

DECEMBER 1999

NO. 312



The American Peony Society Bulletin



Fuchsia Ruffles, Bill Seidl, 1996

Hybrid TP: Anna Marie x Shintenchu

(Photo by Kris Casey)

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



63 BRILLIANT FULL COLOR PHOTOS

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,
David Reath, Toichi Domoto,
Don Hollingsworth and Roger Anderson*

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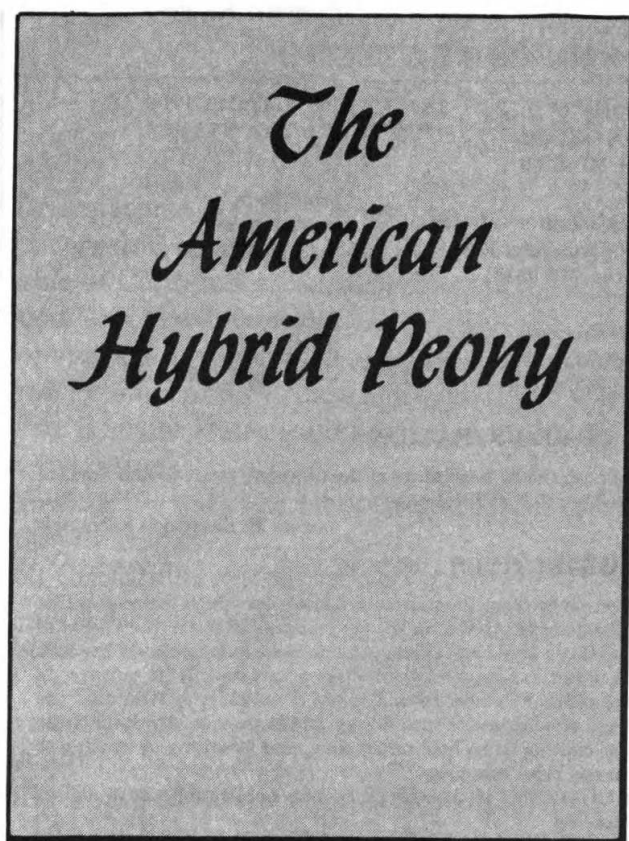
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HYBRID PEONIES



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32 Species**
- **All Named**
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*Devised and
Compiled by
Greta M. Kessenich,
Don Hollingsworth
Hybridizing and
Bibliography*

Ever since contemporary hybridizers unraveled the mysteries of cross pollinating peony species, hybrid crosses have received spellbound attention. This long-awaited effort adds to the excitement of growing peonies. Photos permit comparing your hybrids with those authenticated by the hybrid committee plus scores of sideline notes and general information. Be one of the first **\$25.00** to own this premiere edition, just Postpaid

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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 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	Family Triennial.....	27.50
Single Triennial	20.00	Life Membership	300.00
Family Annual	10.00	Commercial membership	25.00

Family membership, any two related members in same householdOne Bulletin

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

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



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



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CONVENTION

Boerner Botanical Gardens

Milwaukee, WI

June 2000



Good Soil, Good Peonies

The purpose of the soil in growing plants is twofold: It furnishes a dwelling place in which, under favorable conditions, plants begin and continue growth from seed to maturity, and it is intimately associated with the nutrition, furnishing directly the mineral constituents plants use as a medium for conveying to them a portion of the air-derived constituents, stated Prof. Alex Laurie.

Plant growth is best in topsoils, since more humus and bacteria are present and the texture and structure of the soil is more conducive to normal development.

The most favorable conditions for root growth are firmness, in order to support the plant in its place, and mellowness, in order to enable the delicate rootlets to penetrate easily in their search for water and dissolved plant food.

Organic matter is important. Humus makes a soil more granular and breaks up the adhesion of the small particles. The influence of lime in causing the fine soil particles to unite and form aggregations improves a sticky clay soil. Continuous cropping over a number of years greatly reduces the organic matter content of the soil.



BACK COVER:

Photos by Derek Irvine (Timaru, New Zealand) of hybrid tree peony seedlings he grew from seed purchased from Bill Seidl. The photos are four of approximately 340 laser photos sent to Bill in the past two years. Some yellow undertones probably have been lost in photo processing.

Parentages:

Lower Right—[(Reath A198 x Chinese Dragon) x Zephyrus] x Rosalind Elsie Franklin

The other three are siblings—[(Daphnia 223 x Chinese Dragon) x Zephyrus] x R. E. F.

Coming to Milwaukee...

MILLENNIUM 2000

95th American Peony Exhibition

June 9, 10, 11, 2000



At Milwaukee County Parks'

Boerner Botanical Gardens

5879 S. 92nd St., Hales Corners, WI 53130

Make showing off your prized peonies a truly dramatic adventure as we cross the threshold of a new millennium.

Boerner's is located in a picturebook setting tucked into the rolling hills of Southwestern Milwaukee County which boasts a rare collection of 250 different vintage and contemporary herbaceous, hybrid and tree peonies.

Come as an exhibitor or to simply compare your "unknowns" with authentic named varieties.

- See scores of old and new peonies in bloom
- Enter your peonies in open, amateur or novice classes to win millennium imprinted ribbons
- Sit in on informative seminars
- Enter an artistic arrangements class with themes to appear in the March 2000 bulletin conducted by Milwaukee garden clubs
- Commercial exhibits
- Root auction to follow annual Saturday banquet

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250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, MN 55343

Soon to straddle the millenniums celebrating 100 years in July, 2004.



Tree Peonies at Boerner Botanical Gardens

June, 1995

Annual Garden

Shujakumon
Chinese Dragon
Vesuvian

Adzuma
Roman Gold
Duchesse De Morny

Comfort Station Area

Agrosy
Angelett
Haku-Gan
Cho-Jiraku
Unknown lutea hybrid

Northeast Shrub Mall

Angelet

East Shrub Mall

"lavender" Japanese	Horaisan
Ukaregi-Ohi	Canary
Hatsu-Hinode	Shugyo-Kuden
Rocks Variety	"red" Japanese
"yellow blotched red lutea hybrid"	Hana-Daigin
Thunderbolt	Kamat-Nishiki
'Souvenir de Mme. Knorr	"deep pink" Japanese
Black Panther	Taisho-No-Hokori
Surprise	Shujakumon
Renown	"salmon pink" Japanese
Taiyo	Chojyuraku

Northwest Shrub Mall

Adyuma Kagami	Hino Tsukas
Age of Gold	Horiasan
Alice Harding	Kamata-Nishiki
Angelet	Kimi-Gayo
Beikoku	Mystery Jeanne d'Arc
Black Panther	Renown
Canary	Rocks Variety
Chinese Dragon	Shugyo-Kuden
Chojyuraku	Shujakumon
Duchesse De Morny	Souvenir de Mme. Knorr
Exotic Era	Surprise
Gessekai	Taiyo
Godaishu	Taisho-No-Hokori
Golden Era	Thunderbolt

Golden Hind
Golden Vanite
Hana-Daigin
Hatsu-Hinode

Tsukie-Moi-Tiski
Ukaregi-Ohi
Vesuvian
Weisse

West Shrub Mall

Beikoku
Exotic Era
Alice Harding
Golden Vanite
Weisse
Golden Hind
Taiyo
Hatsu-Garashu

Mystery
Golden Era
Jeanne D' Arc
Age of Gold
Tsukie-Moi-Tiski
Hino Tsukas
Gessekai



**Paeonia Cultivar List for Peony and
Perennial Gardens**

August 13, 1998

<u>Peony</u>	<u>Flower Type</u>	<u>Group</u>
Adonis	Double	
Alsace Lorraine	Double	
Ama-no-sode	Japanese	
America	Hybrid	
Angel Cheeks	Double	
Annisquam	Double	
Archangel	Single	Hybrid
Athena	Hybrid	
Auguste Dessert	Double	Chinese
Auguste Dessert Sport of	Double	
Auten's Red	Double	Hybrid
Aviateur Lindberg	Double	
Bartzella	Semi-double	Intersectional
Belle Center	Semi-double	
Best Man	Double	Chinese
Blaze	Single	
Bonanza	Double	Chinese
Bravura	Single	Hybrid
Bridal Gown	Double	
Buckeye Belle	Semi-double	
Burma Midnight	Single	
Burma Ruby	Single	

<u>Peony</u>	<u>Flower Type</u>	<u>Group</u>
Camellia	Semi-double	
Candy Heart	Double	
Carolyn Mae Nelson		
Chalice	Single	Hybrid
Charles's White	Double	Chinese
Charlies White	Double	
Charm	Japanese	
Cheddar Surprise	Semi-double	
Cherry Hill	Double	
Cherry Red	Double	Hybrid
China Rose	Double	Hybrid
Chocolate Soldier	Japanese	
Christmas Velvet	Double	
Claire de Lune	Single	
Clemenceau	Double	Chinese
Clump of Color	Japanese	
Convoy	Double	Hybrid
Coral Charm	Semi-double	Hybrid
Coral Fay	Semi-double	Hybrid
Coral Sunset	Semi-double	
Coral Supreme	Double	
Cotton Candy	Double	
Cream Delight	Single	
Cyntherea	Double	Hybrid
Dainty Lass	Japanese	Hybrid
Dandy Dan	Semi-double	Hybrid
Dauntless	Single	Hybrid
Dawn Pink	Single	Chinese
Diana Parks	Double	
Do Tell	Japanese	
Dolorodell	Double	
Doreen	Japanese	Chinese
Dr. J. H. Neeley	Double	Chinese
Dresden Pink	Single	
E. C. Shaw		
E. St. Hill	Single	
Early Bird	Single	Hybrid
Early Daybreak		
Early Windflower	Single	Hybrid
Edulls Supreme	Double	
Elsa Sass	Double	
Emma Klehm		
Estafette	Double	
Etched Salmon	Double	
Evening Star	Double	

