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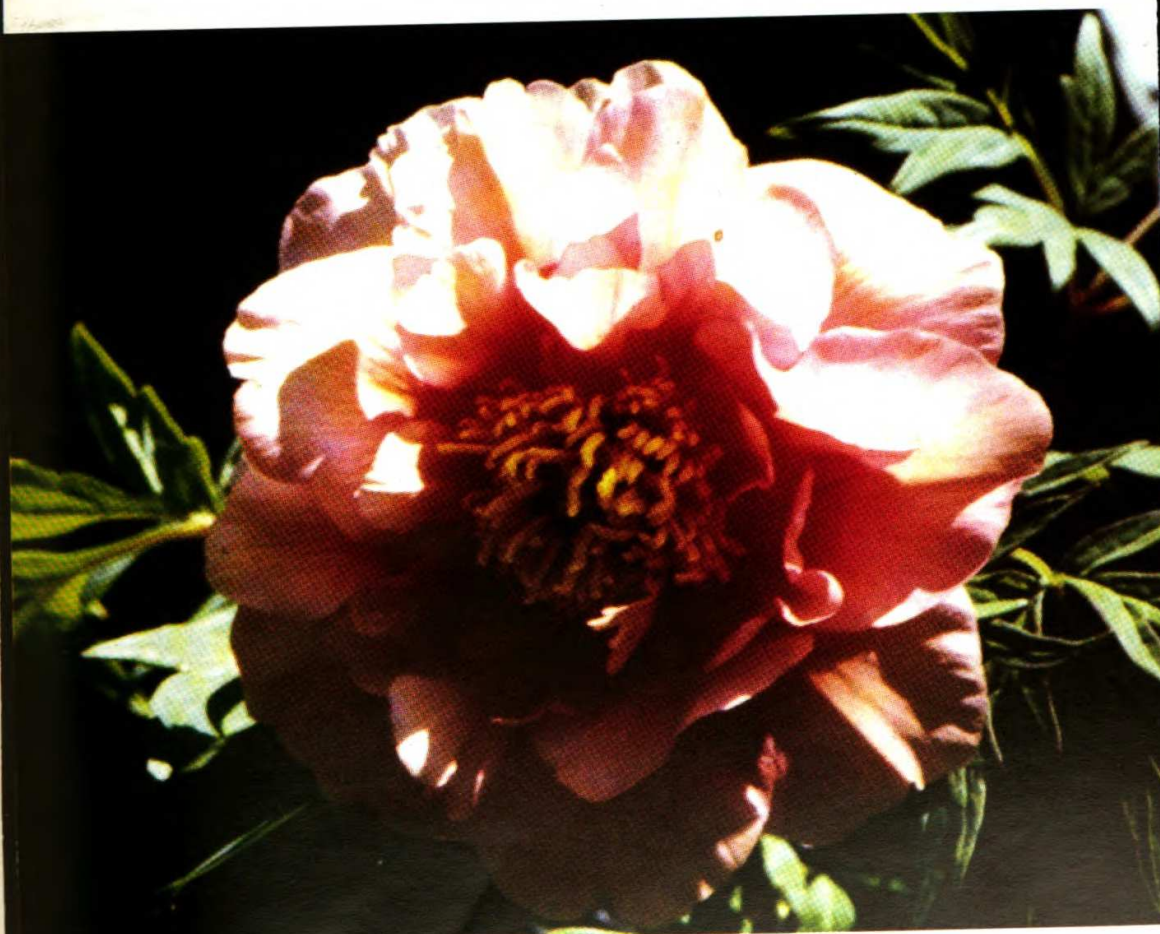
June 2003

No. 326



# The American Peony Society Bulletin

JUN 12 2003



*Marie Laurence*

*Nassos Daphnis*

## 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

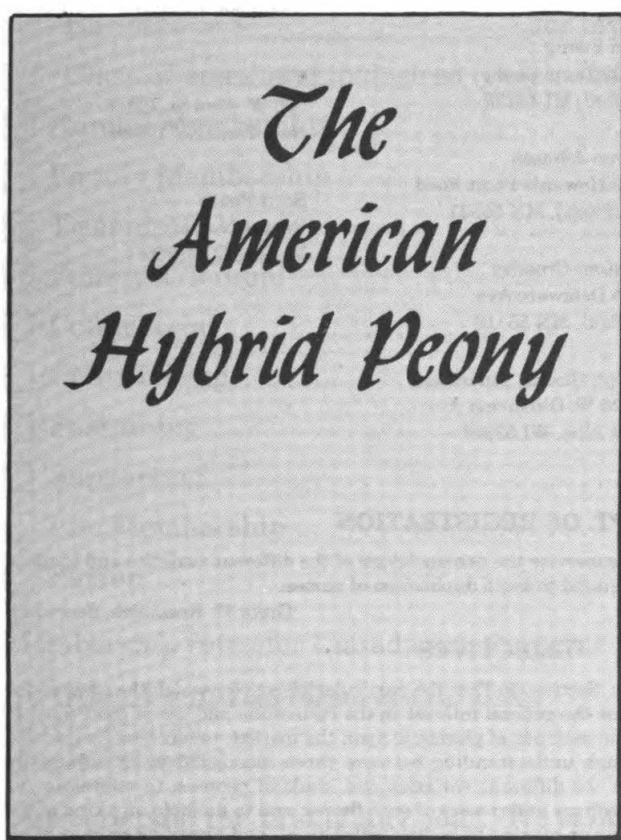
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**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY**  
250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, MN 55343

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**Herbaceous  
Peonies in  
FULL  
COLOR!**

- **Photos—  
130 Herbaceous  
Hybrids  
32 Species**
- **All Named**
- **Biographical Data**
- **208 Pages**
- **6 5/8" x 9 1/4"**
- **Hard Cover —  
Embossed in Gold**

*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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## AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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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.....\$10.00	Family Triennial.....35.00
Single Triennial.....25.00	Life Membership.....300.00
Family Annual.....15.00	Commercial membership.....25.00

Family membership, any two related members in same household .....One 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**  
**250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, Minnesota 55343**

I hereby apply for membership in the American Peony Society

Membership renewal ☐

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for my dues.

Class of membership desired (check one)

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership ..... | \$ 10.00  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing .....      | \$ 25.00  |
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Membership rates for Canada are the same as the United States.

**All Other Countries Membership Dues**

Single Annual .....	.\$20.00
Single Triennial .....	.\$55.00

Dues are paid the first of any year. We cannot accept credit cards.  
Money received for membership is used for payment of the Bulletin  
and office supplies.

Your canceled check and/or money order stub is your membership  
card. Any cash received will be acknowledged.

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**ZIP CODE**



# the American Peony Society Bulletin

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June 2003 — No. 326

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**Celebrating 100 Years of the American Peony Society**  
**Bulletins #324, #325 and #326**

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

## President's Message

As I write these words, it is an unseasonable 89 degrees Fahrenheit on April 14. A recent newspaper article promoted the theory that within the coming century, Minneapolis may have summer weather patterns similar to Kansas City. Global warming seems apparent. Under these conditions, or other weather extremes, what better garden plant exists than the peony?

Additionally, with the time constraints and low maintenance demands of today's gardeners, peonies again fit the bill. Within the cultivar itself, the berth of bloom colors continues to grow and dazzle the eye. The quality of plant foliage, landscape appeal, and stem strength have long been criteria for peony excellence. Itoh intersectionals offer a window to the future and are a wonder unto themselves.

Hybridists have also not forgotten the element of fragrance and strive to rediscover what was sometimes overlooked in favor of bloom color or size. Florists find the peony ideal in its storage abilities and appealing in its variety of bloom presentations. Despite all these demands from the consumer, peonies continue to shine and will surely play a more prominent garden and landscape role this century. We Americans do not have a monopoly in our enthusiasm or efforts, worldwide contributions are indeed exciting and deserve our applause.

We will be gathering together June 13-15 in celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Do take time from your busy life to attend the Show, in appreciation of the beauty and glory of peonies. Stop to consider the many individuals who have contributed to our wonderful history and bright future. I want to personally encourage each of you to embrace the excitement of the occasion and participate in this milestone Show. Bring your blooms, leave behind any troubles or worries. Truly, there is not a better time, or better garden plant, to celebrate. Come join us.

See you there,  
Steve Johnson, President  
American Peony Society

**Editor's note:** Dinner banquet reservations are due by **May 23**. Make your \$39 check payable to Steve Johnson/APS, and send to: 5845 Howard's Point Road, Shorewood, MN 55331. Thank you for your support!



