

page 20

December 2003

No. 328



The American Peony Society Bulletin



Coral Sunset (S. Wissing/Roy Klehm)

Gold Medal, Minneapolis 2003

Mr. Wissing worked 26 years to achieve these coral hybrid seedlings.
Deep Coral, sister seedling of Coral Charm. Photo: Roy Klehm

RECEIVED
JAN - 9 2
PENN STATE LIBRARIES

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, Taichi Domoto,
Don Hollingsworth and Roger Anderson

\$25 Postpaid

Send check or money order to—

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, MN 55343

November 29, 2003

Dear APS Members:

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to inform you of the passing of Greta Kessenich, Editor of the *APS Bulletin* and Treasurer of the American Peony Society for the last thirty plus years. Greta passed away in a local hospital, without any apparent suffering. It is my understanding that her wishes were for her remains to be returned to the family cemetery plot in Nebraska. A local memorial service is still being planned and may take place in June at an arboretum. Details will be forwarded to you as soon as they are available.

It seems appropriate that I was to learn of the passing of Greta Kessenich on Thanksgiving Day, for I have never met an individual so deserving of "thanks," as I do Greta Kessenich. The American Peony Society will forever be in Greta's debt for her decades of tireless dedication, her exemplary volunteer service, her love of peonies and the Society.

I first came to know Greta when I became President of the Society in June of 2002. Previous APS President Floyd Kimball and his wife Eloise were gracious enough to accompany me on my initial visit with Greta, to begin a working relationship. Greta had been working almost entirely solo, and since we lived only fifteen minutes apart, it was hoped by the Board (and myself) that we could work together to benefit the Society as a whole. It was a very hot, clear day in July when Floyd, Eloise, and I arrived at Greta's home.

Upon arrival at Greta's property it seemed that she was not indoors, so we proceeded around to the back of the house and into the gardens. It was immediately evident to me that Greta's gardens, at their peak, rivaled those of any arboretum and that she was still a devoted Gardener. Despite the oppressive heat, Greta was seated in her wheelchair, simultaneously using a hoe-like tool and directing a helper as to how she wanted her garden tended. Her legs had lost their powers, but her spirit was still in full bloom. Greta was 96 or 97 years old then, 98 years at the time of her passing.

Greta initially resisted my efforts to gain her confidence, but eventually my persistent visits began to soften her defenses. As our meet-

ings passed, I came to appreciate her experience and to understand how important it was to her that I not take my role lightly. Our relationship grew with my respect for her. Greta shared much with me, while sometimes drinking Pepsi with White Castle hamburgers (her favorites). We rarely met for less than two hours at a time; the Greta I came to know was a generous person who shared her knowledge and wisdom with me openly.

At our last meeting, two weeks prior to her death, Greta and I met to discuss the December issue of the *Bulletin*. There was a sense of completion, of accomplishment in her voice and manner. Greta knew that her time was near and expressed a deep love and enjoyment for all that she had done over the many years. I do and will miss her greatly. It is my sincere hope that the Society will forever remember Greta's contributions and that we will each strive to give what we can.

Thank you, Greta, for your considerable body of work, your friendship, and for sharing your life with the Society. I know that your peony gardens in heaven are lovely and that your spirit endures amongst our Members. Thanks to your generous contributions, the future of the Society is so very bright!

Highest Regard and Loving Remembrance,

Steve Johnson
President
American Peony Society

The Greta Kessenich Memorial Endowment Fund has been established. Those wishing to contribute may send a check made to the American Peony Society, to:

Attention: Lori Pallela
197 West Penny Road
South Barrington, IL 60010

Please note "Greta Memorial" on the memo.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Greta. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions or concerns.

After careful consideration, a new temporary Bulletin Editor has been selected. Please send future membership and Bulletin submissions to:
Claudia Schroer
713 White Oak Lane
Gladstone, MO
64116-4607
Email address: cjschroer@kc.rr.com
Phone number: 861/459-9386

Board Member, Tim Stanek has agree to be the temporary APS Publications Distributor. Please send your book orders to Tim:
Tim Stanek
23329 Ellington Avenue
Glenwood, IA
51534
Email: Tjstanek@aol.com
Phone: 712/527-5338

Both the positions of Editor and Publications Distributor will be appointed by the APS Board at our annual Show Board Meeting in June.

I wish to take this opportunity to welcome Claudia as Temporary Editor, and to thank Tim for his exemplary volunteer spirit. A further introduction of Claudia and instructions, will follow in the coming March *Bulletin*. At this time, the position of Peony Registrar has not been filled. Please hold your peony registrations until an appointment can be announced within the March issue.

Also, I must not neglect to thank those who have gone essentially unknown for many years, yet assisted Greta and the Society in countless ways. Greta Kessenich's neighbors, Paul and Joyce Swanson, and also trusted and reliable assistants Brad and Anne Swanson, have gone unknown and unappreciated by the Society in their help and friendship with Greta. Their tireless support and efforts helped to assure that the Bulletin continued and prospered over the many years of Greta's devoted stewardship. I know that Greta appreciated your efforts. On behalf of the Society, I offer our sincere thanks, as well.

Thank you, Brad, Anne, Joyce, and Paul Swanson!

Heaven smiled on The American Peony Society back in June of 1971. It was a sunny, beautiful June 19. The board members were sitting together at a picnic table outside the Southgate Center in Edina, Minnesota discussing the uncertain future of the Society. The Annual Show had just been judged and shopping center visitors were enjoying the excellent display of premium blossoms.

Julius Wedekamper pointed out a lady who was resting in the shade against an adjacent building and said to me..."Her name is Greta and if you can persuade her to come on the board, we will have an excellent person to help out." I walked over to her and asked her this, to my surprise, she readily accepted saying something like, "The Peony Society needs help and I'm willing to help."

Greta attended her first board meeting the next day where she assumed the office of Secretary-Treasurer. She ably served these offices for 31 1/2 years. Greta took on the additional work of Bulletin Editor starting with the September 1973 Bulletin (number 207). She published the next 121 consecutive bulletins, through the current December 2003 issue (number 328). All were on time. Her accomplishment represents 37% of all American Peony Society Bulletins ever published. Greta never accepted any level of compensation for all her work. She did the Society's work on a voluntary basis. Greta believed in the society and wanted it to be strong and continue.

Greta often told me she started each morning working on the affairs of the Society at 5 AM, membership grew, and financial stability was restored. Useful information was also presented in seven publications which she accomplished. These are:

Peonies: History of the Peonies and Their Origination's
American Peony Society, 75 Years
The American Hybrid Peony
The American Tree Peony
American Peony Society Handbook of the Peony, 8th Edition
Peonies 1976-1986 (registrations)
Peonies 1986-1996 (registrations)

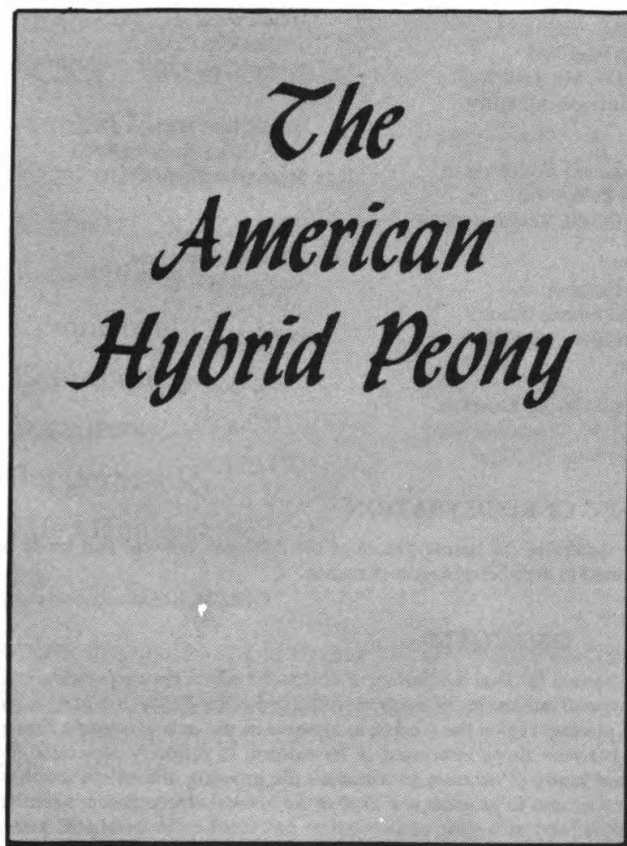
This year, 2003, marks the 100 year anniversary of the Society. Greta very much wanted to finish the four special 100 year anniversary bulletins, this she did. Heaven continues to smile.

Thank you, Greta, for all that you did and what you were.

Your friend,
Roy Klehm

**A VALUABLE PEONY
REFERENCE VOLUME HIGHLIGHTING**

HYBRID PEONIES



**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

Send check or money order to—

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, MN 55343

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

250 Interlachen Road (612) 938-4706 Hopkins, MN 55343

President.....Steve Johnson

Secretary-Treasurer.....Greta M. Kessenich

Vice President.....Peter Waltz

Bulletin EditorGreta M. Kessenich

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms Expiring 2006

Greta M. Kessenich
250 Interlachen Road
Hopkins, MN 55343

John Elsley
520 Bryte St.
Greenwood, SC 26949

Dale Baum
314 Coventry Drive
Anderson, IN 46012

Vernon Kidd
500 W. 43rd St. PH-A
New York, NY 10036

Scott Reath
Reath's Nursery
Vulcan, MI 49892

Elizabeth A. Babb
P.O. Box 848
Yarmouth, ME 04096

Terms Expiring 2005

Tim J. Stanek
23329 Ellington Avenue
Glenwood, IA 51537

Peter Waltz
84 Brentwood Road
Exeter, NH 03833

Hans Hansen
15605 Snake Trail
Waseca, MN 56093

Leila Bradfield
8110 W. ML Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

William D. Countryman
R. F. D. Box 990
Northfield, Vermont 05663

Art Hartman
22809 French Road
Mattawan, MI 49071

Joseph Glocka, Emeritus
12120 W. Oklahoma Ave.
West Allis, WI 53227

Terms Expiring 2004

Don Hollingsworth
28747-290th St.
Maryville, MO 64468

Kit Klehm
13101 East Rye Road
Avalon, WI 53505

Roy Klehm
197 W. Penny Road
S. Barrington, IL 60010

Irvin Ewing
25039 Doris Court
Redford, MI 48239

Steven Johnson
5845 Howards Point Road
Shorewood, MN 55331

Dr. Kent Crossley
1245 Delaware Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55118

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 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
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)

- ☐ Annual Membership\$ 10.00
- ☐ Family Membership\$ 15.00
- ☐ Triennial\$ 25.00
- ☐ Family Triennial\$ 35.00
- ☐ Commercial\$ 25.00
- ☐ Contributing\$ 25.00
- ☐ Sustaining\$ 50.00
- ☐ Supporting\$ 100.00
- ☐ Life Membership\$ 300.00
- ☐ Patron\$ 250.00

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.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE



the American Peony Society Bulletin

December 2003 — No. 328

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The American Hybrid Peony	1
Officers and Directors	2
Membership	3
Table of Contents	4
President's Message	5
Pictures	6-7
History of the Peony	8-9
England	10-11
France and French Peonies	12-14
Holland and German Peonies	14-15
America	16-17
Edward Auten, Jr.	19
H.P. Sass	21
E. H. Lins	22
A. M. Brands	24
C. A. Pfeiffer	25
Myron D. Bigger	26
A.B. Franklin and L.V. Franklin	27
Registrations	28
My Seedlings— <i>Harold Entsminger</i>	29
Fall Peony Thoughts— <i>E. Babb</i>	29-32
Saunders Memorial Medal	32-37
A New Peony— <i>Harold Entsminger</i>	45

Celebrating 100 Years of the American Peony Society
Bulletins #324, #325, #326, #327 and #328

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

American Peony Society
2004 Convention and Exhibition
Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, June 11, 12, & 13 2004

President's Message

As autumn turns into winter here, it is time to reflect on the past growing season. Despite below freezing temperatures with no snow cover until January, my new garden beds sprung-forth spring life without any first winter peony losses. Several peony divisions were pitted last and this fall for sale at our annual National Show in June. My potted peonies were also without any winter losses as I take care to bury and mulch them.

