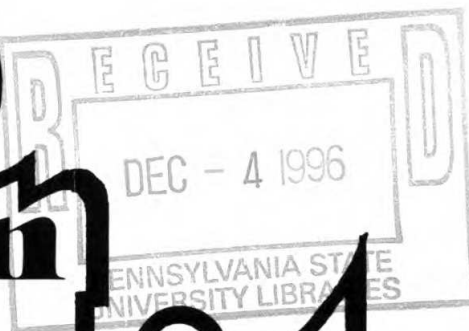


Life Sci.

DECEMBER 1996

NO. 300

# The American Peony Society Bulletin



*Deadalus (Father of Icarus)*

Nassos Daphnis 1995

*Announcing*

The limited  
publication of  
a "TABLE TOP"  
edition devoted  
exclusively to

**AMERICAN  
TREE  
PEONIES**



**Appended cultural notes cover:**

- *Tree Peony history*
- *Planting and general culture*
- *Propagation by root grafting of scions*
- *Pruning, fertilization, winter protection, etc.*

Compiled and edited by  
Greta M. Kessenich;  
photos by Roy Klehm  
and David Reath

*The*  
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TREE  
PEONY**

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\* *A.P. Saunders, William Gratwick, Nassos Daphnis,  
David Reath, Toichi Domoto,  
Don Hollingsworth and Roger Anderson*

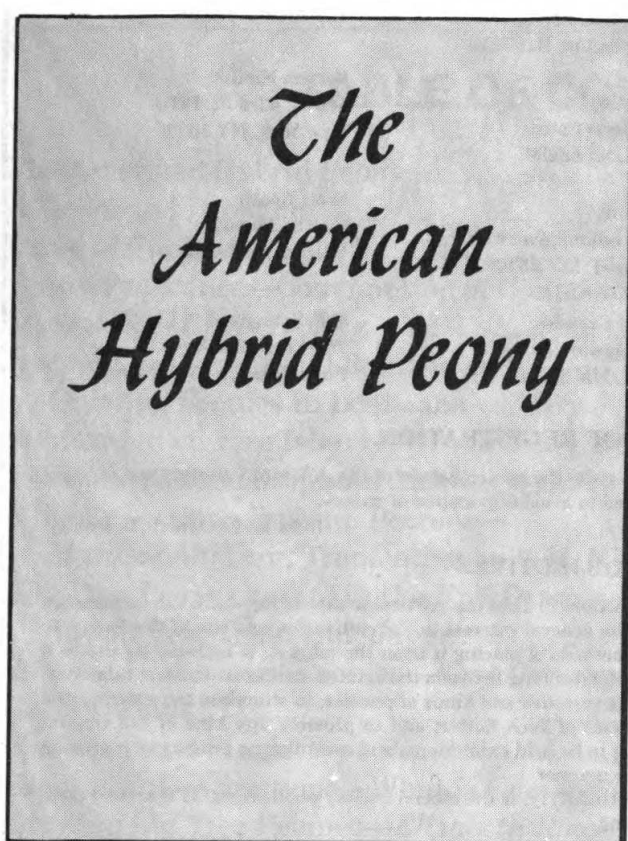
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*Devised and  
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### DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

### OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Section (2) That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the Peony; to improve the methods of its cultivation and methods of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any kind of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held exhibitions, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor or in any other manner.

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

### MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the Peony; its propagation, culture, sale and development are eligible for membership. Dues are as follows:

Single Annual .....	\$7.50	Junior or member family .....	\$2.50
Single Triennial .....	20.00	Life .....	150.00
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Family Triennial .....	27.50		

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

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

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



# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



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December 1996 — NO. 300

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**CONVENTION & EXHIBITION JUNE 13-14-15, 1997  
ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS  
HAMILTON, ONTARIO CANADA**

**Bulletin Cover:**

**DEADALUS F 2** (Father of Icarus) (Nassos Daphnis, New York),  
Aug. 24, 1995

Seedling number D-315, hybrid, dark red, semi-double, very dark red burgundy color. Petals like heavy silk with good substance and glowing quality. Dark center with bright yellow anthers. Has stamens and pollen, no seeds, fragrant. Good stem strength, height 4-5 feet. Blooms in late May. Very good vigor, dark green foliage, reliable. One bud per stem.

*We have continually been asked about fragrance and for a list of fragrant peonies available. The following is the result of our research, beginning with information in 1906. Over a period of time, we have asked for your list of fragrant peonies. Some lists were received and all were tabulated. The result can be read for 1996.*

## PEONY FRAGRANCE

*(From "A Manual" written by C. S. Harrison about 1906)*

This is most remarkable, on account of its wide diversity. These flowers emit their delicate perfume just as the buds open; after that it is not as pronounced. Around one there floats the perfume of the violet. The genuine **Humei**, besides that glorious bloom of varnished pink, sends out a cinnamon odor. Many add the perfume of the rose to the effulgent bloom. One has the delicate aroma of the heliotrope. Another has the form and fragrance of the pond lily. Let all these emanations blend in one great wave of perfume, and billows of it seem to hang in the air and float around you.

★ ★ ★ ★

## PEONY FRAGRANCE

*Prof. A. P. Saunders*

During the past season I made a careful study of my collection with a special view to the question of fragrance; and I offer as a result the following rather tentative remarks:

There are four distinguishable types of odor in peonies, for which I shall use the names Rose, Honey, Lemon and Bitter.

1. The rose fragrance is that which would commonly be recognized as the natural odor of the peony. It approaches the odor of a June rose, and in some cases closely resembles it. This type of fragrance exists very strongly in **Edulis Superba**, **Gigantea**, **Venus**, **Milton Hill** and in many whites, notably in **Baroness Schroeder**, **Mme. de Verneville**, **Le Cygne** and **Festiva Maxima**.

2. The honey odor characterizes those peonies with bright yellow central petals; most markedly in **Philomele** and **Candidissima**, two of the most highly scented of all peonies. I have always called this a honey odor, but was confirmed in the designation by overhearing a lady at the New York show this year exclaim as she sniffed a vase of **Philomele**, "Why, it smells just like honey!"

3. The lemon odor is a peculiar aromatic and fruity smell, disagreeable to some in freshly opened flowers, but becoming more acceptable as the flowers mature. It would seem to accompany those blooms that have a mixture of salmon and pink central petals; but perhaps not all of them.

4. The bitter odor of most stamen bearing flowers is generally considered disagreeable when the blooms are young and the odor is

at its strongest. This odor is sometimes, and appropriately, called "soapy." Almost all singles possess it in an unmitigated form, especially the single reds, in many of which it is quite repulsive. In the more double varieties, as **James Kelway**, **Mme. A. Dessert**, **La Tulipe**, **M. Martin Cahuzac**, the odor is much less marked than in the singles, and it grows fainter as the blooms get older, so that it is not infrequently pronounced agreeable in flowers that have been open for some days. To me it is never better than indifferent.

The line of demarcation between these types of odor is not tightly drawn, but if characteristic examples of each be taken, the difference is manifest enough.

I hope this attempted classification may bring comment, amplification or protest from such of our members as lead a vivid olfactory existence.

★ ★ ★ ★

Excerpts from an article:

## **"ROSE SCENTED FRAGRANT PEONIES"**

*by H. G. Reading, Franklin, Pennsylvania, Bulletin #24*

**(Peonies in this article can be purchased today, except Mlle. Rousseau)**

Probably the earliest peony to bloom having pronounced rose fragrance is **Edulis Superba**. This grand old deep pink variety meets every qualification demanded of a first-class peony and is not to be despised merely because it is cheap in price. I have bought many a high priced novelty that does not surpass it, and surely none is more reliable.

Blooming a little later, and with the rose odor even more strongly impregnated is **Madame de Verneville**, another old-time favorite; white, with occasional tips of crimson similar to **Festiva Maxima**. One or two blooms of this variety will fill a room with the delicious perfume like that of the priceless attar of roses. Unfortunately for the popularity of this peony, it is woefully weak in substance. Following **Madame de Verneville** we have **Mlle. Rousseau**, a splendid cut flower variety, sulphur-white with pinkish flesh-colored center; a free bloomer; rose fragrance strong and pleasing.

Another peony that surprised me very agreeably is **Archie Brand**. This massive peony not only has true rose fragrance very strong, but it has such wonderful substance that the fine pink blooms last nearly a week after being cut. **Frances Willard** is another of the Brand peonies that appeals very strongly on account of having every characteristic desired of a peony by the most critical connoisseur.

M. Crousse must have been delighted when he first beheld a bloom of **La Perle**. To have created such a gem as this one would be



honor a-plenty for anyone. A number of years ago in the *Peony Bulletin* No. 1, I read Mr. Engle's interesting article on "*Growing Peonies for Cut Flowers*," and was impressed with this paragraph: "I am still on the lookout for an ideal peony, a plant of good growing habit, fine in bud and mature flower, a good keeper, odor good XXX, color good, and a bud that will open well after being cut. **La Perle** comes about as near this ideal as any I have tested." I have always felt indebted to Mr. Engle for this introduction. I have been planting **La Perle** every year since, and I am pleased to note that its merits are becoming more and more appreciated as it becomes better known. **La Perle** is now usually found in the prize-winning groups at the annual shows.



## PEONY FRAGRANCE

*Edw. Auten, Jr., Princeville, IL, Bulletin #75*

There are many conflicting statements made in regard to fragrance of peonies. This, I believe, is because very few people have a sense of smell wholly unimpaired. Some cannot smell at all, others have an impaired sense, but do not know it is impaired. Obviously, no one is competent to judge unless his sense is perfect.

To a person with full sense of smell, the odor of the stamens of a peony bloom is strong and offensive. Some people say they like the odor of the singles, but I am almost certain their sense is impaired. I do not believe any single peony should be credited with *agreeable* fragrance, nor any semi-double that has many stamens. Some claim that a semi-double may have rose fragrance along with the strong odor of the stamens. I am not sure of that! If anyone says **Darkness** and **Marguerite Dessert** are fragrant, they probably have an impaired sense of smell. And I would say that *all* singles are *disagreeably* fragrant.

There are two types of bloom which we call "Jap;" "typical," like **Mikado**, with narrow center petaloids with swollen edges, the swollen parts yellow and containing enclosed pollen. This type, which includes **Nippon Beauty**, I believe is seldom, if ever, fragrant. The other, the "Anemone type" Jap, is a bit further away from the single form than the "typical" Jap. The narrow petaloids do not have the swollen edges, and usually are all one color, or nearly so. These are often fragrant.

It is not possible to draw a distinct classification between the Anemone type Japs and the regular Anemone type doubles—they merge so gradually. The regular Anemone type has probably the largest proportion of its varieties rose fragrant than any other type of bloom. Next would be the full doubles; and there are more whites fragrant than any other color.