<u>Peony</u>	<u>Flower Type</u>	<u>Group</u>
Fairy's Petticoat	Double	Chinese
Festiva Maxima	Double	
Firebelle	Single	
First Arrival	Semi-double	Intersectional
Flame	Single	Hybrid
Frankie Curtis	Double	
Friendship	Single	
Fuji-no-mine	Japanese	Chinese
Glory Hallelujah	Double	Chinese
Golden Glow	Single	
Goldilocks	Double	
Guidon	Double	Chinese
Hawaiian Sunset	Japanese	
Helen	Single	
Heritage	Double	Hybrid
Hermoine	Double	
Imperial Red	Single	
Janice	Single	
Janice misnamed, Unknown Waxy Red	Single	
Jean E. Bockstoce	Double	Hybrid
Jeanne Ernould	Single	
John Gardner Japanese		
Joseph Cristie	Double	Chinese
Judge Snook	Double	
Judy Becker	Double	
Julia Rose	Single	Intersectional
June Rose	Double	Chinese
Kansas	Double	
Karl Rosenfield	Double	Chinese
Kickapoo	Single	
Krinkled White	Single	
L'Etincelante	Single	
L'Etincelante, 8.4 M (Dessert 1899)	Single	
La Lorraine	Double	
La Rosiere		
Laciniata	Japanese	Chinese
Lactiflora	Single	
Laddie	Single	Hybrid
Lady Alexandra Duff	Double	Chinese
Lady Orchid	Double	Chinese
Largo	Japanese	Chinese
Last Rose	Double	
Laura Dessert	Double	Chinese

<u>Peony</u>	<u>Flower Type</u>	<u>Group</u>
Laura Magnusson	Semi-double	Hybrid
Le Cygne	Double	
Lobata	Single	
Lois Kelsey	Double	
Lora Dexheimer	Double	Chinese
Lord Cavin	Double	
Lotus Queen	Japanese	
Lowell Thomas	Semi-double	
Ludovica	Semi-double	Hybrid
Luetta Pfeiffer	Double	
Magnifique	Bomb	
Majestic Rose	Double	
Mary Brand	Double	
Mary E. Nicholls	Double	
Mattie Lafuze	Double	
Mikado	Japanese	
Minnehaha	Single	
Minnie Shaylor	Double	
Mme. Auguste Dessert	Double	
Moonstone	Double	Chinese
Mother's Choice	Double	
Mr. Thim	Single	Chinese
Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt		
Multiflora	Double	
My Pal Rudy	Double	
Myrtle Gentry	Double	
Myrtle Tischler	Double	
Nebraska	Double	
Nellie	Single	
Noel	Double	
Norma Volz	Double	
Officianalis Rubra		
Old Faithful	Double	
Paula Fay	Semi-double	Chinese
Peggy	Double	
Petite Renee	Japanese	Chinese
Philippe Rivoire	Rose	Chinese
Philomele	Anemone	
Phyllis Kelwa	Semi-double	Chinese
Phyllis Kelway	Semi-double	
Pink Hawaiian Coral	Semi-double	Hybrid
Pink Lemonade	Double	Chinese
Pocohantas	Japanese	
Postillion	Semi-double	
Prairie Moon	Semi-double	Hybrid

<u>Peony</u>	<u>Flower Type</u>	<u>Group</u>
President Lincoln	Single	
President Wilson	Double	Chinese
Princess Margaret	Double	
Ramona Lin's	Double	
Raspberry Sundae	Double	
Red Charm	Double	Hybrid
Requiem	Single	Hybrid
Rosalie	Semi-double	
Rose Shaylor	Double	Chinese
Rosedale	Semi-double	Hybrid
Ruth Clay	Double	Chinese
Salmon Chiffon	Single	
Salmon Glow	Single Hybrid	
Santa Fe	Semi-double	
Scarlet O'Hara	Single	Hybrid
Shawnee Chief	Double	
Shaylor's Sunburst	Japanese	
Souv. de Louis Bigot (Dessert)	Double	
Sparkling Star	Single	
Sweet Sixteen	Double	Chinese
Tango	Single	Hybrid
Therese	Double	
Tondeleyo	Double	
Top Brass	Double	
Unknown Waxy Red	Single	
Victoire de la Marne	Double	Chinese
Victory Chateau Thierry	Semi-double	
Vivid Rose	Double	Chinese
Walter Mains	Japanese	Hybrid
White Cap	Japanese	
White Gold	Japanese	
Whopper	Single	Hybrid
Your Majesty	Single	

* * *

REGISTRATIONS

Mother Teresa (Bill Seidl) Oct. 18, 1999.

Seedling #171: Anna Marie x Shintenchu.

Hybrid true peony; double white. Detailed information will appear in a later Bulletin.

Sonoma Apricot (Irene Tolomeo—Sonoma, CA) Itoh.

Lacti seedling x tree hybrid Golden Era.

An attractive, reliable, mid-sized landscape plant with excellent foliage. The flowers, averaging 16 petals, are consistently smooth, apricot-colored at first bloom, maturing yellow with a small heart of bright red flares and an incomplete red sheath surrounding light green carpels and yellow stamens.

Sonoma Welcome (Irene Tolomeo—Sonoma, CA) Itoh.

Lacti seedling x tree hybrid Golden Era.

Excellent foliage with light-yellow single flowers and inconspicuous light red flares. Flowers very generously with flower size consistent with the small stature of this delightful plant.

Sonoma Velvet Ruby (Irene Tolomeo—Sonoma, CA) Itoh.

Lacti seedling x tree hybrid Boreas.

Flower color red much like Boreas, the pollen parent. Ten wide smooth petals, red sheath, dark pink stigmas and yellow anthers. Flowers displayed well on a medium sized bush. Has pollen.

White Angel (Roy G. Klehm)

Seedling #30

Hybrid, Parentage—Silver Dawn #3 lineage. First bloomed 1993. White, reliable, good substance, pollen, seeds, stamens. excellent stem strength, early bloom. Single 6" bloom. Double row of guard petals with edges slightly frilled. Red tipped stigmas. One bud per stem.

Ivory Elegance (Roy G. Klehm)

Ivory white hybrid. Parentage—Silver Dawn F3 lineage.

One bud per stem, reliable stamens, pollen, seeds, good substance, strong stem, 32" height, very early, excellent vigor, lush green foliage. Cup-shaped 5" bloom with double row of guard petals. Slight hint of pinkish flares. Lavender-red based filaments matching red tipped stigmas.

Joyful Pink (Roy G. Klehm)

Seedling #K53-96

Pink Hybrid. Parentage—Silver Dawn F3 lineage.

First bloomed 1993. Good substance, reliable, one bud per stem, pollen, seeds, stamens, good strong stems. 28" height, very early, lush foliage. 6" bloom. 2 rows of guard petals with single red stigmas. Pink color deepens toward petal center.

Soft Lemon Kisses (Roy G. Klehm)

Seedling #K53-58

Hybrid. Parentage—Silver Dawn F3 lineage. First bloomed 1995. Soft lemon color, stamens, pollen, seeds, one bud per stem, reliable, good substance, very good amount of bloom with good stem strength, early. Light green foliage. Single 6" cup-shaped bloom, two rows of slightly ruffled guard petals.

Soft Apricot Kisses (Roy G. Klehm)

Seedling #K93-49

Single hybrid. Parentage—Silver Dawn F3 lineage. First bloomed 1995. Stamens, pollen, seeds, good substance, good amount of bloom, with good stem strength. 32" height, early, lush foliage, excellent vigor. Softest blush apricot with slight lavender inner petal flares. Red stigmas, two rows of guard petals, nice cup-shaped blossoms.



Growing Up with the Intersectional Hybrid

by Roger Anderson

It's been 25 years now since I first became interested in the intersectional hybrid and a member of the American Peony Society. A one time gladioli breeder and a roadside vegetable grower, I soon decided that my hobby was not to grow vegetables, but to hybridize flowers. Even as a small boy flowers were an interest of mine.

My introduction to the APS came from a man most of us know well, Carroll Spangler a once president and board member of the APS. Carrol and I met at a Meat Packing Plant where we both were employed. This was my first influence to join the APS. Soon after joining I became interested in the works of Roy Pehrson and his crossing of the herbaceous X tree peony hybrids. I subscribed to *Peonia* and read everything that was printed on the "I" hybrids. All my life I liked to take the easy way of doing things, but this time I selected the difficult way. I didn't stumble into this breeding program in the dark, I knew what I was in for. I was fully aware of all the trial and errors that went along with Pehrson's program to say nothing about the disappointment he must of had with so many plants having incomplete flowers or no flowers at all. This really should have been a road that I didn't want to travel.