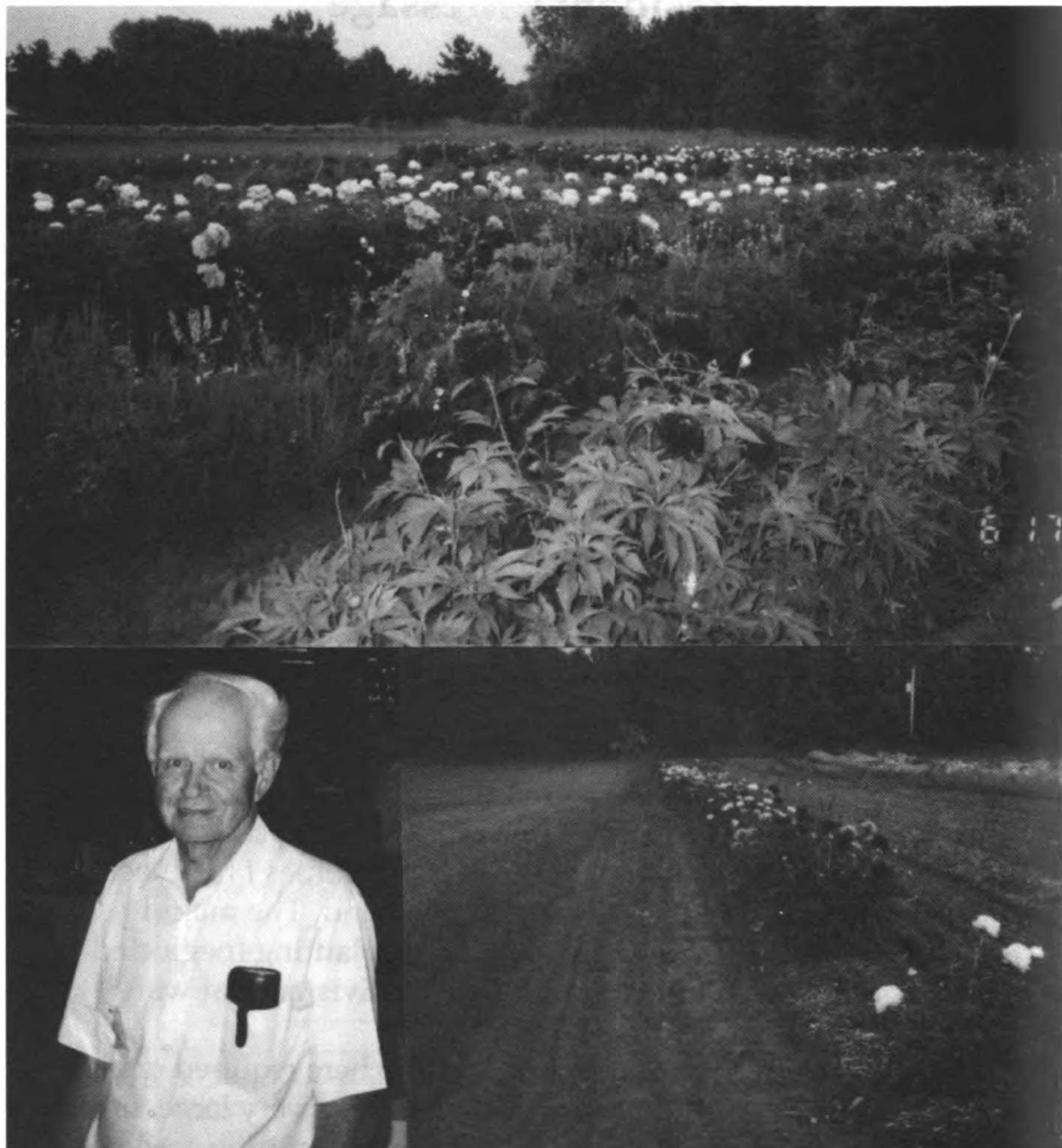
Once a peony bush reached maturity, I have yet to be able to distinguish between those that were planted as bare division versus those that were planted from potted divisions. This viewpoint runs contradictory to traditionalists who herald "bare root, autumn planting only." Likely, those who have experienced losses with spring planted, pitted peonies did not water them adequately the first summer and/or dawdled and planted them when summer temperatures were too high. My own rule is to avoid planting anything when the ambient temperature will exceed eighty degrees Fahrenheit soon (preferable two weeks) after planting.

Much has been written about the longevity of peonies, that their life span is truly unequalled in the garden. Furthermore, it is my belief that the initial survival rate of peonies exceeds those of all other garden plants. Of the hundreds of peonies I have personally planted, I can count the losses on one hand. The majority of those lost received no moisture after initial planting (neglected during very dry conditions) or were small division that were delayed in planting.

Late last December, the water well pump here required replacement. In order to reach and service the well tap, a very large, several ton truck literally drove over my dormant peony cutting garden. I had to look away as several peonies, including a mature **Garden Treasure**, were under the direct weight of the truck wheels. Despite this dreadful experience, come spring all bloomed wonderfully and were apparently unharmed.

Peonies are not tender plants that need to be coddled. Correctly planted and nourished, peonies are tenacious, hardy, and tough while also being most beautiful in flower and plant habit. And that is why I embrace them.

Keep Growing,
Steve Johnson
President, American Peony Society



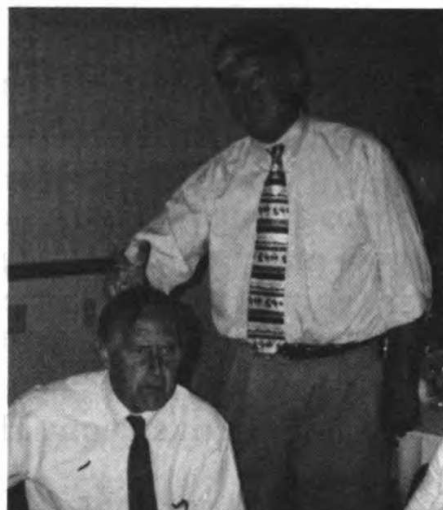
Floyd Kimball. Plowed ground – good soil preparation for fall planting of peonies, enlarging country peony garden.



Scott Reath (Reath Nursery, Vulcan, MI) and Vernon Kidd (New York)



Mike Jones (South Dakota)



Roy Klehm and John Elsley



Kent and Dee Crossley



Lynette Sorrentino and Hans Hansen



Elizabeth Reath and Sarah Klehm



*Harvey Buchite (Rice Creek Gardens
B. Countryman (Northfield, Vermont))*

A HISTORY OF THE PEONY

By R.J. Koby, Gen. Secretary, Young Men's Christian Assn.
1404 Ogden Ave, Superior, WI.

He was a long time member of the American Peony Society and wrote many articles for the Bulletin. This one never in the Bulletin, only a few typewritten copies. This one coming from R.W. Tischer via old paper material of Brands Farm Peony.

Herbaceous Peony History in China and Japan

In China and Japan, the popularity of the herbaceous peony was somewhat overshadowed by that of the tree peony, but the former kind has long had a meaning "most beautiful," which bespoke a considerable appreciation on its own account, even though the tree peony was ranked as the King of Flowers. It served as a sort of Forget-me-not which one friend bestowed upon another on separation. A Sho Yo plant was also presented for a friendly remembrance after separation. These customs are referred to in a Chinese song:

"If anyone will give his friend a present
He hands a gift 'most beautiful' of all."

In 536 A.D., the herbaceous peony was fairly well distributed over the county and was used for medicinal purposes and in a number of places even for food for human beings. The appreciation of its dietary value was another instance of the advance character of the civilization of China, for the peony as a source of nourishment was but the prototype of some of our modern breakfast foods. Hung King writing at this time distinguished two sorts, the red and the white, which is the first mention we find anywhere of a white peony.

In 986 A.D., Mas Ze, an author on natural history and natural philosophy, wrote intelligently at considerable length on the herbaceous peony. In the early part of the Eleventh Century, according to another Chinese historian of the period, the herbaceous peony was grown in all parts of China but the most valuable roots came from the district of Huni Gen Fooo – wherever that was. By 1096 A.D., as a literary botanist of that date tells us, gardeners realized the possibilities of the plant for ornamental purposes and began, by the application of strong fertilizers and great diligence in cultivation, to produce flowers of large size. As a result of these efforts and the extensive propagation by planting of seeds, new and better varieties were produced. In 1596 A.D.,

more than thirty improved kinds were listed in the catalogues of Chinese growers.

As to the subsequent history in China, not much information is readily accessible. Loureiro in 1790, says that *P. Officinalis* was grown over the entire Chinese Empire, but principally in the northern provinces, and that it had been imported to Cochin China. In the middle of the nineteenth century, a number of valuable peonies were shipped to France and formed the foundation of collections made by noted French amateurs. At the present time, while the peony is still grown extensively, few exportations to Europe or this country are made—due possibly to the quality of Chinese varieties as compared with the improved varieties of this side of the world, or else to the lack of initiative of the Chinese in distributing their horticultural products.

Among the number of the beautiful things for which Japan is indebted to China, few equal the peony. Early in the Eighth Century, the Japanese imported from China both the herbaceous and the tree peony. The herbaceous peony was called “Skakuyaku” — apparently a corruption of the Chinese Cho Yo — and has been highly thought of, although not accorded the honors given the tree peony, which is ranked as one of the three Royal Flowers.

In Japanese literature and folklore, the peony is the subject of many poems and stories. It is not clear in each case from the translation whether the herbaceous or the tree peony is referred to, but it is evident that both kinds were cherished in the hearts of this flower loving people. There is a little Japanese verse that shows that East and West meet in the kindred pleasures of the garden if nowhere else:

“Then Spring is on the wane,
then men are apt
To turn their thoughts
to peonies again.”

At the present time, there are several nurseries in Japan which grow both herbaceous and tree peonies. One of these which does a large export business to England and America, maintain an office in each country. Twenty-nine varieties of the herbaceous peony are listed in the catalogue of this nursery, the names of some of which are delightfully quaint. Someganoko-painted fawn, Shiski-Odori—dancing lions, kame-mo-kegor-omo—turtle’s holiday attire, are among the most diverting. The present exportations from Japan of herbaceous peonies consist principally of a form of peonies of a distinct type known as the Japanese, which constitutes a separate intermediate between the single and double types.

In England

The knowledge of flowers and plants in Saxony from about 477-1017 A.D., and for several subsequent centuries was chiefly based on the works of Pliny and Dioscordides. Apuleius, who lived about 150 A.D., referred to these two authors a great deal. His *herbaceous*, written in Latin, was later translated into Anglo Saxon, and must have been one of the Horticultural "best sellers" of that day.

Alexander Necham, born in 1157, was an early English writer on gardening. He was educated in Paris and became an abbot of the Augustine monks at Cirencester. In Necham's *De Naturis Rerum*, he describes what a noble garden should contain and writes roses, lilacs, turnsole, violets, and mandrake, and among other peonies. It seems as though all those plants were cultivated at that time and the peony referred to is *P. Officinalis*. In the Fourteenth Century, peonies were used for seasoning, and Langland in his vision of *Piers Plowman*, in 1375, a priest asked a poor woman if she has any hot spices, she replies, "I have peppers and peonies."

In 1484 about 300 years after Necham, *Herbaceous* credited to Arnoldus de Villanova was published on the continent. This book contained the first wood cut pictures of the peony. The text based on Galen's writings depicts the peony used greatly for medical purposes. Later English writers made use of his works freely. During the time of the Tudors, 1484-1603, contemporary authors mention peonies along with jasmine, lavender, lilies, rosemary, rocket, and snapdragon; as being grown in beds. The peony was known by many names as pie anny, nan pie, pianet, piano rose, posy, sheep shearing rose, and rose royale.