*A one hundred varieties class, any type, has been added to this year's show. Also, an "open" class has been added to the Floral Arrangements Division.*

# America Peony Society Convention & Exhibition

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Chanhassen, Minnesota

June 13, 14, 15, 2003

## SCHEDULE OF SHOW EVENTS

*Note that entrance to the Arboretum is free for those APS Members showing flowers. A badge will be issued at the gate. All other APS Members will be issued a weekend pass for \$7.00/person (a \$21 value). Nonmembers of the public will be charged \$7.00/person for each entrance to the Arboretum.*

### **FRIDAY, June 13**

Noon-2:00 p.m. — Preparation/set up area tent and tables time.

2:00-9:00 p.m. — MN Landscape Arboretum gate will begin issuing badges for those APS Members showing flowers and preparation of show entries will commence. The preparation area tent will hold tables, flower bottles, a water supply, and the necessary entry labels. The tent is adjacent to the show auditorium.

3:00-9:00 p.m. — The Auditorium is open for positioning of entries.

### **SATURDAY, June 14**

7:00 a.m. — The Arboretum opens for registration and set up of bloom and floral arrangement entries.

11:30 a.m. — Registration of entries ends and judging starts. Lunch is "on your own."

1:00-7:00 p.m. — Show officially opens to the public.

1:30 p.m. — Seminars begin in the Fireside Room, upstairs from the Aud.

1. Scott Reath—*Tree Peonies & Grafting*
2. To Be Announced

5:30 p.m. — The Chestnuts Ballroom opens at 207 Chestnut Street, Chaska, MN. The ballroom is located one block north of the Best Western Chaska River Inn and Suites (walking distance). (The ballroom is downstairs from the main restaurant and lounge.) Silent and live auction sale plants will be on display with silent auctions bids accepted.

7:00 p.m. — Annual banquet dinner served at the Chestnuts Ballroom.

8:00 p.m. — Keynote speaker Roy Klehm will present a slide show entitled; "One Hundred Years of the APS—People and Personalities."

9:00 p.m. — Peony root auction begins, the silent plant auction continues.

10:30 p.m. — Both auctions end, free raffle takes place.

### **SUNDAY, June 15**

8:00-11:30 a.m. — Board of Directors Meeting held in the Mississippi Room of the Best Western. Meeting is for Board Members only.

8:00-Noon — Arboretum opens to the public.

9:00-11:00 a.m. — American and Minnesota Peony Society members only meet at Arboretum and drive to Sorrentos Garden for a garden tour.



## BANQUET REGISTRATION

The registration fee for the dinner banquet, keynote speaker, auctions, and raffle is \$39. This fee includes all sales tax and gratuity. The site of the dinner is the Chestnuts Restaurant Ballroom located at 207 Chestnut Street, Chaska, MN 55318. The phone number to Chestnuts is (952) 368-0505. Parking is available, but somewhat limited. It is suggested that those Members staying at the River Inn, consider walking to the ballroom.

***Dinner will be served at 7:00 sharp. Each guest will be served a complimentary Caesar salad. After the salad, entrees, vegetables and potatoes will be presented buffet-style (avoiding a service charge) allowing dinner guests to choose without limiting to one entree selection. The buffet will include twice baked potatoes and fresh green bean almonline. Entree choices will be: Chicken Cordon Blue with ham and Swiss cheese and a wild rice garnish; Walleye Almonline with white wine, lemon, and almonds; and a chef's carved Prime Rib Au Jus, served medium to medium rare. Dinners include dinner rolls, appropriate condiments, coffee, tea, and milk. White cake will be served for dessert. Chestnut's guarantees enough food for all, charging per person rather than according to actual food prepared.***

**Make your dinner reservations directly with Steve Johnson by May 23, 2003.** Send your check made out to Steve Johnson at 5845 Howard's Point Road, Shorewood, MN 55331. Your canceled check is your receipt. As a meal count needs to be submitted to Chestnuts in advance of the dinner date, please make your reservation by May 23. A banquet itinerary will be available upon your arrival.



## 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 Pages 11 and 12. Division VI — COURT OF HONOR CANDIDATE CLASS.**
14. The best seedling judged by the seedling committee will be displayed on the Court of Honor.

# Spring

By Vernon Kidd, New York

Spring sunlight replaced the morning mist rising from the Hudson, with rain predicted in the evening. A couple of weeks earlier, like a thick San Francisco fog, wind-driven snow isolated this "Tower in Manhattan" in a swirling white solitude. Muffling the traffic's cacophony, it created a surreal world, much like the enveloping sand storms televised from Iraq. Life stumbles on as war once again darkens our lives.

An early exit from the city to catch the first Fire Island ferry hadn't looked too promising that Saturday, but the dark, quick-moving front headed northeast out into the Atlantic. Sunlight warmed the bundled-up crowd of early bird passengers, and the curved roof arches of a brand new restaurant, rising from ashes after two seasons, came into view as the ferry eased up to an also new dock.

We hadn't seen the cottage and garden since winter preparations, to close it the first Saturday of last November. Snow patches from that recent storm were a reminder that this had been the forth coldest winter in the Northeast since records were kept. Some peonies planted last fall, stirring from winter slumber, awaited the snow's melt, while others in sunnier locations were starting to peek through the soil, as I removed the hay mulch. The ground, still frozen in places, and air temperature only in the low 40's, put off the first spraying for fungus, which will be on the agenda for the next trip.

Dear friends in Silver Spring, Maryland, are moving to their retirement community shortly, and they have told me that one of their final chores is transferring **Red Grace** (my personal favorite) and **Cheddar Cheese**, which I had given them some years back, to their new home. Daisy, a gifted artist and sculptress, divided the original plants to beautify the landscaping for their church, and those divisions represent a continuing memento of her years tending the church's garden, as do her quilted murals gracing the church's auditorium.

**Red Grace**, now in four different locations in the island garden, is not always available from nurseries, but is currently listed in Reath's catalogue. The enormous red bomb endowed with a heady peony fragrance is similar to the scent of dark red roses (only more so). One blossom can fill a room with fragrance, and they also last well as cut flowers.

The garden newcomers, **Lois E. Klehm**, **Betty Warner** and **Golly** from Klehm's nursery; **Kansas**, **Myrtle Gentry** and **The**

**Fawn** from Reath's nursery, given rich soil in choice planting sites, were mulched for their first winter at the island. Divisions in the front of the cottage receive early sun with ideal late afternoon shade. In the main garden, behind the cottage, some late afternoon shade for some of the peonies proved advantageous in keeping those blooms fresh in last year's drought. Still, there is more intense sun there, after early morning shade, until it sinks behind lush grape vines on a high wooden fence and beach plum trees separating it from the yellow cottage behind.

The sand dune provides minimum nutrients, therefore must be replaced with humus and topsoil in the planting holes to provide a more ideal growing medium for peonies. This wasn't always possible when the first divisions were planted (in ignorance), and the continued enrichment of the sandy soil has been the single most important factor in providing the annual surprises, which greet the early summer garden.

The continuing parade of wonderful new peony and tree peony introductions is particularly heartening this year. Spring's catalogue offerings provide a testament to the work by devoted hybridizers who constantly expand the color spectrum with new combinations, while maintaining the wonderful introductions of the past. The American Peony Society's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year continues to maintain a living record, a museum for the truly extraordinary creation, the Peony.

Finally, thoughts of the garden are pushed aside by concern for our courageous men and women facing war's insanity, the massive destruction raining down on Baghdad and other cities in Iraq, while the world watches war unfolding on television.

All my best wishes,  
Vernon Kidd

## Linwood Tree Peony Festival

Open to the Public May 20-21 and May 27-28  
9:00—5:00pm

Featuring Japanese Varieties, Saunders Hybrids,  
Gratwick Introductions and Daphnis Hybrids

1912 York Road  
Pavilion, New York 14525

*For more informaton contact Lee Gratwick: (716) 584-3913*

# The Canadian Prairie

I wish to commend you on the commemorative Issue, Bulletin 324. It was so good to see the photos of all the peony breeders, nurserymen and others whose names appear repeatedly in past bulletins, and who have contributed to our peony heritage. I will particularly treasure that issue—primarily because I have taken a great interest in horticultural history.

You asked me about writing an article about Cyril M. Clarke. Mr. Clarke didn't write about himself, only about how he grew peonies. His peony collection must have been wonderful and I am sorry that no longer exists in its entirety. I would have liked to meet Mr. Clarke. I wonder if there are any other Albertans who have information about him. There is a group of people centered around Edmonton who are organizing a peony society, and who will be involved with the peony collection at the Devonian Gardens under the jurisdiction of the University of Alberta. They are hoping to get more of the peonies identified there, but I'm sure it will not be an easy task. I visited there in 2001 and it seemed that there were fewer labels than ever there. Some of the varieties I photographed around 1980 seemed to be no longer there, however I did find blooming a rare Canadian peony variety (cultivar) by the name of Margaret Logie. At the time I thought it was perhaps Margaret Lough, misspelled, but I have since been informed that it was bred by Canadian James Keagey of Ontario, many years ago.

