

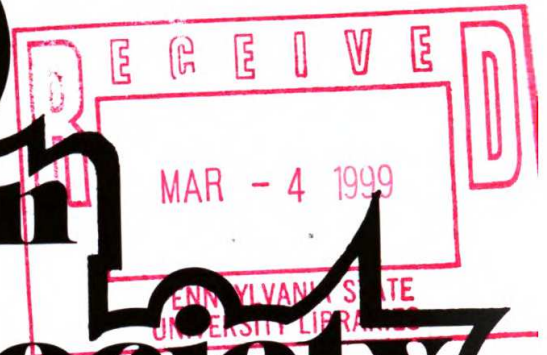
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MARCH 1999

NO. 309



The American Peony Society Bulletin



Dionysus (God of Wine) Tree Peony
Nassos Daphnis 1995

Announcing

The limited
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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



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True, tree peonies with their 1400 year history are not native to America. But a class of exceptional HYBRID tree peonies are. Efforts by seven world renowned American hybridizers* who successfully cross-pollinated *P. Lutea* with *P. Suffructicosa* are covered in this limited edition. Photos are razor sharp in detail and reflect all the brilliance and subtle hues of these native Americans, including the new generation of ITOH's.

* *A.P. Saunders, William Gratwick, Nassos Daphnis,
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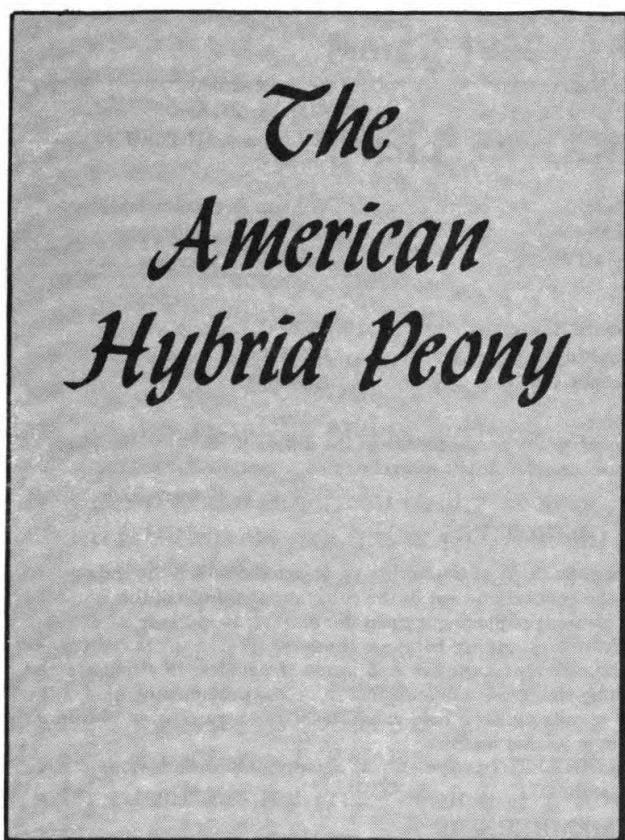
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*Devised and
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The department was formed to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies. All new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names.

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 postpaid quarterly to all members in good standing.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Single Annual	\$7.50	Junior or member family	\$2.50
Single Triennial	20.00	Life	150.00
Family Annual	10.00	Commercial membership	25.00
Family Triennial	27.50		

Family membership, any two related members in same householdOne Bulletin

Junior membership, any age through completion of high schoolSeparate Bulletin

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

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



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

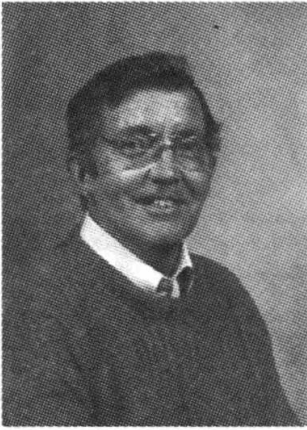


March 1999 — NO. 309

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring is here in Ohio. The crocuses are blooming. Frogs are sunning themselves on the banks of my pond. Some early-variety peonies are starting to awaken from their winter hibernation. **Early Scout, Roselette and Early Star** are always the first to emerge in my garden.

Reflecting back on my many years of growing peonies, I have often wondered if peony lovers live longer than the general population.

Over the years I have noticed many Board members and notable peony growers have lived well into their late 80's and early 90's. During the many years I walked a city mail route for the Sidney Post Office, the thought came to me: "Do mailmen live longer because of their daily physically demanding jobs?" If these two items are true, then my days on this earth should be many. Just a thought by a day-dreamer.

Once again, it is time to prepare for the American Peony Society exhibition, to be held in Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, the weekend of June 11, 12 & 13, 1999. The city of Mansfield is located about halfway between Cleveland and Columbus, along Interstate 71.

I urge all members in Ohio to make an effort to attend this year's show and visit Kingwood Center, home of the white peacock. Mansfield also hosts the Miss Ohio Beauty Pageant in June—sometimes the same weekend as our show. Mansfield is a short drive from many parts of Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. Why not leave early Saturday morning, arrive late afternoon, stay overnight, visit the show and grounds on Sunday, and still have time to drive home for work on Monday morning. There is no admission charge to the grounds or the show.

Also make this the year you accept the challenge and bring some of your best blooms to enter in the peony show. First-time exhibitors may enter the novice class or amateur class. All that is required is the name of your variety on a name tag with the entry tag showing your name and address. If you are unsure of the proper class to enter your blooms, see me personally, or any Director who happens to be nearby.

Helen and I enjoy coming to Mansfield every three years. Bill Collins, Director of Kingwood Center, does a nice job of getting ready for the American Peony Society. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thanks Bill, for attending to the many details required in hosting the show.

Robert (Bob) Wise
Pres. American Peony Society

“PLANTING A PEONY...A RITE AND A FESTIVAL”

by C. William Goff, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

I planted a peony this Fall. Not that there's anything unusual about that. My guess is that thousands and thousands are planted each year by people all across our great nation and world. I have planted them many times, yet there is still something exciting about planting a peony...something that excites the soul. I think it is the notion that peonies, when well tended, will often outlive the person who planted them. Also, it is the anticipation that one experiences, knowing that in this very spot, a lovely blooming plant will, with care and faith, flourish and thrive. As Alice Harding, garden writer and a connoisseur of peonies, observed, "If one cares at all for peonies, their arrival, unpacking, and planting will be both a rite and a festival."

A festival it is! For me, there is no greater enjoyment than choosing and ordering a variety, waiting for the plant to arrive, and then finding that cardboard box on the front porch, with its unmistakable label: "*Rush...live plants...perishable.*" One then dashes into the house to secure a good knife to carefully open the box, and inspect the treasures. A bit of Christmas, is it not?

My peony arrived in the Fall, and I have always planted peonies in the Fall. I have a dear gardening friend and mentor, Mary Lou by name, who swears by an old adage that peonies should be planted on the 9th day of the 9th month at 9:00 in the morning. (Everyone should have a gardening friend and mentor to whom one can go for advice and encouragement.) And although I don't ever recall going out to the garden to plant a peony on September 9th at 9:00 a.m., it is, nevertheless, an easy way to remember the approximate correct planting time.

The peony I planted was a robust division of **Largo**, a delightful pink Japanese variety from Wild's Nursery. I counted 6 fat buds, or eyes, and the root was generous in every sense of the word. I then gathered the box with the peony clump, a bit of peat moss, some well aged compost, and several handfuls of bonemeal, and I dug a large bushel-basket-sized hole in the ground in a sunny, well-drained site. I mixed these "goodies" well into the soil so that the plant would have every opportunity for success.

Next, I set the root into the soil and made sure the "eyes" of the plant were no deeper than 2". I then proceeded to water well to ensure that all air bubbles had escaped from around the peony root, and also made sure the plant was watered from time-to-time for the remainder of the Fall season.

The planting is finished, but what to do now? I wait and I dream. I wait for what that splendid English gardener, Gertrude Jekyll, refers to as the "dear rosy snouts" of the peonies to emerge in the

Springtime, those rhubarb-like spikes that herald the glory of the June garden. And I dream...dream about the peonies during the Winter months in front of a crackling fire with a cup of tea, and plenty of good garden catalogs for inspiration. Alice Harding was correct: the arrival, unpacking and planting of peonies is a rite and a festival.



AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL, AND PEONIES

Vernon Kidd, New York

In the midst of lunch last Labor Day, enjoying a view of the Empire State Building, the World Trade Center and Statue of Liberty, a thunderstorm moved across the Hudson, obliterating everything, with dark ominous clouds and rain mixed with hail. The maelstrom spawned rare tornadoes in New Jersey and on Long Island, and wind-driven hail drowned out conversation as it assaulted the windows.

Suddenly it was over, and the sun pushed the clouds out toward the Atlantic as a climax to the "luncheon show." Earlier, the East Coast had nervously awaited Hurricane Bonnie's visit (or not), when huge waves accompanied by severe undertows preceded her as far north as Long Island's barrier islands. Luckily, she, too, moved out into the Atlantic, just south of us, one of many in this most savage hurricane season on record, with a severe Winter predicted to follow, then reversed.

Weather was definitely on my mind when a sudden driving trip to the West Coast came up in mid-October, and we decided to try Interstate 80 as the most direct route to Northern California. The high mountain passes in Colorado had already received snow, and as a relatively short stretch of the Continental Divide separated Cheyenne and Rawlins (the pass was not much above 7,000 feet), we chose Wyoming.

As we approached a rainy Cheyenne, hail, the size of golf balls, was reported in Denver just south of us. Hoping to continue to Laramie for the night, only 50 miles further, we were informed they were experiencing blowing snow and icing conditions, so decided on an early start from Cheyenne the next morning, when the weather front was supposed to move north.

A still dark 5:00 a.m. saw the start of one of the longest 50 miles in memory, and the unfamiliar roadway, covered in snow, began to twist and climb, with the only evidence of the highway being the tracks from a single truck ahead. We followed behind closely, nearly blinded by the blowing snow, and visibility limited to the headlights.

Since Laramie was some miles off the Interstate, we decided to push on, and by then daylight revealed a snow-covered world of not-so-distant mountain peaks. We also passed the twisted mass of one

of the extra-large trucks now commandeering the nation's Interstates as their private domain. Highway crews were sanding the road, and more trucks came along at each entry—impatient to make up lost time. Brilliant sunshine made a breakfast stop in Rawlins twice as tasty.

A pass arrived shortly, and at another pass around Table Rock we began the descent; at one point a 45-degree incline sign warned the finally-slowing trucks, and they moved to the right in low gear, so we forged ahead on the nearly empty high plateau as the crisp Fall weather revealed America the Beautiful all the way to the Coast. You could but wonder at the courage and stamina of the extraordinary people who found the passes and made the trails West.

In California, we left the crowded highways for journeys on two-lane roadways through a couple of mountain chains, discovering more beauty off the beaten track. The weather remained clear and sunny (October is great for San Francisco), and after brief visits with family and friends, followed a more southerly return route, managing to miss the floods of south Texas and snow to the North. Now Winter waits in the wings, but today broke the record at 75 degrees.

Late October and November were beautiful on Fire Island, making the garden clean-up and planting new Tree Peonies from Reath's more joy than work. Awaiting the "road runner's" return were two healthy specimens of **Hana Kiso** and **Kamada Nishiki**, now carefully planted and mulched. The Snow Geese honked greetings in what seemed early migration, and I started adding top soil around the peonies as I had promised.

Missing this year's National Show was a disappointment, and I envied all who were able to be there. It was a pleasure to learn that **Myra MacRae** has been selected for the 1998 Gold Medal. This lovely beauty is flourishing in the garden, at last, in two choice locations, now that I have corrected the problem with the first division ordered. An invasive privet root from a neighbor's yard, about 8 feet long, was discovered growing under the plant, so I tugged it out of the ground all the way to the fence before chopping it off. Almost immediately, **Myra** recovered from the vapors in time to make last Spring even lovelier.

The peony garden's prime bloom happens to coincide with the National Show, and as much as I hated missing it, there was an opportunity to evaluate some of the peonies in my sandy seashore garden for the first time. Reading Clarence Lienau's informative article in the December *Bulletin* #308, I was glad not to have come across it until now. The Do's and Don't's on page 30, had I followed the instruction, would have caused me to forego peonies in the garden! It is a good point he makes, of course, regarding sandy soil, but I am eternally grateful to Klehm Nursery, when they informed me that, yes, peonies should grow on the island. They then recommended that I place as rich soil as is available in a deep planting two-foot-wide hole. Over the years, I have probably been guilty of most of the

don't's listed, unintentionally, through ignorance, and my peonies have been very forgiving. They have made it clear, however, when the soil has been gradually improved, that this is their preference.

Bulletin #308 should be kept at hand in the gardening shed, and I have underlined Mr. Lienau's instructions as a reminder. In fact, this was an especially interesting issue, which I have been devouring slowly. Congratulations to R. W. Tischler's new registration with a name we can all treasure, **Greta Kessenich**. Also to Roy Klehm's 1998 introduction, **Ruffled Pink Petticoats**. I would like to be first on the waiting list to have this stunning rose-pink flower in my garden.

Mackinaw Grand, new from Reath's Nursery, following a late Fall planting, produced two blooms of a blazing red color this Spring, causing comment from all who saw the red intensity of its bloom, glowing in the garden just as the tree peonies were finishing. These first blooms had a double row of electric red guard petals and a center tuft of similarly colored irregular petals surrounded by yellow staminoides, and giving the impression of a bowl of fire. The sturdy stems withstood 13 consecutive days of rain, which robbed the earlier Tree Peonies of part of their prime bloom and saturated many of the earliest double peonies, causing them to collapse under the weight of the water. If **Mackinaw Grand**'s eventual flower form is like this first season, a welcome beacon will be among the first to greet the Spring.

Red Grace, now placed in five different locations, was a fragrant globe of beauty wherever one looked, while **Red Charm**, somewhat subdued and bedraggled from sprawling on the ground in the rain, and being literally grated by the wind and sandy soil, got fresh top soil this Fall. These sister peonies are both stunning. I personally favor **Red Grace**, which again this year gave a second flowering of smaller, possibly tardy, blooms.

Still more rain brought fungus to already sprayed peonies, although many lovely bouquets were salvaged for the cottage and friends. Those peonies that escaped that early deluge were exceptional. I had used the last of the Benomyl (now banned in New York due to its toxicity), as a fungus fighter, so now I need a good substitute. Some have suggested Bordeaux Mixture.

Reluctantly, I removed the late-blooming **Elsa Sass** from three choice spots; two are now in a neighbor's garden. The late-season flower has never performed well, or simply failed to open in the garden. In the neighbor's sunny and enriched location, perhaps it will thrive.

Also new to the garden, Glasscock's **Mother's Choice** and Marawska's **Moonstone** were extraordinary, both holding up well in the rain, as did David Reath's flashy **Pink Pom Pom**, whose sturdy stems not only survived the onslaught of wind and rain but attracted all garden club visitors to its glowing Schiaparelli-pink color.

Garden Treasure fooled me into thinking it would have no bloom, but not only did it send up six healthy buds in only its second season but also an unpinched side bud was still blooming in late June. The pointed buds resemble those of tree peonies, and the 1984 introduction by Don Hollingsworth has very large beautiful yellow blooms, which lasted longer than most. The enormous deep green leaves, make this an ideal landscaping choice.

The return to bloom of Klehm's Estate Peony **Whopper** (whose name describes its size but doesn't begin to convey the delicate beauty of this lovely flower) brought particular pleasure. Moved and divided four years ago to a more prominent place in the garden, it refused to bloom. Last Fall I dug up the root again, pruned it, and after a water mixed with Clorox bath, replanted the divisions, adding topsoil and humus. Relocated to receive morning sun and late afternoon shade, it is happy once more, and adding its special beauty to Spring.

Another peony I was beginning to think lost—**Pink Jazz**—a mid-season hot-pink bomb, returned its vibrant glow to the garden. One of several ordered from Klehm's Nursery to start the peony garden, at a time when I had had little experience, it was planted without my following the advice of the nursery. (I had thought that decades of accumulated humus from falling leaves would grow whatever I planted.)