Having no horticultural background my chances of being successful were slim to none, however I had three things going for me. First, I was in touch with God and I prayed a lot. Second, I was committed and, third, I would be persistent. With these three things it would be hard to fail.

Now 25 years later, Callies Beaux Jardin has originated the most and the best intersectional hybrids in the world today. We have created between 3 and 4 hundred cultivars and have named about 31 which are either under propagation or offered for sale in our brochure. We sell on a first come, first serve basis and every year we sell out our allotted stock and find ourselves digging into the following year's. Most of our sales are in Europe and other foreign countries with new customers coming every year.

For those who have never grown the intersectional hybrid, you are missing it. I term these plants the clowns of the peony world, due to the fact that they do different things in different years. This is due to a genetic incompatibility in some plants. The one that comes to mind as I write this is **Canary Brilliants**. This plant has got me in more trouble than a biting dog, just because it doesn't look the same year after year. Of all the peonies I know, the intersectional hybrids are the best rebloomer in the peony world. Every fall I have plants rebloom, and the funny part of this is the fall blossoms are better than those which bloom in spring, and almost always full doubles with nicer colors.

So far we have these plants growing as far south as Auburn, Alabama and as far north as Ontario, Canada. When grown in wet climates we have seen no evidence of botrytis blight or any other disease. This in itself is an improvement over either of its parents, to say nothing about plant habit, foliage, and flower.

What lies ahead? This year the seedling rows produce some wonderful surprises, a double orange coral, much like the color of **Coral Charm**, a nice semi-double pink, and a nice dark double red, of course there were others, but these were the ones that really stood out. I still believe what I said years ago, the intersectional is the peony of the future, maybe not as it is now, but as breeders work for second generation parents and regained fertility, the plant and blossoms will improve. Sometimes when I look at **Bartzella** I think, how could this plant ever be improved upon.



Botrytis Blight is very common on peonies, especially early in the spring. Buds and leaves may be affected, but the greatest injury occurs following bud infection. Young buds turn black and dry up. Older buds become brown and are covered with a brown mass of fungal spores during wet periods. Crown and root rots can occur in severe cases. In the early spring, when the pink eye begins to show, spray with a fungicide—every ten days, three times.



Soil Conditions and Growing Peonies on Fire Island, New York

by Vernon Kidd

Dear Greta,

A miniature apple tree on the terrace burst into bloom, signaling to winter that "Spring is here," while Edwin P. Berlin wrote in the New York Times, Metropolitan Diary (3/29/99). "Window Box For Sale: Spring has sprung, my gardening's done. The plants are dead, the aphids won."

Then on a sunny April morning both the Queen Elizabeth 2 and the new Rotterdam, ending their 1999 World Cruises, anchored in newly dredged births at the Hudson River piers. Imagine the memories both passengers and crew must have shared aboard these "Cities at Sea," which had sailed into the spring of the Southern Hemisphere last January and were now returning to spring in the Northern.

Construction has occupied the entire summer at the island, taking precedence over everything including the garden which at least I managed to keep watered during our worst drought in memory. Now that fall has arrived, we await last minute details, and the inspection from the township before occupying new upstairs and downstairs vistas of the garden—just now being readied for the winter.

Spraying the peonies as a precaution against fungus caused by our usual wet spring, had been top priority on the first (March) visit to Fire Island after regular boat service resumed. Walter Kulas of Farmington, Connecticut, said he controlled fungus (on page 28 of Bulletin #309) by spraying the peony beds with 1/2 cup of clorox to a gallon of water in early spring and after the foliage is cut in the fall. I tried that, and followed-up about a week and a deluge later with some commercial fungicide. The peonies seemed, and Peter C. Laning's **Sunny Girl** sported for the largest emerging buds since planting—enormous. Always one of the earliest to bloom, the low growing plant is ideal for the front border, with its large, light green shiny leaves making it attractive throughout the summer.

A thoughtful letter from Irving Knight reminded me of the many articles in the Bulletin you have reprinted concerning fertilization and care of Peonies. His letter included copies of several answers to his concern over confusing recommendations he had read for fertilizing his new planting of Peonies. The general consensus being a light hand with a low nitrogen fertilizer preferable and I noted Klehm's Nursery recommended raw bone meal as a good choice, but steamed bone meal of little value.

Myron Bigger's article on Dividing Peonies in the December Bulletin #308, reminds of the importance of pruning the roots when dividing, to induce branching at the crown—I'm still learning.

Through trial and error (a rather abrupt teacher) it finally sank in that a strong healthy division, far better than a whole plant, with eyes the size of your little finger tip, usually bloom the season following planting. Smaller eyes, at least for me, have resulted in stem growth but no bloom.

At the first National Peony show I attended, in Chicago, the col-ors upon entering the exhibition were overwhelming along with the peony fragrance perfuming the room. Seeing such a multitude for the first time, caused most of those attending to go round the exhibit over an over, myself included. There were Peonies from the very latest introductions to older varieties, whose beauty renders them timeless and necessary, and the national show is a great help in selecting what appeals initially, while ultimately leading to pleasure in all of the various types. An additional bonus is being able to talk with fellow gardeners, some the actual hybridizers who contribute to the incredible, still growing, list of our favorite flower.

While many variables affect peony performance (true with any plant), they are actually quite easy to grow, even in soil no considered ideal. Patience rewards with knowledge of what works best for each gardener. If your garden is sand (like the island), replace it with as much rich humus laden topsoil for the peony planting site as you can manage, and continue adding garden compost to make the sand moisture retentive and rich in nutrients. My favorite red bomb, **Red Grace**—always fragrant and beautiful—responds differently in different locations, and as a general rule, peonies tend to hold their color longer if they receive shade during the hot afternoon sun.

Two points which have given me success in the “sand dune:” first, the healthy root divisions from reputable specialists in Peonies, second, continued enrichment, if sandy, of the soil around the peony roots. My peonies show their appreciation, bringing astonishment each spring.

Another “early riser” was **Madame Andre de Villiers**, one of the newer (floriferous) European tree peonies, which was furnished by Klehm’s Nursery. It was covered with large watermelon red or hot pink flowers (take your pick), and could very well be another winner. With its large double flowers and heavy bloom, **Hana Kisoï**, new to the garden last fall, presented three huge buds which opened into extremely beautiful large pink blossoms, and a new surprise from Reath’s Nursery presented five large red and pink striped blossoms its first season after planting. **Yellow Crown**, an Itoh type hybrid, has a tiny single stem, and my impatience grows waiting in vain for it to bloom in this third year of planting. The depth of color, indicated in Jung’s catalog photo, was what attracted me, but the pathetic division with two tiny eyes, has convinced me of the wisdom of choosing peony divisions from specialists in Peonies rather than a general flower catalog. The one Chinese Tree Peony in the garden, **Necklace**

With Precious Pearls, seems to have recovered from last season's fungus attack on half of the plant, and three buds bloomed this year. It is from Cricket Hill Garden's Peony Heaven, and their 1999 catalog certainly lives up to the name. May is the time to visit the Connecticut Garden, and you should call ahead if planning a visit (850)-283-1042). Call around the first of May for their estimate of peak bloom time.

Our sympathy goes out to the Klehm family for the loss of their mother, Lois Klehm, and I remain particularly grateful to Klehm's Nursery for introducing peonies to me through their outstanding Estate Peony Collection. Calling to explain the garden's "sandy" situation, I asked if they thought peonies would grow on the island. The answer was yes with the admonition that I place rich humus soil in the planting hole about two foot square, so I ordered three or four from the collection, including **Red Grace** (runner up to this year's Gold Medal winner.) They, along with others over the years, continue to grace the garden each spring with breathtaking beauty. All members of our society are indebted to the commercial growers, nurseries and hybridizers, many found in the Bulletin, who not only introduce new varieties, but maintain the outstanding older ones, without their efforts, finding choice peonies would be happenstance at best.

During a reception by the California Division of Tourism at the Roosevelt Hotel, I asked a lady from Bakersfield about the peak bloom of the wild desert flowers, and she replied "In about two weeks, (this was February) the fruit trees are already in bloom!" That's another variable to remember, peak bloom, comes at different times according to the temperature zones. Fresh flowers were everywhere in the hotel, stopping to admire a large bouquet adorning a grand piano in the mezzanine I discovered the beautiful red peony was fake!

Britain's, Aldeburg Festival (Established by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears), opened with the new festival director, Thomas Ades' opera, "Powder Her Face." Concerning Margaret the Duchess of Argyll—formerly Mrs. Sweeny. Her name was immortalized in the Cole Porter song, "You're the Top," with the phrase, "You're the top, you're the tower of Piza, you're the smile on the Mona Lisa, you're the nimble tread of the feet of Fred Astaire, you're Mrs. Sweeny, you're Mussolini, you're Camembert."