Here the peonies in 2002 were not as good as usual—a few cultivars seemed to be winter-injured from lack of snow cover—and growing weakly. Although much of our province was severely drought stressed last year, we generally had adequate rain in Regina, and snow cover has been adequate this winter. One peony that did do well last year was my lone tree peony, Age of Gold, now 25 years old. I took a blossom, held back in my fridge for a week, to the Canadian Peony Society show in Regina last June and for it received the Grand Champion award. At the time there were few peonies in bloom in Regina, however, so there was little local competition and the remainder had to travel from Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba. My intersectional Garden Treasure continues to improve yearly and was admired by visitors



to my yard. Last fall I added Goldilocks and Summer Glow to my overcrowded yard. I have about 20 peonies in a borrowed yard. One of my favorite peonies is Gratis, bred by Mr. Krekler—a striking single black red with outstanding foliage. It is very fertile and I hope to find time to do some breeding work with it this summer, just for my own curiosity. I don't know of anyone propagating Gratis at the present time—mine came from Klehm's when they were still in Illinois (about 1985).

The peonies at the Experimental Farm, Indian Head, 45 miles east of here have suffered during the drought and a few appear to have been lost through a combination of careless rototilling or excessive mulching. The entire collection there is now surrounded with landscape fabric covered with flax shives (the remnants of flax straw after rotting). I found that the mulch had been placed 3-4" deep over the crowns of some plants, delaying or preventing emergence. Some cultivars had shoots that were still searching for sunlight in early July and the soil was still very cool underneath. The peonies at the Seager Wheeler Farm at Rosthern SK, (4 hour drive north) also were under drought stress and did not bloom well, but the plants seemed to be coping fairly well—with only a couple of very young plants showing poor growth. Perhaps the bloom will be affected this year as well, as it was extremely dry there last fall. Some of the trees on the farm were dying out because of the drought.

The weather in late February and early March was unseasonably cold, with a few nights close to -40°F, but at last the snow is melting, quite rapidly. We are all hoping that we will have a more "normal" rainfall this year, but now the forecast is for severe to very severe infestation of grasshoppers in much of Saskatchewan. Peonies are not their first choice, fortunately, but a friend of mine in western Saskatchewan had her peonies and much of her garden devoured to the ground last year by hordes of grasshoppers. Such are the challenges on the prairies. Oh well, at least we don't have Japanese beetles!

Wishing you the best for 2003.

Brian Porter



Enclosed you will find a picture of the beds of heritage peonies at the Shacksboro Schoolhouse in Baldwinsville, NY. The schoolhouse is a museum of local history belonging to McHarrie's Legacy, a preservation group. It's mission is to educate the community with historical exhibits both inside and out.

I oversee the grounds. The peony beds hold about 60 plants with over 50 different varieties. The collection came from the Indian Spring Farms directly (pieces were dug from fields of grass and brambles, and from under trees) or indirectly from long established gardens in central New York area. The Indian Spring Farms was a local nursery, in business between the early 1920's and the mid 1940's. It was nationally known.

The owner, F. A. Goodrich, hired Mr. Harry F. Little to manage it. Mr. Little was known nationally in his own right, holding the position of President of the American Peony Society in 1928. He continued in important positions in the APS until the 40's, and won many awards with his peonies. We are always looking for more information on the Farm and the two gentlemen who ran it.

We are also looking for plants or pictures of the following peonies that are connected to the Indian Spring Farms.

**Mrs. F. A. Goodrich** which the 1928 Indian Spring Farm's catalog described as: "(Brand) A large, very bright pink flower of beautiful rose type form. With long, narrow petals of great substance. The plant is strong and vigorous with good upright stems. A very refined and beautiful flower." It was described in Peonies, The Manual of the APS, (1928) ed. James Boyd, placing its introduction to 1925.

**Harry F. Little**, which the Nehrlings describe as Peonies Outdoors and In (1966) as: "(Nicholls, 1933), Rose type. White. L(ate). AV(erage)."

**Mrs. Harry F. Little**. This was mentioned in the June 1941 APS Bulletin. It was part of Harry Little's winning entries in the class of double or semi double.

I have not seen anything mentioned above these three in recent literature, so I'm assuming they have gone the way of many old peonies. Which means, I could be looking at them in our peony beds and never know it. Identification using 75 year old verbal descriptions make the task a challenge. I would love to hear from anyone that has any additional information on identifying heritage peonies, especially the three mentioned above.

The Schoolhouse's Peony Gardens have been a fun project. Our main task now is to put names to our beautiful collection, and collect more varieties (we hope) in the coming years.

I greatly enjoy the Bulletin. Thanks and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
Doris E. Cross  
212 Meyers Road  
Liverpool, NY 13008  
(Picture featured on back cover.)



## Peony Favorites: Here's Mine for 2003

*By Harold Entsminger, Cutbank, MT*

Trends set peony buying. One is to buy the old fragrant varieties like Grandma had. Another is to get the lighter singles and semi doubles like the Saunders varieties. Listing one's personal favorites might help others to look at these varieties and give them consideration for their plantings, starting with #1 consideration, and moving down. Please send in your list of favorites for the Bulletin.

### Herbaceous

Ludovica  
Lotus Bloom  
Red Charm  
Carina  
Coral Sunset  
Raspberry Charm  
Mrs. FDR  
Cytherea  
Eventide  
Nova  
Douglas Brand  
Postilion  
Red Grace  
Carol  
Henry Bochstoce  
Heritage  
Cardinal's Robe



### Tree

Flora  
Zephyrus  
Shintenchi  
Princess Saho  
Zeus  
Leda  
Shimano Fugi  
Shimane Chojuraku  
Hana Kiso  
Rockii  
Kokamon  
Exotic Era  
High Noon  
Angelet  
Ariadne  
Yatsukajishi  
Nissho



# The Elusive Beauty

*By Dr. Bernard Chow, Melbourne, Australia*

For the striped or variegated blooms of moutan we have Chinese Erqiao or Japanese Shima Nishiki. Saunders hybrids offer many colors we do not have in traditional moutons. Mr. Toichi Itoh created a new group of intersectional hybrids, called Itoh hybrids, by crossing herbaceous peony Kakoden with hybrid tree peony Alice Harding. From two seeds of second-generation hybrid tree peony handed down by Prof. Saunders, Mr. Nassos Daphnics created a new group of advanced generation shrub hybrids. We have the elusive beauty emerging in our gardens ever since. From the observation of the growing of Daphnics' Tessera, Mr. Harold Entsminger noticed that its color is elusive, varying greatly from year to year. After having grown Mr. Bill Seidl's 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> generation hybrid tree peonies, I find that the elusive behavior is very common among most of this group. I first noticed this elusive nature from the observation of my orange shade tree peonies. Since advanced generation hybrids are very rich (diverse) in genetic material, it is quite common for these plants to contain genetic material for different flower pigments. The composition and combination of different pigments in a particular flower's petals would create different color effect. The uneven distribution of certain pigments may cause spot, flares, freckles and edging in petals. The change of soil condition, weather condition etc may not have the same effect on different pigments. Therefore, we notice the changing appearance of blooms of the same plant from year to year. For the same plant, we may have a sector of saturated yellow in the petals in one year and a yellowish hue in the middle of the petals in another year. Sometimes we may see a purplish shade at the edge of the petals in some other year. The relative stability of different pigments also affects the appearance of the petal color. From the preliminary observation of the orange color blossoms of my tree peonies, I found that the red pigment tends to be more recessive compared with the stable yellow pigment. Therefore, all the secondary blooms, if any, are always more yellowish than those from the strong stem. Orange blooms get comparatively more yellowish appearance at a later stage of blooming. For advanced generation hybrid tree peonies, their elusive nature comes with the diversity of their genetic



pool. It is not uncommon for us to see the same plant to have a different blooms from branch to branch, from day to day, and from year to year. They are a group of The Elusive Beauty!

**Advanced Generation Hybrid Tree Peonies  
From the Works of Bill Seidl and Others Are on Display Online**

To view 200 actual size photos, please visit our website:

[www.peonygarden.com.au](http://www.peonygarden.com.au)

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**Tenuifolia Flora Plena  
From Europe, AsiaMinor**

*By R. W. Tischler, Brand Peony Farm, Faribault, MN*

The foliage of this outstanding and rare peony are finely dissected and from this appearance makes it entirely distinct. The brilliant red, double flowers seem to rest on the foliage, like jewels encrusted in a scepter. The blooming date here is approximately May 25th.