Closed for the year by early November, the garden, situated on the second sand dune from the beach, had no supply of rich soil at the time of the peony's late Fall arrival. Initially, they performed well on the healthy stored energy from the Nursery, and most even thrived in the far-from-ideal sandy soil. Now, soil improvement for these older plants has been a revelation, particularly on those just hanging on. Another problem I have been slowly correcting is from so-called companion plants. Daylilies, particularly, are invasive and greedy, as are Iris, which tend to send out long surface roots directly to the rich peony planting site. I have nearly exhausted the supply of people willing to accept daylilies from huge voracious clumps. They perform well at the Island, and can almost be ignored.

The Tree Peonies were outstanding until rain damaged them at the end of their bloom, an exception being my only Chinese Tree Peony, **Necklace with Precious Pearls** (which had two stems), planted just last Fall. It bloomed but was marred by fungus which affected the blossom and half of the plant. The other stem was relatively fungus free, although I had sprayed both with Benomyl twice before foliage developed. It finally perked up, and although looking unlovely, it appears healthy enough to do better next season. I discarded all the leaves along with those of the herbaceous peonies at the end of the season. Most of the tree peonies (**Madame Andre de Villiers** being a resistant exception), and earliest blooming herbaceous peonies, were affected to varying degrees by fungus, caused by the unrelenting rain.

An interesting article by Kasha and David Furman, accompanied by lovely colored photos of Chinese Tree Peonies, was the cover story in October's National Gardening Association magazine, wherein they list 25 varieties, chosen for fast growth, heavy bloom, and seven-flower types. Of particular interest was their advice on a planting site, suggesting no more than four hours of direct sunlight and afternoon shade, which allows the flowers to last from 10 to 14 days, with a bloom cycle up to three-and-a-half weeks.

Flowering for the first time, **Hermoine** and **Goldilocks** need additional seasons for their true color to evolve, but the only way to describe **Gerry**, in its second season, is spectacular. The large deep pink bombs were supported on stems so sturdy the heavy rain and wind didn't faze it.

Also hearty now is **Cheddar Cheese**—a couple of divisions were given to a friend from Silver Spring, MD in August, one for her and another for her church garden, which already has a photograph of its **Red Grace** (courtesy of my friend's sharing a plant I had furnished) on its web site. Their soil must be ideal for peonies.

Fall in Manhattan can be exciting, and it is possible to take its special pleasures for granted. Recently, I heard a boom and looked out the window to spectacular fireworks originating on barges in the Hudson River—a ringside seat for a free light show.

I had mentioned the excitement generated by the production of the 400-year-old Chinese Opera "The Peony Pavilion," scheduled for this summer's Lincoln Center Festival. It was withdrawn at the last moment, cancelled when a Shanghai bureaucrat insisted on last-minute changes. There was simply not enough time to incorporate the changes into the already set 22-hour production!

In the last two *Bulletins* there was so much to enjoy I keep going back to read the articles about our favorite flower in various parts of the world. New divisions have new homes, new tree peonies are planted and mulched for the predicted snowy Winter, and all are on their own till March. A special holiday salute to the people who grow, nurture, and then supply all of us with Spring's great floral tribute.

Thanks to all, and especially to you, Greta.

★ ★ ★ ★

DISBUDDING PEONIES

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.

THE GOLD MEDAL PEONIES

MRS. A. M. BRAND (Brand, 1925), St. Paul, 1923
A. B. FRANKLIN (Franklin, 1928), Chicago, 1933
MRS. J. V. EDLUND (Edlund, 1929), Chicago, 1933
HARRY F. LITTLE (Nicholls, 1933), St. Paul, 1934
NICK SHAYLOR (Allison, 1931), Syracuse, 1941
ELSA SASS (Sass, H. P., 1930), Minneapolis, 1943
HANSINA BRAND (Brand, 1925), Rockford, 1946
GOLDEN GLOW (Glasscock, 1935), Rockford, 1946
MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (Franklin, 1933), Guelph, 1948
DORIS COOPER (Cooper, 1946), Milwaukee, 1949

These ten varieties were the ones listed by Mr. Peyton up to the time of his search of records. Since then the following have been added to the list:

RED CHARM (Glasscock, 1944), Dixon, Illinois, 1956
MISS AMERICA (J. R. Mann-Van Steen, 1936), Dixon, Illinois, 1956
KANSAS (Bigger, 1940), Grand Forks, North Dakota, 1957
MOONSTONE (Murawska, 1943), Minneapolis, 1959
MISS AMERICA (J. R. Mann-Van Steen, 1936), Minneapolis, 1971
NICK SHAYLOR (Allison, 1931), Kingwood Center, Mansfield, OH, 1972
AGE OF GOLD T. P. (Saunders), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1973
WALTER MAINS (Mains, 1957), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1974
BU-TE (Wassenberg, 1954), Kingwood Center, Mansfield Ohio, 1975

Both **MISS AMERICA** and **NICK SHAYLOR** were awarded a second time because no one remembered they were already among the elite, which emphasizes their excellence.

No Gold Medal awarded from 1975 until 1980.

CYTHEREA (Saunders, 1953), Ithaca, New York, 1980
BOWL OF CREAM (Klehms, 1963), Kingwood Center, 1981
WESTERNER (Bigger, 1942), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1982
CHINESE DRAGON (Saunders), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1983
DOLORODELL (Lins, 1942), Kingwood Center, 1984
BURMA RUBY (Glasscock, 1951), Mahomet, Illinois, 1985
CORAL CHARM (Wissing, 1964), Minneapolis, 1986
NORMA VOLZ (A. L. Volz, 1968), Kingwood Center, 1987
PAULA FAY (Fay, 1962), Chicago Botanical Gardens, 1988
HIGH NOON (Saunders, 1952 TP), Janesville, Wisconsin, 1989
SEA SHELL (Sass, 1937), Kingwood Center, 1990
WHITE CAP (Winchell 1966), Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1991
AMERICA (Rudolph, 1956), Des Plains, Illinois, 1992
MOTHER'S CHOICE (Glasscock, 1950), Chicago, 1993
SHINTENCHI (Japan—Honorary), Chicago, 1994
PILLOW TALK (Carl Klehm, 1968), Chicago, 1994
SPARKLING STAR (Bigger, 1953), Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1995
GARDEN TREASURE (Hollingsworth, 1984), Mansfield, Ohio, 1996
OLD FAITHFUL (Glasscock/Falk, 1964), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1997
MYRA MACRAE (R. W. Tischler—Fairbault, MN, 1967), Minneapolis, 1998

**CONVENTION OF
THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
THE 96TH ANNUAL MEETING AND THE 94TH
NATIONAL EXHIBITION**

**KINGWOOD CENTER—900 PARK AVE. WEST
MANSFIELD, OHIO 44906**

JUNE 11-12-13, 1999

MANSFIELD WELCOMES YOU!

For the benefit of those wishing to attend the Convention, Mansfield, Ohio is located on U.S. Highway 430, about halfway between Cleveland and Columbus. It lies just west of Interstate 71 and just south of U.S. 30. No air service directly to Mansfield, Ohio. Air service to Cleveland and/or Columbus, Ohio. Car rentals available.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 11

Center opens at 8:00 a.m.—prepare show entries—exhibit hall and work shop

Saturday, June 12

7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.—set up and enter exhibits

8:00 a.m. - Registration

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 a.m.—Judging

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

2:00 p.m. - Exhibition opens to the public, closes at 5:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - Seminar, Kingwood Hall, Service Room

7:00 p.m. - Banquet, Comfort Inn—Annual Meeting
Root Auction—Peony roots to be donated

Sunday, June 13

8:30 a.m. - Board of Directors meeting, Gate House

10:00 a.m. - Show opens to the public

5:00 p.m. - Show closes to the public

Reservations, Banquet only, on Sat., June 12—\$17.00—no reservations taken two days before banquet. Reservations required by June ____.

Make reservations early for preparation of service. Send reservations directly to:

Mrs. Eloise Kimball Telephone: (612) 439-7953
4290 Northbrook Blvd. N, Stillwater, MN 55082-1204.

COMFORT INN - 500 N. Trimble Road, Mansfield, OH 44906

(1-419/529-1000)

A block of rooms have been set aside for the convention.