Peony blooms may have the disagreeable odor from stamens, they may have no odor, they may have what I call the typical Peony fragrance. **Umbellata Rosea** is an example. Then a few have a slight odor somewhat akin to that from newly cured red clover hay. And then those that I call really fragrant, those with the fragrance of the old fashioned June blooming double roses, and others with true tea rose fragrance.



## FRAGRANT PEONIES

*James Mason, Chicago, IL, Sept. 1940*

A neighbor gave me all his **Mikado** because he couldn't stand the odor. His word for it was something else, and you know **Mikado** do not need three guesses. The American Peony Society's manual says "*disagreeable*."

But you may be most interested in the fragrant varieties to put in vases or to cut for friends. Here is a list of fragrant peonies which will cost up to 15 or 20 dollars each:

A.B.C. Nicholas	Mme. de Verneville
A. B. Franklin	Mrs. Frank Beach
Alice Harding	Mrs. J. V. Edlund
Anna Sass	Myrtle Gentry
Asa Gray	Nina Secor
Autens Pride	Oliver F. Brand
Ball O' Cotton	Philippe Rivoire
Blanche King	Queen of Hamburg
Dr. J. H. Neeley	President Coolidge
Duchesse de Nemours	Richard Carvel
Edulis Superba	Splendida
Grace Batson	Tourangelle
Hansina Brand	Venus
Katherine Havemeyer	Lillian Gumm
Martha Bulloch	

## A DIFFERENCE IN NOSES

There seems to be some disagreement among writers of catalogs as to the degree of fragrance for **Philippe Rivoire**. Yet, if you placed a bouquet of that flower in your home or office, the perfume would fill the room with a pleasant aroma.

The same is true for any of the varieties in the list above. There are but two full double red peonies in this list. The reason I omit others is because I have not sniffed them.

It is interesting that there are amateurs and professionals who pay little attention to fragrance, though it seems obvious that

**Philippe Rivoire** is still at a premium after 27 years of propagation, because it is fragrant. **Kelway's Glorious** will bring a good price per root for a long time, no doubt, because it gives so much rose-like fragrance with its beautiful bloom. **Kelway's Glorious** has been on the market since 1909 and still is in about the same price bracket as **Philippe Rivoire**, which was introduced in 1911. Both of these came from across the Atlantic. What have our own originators offered to match them in fragrance? Plenty. The best flower (best bloom)—**Mrs. A. M. Brand**, and best white—**Mrs. J. V. Edlund**) in the 1940 national show is a fragrant American one. That honor will always go to a peony with a pleasant odor if the judges are instructed to count 10% for fragrance. About two-thirds of the peonies on this list were produced by our American originators. It is not a complete list.

## FRAGRANCE AND VARIETY

There is ample opportunity for anyone to have a complete peony garden of fragrant double varieties with long season of bloom. You can have quality and variety, though you demand sweet aroma from the varieties you plant.

The first blossoms in this fragrant peony garden will open early, starting with the pink double **Edulis Superba**. The season will last approximately one month and end in a grand display of **Myrtle Gentry**, **Marie Lemoine**, **President Coolidge** and **Last Rose**.

Which is my favorite? I refuse to pick one. But I'll confess that I am looking for something which I hope to find some day. I'm looking for a larger and darker **Philippe Rivoire**, a peony similar in color to **Mons Martin Cahuzac** with a fragrance like the pleasant odor which I find in every pretty bloom of **Mrs. Frank Beach**, **Kelway's Glorious** or **Edulus Superba**.

(See Page 38)



## FRAGRANT PEONIES AS OBSERVED BY OUR MEMBERS 1996

*(All the peonies are available today)*

### STRONG FRAGRANCE

<b>Edulis Superba</b>	<b>Vivid Rose</b>	<b>Frances Willard</b>
<b>Red Charm</b>	<b>Longfellow</b>	<b>Missie's Blush</b>
<b>Mrs. J. V. Edlund</b>	<b>Chestine Gowdy</b>	<b>Ball O' Cotton</b>
<b>Doris Cooper</b>	<b>Ella Christiansen</b>	<b>Dr. J. H. Neeley</b>
<b>Festiva Maxima</b>	<b>Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt</b>	<b>Lillian Gumm</b>
<b>Ann Cousins</b>	<b>Doreen</b>	<b>Myrtle Gentry</b>

Mons Jules Elie	Pink Lemonade	Mandeleen
Florence Nicholls	Karl Rosenfeld	Hargrove Hudson
Kelway's Glorious	Georgiana Shaylor	A. B. Franklin
Martha Bullock	Lois Kelsey	Primevere
White Cap	Moonstone	La Perle
Phillip Rivoire	Isani Gidui	Mrs. Livingston
Dr. J. H. Neeley	Cora Stubbs	Farrand
Richard Carvel	Miss America	Frankie Curtis
Blanche King	Hansina Brand	Krinkled White

### **LIGHT FRAGRANCE**

Bowl of Cream	Princess Margaret	Dorothy J.
Raspberry Sundae	Sylver	Do Tell
Norma Volz	Gay Paree	Pillow Talk
Pico		

\*\*\* There are many more fragrant peonies not listed here. When the peonies bloom, check for fragrance—send us your observation regarding the fragrance, and names of the peonies.



## **MUTATIONS**

*Chris Laning*

New characteristics appearing suddenly in a growing plant or a part of the plant is called a sport. This mutation is an unearned gift, an accidental event, and not a result of plant breeding. The cause remains, at least for me, a mystery but a most happy event! While mutations may be caused by a change in a gene or its location on the chromosome (where breakage of the chromosome permits cross-over or structural rearrangement of its location), the process is invisible and possibly only theoretical, but a very happy event. This type of mutation is heritable in many cases and may be retained in sexual propagation in its descendents (through seed production).

Some mutations can only be retained by a sexual propagation, but this is also true of all cultivars. An example of this kind of a sport is the variegated leaves in the hosta cultivars.

One Itoh in my garden has full double flowers of good bright yellow color. It sent out an underground stem (stolon) that produced a plant some eight inches from it that produces full double white flowers. This mutation has very large green leaves and is altogether more robust than its yellow progenitor. If phenotype is an indicator,

it could well be a tetraploid. While this would be interesting, this would be no great breakthrough since the Itohs are sterile. As with others, this one will be propagated through division.

Many hybrids, especially the difficult crosses, have a measure of instability due to the difficulty of chromosome pairing. Under this sort of stress, infertility is to be expected. With sufficient number of plants and over a period of time, an occasional seed may be produced so I suppose an occasional sport could appear. This may be a little far out—but to my thinking, this is a good reason for not rogueing the less beautiful peonies. Along with this wishful thinking is the fact that changes in flower shape and color appear as the seedling gets older and matures.

Walk through your flowering garden often and be occasionally pleasantly surprised.

★ ★ ★ ★

## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIAL REGIONS

ALABAMA  
GEORGIA  
MISSISSIPPI  
LOUISIANA

Water must be supplied if not sufficient rain. Two-year plants may give better results than smaller ones. Eyes should be not more than one-inch below the surface. Success is doubtful south of the latitude of Montgomery, Alabama. Tree peonies may succeed much farther South even into Northern Florida. Try them.

NEW MEXICO  
ARIZONA

In sections with a similar climate, all kinds of peonies seem to do well. However, abundant water is necessary and should be supplied when rains are scarce. In the sections where frost is only occasional, peonies will grow at the higher altitudes quite well, even as far down as the Mexican border. High heat will hinder the opening of the full double, late varieties. To force dormancy in the warmer areas, water should be withheld from about September 1 to October 15, and the herbaceous varieties cut to the ground.

★ ★ ★ ★

## GROWING PEONIES IN LOUISIANA

*Henry J. Cangelos, 4332 S. Fairway Drive, Shreveport, LA 71109*

Three years ago, I started with a very few plants, not knowing if peonies would tolerate our climate. Now 100 or more of these plants

(one, two, and three-year-olds) are growing, and about half of them have buds—we have had a very mild Winter season.

There are many trees in my yard, so this planting averages a half a day of sunshine every day. There were six or eight days, the temperature went down to 28 and 30 degrees for about three hours in the early morning. With the trees, the temperature was 3 to 4 degrees warmer than the official reading.

With this experience, growing peonies on the fringe area of the South [which runs along the latitude of Dallas, Ft. Worth, and Longview, Texas to Shreveport, Louisiana, to Jackson, Mississippi on to the East Coast] gardeners can have success with peonies.

It is a fact that when we have colder Winters, which would be normal, 20-25 degree days, all varieties bloom to satisfaction as was experienced two and three years ago.

Tree peonies averaged better with buds and they are only one season old.

Peonies that are most successful for me are:

**Henry Bookstoe, Red Charm, Nick Shaylor, Red Red Rose, LeCygne, Carol and Big Ben**, only two years old—they have 3-7 buds.

**Dutchess deNemours, Miss America, Krinkled White, Mons Jules Elie, Raspberry Sundae**—also many buds.

Members that are growing peonies on this fringe South, let me hear from you as to the varieties that are proving successful.

★ ★ ★ ★

## MY GARDEN ON FIRE ISLAND

*Vernon Kidd, New York*

Greetings on a rainy Thursday at Fire Island. Notes on my Peony season have had to wait until now, due to a writing deadline and learning to use a new laptop computer.

Only about 20 miles offshore, TWA Flight 800 exploded and fell into the Atlantic. Friends, Judy and Don Hester, enjoying an evening walk on the beach before turning in, witnessed the event as I watched the evening news on television, and a ghostly glow illuminated the distant horizon. Helicopters and service planes have been roaring across the island daily ever since.

Separated from the Hampton beaches of Long Island by Moriches Inlet, Fire Island is accessible at its eastern end by the Smith Point Bridge at Shirley/Mastic, and it was there that a memorial service for the passengers was held. I was driven off the island via this bridge one Winter day when Great South Bay was frozen, and no boat service was available.

**Red Grace**, which was just finishing her bloom when I returned from the Peony Show in Mansfield, Ohio, surprised us with two small buds ready to open later in June. A dear friend had written earlier to thank me for two **Red Grace** divisions I had given her the previous year, saying they were breathtaking in her yard and in a church garden where she had planted one of the divisions.

A newly-formed Garden Club visited the garden on June 15, with oohs and aahs, testifying to so many peonies still in bloom. The visitors had missed the early tree peonies, which seem to thrive in spite of my failure to provide an ideal spot for them. **Madame Andre de Villies**, in bloom when it arrived from Klehm's, has prospered with several large blooms, and many new buds are forming for next Spring. The two-year transplant **Shintenchii's** blooms were equal in size to the finest at the show in Mansfield, and nearby residents rushed to take pictures of the enormous blossoms along with its neighbor (an unknown pink, which may be **Hana Kisoi**), whose color is even more striking.