This is a very old type peony. The following is a quote from a letter written by Mr. A. M. Brand to Mr. R. F. Koby, dated March 25th, 1948. "One evening, the latter part of May, 1876 or 1877 (I think it was 1876) my mother was setting on the front step of the old home and my father was puttering about among the trees and shrubs in the front yard. I, a little fellow of 5 or 6 was running barefooted around, when my mother called to me to come and sit beside her. I did so and asked my mother what made the air smell so sweet. She answered, 'You smell the lilacs. The lilacs are in bloom,' and she pointed out six big lilac bushes in the front yard which were in full bloom at the time. And then I noticed among the lilac bushes, several plants about two feet high, covered with great big, dark, red blossoms and asked her what they were. She told me they were peonies, Peony Tenuifolia Flora Plena, the early fern leaf peony."

This variety of peony is called by many names. Some of the more common ones are the Fern Leaf Peony, Asparagus Peony, French Peony, Pine Peony, Cemetery Peony, Cosmos Peony and there are many others.

This peony interested me a few years ago, about 1957 or 1958 when I saw a fine planting at Mr. and Mrs. Loren Franklin's. We purchased this stock and from then on, they became my foremost hobby. I covered many a mile in Minnesota and Iowa looking for stock of this peony. Many of them were found in private gardens. Sometimes, I was able to purchase all the plants of *Tenuifolia* in the garden and then again, only a few but to me, every one helped. Many times one neighbor would tell another of my search and this preceded me in the purchase of these plants. Some would write or phone, telling what they had to offer. Usually a very satisfactory deal was made.

I would buy the complete clump, dig it in the fall of the year and return home to divide it for planting. Most of these purchases were put into planting stock for future sales.

Many interesting events happened on these buying trips, as you can well imagine. There was this one fine lady in Iowa, who had been writing for two years about the sale of her stock. Perhaps she was offering it to other nurseries, also. She wanted to sell her plants before she and her husband passed on, as they did not want the neighbors to get their hands on it. She had a large planting, all nicely growing under some plum trees. I do not think the plants had been weeded or cultivated for years, but they were many fine plants. We did not leave one root.

There was another lady, up north who lived by a lake. Her planting was across the highway, up a narrow grassy path to the top of a fairly high hill. Here among the weeds and brush, grew fine plants of *Tenuifolia*. This was also an old planting and as sometimes happens to the fern leaf, the roots throw out runners, like quack grass. Each runner turns into a plant. Again many fine roots were returned to the nursery for further growing. There were many other interesting events and enjoyment on these buying trips.

I have found this variety of peony growing in many out of the way places. Some have been in well kept lawns and other times, it was amazing to see how these plants survived under such adverse conditions. Small trees and shrubs did not seem to

bother them. Most owners of this peony always planted them in spots where they could not be stolen too easily. We have reports that they have been taken off graves in cemeteries. Continual digging for a root to plant from an established fern leaf, will in time kill it. It is best to dig the complete plant if one wishes to start a new one.

This peony can be planted in the spring or fall. Plant the same as the regular peony. We like to mulch the roots the first winter after planting. While this peony has proven very hardy for us, we still prefer this protection.

The roots are very different from the standard peony. They are tuberous, more like a dahlia root. Each root is attached to the main body, by a thin root. Roots are easily broken off. Care must be taken in handling them. Very few times does a knife need to be used, in dividing.

This is the first variety that we dig in the fall, perhaps because they are all hand dug. Then too, the foliage of this plant is the first to die down in the fall. Every root is saved. Those that show eyes are quickly replanted. The others are packed in damp moss and put in a cool place. After a few weeks, these roots are inspected and those that have sprouted eyes are planted in the fields. The remainder, repacked in the moss. These are packed away for the winter, in a place where they will not freeze. In the spring, more will have sprouted eyes and are planted in the field. The "blind ones" are now planted in some well marked spot, out of the way from all other nursery work, some place where they can stay for a year or two and not be disturbed. You will be surprised at the number that will throw eyes and start growing.

The most common and the most wanted Tenuifolia is the double red. The plant does not grow tall. Much depends on where it is planted and the kind of soil. I like this flower best when it is still in bud form. They remind me of bright red rose buds. Just imagine 40 to 45 red rose buds on beautiful green, fern like foliage. It is a sight that you will long remember.

This peony does not grow as fast or as large as other peonies. The first year, the foliage does not grow very much and it dies back early. This does not hurt the plant as the next year, it will come back better than ever. You can be sure that this peony variety will be the talk of the neighborhood.



# Unusual Peonies of Exceptional Beauty

by Clarence Lienau,  
*Lienau Peony Gardens, Detroit, Michigan*

In my 40 years of growing peonies and exhibiting about 25 years, the following 15 varieties, are unusually beautiful in their own right. I do not remember any of these varieties on the Court of Honor individually with very few exceptions. I am appraising and judging each variety as I have seen them growing on the plant and cut for enjoyment. **VIRGINIA DARE, MINNIE SHAYLOR, GAY PAREE, IMPERIAL RED, SPARKLING STAR, BRIDES DREAM, PINK DERBY, WHITE CAP, CHARM, LOIS ARLEEN, RASPBERRY SUNDAE, DO-TELL, NEON** and hybrids **CYTHEREA** and **WALTER MAINS**.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Cut Flower Field

*Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, MO*



*Cut-flower field, Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri*



*Cut flowers from the field, Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri  
Scott Moore, Allen Wild, Hobart Block—Picture before 1953*



*Loading peonies in the refrigerator car, getting them ready to 'roll out' for the Memorial Day sales.*

In this 100th anniversary year of the American Peony Society, we look back and reminisce about one firm, Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri. One-hundred (100) acres of peonies were under cultivation at Wilds; cut flowers were in demand. During the peak cut-flower time, 18 refrigerator cars were shipped one season with nine of the cars being shipped one day. In addition, some went by truck, others by air. the peony buds were packed nine dozen to a box.

Cut flowers from the field were put in the cooler which was a big refrigerator room with capacity of 80,000 dozen flowers, with the temperature kept at 34-38 degrees.

As soon as picking season was past, cultivation began. This was one operation where the tractor could not displace the horse and manpower. Six big percherons, working in single hitches, would pull the plows back and forth up and down the rows, and the man with a hoe was a common sight in the flower fields. Those were the days in about 1947.

In 1957, the temperature dropped to 6° about April 10th and we lost all our cut-flower fields at that time, so we turned to plant sales only.

One of the problems encountered over the years is root rot, says Mr. Wild. That is caused by wet weather and is most

prevalent in the red varieties. The reds just cannot stand wet feet. In 1972, we had over 100 inches of rain from July 1 to the following July 1, and then in October, another 20" of rain and we lost peonies.

We ship fifty states and forty-eight foreign countries. This year, 1983, marks the 97th anniversary of the Gilbert H. Wild and Son catalog of Peonies, Iris and Daylilies. The first colored catalog was published in 1949 and continues.



## THE GOLD MEDAL PEONIES

*by W. A. Alexander*

For almost 50 years (since 1923) the American Peony Society has, from time to time, chosen certain varieties of peonies to receive the Society's Gold Medal for outstanding excellence and performance. During the first 20 years or so, the award was made by the Society's Seedling Committee, but since then by the Board of Directors. In Bulletin #123, December 1951, the then editor, the late George W. Peyton, published the list of winners.

The following is the list resulting from his search of records. Name of originator, year of introduction, and year of award are included.

**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** (Nichols, 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), Janesville, Wisconsin, 1989  
**SEA SHELL** (Sass, 1937), Kingwood Center, 1990  
**WHITE CAP** (Winchell 1966), Royal Botanical Gardens, 1991  
**AMERICA** (Rudolph, 1956), Des Plaines, Illinois, 1992  
**MOTHER'S CHOICE** (Glasscock, 1950), Chicago, 1993  
**PILLOW TALK** (Carl Klehm, 1968), Chicago, 1994  
**SHINTENCHI** (Japan—Honorary), Chicago, 1994  
**SPARKLING STAR** (Bigger, 1953), Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1995  
**GARDEN TREASURE** (Hollingsworth, 1984), Kingwood Center, 1996  
**OLD FAITHFUL** (Glasscock/Falk, 1964), Royal Botanical Gardens, Canada, 1997  
**MYRA MACRAE** (R. W. Tischler, 1967), Blaine, Minnesota, 1998  
**LUDOVICA** (Saunders 1941) Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, 1999  
**PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL** (Roy G. Klehm, 1972) Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2000.  
**EARLY SCOUT** (Auten, 1952) Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 2001.  
**ETCHED SALMON** (Lyman Cousins, Canada) Wisconsin, 2002.