Standard doubleroom—\$51.95

There is an additional tax of 11.75%.

Make early reservations.



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 18. Division VI — COURT OF HONOR CANDIDATE CLASS.**
14. The best seedling judged by the seedling committee will be displayed on the Court of Honor.

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 lactiflora double,
bombs and semi-doubles, only, any color.
- 103 American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, herbaceous hybrid only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 104 American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, Tree peonies only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 105 Five varieties, Japanese type lactiflora only, any color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 106 Five varieties, single type lactiflora only, any color
One bloom each in separate containers.

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

Class

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 110 | Double white | 117 | Semi-double red |
| 111 | Double blush | 118 | Bomb |
| 112 | Double light pink | 118A-White, 118B-Pink, 118C-Red | |
| 113 | Double dark pink | 119 | Japanese white or blush |
| 114 | Double red | 120 | Japanese pink |
| 115 | Semi-double white or
blush | 121 | Japanese red |
| | | 122 | Single white or blush |
| 116 | Semi-double pink | 123 | Single pink |
| | | 124 | Single red |

One Bloom, Lactiflora Only.

Class

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| 130 | Double white | 138 | Bomb white or blush |
| 131 | Double blush | 139 | Bomb pink |
| 132 | Double light pink | 140 | Bomb red |
| 133 | Double dark pink | 141 | Japanese white or blush |
| 134 | Double red | 142 | Japanese pink |
| 135 | Semi-double white or
blush | 143 | Japanese red |
| | | 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	155	Single yellow
151	Double or semi-double coral	156	Single white or blush
152	Double or semi-double pink	157	Single coral
153	Double or semi-double red	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.

<u>Class</u>	205	Double White or Blush	210	Japanese, any color
	206	Double pink	211	Single, any color
	207	Double red	212	Hybrid, any color
	208	Semi-double, any color	213	Tree, any type or color
	209	Bomb, any color		

One Bloom, lactiflora unless stated otherwise.

<u>Class</u>	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

606 Bomb, any color

603 Double light pink

607 Semi-double, any color

604 Double dark pink

608 Japanese, any color

605 Double red

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.

REGISTRATIONS

DAWN WINGS (G. D. Whitsett, Decatur, Illinois), Oct. 31, 1998.

Parentage: **Serenade F3** seed, 1983 seed exchange. Hybrid, first bloomed 1985, selected 1988. Clear white with startling coral stigmas, form unpredictable double, semi-double single chalice. Large bloom held just above excellent dark green foliage, matures early. Stems adequate until loaded with huge seed pods, vigorous, fast increase. Tetraploid.

DEAR EMMA (G. D. Whitsett, Decatur, Illinois), Oct. 31, 1998.

Parentage: from mixed tet. seed, 1983 seed exchange. Bloom/plant selected 1988. Medium pink gradually fading to white chalice of extra heavy substance. Blooms just above the clean dark green foliage. Heavy petals remain firm until maturity of plant. This hybrid remains green all season—large heavy seed pods. Excels in vigor, beauty and durability. As dependable as my great aunt for whom this plant is named who died in 1996 and was always superbly sturdy and substantial. Tetraploid.

VANILLA SWIRL (G. D. Whitsett, Decatur, Illinois), Oct. 31, 1998.

Hybrid, clear light yellow. Parentage: from **Serenade F3** seed exchange. First year bloomed 1985, selected 1988. Stems adequate until loaded with heavy seed pods. Dark green foliage to grown 30-35 inches in height, single to semi-double, bloom just above the plant. Vigorous, heavy increase, dependable, good substance. Tetraploid.

DEVOTED GRETA (S. Steve Varner, Monticello, Illinois), Dec. 20, 1998.

Seedling #95025, hybrid, single, semi-double. Parentage: **Inspiration x Old Faithful**. First bloomed in 1994. This dark bright red from rose side is a good garden subject, three-year-old clump had 40 stems with a bloom on every stem. Most reliable. Stems are stiff and strong, 34", excellent vigor, blooms early, mid-season. A multiple petaled single. This garden valuable plant has color that carries 40 yards.

CORRECTION—for the record—the Registration of **Sandras Red Rosé** (Hall) should always have the accent on the E, as written.

SIR PETER SMITHERS (Michel Riviere, Riviere Nursery, France), Nov. 17, 1998.

Seedling #849302, first bloomed 1993, hybrid, suffruticosa, one-half double. Parentage: **Rocks Variety**. Pink mixed purple up to white with purple black spot. The plant has a great number of large buds, opens to enormous flowers 30cm in size. The color is dark purple pink up to pale pink with later white at sides. A purple black spot in the center and numerous purple pink spots in the petals. The flower stands well above the foliage on very strong stems, average height, blooms early, vigorous. Has stamens, pollen and seeds, reliable. The foliage is flat green with purple eyes.

JACQUELINE FARVACQUES (Michel Riviere, Riviere Nursery, France), November 1998.

Seedling #8492. First bloomed 1992. Double suffruticosa. Parentage unknown. Pink, flat form, has stamens, and pollen. Good substance, reliable. A vigorous plant with very large flowers (25-30cm) and many petals. The color is pink shaded in center, and toward the edges almost pearly white, red flares. Very high plant with strong stems—blossoms in late April. Clear green foliage.

VALSE DE VIENNE (Michel Riviere, Riviere Nursery, France), November 1998.

First bloomed 1981, single suffruticosa. Parentage: **Mizukage** x unknown. Pure pink flower RHS 68A, up to 68C toward the edges. Capsule (RHS 86A) sometimes crinkled petals. Stamens, pollen and seeds, reliable, very strong stems holding flower above the foliage, medium height, blossoms at mid-season. Clear green foliage. A vigorous plant.

MR. GEORGE'S CASSAGNE (Michel Riviere, Riviere Nursery, France), November 1998.

First bloomed 1985, single suffruticosa. Parentage: **Kim-pukurin** by unknown. Light red cup-shaped flower, stamens, pollen and seeds. Good substance, abundant amount of bloom. The recurved petals have outer edges rimmed with green and white. Good stem strength, average height, blossoms very early, vigorous. An attractive and marvelous plant for the garden.

MADAME LEO FERNIG (Michel Riviere, Riviere Nursery, France), November 1998.

Seedling #S315, suffruticosa. Parentage: **Kokuryunishiki** x unknown. First bloomed 1989. This full large flat flower is red purple (57 B a d). Good substance, most reliable, has pollen and seeds. Very large buds, light pink nearly white, flower opening red, pink toward the border, strong stems, fairly short plant, vigorous. Average amount of late bloom, clear green compact foliage.

VICTOR LEMOINE (Michel Riviere, Riviere Nursery, France), November 1998.

Seedling #K85. First bloomed 1985, double suffruticosa. Parentage unknown. Curious color (RHÍ 84B) with sheens of blue, ball form, with stamens and pollen. Very good strong stem holding flower above the foliage, good substance, reliable. Capsule and stamens invisible. Named in memory of the work of the genius VICTOR LEMOINE.

SYLPHIDE (Michel Riviere, Riviere Nursery, France), November 1998.

Parentage: **Mizukage** x unknown, sister of **Valse De Vienne**. Pink/red (RHS 67A), single suffruticosa is cup-shaped with stamens, pollen and seeds. A reliable, vigorous plant with good bloom. The plant is big and robust, with good stem strength, tall, blossoms in mid-season, with flowers above the foliage.

NUAGE ROUGE (Michel Riviere, Riviere Nursery, France), November 1998.

Single suffruticosa, parentage **Kimpukurin** x unknown. First bloomed 1990. This red (RHS 57A) is a sister of **Mr. George's Cas-sagne**. A flat form of good substance with stamens, pollen and seeds. Medium height, large bloom above the foliage. It is red in color at center with a purple red capsule (RHS 60A). Edges of petal almost purple pink with sometimes 3-4 petals rimmed with white and green. Abundant amount of bloom, at mid-season.

MADAME MARCEL GAY (Michel Riviere, Riviere Nursery, France), November 1998.

Seedling #8050N. Parentage: **Ama-No-Sode** x unknown. First bloomed 1988. Red (RHS 53C) Japanese lactiflora, has good substance, cup-shaped, nearly devoid of pollen and seed. Good stem strength, height 1.2m, a prolific amount of bloom, flowers up to 22 cm in diameter. Mid-season bloom, excellent plant.