In 1579, John Gerard, a physician of Holloway, near London, published his *Herbal*, founded on a *History of Plants* by Dodens, a Hollander (1554), four pages are devoted to peonies and eight illustrations are given. Gerard speaks of the medicinal virtues of the peony. Shakespeare refers in his "*Taming of the Shrew*," 1603, to the peony in these lines: "Thy banks with peonies and lilled brims."

In 1629, John Parkinson, King's harbarist, wrote of 6 kinds of peonies in England, stating all of these peonies have been brought from diverse parts beyond the sea. He refers to them as having great beauty.

England's first Botanical garden was established at Oxford by the Earl of Danby, about 1621. In this nursery were double and single in company with 20 kinds of roses, including York and Lancaster. Robert Morrison (1620-1683) noted as a pioneer in the sys-

tematic Botanical classification of plants, describes several peonies including a flesh-colored peony. Parkinson referred to a red double peony and double white peony had originated as a sport of the red double peony. Several other works appear in England prior to the opening of the 19th century. During the latter half of the 18th century, several additional kinds including *tenuifolis*, *peragrina anomala*, were cultivated in England. In the early part of the 19th century, some varieties of *albiflora* were imported from China. They are still offered by growers. Among these are *Fragrance* (Sir Joseph Banks) *Whitley* (Whitley 1806) in which the importer had been led to believe that was a yellow tree peony—and *Humei* (Anderson 1810). *Fragrance* was the earliest sweet scented double variety offered growers in England. In 1837 the variety *Pottsii* was described as the most splendid of the five *albifloras* cultivated in the English gardens. It had been introduced from China by John Potts—an intrepid plant collector in 1822 and named after him.

Loddige Hackney in 1845 made the first large collection of named peonies and sold them eight years later. In 1850 Salter, a nursery man began a collection with the *albifloras*, which included *Edulus superba*, (splendid, with edible roots) originated by Lemon in France in 1824, *Pottsii* and *Reevesii*, and some others imported from Belgium. His catalogue of 1855 contained 24 double sorts. At this time peonies came to have such a large sale that Salter was unable to supply the demand of peony *Grandiflora Nivea Plena* (double large snow white)—originated by Buyck in Belgium in 1824, and several of the others. Other doubles were offered at this time, which we shall not mention.

James Kelway of Somersetshire, England, in 1846 made his first attempt in improving existing types. In a modest way he used *P. Officinalis* and *P. Corallina*, but his work went into growing of peonies on a very extensive scale. Twenty years later he catalogued two hundred and fifty varieties of which sixty-three were new single and forty-one new double varieties of his own raising. Through his energy in introducing and distributing improved forms, he made the peony popular in England. Among his best productions are: *Baroness Schroeder* (1889), *Miss Salway* (1905), and Kelway's *Glorious* (1909),

Peter Barr was interested in hybridizing. From his establishment have come *Wittmanians Rosea*, one of the *Wittmaniana* hybrids, and the *albifloras*, *Helena Leslie*, *Lord Rosebery* and *Celestine*.

In 1885, a First Class Certificate of the Royal Horticultural Society was granted to a peony named *Snowflake*—the first peony to receive this honor.

The influence of French growers and hybridizers had a pronounced effect upon peony growing in England. By 1890, its revival as a fashionable English flower was complete. Since then the peony had gone forward rapidly; both in popularity and improvement. Several large gardens were well maintained and the education of the public followed. The collections were very extensive.

Peonies in France

The history of the peony in England is chiefly the history of its cultivation in gardens and the commercial aspect. However, contrary to this place in English life, France went in for the improvement of the individual flower early in the 19th century and has continued with a place of leadership in peony improvements even until today. In 1810, there was an account of one famous peony, *P. Daurica* (brought from Siberia via England) as a very rare plant and established at Malmaison for the Empress Josephine. A full account of this peony can be found in *des Plantes Rares Cultivees a Malmaison et Navarre*.

France has given the world the most numerous and most famous growers and hybridizers of the peony, the lilacs and iris might be included. Their efforts during the past century and a half have produced the finest varieties, found in the best collection at the present time. The work of improving the peony was begun earlier in France than in England, and soon became of great interest to royal and aristocratic connoisseurs. Many of the varieties we have today were originated in 1830-1848 in the garden of King Louis Philippe at Neuilly, under the care of a very careful gardener, M. Jacques.

French Pioneers

M. Lemon — Prior to this, probably the first man in Europe to raise peonies from seed, who offered them for sale on the continent, was M. Lemon of the Porte St. Denis, Paris. As far back as 1824 (about the time when hybrid perpetual roses began to be popular), he raised a lot of seedlings of *P. Officinalis* from which came *P. Anemoniflora* and *P. Grandiflora Nivea Plena*. The last named of these is white, shaded with salmon—though one of the oldest hybrids, it even now ranks among some of the best. In the same year, 1824, *P. edulis superba*—a peony much grown today, was also introduced by Lemon. In 1830, he originated *P. Sulphurea*—white, tinted yellowish green. Lemon achieved not only

great modifications in color and form, but also produced pleasing fragrance which is common in most of his varieties and is very marked in others.

Modeste Guerin — Modeste Guerin, starting in 1835 in Paris with plants brought from China and Japan, made rapid advances in improving the peony. From then until 1866, he introduced more than forty new varieties: Among them General Bertrand (1845), Modeste Guerin (1845), Duchess d'Orleans (1846), Dr. Bretonneau (1850), Madame de Vatry (1853), and Alexandre Damas (1862), are conspicuous for their excellence. Guerin was the first to get his peonies to show a trace of yellow, which up to this time was almost an unknown color in the peony. Some of the varieties that had yellow in them were introduced to commerce before the first yellow peony, Whittmaniana - was discovered. Three instances are the Grandiflora lutescens (1840), fleshly white guard petals and guard stem. Beine des Francais (1842), fleshy pink guard petals and white centre shaded yellow, and Trioppe de Paris (1850), white with yellow center, and Guerin also produced some red peonies with magenta tints. It is believed they showed their dark color to P. Pottsii.

Prince de Salm Dyck — In 1840, the Prince de Salm Dyck, an amateur horticulturist and native of Cologne, France, for many years resided in Paris and had imported a number of valuable plants direct from the orient. These plants apparently passed to the House of Solange Bodin near Paris. Following 1845, some fine new, double varieties were sent out by this establishment: None of these now, however, are capable of identification.

M. Jacques — The collection raised by M. Jacques at Neuilly, for King Louis Philippe, was inherited by his nephew, M. Victor Verdier, presumably after the revolution of 1848 and the dethronement of Louis Philippe. Verdier had produced some new varieties and were introduced between 1855 and 1861. One of Verdier's most noted peonies is the incomparable Marie Jacquin.

Contemporary French Gardeners and Gardens

I. Etienne Mechin (1815-1895) who was tutored by the celebrated Horticulturist, Bretonneau. His collection started in 1840 and had imported rare peonies from China and Japan.

Auguste Dessert (1882-1893) was the grandson of Mechin Dessert—1888. Was one of the world's greatest Breeding experts of the peony. He brought out such peonies as Madame D. Treyeran (1889), Germaine Bigot (1902), Aurora (1904). The Mechin-

Dessert group is one of the most important in the history of the peony in France.

II. Comte de Cussy was an enthusiastic amateur grower who started with importation from China and Japan. He introduced many double varieties prior to 1850. His collection in the hands of others has produced many wonderful varieties.

Calot (1850-1872) of Douai, acquired the collection of Cussy's. Over twenty new varieties were introduced. Among them are:

1. Solfatare (1861) – first yellow peony produced until the introduction of Primevere, (1907).
2. Philomele (1861)
3. Duchesse de Nemours (1856)
4. Madame Demonier (1860)
5. Eugenie Verdier (1864)
6. Madame Crousse (1866)
7. Couronne d'Or (1872)
8. La Tulipe (1872)
9. Monsieur Dupont (1872)

M. Crousse – of Nancy. In 1872, the collection of J. Calot passed to the hands of M. Crousse of Nancy, who continued sending out new varieties and between 1882 and 1898, introduced over 75 seedlings of his own. A few of his creations were the Modele de Perfection (1875), Livingston (1879), Madame Emile Galle (1881), Felix Crousse (1881), Madame de Galhau (1883), Madame de Verneville (1885), Avalanche 1886), Asa Gray (1886), Mademoiselle Rosseau (1888), Monsieur Jules Elie (1888), Marguerite Gerand (1892).

M. Emile Lemoine (1898) – of Nancy. Was a peer equal to Dessert in peony breeding who also made great progress in developing the french lilac, iris, and other flowering plants. He occupied the old establishment of Crousse. He developed varieties distinctive of form, coloring, in addition of rare beauty. A few outstanding are: La Fiancee (1898), Madame Emile Lemoine (1899). Alsace-Lorraine (1906), Sarah Berthardt (1906), Le Cygne (1907), Solange (1907), Lamartine (1908).

III. M. Lemon of the Porte St. Denis, Paris, (1824) produced P. Officinalis from which came P. Anemoneiflora Alba and P. Grandiflora Nivea Plena. In 1830, he originated P. Sulphuren – white, tinted yellowish green. Cultivated today, fragrance was predominant, as well as pleasing color.

1. Modeste Guerin (1835). He imported plants from China and Japan until 1886. Introduced more than forty new varieties. A large part of this collection was bought by Mechin. The ground in Paris occupied by this collection and by that of Eugene Verdier was sold for building purposes, and the collections were dispersed.

Some of the most important of the forty varieties were as follows:

1. General Bertrand (1845)
2. Duchesse d'Orleans (1846)
3. Madame de Vatry (1846)
4. Dr. Bretonneau (1850)
5. Alexandre Dumas (1862)

Guerin was succeeded in breeding several of his peonies touched with yellow before *P. Whittmaniana* was discovered. In 1840, many showed red and red markings which owed their dark color to *P. Pottsii*.

2. Millez – produced *Festiva Maxima* in 1851. *Pele*, *Delache*, *Gombault*, *Foulard*, *Senaclauze*, *Paillet*, *Brotchet* and *Croux*.

3. Millet – in 1902. Introduced the following: *Reine Baronet* (1924), *Souvenir De A. Millet* (1924). Other information seems to be lacking.

IV. M. Jacques (1848). gardener to King Louis Philippe, at Neuilly. Jacques's collection was passed on to Victor Verdier, 1848-1861. After the revolution, 1848, there were sixteen varieties introduced between 1861-1865. They are still in commercial use.

Prince de Salm Dyck, an amateur horticulturist of Cologne, and who also resided in Paris in 1840. Imported valuable plants from the orient. These apparently passed to the House of Solange Bodin, near Paris. In 1845, many new double varieties were sent out by this establishment. None of these, however, are capable of identification at the present time.

Peonies in Holland

Not much can be found about peony propagation in Holland. It is possible the plant culturists of the lowlands were too busy with their tulips, roses, and other plants to think of propagating peonies. Abraham Nieuwenhuyzen was born in Boskoop, Holland, in 1877. He learned the nursery trade under Jac Akerboom in his native city, where he had a wide experience in growing various nursery stock, but made his special study of the peony. he imported at one time, a hundred varieties from America. His origination of *Dr. H. van der Tak*, was awarded a certificate of merit by the Holland Bulb Society, and in 1920 the same peony received the award of a silver cup at the International Flower Show, at Antwerp, Belgium.

At about the same time, Mr. Nieuwenhuyzen introduced *Mr. L. Van Leeuwen*, a crimson which won by judges, the finest crimson at the National Peony Show in 1923. Mr. Nieuwenhuyzen's interest in peonies drew for him a position with the American Rose and Plant Company at Springfield, Ohio, about the same year.

Van Leeuwen and Son, a firm that dates back to 1902, grew the largest collection of single, double, Chinese, Japanese, Officialis, hybrid and Tree Peonies according to an add appearing in the last publication of the Peony Manual in 1928. The business grew rapidly, and incorporated in 1925. Their home nursery was in Sassenheim, Holland, and they had a large bulb nursery at Stony Creek Mills, near Reading, Pennsylvania. Their New York office was located at 111 Broad Street. this firm introduced several very fine peonies in America.