### **GRAND CHAMPION PEONIES—NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS**

<b>1947 BLANCHE KING</b>	<b>1978 PRINCESS MARGARET</b>
<b>1948 YUKON</b>	<b>1979 Tree Peony Yachiyo Tsubaki</b>
<b>1949 A. B. FRANKLIN</b>	(Eternal Camillia)
<b>1950 KANSAS</b>	<b>1980 MISS AMERICA</b>
<b>1951 RED CHARM</b>	<b>1981 DOUGLAS BRAND</b>

<b>1952 NANCY COUSINS</b>	<b>1982 Tree Peony, Haku Raku Ten</b>
<b>1953 LE CYGNE</b>	<b>1983 CYTHEREA</b>
<b>1954 ANN COUSINS</b>	<b>1984 MRS. FRANKLIN D.</b>
<b>1955 JAMES PILLOW</b>	<b>ROOSEVELT</b>
<b>1956 LE CYGNE</b>	<b>1985 HANSINA BRAND</b>
<b>1957 NO SHOW</b>	<b>1986 MINNIE SHAYLOR</b>
<b>1958 DORIS COOPER</b>	<b>1987 HIGH NOON—Tree Peony</b>
<b>1960 LE CYGNE</b>	<b>1988 PINK DERBY</b>
<b>1961 FRANCES MAINS</b>	<b>1989 ROBERT AUTEN</b>
<b>1962 LOVELY ROSE</b>	<b>1990 ETCHED SALMON</b>
<b>1963 MRS. FRANKLIN D.</b>	<b>1991 RUFFLED SUNSET</b>
<b>ROOSEVELT</b>	<b>—Tree Peony</b>
<b>1964 HANSINA BRAND</b>	<b>1992 KAMADA NISHIKI</b>
<b>1965 RED CHARM</b>	<b>—Tree Peony</b>
<b>1966 ANNISQUAM</b>	<b>1993 YELLOW EMPEROR</b>
<b>1967 DORIS COOPER</b>	<b>1994 BOWL OF CREAM</b>
<b>1968 CAROL</b>	<b>1995 KAMADA NISHIKI</b>
<b>1969 NICK SHAYLOR</b>	<b>1996 NANCY NICHOLAS</b>
<b>1970 PRINCESS MARGARET</b>	<b>1997 LOIS ELAINE</b>
<b>1971 DOUGLAS BRAND</b>	<b>LANING T.P.</b>
<b>1972 SPELLBINDER</b>	<b>1998 COMMAND</b>
<b>1973 DINNER PLATE</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE</b>
<b>1974 PRINCESS MARGARET</b>	<b>1999 MOONSTONE</b>
<b>1975 ROBERT W. AUTEN</b>	<b>2000 LEMON CHIFFON</b>
<b>1976 CAROL</b>	<b>2001 GARDEN TREASURE.</b>
<b>1977 JAMES PILLOW</b>	<b>2002 BARTZELLA</b>



## Exhibitions Through The Years

by W. G. Sindt, Afton, Minnesota

(*Life Appointed Judge of Seedlings Perennial Exhibition*)

The American Peony Society has held annual shows since 1904 with one or two exceptions. In this article I will try to track the change in shows through the years. Results of some of the early shows are rather sketchy as to winning varieties and winning exhibitors.

The first show was held in New York June 8-9, 1904. No papers to indicated a prize schedule or results of the show have been preserved by the society. The secretary's report did have this brief report: "The exhibition held during the meeting at New

York was a fairly good one, there being about seven exhibitors, who staged many fine flowers, but there was a great lack of names, thereby diminishing the value of the show." It was recognized very early that the value of a show was greatly enhanced if the flowers were correctly named.

The early shows were mostly for doubles and the most coveted award was for "Best collection of not more than 100 named varieties, one bloom each." The schedule for Philadelphia in 1917 included the following as some of the classes:

- |     |   |      |      |      |
|-----|---|------|------|------|
| 1.  | Collection of not more than 100 named varieties, one bloom each         | \$25 | \$15 | \$10 |
| 2.  | Vase or basket of peonies, not less than 100 blooms arranged for effect | \$15 | \$10 |      |
| 3.  | Collection of 25 varieties, double, three blooms each                   | \$15 | \$10 |      |
| 6.  | 25 blooms white or cream, double, one variety                           | \$8  | \$5  |      |
| 9.  | 25 blooms red or crimson, double, one variety                           | \$8  | \$5  |      |
| 11. | One specimen bloom, double, any variety                                 |      |      |      |

These were large classes and there was only one class for one specimen bloom any variety.

According to the records of these early shows some of the consistent exhibitors and winners during the teens were:

**T. C. Thurlow's Sons, West Newbury, Massachusetts**

**B. H. Farr, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania**

Mr. James Boyd, Haverford, Pennsylvania

**A. H. Fewkes, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts**

C. W. Ward, Queens, New York

## Klehm's Nursery, Arlington Heights, Illinois

A. P. Saunders, Clinton, New York

As the years advance, and we go into the 1920's, we find exhibitors from farther west participating. It seems too that there was emphasis on new varieties as evidenced by awards for seedlings. Some of these awards during the 1920's were:

**Gold Medal for Mrs. A. M. Brand (Brand)**

### Silver Medal for Myrtle Gentry (Brand)

## Certificate of Merit for Grace Loomis (Saunders)

**Honorable Mention for President Wilson (Thurlow)**

**Honorable Mention for Kathrine Havemeyer (Thurlow)**

**Honorable Mention for Seedling 877 (Saunders)**

**Certificate of Merit Seedling 051 and SB1 (H. P. Sass)**



First Class Certificate for **Florence Macbeth** (H. P. Sass)  
First Class Certificate for **Nancy Dolman and Frankie Curtis**  
(L. A. Vories)

One of the large shows was held at the Hippodrome, Minnesota State Fair Grounds, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1923. The Hippodrome was large enough to have horse shows and to play hockey. This immense arena was filled with peonies. Mr. Brand of Fairbault brought up several carloads (railroad cars, not automobiles) of peonies and greens to help decorate. The Class of 100 varieties was won by Brand. Amateur of 50 varieties, double, was won by T. F. Donahue of Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts. Think of his transportation problem; it had to be by rail. The Franklin Nursery of Minneapolis showed over 100 varieties. Mr. Clarence Hubbard of Chicago had over 150 plants of **Jeannot**. These named are just a few of the exhibits. Today we would be hard pressed to find space to hold such an exhibition.

The first recording of a Best in Show was in 1933 when C. W. Bunn of St. Paul received that honor in Chicago with **Hansina Brand**. The 100 variety class still seemed to be the favorite. Top exhibitors during this period of the 1930's included:

Riverview Gardens, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Charles F. Wassenburg, Van Wert, Ohio  
Brand Peony farms, Faribault, Minnesota  
Harry F. Little, Baldwinsville, New York  
A. P. Saunders, Clinton, New York  
Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas  
Henry Sass, Omaha, Nebraska  
L. W. Lindgren, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Franklin Nurseries, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The 1940 show in Rochester, Minnesota, was a very large show by any standards. Counting the number of entries in each class results in an estimate of over 3500 blooms entered in competition. Of these there were three tree peony and no hybrids, although there may have been hybrids entered as seedlings. **Martha Bullock** by Franklin Nursery was Best in Show and Brand Peony Farms won the Gold Medal in the Class of 100 with six exhibitors competing. The 1941 show in Syracuse, New York, was a Harry F. Little show. He had all blooms on the Court of Honor except one. From all reports he was a super showman.

During the 1940's there were some new exhibitors, a few of whom are still with us. Some of these were:

L. R. Fischer, Hastings, Minnesota

R. H. Jones, Peru, Indiana  
 R. C. Schneider, St. Paul, Minnesota  
 Mrs. A. S. Gowen, Excelsior, Minnesota  
 Lyman D. Glasscock, Elwood, Illinois  
 Frank E. Moots, Newton, Kansas  
 Glen H. Greaves, St. Paul, Minnesota  
 M. C. Karrels, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
 Neal R. Van Loon, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin  
 L. W. Cousins, London, Ontario

The 1950's saw hybrids being exhibited and the classes for them expanded. In 1951 at Cleveland, Ohio, the Best in the Show was a hybrid for the first time. Marvin Karrels took **Red Charm** into the top spot. Other names appearing as winning exhibitors were:

Dr. D. Sanford, Hyde, Chicago  
 Lloyd C. Thompson, Grand Forks, North Dakota  
 Elizabeth Falk  
 Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri  
 Roy Gale, Rockford, Illinois  
 Clarence Lienau, Detroit, Michigan  
 A. L. Murawska, River Drive, Illinois

Some of the varieties there were Best of Show in this decade were: **Kansas, Red Charm, Le Cygne, May Delight, Ann Cousins, Doris Cooper, Hansina Brand, Florence Nicholls.**

The 1960's saw many more hybrids being exhibited and classes for them further expanded. In this ten-year period the hybrids appeared as Best in Show three times. The varieties were **Lovely Rose, Red Charm** and **Carol**. Some of the exhibitors starting to make their presence known were: Walter Mains, Walter Seidenkranz, A.L. Volz, William Krekler, W. G. Sindt, Joe Glocka, Walter Alexander. In the early 1960's the collection class which formerly called for 100 blooms was reduced to 25. The exhibitors were no longer the large growers with acres of plants and thousands of blooms but mostly hobbyists with a couple hundred plants and blooms they could take to a show limited to a few hundred. Competition was no less keen and the top awards as highly prized as ever.