And speaking of opera, last summer's cancellation of the 400 year old Chinese Opera, "The Peony Pavilion," at Lincoln Center's summer festival, finally appeared this summer to generally favorable reviews. The general impression however, being that even the reduced version was still too long.

The early drought, daily heat of 90 degree or more, plus humidity, and the threat of afternoon thunder storms, set the scene for the American Peony Society's 96th meeting and 94th National Exhibition.

Immediately noticeable upon arrival was an unusual buzz at Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio. My first impression was that the Center was using some sort of an electrical device to repel insects with a loud humming sound, but it quickly became apparent the sound itself was insects, Cicadas to be specific. The seven year re-emergence from hibernation found them covering the trees, the bushes, the walks and people. They were everywhere.

As expected the Peonies were exceptional, but then that's what the exhibition is about. This year's winners, lovely as they were, still showed stress from the heat. Many of the entrants were on the verge of being past their prime, partly due to a somewhat later show date, which could not have predicted the weather. Numerous flowers dropped their petals prematurely, while being prepared for exhibition, and many of the survivors were past their prime by Saturday's exhibition. Fewer of the earlier hybrids, with their extraordinary range of color were in evidence this year. Their recent development, and the difficulty in propagation, makes many of these newest colors difficult to find. An extraordinary Cardinal red double, **Command Performance**, glowed in the company of all the whites and pale pinks predominating in this year's show. Introduced by Don Hollingsworth in 1996, the three-species hybrid is a vigorous mid-season double bomb with flowers up to nine inches across and won best of show in 1998.

Several members generously contributed outstanding peony specimens for the fund-raising auction which followed the banquet, including a large selection of potted Tree Peonies, hoteas and unusual **Coral Bells** from Klehm's Nursery. I was the winning bidder for one of them, Saunders 1948 Tree Peony introduction **Age of Gold**, now happy in my yellow collection, which currently includes Chris Laning's Hybrid **Sunny Girl**, Gilbertson's light yellow bomb, **Goldilocks**, Don Hollingsworth's outstanding Itoh Hybrid, **Garden Treasure**, and the above mentioned **Golden Crown**, another Itoh Hybrid (if it ever blooms).

The worst drought of this century, here in the Northeastern United States, forced daily watering, sometimes twice; then Hurricane Floyd ended the drought with floods and high winds, which dug out a choice white peach tree, leaving room for peony divisions waiting to be dug. Luckily the island's water is from an under the bay river, somewhat like an artesian spring which flows constantly. Last weekend thousands of Snow Geese seemed to be following I-95 south to warmer places—announcing winter in the wings on “standby.” 1999 has been one for the record books.

Warmest Regards,
Vernon Kidd

✻ ✻ ✻

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

Peony Information

Jack Nordick

I enjoyed seeing the list of winners from the June exposition in Ohio. It makes me think that one day I will have to get to such a show. I do very much enjoy the peonies in my garden, but I am curious to see what others are doing, and just how the flowers are exhibited and how those flowers look. That is especially true when I see that one variety is a consistent winner, but it has never been one that has struck my fancy.

With the fall season there are many things to do, and I fear that I have had to let some other things slide to make sure that the peony chores get done.

In August a spell of hot dry weather had me watering almost constantly. One group of my peonies is a little too close to an apple tree. They seem to bloom well, but growth has been slow. I suspect the apple tree has been stealing their water supply. This summer and last I gave them bountiful waterings, and they seem to be responding appropriately.

While spring is the time to enjoy the flowers, it is usually less work. I can say that because I never got around to cutting any flowers for later forcing. That would have been some work. I did spend a lot of time removing side buds. I decided that this next spring I will remove the side buds again from most of the plants, but take the terminal buds off of a few and leave the side buds in order to have a few plants bloom later. I did have friends that took crates of blossoms for drying. That was ok because I never got them cut and refrigerated earlier. Well, there is always next year.

But now is the time for the hard work. I have been cutting, cleaning and planting seeds. I have also begun to dig, divide and move many of the bushes. I suspect that I will set about 95 divisions from my plants before I am done. I got a new bed in the middle of a pasture dug and prepared for this fall. I hope it will be sufficient for about 5 years before I will need to start another. In the meantime, before it is filled with peonies, I will use the extra ground for sweet corn, potatoes and melons.

Most of the plants I divided are either seedlings, or one of the heritage varieties that came with the place. I still haven't identified the variety, but it sure does grow like crazy. It is a full double dark maroon red with yellow stamens and rich heavy perfume. I suspect it may be **Mons. Martin Cahuzac**, but the descriptions of the fragrance have left me in doubt. Until I make a sure identification of that variety in another bed, I will not be able to know.

Some of the seedlings look interesting. One is a tall single bi-color. The center of the petal is a medium fuchsia which fades to pink blush on the edges. It is a chance rogue which bloomed for the first

time this year, and survived in the middle of a day-lily bed. It certainly is robust. A few others are showing a dwarf habit; large flowers, but short and wiry stems. The flowers are nothing unusual (they are most likely offsprings of **Mons. Jules Elie** for the above mentioned cultivar) but I find the plant habit to be the useful feature. Most of the rest are a little interest or value, but I find that I just can't throw away a peony.

I have been amazed to find how well peonies grow once they get to good soil. The old plants I have, have been growing in the same location for over 50 years. They have always thrived and bloomed well, but never grown much larger. Some of them have formed a huge ring of roots around a dead center. After I have moved divisions to fresh soil, they have taken off in grand fashion. In three years, many of the divisions have formed blooming bushes nearly the size of the parent plant they came from, even though the root bulk is still much smaller. With the plants now arranged in a more orderly and spacious fashion, I am hoping for a grand display in the years ahead.

I am waiting now for the new peony divisions I have ordered for this fall to arrive. I am especially interested in yellow herbaceous peonies and hope that I will have a nice collection of them in another five years. I would like to set up a bed of just yellow peonies and see what kinds of seedlings would come from open pollination in a group like that.

In the past I have only slightly helped mother nature to propagate her seeds. I have usually collected the seeds and put them in an out of the way corner in the garden to see if anything would develop. I doubt that I will ever get really professional about collecting pollen and cutting stamens. But I have tried to plant together peonies that I would hope might cross. With the number of bees that were working the flowers this spring, I am sure that anything that might be fertile has taken to seed. I have never collected more than a few handfuls of seed in the past, but this year I got over a quart of cleaned seed. I also decided to try a different method, so have planted the seed in nursery flats so I can give them the warm, cold, warm periods that they need. I want to see if this really will give me a year advantage in their germination. I had not expected to get this much seed, and I doubt that I will do this again. I am thinking that in the future I will only collect the seed from a few specifically chosen plants.

I do have some questions to ask the more experienced growers. Is there a better way to handle a large quantity of seed? I worry that if I plant them in rows in the garden, the weeds will have conquered the world long before the seeds germinate. Do peony seeds need light for germination? Some kinds of seeds must have light, some cannot, and others just don't care. I have never seen any mention of this in peony growing guides.

In cutting divisions, should the cuts be allowed to heal before planting? Should they be treated with some kind of fungicide? In dividing many of the roots, I was left with a number sliced through the middle, and was worried that these could rot.

Thanks again for the good information in the Bulletin. I expect to be writing again in a couple of months and to renew my membership.

Sincerely,
Jack Nordick

In answer to Jack Nordick's questions:

Is there a better way to handle a large quantity of seed? I worry that if I plant them in rows in the garden, the weeds will have conquered the world long before the seeds germinate.

Sometimes peonies don't come up for about two years. In this case if the weeds come up before the peony seeds germinate you can spray the weeds with herbicide, which will kill the weeds but won't hurt the seeds. Otherwise if the weeds come up with the peonies, you will need to hand pull the weeds.

Do peony seeds need light for germination? Some kinds of seeds must have light, some cannot, and others don't care. I have never seen this in peony growing guides.

Peony seeds don't need light to germinate. When they start to grow above ground level, starting the shoot or Plumule then they need light. If they don't get light at this point the Plumule will be long and spindly.

In cutting division, should the cuts be allowed to heal before planting? Should they be treated with some kind of fungicide? In dividing many of the roots, I was left with a number of sliced through the middle, and we worried that these could rot.

You don't have to worry about allowing the cuts to heal before planting. No need for a fungicide. You may notice a little bit of rot around the cut, but this won't spread. If there is sign of disease around the crown area, then best to soak the crown or root in a 5-10% bleach solution for about 15-20 minutes. You will be able to tell if the bleach is working by the root lightening in color. Be sure to rinse well before planting. Another method to deal with disease is the time honored remedy of Bordeaux solution which can be found in garden stores. This can also be used if you see signs of disease after the peony is in the ground.

Bill Seidl

GROWING PEONIES IN ALASKA

By Larry and Judith Wilmarth

*To: Irmtraud Rieck, Germany
and the American Peony Society Bulletin*

So glad that you found some of our information useful. You may send any of the **Rocks** peony info to whomever you feel would be interested. The Itoh "**Garden Treasure**" now has 6 buds, I look at it first thing every morning to watch it's progress. The foliage on **Rocks** is quite similar, but much smaller to date.