The name of Buyck is also found as a breeder of peonies in Holland, but the information on Buyck is negligible, and we dare not attempt to give any information about him.

Peonies in Germany

Material concerning peonies in Germany is very scarce. Boos & Koenemann was an old and reliable concern who have made several introductions of beautiful varieties. they took a great deal of interest in their work, and their address is Niederwal uf am Rhein, Germany. they introduced Biebrich and Sassmanshausen in 1912, and Lorch soon after.

Peonies in America

Peonies in America probably existed in home gardens prior to 1800, but it was not until the opening of the 19th when horticulture and agriculture became distinctive sciences of culture. Literature arose with the art of horticulture that distinguished it from agriculture, and with it we find mentioned, the peony.

Bernard McMahan in his American Gardener's Chronicle—published in 1806—includes five kinds of peonies frown in the Middle and Eastern states. They are as follows: P. Officinalis: common peony; albiflora: white flowered peony; laciniate; jagged-leaved peony; hybrida: mule peony; and tenuifolia: slender-leaved peony. Presumably all these existed in America when the book was printed, although it was cruelly suggested by one critic, that McMahan's lists were compiled from English sources.

John Bartman and Son included in their catalogue of 1807, Foreign Plants collected from various parts of the globe, and cultivated at their Botanic Garden at Kingsessing, near Philadelphia. In 1828, five years after John Bertram's death, the catalogue caries six peonies in addition to tree peonies. The listing and their prices are as follows:

" <i>Paeonia officinalis</i> "	crimson officinal peony		\$.25
"	<i>albicans</i>	double white	" .25
"	<i>rosea</i>	rose coloured	" .25
"	<i>rubra</i>	double red	" .25
"	<i>carnescens</i>	flesh coloured	" 1.00
"	<i>albiflora simplex</i>	single white	" 1.00

Green's Treatise on Ornamental Flowers, published in Boston in 1828, includes peonies as "Leading Plants" of that day. The same year Thomas Hogg exhibited *P. Officinalis* in New York Horticultural Society.

William Prince, of Flushing Long Island, in 1829, in his annual catalog of trees and plants says, "No class of flowers has recently attracted more attention in Europe than peonies...Most of the varieties are extremely splendid and others possess striking peculiarities. Anticipating that a similar taste would be evinced in this country, the proprietor has by great exertion, obtained forty kinds with a great diversity of shades and colours. Prices range from fifty cents to twenty dollars, but most of the plants were quoted under two dollars. Other works appeared from time to time. Dr. A. B. Strong was the first to publish a Botanical work using coloured cuts, hand coloured. No two of the same species were coloured like.

By 1850, new species of the unique and fragrant types were coming on the market and created a demand for the new Chinese Peony.

H.A. Terry, 1848, of Crescent, Iowa, seems to be the first pioneer American to attempt growing the peony on a big scale. Terry secured from William Robert Prince who inherited the Linnaean Botanic Garden, at Flushing, Long Island, thirty varieties of *P. Albiflora*, including *Humei*, *Pottsii*, *Reevesii*, *Comte de Paris*, *Fragrans*, *festiva maxima*, *lutetiana*, *edulus superba*, *plenissima rosea* and *Queen Victoria*. Many of these produced seeds which Terry planted; he found that often no more than five—often not one in a thousand were worth cultivating. Longevity and peonies seem to go hand in hand for so many of our distinguished growers have lived to a ripe old age. This is true of Mr. Terry. *Stephania*, Grover Cleveland, Mrs. McKinley, which were introduced shortly before his death. He sold his collection for \$2500. His death occurred about 1909.

John Richardson, Dorchester, Massachusettes, enthusiastic lover of ornamental plants, raised in his small garden many varieties of peonies. Some flowers with fragrances were brought out as far back as 1857, about 30 years after the first fragrant peony was produced in France. From 1857 to 1887, the time of his death, he was actually engaged in growing seedlings. He had only a few

According to Richardson. The parent stock used probably was: Festiva Maxima, Festiva and Pottsii Plena, and a double white seedling originated by Mr. Carter of the Harvard Botanic Garden. A few of his outstanding creations are: Walton Faxon, Milton Hill, Perfection, Dorchester, Charles Sedgwick Minot, and Richardson's Grandiflora. Most of his varieties are light in colour and late in flowering and willowy of stem.

Most of Richardson's productions were not offered for sale until after his death and were named by his friends John Hoovey, and Professor Robert Jackson of Cambridge, Mass.

George Hollis of South Weymouth, Mass. originated about a hundred new varieties during the nineties. A few have come on down even today as fine specimens, among there are Standard Bearer (1906), George Hollis (1907), Loveliness (1907), and Maude L. Richardson (1904), one of the tallest, often attaining a height of five feet, a beautiful pink, still may be found in many plantings.

T.C. Thurlow, of West Newbury, Mass., started a planting in 1875. James Hertshorn of Chicago purchased all but two of Thurlow's plants for \$9,000. The plants filled two freight cars. Mr. Thurlow then started a new collection even better than the one he had sold. The Thurlow's are still doing business in West Newbury.

E.J. Shaylor, born in Ashtabula, Ohio, in 1843, and died in Aburndale, Mass., October 24, 1926, was a peony lover who never heard Horace Greely's caution, "Go west young man, go west." Mr. Shaylor, a salesman, purchased a tract of land in Aburndale, Mass., in 1898, and established his own company. Mr. Shaylor, in the 28 years following, produced many outstanding varieties, that are today, patterns of perfection for the peony origination. Shaylor's background of salesmanship gave him the much needed approach to this new and coming business, peony marketing. Shaylor's ideas lives on in the firm of Shaylor & Allison Nursery, Aburndale, Mass.

The name of Professor A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N.Y., is included in the list of peony breeders in this country. Indirectly elsewhere in this discourse, Mr. Saunder's name will be found. Here we should state that he approached the matter of peony breeding from the standpoint of the scientist and biologist. His background of plant culture did much in helping him transplant ideas into living organisms that have been accepted as excellent and different from those of other breeders.

Formation of the American Peony Society, 1902

Charles Willis Ward—The Motivating Sprit – Unsatisfactory nomenclature of peonies and the immoral practices of dealers brought about a condition that was evidenced by orders being filled with wrong stock, and too, there were many names for each of the several varieties on the market. Charles Ward started the ball rolling for a correction of this condition by writing a letter to the peony growers, under the date of June 26, 1902. This eventually resulted in the forming of the American Peony Society, which has worked diligently since that date to give America the best in peonies.

The work of this society, under the leadership of Mr. J. Eliot Coit, Cornell University, contributed much toward the straightening out of these matters. The work of the society adapted a grading system in their studies, and if a peony did not rate at least 7.5 on the basis of 10, it was recommended for discarding. This work soon brought about order in the peony world, for according to various writers, the moral standing of peony marketing had slipped to a very low level during the period of the late 90's. Yet in the same period, we find some of the most devoted breeders laboring for perfection.

Cornell University, Ithica, N.Y. has contributed great leadership in American life by assisting the American Peony Society to organize, select, and cull out all the misfits and retain all that has proved good. This leadership has been carried forward through three outstanding biologists: Prof. M. Eliot Coit, Prof. John Craig, and Dr. A.P. Saunders. Their scholarly help has been a great blessing to American Peony lovers and to the industry in general.

An Introduction to Edward Auten, Jr.

Edward Auten, Jr. was born in 1881 at Princeville, Illinois, where he has resided all his life. He was graduated from Harvard University in 1904. Two of his several hobbies have been sacred music and peonies. His musical activities included twenty years service as church organist, and many compositions of sacred music, none of which have attained more than local publicity. In 1910, having become disgusted with winter losses and thorns on roses, he quit them and made his first planting of peonies. This hobby has developed into a full time business and has resulted in the origination and introduction of more than 225 new varieties of peonies.

Princeville, Illinois
February 28, 1948

Dear Mr. Koby:

As to aims in peony breeding—I had none when I started out, just simply thought I would see what I could do. first seed was planted about 1916, and first introductions in 1925. In 1923, one of the most prominent peony growers told me I was wasting my time, that there were enough good peonies already, that the possibilities had already been just about exhausted. Since then he took time more than once to tell me how wrong he had been.

As I got into the work, one of my first discoveries was that we did not have to be satisfied with reds that went dead as the bloom aged. In all types of bloom, double, single, and Japanese, I was able to secure clear reds that held their good color as the bloom aged, or when sudden heat struck them. This latter point is of especial importance in the southern two-thirds of the peony belt. Of course, I always sought good stems and plant vigor.

Soon I realized that the field in Japs and singles was almost untouched. Many of the Japs from Japan were slow growers, and many of most outrageous colors. In the singles, hardly one of the older kinds was worth keeping. you might be surprised to know that one of the most difficult things to get is a first class deep pink single. Most singles are lovely when they first open, but most of them also start to fade within a day or so, and also have poor substance. I looked at thousands before I selected Elfin Pink.

In white doubles, I sought rose fragrance and refinement in color and texture. Extreme size has never meant much to me and I have discarded a good many big ones. Like most other originators, I have accomplished least with the dark pink doubles, but Pink Monarch has class, and Cathie Ann comes nearer to a 100% rating for commercial use than any other kind I know. Some exquisite light pink doubles however have in part made up for the small number of dark pink doubles.

Of course I have had countless failures in my work. One project which worked out just as successfully as hoped for was my search for new white Japs. I got just what I tried for, and more good ones than I will ever introduce.

In the officinalis hybrids, working with Albiflora pollen, the careful choice of pollen varieties paid big dividends, for here, as with the pure Albiflora reds, we get some dirty, fading colors, and others nonfading and of extreme clarity and brilliance. I never worked as much with the hybrids as I wanted to, did not have time.

I never tried Colchicine on peonies, and don't understand the full story of its possibilities. But as I understand it, it is primarily a destructive process, and is valuable only on the chance that the destruction (or variation) will halt at some point that will give something new that is worth while. My concept may be wrong, but anyway I decided to let it alone. I did get some seed x-rayed once, and got a red bomb type bloom with Jappy yellow edges on center petals. Never named it, though it is a nice flower. It may not be the result of the x-ray, as I have had variations just as striking from ordinary seed. Some of my originations are definitely novelties. I do not expect everyone to like them, but they sell to people who see them in bloom, that is, some of the people.

I have used both hand pollenized and naturally pollenized seed, with good results from both methods. But with so many fine kinds now, one is foolish to use seed not hand pollenized. I never supposed one could get reds in the pure Albiflora kinds to equal the pure reds of the Officinalis hybrids, but some of my newest seedlings come very close. One factor I have always sought has been SURE BLOOMING in the late doubles. Many kinds which look like a million dollars in cool climates like Minnesota are no good at all down here. Mrs. A. M. Brand is one such variety. On the other hand, my Virginia Lee, Cleopatra, Plymouth, and others never fail even in hot weather here in Illinois.

I never had time to do all the pollenizing and seed planting I wanted to do. After thirty years, I feel that if I could start all over again, I would at last really be prepared to make still greater improvements in peonies. But I think I am done planting seed. I have still over 100 advanced seedlings under trial, and several hundred unbloomed seedlings, among them 300 hybrids.

Very sincerely yours,
Edward Auten, Jr.

An Introduction to Mr. H. P. Sass

H. P. Sass lives in Bennington, Nebraska. He was born on September 29, 1868, at Alt Dunvestedt, Germany. In 1884 he migrated to America. His farm is located near Omaha, Nebraska. In 1903 he purchased 80 acres near Washington, Nebraska. He started flower growing and became a world famous plant breeder.

Bennington, Nebraska
March 18, 1948

Dear Mr. Koby:

My breeding of peonies extends back to 1908, and in 1930 I

abandoned the breeding of peonies. Colchicine and other chemicals were not known those days, and from the beginning I resorted to cross fertilization. As an experiment, I planted seed from singles, but 85% came single again. As seed parents, I selected the bomb type, as these have no pollen and cannot self fertilize. At present, the Peony Society has thrown out the old type names like bomb, crown, anemony, and semirose and calls them all doubles. This is a mistake, as the old masters invented these names to distinguish these types.

