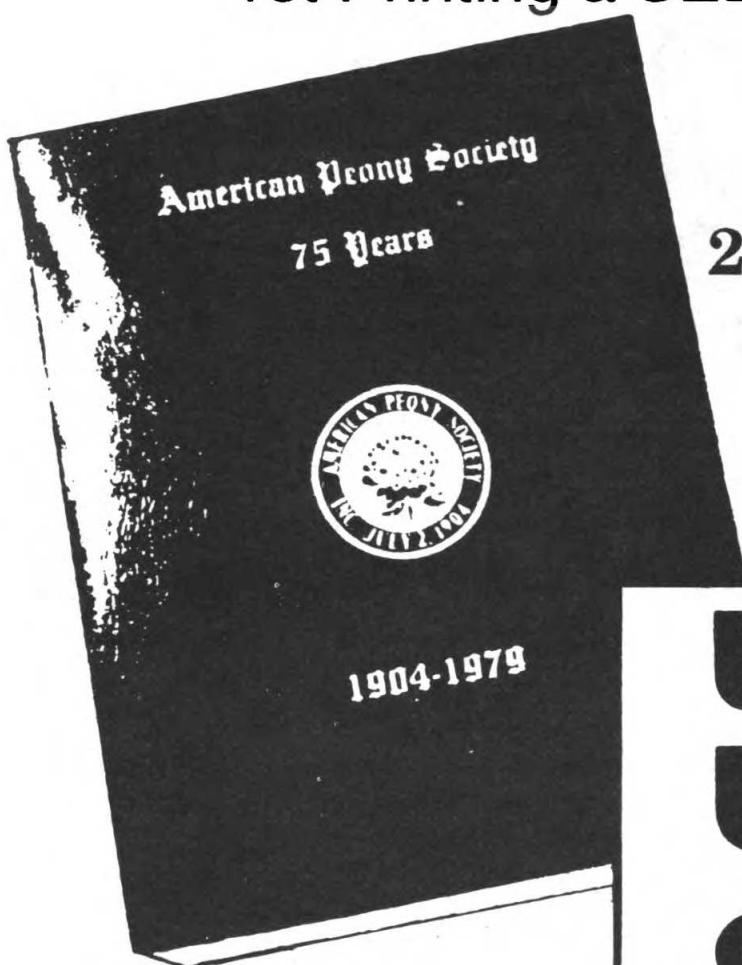
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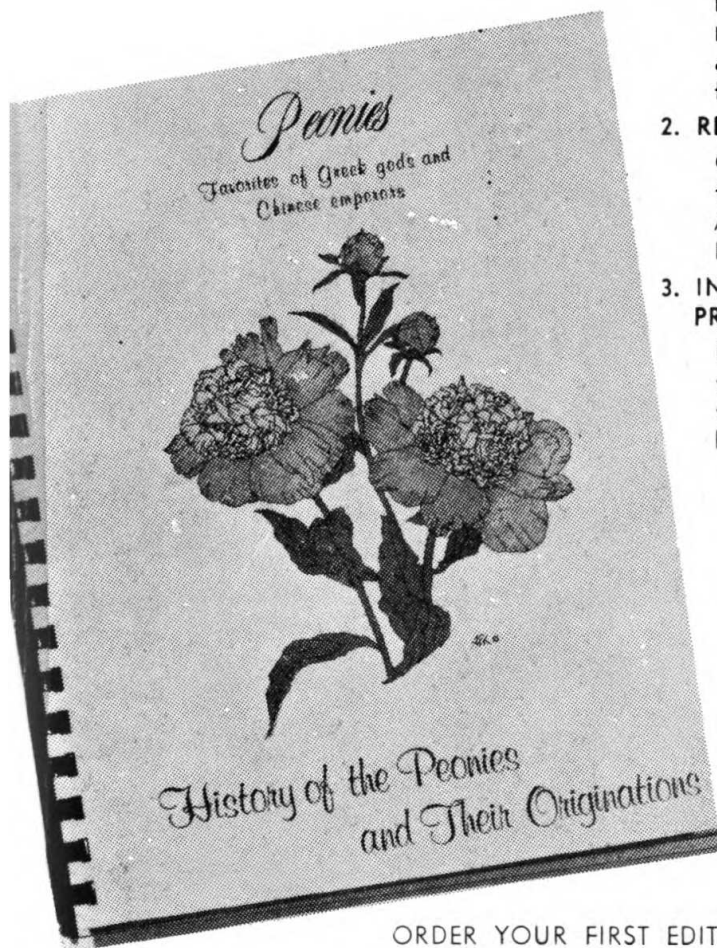
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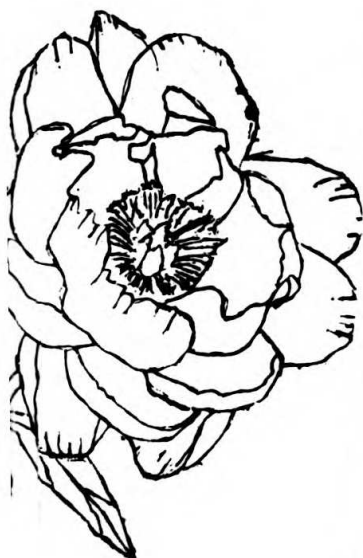
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