Glowing **Raspberry Rose**, a name to remember, is in short supply. This is the first year I've been able to evaluate it, even though it was the second year of bloom, and it is exceptional. Strong stems support the large double flowers, with the color living up to its name: fading to salmon on the petal tips as the bloom ages. A raspberry glow with some raspberry veining halfway up from the petal base gives the flower exceptional beauty all the way up to the petal fall, and it has a sweet, refreshing fragrance. This should be in a choice spot in every garden, and hopefully Klehm's Nursery will be able to supply divisions again soon.

**Primevere** bloomed for the first time last year, but I was unable to see the results at that time. This year there were 10 large blossoms on sturdy stems. The large, bi-colored flower with a cupped double row of white petals surround a ball of golden yellow centered with pink-tipped stamen. With its neighbors of **La Loraine**, **Red Grace** and **Moon Over Barrington**, all exceptional, **Primevere** produced several healthy seeds for the Society's seed bank.

Chris Laning's hybrid **Sunny Girl** brings a light yellow glow just after the tree peonies, nicely contrasted against shining light green leaves. Also giving the season a glow and producing the longest peony season ever in the Fire Island garden were **Douglas Brand**, **Pink Derby**, **Edulus Supreme**, **Pink Parfait**, **Raspberry Sundae**, **Mrs. F.D.R.**, **Pillow Talk**, **Mrs. Euclid Snow**, **Red Charm** and, returning after setbacks: **Whopper**, **Pink Jazz**, **Cheddar Cheese** (everyone loves this creamy white with a golden inner glow), and **Myra MacRae** along with **Vivid Rose** and **Elsa Sass**.

Still waiting for **Goldilocks**, **Hermione** and **Mother's Choice** to bloom (maybe next Spring), I will somehow plant David Reath's tree peony **Waucedah Princess** and three of his recent introduc-

tions, **White Frost**, **Rozella** and **Pink Pom Pom**, in hard-to-find space. Next week a division of the Gold Medal winner for 1996, Don Hollingsworth's exquisite **Garden Treasure**, goes into an already prepared spot where its golden sheen can contrast across the path with my favorite red, **Red Grace**, promising Winter dreams of next Spring's bloom.

It is encouraging to see that commercial catalogs are beginning to offer larger selections of peonies by name rather than simply by color. Jung's new **Golden Yellow Crown**, at \$69 a division, sold out almost immediately. The catalog photograph was spectacular, and Jung isn't sure it will be able to fill all back orders. I have enclosed an intriguing article from the September *House & Garden* pertaining to an expedition to China by White Flower Farm of Litchfield, Conn., to acquire new stock of Chinese tree peonies.

Hordes of mosquitoes make Fall fruit harvesting difficult, but nevertheless the garden has been both a surprise and a joy in this most unusual year, one in which Summer only got started right before Fall.

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## THE FIRST Species Peony International Network MEETING

*Galen Burrell, Ridgefield, Washington*

After only one cancelled flight, a perfect transatlantic flight, a wonderful train ride on the ICE, and a perfectly executed train connection in Hamburg, I arrived in Bad Rappenau, Germany, where I was met at the train station by my hosts, Irmtraud and Gottlob Rieck.

I spent the afternoon and evening walking through Irmtraud and Gottlob's beautiful garden which is dominated by herbaceous and tree peonies. Their plants of *Paeonia tenuifolia* (double and single flowered) were the largest and most beautiful I have ever seen. They also had a large plant of *Paeonia mascula* that was in flower under a cherry tree that was exceptionally beautiful. It was in such a perfect setting it looked as though it was blooming in the wild.

Jet lag finally set in and I was barely able to crawl into bed after a wonderful meal. My wake-up knock came a bit too early the next morning but it was time to travel to Bayreuth, Germany, for the first Species Peony International Network (SPIN) meeting. (The meeting was wonderfully organized by Irmtraud and Gottlob Rieck). Before we left Bad Rappenau, Irmtraud showed me the Chinese tree peonies which they had imported and were now planted around the castle situated in the center of town. Someday, when they reach maturity, reflections from these tree peonies in the moat will be outstanding.



Our trip to the hotel in Bayreuth (By-roit) was uneventful except for the race course like driving on the autobahn. After checking into the hotel we went to visit one of our hosts, Fritz Kohlein. Mr. Kohlein has written books about many different garden plants—his most popular book that has been translated to English is *IRIS*. Visiting his garden was one of the highlights of my trip. It was nice to see peonies mixed in his garden with all other sorts of plant species and hybrids.

The first evening in the hotel was spent getting acquainted. Luckily for me many of the people attending the meeting spoke very good English as my German is practically nonexistent. Attending the meeting were primarily SPIN members from Germany except for Lupo Osti from Italy, Jos Theunissen and Leon Doyen from the Netherlands, Will McLewin from Great Britain, and my good friend from Switzerland, Walter Good.

After an American/German-style buffet breakfast we drove to the Oekologisch-Botanischer Garten of the University of Bayreuth, where Professor Rossmann showed us the plant collection. We saw many blooming plants of *Paeonia anomala*, *Paeonia veitchii*, *Paeonia delavayi*, and other peony species all growing in recreations of their native habitats. Besides being beautiful to see it was a great learning experience for me since I have not visited many of the places where wild peonies grow.

After lunch at Mr. Kohlein's house we visited a nursery, Feustel, run by Mr. Kohlein's son which had an amazing array of rare plants. In the evening some members showed slides of peonies taken in the wild. Lupo Osti showed slides from his 1994 trip to China, Ferenc Foltanyi showed slides of *Paeonia officinalis* ssp. *banatica* taken in Hungary, and Irmtraud and Gottlob Rieck showed pictures of *Paeonia clusii* taken in Crete and *Paeonia clusii* ssp. *rhodia* taken on the island of Rhodes.

The next day we traveled north to the town of Hof to see the Botanical Garden of Hof which is run by Hermann Fuchs. It is a spectacular garden (one of the most beautiful and well-kept public gardens I have ever seen) which has an amazing collection of species peonies. Unluckily for us, most of the peonies were not yet in bloom. There was, however, a gorgeous plant of a close peony relative, *Glaukidium palmatum*, in full bloom. Its beautiful, pale mauve flowers almost glowed in the dense shade where it was growing.

We were then invited to visit Hermann Fuchs' personal garden. Mr. Fuchs has an amazingly varied plant collection. For me the highlight of his garden was a blooming plant of *Paeonia vernalis* (rose-red flowered form of *Paeonia obovata*) and a large plant of *Paeonia parnassica*, which is very difficult to grow outside of its native habitat on Grecian mountains. Probably the most important thing I learned from visiting Mr. Fuchs' garden and the Hof Botani-

cal Garden was how important it is to grow peonies, and other species of plants, on raised mounds.

The next day, on our way back to Bad Rappenau, we stopped at the private garden of Mr. Hertle to see his large collection of tree peony hybrids. We were a bit too early as only 3 or 4 tree peonies were in bloom. But again it was interesting for me to see that he was growing his tree peonies primarily in raised beds.

When we returned to Irmtraud and Gottlob's house we found many more of their peony plants in bloom, including *Paeonia rockii* and some beautiful *P. rockii* hybrids—hybridized by Irmtraud and Gottlob with a little help from some bees.

After a trip to the beautiful city of Hamburg, Irmtraud and Gottlob let me off at the Frankfurt Airport for my 14-hour flight back home.

I cannot thank Irmtraud and Gottlob Rieck enough for their hospitality, and Hermann Fuchs, Mr. Kohlein, Mr. Hertle, and Professor Rossmann for showing us their gardens, and all of the SPIN members that attended the meeting for making it such a wonderful success.

When I returned to my own garden I began raising all of my beds above ground level just like those gardens I had seen in Germany. Who says that you can't teach an old gardener some new tricks?

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## A STUDY IN LITERATURE ON SOME RUSSIAN PEONIES

Marlene Ahlburg

Stirred, on the one hand, by an article in '*Die Gartenpraxis*' 5(94) by Irmtraud Rieck on the variability of *Paeonia tenuifolia*, and then again by meeting a person who, in his youth, knew peonies growing wild much as we came to know the ordinary dandelion, I began to search for information about those peonies that were neither of the South-Russian/Caucasus group nor those of the Russian/Far Eastern ones. The limits on this particular group of Russian peonies were set by the available literature, but I am convinced that it is reasonable to deal with this group, provisionally seen as 'Central Asian/Siberian,' as has also partly been done by some Russian authors.

### The Central Asian/Siberian Peonies

If everything that has been called *P. anomala*, var. *intermedia* inclusive, in Russian literature really is one single species, then this species would have a much wider distribution than any other species of *Paeonia*. It may be useful to take an atlas and deliberately look for all the place names which are mentioned further down in order to appreciate this supposition.

It is in the farthest northwest of Russia in Europe, on the Kola Peninsula, near the Finnish border, that var. *intermedia* occurs. Who discovered this plant here I could not yet find out. According to some authors, also in the west, it ranges, together with *P. anomala*, as far as the Altai Mts. and far into the central Asian mountains, as in the south the Pamir Alai. Precise localities are given only sparingly; mostly for *P. anomala* var. *anomala*. This plant occurs somewhat sparingly only over a wide range, from Karelia, on the (northern ?) Dvina, the Petshora, along the tributaries of the Volga River, N.W. of Moscow, on the Kama River, as well as the Ural Mts. of northeastern Russia. It is a rare plant.

East of the Ural Mts. there are localities in Western Siberia on the upper reaches of the rivers Ob and Irtysh; in Eastern Siberia on the River Yenisey and Angara, on the upper Lena in SW Yakutia, where it reaches the northeastern limits of its range. One note even refers to the River Kolyma, east of the Verkhoyansk Mts. (unless there is more than one river of such name). The plant also is found along the southern limits of the Taiga in the industrial regions around Tomsk, Krasnoyarsk, Kemerovo, etc., as much as east of the Lake Baikal. More localities quoted for the plant are the westerly Sayan Mts. near Taskalys, the summits of the Alau, the Altai, ne Kazakhstan, the Djungarian Alatau, the Tarbagatay along the Aktogay River, and the northern as much as the western TienShan. Being used as a remedy by the people of northern China, the westerly Gobi Desert, in Mongolia and Tibet, it should also occur here naturally.

Consistently woodland, the edge of woodland and grassfields in woodlands, also sparse softwood forests, birchwoods near rivers, hardly ever dry river meadows are given as the habitat of *P. anomala*; never though the somber softwood forests of the Taiga proper. Apparently it follows the rivers down from the mountains into the Taiga, where today it supposedly has mostly disappeared, remaining only in mountains up to 2500m.