FEU D'ARTIFICE (Michel Riviere, Riviere Nursery, France), November 1998.

Seedling #7510N. Parentage unknown. First bloomed 1986. Japanese lactiflora. Red-cupped flower has no pollen or seeds. It is reliable with 3-4 buds per stem, double row of red guard petals, (guard petals and center same color), just some staminodes yellow pointed. Good substance, good stem strength, many flowers, large, and luxurious foliage. Blooms late to mid-season.

★ ★ ★ ★

**10
YEAR
UPDATE**

PEONIES 1986 - 1996

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MEMORIAL—LOIS KLEHM

By Andrea L. Brown (Pioneer Press Staff Writer)

Even after she moved to a new farm in South Barrington, Lois E. Klehm always remained attached to her hometown and returned often to shop and attend church.

The details in her life story hark back to a time when Arlington Heights was truly a small village.

Mrs. Klehm was 81 when she died Dec. 8 of complications from cancer.

Hers is a story of a woman devoted first to her family and second to the family business, said her son, Roy Klehm, whose family owned a large Nursery, which straddled Arlington Heights, and what eventually became Elk Grove Village.

The Charles Klehm & Son Nursery was recognized for its trademark pink buildings and vehicles from the 1950s through the 1970s. The color was inspired by Mrs. Klehm's love of pink peonies. "Besides being a Mom, she spent most of her adult life working in the pink buildings," Roy Klehm said. "I think most of her adult life was committed to her children and after that to her business."

Family members returned that commitment in a symbolic way at her funeral services Saturday. All of her grandchildren, boys and girls ranging from 12 to 33 years old, served as pallbearers.

"I think it was an honor that all 12 agreed to do it," Roy Klehm said.

Mrs. Klehm's sister-in-law, Erna Bolte, praised her friend's generosity. "She was loved by everybody," Bolte said. "She was so outgoing. She was always doing something for everyone. I'm really going to miss her," she added. "But she'll be remembered, especially by her grandchildren."

Many of Mrs. Klehm's friends from high school recalled that she was a star athlete at Arlington Heights High School, Roy Klehm said. By the time she graduated in 1934, she had been recognized for her ability by earning a town letter.

Family lore included a story in which she reportedly could beat her future husband, Carl, in a foot race when they were both about 12 or 13. They were in the same grade school class before they married years later. "That must have irked my Dad to no end, because they were both very competitive," Roy Klehm said.

He characterized his mother as independent and strong-willed, but said she was also a collector who loved beautiful things. She gathered interesting shells in the tropics, some of which were sold in Klehm Nursery gift shops. She also collected the scallop shells used in baptism ceremonies.

Her penchant for gathering included raspberries, which she grew on the family farm in Arlington Heights, as well as in South Barrington.

"She would count how many berries she picked every day," Roy Klehm said. "She was a raspberry queen."

Mrs. Klehm's passion for collecting also included dolls. She opened Klehm's Pink Peony and Mini Museum in Long Grove, when the Nursery business became solely a wholesale operation and moved to South Barrington in 1984. The store will remain open through the holidays, Roy Klehm said.

After the services Saturday, Mrs. Klehm was buried at Elk Grove Township Cemetery in Elk Grove Village.



REMINISCENCE

Small town girl meets small town boy in 2nd grade. All through grade school, all through high school, and on into the college years they are friends...through thick and thin, through tragedy, good times, mishaps, the many things life does offer.

Sometime in this adventure of growing up as friends, small town boy shows small town girl the beautiful flowers his father raises commercially. They're called peonies and small town girl thinks ...WOW! These are special!

Sometime in this adventure of growing up as friends, friendship turns to love and small town woman marries small town man. The peonies stay in their lives just as love stayed in their lives through better or worse, through richer or poorer.

Mom loved all flowers, but peonies were her very favorite. Every peony season she became the number one cheerleader for their joy and beauty. She would cut armload and armload of them to give away to her friends. She would personally cut special orders for weddings and graduations. One season she cut all the good stems off a row of one of my Dad's best unintroducted seedlings. He was upset but he knew she couldn't resist their beauty. This variety was later named **Bowl of Cream**.

Mom's very favorite variety was **Pink Lemonade**. She treasured these because of their alluring fragrance and unique cheerful color blends of pink, yellow and cream.

After years and years of searching my seedlings, I finally found one with her level of style plus interesting vivid, alive colors. Last Summer I showed her this variety which I wanted to name '**Lois E. Klehm**,' and she approved. I'm happy I did that!

She's reunited with that small town boy in heaven. I know that her being a widow for 25 years wasn't easy. She never got over this but maybe got used to it. The peonies really helped her because they contained the memories, the good times, the love.

Mom, We Love You,
ROY

A FALL PEONY CONFESSION

by James W. Waddick, Kansas City, Missouri

Over the last three years I have been helpful in getting the Heartland Peony Society started. One of our major needs has been to develop and offer an annual sale of peonies. Ms. Helen Reynolds of Eldorado, KS is the first (and only) honorary member of our group. For some years she has sold peonies and other plants and was long associated with the Sass brothers, noted introducers of peonies. Helen, herself, has introduced a couple unique peonies.

She has also been very generous in allowing the Heartland Peony Society to dig excess and older varieties from her fields. The number of plants and variety of cultivars has been a major help in getting plants to members and the public, and to help our meager treasury. These older plants were dug, divided, labeled and packaged, and in that process smaller pieces unsuited to immediate sale were set aside and potted up.

These small pieces, odds and ends, and some of my own recent peony acquisition, were placed in two five-feet by ten-feet cold frames.

This Fall I removed all the pots, listed and tallied them. To my chagrin (and this 'confession') almost 175 pots were located. Where did these all come from? Something had to be done! Work began on a new peony bed. Removal of plants, digging, tilling, addition of various amendments and fertilizers, all aimed at a plot of ground approximately 45 feet long and fifteen feet wide. Rows were lined out to make a double row for twenty different cultivars (making a total of 40 cvs) and a third, single row for 22 cvs.

Vagaries of weather and time, delayed planting until a final warm sunny week in November. Finally the plot of land, the plant sorting, the weather and timing came together, and a new peony bed came into being. The following cultivars and other peonies were planted out in mid-November:

CULTIVARS—ABC Nicholls, Auten's Pride, Big Ben, Birthday, Black Monarch, Buddah's Seat, Charm, Claire de Lune, Coral Charm, Cream Delight, Dawn Glow, Dawn Pink, Duluth, Early Glow, Ellen Cowley, Eventide, Flame, Frosted Red, Garden Lace, Gay Cavalier, Gold in Purple Plate, Hansina Brand, Hari Ai Nin, Helen Sass, Honor, Hot Chocolate, Illini Belle, Imperial Divinity, Irwin Altman, Itoba, Joker, Kakedown, Krinkled White, Lotus Bloom, Mahal, Marion Pfeiffer, May Dawn, Merry Sunshine, Nebraska, Nippon Beauty, Paula Fay, Pink Beauty, Purple Sunset, Red Red Rose, Rev. Tragitt, Rivida, Salmon Dream, Sea Shell, Smouthii, Sweet May, To Kalon, Thor, Trumpeter, Vivid Rose, Walter Faxon.

SEEDINGS: Sass 1-58, Sass 4-58, Sass 5-58, Sass 4-48,

Helen's Late Red Double, Helen's Rose Jap.

SPECIES: *Paeonia veitchii woodwardii*

You will note a real mix of new and old, common and choice varieties, a selection of Chinese and Japanese peonies, and some selected, but un-named, seedlings. Many of these I have not seen bloom, so there is great anticipation involved here.

The peonies were unpotted carefully and planted no closer than two feet apart. They will need close observation, and vigorous plants may need removal in a few years, but they are in the ground!!! This is the first time I have planted a large number of varieties in a similar situation that will allow me to compare growth, bloom, vigor, etc.

It doesn't take much mathematical logic to realize that well over one-hundred pots remain in the cold frames, but now cleaned, sorted, and recorded they will return to the Heartland Peony Society sale next Fall and find good homes in the gardens of our members.

Perhaps this confession is good for me and will allow me to buy more peonies without feeling the guilt of having so many pots imprisoned in a cold frame.