Bomb type I used mostly are Edulus Superba, Felix Crouse, Mmm. Duce!, and Mons Jules Elie. Edulus Superba is now discarded by the Society but is still the leading cut flower variety. It was introduced by Nicolas Lemon in 1824. I raised several good red peonies from this by crossing it with Mons. Martin Cahuzac. I never used the pollen of singles in my crossed, but only used the semirose for the purpose. from Mmm. Duce! I raised most of my best peonies. They include Elsa Sass, Coral Queen, Adonis, and also the two singles, Imperial Red and Sea Shell.

In 1938, I sold most of my peonies to Interstate Nursery of Hamburg, Iowa. Since then they have grown in favor. On Elsa Sass, I received the Gold Medal, and when the rating for peonies was brought up to the whole membership of the Society, Elsa Sass received 9.47. Amongst the comment in the new bulletin, I noted: "And Elsa like Carrara marble." Another, "I humbly take back the mean remark I made about Elsa Sass a few years ago."

I never took an active apart in the Society, all I know, "We need more members." I do not have any of the new peonies produced now. How they are developed I cannot say. The new registrations do not mention seed parents.

Yours very truly,
H.P. Sass

An Introduction to Mr. E. H. Lins

E. H. Lins lives in Cologne, Minnesota. We have no data on the early life of Mr. Lins. He has been a successful merchant, farmer, and gardener at Cologne for many years. As the name indicates, he is of German extraction, and has spent a great deal of time bringing out new varieties in peonies and gladiolas. his work has been painstaking and has been prompted from a scientific standpoint. He has been very careful to use parent stock of high quality for his combinations. he has many outstanding creations in the gladiola world. He has Black Panther, Stoplight, Rio Rita, Beltrami, Virgin,

Royal Robes, and a host of other top-flight gladiolas that can well grace any person's garden. His peonies such as; Casablanca, Tondeleyo, King Midas, and Burma are only a few of several very high class peonies that have already caught the eye of a critical public. Mr. Lins, now in his late forties, has an opportunity to establish a breeding record excelled by none, and equalled by very few. In fact, his business is a creation of new ideas. The other fellow does the work of propagating his introductions.

Cologne, Minnesota
March, 22, 1948

Dear Mr. Koby:

In concluding our treatise on the peony, you can take whatever you think you can use, or consider worthwhile from the following thoughts:

No one plant breeder has a "corner" on the production of worthwhile varieties. All we can do is try to combine parent varieties, which in our opinion, will produce superior varieties. Nature has to do the rest. Most seedlings produced, even from selected parents are worthless. They have to grow for years, to determine which is which. The process of propagating a stock of a worthwhile seedling, takes from 12 to 15 years, which explains why a good new peony is high priced.

All peony breeders are striving for the production of a fully transformed double peony, with beautiful form and exquisite color, combined with good plant habits, stiff stems, with foliage way down. The perfect, fully transformed, double peony cannot be used in breeding, as it has neither stamens nor carpels.

I think this is enough for one man's spot on your program and I hope you can make some good use out of these thoughts.

Sincerely, E. H. Lins

**10
YEAR
UPDATE**

- Herbaceous peonies
- Tree peonies
- Hybrid peonies
- All registered varieties
- Spiral bound
- Full-color cover

157 pages **\$15**

PEONIES 1986 - 1996

Peonies introduced and registered in the last ten years have been added to a five decades' effort by contemporary hybridizers. All are listed by name with names of their originators and year of registrations. New peony creations now cover an expanded spectrum of colors. Send order to

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
250 Interlachen Rd., Hopkins, MN 55343

Mr. A.M. Brand

Faribault, Minnesota
March 25, 1948

Dear Mr. Koby:

You asked me to give you a few lines on my work as a hybridizer or rather, a worker for new and better peonies. I was born February 28, 1871.

One evening, the latter part of May, 1876 or 1877, (I think it was 1876) my mother was sitting out on the front door step of the old home and my father was puttering around 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 pointed out 6 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 ft. high, covered with great big, dark, red blossoms and asked her what they were, and she told me they were peonies. peony *Teniufolia* Flora Plena, the early fern leaf peony.

And my connection with the peony and the lilac date back to that day, either 70 or 71 years ago, and I have been with them ever since.

My father became very much interested in the peony about the year 1893. He brought to Faribault during those years, every named peony he could find listed anywhere. In America, China, Japan, and Europe. During the season of 1899, he gathered about 4 quarts of peony seed. I entered into a partnership in the business with him that fall and returned to Faribault on the 12th of October of that year, and the first thing I did was to plant this peony seed.

This seed was allowed to become dry before seedling, so it did not germinate until the spring of 1901. In the season of 1903, three singles and one double bloomed. The double was afterward named, Richard Carvel. Longfellow, Mary Brand, Judge Berry, Chas. McKellip, Phoebe Cary, Lora Sexheimer, Martha Bulloch, Frances Willard, all came out of this planting.

In the fall of 1909, I stopped by a plant of the white peonies, *Alba Sulphurae*, and gathered a hand full of seed. from this, I got the great show flower, *Hansina Brand*. Two years afterwards, I picked about 3 quarts of seed, and from this planting, selected

Krinkled White, Flenders Fields, two fine singles, and Rev. Tragett, a very fine double white.

About 1914, I sowed about a bushel of seed, and from the resulting plants, have selected out the following: R.A. Napier, Dr. Lee Pollock, Dr. John L. Krenshaw, Mrs. Bryce Fontaine, Pres. Lincoln, T.E. Carpenter, and 5 or 6 others which I still have not named. Oh yes, and Golden Bracelet.

In 1918, I planted seed from which I selected Edward Flynn, a Philippe Rivoire with a better plant. This about winds it up. I gathered a peck of seed last fall. It will take about 10 years to be sure one gets anything really good of it. I am 77 now. So what?

Yours truly,
A. M. Brand

An Introduction to Mr. C. A. Pfeiffer

C. A. Pfeiffer located his nursery, early in the 20th century, at Winona, Minnesota. Mrs. Pfeiffer tells the story of his work in her letter that follows better than we can give it in this introduction. Remember, Winona is located in a very fertile valley of Minnesota.

Winona, Minnesota
April 14, 1948

Dear Mr. Koby:

Sorry that we have not been able to answer your nice letter of April 1st. At the present, I have no time to go into the general history of the peony.

Mr. C. A. Pfeiffer's passing two years ago the 27th of May has left us in a rather hard condition, but he had originated several lovely peonies about 25 years ago. However, he gave it up on account of the lack of room here, and the fact that so many people were doing the same thing, many of the new ones being no lovelier than the older ones, and asking a rather stiff price for them. He never felt they were quite worth the prices. It does take about nine years from seed before you can really tell whether or not a peony is worth while, and we do have several very lovely ones.

Our Pfeiffers Red Triumph, Ann Pfeiffer, Virginia Mary, Ruth Markle, Frances Herndon, and Pfeiffers Pride were among the better ones, and Setting Sun and Flaming Youth, beautiful singles, all were top notches. We thought Pfeiffers Red Triumph was

about as lovely a red as one could wish for, with a very dainty fragrance, but not as nice as I wish for.

The one thing that has been against showing them at our different Peony Shows, was the fact that we are two or three weeks earlier down here in this valley, and our peonies are generally gone before others in the state are at their best. Even peonies grown up in Rochester and Faribault come later than ours. We have given up the retail mail-order business, devoting our time to the wholesale and entirely, as we have found it's much easier and not as expensive.

Mr. Pfeiffer was anxious to develop a peony that would not show a purplish tinge to it, and one that had a pleasing fragrance; something you don't find in many red peonies. The one that comes closest to it was a beautiful red we named Pfeiffer, but it had no size to it, even though it did have the shade of red he was after and a slight fragrance, but it was a disappointment.

To me, I wouldn't care how beautiful a peony was unless it had a pleasing fragrance, and it's always been a disappointment. Rose Here wasn't a pretty peony, but it certainly does have the most exquisite fragrance of any peony I ever knew. One bloom all by itself will scent up a room beautifully. It's such a poor looking one, our Peony Manual discarded it several years ago.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. C. A. Pfeiffer

An Introduction to Myron D. Bigger

Myron bigger, of Topeka, kansas, has been growing peonies for two decades. He has grown them long enough to be able to make several very fine introductions. Mr. Bigger has not confined his efforts to peony growing alone, but has produced other perennials and bulbs. Notice the direct contrast between Mr. Bigger's ideas of pollenization, and those of Edward Auten, Jr. These men are the best we have in breeding, and they both have a right to their opinions. It would seem, these two men working together, one hand pollenizing, the other using a combination of hand and insect pollenization, would hardly leave a possibility of something new out of the category of productions.

Topeka, Kansas
April 23, 1948

Dear Mr. Koby:

Many thanks for your fine letter. You ask a rather difficult question to answer.

In growing seedlings, I did not have any particular aim, except to find better peonies if it was possible. My time was limited, and space was not too plentiful at that time, and now it is even more limited, so I grew a few from the best peonies that I could pick. I let the bees and moths do the hybridizing. they could think of more crosses and had more time to work at it. I usually planted seed on a very good variety that did have pollen. Festiva Maxima and Jules Elie are both fine parents. Mary Brand gave me Kansas, and Westerner came from mixed seeds that must have been good varieties, or I would not have gathered them.

Peony crossing is a very slow process and takes a lot of patience. they do not germinate until the second spring after they are planted, and then do not bloom for several more, so you can see, you have to have a lot of them coming along if you do not want the time to go slow.

Well, I hope I have said something that will help you. I remain,

Sincerely yours,
Myron D. Bigger

An Introduction to Mr. A. B. Franklin

A. B. Franklin, organizer of the Franklin Nurseries of Minneapolis and the originator of many Franklin varieties, was during his life time a great friend of A. M. Brand. The two combined have probably produced more fine peonies than any other breeders in the northwest. His enthusiasm always was high. Mr. Franklin passed away in 1942 and his son, Loren Franklin has carried on the business of the nursery. Perhaps the latest of Mr. Franklin's introductions is Bonanza, a red that won first award in the Northwest Peony Show in Minneapolis, in 1947. Loren Franklin tells of his father's work in the following paragraphs.

Franklin Nursery
Minneapolis, MN
May 8, 1948

Dear Mr. Koby:

Father's ambition as a hybridizer was to produce the perfect peony and he plowed back most of his profits in an effort to attain that goal.

He believed that, besides having exquisite form, fine texture, pleasing color, and delightful fragrance, a flower to be near perfect must be supported by a stem strong enough to properly dis-

play those qualities, even under adverse weather conditions. Most of his introductions are of this strong stemmed type. In the later years it became almost an obsession with him.

He believed that no new varieties should be put on the market unless they added something to the peony world; either different or better than anything already produced. he used this principle as the yard stick for all his introductions.

Sincerely yours,
L. V. Franklin



Registrations

1. **Prosperity Maud** (Menard / D'Aoust 2003) Hudson Heights QC. JOP-IJO - Canada. Seedling number MM88-7. An F2 hybrid whose exact parentage is unknown but does include M. Jules Elie. Single flowers of an unusual apricot colour appear just slightly earlier than Red Charm. Petals are of good substance and flowers hold their colour well. Each stem carries 1-3 lightly fragrant flowers, which do not require staking. Deep pink flares at the base of each petal have their colour amplified by the deep pink base of the otherwise golden stamens. Stigmas are deep pink. Pollen and seed in abundance. Approximately 30" (75 cm) tall. foliage dense and mid green in colour.

2. **Chesieres Pixel Princess**. Parentage: herbaceous hybrid, sdg # 94-22 Pink Princess x Miss America 2003, first bloomed in 1998. Semi-double, opens dark pink with intensive speckling, and over a period of several days becomes very pale pink. Golden stamens, dark red carpels with pink stigmas, 1-4 buds on strong stems (85 cm). Bloom: mid-season.