*P. anomala* prefers humus-rich, nutritious soils, mostly of birchwoods, softwood- or mixed forest origin. It usually occurs as a well-developed individual plant, occasionally in small groups. One author mentions its preference for acid soils.

My impression is, after reading some Russian authors, that they have a concept of *P. anomala* different from ours in the west. Russian authors unfortunately rarely quote precise figures for measurement—for them, it generally only is either small or big. I am quoting some authors in order to substantiate my idea that there is a different concept.

*Wintergoller*: 'Large perennials with large, fusiform tuberous roots. Stems with pinnate leaves. Flowers bright rose red, 8-15 (-18) cm diameter; seeds black. Fls. 5/6.'

*Flora of the USSR*:L 'Stems 80-115cm.'

***Yakutskaya Red Book:*** 'Perennial with thick, tuberous roots. 60-100cm high. Leaves 13-10cm long. Flowers large, rose red, 8-13cm diameter.'

***Cherepin:*** 'Several stems up to 100cm. Roots big, tuberous; leaves stalked, large. Flowers large, bright raspberry colored. Fls 6.'

***Alekseyev:*** 'Perennial with large, fusiform, thickened tuberous roots. Stems up to 1m and more. Leaves biternate, leaflets pinnate, the ones in the middle mostly tripartite, spoon-shaped, the ones on the sides lanceolate with a narrow apex, up to 2.5cm wide. Flowers large, rose purple, 8-13cm diameter; petals irregularly serrate at the top. Follicles scabrous or slightly hairy. Seeds black. Fls 5/6. Very frost hardy.'

***Dictionary of Medicinal Plants:*** 'Large perennial, up to 120cm; flowers 8-13cm wide, with a specific odor, rose red, 5/6, in the mountains 6.'

***Medical Plants of the Soviet Union:*** 'Up to 1m high; flowers large, 13cm wide, rose purple, 5/6. Seeds ripen 7/9. Rare, endangered plant.'

Is this our *P. anomala* indeed? *Coopers* and *Philips/Rix* both have it 50cm high only. Is it that we should grow it in a more acid ground? To illustrate my doubting attitude, I can make mention of my new neighbor, who came from Kazakhstan, of German nationality, and who spent his youth, till he was 16, in the country north of Tomsk in Siberia. He told me, 'We were always hungry when we were children. As soon as Spring arrived, we roamed the fields and forests in order to look for herbs we could eat. Except for one plant we never ate. We did collect its semi-ripe seeds, though, and used them as beads for necklaces to give to our younger sisters. Those were the peonies. They were very big plants, around 1m high, their leaves deeply cut. Most of the time their flowers were purplish red, but sometimes they also were of a dullish yellow color. When seeds began to ripen, we would hike to the valley of a small river, where the peonies could be found among some scattered birch trees, never within the dark Taiga! They had a very disagreeable odor. Quite often we found them at the bottom of huge ant heaps, or between the tracks of the animals.'

My neighbor is an excellent observer of nature, and I was impressed by how distinctly he would name the relevant points. 'They had copper colored leaf stalks, sometimes the stems were of the same color. The freshly sprouting stems were as thick as a finger, and red.' He doesn't remember the precise shape of the leaves, though. They aren't quite like those of *P. Smouthii*, though, but like those of *P. lactiflora*, and yet different. 'There always is only one flower to each stem. It is large, at least 10cm in diameter, quite flat, never forming anything like a bowl shape, and doesn't nod. The center is lighter, yellowish or greenish.'

This could, irrespective of the occasional yellow flower, only be *P. anomala*, if we are to look at the region.

My impression from the literature available to me is that the authors, when using adjectives like large, small, medium for plants in their minds—i.e., *P. anomala*, *P. intermedia*, *P. hybrida*, *P. angustifolia* or *P. pamiroalaica*. Geographical and political causes fused them into one group: *P. anomala* is separated from the south-Russian/Caucasian species by central Russia in Europe; there are no peonies either there nor in the central and southern Ural Mts. This separation is even sharper in the south along the Caspian Sea and the steppes of Kazakhstan, both being formidable obstacles for the distribution of peonies. And then again, China also is set apart by mountains and deserts, if not politically. The Russian Far East, too, is greatly removed by distance alone. So the peonies surrounded by the barriers mentioned form a distinct complex, small in number, but not so in extent.

It is *P. anomala*, the peony of the Taiga, which is the uncommonly strong plant, always growing in woodland. It grows from 80 - 120cm high, in middle altitudes, while the peony of the steppes, *P. hybrida*, occurring on steppe mountain slopes and grassland along the western expanses of the central Asian mountains, always only grows at lower altitudes, and always is a lot smaller (50-70cm, if not even 'true dwarfs' of 25-50cm only). Both also have distinct origins. I believe that *P. hybrida* is the result of evolutionary processes, not of spontaneous crossing of *P. tenuifolia* and *P. anomala*, for both to me appear to be perfectly separated geographically.

*P. intermedia*, the intermediate peony, presumably was given this name for being intermediate in height, 50-75cm; possibly also because of its habitat, as on the one hand it avoids the dry home of the steppe peony, and also the humus rich places where *P. anomala* likes to grow. This species appears to prefer stony ground among trees and shrubs and occurs about 500m above *P. anomala*. The range of both species is not particularly well separated; beyond an altitude of 3000m *P. intermedia* no longer occurs.

A visit to the Botanical Garden in Bayreuth on the occasion of the 1996 meeting of SPIN incidentally gave the opportunity to see what was named *P. intermedia* in flower, growing well 1m high!

It would appear to be rather difficult to tell all three species apart in areas where all three of them occur. So *P. intermedia* has been grouped either with *P. hybrida*, or as variety of *P. anomala*. There are differences in their root systems, though, which should be considered. *P. anomala* is said to have tuberous roots not unlike those of *Dahlia*, while those of *P. hybrida* would be tuberous 'on short legs.' *P. hybrida* var. *intermedia* might well be a bigger *P. hybrida*, and *P. anomala* var. *intermedia* a smaller *P. anomala*. The subter-

anean parts of plants can play, as our problem illuminates, well play as much a part in taxonomy as the parts above ground!

Distinctly different from *P. hybrida*, perhaps belonging within *P. intermedia* appears to be *P. pamiroalaica*. The size of both below-ground and above-ground parts as well as the habitat (up to an altitude of 3000m) seem to support this suggestion; there are some very distinct peculiarities, relating in particular to the flowers, which may suggest that it is a species in its own right.

There is another small-growing peony (about 50cm high) growing in the Sayan Mts., which has particularly narrow leaf segments (5-10mm), i.e. *P. angustifolia*. A link with *P. hybrida* could be suggested, as it occurs in the Altai Mts., and both mountain systems are near enough; also *P. hybrida* is similarly small and also has narrow leaf segments.

As will be clear, there could well be several problems concerning this group of species, apart from *P. anomala* alone, which due to its immense geographical range suggests the immanence of geographical segregates.

Finally, I will provide a synopsis of all the information as gathered from the various texts. This cannot be but some limited support for our concepts of these species, but perhaps also an incentive for further research.

### Synopsis of Available Information

1. *P. anomala*; Russian: Marin Koren, Pion uklonyayushchiysya; Tartar: Chechna

Description: see in the text.

Carpels either glabrous or hairy.

2. *P. intermedia*; Russian: P. promieshutoshniy

Description also given in the text; carpels hairy? Russian authors never mention this. Flowers 5/6.

3. *P. hybrida*; Russian: P. stepnoy; Kazakh: Shan-chumuldik

Distribution: Irtysh, Altai, Syr-Darya, Pamir-Alai, TienShan, Djungarskiy Alatau, Tarbagatag.

Habitat: grass steppe, open mountain slopes of intermediate altitude among shrubs; dry steppic slopes of pre-mountains; open stony slopes of the lower zones in the mountains. On slopes with larger perennials; edges of woodland in intermediate to higher altitudes.

Description: perennial, 15-50 (-80)cm high, smaller than *P. anomala* with smaller leaves. Tuberous roots 'on short legs' (those of *P. anomala* resembling those of *Dahlia*). Seeds shining dark brown. Stems glabrous, leaves biternate, leaflets linear-lanceolate, glabrous below, above with hairs on the veins. Flowers dark pink > rose purple, up to 12cm diameter. Propagation by seeds and vegetatively. Flowers 5-7, seeds ripen 6-8.

4. *P. angustifolia*;

Distribution: west Sayan Mts.

Habitat: 1700m, in open Cedrus woodland.

Description: up to 50cm high; leaflets narrow, lanceolate, up to 1cm wide. Flowers 6-7cm diameter, in 6.

5. *P. Pamiroalaica*;

Distribution: Tadjikistan in the western Pamir Alai; Hissar Mts.

Habitat: subalpine zone between 2500-3000m, on grassland and among shrubs.

Description: Distinguished by 3 plus 2 sepals of leaflike appearance. Larger number of petals (8-14), larger flowers, rhizoms 20-25cm long. Leaves tri- to quadriternate, first order segments with distinct stalks. Leaflets of third order long, lanceolate. Flowers 6.

There is a surprisingly inadequate description provided for *P. intermedia*, although this doesn't appear to be a rare plant. It may be suggested that due to the very wide ranging distribution and also on soils of poorer quality (stony ground, higher altitudes, etc.) such types may well fall within a variable *P. anomala*. Quod erat demonstrandum.

A listing of the Russian texts, titles in German translation, can be provided on request.

Transl. K. H. Neuwirth

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## The Tree Peony (Botan) in the Noh Drama

*Sadao Itoh, Ogoso 2-chome, Tokkaichi 510 Japan*

In my previous notes<sup>1)</sup> on the Japanese Tree Peony (Botan), I described how the Japanese became involved in Botan after it had been introduced from China. This time I would like to bring to your attention Botan in so far as it was taken up in Noh, the traditional Japanese drama. The art of Noh was perfected in the fourteenth century by Kanami and his son Zeami. Highly stylised, Noh is a song and dance drama performed on a special stage by players wearing masks. The title of the Noh play in which Botan appear on the stage is *Shakkyo*. (Stone Bridge).

According to an ancient tradition Ohe no Sadamoto, a government official belonging to the nobility and the leading character in the story, is said to have been born in 962 in the late Heian period. He lost his beloved at the age of 27 and became a bonze called Jakusho from his heart-stricken sadness. After studying Buddhism in Kyoto, at the age of 42 he visited China for further ascetic training. In due course, he decided to return to Japan but in deference to the wishes of his Chinese friends he abandoned the idea and remained in China where he died at the age of 73.