The 1970's saw the hybrid and tree classes expanded to include a complement of types and colors. In 1979 the first tree peony became Best in Show for Kit Klehm. The variety was **Yachiyo Tsubaki**. John Simkins in 1982 had **Haku-Raku-Ten** as the top peony in the show in Canada. New exhibitors during this

decade included: David Reath, John Simkins, John Kreichbaum and Henry Landis with the Klehms starting to show heavily again.

The shows through the years have been an indicator of the change taking place in peonies. The early shows emphasized doubles and large classes. The present shows emphasize all types equally with fewer specimens per class. To know who the exhibitors were is a "Who's Who!" of peonydom. There are many deserving names to add but space for an article is limited. Going over the September issue of old bulletins gives an interesting insight to peony shows, the peony society and peonies.

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### Announcement

Dear Greta,

Thank you for your note. Now that the Easter festivities are over, we have time to answer your request.

"Mr. Robert Tischler of the Tischler Peony Garden has retired and has sold part of his nursery peonies to the:

Alvin Sevald Nursery  
4937 - 3rd Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 554009

and the remaining acreage to the:

Rice Creek Gardens  
11506 - Hwy. 65, Blaine, MN 55434

Mr. Tischler still has a fine plot of Fern Leaf peonies to sell."

"I wish to thank all former customers for their patronage."

—Bob Tischler



## Registrations

**Fulfilled Dream** (Steve Varner—Monticello, IL) April 10, 2003 A mutation of P. Major Steve, Seedling No. 3003. The peony Major Steve came from a cross of Red Charm x Sunny boy. The mutation, Fulfilled dream is a large pale pink with two rows of guard petals forming a cup of full center small anemone petals slightly open in a group making a very different form of flower.

**Puffed Cotton** (William Krekler/Roy G. Klehm, Jan. 10, 2003) Seedling number KR 93-107. First bloomed 1993. Billowy lactiflora, cream-white ball 2-3 buds per stem, fragrant, 34 inch height. Good stem and foliage, mid season bloom, good substance, reliable, with old fashioned style and grace.

**Dan W** (R. W. Tischler, Faribault, MN/E. Mackerman, IA, March 7, 2003) No seedling number, hybrid, parentage unknown. First bloomed 1989, dark red (black red) Japanese and no stamens. Has seeds, one bud per stem, reliable, good amount of bloom, strong stems, 34" height. Early to midseason bloom, a vigorous plant with good foliage. This is a very dark black red of excellent quality. Stamens transformed to petaloids dark red with red edged with gold. Very strong stems with good foliage. A robust plant.

**Leanne Mariel** (R.W. Tischler, Faribault, MN/E. Mackerman, IA, March 7, 2003) Hybrid Japanese, pink, parentage unknown. First bloomed 1990. One bud per stem, reliable, good amount of bloom, very good stem, height 32 inches, blooms midseason, vigorous, dense foliage making excellent formed bush. A pleasing delicate soft pink gently fades to cream as bloom ages. When first open, blooms have tulip form so attractive, makes excellent landscape perennial.

**Eric William** (Hollingsworth/Heinzman, April 15, 2003) Herbaceous hybrid bomb. Seedling number 1647. Parentage Carolina Moon x Good Cheer, first bloomed before 1992. Red, both outer petals and inner petals, same red. No stamens pollen or seeds, reliable, good substance, excellent stem strength, 36 inches, good substance and very good amount of bloom. Early midseason bloom. Mildly fragrant, no side buds, dark green foliage named and registered by Dale Heinzman, Ginna, NY named for his son Eric William.

**Andrew Dale** (Hollingsworth/Heinzman, April 15, 2003) Seedling number 2130 semi double lactiflora white. Parentage Miss America x unknown. First bloomed before 1993. All white large outer petals surround multiple rows of inner petals stamens yellow in center clump carpels tipped pink with pink stigmas. Good substance, reliable, pollen and seeds. Abundant amount of bloom, side buds. Excellent 34" stems, midseason bloom, deep green foliage. Named and registered by Dale Heinzman, Ginna, NY named for his son Andrew Dale.

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To: All International Cultivar Registration Authorities  
From: Dr. Alan Leslie, Vice-Chairman ISHS Commission for  
Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration (Email:  
alan1@rhs.org.uk)  
Date: 29 January 2003

## Annual Report

First of all can I take this opportunity to thank everyone (well almost everyone!) who contributed ICRA reports for 2000-2001 which were circulated to the Commission at their meeting in Toronto last August. They were helpful and appreciated by the Commission members.

This year will see the publication of a revised edition of the *Cultivated Plant Code* and following this I hope the Commission will highlight for ICRAs any important changes that may be made that will affect their work.

## Reappointment of ICRAs

I have great pleasure in informing you that at its meeting in Toronto in August 2002 the Commission confirmed your reappointment as an International Cultivar Registration Authority for a further four years. Thank you for all the good work you have done over the last four.



## **Arrangements for Class VII**

We ask you to be a part of this exhibition. The beautiful flower of the peony is widely used as a decorative flower in arrangements and bouquets. The buds of the peony are cut so that it will open at the given time.

Boxes of peonies are shipped here to the USA from a warmer climate when it is their bloom time, our peonies are resting underground and enjoying the cold weather of winter. This makes it possible for the florist to show peonies in grandeur, arrangements and bouquets. they can be seen in florist shops, shopping malls, grocery, drug and hardware stores as well as all public places.

When peonies bloom here, they are exhibited everywhere a space is available. Some home owners here diminished the size of their lawns to make room for the peony. The blooms are cut and then are sold to their regular customers at the open market or the

farmers market. Many times this is a family operative.

In the show schedule there is a class for these arrangements and a table available. Both men and women can arrange this flower, it possesses a magnificent beauty. We ask that you join in this exhibition. Bring your vase, knife or scissors, use your imagination in producing a beautiful centerpiece of peonies or you can read the outline suggested categories in Class VII of the schedule. We look forward to your creation, large or small.

Division VII — NEW CATEGORY

- 9) Open Category for Floral Arrangements, any type any design.



I am enclosing a contribution on intersectional peony grafting for the Bulletin of The American Peony Society. I hope you could find it suitable for publication.

I enclose the written text (please forgive my poor English) both cartaceous and digital form (floppy disc). You will find also two transparencies that could be used for illustrations of the text, if you think that they could help.

The subject has not been dealt with previously and could stimulate comments from the readers.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,  
Roberto Gamoletti

You can email me at: [otorino@aospmelegnano.mi.it](mailto:otorino@aospmelegnano.mi.it)  
or fax me at: 0371-36466

## *Grafting Intersectional Peonies*

*by Roberto Gamoletti, Lodi, Italy*

My interest in intersectional peonies begun a few years ago when I first bought Bartzella and First Arrival.

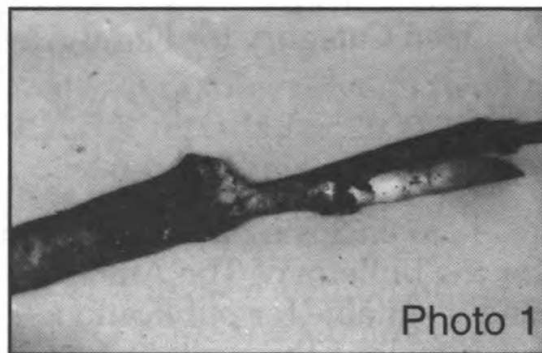
When I saw the roots for the first time I noticed the double appearance of these plants that is the presence of eyes on the crown and eyes on the underground stems.

I knew from the literature that propagation of intersectional hybrids was done by root division and I wondered how long should I wait for obtain further plants from my first specimens. I then learned by direct experience the cycle of the plant and noticed with great interest the lignification of the herbaceous stems in autumn with the appearance of noticeable buds on the stems as the season progressed. The presence of these large red buds on the woody stems in late autumn prompted me to try

grafting them on herbaceous roots just like tree peonies.

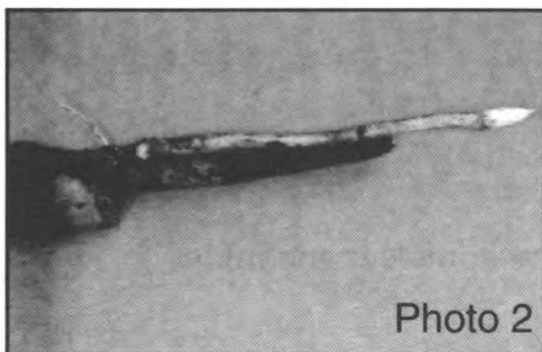
My first attempts of grafting were done in fall 2000 with only a few scions of Bartzella that were grafted both on lactiflora and own roots. All grafts on Bartzella roots failed but 50% of scions on lactiflora survived. This result was probably due to my relative inexperience with the procedure but I learned that it could work and disclose further perspectives in intersectional peonies propagation. In 2001 I did more grafting procedures mainly on lactiflora roots using different hybrids (Lafayette Escadrille, Cora Louise, Smirnow hybrids) and the taking rate had increased to 60-70%. Now this is the third spring and I am waiting for my plants to sprout over the ground. No one has flowered to date.