★ ★ ★ ★

THE 1998 SEASON

Olin Frazier, Cowgill, Missouri

Here in the northern third of Missouri we had a very mild Winter, and plenty of moisture during the Summer. How much these factors contributed to peony performance I'll leave to the reader to judge.

The tree peonies did not perform well this past Spring. Blooms were scattered in most instances, and not nearly as plentiful as usual. Most of my tree peonies have been in place for 10 years or more, and the ones that are usually loaded were not. However, one tree peony that hadn't bloomed for several years managed one bloom.

The sparseness of bloom on the tree peonies was compensated for, with a great bloom season on the hybrids and regular peonies. Most bloomed quite well. However, shortly after the bloom season was over we had a severe windstorm which devastated some of the new transplants. (The reason for transplanting was my failure to calculate the eventual stature of a Bradford pear tree—its shade made transplanting necessary.) A couple had all the stems broken off at ground level, so I am anxious to see whether they will survive. Others had most stems broken, but the stems were not completely severed from the plant. The leaves remained green until frost, so I assume they will make it but will likely be set back a year or so in forming a clump.

My yard is completely full of plants, and I'm down to planting space that is not the best for peonies, so we will see what 1999 has in store for us.

GROWING UP

Susan L. Davis, Verndale, Minnesota

As a child, I pretended to dislike helping my mother with her flower gardens. A cream can borrowed from my Dad's barn was placed in my little red wagon. I was told to fill it with water then walk slowly pulling the cream can to one of the planted areas. Mom put old coffee cans over her newest plant selections of bottomless/topless containers while I delivered water to the developing roots. Mom didn't even waste water! I was told to dip an old tomato juice tin into the cream can three times for each plant. I loved doing it but complained loudly each time I was asked to help.

A seed was planted within me at the age of five or six, and germinated when I was past forty. It seems as if I awoke one day with a sudden strong urge to "grow things," and not just a few things at that.

We had a yellow Formica table in our kitchen. From the first Spring snowdrops through Fall, mum plants were placed carefully in an unheated bathroom, and that kitchen table held a vase containing flowers. Most vividly, I remember the peonies. A wonderful side benefit to the fragrance was the frantic ants. When I was sure my mother's back was turned, I would push my nose into her beautiful blossoms and inhale deeply. The fragrance took me to places I had never seen.

Eventually, I grew up and my mother grew older. I went to visit the homeplace while vacationing in MN one year. As I walked through Mom's abandoned gardens I wept, for many of the things that I had smiled about as a child. The same Summer, I visited a peony farm in Forest Lake. Knowing the climate, I bought **Pillow Talk** to be mailed to me in Dallas, TX. The owner told me I would have to simulate Winter by placing ice cubes around the plant and I did so faithfully for six weeks. I was rewarded with a single blossom that was placed in a vase on my kitchen table—complete with ants!

My sons asked me what that flower was and why I smelled it all the time. They, too, found their way to the fragrance and again, a seed was planted. For one son, it has germinated, and in the other he wants to wait until he has his own patch of soil.

I moved back to MN six years ago, and I have dozens of varieties of peonies, but the one I want to smell the most is the one that was at home on that yellow Formica table. It's in a place I may see someday.

★ ★ ★ ★

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

WINTER HARDINESS FOR TREE PEONIES

By William J. Radler, Asst. Director

Boerner Botanical Gardens, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1978

The hardiness of tree peonies has been a controversial subject. My experience of last season's tree peony performance made me believe that tree peonies definitely differ in Winter hardiness. During the last four years I have been collecting data on tree peonies' performance at the Boerner Botanical Garden. The purpose of the study is to determine which tree peonies are most dependable for their bloom. We have ninety-one tree peonies planted in various parts of the garden from positions of full sun to partial shade. Fall preparation for data collection is begun by cutting off the tip of each cane to the top most swollen bud. Since the wood above this bud dies anyway, its removal leaves a plant for which Winter dieback is easily assessed.

In the Spring of 1977 nearly all the lutea hybrid peonies had died to the ground. Some of these injured plants bloomed on new basal canes while others produced no bloom at all. The Japanese and European tree peonies suffered greatly with loss of bloom on many, but none died to the ground. No bloom was experienced on new basal canes for these types, even when injury was extensive. The last four years of data collection on these tree peonies have given me a tentative list of dependable plants which bloom well even after a severe Winter and a severe last Spring frost.

Alice Harding — bloom hidden in foliage

Anyano-hikare

Beikoku

Cho-jyraku

Duchesse de Morny

Golden Hind

Hakuo-jishi

Hana-daigin

Hinode-sekai — probably misnamed since the bloom is a glowing deep pink

Hira-no-yuki

Magenta Japanese — unidentified, very similar to **Hana-daigin**

Mine d'Or — blooms well from basal canes

Okina-jishi

Red Japanese — unidentified

Renoun — blooms well from basal canes

Taisho-no-hokori

Tsukie-Moi-tiske — identity questionable, a Japanese white

LETTERS

In 1956 my mother gave me two peony plants—one white and one rose—to plant in my new garden. I still have these plants but in a different location with 148 companions, in three beds. People ask me if this is my hobby. My reply is: it is my obsession. Many people stop and ask permission to view the garden and take pictures.

The friends of the Farmington Library are going to have a garden tour this Summer, which will include my peony garden.

A garden this size involves much work but I do enjoy it! It is conclusive to good health; it helps to control your weight, and the sun keeps your bones strong.

To control fungus problems I use a solution of clorox (1/2 cup to a gallon of water). I spray the whole bed in early Spring, and in the Fall after I cut the foliage down.

I wish all the members of A.P.S. a good growing season.

Walter Kulas
Farmington, Connecticut

* * * * *

A Short Note About Tree Peonies

What happens when you live in southern Zone 3 and try growing tree peonies, without protection or winter cover? One of three things have happened in the ten years since the first one was planted—**Vesuvion** in 1988. Some die (**Golden Mandarin, Gaugin**). Some die back to the ground, but come up from the roots each Spring. **MOST DURING HARSH WINTERS** and a special few grow from the tips with little, if any, die back! With the twenty-five or so in the garden, only two qualify in this regard and have taken anything Mother Nature has dished out.

HEPHESTOS (Daphnis) and **MURAD OF HERSHEY BAR** (Gratwick). The latter begins growing early in the Spring, and has the first leaflet exposed to late frosts, occasionally, without damage. Although I do not use Winter mulch, they are planted under Oaks and get a yearly “Natural Cover” when the oaks drop their leaves!

Dan Kunz, 20761 Viking Blvd. NE, Wyoming, Minnesota

* * * * *

Question: In planting herbaceous roots, sometimes there are eyes at various levels. How do you get all of them the correct distance from ground level? What happens to the deeper eyes?

—**Susan Davis**, R. 3, Box 80A, Verndale, Minnesota 56481

* * * * *

In my new garden I dug eighteen holes of red clay, and planted new peonies. We have about 24 others in our yard. They grow and bloom very well.

—**Florence Wedlund**, Ashland, Wisconsin

* * * * *

I belong to the Lake Park Garden Club. We have a garden at the intersection of Highway 10 and 7 leading into Lake Park. This Fall I planted 3 fern-leaf peonies there. Also, 2 **Krinkled White** and 2 unnamed rose peonies. I planted 9 peonies at the Sunnyside Nursing Home several years ago. This is on Highway 10 near Lake Park.

I have my Peony decal on my jackets and I get lots of comments.

—**Arlene Ballard**, Lake Park, Minnesota

* * * * *

Finland, November 16, 1998

Our weather has been colder than usual at this time of year and we have had our first snow already. About my last Summer peony season, I can tell you, that it was the longest blooming season ever. The flowering season started with wild species at the end of May and there were still a few individual flowers of *Lactiflora* left at the beginning of September. All this time I did have at least one peony bush blooming. As the Summer was colder than 1997, it made this possible, so I am not complaining the lack of hot Summer days this time.