Jakusho made a pilgrimage to the holy mountain Seiryozan. After a long journey along mountain paths resplendent with flowers

he arrived at *Shakkyo*, the stone bridge which leads to the holy mountain. On the other side of this bridge lies Jodo, the Buddhist paradise. The murmuring of mountain streams reached Jakusho's ears like the whisper of a gentle rain. Paradise, the dwelling place of men who have attained to the secrets of perennial youth and immortality, opened before his eyes. According to an ancient Chinese poem a person who stays there for half a day will have grown older by seven hundred years on return to this world.

As Jakusho saw the bridge a child appeared to tell him about it. It is not an ordinary stone bridge such as those used by people on earth. It resembles a rainbow shining in the setting sun or one may perceive it as an arched bridge created by the will of the Buddha spanning the gulf which separates Jodo from this world. Beneath the bridge lies hell, and no living person, not even a well-disciplined ascetic, is permitted to cross it. However, Jakusho was permitted a glance of the Jodo of Monju Bosatsu, the bodhisattva of understanding and wisdom, which lies at the far end of the bridge. Apparently he did not in reality see the Jodo there. It may have been a vision in a dream or perhaps the religious enlightenment which he experienced at the end of his thorough training.

Monju Bosatsu rides on Shishi, which is an imaginary spiritual animal referred to as a lion, the king of animals. Thus Shishi is often called the 'King of Animals' just as the Botan is called the 'King of Flowers.' These words suggest their majesty and beauty.

During the second part of the Noh play, Jodo is presented on the stage. The audience perceives the real Jodo as seen through Jakusho's eyes. In the scenery of a Chinese sacred garden the music of the Noh musicians and the golden stamens of the Botan diffusing their fragrance in the garden entice the Shishi to appear. In this scene of the Noh play the arrival of Monju Bosatsu, Shishi's master, is suggested, although he remains invisible to the audience. His presence and that of the Buddha are indicated only by paintings or sculptures though sometimes a member of the audience is vouchsafed an inner perception of their presence. Some audiences might have really seen Monju Bosatsu there.

Finally, two Shishi appear, impersonated by two actors, one of whom wears a mask and Shishi's white mane, while the other wears a red mane. They dance amongst the Botan, or lie down amongst them. Their impassioned dance reaches a climax with the climax of the music and the viewing of the Botan. The spectators are overcome with joy as if they were in Jodo.

- 1) The American Peony Society *Bulletin*, June 1993, No. 286.



# YEARS OF HERBACEOUS PEONIES

*Kent Crossley*

As most members know, The American Peony Society was formed by a small group of nurserymen who met for the first time in June of 1903. The group's original interest was to assure that proper names were associated with the peonies available to gardeners in the United States. To reach this goal, almost two-thousand varieties were provided by both American and European growers and planted at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Several careful years of observation enabled a small group of experts to make major improvements in the nomenclature of the peony. (The Society continues to take a leadership role to assure that peony names are unique and used consistently for the same variety).

When our Society began, virtually all of the available peonies were lactifloras (i.e. derived from crossing different cultivars of *P. lactiflora*). Although a few species peonies were in common garden use (notably *P. lactiflora* and *P. officinalis rubra*), hybrid peonies were unknown, and tree peonies were rarely grown in the United States. In this article, I will mention some peonies available at the time of our Society's founding which are still sold, and discuss some of the major improvements in lactiflora peonies that have occurred in this century.

Of the many varieties that were evaluated in Ithaca, very few have remained. *The Peonies*, (edited by James Boyd and published by the American Peony Society in 1928) contains a list of "Chinese Peonies" (i.e. lactiflora) felt worthy by the Board of Directors. There are seventy-one pages of names and descriptions. Perhaps a third were introduced before 1903. Less than a dozen of these very old varieties are readily available in 1988. (Certainly others are occasionally offered. In particular, European growers catalog a number of venerable varieties not often listed by American growers).

Most Society members, when asked to name a peony that has been available for many years, would probably answer "**Festiva Maxima**." This peony is certainly one of the oldest lactiflora variety in commerce having been introduced by the French grower Mieliez (about whom little is known) in 1851. It blooms early, has a nice fragrance, and bears white flowers with central crimson streaks. It is inexpensive. The flowers are of medium size and loosely structured. The foliage is an attractive dark green. The stems are adequate for this flower.

Perhaps the next most widely known of these old varieties is **Mons. Jules Eli**. First listed by Crousse, a prominent French nurseryman, this variety is 100 years old in 1988. The flowers are always compared to those of a chrysanthemum. They are rather flat and the

petal shape and arrangement does remind one of a mum. The notable thing about the flower is the unusual silver sheen which develops on the edges of the petals. It is unique and allows one to readily recognize this peony. This variety blooms before any other pink lactiflora. It has foliage of a light green color. **Mons. Jules Eli** is a fine cut flower, and requires support.

An excellent older variety (which does not seem to be very widely sold) is **Mons. Martin Cahuzac**. This peony was introduced by Dessert in 1899. It bears dark maroon flowers which are often said to be the darkest colored of any lactiflora peony. Some growers would argue that **Judy Becker** or **Matilda Lewis** are very similar in color. The petals have a silky luster. In contrast to most nineteenth century introductions, the stems are strong and hold the flowers erect. It blooms mid-season.

One of my other favorite peonies also dates to this period. This is **Reine Hortense**, introduced by the French grower, Calot, in the year 1857. This variety deserves to be more widely grown. Although usually described as pink flowered, I find the blooms to be a wonderful combination of pink, silver, and ivory white. The petals often are deeply notched. The flowers are very large and the stems are strong. Unfortunately, it is not a very fragrant flower.

**La Lorraine** (introduced by Lemoine in 1901) remains a popular peony. The flowers are a soft ivory tinted with dainty shades of pink. Some buried stamens are usually present which gives a yellow hue to the center of the bloom. The plant is tall and flowers mid-season. This is a good garden peony and a long lasting cut flower.

**Avalanche** (Crousse, 1886) is the only peony described in this article that I have not grown. The flowers are ball-shaped and a blush color. It is said to have a strong fragrance.

**Dutchess de Nemours** (Calot, 1856) is an early season white peony with a center of light yellow petals. The flowers are large and very fragrant. It has strong stems, bears a large number of flowers, and is a good garden peony.

**Madame de Verneville** (Crousse, 1885) is common in the wholesale trade and is often sold as an unnamed white double peony. The flower is rather small and the stems are adequate. It has a pleasing fragrance.

**Edulis Superba** is credited to Lemon and said to have been introduced in 1824. The flowers are fragrant and of a rose pink color. They are small. This variety is commonly used as an unnamed pink double peony. It is not often available from peony growers.

**Marie Jacquin** (from the Verdier family; late nineteenth century) is a wonderful variety often called 'the water lily peony.' The guard petals are long and create a deeply cupped flower of pale pink which fades to white. The center is filled with large tufts of yellow stamens.

**Baroness Schroeder** (introduced by the British firm of Kelway in 1889) is a white flowered peony with strong stems. The large flowers are light pink when they initially open. An excellent late mid-season variety.

Almost all of the peonies now available to American gardeners have been introduced in the years since our Society was founded. The major improvements over the last eighty-five years have been development of stronger stems and larger flowers. Varieties such as **Madylone** and **Douglas Brand** are wonderful examples of what has been achieved. Both bear very large flowers (which may be ten inches or so in diameter) on stems which are able to hold these enormous blossoms erect.

Some advances in color have occurred but most new colors (notably the corals) have been in hybrid peonies and not in lactifloras. Shades of yellow and tan lactifloras have been seen in recent years at the annual meetings. Green and blue lactifloras are said to exist in China but the evidence is not well established.

My own suspicion is that there will be no dramatic advances in lactiflora peonies in the near future. Although genetic technology to modify flower colors will probably soon be practical for many other genera of garden plants, peonies are unlikely to be early candidates for such transformation. I find it hard to imagine that there could be real improvements among the progeny of *P. lactiflora*. Certainly some of the most beautiful flowers we know belong to this family.

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## REGISTRATION NAME CORRECTIONS

**Little Darlings** (Zlatana Jennie Draskovich) to **MY DARLING STUDENTS**.

**Pehrsons White Double** (Hollingsworth) to **PEHRSONS WHITE GOOSE**.

**Pehrsons Big Leaf Violet** (Hollingsworth) to **PEHRSONS VIOLET FRISBEE**.

## REGISTRATIONS

**BLACK EAGLE** (H. Entsminger, 1996), Cut Bank, Montana.

Parentage, **Black Pirate** x unnamed red suffruticosa. A single black red tree peony, (RHS 60-C) with large black flares and large petals. Medium leaf size (RHS 138-A) glabrous with light green veining. Mid-season bloom, 8" across with a sweet fragrance. First bloomed 1994. Good stem strength, holds its flowers above the foliage, one bloom per stem.

**OPEN SESAME** (H. Entsminger, 1996), Cut Bank, Montana.

Herbaceous, **Mlokoewitschii** x **Athena**, yellow (RHS 3-0) with small red eye. 4" cup-shaped flower, one per stem, lightly scented. Pollen and pod fertile. Flowers held tall and erect on strong stems well above the bush. Medium to small sized leaf, (RHS 147A) deep green. First bloomed 1992. Bush wider than tall.

**GRAND TETON** (H. Entsminger, 1996), Cut Bank, Montana.

Parentage, **Joseph Rock** x **Guardian of the Monastery**. Hybrid tree, single white with pinkish tint at first, becoming white with large purple flares on each petal. Large cupped flowers, no fragrance. Pollen and pod fertile. First bloomed 1993. One bloom per stem, with flower held erect on strong stems, well above the foliage. Small leaf (RHS 127B) with small hairs on the underleaf. Cold hardy.

**COME HITHER LOOK** (H. Entsminger, 1996), Cut Bank, Montana.

Parentage, unnamed suffruticosa x bees. Tree peony, single pink (RHS 68-C) with deeper pink red flares and deeper pink (RHS 58-D) petal edge. Large cupped shaped petals with a 9" bloom. Mid-season bloom, first bloomed 1994. One bloom per stem, flowers held well above the bush, light fragrance, pollen and pod fertile. Medium leaf size (RHS 139-B). Bush wider than tall.

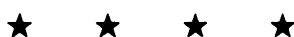
**GREAT FALLS LADY** (H. Entsminger, 1996), Cut Bank, Montana.

Parentage, herbaceous **Great Lady** x bees. A light clear pink (RHS 62B), cut-shaped flower, one per stem. No fragrance, not fertile. 28 inches tall. Medium sized leaf (RHS 132-C) flat color. First bloomed 1993. Flowers held erect and tall on strong stems well above the bush. The bush wider than tall.