Liselotte Hirsbrunner, Chalet L'Imprevu, CH 1885 Chesieres

3. **Martin H. Moen** (R. W. Tischler), Tischler Peony Garden, Faribault, MN. Bright red. loose petal bloom. 5" to 6" in size. Stems tall and fairly strong. Mid-season bloom. Excellent foliage. October 20, 2003.

4. **Bob** (R. W. Tischler), Tischler Peony Garden, Faribault, MN. Dark red hybrid Jap. 5" to 6" bloom in size. fairly early. Yellow stamens. Slightly tipped red. fairly strong stems. No side buds. October 20, 2003.



My Seedlings: Fun is the way

Harold Entsminger

I have a nice batch of tree and herbaceous peony seedlings, also some *Lewisia Rividia* seedlings. I have a seedling area where they are grown. The *Trollioides* seedlings have now (Sept. 2003) been planted out around the garden. No work of the bees, these small delicate plants. All are the careful work of hand pollination, and known parentage. I have a fine crop of *Rockii* seedlings at age three, all hand pollinated. I've put in *Rockii* seed this year, from both single and semi-double lineage. I am hoping for some fine plants next year.

Princess Saho has also contributed seeds this fall. Many maybe H.I.M. quality, (His and Her Imperial Majesty).

My plant of *Tesserax* Prairie Moon has not yet bloomed. The plant is strong and healthy, still dwarf in size. I moved my yellow crown this year so no flowers, and so no seeds. Maybe next year.

The heat, weeds, and drought this summer have been record settings. Temperatures 90°F-102°F day after day for 3 months with zero precipitation for as long. Weeds love it!!

I am busy landscaping my yard with all the peonies, iris and *lewisia* plants that I love. I have also created a special area for Oriental Poppies. These plants get as big as a big clump of peonies with flowers as large, and they come in beautiful orange. Orange is still my peony hybridizing goal. what fun!! Today's pleasures are tomorrow's treasures!



Fall Peony Thoughts

By E. Babb

Fall is planting time for peonies, and many local peony devotees have been flurrying to spread peony cheer in public places as well as their own gardens. In the course of my travels about, and thanks to email, I've been fortunate to witness some of this enthusiasm.

A brand new garden, the Oshawa Peony Garden just east of Toronto was dedicated last year. For several years, CPS (Canadian Peony Society) members – many of whom are also APS members – have made fall plantings. The Garden now contains a well-balanced representation of herbaceous peonies designed to bloom as many weeks as possible. I counted 7 very early and 60 early

herbaceous bloomers in the list, and at the other end of the spectrum, 28 late, and 7 very late cultivars. For mid-season, some 101 cultivars complete this wide collection. Others have not yet bloomed and their Garden bloom times are not yet rated. And tree peonies will be added in a future planting.

The new garden provides a perfect venue for collecting bloom-time data and trying to make some sense of it. This was first anticipated in an APS Bulletin article presenting Miller's data, another example of how APS members sharing their ideas can stimulate local peony projects. The article's suggested hypothesis was that in any particular garden, peonies tend to bloom in the same sequence, year after year. I have confirmed the general proposition after 4 years experience in my garden in southern Maine, and separately in my earlier garden in Seattle, Washington.

Natural factors influencing bloom time might include light, moisture and temperature, which vary from place to place, but generally impact all the peonies in any one garden in the same way. Following on from this initial article, there have been local efforts to collect further data, to see whether a general sequence using the mean figures of collected data can be developed. Here are some samples from this data, drawing both on the Oshawa peonies, and data from many other North American locations, generally from participants in the Yahoo peony group online, many of whom are APS members.

Collected Data

Southern Maine Coast

# observations	Cultivar	Days relative to mean for Red Charm	Days relative to first bloom of Red Charm
4	Nova	-23	-4
3	Seraphim	-20	-12
41	Early Scout	-16	-6
3	Sweet May	-14	-6
2	Mlokoewitschii	-14	-17
7	Picotee	-10	+1*
1	Archangel	-8	+7
1	Lavender	-7	+3
11	Pageant	-5	0
8	Illini Belle	-4	+6
39	Red Charm	0	0
11	Laura Megnison	+4	+14
17	Alexander Woollcott	+4	+10
1	Zuzu	+4	0
31	Krinkled White	+7	+10
16	Le Cygne	+7	+14

7	Chocolate Soldier	+7	+16
19	Kelways Glorious	+8	+13
30	Mothers Choice	+9	+11
12	Battle Flag	+10	+16
3	Nymph	+14	+14

*An example where 2 plantings from different sources were placed in different parts of my garden. They bloomed on exactly the same day this year.

Of course, what this collection really reveals is that many peony lovers everywhere track their blooms and know exactly when each one appears! I was amazed when I visited the auction dinner of a local group in Kansas City, recently, to hear individuals describing precisely what I do during bloom time. As soon as daylight permits, I head straight to the garden to see what new blooms have opened, and to catch that first whiff of fragrance.

Other talk at the dinner included enthusiasm over the upcoming publication of Czech botanist Dr. Joseph Halda, expressing his ideas about how to classify peony species. Using auction proceeds for the last several years, their local group, the HPS (Heartland Peony Society) is helping to cover the cost and lower the eventual sale price of this new book. A by-product of this project seems to be renewed interest to grow species peonies. Growing species peonies was much advocated by former APS president, Arthur Percy Saunders as early as 1924 when he spoke to peony lovers in Boston.

Some of these HPS/APS members are also receiving pollen and seeds from various collecting expeditions, so that they can amplify their own gardens. The group's next-day public sale was much broader than most commercial offerings, evidencing the degree to which members are becoming aware of the broad range of genus *paeonia*.

Another interesting idea is to build a local group around projects rather than meetings. This is echoed in the Pacific Northwest, where I attended the annual spring get-together of the PNWPS (Pacific Northwest Peony Society) last March. Local members there, including APS exhibitor Adelman Peony Gardens, have cooperated to build several peony beds at the new spacious Oregon Garden. And a large planting of Chinese tree peonies has been included in the new downtown Portland Chinese garden. The March get-together included sharing by Galen Burrell about his species peonies and their culture. Mr. Burrell has also written on this topic for the APS Bulletin.

Still other bubbling pockets of local activity are in the upper mid-west, Minnesota, Wisconsin and vicinity. APS members in

that area have a long history of peony breeding to produce many of the peonies we know and love. There, I toured a number of hybridizers' own gardens. Again, I was amazed at how different these gardens could be, with the peony as its focus. And I marvel at the energy exhibited to learn about such techniques as embryo rescue so that F2 generations of intersectionals might be created more easily.

My impressions? The peony is alive and well in local America. There is energy out there!



Recipients of the Saunders Memorial Medal

March, 1968. The A. P. Saunders Memorial Medal is now completed, according to word received recently from Miss Silvia Saunders of Clinton, New York. As was reported in the June 1965 issue of this Bulletin, it is to the thoughtful imagination of Mr. L. W. Cousins of London, Ontario, Canada, that we are indebted for the original suggestions of the medal in Dr. Saunder's memory. This was in 1953, shortly after his death.

At first it was thought that the award should be made "for a new hybrid peony" and a Committee was appointed, but because general knowledge and interest in hybrids were lacking at that time, the matter was allowed to drop and nothing was done. Recently however with the very active renewal of interest in, and knowledge about, the field of hybridizing (resulting in the formation of a "Round Robin" of six or eight specialists) the matter has once more been taken up.

As the passage of time allowed for more mature deliberation on this whole question, it became obvious that there have been a number of important contributions to advancement of peonies, other than the actual creation of a plant; and that the award might very suitably be given for one or more of these contributory factors. It seemed obvious too that the medal should not be given posthumously, since this would lead to unnecessary complications. These and other considerations are being incorporated into the Conditions of Award which should shortly be published.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society, held in Detroit in June 1967, it was voted that the specialist members of the Round Robin should make a recommendation to the Board, who would then make the award. It now seems likely that,

barring unforeseen circumstances, a recommendation may be made, and the first medal awarded sometime within the year.

Dr. John C. Wister, 1968, strathmore, Pennsylvania

Awarded first A. P. Saunders Memorial Medal for "varied and distinguished contributions to the peony." He has compiled and published many of our records. His service to the peony includes:

1928 – work on the **Peony Manual**; particularly the tree Peony Section, it comprised all that was then known about peonies. That manual, now 40 years old, still contains much of value to us today, though it is now out of print and unobtainable.

1944 – the tree Peony Checklist, published as Bulletin No. 95, listing all the Tree Peonies and their hybrids then known; many hundreds of them; and with a brief biography of each one. A veritable Tree Peony Who's Who.

1962 – Book, **The Peonies**, which like the old Manual brings up to date all our peony knowledge. He has been among the Founding Fathers of many plant societies and has served them tirelessly in one office or another directing their steps.

In the 1930's when he became Director of the Scott Horticultural Foundation, he bought, and planted on the campus of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, vast numbers of plants; among them peonies—one thousand tree peonies alone. he obtained the then brand new hybrids just being created by Auten, by Glasscock, by Saunders, by Bockstoe, by Mrs. Freeborn and others, had them planted and labeled so that specialists and the public could study them.

– Sylvia Saunders

Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., 1968, Princeville, Illinois

The wording on his medal read: "For his outstanding contributions to Garden peonies and Hybrids."

The contributions include:

1. The development of many noteworthy varieties of red lactifloras, in particular: RED COMET, SUZANNE, FAIRY TALE, LADY JANE, and the new one, SATELLITE. These are all bombs of good dark color with very little if any purple in them, and are notably useful to the breeder, for they produce doubles among their progeny.

2. Not less important are his Japanese varieties. His techniques have yielded some of our most noteworthy varieties in this group. In particular, the "Nippon" series are unsurpassed: NIPPON BEAUTY, NIPPON BRILLIANT, NIPPON CHIEF, NIPPON PARADE, NIPPON GOLD, and several others.

3. He was a contemporary hybridizer with Professor Saunders and Mr. Glasscock in developing interspecific hybrids.

ROBERT AUTEN is one of the best of these and there are many other fine kinds that all of you know.

4. For more than forty years, his articles have been appearing in the Bulletin of the Society. They are packed full of valuable information on all phases of peony hybridizing and culture.

Mr. L. W. Cousins, 1972, Ontario, Canada

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.

Mr. Toichi Itoh, 1972, Japan, Itoh

The award was given "For mastering the cross, long considered impossible, between herbaceous and tree peonies." Taking pollen from the brilliant yellow tree peony hybrid (lutea hybrid) ALICE HARDING, he pollinated a single white lactiflora peony. The resultant hybrids have yellow flowers like many lutea hybrids, and the foliage has marked characteristics of the tree peony. They were introduced into this country in the 1960's by Mr. Louis Smirnow, the Long Island grower, who has traveled extensively in Japan. Since that time, American breeders have been making the same cross and it is believed that a number of hybrids now exist.

Mr. Itoh died in the late 1950's, and while it is not generally envisaged that the Society will reach back into the past and make a number of posthumous grants, Mr. Itoh's case is so conspicuously outstanding that it was felt this was a most appropriate reward.

William Gratwick and Nassos Daphnis, 1973, Pavilion, New York

Inscription – "*William Gratwick and Nassos Daphnis, who first carried Tree Peony Hybrids to advanced generations.*"

DAPHNIS HYBRIDS—This great race of hybrid tree peonies often have larger flowers than their predecessors, with similar subtle or brilliant coloring, on stiffer stems. Several blooms per stem on at least one variety makes for a longer blooming season. Plant vigor has been strengthened, but best of all is the fertility of the plants, which the first generation almost completely lacked. To quote: "The success of the program that produced Daphnis Hybrids is now a matter of record: the first 'reverse' cross; back crosses that put new vigor into the ancient Moutan Tree Peony; F-

2's and F-3's and beyond; and a complicated series of crosses utilizing the Saunders hybrids, the species lutea, and the best of the Japanese Tree Peonies, including ROCK'S VARIETY, and the list continues to expand."