Thanks for the information regarding the species background of the corals. Some winter when I have lots of time to spare, I will take all available peony related publications and document as much history of breeding background as I can find on the cultivars planted at our place. This has been of much interest to me, and I'm sure the members of our local botanical garden would also appreciate the knowledge. Perhaps I should move the corals to our warmest, sunniest area, with a windbreak. To date everything except 3 **Rocks** have been planted in an open situation with no mulching or shelter. **Windchimes** bloomed at the same time as **Himalayan Blue Poppy**. I really like the two together.

This time of year finds me ever so busy, I hardly have time for anything except peony cutting, delivering, maintaining and distributing compost and fertilizer, watering and weeding. Some days I'm still in the field at midnight. Then up at 7 am to begin again. This will be my schedule until the second week of August. Two weeks of working at a more relaxed pace, then the digging and dividing, and distributing of bare roots will begin for 6 weeks. I wouldn't trade this for anything. Guess I'm on a mission to get as many peonies into the lives and yards of as many people as I can before year 2000. We are constructing a combination greenhouse/workroom this year and keep the greenhouse temperature above freezing during the winter. Once this is complete, we'll devote some time to seeds. Any seeds you send I will donate to the master gardeners around town for their experiments. Last year Larry built an underground cellar for storage of potted peonies at about 40-45 degrees F. We stored 56 pots there until mid-March, then we moved them to a shady part of the property and covered them with snow that melted off early May. Then they were given a southeastern exposure and by June 10th, these were well leafed out. I helped transplant some of these at the ABG (botanical garden), and most had good feeder roots. This year we will give them their cold period in November-December-January (if we have a good amount of snow cover) and then move them to the 45-55 degrees greenhouse for another test. Maybe they will put on a better feeder root system. We will see. I'll try to keep you informed.

Since it is raining out now, thought I would give you a progress report. The tree peonies planted last fall (**Joseph Rocks**) 4 of 5 have come through our winter well and are now showing strong foliage growth. One planted in a sheltered corner has two buds (one small, one quite large-about the size of a nickel). This plant receives about 8 hrs. of sun per day (in our Alaska summer) Plant had a good two feet of snow cover this past winter, and is planted on top of an old compost pile. I imagine there is still some decaying matter in this area, and surely hope it won't hurt this plant, but may have kept the area a little warmer later into our winter last year, and allowed this plant to put on a sturdier root system before the real cold came to us. One planted on a hill, exposed to the spring winds, has no leaf growth at all. I have cut the stems back about 4" and the wood is not green. I don't know how far back to cut this one, I need advice from someone with experience with tree peonies. Two planted in a more shady area with some exposure to the wind has a good amount of foliage but no buds yet. One was given to a friend of our local botanical garden to test in her yard, she reports that it is putting on foliage nicely. Hollingsworth's **Garden Treasure** (purchase from Reath's Nursery in '97) has doubled in size from last year and has one large bud (nickel size) and two smaller buds. The foliage on GT is quite colorful and bold. I would keep it for it's foliage alone, but I sure look forward to that lovely true yellow bloom. The color never faded last year. I usually don't rave about any new plant until it has went through at least three of our winters and stayed strong, but I have a hard time keeping quiet about this one.

I really wanted to attend the APS meeting in Ohio last week, just couldn't get the proper accommodations for an affordable price to me,. I'll try again next year and try to put my plans together a little earlier for a better price.

The only peonies that worry me here are the Corals. **Coral Charm** and **Coral Supreme** just don't put on many stems compared to other hybrids in the field. I keep a few for reviewing but cannot encouraged folks to purchase them, unless they have a lot of patience.

Our fernleaf peony (double) planted in '97 is blooming along with **Early Scout**, **Early Windflower**, and **Windchimes**. **Windchimes** is planted near a **Himalayan Blue Poppy**, and makes a lovely combination. **Claire de Lune's** buds area as large as golf balls. **Rosette's** buds are beginning to show color, as are some of the older **Red Charms**. Laning's **Silver Dawn F3 Blend** has large buds, this will be it's first blooming here (planted in fall '96). I haven't made as much progress as I thought I would in nine years, but I am happy with the little progress I've made in bringing more varieties of peonies to the attention of Alaska growers.. During the '80's when I was just starting to put peonies in the yard for our own pleasure (I had 11) I could hardly find a named peony, they were mostly sold as red, white or pink. Then I joined the APS and my whole life took on a completely different avenue of adventure, especially after reading *APS—75 Years*.

I wouldn't trade the last nine years on my knees for anything I can think of at the moment. I feel like I have a kindred spirit with the forefathers of peony breeding, developing, and distribution in America. I applaud "the personalities of the past, the members of The American Peony Society, and the members of SPIN" for all the information that is distributed so freely throughout the world to novices one and all.

Our family is well. Larry has filled this summer with a greenhouse project, and we are the proud keepers of about 40 chickens now. Our children and grand-children are all well and happy, the youngest one (age 2) keeps us very much entertained. He is like a little bee, flitting from one thing to another. Grandparents need the eyes of a bee, to keep little ones safe. Dave and Tara will have another baby boy in October to keep this one company. Lyndi and Savannah are riding bikes already, soon they will be asking to drive the car, and we will wonder where the time went and how did they grow up so fast. I hope this finds life being nice to you and yours.

As Always, Your Friends,
Larry and Judy Wilmarth

LETTERS

We have been thoroughly enjoying our peonies. The older varieties include **Peony Officianalis Ruba**, **Festiva Maxima**, and 16 plants along the edge of our driveway, over 30 years old. **P. Edusls Superba** also. We are just seeing the first bloom on plants put in the last two years. This includes **Pink Lemonade**, **Red Charm**, **Kansas**, **The Fawn**, **Do Tell**, **Snow Swan**, **Karen Gray**, **Cora Stubbs**. Also tree peonies **Schintenci**, **Nike**, **Leda**, **Age of Gold**, **Renoun**. We have just planted two new tree peonies, **Guardian of the Monastery** and **Companion of Serenity**. We wish we had room for many more. Our garden does include 50 rosebushes and 70 Host, 100 Siberian Iris and many other perennials. We have had a good growing season the last two years.

—Virginia Kontak
Camillus, New York



You must have a very much energy for us members and the peonies, as you are gardener, and writer. But, me I don't remember to pay my subscription. But I have had a little trouble today: I have pacemaker in January. I am 80 years old so I hope you are a little understanding. Here you find \$20 for a new triennial.

This year we have had a very fine summer with a wonderful flowering. Never before I have seen such a flowers from my peonies and there have been very few troubles.

With very good Peony greetings,
Allan Dahlbom, Sweden

Fifty Years of Intersectional Breeding

Bill Seidl, 732 S. 19th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220

Last year, 1998, was the 50th anniversary of the first successful intersectional hybrid peony cross. It went by unremarked in these pages, so I hereby rectify that oversight.

In 1948, only three years after Tōkyō was devastated by fire-bombs, a Japanese nurseryman in that city made a cross between two peonies, one belonging to the tree peony section of the genus and the other herbaceous section. Specifically, Mr. Tōichi Itō (Ee-toh) took pollen from **Alice Harding**, a hybrid tree peony, and used it to fertilize **Kakōden**, a lactiflora herbaceous peony. The former is a yellow double, the latter, a white double. (The latter is sometimes described as “semi-double” but it is without stamens; the carpels are clearly visible and quite functional, though the stigmas are often feathered.) Both are still available in the trade, in case anybody wants to obtain them to repeat the cross. I tried several times, never obtaining any viable seed. Roger Anderson reported a similar experience. In Japan Mr. Kaoru Hagiya found the cross to be “rather difficult” (p. 150, *APS—75 Years*). Ruptured seeds did occur though, a typical result in this cross.

What is truly remarkable about the selection of **Alice Harding** as one parent is that it is not very fertile, being an F₁ hybrid of *P. suffruticosa* (moutan) x *P. lutea*. The stamens are scanty in number, hidden among the petals, and reluctant to yield their pollen, only to be unreliable in viability. The more obvious selection would have been a 100% *lutea* that had a bundle of stamens loaded with viable pollen. However, the cross of *lactiflora* x *lutea* failed for A. P. Saunders and Winthrop Thurlow in the 1920’s (p. 118, *APS 75 Years*). If Mr. Itō knew of this, then he did not have many other options, and he was wise to try something new. Adding to the difficulty, Mr. Itō apparently did not have A.H. in his own nursery and had to send his assistant/son-in-law, Shigao Oshida, to the more northern Niigata Prefecture to obtain pollen of A. H., which ordinarily blooms before **Kakōden**. Returning to Tōkyō, the cross of **Kakōden** x **Alice Harding** was made. (Perhaps I should here point out the obvious; Mr. Itō’s goal was to originate a yellow herbaceous peony, something superior in color and garden performance to anything then existing. He retained his focus on this goal, though he also tried **Kakōden** x moutan in 1949, an experiment not designed for yellow.)