## 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.



## SINGLE type peonies

Five or more petals arranged around a center of pollen-bearing stamens and carpels. A class of peonies that is not recognized sometimes by the viewers at an exhibition. Many viewers only know the peony as a large ball form double that has been grown for years. Now they see a single pink beauty called **SEA SHELL**, and **PICO**, a pure snowy white with large cup-shaped bloom, followed by **VIRGINIA DARE**, a medium-sized white, a real beauty. The list goes on with **SPELLBINDER**, **SPARKLING STAR**, **TOPEKA GARNET**, **MR. THIM**, and **CAMDEN**.

## **FROM A MEMBER IN ISRAEL**

Thank you for your letter of August 27. Growing peonies in pots is all I can do at the present time

I am 600 meters above sea level, approximately 900 feet. There is quite a bit of rain and sometimes snow, once or twice.

The Summers are very hot and relatively humid. There is a peony experimental project on the Golon Heights.

I am working against time, so I would like to ask you more urgent questions:

\*\* Is the degree of cold important? I do not find anything that says the colder the better.

\*\* Is it just that it should be cold enough for the plants to rest, not necessarily freeze?

\*\* (And more questions!).

Best regards, Lesley Woodfin

\* \* \* \* \*

Many new members have enrolled. They ask for information on all phases of peony growing.

Questions regarding soil, fertilizer, moving and dividing old peonies, why some varieties are darker color in some years, pink peonies bloom white and white peonies show a decided pink, varieties for the south, and dormancy. Recently, a member asked where she could purchase the single yellow peony, "Molly the Witch." The name of the variety wanted is *Mlokozewitchi*. The Fern Leaf peony has a correct name also, "Tenuifolia Flora Plena." It is known by several names, "Asparagus peony," Christmas tree "pine," etc.

We look forward to hearing from you, with an article for the *Bulletin*. Repetition is necessary because of the questions asked. You could write on any of the above subjects. When bloom time comes in June, take time and smell the peonies.

## **WHAT IS COMPOSTING?**

It is a simple method of following nature's way of returning to the soil many organic wastes from your garden such as grass, leaves, vegetables and the Fall trimming of your garden as you put it to bed for the Winter.

In a small garden, space may not be available to build a compost heap—it is beneficial to spade the fallen leaves in the soil as you prepare the garden for early Spring planting.

Both clay and sandy soil require additions of organic material. This would give both good drainage and water storing space. Soil is the secret of a successful garden. You have all the material it takes to make good soil by composting. These humus-forming materials are the life of the soil—they contribute to its fertility.

# GROWING THE TREE PEONIES

by Elizabeth Seymour Rawlinson, Staunton, VA

Cultivation of the tree peony is a real test of a gardening skill, according to some persons, yet occasionally we hear of a home gardener who had divided an old established clump without any difficulty, even as the herbaceous kinds are increased. However, the greatest peril lies in the propagation and occasionally a plant fails to become established in its new location, but when the roots have taken hold, the worst is over. Then follow the glorious flowers opening ten days or more earlier than the herbaceous kinds.

September and October are the best months for transplanting tree peonies as well as the herbaceous kinds, and in soil requirements these two types do not differ greatly. The best results are obtained from trenching and thoroughly preparing the soil to a depth of two feet. If the subsoil is heavy, drainage may be necessary and sand can be added to a heavy soil to make it porous. Fill the trench with fibrous loam and good garden soil.

It is important to choose carefully the location for planting tree peonies because their hardiness is somewhat dependent upon the degree of exposure to wind and sun in early Spring. The reason is that the buds start into growth early and are, therefore, likely to be injured by late frosts. Hence, protection to the north and west against cold March blasts is necessary. Furthermore, it is best to choose the site so that the early morning sun does not shine on the plants, for buds chilled by a late frost should be allowed to thaw gradually before the sun strikes them. In fact, some gardeners prefer to grow tree peonies in partial shade. No pruning is necessary except to remove dead tips.

Care should be taken when treading the soil around the plants so as to not injure the roots. Heavy watering may be necessary if the soil is unusually dry.

Ample Winter protection must be provided north of Boston, particularly for newly-set plants, and even in milder sections of the country the shrubby tops should be covered with cloth or paper, supported by stakes in the event of a late frost. No mulch should go on until the ground is frozen. Then, tie the branches together and either wrap the plant in straw as is done with roses, or surround it with wire netting and fill in with leaves. Uncover the plants late in Spring.

★ ★ ★ ★

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

# TREE PEONY SUGGESTIONS

by Austin D. Kilham, *Bulletin #192*

## 1. Where to plant

In not more than one-third to one-half shade, not because the plants need the shade but to protect the flowers which fade and droop in the sun. The soil must have good water and air drainage and should be a good garden soil—not acid. Never plant where either tree or herbaceous peonies have grown because the soil is likely to be infected with *Botrytis paeoniae*.

## 2. Planting mature plants

Plant a full four (4) feet apart for permanent plants. Dig a large deep hole (2 feet deep and 3 feet wide), remove clay, be sure there is drainage, place in hole a mixture of a garden soil, woods dirt and a bushel of wet peat moss, or a small amount of sawdust. Mix into soil six full trowels of bone-meal and trowel of lime-stone or ground lime. If a number of plants are to be grown in a group the whole area should be prepared as described above. Plant very deep—top of graft at least six inches below ground level. Water and add additional soil as needed. After ground has settled mulch lightly with leaves, sawdust or other mulch. Remove and burn dead peony leaves.

Small amounts of potash phosphate and lime and two trowels bonemeal can be added each year.

## 3. Planting 1 or 2-year grafts

Can be planted in permanent location in which case plant a full six inches below ground level even if necessary to leave hollow in ground so top bud will show above ground (not sure that it is necessary for top bud to show above ground). Plant deep so roots will develop above graft and herbaceous or tree peony root stock below graft will not “sucker.” Protect the first Winter by covering the young plants with leaves or similar mulching material.

When replanting from nursery row, cut off root-stock if a good supply of roots have developed above the graft.

## 4. Pruning

Usually only necessary to remove dead or broken branches. Mature plants can be cut to the ground in the Fall in order to force out more stems the next year.

## 5. Spraying

*Botrytis paeoniae* is controlled by spraying both the plant and ground with standard-strength Bordeaux Mixture—once after leaves begin to come out, and as young shoots emerge from ground; second, use same spray in two weeks and again in four weeks. If *Botrytis* appears (grey fungus on stems) in Spring or Summer, pull off leaves. In late Fall infection has been very heavy, be sure to remove and burn dead leaves, old mulch and nearby trash. Follow with heavy spraying of Bordeaux and replace mulch.

## 6. Shading

It is well to give blossoms temporary shade to keep the flowers from wilting and fading if not naturally shaded from the midday sun. If weather is very dry, give plants a thorough soaking every few days while in bloom.

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# REDS—THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE PEONY GARDEN

*W. G. Sindt, Maplewood, Minnesota*

Well-grown peonies can be the highlight of any garden, and certainly the reds enhance its beauty. In a landscape setting peonies are lovely, and for home or show their beauty cannot be excelled. The reds of peonies cover a wide range—from orange or light to maroon or dark, through some very pure, almost spectrum, reds. In a short article such as this, only a few varieties can be named, and these will be my favorites.

For many years I have said that if I could grow only one variety, I would have no difficulty deciding what that one should be. (Five varieties would be more difficult to select.) That one would be **Red Charm**. This is the favorite peony of nearly everyone who sees it. **Red Charm** is a full double hybrid, early, with strong stems, and is a very reliable, consistent performer. This is my number one choice of any type of peony, and it happens to be red in color. One advantage of **Red Charm** is that it is available from most growers, which is not true of many varieties, since each grower has to choose what he will propagate to sell.

**Bonanza** is a Minnesota-bred peony that is a dark red which does not burn in the sun. I have found this to be most satisfactory as a garden variety and also for the show table. **Kansas** I would rate comparable to **Bonanza** but in a light red. This peony has excellent form and has been best red at many national peony shows.

**Shawnee Chief** I find to be a very free-flowering variety with blooms slightly smaller than some. It makes up for the size, however, by the number of blooms produced on a plant. A newcomer and probably the number one exhibition red is **Douglas Brand**. It is a huge flower of excellent form but is both expensive and difficult to acquire. Because it is new, it has not been around long enough to be widely propagated for distribution.

One of the most popular red double peonies is the species *tenuifolia* **Rubra Flora Plena**, the double fern leaf variety. This is very early and in Minnesota is usually in bloom on Memorial Day. For this reason, the double form is widely planted in cemeteries. The single form, while not as beautiful, is prized by hybridizers because it is fertile, whereas the double form is not.

In red singles I feel that **Florence Bruss** and **Topeka Garnet** are outstanding. Both are good growers and bloomers, and excellent for exhibition; indeed, both have been best single at the national shows. The color of both varieties is dark red. Obtaining them could be a problem since they are not listed by many growers. **President Lincoln** and **Man O' War** are two other excellent red singles.



My choice for a red Japanese type is **White Cap**. This has red guard petals with a white center. It is a very spectacular flower that really gains one's attention by its color contrast. **Charm** is a beautiful variety that is not as widely grown as it should be. **Dignity** and **Hari-ai-nin** are two other very good varieties.

In the hybrids I have mentioned **Red Charm** is my number one peony of any type. There are many good red hybrids of different shades and forms, but most of the hybrids are single or semi-double. The shades run from coral-red through true bright red to very dark or maroon. **Carina**, a semi-double, is probably the clearest and truest red peony in existence. **Diana Parks** is a full double ruby-red, lighter in color than **Red Charm**.

Let me name just a few of the other good ones: **Alex Woolcott**, semi-double; **Chocolate Soldier**, very dark; **Flame**, glowing, early single; **Mahogany**, dark single; **Red Red Rose**, tall semi-double; **Walter Mains**, true Japanese type dark red; **Cardinal's Robe**, scarlet single; **Bright Knight**, cherry-red semi-double.

Most people, when considering peonies, think of doubles, singles, Japanese, and hybrids, all of which have been discussed in this article, but there is one other class that is gaining in popularity. This is the tree peony, which has a beauty all its own. Culture may be a bit different for most of us but well worth the special effort required. **Black Pirate** is a very deep red or maroon single with black flares. **Kronos** is a dark red which only recently has become available. **Banquet** is a strawberry red semi-double.

As stated earlier in this article, only a few varieties could be mentioned. There are indeed many more, and I'm sure that anyone else would name other varieties—and they would be good. To enjoy any of these or other peonies I urge you to plant some. Space and time available will determine how many to choose, but once you start growing them, you will find there is always another one you just "must have."

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## ANEMONE type peonies

While this peony resembles the Japanese type, it is easily distinguished from it because there are no anthers and the stamens, called petaloids, are broader, forming the center of the flower. The petaloid centers have no contrasting yellow marking, though some have yellow centers. The anemone has been favored by many peony fanciers and the varieties have been accepted as having much individual beauty.