E. L. Pehrson, 1973, Lafayette, Minnesota

Inscription – *"Dedicated friend and tireless helper to beginning hybridists."*

The citation for the award to E. L. Pehrson emphasized the untiring patience with which this man has given of his time, his energies and his knowledge towards helping younger peony enthusiasts. He has, for the four years of existence of the Newsletter PAEONIA, been its "leader and teacher in hybridizing." He coaxes, urges, stimulates and, yes, even bribes the beginning hybridist with offers of seeds (sprouted seeds, at that) and roots of fancy hybrids, designed to save five, ten or sometimes fifteen years of work and time. It spoke also of his own fine hybrid LULLABY which we have seen on our show table the past two or three years; and it ended by saying: "In short, he is that frosting on the cake of life, the *teacher*."

Sylvia Saunders, 1974, Clinton, New York

Awarded Saunders Memorial Medal. Inscription: *"Active Sponsor of the New Era in Peony Improvement."*

Mr. Louis Smirnow, 1975, Borrkville, L. I. New York

Awarded the American Peony Society Medal, the inscription reading: *"World Wide Collector—Challenging New Frontiers—Mr. Tree Peony."*

His role has not been that of the hybridizer but rather that of the seeker after newer varieties, going to endless trouble and expense to discover new plants and make them available to peony lovers throughout the world. Perhaps no single individual alive has played so large a part in giving tree peonies a prized and visible place in private gardens, as well as in public parks and arboretums throughout the world. His effort provides some sort of setting for comprehending the magnitude of expansion of the peony genetic pool. Hybridizers have made much of what Father Fiala hailed as the brand new "race" of peonies—the Itoh-Smirnow introductions of YELLOW HEAVEN, YELLOW EMPEROR, YELLOW GEM, and YELLOW CROWN. He has been President of the American Peony Society and served on the Board of Directors for many years.

Louis Smirnow awarded the Saunders Memorial Medal presented by Silvia Saunders, at Kingwood Center 1981 (Quote)—To our elder statesman, ever since he first learned to write, he has

been writing about peonies. he traveled in the east, Japan, and now China, and brought back new beauties, especially the hybrids of a man named Itoh. he has kept the words "Tree Peony" constantly before the American public. In Israel, he founded a memorial garden. he has been a real international ambassador of the tree peony. This medal is long overdue. The inscription can only be a shorthand version of his contributions. The medal reads, "Time-honored Importer and Promoter of Oriental Tree Peonies and Hybrids, contributed information that has brought about a change in the genetic pool for the tree and herbaceous peony."

—*Sylvia Saunders*

Chris Laning, 1981—Sylvia Saunders presented this medal. She said, "He has made outstanding contributions, created the very advanced, very complex and very fine hybrids. his medal reads 'Hybridist, Editor of *Paoenia*, Distributor of plants and seeds, Expertise, Chris Laning. His newsletter has been mailed to those interested in hybridizing for 20 years.' He has contributed to the Society with donations of the Itoh hybrid—the yellow herbaceous peony, so much in demand at the yearly auction."

Dr. David L. Reath, 1983—He has accomplished outstanding contributions to the peony. Almost singlehandedly revived the country's interest in good quality, true-to-name Tree Peonies. His self-developed grafting propagation techniques are now well accepted in the trade. He developed "root tip" propagative procedures on rare hybrid peonies and brought back into commerce the double fern leaf peony. He pioneered the colchine treatment of diploid lactifloras into tetraploids. The medal reads: "Dr. David Reath, Creative scientific nurseryman, adapted colchine treatment to induce polyploidy in peonies."

Don Hollingsworth, 1984—He is a student and an educator through his continued writings. He has done meritorious work as an accomplished hybridist. He was the first to achieve success in duplicating the Itoh Cross in America. he revived and modified techniques of storing pollen and testing the viability of pollen—also another technique he developed into valuable procedure is the controlled germination of peony seed. The inscription on the medal reads: "Accomplished Hybridist, Tireless donor of seeds and plants. Prolific writer."

Roy Klehm, 1989— He has contributed enormously to the furtherance of improvement of the peony both directly and indirectly. He is not only a breeder of new varieties through controlled pollination but has brought established introductions from other breeders, and made them available for Nursery trade.

He has given freely of his time and in the promotion of the Society. He is an authority on the peony, gives lectures on the peony and all aspects of peony growing. The inscription on the medal reads: "Breeder of Peonies, Generous supporter, Society Builder, Peony Advocate Extraordinary."

Roger Anderson, Sr., June 14, 2003 – For progressive hybridizing success with Intersectional Hybrid peonies. For your educational, promotional efforts, and active participation. For outstanding achievement in breaking peony hybridizing barriers and for spreading the joy of these beautiful creations. Congratulations!



Roger Anderson Sr. awarded Saunders Memorial Award, with daughter Renee and son Roger, Jr.

William Seidl, June 14, 2003 – For creating futuristic woody peony varieties by combining winning gene pools of the best garden varieties. For expanding peony horizons by intelligent, thoughtful writing and positive conversational promotion. For teaching, mentoring, and sharing. Congratulations.

— Roy Klehm



May your beautiful hybrid peonies forever bloom in gardens worldwide.

—Steve Johnson

**ADVANCED GENERATION HYBRID TREE PEONIES
FROM WORKS OF BILL SEIDL AND OTHERS
ARE ON DISPLAY ONLINE**

To view 200 full screen size photos, please visit our website:

<http://www.peonygarden.com.au>

For a CD-ROM, please send US\$3 to

PEONY GARDEN

283 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Australia. 3000.

Mobile Phone: (613) 0417 015 520

E-mail: peonygarden@hotmail.com

peonygarden.com

Probably the largest selection of peonies for sale anywhere
almost 1000 varieties all on the internet at:

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

PRINT YOUR OWN CATALOGUE (*No mail*)

1-613-398-7650

SEED, SEED, SEED

The Society needs seeds from its members in order to have a successful seed exchange. Please send seeds this fall to Harvey Buchite, 813 Elm St. Anoka, MN 55303. Label with as much information as you can provide about the parents or the type of peony that was the source of the seeds.

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.

THE GOLD MEDAL PEONIES

The following is a listing of the Gold Medal Peonies awarded by the American Peony Society Board of Directors. The list results from a search of records by W. A. Alexander.

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

—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.
CORAL SUNSET (Samuel Wissing - Roy G. Klehm) MN Landscape Arboretum, 2003.



The Best Chinese Tree Peonies and Herbaceous Peonies

- Over 300 Varieties in our Garden
- All Plants Guaranteed to Grow
- Finest Quality
- Paeonia Rockii Cultivars
- Retail / Wholesale

Visit us online for one of the best gardening web site!

Golden Port International

2255 Cedars Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
Toll Free 1-877-PEONIES (1-877-736-6437)
770-513-1013 Fax 770-277-9510
www.goldenport.com

Beautiful Japanese and Chinese Tree Peonies

3 Years Old & Older.

Wide variety of Exotic, Inexpensive Tree
Peonies Available.

\$3/Catalog.

Smirnow's Son's Peonies

168 Maple Hill Road
Huntington, NY 11743
USA

Phone (631) 421-0836

Fax (631) 421-0818

E-mail smirnowb@ix.netcom.com

LOOKING TO PURCHASE COLLECTIONS
OF TREE PEONIES.

CALL 631-421-0836 OR WRITE.

PICTURE PERFECT PEONIES



We offer generous clumps of strong, healthy, viable peonies which are the result of professional production procedures, proper nutrients, moisture and hot, humid conditions. Named varieties are available. Call for our complete list.

Visit our regularly updated 'Peony Page' at www.shermannursery.com for peony information, descriptions and availability.



Sherman Nursery Company . P.O. Box 579 . Charles City, Iowa 50616-0579
1-800-747-5980 . Fax 641-228-7569 . Email: sales@shermannursery.com
WE OFFER QUALITY BARERoot AND CONTAINER NURSERY STOCK

SPECIALIZING IN

OWN ROOT TREE PEONIES

U.S. Representative for **HEZE EAST FLOWERS CO., LTD.**



Catalog \$2.00

Brothers
Herbs & Peonies

P.O. Box 1370
Sherwood, OR U.S.A. 97140

RICHARD W. ROGERS

Ph. (503) 625-7548 • Fax (503) 625-1667

1st Edition
SOLD OUT!
2nd Printing

THE PEONIES

BY

JOHN C. WISTER, EDITOR

Prepared under his editorship by M. D. Bigger, M. C. Karrels, W. H. Krekler, G. W. Peyton, P.P. Pirone, Silvia Saunders, G. S. Wister, H.E. Wolfe

TYPICAL CHAPTER TREATMENTS INCLUDE:

- **SPECIES**
descriptions by famous authority Col. Frederick Stern
- **HISTORY**
of hybrid varieties
- **DISEASE CONTROL**
and proper plant husbandry
- **TREE PEONIES**
and propagation through grafting of scions to herbaceous root segments
- **LISTING OF VARIETIES**
favored throughout the decades
- **LOCATION**
of peonies in public and private gardens
- **APS HISTORY**
as it nears a 100th anniversary

HARD COVER EDITION

225 Pages

6 1/2" x 9"

Postpaid, just—

\$22.50

PEONY GARDENERS will welcome this classic work just reprinted, "THE PEONIES" by J. C. Wister

THE PEONIES treats every facet of peony culture from flashbacks through a 2,000 year herbaceous and tree peony culture to modern propagation and hybridizing techniques. It also includes hundreds of listings for recommended varieties plus thumbnail descriptions of old standbys—a truly remarkable work highlighting a remarkable flower.

Send your order to:

**AMERICAN
PEONY SOCIETY**

250 Interlachen Road
Hopkins, MN 55343





SONG SPARROW

PERENNIAL FARM

Call or e-mail us
to request a copy
of our 100 page
full color catalog.

Featuring

- Klehm Estate Peonies
- American Hybrid Tree Peonies
- Roy Klehm's New Peony Hybrids
- Newest Hosta Hybrids
- Roy Klehm & Brother Charles' Daylilies

13101 East Rye Road
Avalon, WI 53505 info@songsparrow.com
www.songsparrow.com



Order Toll Free

1-800-553-3715

Email us at sparrow@JVLNET.com

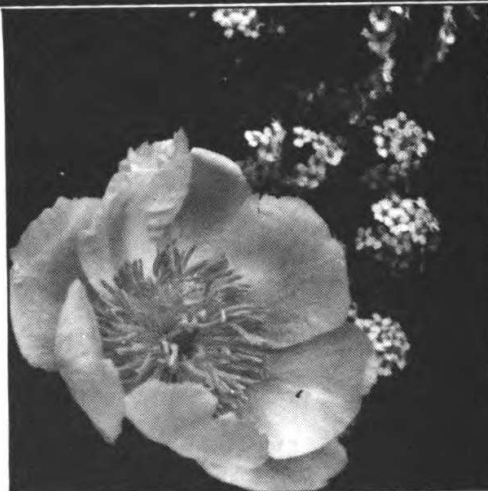
Adelman Peony Gardens

5690 Brooklake Rd NE
PO Box 9193
Salem, OR 97305
503-393-6185

Info@peonyparadise.com
www.peonyparadise.com

Color Catalog on website
Free catalog by mail

Strong, healthy roots supplied.
Over 125 varieties available



PEONIES

SEVALD NURSERY

Dept. 11
4937 3rd Av. So.
Mpls., MN 55409

Color Catalog \$1.00
(Refund with order)

THE NEW PEONY FARM

Superb Quality Herbaceous Peonies

Our Catalog is free upon request.

Box 18235 • St. Paul, Minnesota 55118

Hollingsworth Nursery

Breeder and Propagator of Fine Peonies

Voice (660) 562-3010

FAX (660) 582-8688

e-mail: hpeonies@asde.net

Internet: www.hollingsworthpeonies.com

A New Peony

Harold Entsminger

Richly grown peonies in dark loam soil are such a joy seen in lush foliage strong healthy plants, and beautiful blossoms. Many beautiful peony gardens are now seen throughout the world. You have your own with its many aspects of enjoyment. Plants that you enjoy, enrich your life with their singular beauty.