Mr. Itō’s first true hybrids bloomed six years later in 1954 “after his death.” This quote is from p. 228 of *A Book of Tree and Herbaceous Peonies in Modern Japan* published by the Japan Tree Peony Society (JTPS). (Did he die in 1954—or earlier?) So Mr. Itō never saw the culmination of his dream, the most exciting breakthrough in peony breeding in half a century, counting back to Lemoine’s creation

of the French Lutea Hybrids. (Prof. Louis Henry may have been the first. Wister, p. 169.) But he must have known he was on the right track because even first-year hybrid seedlings display tree peony type foliage, and stand out as different from 100% lacti seedlings ("false hybrids") resulting from contaminated pollen.

Mr. Itō's widow and son-in-law propagated the best (I believe there was only one) of the hybrids until 1966. In the fall of that year Mr. Louis Smirnow visited Japan and purchased the entire stock. (Mr. Smirnow maintained a mail-order peony nursery on Long Island, NY, and was a long-time respected director of the American Peony Society.) In 1968 he advertised them for sale in the U.S. under four varietal names calling them "New Race" hybrids. They certainly were that!!

I do not know how or when Mr. Smirnow got wind of Mr. Itō's i-hybrids (I shall use "i" for "intersectional"), or whether he first saw the hybrids on earlier trip(s) to Japan. His account of the discovery can be read in the *APS—75 Years* book, p. 52 (and one related paragraph on p. 57) which is reprinted from Bulletin #184, *March 1967*. Mr. Smirnow did not know Japanese and had to communicate through an interpreter. I believe this language barrier and also cultural differences in conducting business lead to many errors and misunderstandings. These notwithstanding, he should be forever remembered for bringing these i-hybrids and the account of their origin to the attention of the Western world. Mr. Itō and his countrymen did not seem to realize the unusualness of the cross for the value of the hybrids; they might have sat on it for many years more had not Mr. Smirnow happened upon the scene. As it was, when the news came out in 1967/68, at least half a dozen American and Canadian amateur hybridizers, myself included, were inspired to make similar i-crosses.

Regarding the lacti/moutan cross. Mr. Itō reportedly obtained "several" varieties (p. 52, *APS—75 Years*), two of which Mr. Smirnow had in his garden in 1966, named **Pink Heaven** and **Pink Purity**. the cross was **Kakōden** x **Kagura Jishi** and, on p. 57, Mr. S. says two of the progeny were named **Pink Symphony** and **Pink Harmony**. These were destroyed when a Japanese railroad company took over the property on which the plants grew. (Is the Bullet train speeding over their graves?) But what happened to the two already growing in Mr. Smirnow's garden?? I've never heard anything more about them. They were reportedly large, double, pink flowers on strong 36" stems. Both Dr. Reath and I saw a color photo somewhere (perhaps an early Smirnow catalog) of a large planting and they appeared fully lactiflora in flower and growth habit. I believe these were all false hybrids, i.e. 100% lactis. At any rate, since Mr. Itō's success in this i-cross cannot be verified, it remains for someone else to be first. Others are working at it, including Don

Smith, Editor of *Paeonia* newsletter, and he may well have the inside track to that honor.

Some professional taxonomists have honored Mr. Lemoine for his *suffruticosa* x *lutea* crosses by defining the resulting hybrid tree peonies as *Paeonia* x *lemoinei*. I think Mr. Itō deserves similar recognition for his *lactiflora* x *P. x lemoinei* crosses by defining the resulting intersectional hybrids as *Paeonia* x *itōi*. The APS Nomenclature Committee apparently has taken no steps to get this procedure under way, but it's about time. Mr. Lemoine's recognition came within about 20 years of his first cross. Perhaps a professional taxonomist is reading this right now and will take action.

The second successful i-cross was made by Mr. Yūgen Higuchi of Niigata. Does that name sound familiar? He must have been the man who supplied the **Alice Harding** pollen for Mr. Itō's earlier cross. Apparently he was made aware of Mr. Itō's success very early on—remember that the first-year seedlings display hybrid traits—and made the identical cross in 1950. This bloomed in 1956. Mr. Smirnow named it **Yellow Gem** and made plans to introduce it. I don't know if he ever did; there seems to be no sign of it in commerce.

After 1967/68 there came a flurry of i-hybridizing activity in the U. S., Roy Pehrson brought a black-red (later named **Lafayette Escadrille**) to the Hamilton Convention in 1974; I brought a dusky-rose (later named **Rose Fantasy**) to the Milwaukee Convention, 1977. After a good start with normal, broad-petalled flowers, both began to develop poorly formed, narrow petals, and sometimes multiple carpels, traits usually exhibited at the outset on many i-hybrids, and cause for their destruction. Before his death in February, 1982, Roy Pehrson had sent me two dozen of his i-hybrids for further evaluation, but only one, **Viking Full Moon**, has retained normal, broad petals. He was greatly disappointed by these results. Young children had pulled out many garden labels, so the pedigree of his i-hybrids is not known. The first American-bred i-hybrid to be registered was **Garden Treasure** in 1984 by Don Hollingsworth. But most prolific breeding results came (and still do) from the hand of Roger Anderson. His **Bartzella**, a yellow double, will long be the model to which others are compared because of its wonderful stems and carriage of the flower. I has the qualities of the best *lactiflora* but with t. p. foliage, flower color, and fragrance. Roger rescued a stray lacti seedling from a neighbor's Martha Washington asparagus patch, and discovered it to be wonderfully receptive (comparatively; it's never an "easy" cross) to hybrid tree peony pollen. From his seed I have grown three nice varieties: **Pastel Splendor**, **Oneida Chief**, and **Peach Boy**, the latter two unregistered. The last one is from the reverse i-cross, using **Tessera** as the seedparent.

In Mr. Smirnow's account of Mr. Itō's i-hybrids (p. 53, APS 75 Years), he says 1200 plants of **Kakōden** were pollinated in 1948. It

is far more likely that the flowers of twelve plants were pollinated, considering how grudgingly **Alice Harding** surrenders its scanty pollen. 36 viable seeds were produced, but only nine were genuine hybrids. Of these, I believe only ONE (not four or six) had a normal, fully formed flower. That one would be **Yellow Emperor**, the one described in the 1974 registration (p. 121, 122, APS Variety Check List) as having “occasionally slight red blotches in the center.” First bloom occurred in 1963 (*APS—75 Years*) or 1964 (*Check List* account). Either way, 15 or 16 years to first bloom can’t be right. Having looked at the arithmetic, Father John Fiala (Bull. 191, Dec. 1968, or *APS—75 Years*, Chap. 6, pp. 2149-151) and Don Hollingsworth (Editor of Chap. 6) “corrected” the hybridizing date to 1958, making it 5-6 years to first bloom. (If this remains the official APS version, you won’t be reading this 50-year anniversary article until 2008!) Why did they change the hybridizing date instead of the blooming date? Well, it seems they were aware that a Japanese scholar, Kaoru Hagiya (Remember him?), in Oct. 1956 (*APS—75 Years*, p. 151, footnotes) had published a report on his studies of chromosomal abnormalities in **Alice Harding** and other peonies. They assumed that Mr. Itō had read this report, and was thereby inspired to make his i-cross using AH as a pollen parent. In truth, Mr. Itō made the cross first, soon followed Mr. Higuchi, and when their hybrids bloomed in 1954 and 1956, respectively, it was Mr. Hagiya who was the inspired one, and included **Alice** in his studies!! Furthermore, if first bloom HAD occurred in 1963 or 1964, there would hardly have been enough plants available for Mr. Smirnow to advertise and sell in 1967/68.

(In the Fiala article, the good father speaks glowingly of many crosses with **Alice Harding**. Nothing has ever come of these, to my knowledge, so I assume he was counting his chickens before they hatched. But not to fret *mon ami*! He achieved considerable fame for breeding lilacs and flowering crabs. He compiled two volumes, one on each subject. The first *Lilacs: The Genus Syringa*, 1988, is his masterpiece and will be the last word on the subject for many years. The second was published after his death.)

After **Yellow Emperor** bloomed in 1954 in the Itō Nursery, it was probably divided and then re-divided every two or three years. If six divisions were obtained for fall planting in 1954, and only two from each of these every two years, Mr. Smirnow would have seen 192 plants in 1966, and 384 from his own stock in 1967. By this time, **Yellow Emperor** would have mutated slightly, such that he could well believe that originally there were four different clones, albeit quite similar.

I say the above with assurance because of what I observed in my garden. In 1968 I purchased all four of the Itō i-hybrids: **Yellow Emperor**, **Yellow Dream**, **Yellow Crown**, and **Yellow Heaven**.

(The **Emperor Dreamed** he could wear his **Crown** in **Heaven**.) I paid \$200 for two plants, but sales must have been slow, as Mr. Smirnow sent all four at \$50 each. **Yellow Emperor** was the most yellow in the sense of having little or no red flares. After several years it was producing some flowers with more pronounced red flares, and even a white flower, later registered as **White Emperor**. I tagged the stems before dividing, and have always endeavored to keep the true Y. E. strain separate.