To name a few, **PRIMEVERE** is a creamy white with a center of sulphur yellow. **GOLDEN DAWN** has ivory white petals with a pale yellow center. **GAY PAREE** is a beautiful two-color novelty peony. **PRAIRIE AFIRE** is a pink with fiery red petaloids. **PINK LEMONADE** is a soft blend of pink with yellow centers. **POWDER PUFF** is a pink with cream anemone bomb center.

## Information From The INTERNATIONAL CODE OF NOMENCLATURE FOR CULTIVATED PLANTS

The following herbaria are known to hold collections of Standards in the United States of America.

**Herbarium**—a collection, usually dried botanical specimens, the housing for seeds and specimens. (*Page 149 of the International Code.*)

**Standards**—a specimen, seed sample, or illustration kept or maintained to demonstrate the diagnostic characteristic of a cultivar. (*Page 159 of the Code.*)

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**(BH)** Herbarium, L. H. Bailey Hortorium, 462 Mann Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853-4301 (Fax: [1] 607/255-7979)

Contact: Edward A. Cope (E-mail: eac5@cornell.edu)

**(BISH)** Herbarium Pacificum, Bishop Museum, Department of Natural Sciences/Botany, 1525 Bernice Street, PO Box 19000, Honolulu, Hawaii'i, 96817-0916 (Fax: [1] 808/841-8968)

Contact: Walter Appleby, Collections Manager (E-mail: botany@bishop.bishop.hawaii-.org)

**(BKL)** Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11225-1099 (Fax: [1] 718/941-4044, ext. 289)

Contact: Kerry Barringer, Curator of the Herbarium (E-mail: kerryb@panix.com)

**(CM)** Section of Botany, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213 (Fax: [1] 412/622-8837)

**(CONN)** George Safford Torrey Herbarium, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, U-43, 75 North Eagleville Road, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3043 (Fax: [1] 203/486-6364)

Contact: Gregory J. Anderson (E-mail c/o: decarli@uconnvm.uconn.edu)

**(DES)** Desert Botanical Garden of Arizona, 1201 North Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, Arizona 85008 (Fax: [1] 602/481-8124)

Contact: Wendy Hodgson, Herbarium Curator (E-mail: adjbc@asuvm.inreasu.edu)

**(DOV)** Claude E. Phillips Herbarium, Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Delaware State University, Dover, Delaware 19901-2277 (Fax: [1] 302/739-4997)

Contact: Dr. Arthur O. Tucker (E-mail: aotucker@igc.apc.org)

**(MARY)** Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742-5815 (Fax: [1] 301/314-9082)

Contact: James L. Reveal (E-mail: jr@umail.umd.edu)

(MO) Herbarium, Missouri Botanical Garden, PO Box 299, Saint Louis, Missouri 63166-0299 (Fax: [1] 314/577-9596)

Contact: James C. Solomon, Curator of the Herbarium (E-mail: solomon@mobot.org)

OR:

Alan W. Lievens, Horticultural Taxonomist (E-mail: alievens@ridgeway.mobot.org)

(MOR) The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois 60532 (Fax: [1] 708/719-2433)

Contact: William J. Hess (E-mail: morherb@cedar.cic.net)

(MU) Willard Sherman Turrell Herbarium, Department of Botany, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45045 (Fax: [1] 513/529-4243)

Contact: Dr. Michael A. Vincent, Curator (E-mail: vincerma@muohio.edu)

(NA) United States National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue North East, Washington, DC 20002 (Fax: [1] 202/245-4575)

Contact: (position vacant at time of publishing)

(OSC) The Herbarium, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Cordley Hall 2082, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2902 (Fax: [1] 503/737-3573)

Contact: Dr. Richard Halse, Herbarium Curator (E-mail: halser@bcc.orst.edu)

(PH) Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 (Fax: [1] 215/299-1028)

Contact: Alfred Ernest Schuyler (E-mail: schuyler@say.acnatsci.org)

(RSA-POM) Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, California 91711 (Fax: [1] 909/626-7670)

Contact: Steve Boyd, Administrative Curator of the Herbarium (E-mail: boyds@cgs.-edu)

OR:

Bart O'Brien, Director of Horticulture, Phone: [1] 909/625-8767

(WTU) Hyde Hortorium, Center for Urban Horticulture, GF-15 University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195 (Fax: [1] 206/685-2692)

Contact: Clement W. Hamilton, Director (E-mail: cwh@u.washington.edu)

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## JAPANESE type peonies

So called because the Japanese people prefer them to all other types of blooms and were the first to develop many new kinds. This type is the first advance toward the double type, with narrow center staminodes, usually edged with yellow.

They furnish color contrast in the same flower obtained in no other type and are especially valuable for cutting. —*Edward Auten, Jr.*

Some very beautiful varieties are **DIGNITY**, **CARRARA**, **BRIDE'S DREAM**, **TORO-NO-MAKI**, **AMA-NO-SODE**, **WESTERNER**, **BU-TE**, **DO-TELL**, **KAY TISCHLER**, **TOM ECKHARDT**, **BARRINGTON BELLE**.

# UNUSUAL PEONIES OF EXCEPTIONAL BEAUTY

*by the late Clarence Lienau*

In my 40 years of growing peonies and exhibiting about 25 years, the following 15 varieties are unusually beautiful in their own right.

I am appraising and judging each variety as I have seen them growing on the plant and cut for enjoyment. **Virginia Dare, Minnie Shaylor, Gay Paree, Imperial Red, Sparkling Star, Brides Dream, Pink Derby, White Cap, Charm, Lois Arleen, Raspberry Sundae, Do-Tell, Neon, and hybrids Cytherea and Walter Mains.**

**VIRGINIA DARE**—A beautiful small white single with thin strong whip-like stems. Medium height, excellent for floral arrangements, not over three inches in diameter, cup shape, small tuft of yellow stamens. Good keeper.

**BRIDES DREAM**—Very fine white Jap, most unusual white on white very narrow twisty pointed petaloids, with a wide circle of shorter cream tinted ones underneath.

**RASPBERRY SUNDAE**—An ivory white bloom with a definite splash of raspberry color appearing on top of the large bloom. A distinct variety with strong stems, floriferous, strong grower and large plant.

**MINNIE SHAYLOR**—Semi-double light pink to white. Several rows of fluffy crepe-like petals of clear light pink serrated at the tips toward the center. Stamens very prominent. Anthers golden yellow with paler filaments, carpels green, pink at base with striking red stigmas. If one stops to look closely at this beautiful flower and plant, they would be amazed at its beauty.

**PINK DERBY**—Pink on pink bomb, deeper pink on the outside of the petals. Medium height, strong grower, slightly longer than its diameter. Unusually nice.

**GAY PAREE**—Very fine deep cerise anemone type Jap. Center opens ivory, a day in the sun, the petaloids turn snow white, good grower, tall, good stems, floriferous. A distinct variety.

**WHITE CAP**—A very different red anemone type Jap. Center opens ivory, a day in the sun, the petaloids turn snow white, fine grower, tall, good stems, floriferous, a distinct variety. **GAY PAREE** and **WHITE CAP** grown side by side make a fine pair. There is a big difference in color. Give them plenty of room as they grow to large plants.

**NEON**—Rose and gold Jap. Stands up nicely. Staminodes are tipped and edged with gold. Wide petals, very bright and very nice.

**IMPERIAL RED**—Excellent, large single medium red like a large poinsettia plant. Thick heavy stems, very floriferous, blooms are very large and evenly spaced.

**CHARM**—Very late dark red and gold single. A lustrous satiny sheen on the petals. One of the best in its class.

**SPARKLING STAR**—Early, tall, bright dark pink, single. A strong sturdy and worthwhile variety.

**DO-TELL**—Pink on pink, outer petals light pink, stamens and inner petals darker pink. A very striking combination, unusual.

**CYTHEREA**—Hybrid coral pink. One of the most sought after peonies. Low grower, good keeper as a cut flower and on the plant. Admired by all that see it.

**LOIS ARLEEN**—Hybrid, medium brilliant red, medium height, floriferous. The brilliancy of the bloom can be seen for many yards away.

**WALTER MAINS**—The finest hybrid Jap. Dark red and gold, very large cup shaped, thick stems, gold medal winner, large plant.

★ ★ ★ ★

## **WHITES AND BLUSH** *By Joe Glocka, West Allis, Wisconsin*

As we approach the grim days of winter here in the upper Midwest, it's comforting to reflect on the past performance of peonies in our gardens.

**AVE MARIA:** A most noble white with hints of red flecks throughout the blooms. Mid-season.

**NORMA VOLZ:** A comparative newcomer that has become a traditional standby among the whites for huge blooms, fragrance and early blooming. Full double.

**ANN COUSINS:** Jumbo white except that it often blooms too late for show use.

**FESTIVA MAXIMA:** A profuse white double with a peppermint candy overcast because of extensive red streaking.

**MARILLA BEAUTY:** Right near the top, one of the best white doubles for stamina, fragrance and seasonal consistency.

**MOONSTONE:** Handsome blush white to pinkish double with perfectly symmetrical petal formation.

**VICTORY:** A splendid late white double that blooms late in June and sometimes into the first couple of days in July following a cool spring season.

**NICK SHAYLOR:** Regarded as light pink, but it's more blush white in our garden. Perfect formation, huge blooms.

**MISS AMERICA:** Wow! What a superb semi-double white. Always spectacular with huge blooms, striking stamens—the best!

**MINNIE SHAYLOR:** Another great white semi-double with showy red stigmas. Always a blue ribbon winner. Many times in the Court of Honor, and even a Grand Champion.

**ELSA SASS:** A beautiful pure white double of rather low stature, and with exquisite rose petaled formation.

**SNOW MOUNTAIN:** All gardens need a bomb type white. This is it!

# EXHIBITION PEONIES

*by the late Marvin Karrels*

**Coral Charm**—A true color break in the salmon-coral shade, with perfection of form in the semi-double category. The plant is exceptionally vigorous; a hybrid.

**Madylone**—A full, very large double of white with a faint tint of pink and yellow emanating from the center of the bloom. The form of the flower approaches perfection. I have made the statement in all sincerity that **Madylone** is the finest peony—both flower and plant—I have ever grown in my more than 40 years of growing and exhibiting peonies.

**Norma Volz and Annisquam**—Only a step or two behind, **Norma Volz** is a full double of white with a tint of pink and yellow, and faint hint of green in the center of the bloom. It brings high quality into the early lactifloras. Exceptionally fine fragrance. Strong stems and large, deep green foliage.

**Annisquam**—Whatever happened to this one since its introduction, some 20 years ago? It has been one of the finest in my garden ever since I acquired it. It is a full double of creamy pink outer petals with a paler pink center. A very strong-growing plant, it unfurls its petals much like a rose.