—**Raimo Henriksson**, Turku, Finland

* * * * *

Peonies—Everyone Knows Your Name

My first recollection of a peony was in my grandmother's garden along with her hollyhocks, and sweet peas when I was about 5 years old. In the next fifty years, I had only planted about ten peonies as we changed locations, but I did learn there were three kinds of plants. They were red, white & pink. We then settled down at a location where we have a couple of acres so again looking for a peony to plant I discovered a fourth kind—it was Japanese. All of this information was easy to acquire as the local nurseries had signs on all their plants. About three years ago, I made my greatest discovery and found out from a garden catalog that peonies actually had names. I then read some books, visited some gardens and joined the American Peony Society, and found out how much the general public doesn't know about peonies.

You can show a neighbor a hybrid peony or a tree peony, and he will think you are the greatest gardener in the world growing such a beautiful and rare plant.

Some things I have learned in a short time are:

1. Have patience—if it doesn't bloom this year, maybe next, or maybe the next!
2. Don't plant too close to each other or to the foundation. How many Colorado blue spruce have you seen 10 ft. from a house?
3. Don't worry about ordering bare root peonies in the Fall. No matter how small or dead they look, this is really the only way.
4. Don't forget to give them sunlight.
5. After you get the easy ones, they only get more expensive.
6. There is no ugly peony!

—**Keith Bowers**, 630 North Road, Freeville, New York

* * * * *

December 31, 1998

We are just now getting serious about peonies. As of this writing, we have 37 different varieties. When I lived in Kansas, the first peony I ever planted was **Mons Jules Eli**. It always performed so well year-after-year. When we moved to Colorado, I planted it again. We've had it 20 years now and it still blooms beautifully year-after-year.

The peonies are mostly new so I can't tell how they are doing yet. The one problem I am having is with **Elsa Sass**. The plant is growing and increasing well, and always sets buds. They begin to open and then stop. I've never had one open all the way. I've never seen the center. I've tried more water and that hasn't helped. I see no signs of disease. Do you have any ideas? We have heavy clay soil (alkaline amended). All the peonies are growing in it. All open beautifully except **Elsa Sass**. It has been in the ground 3 years. **Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt** is a beautiful peony. It was planted at the same time. **Sarah Bernhardt** has been in 4 years with last year being the best.

I am looking forward to the coming season of bloom.

—**Mary Pinder**, Lakewood, Colorado

ANSWER: Probably **THRIP** is the problem—an invisible insect that feeds at the base of the petals. They destroy the bloom when they start to open, and the late blooming varieties are more susceptible. Begin to spray when the buds are small. Spray twice again, ten days apart. There are sprays on the market that can be used.

* * * * *

January 4, 1999

I live in the Interior of B.C. in a fairly dry belt. My home was built on this 1-3/4 acre property 5 years ago. The soil was part clay fill and the other part light sandy soil. Gradually it is becoming better from the work done on it.

The peonies are doing well in some spots, but not so well in others. The varieties are:

Karl Rosenfeld	Snow Swan
Angela Cob Freeborn	Festiva Maxima
Avante Garde	Jeannot
Dandy Dan	Mothers Choice
Double Red Fernleaf	Red Charm
2 tree peonies	

Of these, **Angela C. Freeborn** and **Dandy Dan** have not bloomed so I suspect they may be planted too deep. I will move them this year.

I have learned a lot from the *Bulletin*, and especially enjoyed Mr. W. F. Christman's "A Short Course in Peony Culture." This area is Zone 4-5, so we can grow a great variety of plants, and my borders are full.

—**Audrey Bruce**, Kamloops, B.C., Canada

* * * * *

January 8, 1999

Really have been enjoying the *Bulletins*. They are always interesting and informative. Haven't anything new to my plantings this year—have run out of planting space, unless I make a new bed. Bought two roots of **Mons Martin Cahuzac** to replace one that died this Spring. I think botrytis got to it even though spraying twice. I'm still waiting for my second planting of seedlings to bloom. I had a few bloom this Spring, but they were only pink singles.

I seem to be having a problem with a couple of my tree peonies. A couple of them have the herbaceous graft material sprouting and weakening the tree graft. I dug down and cut off one of the herbaceous stems and it had eyes half way down it! I never knew this could happen and found in one of the *Bulletins* that there are some varieties that will do this. Don't know if I should dig them up and trim all the herbaceous stems off and replant. They've been in the ground 3-5 years.

—**Ron Chinnock**

3316 Old Kirkwood Drive, Virginia Beach, VA

ANSWER: Do not dig up your tree peony. Cut off the herbaceous stems whenever they are growing on this graft. Cut as close to the graft as possible. Your tree peony will again continue to have its normal growth and vigor.

* * * * *

There is a long history of Peony-growing in the Ernst family. My mother also loved peonies and we always had bouquets of them around for fragrance, in the whole house.

Anna Ernst had many peony bushes, and a wide assortment of colors. She lived to be 101 years of age. The last few years she was unable to give them very much care but they continued to bloom and she was able to enjoy them from her bedroom window. So it proved to me that they are one of the few flowers that will survive with very little care, even though they weren't watered or fertilized regularly. I have since dug them up and transplanted them. I now have a long flower-bed with many more peonies, and they are even larger and more beautiful. More colorful peonies have been added. We live on a farm in NW Iowa.

—**Esther Ernst, Sibley, Iowa**

* * * * *

Our first peonies came in 1983 when we retired from teaching. Rev. Horatio Tragitt grew many peonies and he was at an age where he had to cut down on the work and the size of his garden. He asked if we would like his peonies. One peony was named for him, a beautiful double white. We who had never grown one were very apprehensive. With a 2x4 in hand, we helped him dig his many peonies. He then helped us cut them apart on a lovely Sept. day, when peonies are dormant here. We have had 75-100 divisions. He did not remember all the names. One was **Sea Shell**; another he called **Zarrow**.

Quack grass is our nemeses—I will say it's what God uses to keep the gardener humble. Have very carefully used Roundup, but it is risky, and I've had a couple of losses. We have shared our peonies with others. Rev. Tragitt's dream was that someday we would have peonies up and down our valley. Lots of garden visitors admire them and don't even notice the quack grass. With little care they look so beautiful.

—**Betty Jackson**, Sheridan, Montana

* * * * *

Your wonderful informative *Bulletin* from the American Peony Society has arrived punctually for some years. Now it is time to renew—also send the 1986-1996 check list book. I would like some tree peony seed.

—**Christen Weydahl**, HYLLV11, Norway

★ ★ ★ ★

HYBRIDIZING

William H. Krekler, written Sept. 1979

(A lifetime of hybridizing with peonies. He has named and registered over 700 varieties, giving a wealth of beauty to the gardens of the world. According to the records, Mr. Krekler was 99 years old on Feb. 18, 1999. He is now living in his home in Tucson, Arizona.)

For breeding, the two lactifloras I like best are **Bev** and **Eaton**. Both varieties are used more than others because they grow quite tall and can be totally harvested without robbing the bush of too many leaves. Both stand up straight, very hedge-like, and seldom bow down or have broken stems because of rain or wind. They not only have good bush habits, but also always produce a very generous crop of large semi-double lovely flowers in which the golden pollen peeps. They have very few side buds, which saves so much work of disbudding. Semi-doubles and Japanese will produce a larger number of doubles than the always too numerous single seedlings.

The pollen parents that I use are two huge, showy, dependable red hybrids, **Dad** and **Brucie**. For single lactiflora pollen, the red **Camden** and **Dawn Pink** have superb colors. **Miss Mary** is almost like **Camden**. For an early flower and for blackness, I use semi-single **Gratis**.

Pull out the stamens and place them in a broad, shallow cookie pan with a 40-watt light bulb about ten inches above. Otherwise, the damp stamens generally mold. In about two days, shake the dried stamens in a flour sifter to get the golden pollen. Apply pollen as needed to the fresh sticky peony pistols with a water coloring brush. A very small amount is as good as a gallon.

In August the peony seed pods are gathered and shelled promptly, before they mold. This is done before they split open and shatter

the brown seeds on the ground, causing unnecessary work in picking them up. Ripe hybrid seeds are nearly always oblong, with a blue cast.

Plant the seeds at once because if they get too hard, they may take two or three years to sprout. Seed beds are prepared in three-foot-wide level soil, in full sun where they do not get too wet. Scattering the seeds about an inch apart saves much weeding. Then cover with an inch or so of very old sawdust. The new sawdust will heat. Weed-free soil is the most acceptable. The sawdust mulch helps prevent March heaving caused by too much freezing and thawing. In addition, it helps both to prevent weeds sprouting and to conserve moisture.