In the JTPS book, p. 229, appears a large picture of a yellow peony mis-identified as **Oriental Gold**. It should be **Yellow Emperor** for the near absence of red in the center. The accompanying paragraph should say Mr. Smirnow published four (not five) names for the Itō hybrids. **Oriental Gold** was a name used by Mr. Smirnow for an earlier importation “about twelve years ago” (p. 52, *APS—75 Years*). 1966-12=1954, but according to the *Check List*, p. 117, the year was 1960. Here he states it was also known as **Yōkihi** and **Aurea**. The JTPS book has a picture of **Yōkihi** on p. 227. (**Kakōden** is on p. 200.) The Fall, 1999 catalog of White Flower Farm shows a picture of a yellow herbaceous peony from China called **Huang Jin Lun** or **Golden Wheel**. It is rumored that this is the old **Oriental Gold**. It is of a mysterious genotype—species? or hybrid? One American hybridizer, Mr. Ben Gilbertson, used it to originate **Goldilocks**, first bloom in 1970, from the cross **Oriental Gold** x **Claire de Lune** (*Check List*, p. 113). Mr. Smirnow expressed his displeasure in 1978 that the name **Oriental Gold** was being mis-applied in Japan (Bull. p. 225).

I believe the first time any of the Itō i-hybrids appeared at an APS National Exhibition was about 1970 by Steve Moldovan (...of daylily fame). By 1977 they appeared regularly. At first it was a problem to find the correct “category” or exhibition class in which to place them. There were only three choices: lactiflora, herbaceous hybrid, or the tree peonies. They were placed in the herbaceous hybrid section because, after all, they were hybrids and they had herbaceous stems. But here they began to win blue ribbons at the expense of **Prairie Moon**, **Moonrise**, etc. Other things being equal, the yellow of the Itō i-hybrids outshone that of the traditional herbaceous hybrids. This upset the exhibitors who did not yet have the i-hybrids in their stable—and that was most of them—so the Board of Directors (1977, Milwaukee) returned things to “normal” by putting the upstarts in their own show class, but still in the Herbaceous Hybrids division! And so the “Itoh Hybrid” show class—with no reference to their intersectional nature—came into existence and now, 22 years later, is still there. (See the March Bull., #309, p. 15) Only one thing is wrong: the newer American-bred i-hybrids are not Itō hybrids, and so there is no proper show-class heading for them.

The problem is that over the years the name “Itō Hybrid,” a specific name, has been used as a generic term. I remember as a child that my parents replaced our ice-box with a “Frigidaire” brand refrigerator. For many, many years thereafter I called all refrigerators “Frigidaire,” even if they were Westinghouse or some other brand. I used the specific name as a generic name. Many people do the same for “Kleenex” brand of facial tissues. “Hand me a Kleenex” does not mean they’ll refuse a tissue from a box of “Puffs” or “Scotties.” For “Itō Hybrids” the incorrect usage began in the early 70’s among hybridizers. When looking at young i-cross seedlings, we’d talk about how many were true Itō hybrids and how many were imposters or false hybrids. David Reath thought to call them “Itō-type” hybrids, but few followed suit, and no one called them “intersectional” hybrids.

I tried to reverse this trend in 1989 by writing about it (Bull. #269, March 1989) and then registering five intersectional hybrids as such. The Registrar accepted that nomenclature (Bull. #270, June 1989) but, to my surprise, I discovered that in Bull. #272, Dec. 1989, they had been re-registered as “Itoh Hybrids” under the headline REGISTRATIONS CORRECTED! The Nomenclature Committee, chaired by Don Hollingsworth (but his name was not mentioned), had rejected the registrations due to the “incorrect class.” But instead of telling the readers what were the names of the incorrect and correct classes, the registration descriptions were reprinted in their entirety—almost one-and-a-half pages. In order for readers to find out the “mistake,” they would have to open the June and December Bulletins to the proper pages and compare the registration descriptions word-for-word. If Mr. Hollingsworth’s sole and sincere aim was to inform and educate the membership, he needed only to direct the Editor to write the following (under the same headline of Registration Corrected):

Members should note that the registrations in the June Bulletin of **Viking Full Moon, White Emperor, Hidden Treasure, Rose Fantasy, and LaFayette Escadrille** should have been described as “Itoh” hybrids, not “intersectional” hybrids. Please make these corrections in your copies of the Bulletin. We regret that this nomenclatural slipped through to publication.

Instead, the chosen method of “correcting” the class-name merely served to obfuscate the message. The “corrections” were followed by a “Note To All Registrants” from the Board of Directors (p. 18) that was equally obscure: “...the substitution of established names are not permissible....” Thus the official position of the APS was that the makers of Puffs and Scotties had to call their product “Kleenex.”

In his nursery catalog and elsewhere, Don Hollingsworth points to the Board’s 1977 addition of the “Itoh Hybrid” show class as justifi-

cation for using that name as a generic name. As I've already explained, that was not their intent. Since there were no i-hybrids being exhibited during those years EXCEPT Mr. Itō's, it was NOT a misnomer then. It became a misnomer in 1984 when Don's own **Garden Treasure** was registered and later exhibited as an "Itoh Hybrid." Don did not attend the 1977 convention; there was no meeting of the Nomenclature Committee; there was no fanfare announcement in the following September Bulletin that the Board or the NC had named a new class of hybrid peony. Those who originate i-hybrid should have a loud voice in asking that a properly generic name be used. I note that Roger Anderson's i-hybrid **First Arrival** appears on the Court of Honor this year (Bull. #311, p.5) as "Best Itoh Hybrid, Any Color." If the APS accepts non-Itō i-hybrids in show competition, then it should change the class name to one that is properly generic: "Intersectional Hybrid" or "Herbaceous/tree Hybrid." They could add the superfluous words "...of the Itoh type" to satisfy those addicted to the old usage.

But change is inevitable. In magazine articles and books published outside the APS, authors accept the "i" word as properly generic in its usage, while acknowledging that the APS does not. I've seen the i-word, censored since 1989, used in the Bulletins in recent years, and the 1986-96 Check List uses "herbaceous/tree hybrid" (h/t) in some descriptions. My i-registrations, once cancelled because I demanded it rather than accept the "Itoh hybrid" term, are re-instated with the "h/t" wording.

Finally, about the spelling of "Itō." To be academically correct, the spelling should be either "Itoh" or "Itō," but NOT "Ito," without the "h" or the macron over the "o." The "h" spelling belongs to an obsolete system of romanizing the Japanese language; the "ō" spelling is part of the modified Hepburn System which is accepted world-wide (since 1945) because it is phonetically closer to English ("user-friendly"). Either system indicates the "o" sound is long (elongated) rather than half-long. Without the "h" or the macron, the word means "thread." Otherwise it means "that one...wisteria." The Roman writing (rōmaji, in Japanese) conveys only the pronunciation, not the meaning of the word, and is primarily used by Westerners as a tool to facilitate the learning of Japanese. The kanji (ideograms or characters borrowed from the Chinese) conveys the proper meaning. (There is a city in Japan, SW of Tokyo, named "Itō," but its associated kanji means "that one...east.") For six years the APS used the "thread" spelling until, about 1974, Mrs. Itō requested that the family name be spelled with the "h." I continued the old spelling—as do most Western editors and writers—until accused of being disrespectful of the family name. Some research at the library taught me the above, which is a VERY shortened summary.

I'm sure the spirits of Mr. and Mrs. Itō are not offended by either method, so long as we don't go back to "thread." (And I do hope the printer is getting all this right.)

I once wrote to Mr. Ryoji Hashida, Chief Director of the JTPS, about obtaining a photo of Mr. Itō and more details of his life. His answer (May 9, 1993) indicated he had never seen a photo of him and didn't know where I could obtain one. I thought his picture ought to appear in an article of this type. I also inquired about membership in the JTPS. He sent me the 1992 annual Bulletin but recommended not joining since it is printed entirely in Japanese. (No subtitles here.) Several photos in the Bulletin were of a peony exhibition, and it was clear that they were using the APS schedule. Wow! I wonder if they find it as complicated as I do. One photo showed at least a dozen entries in Class 169B, One Bloom, Itoh Hybrid, Any Color, all very well grown and semi-double to the max.

While in the army I was stationed in Tōkyō all of 1955 and the first half of 1956, the same time Mr. Itō's i-hybrids were in bloom and the first time Mr. Higuchi's bloomed! But I was not then particularly interested in peonies, and if I had been, I would hardly have become aware of these events. (I may have been only a three-cent streetcar ride away from the Itō Nursery.) Maybe this accounts for my feeling a special connection with these hybrids.

The little Japanese that I remember allows me to close out this article with Domo arigato gozaimasu, Itō-san and Sayō - ō - ō -nara!

伊
藤

P.S. Here is the kanji for the Itō family name. The top character is sounded as long "e" and means "that one." The lower character is sounded "toh" and means "wisteria." It can also be sounded "fuji" and appears in the kanji for "Kamata Fuji," the well known Japanese tree peony.

Let's hope the printer doesn't get this upside down. The simpler character is at the top.