**Angel Cheeks**—A bomb type; very large. The entire bloom, including the guard petals, is a blending of pink, yellow, and a hint of green. One of the strongest-growing plants in the garden. Unlike most bombs, the center bomb does not break up so early in its blooming cycle. Like most bombs it opens from a tighter bud when cut.

**Douglas Brand, Sir John Franklin, Erwin Altman, and Paul M. Wild**—All four are medium-red, full doubles; no stamens. **Douglas Brand** is the finest form of all our reds.

**Red Charm, Apache, and Athena**—We have many fine hybrids. **Red Charm** is still at the top or close to it. However, of the newer ones I like **Apache**, a single to semi-double, clear, bright red hybrid. The plant is one of the finest among the hybrids. Each stem produces a specimen bloom. Another favorite hybrid of mine is **Athena**. It is a large (8 inches) single bloom, apricot in color with deep purple flares emanating from the center. It is always the first to bloom in my garden and is very choice.

**Margaret Clarke**—Here is another of the choice lactifloras that somehow got lost in the passing of Walter Mains, the originator. From Walter Mains it went to the garden of Walter Alexander. With his passing it seems to have disappeared. It's a full double of medium pink of fine form.

★ ★ ★ ★

## CORAL HYBRID PEONIES

**CORAL CHARM** (Wissing)

**CORAL SUPREME** (Wissing)

**CORAL SUNSET** (Wissing)

**CORAL 'N GOLD** (Cousins)

**PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL** (Klehm)

## 1986-1996 CHECKLIST BOOK

*This book is almost ready for the announcement of "Ready for distribution," as we complete this December Bulletin. Registrations of the past ten years were read and listed in order. The peony names were beautiful, many were of family, friends and history.*

With most peony lovers the names of the different varieties have no special significance beyond that each calls to mind and represents a certain peony of more or less individuality and excellence. But nevertheless these names recall during eleven months of the year haunting visions of beauty, or white, pink, or red perfection, and more, perhaps, than any other names give a negative answer to the poet's query, "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

But the great majority bear names bestowed upon them as a mark of esteem for some member of the family, or a friend, or some patron of the originator; and to this originator and his friends the name of any such variety immediately conjures before the mind's eye the sponsor in his habit, or in her beauty, as they lived, and brings a train of associations out of memory's jewel box.

But the average peony lover not having this advantage merely associates the name with the flower and seldom goes further unless some incident or association more or less personal gives the variety an individuality not possessed by the other plants in the garden.

It is this possibility of associating the fanciful and imaginative with so many of its varieties that gives the peony a distinctiveness possessed by no other of our garden flowers, whether roses, iris, gladioli, or dahlias. Many of the fine old standard varieties we have had for generations, so long, in fact, that they have become household friends. Once established, they stay with us through the heat of the summer sun and the furious winter's rages, nor do they, like the dahlia and gladiolus, ask for wages in that they should be dug up in the fall and safely bestowed during the long period of dormancy.

Even where the peony bed may contain only one plant, or two or three, this flower receives a consideration and loving attention that is bestowed on no others, and this is why our grandmothers and great-grandmothers gave their "pineys," despite their short season of bloom, first place in their affections.

Excerpt from the writing of George W. Veditz  
*"The Lure of the Peony"*

# FRAGRANT PEONIES

## EXCERPTS FROM WRITINGS OF PAST BULLETINS

*James Mason, Chicago, Illinois*

Mr. Karrels of Milwaukee wrote me a letter saying many nice things about fine peonies, but one sentence sticks in my memory, "The most fragrant were **Mrs. John M. Kleitch** and **Martha Bulloch.**" To my nose, these varieties seem pleasant, and so does **Philippe Riviere.** We have sweet peonies named for men, and many named for women.

One variety that seems to have fragrance and pollen is Walter Faxon. In this case the fragrance is probably strong enough to overpower the "disagreeable" odor of pollen.

The reds usually lack fragrance, although **Philippe Riviere** and **Richard Carvel** have it in excellent quality. Mr. Brand has **Prairie Afire**, anemone type.

No Japs and no singles are fragrant. The pollen odor is so strong that perfume cannot be detected.

Tree peonies have fragrance similar to that of lily-of-the-valley. There are other qualities of pleasing odor in peonies.

If you take peony specimens to ten different people, at least four of them will say that the singles and semi-doubles are fragrant. This means that to some noses the odor of pollen is pleasant.

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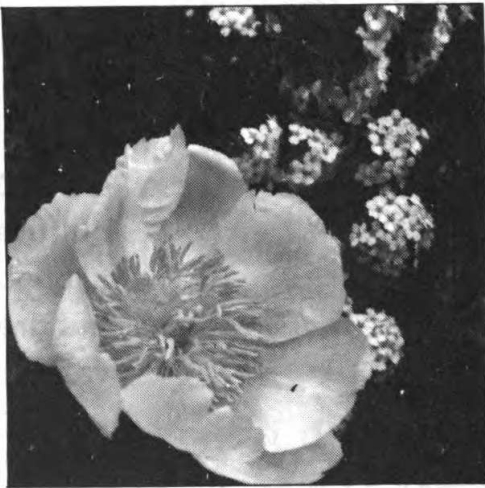
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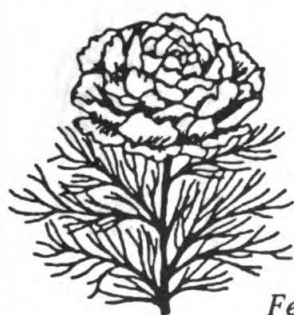
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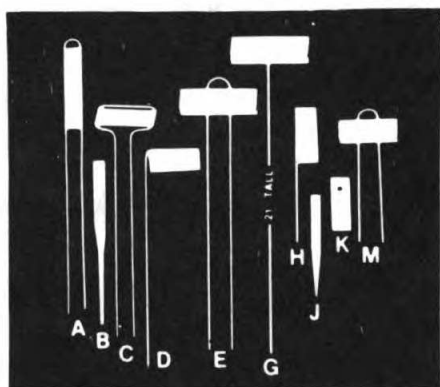
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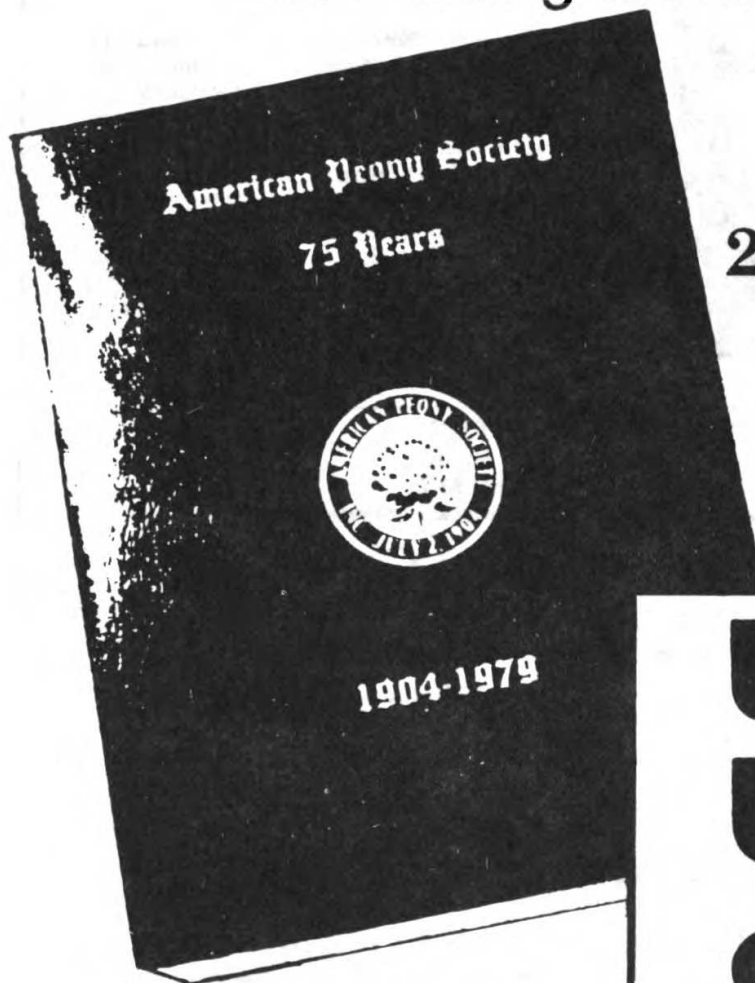
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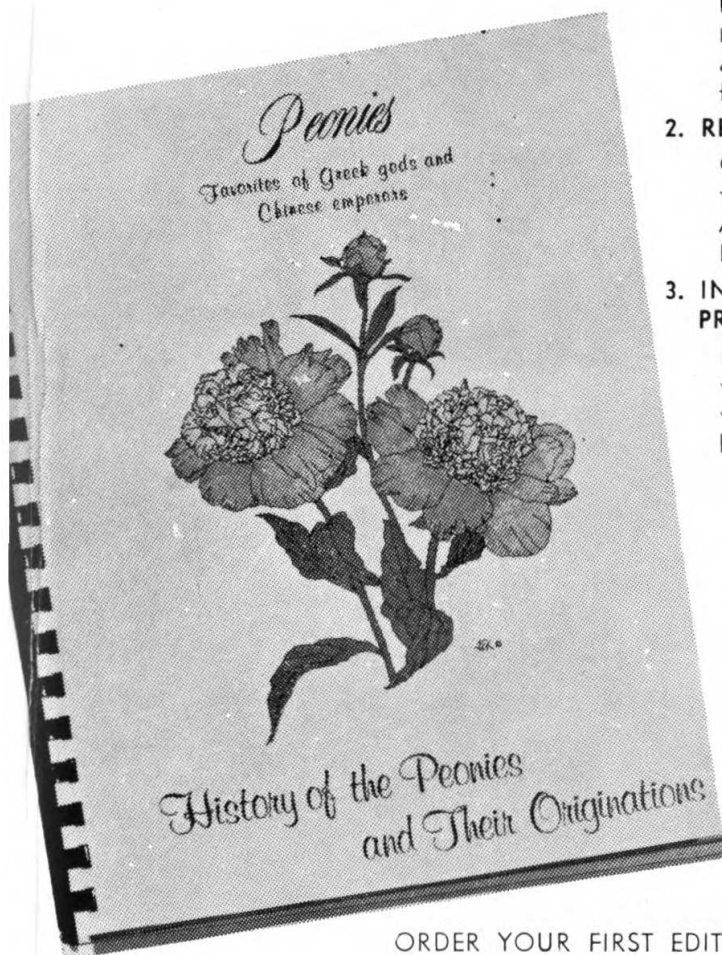
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