In fall 2002 I have inspected some of the grafted plants: the appearance is quite similar to tree peony grafts with a good junction between the two parts (scion and



understock) and formation of new buds on the intersectional scion (photo n.1).

To date I have noticed own root formation from the scion only in one case in the form of a thin short rootlet (photo n. 2).



The grafted intersectional scion undergoes modification so that it resembles the underground crown and stem of the mature plant.

The grafting technique is the same used in tree peonies and I prefer the triangular wedge method. Here in Italy I perform grafting from the end of September to the end of November because good development of the buds is essential and they come out late in autumn. I usually use one bud scions, sometimes a two bud or apical segment. These two latter are rarely used because of the excessive internodal length of intersectional stems.

Further experience and time is required to see if grafting of intersectional hybrids on its own roots is feasible or preferable instead of grafting on lactiflora roots.

To the best of my knowledge this is the first report of the procedure.

I am interested in knowing if other members of the Society have ever tried such procedure and obtained any results. Comments on the argument are welcome.



Mr. L. W. Cousins passed away in Key West, Florida, January 26, 1973, while visiting his son. He was born in London, Ontario, Canada, October 13, 1889.

Sylvia Saunders arranged a display for the 1972 Mansfield Show when the Saunders medal was awarded to Mr. Cousins for "Hybrids achieved through a lifetime of highly complex breeding." The medal was given to Mr. Cousins in his garden among his peonies by John Simkins on behalf of the society. He was deeply moved and pleased with this recognition of his work, especially as the medal commemorated a man whom he admired so much.



Medal Presentation to Mr. Cousins, 1972:  
John Simkins, Mr. Cousins, Mrs. Cousins

Mr. Cousins with  
his peonies, June, 1972.

*Etched Salmon—Gold Medal awarded 2002.*



## ANEMONE type peonies

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

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

## JAPANESE type peonies

So called because the Japanese people prefer them to all other types of blooms and were the first to develop many new kinds. This type is

the first advance toward the double type, with narrow center staminodes, usually edged with yellow.

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

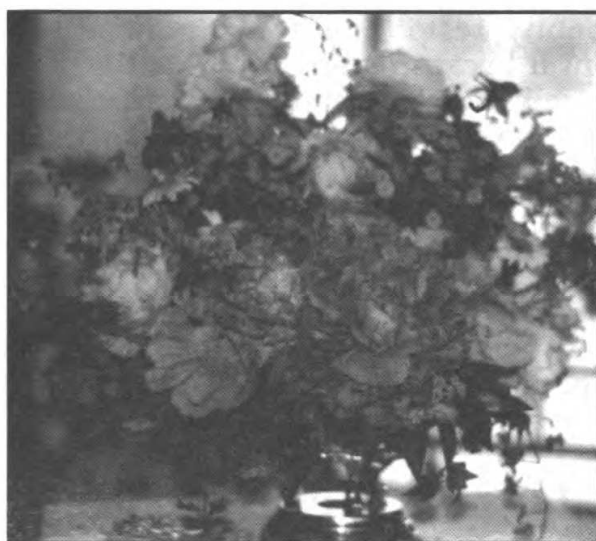
Some very beautiful varieties are **DIGNITY, CARRARA, BRIDE'S DREAM, TORO-NO-MAKI, AMA-NO-SODE, WESTERNER, BU-TE, DO-TELL, KAY TISCHLER, TOM ECKHARDT, BARRINGTON BELLE.**



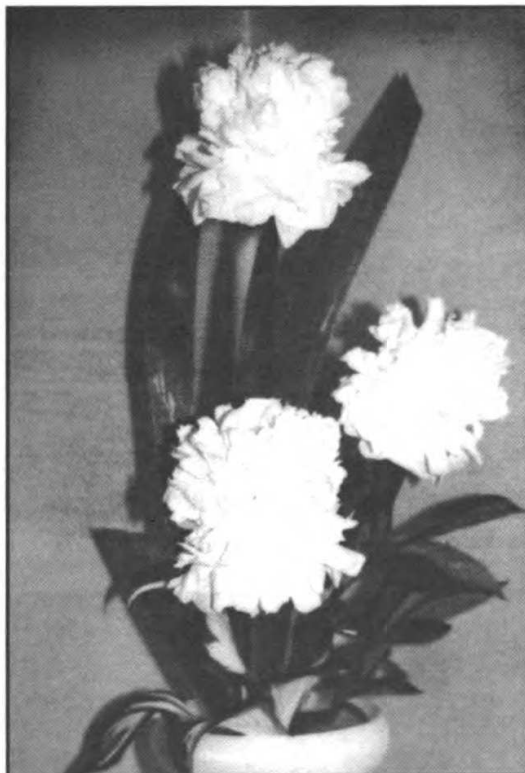
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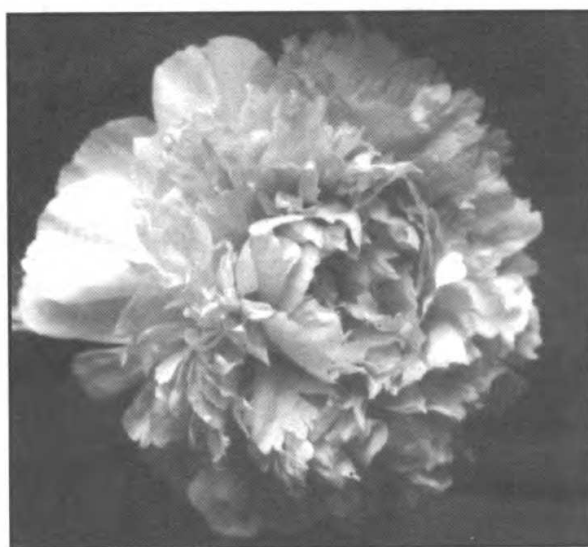
**Swiss Alps—A Country Side Garden**  
*Marjorie Wolf*



**England—A Country Side Garden**  
*Kay Kolb*



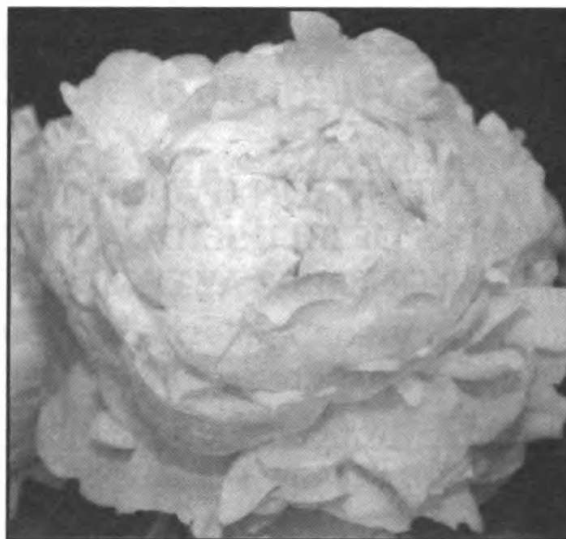
**Walter Mains**—*W. G. Sindt*



**Hermione**



**Lois Arleen**—*C. F. Spangler*



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*Photographs by Edward Lee Michau*

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We are unable to provide information at this time about the seeds that will be available this fall. If you would like seeds, please write and indicate the type of seeds you would like (i.e. from tree peonies, lactiflora or hybrid crosses). Please enclose a check for \$2.00 if you are in the U.S. or Canada or \$4.00 if you live outside North America.