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By Dr. Bernhard Chow

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This is not a new idea. However, many new growers often ask what they should do with the herbaceous understock and answers are not often mentioned in this bulletin. Some nurserymen selling grafted tree peonies tell us that the herbaceous roots of grafts would rot off in 5 years' time after planting. My experiences and knowledge learned from different sources tell me that this answer is only occasionally right. On comparing the merits between grafting on herbaceous understocks and grafting on tree peony understocks, many Chinese books on Tree Peonies point out that grafts with herbaceous understocks have a shorter life-span. A good explanation of this opinion can be found in P. 185 of John Wister's book *The Peonies*, which is published by American Horticulture Society in 1955. This book points out that if the herbaceous understock is left on the plant when it is set out in its permanent location, the understock will eventually grow to huge proportions. These understocks sometimes get almost as large as a basket ball. It is difficult to see what their value to the plant can possibly be after they reach this size.

My personal experiences tell me that I should dig up the grafted plant and cut off the lump of herbaceous roots and then replant it again whenever I notice any sign that shows that the plant is losing its vigorous growth. Some people suggest that we should use a bared wire tighten around the union between the stem and the herbaceous understock before planting. Eventually, the wire would cut into the plant and reduce the food sent to the understock from the leaves and restrain the growth of the understock subsequently. Whatever ways you prefer, please do not overlook this old problem that has been pointed out since 1955 and perhaps others earlier.

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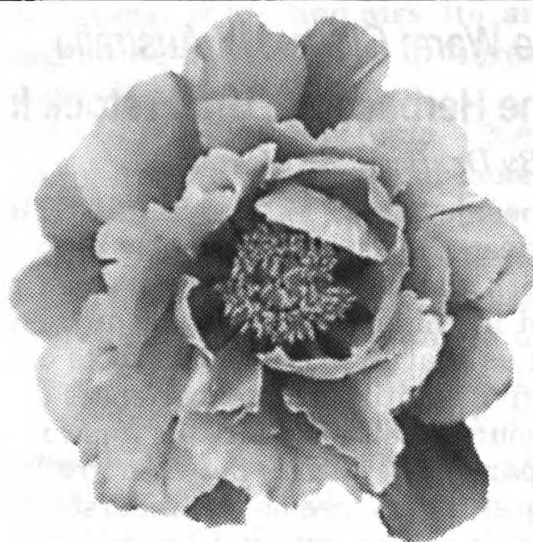
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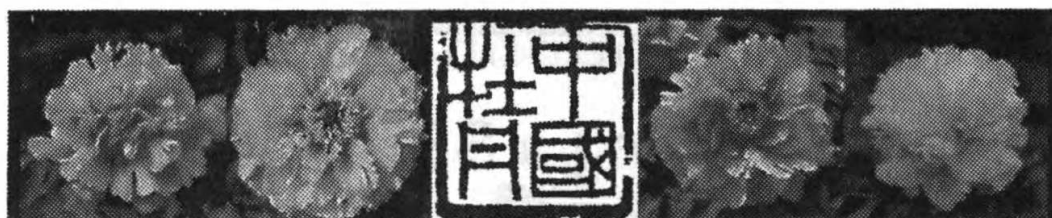
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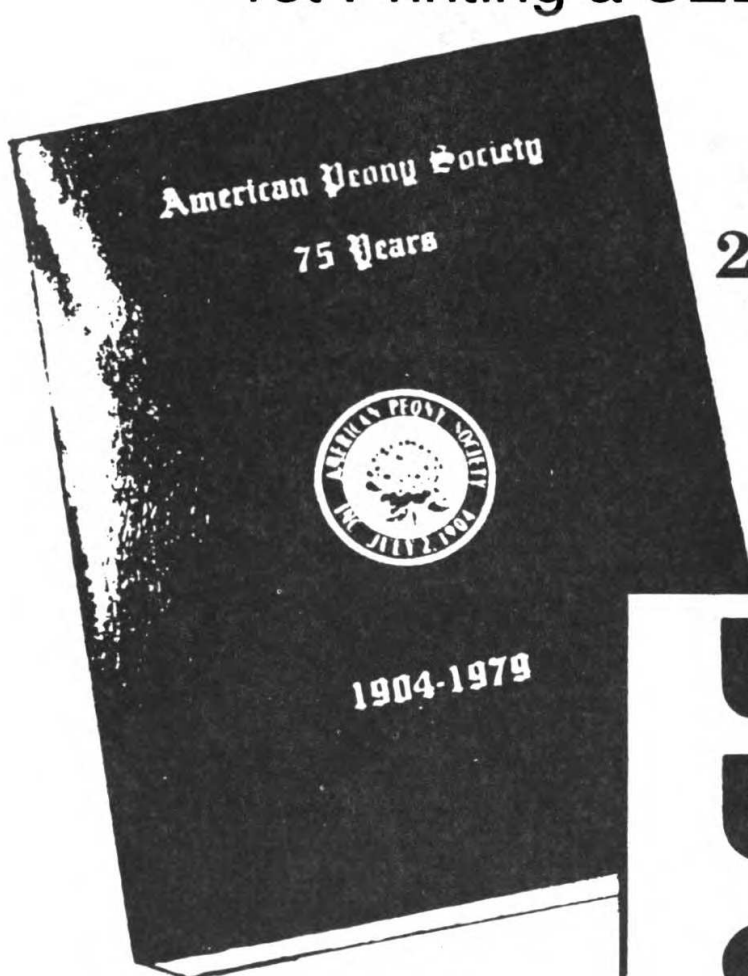
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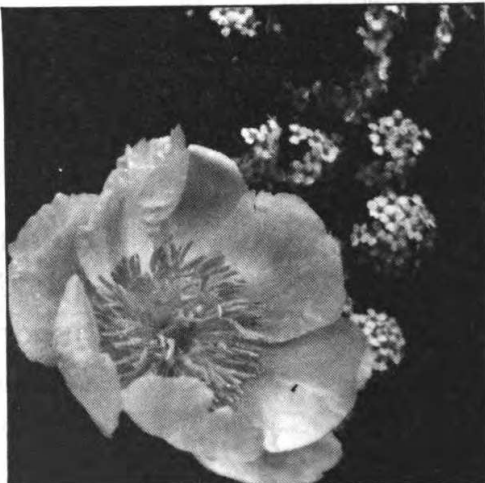
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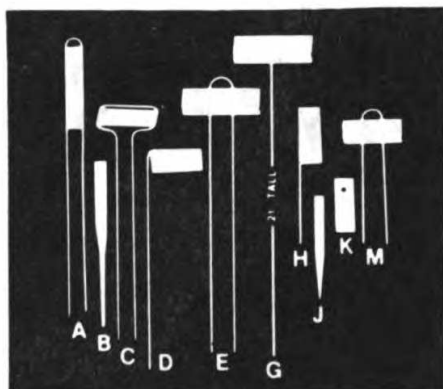
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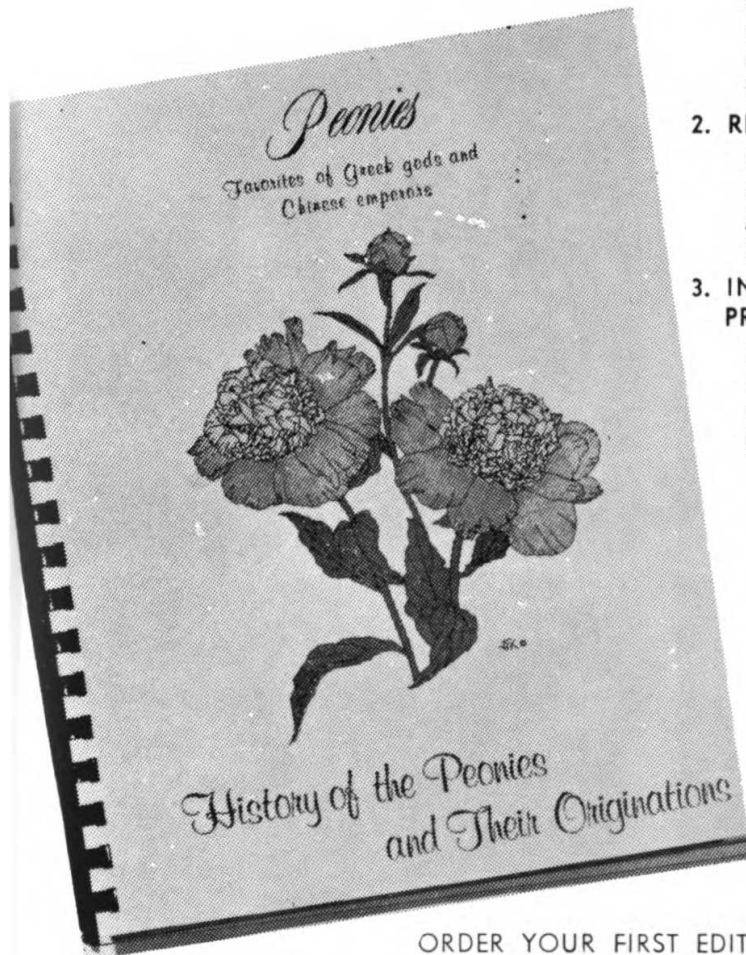
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