My son, Lee, and I finished a planting high in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Montana in Sun River Canyon. We planted eight tree peony varieties. Two Rocks varieties among them, and one yellow intersectional variety. I hope they prosper! They are now buried in snow, but we will be able to check on them in June or July 2004.

Germany has recently made some wonderful plantings of select tree peonies. China has huge festivals of their tree peonies in April of each year. Now many peony gardens and nurseries are open to public viewing throughout the U.S. New techniques now allow production of peonies by micro-propagation, notably are High Noon and others.

Much is being done in hybridizing many new peony varieties. In this new ground, many good plants are sure to advance from these efforts in varieties and colors never before seen in tree, intersectional, and herbaceous varieties.

Species peony continue to be used in hybridization with great results especially with Pontanini, many treasures are to be found, have already to be found and seen here.

Intersectionals have become the focus for many new hybridizers. New horizons appear with intersctionals. Producing new varieties from intersectionals, and intersectionals successfully crossed with other intersectionals. Reverse intersectional crosses are being made with the tree peony being the pod parent.

A new cadre of peonies known to cross successfully with others to form intersectional crosses is slowly being catalogued. There is much to be done with such a list.

HERBACEOUS PEONIES & TREE PEONIES

Propagated and grown in Upper Michigan's North Country
Your assurance of quality, hardiness and vigor.

Send \$3.00 for our **color** catalog.

REATH'S NURSERY
N-195 COUNTY RD 577
VULCAN, MICHIGAN 49892
(906) 563-9777

email: reathnur@up.net
reathsnursery.com

PEONIES — HEMEROCALLIS

Send \$3.00 for our 115th Anniversary Catalog.

Over 1,200 varieties to choose from in full color.

Catalog deductible from first catalog order.

Call or write for wholesale listing.

GILBERT H. WILD AND SON, INC.

Sarcoxie, Missouri 64862

Phone (417) 548-3514

Fax (417) 548-6831

APS 9/03

Quality Herbaceous Peonies

Grown in rich Iowa soil. Free list of varieties.

Wholesale only.

A-1 NURSERY

2842 Fremont Ave. • Shenandoah, IA 51601

712 / 534-2595 Fax: 801 / 740-3838

rogerj@iamotelephone.com

TOMORROW'S TREASURES

Gorgeous Tree Peonies
with a Flare

Write for free catalog:

PO Box 434

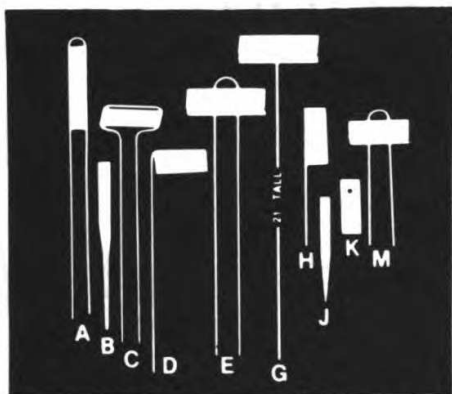
BLACK EAGLE, MT

59414



And Herbaceous

The Permanent Metal Label



A—Hairpin Style Markers	100 / \$30.40
B—Plant or Shrub Labels	100 / \$12.85
C—Cap Style Markers	100 / \$25.25
D—Swinging Style Markers	100 / \$23.45
E—Rose Markers	100 / \$29.35
F—Tall Display Markers	100 / \$36.25
G—Tall Single Staff Markers	100 / \$29.10
H—Flag Style Markers	100 / \$23.50
J—Small Plant Labels	100 / \$12.70
K—Tie-On Labels	100 / \$18.75
M—Miniature Markers	100 / \$23.10

INTRODUCTORY OFFER
 1 EACH: A, B, C, D, E, H, J and K
 With Waterproof Crayon, Only \$4.45

Paw Paw Everlast Label Company

P.O. BOX 93-AP
 PAW PAW, MICHIGAN 49079-0093

QUANTITY PRICES AVAILABLE

PRICES INCLUDE PREPAID POSTAGE

OFFICIAL AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Peony Handbook

**Herbaceous Peonies
 and
 Tree Peony Culture**

COVERING SUCH SUBJECTS AS:

- Peony types
- Peony propagation
- Successful root dividing and grafting
- Proper planting
- How to fertilize
- Disease control
- How to raise exhibition blooms

Price per copy \$5.00

**American Peony Society
 250 Interlachen Rd., Hopkins, MN 55341**

PEONIES 1976 - 1986

Compiled and edited by Greta M.
 Kessenich in cooperation with the
 nomenclature committee of the
 American Peony Society.

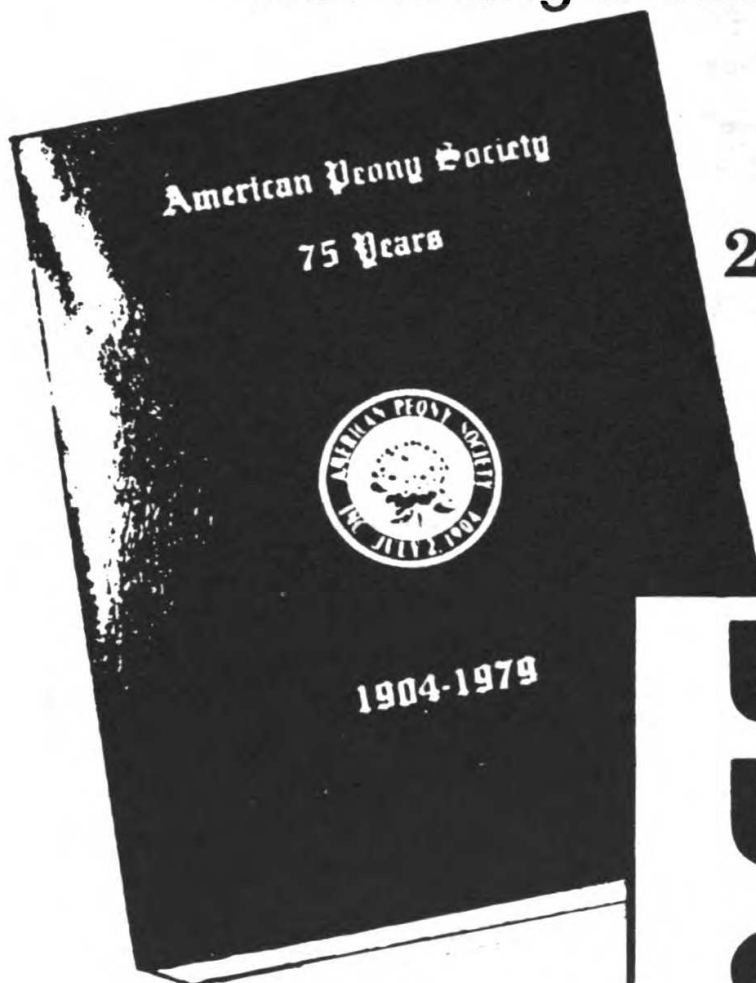
**Second Edition
 10 - Year
 Update**

**Registered Peonies
 and Tree Peonies**

Postpaid \$10

**American Peony Society
 250 Interlachen Road
 Hopkins, MN 55343**

1st Printing a SELL-OUT!



... Now —
2nd Printing

**the
best
of 75
years**

Compiled and edited
by Greta M. Kessenich.
8 1/2x11, 232 pages, and still
priced at just ... \$15.

Where but through the efforts of the APS can you avail yourself of **EVERYTHING** there is to know about **PEONIES** . . . culture, history, exhibitions, ratings, nomenclature and propagation techniques all excerpted from APS **BULLETINS** since 1904! Articles by

such peony "greats" as Saunders, Auten, Peyton, Wister, and Gayle are joined by contemporaries such as Krekler, Wild, Hollingsworth, Lienau, Karrels and scores of others. Get your copy of "The Best Of 75 Years"—there's nothing in the world like it!

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, MN 55343

FIRST EDITION

PEONIES

A HISTORY OF PEONIES AND THEIR ORIGINATIONS

Compiled and edited by Greta M. Kessenich in cooperation with the
nomenclature committee of the American Peony Society

In Three Parts

1. VARIETY CHECKLIST

Based on a list compiled and edited by Mr. & Mrs. Byron Gist, completed in 1956, and kept on file at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio.

2. REGISTERED PEONIES

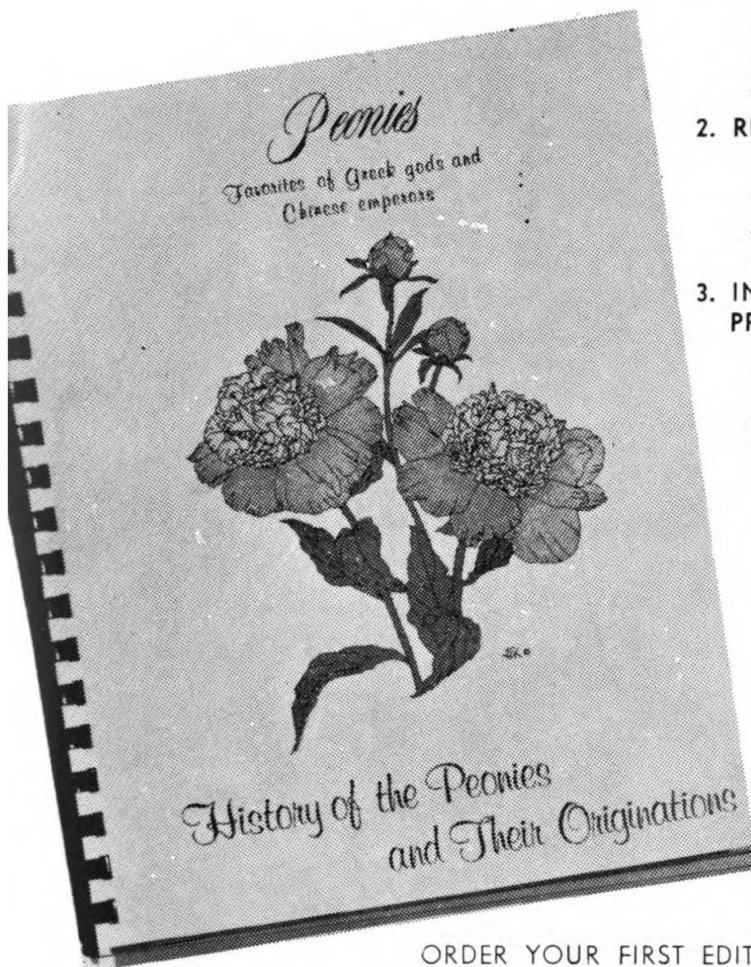
Compiled and edited by Greta M. Kessenich from bulletins of the American Peony Society. All varieties registered with the American Peony Society are listed.

3. INTRODUCERS OF PEONIES AND THEIR PRODUCTIONS

Peony varieties listed by growers and developers with emphasis on information provided by George W. Peyton during the years he was secretary and editor.

5,000 INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

Peony growers who have had to rely on fragmented sources for tracking down peony varieties and their origins can now avail themselves of this magnificent work—a spiral bound, 9x12 inch book which lists and presents a capsule history of all varieties in commerce. It is the result of a monumental research, compilation and editing effort by Greta Kessenich and the nomenclature committee consisting of three American Peony Society past presidents: Roy G. Klehm, Marvin C. Karrels, and Clarence O. Lienau.



ORDER YOUR FIRST EDITION COPY NOW!

You'll enjoy this fine companion to your interest in peonies and will refer to it many times during the course of your peony gardening activity. It bears a beautiful color cover, contains 162 pages and is printed on fine stock. Cover and all artwork contained inside is the work of artist Joseph F. Kuczek.

Price per copy \$20.00



American Peony Society
250 Interlachen Road
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343



Please send me _____ copies of "The History of Peonies and Their Originations" at \$20.00 per copy for which I enclose \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

APS Show at MN Landscape Arboretum, 2003