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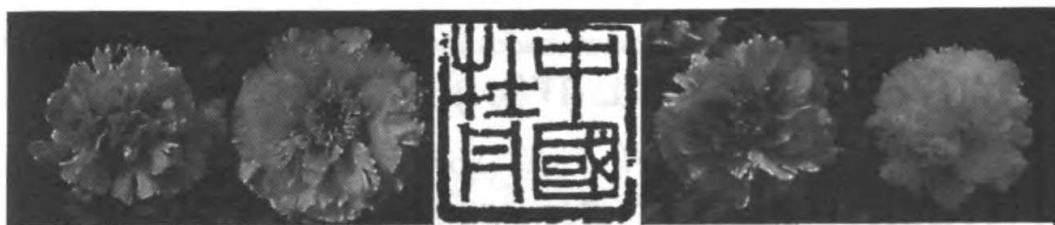
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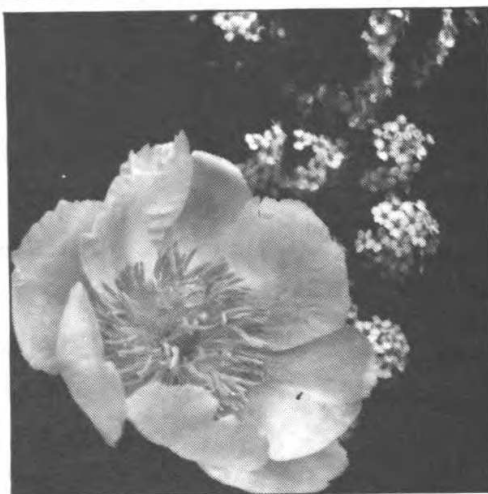
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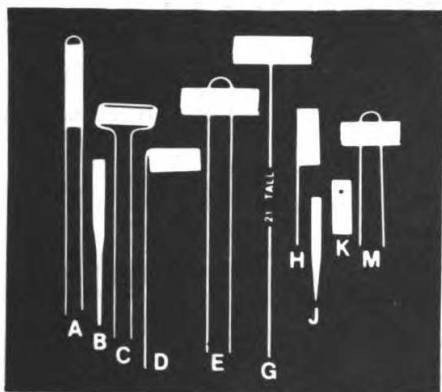
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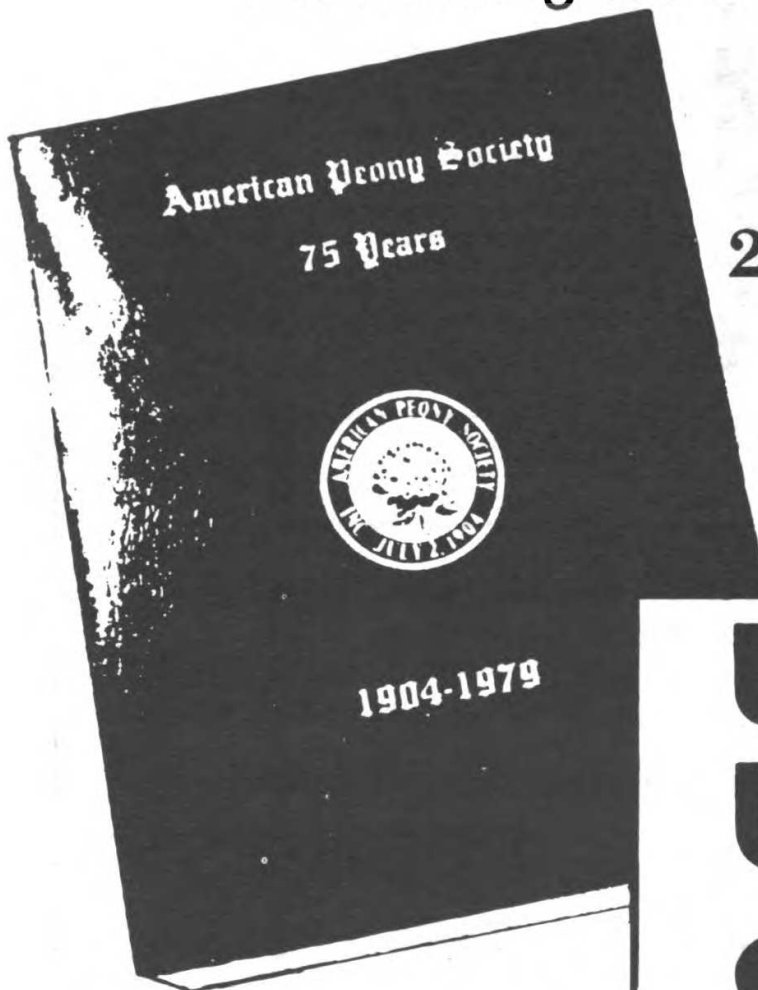
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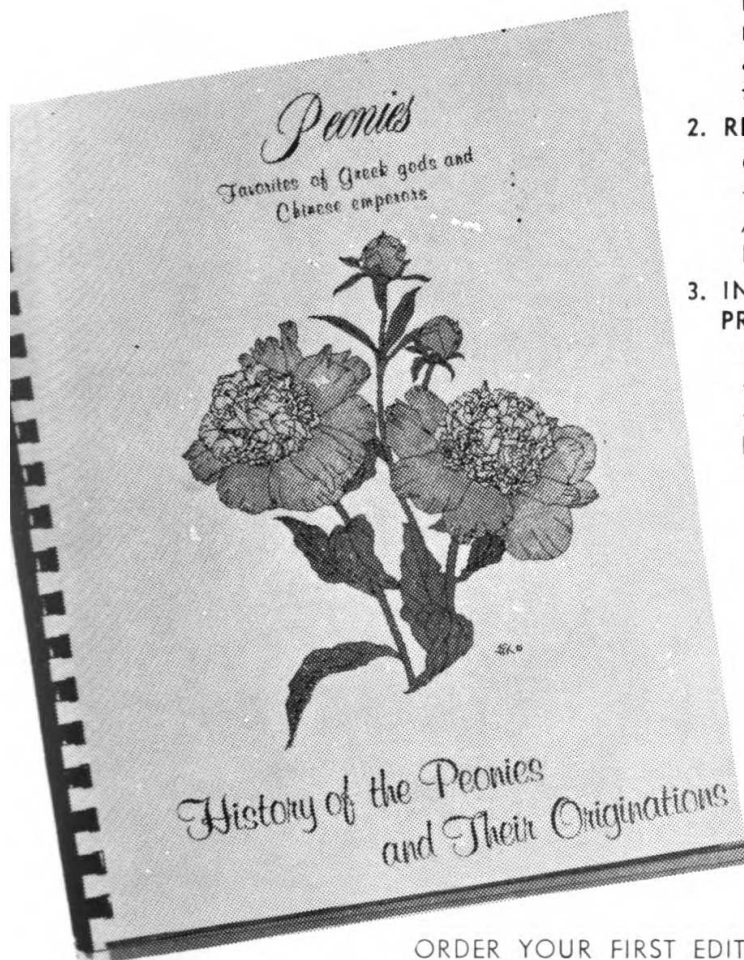
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Their Originations' at \$20.00 per copy for which I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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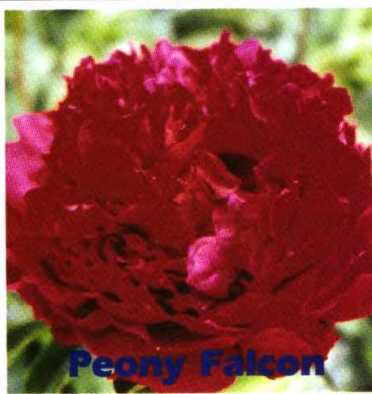




Shacksboro Schoolhouse Museum Peony Gardens  
Baldwinsville, New York—Doris Cross (page 12-13)



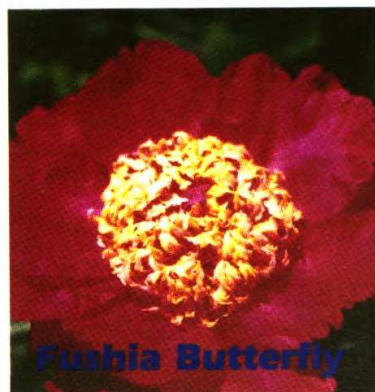
**Sweet 16**



**Peony Falcon**



**Lois E. Klehm**



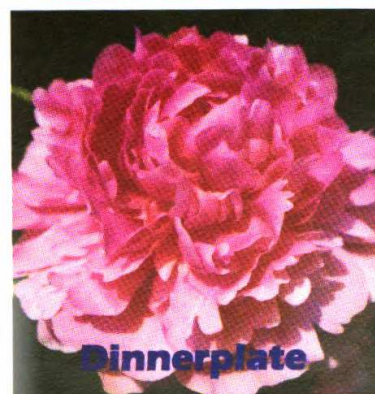
**Fushia Butterfly**



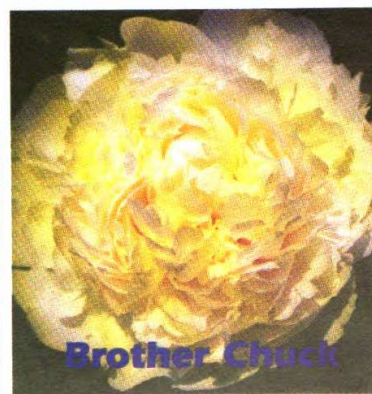
**Reine Deluxe**



**Vivid Rose**



**Dinnerplate**



**Brother Chuck**



**Pink Heart Throb**