The cut leaf hybrid **Laddie** produces good seed. **Miss America** is an excellent semi-double parent, earlier than **Eaton** and with many side buds. Good Japanese parents of mine are **Ray Payton**, **Alice Roberts**, **Pat Victor**, **Brides Dream**, **Bob Krekler**, **Cora Stubbs**, **Tom Eckhardt**, **Nellie Shaylor**, **Karen Gray**, and **Don Richardson**. Myron Bigger's **Carrara** is also a good Japanese parent.

The most popular parents for hybrids have been lactifloras crossed with **Officinalis** or **Otto Froebel** (lobata). Also, some breeders use **Peregrina** and other wild species. Hybrids have better colors in a broader color range and are earlier. They take much longer to bloom the first time, and with the exception of botrytis blight caused by excessively damp Spring weather, they have fewer diseases.

No peonies will give you greater joy than those that you create. Hybridizing is so easy! Just try it! You have just as good a chance as anyone of creating **Blue Boy**. Hybridizing takes time, so have patience. Never discard a peony seedling after seeing its first little bloom. It will be much better after becoming established and being fed by longer roots.

★ ★ ★ ★

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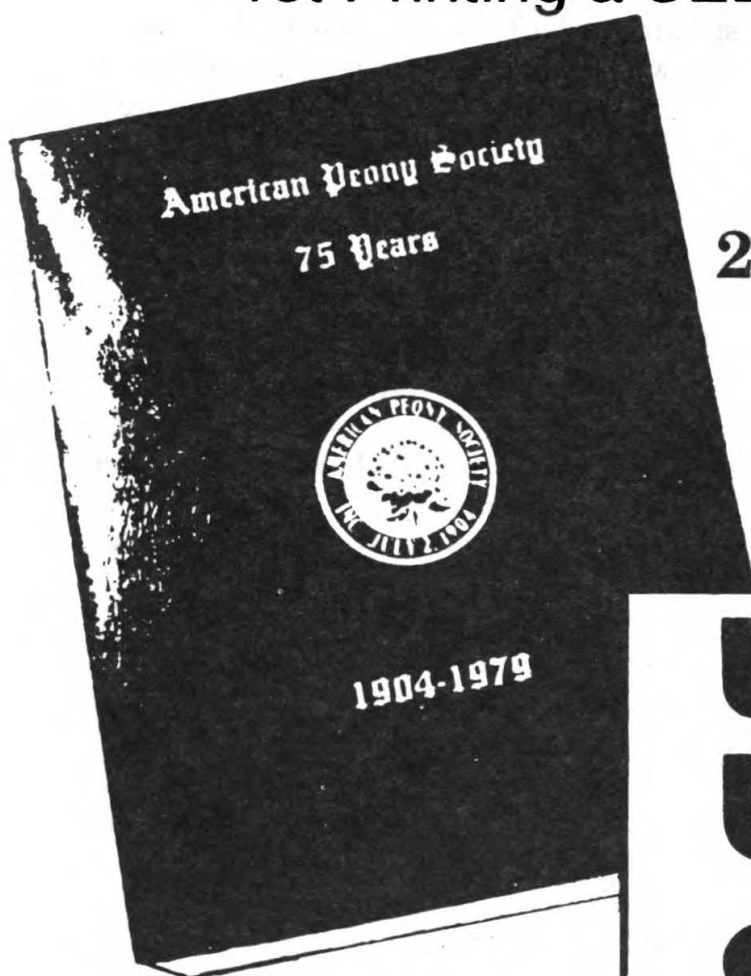
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PEONY TIPS

These are some of the things one should do in growing peonies. They are very important. Do not plant in low ground or where soil appears to stay damp or soggy at any time in any season. Drainage is most important

Do not over-fertilize. Three good handfuls of bonemeal mixed in your soil is sufficient for the first three years. Do not cut down foliage after blooming time. Do not cut bloom for the first two years, never more than 2/3 of the blooms on any one plant. Leave two bottom leaves on each stalk.

Water young plants when necessary, giving each plant two or three gallons of water. Cultivate again after soil dries. Disbud all side buds. cut off faded blooms and trim plants into nice-looking bushes when blooming season ends unless you are saving seed. Mulch the plants the first three winters after planting.

Proper soil, good drainage, disbudding and most important of all—frequent cultivation, and you should be a most successful grower of fine peonies. It's as easy as that.

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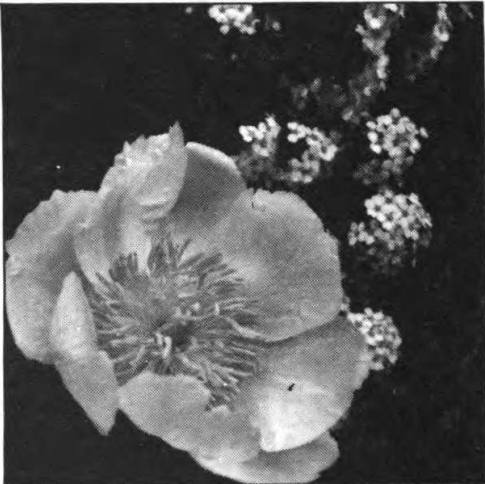
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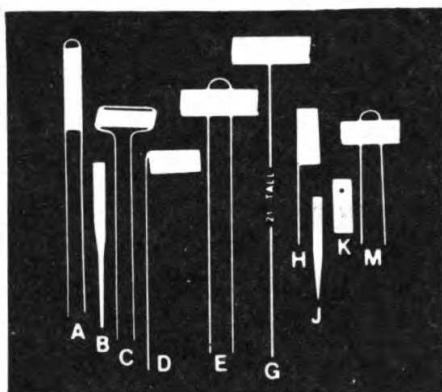
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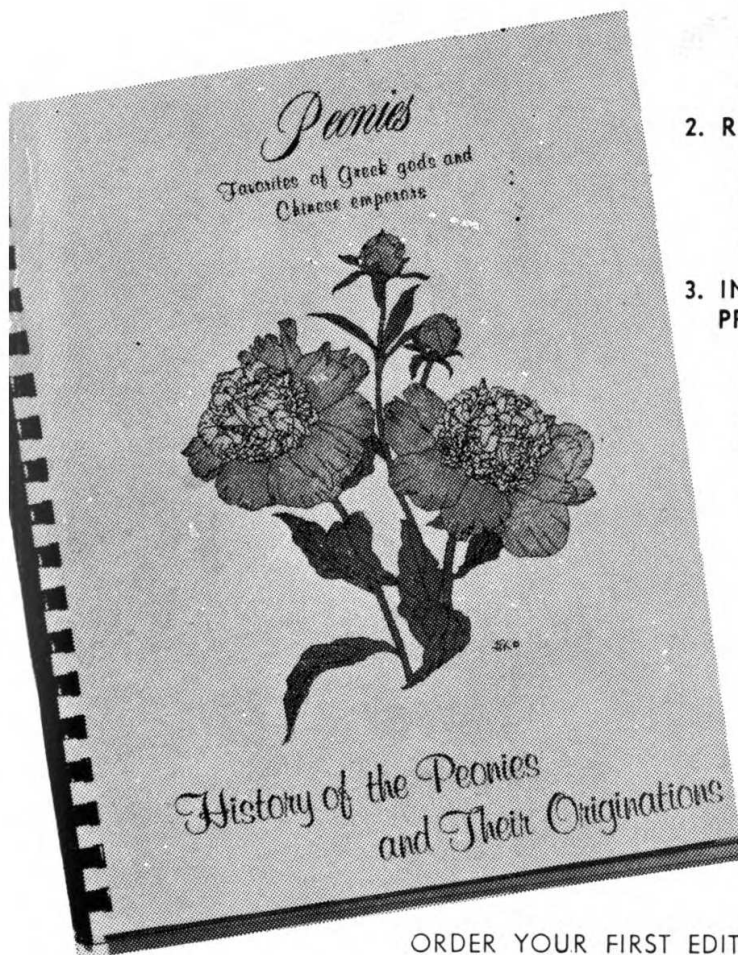
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