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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Bulletin



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SEPTEMBER, 1941

Number 84

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor
Northbrook, Ill.

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AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

SEPTEMBER, 1941

Some Hybrid Peonies

by A. P. SAUNDERS, Clinton, N. Y.

When Mr. Christman asked me to give some account of my work in hybridizing peonies I consented, thinking that I could easily cover all of it in an article that would not be too long for publication. I changed my mind after I had begun to sketch out the material, for I found that there was altogether too much to be compressed into one article, even a very long one.



A. P. SAUNDERS

I have therefore decided to include in the following chapter only those hybrid peonies which have a Chinese peony as one parent and some different species as the other parent.

Here then is a summary and table of contents for the present article, the material being arranged roughly by season:

1. albiflora x macrophylla (tomentosa)
2. " x Wittmanniana
3. " x tenuifolia

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|--|
| 4. | " | x anomala | |
| | | Veitchi | |
| | | Woodwardi | |
| | | Beresowskyi | |
| 5. | x | x Emodi | |
| 6. | " | x arietina | |
| 7. | " | x Cretica | |
| 8. | " | x decora | |
| | | decora alba | |
| 9. | " | x coriacea | |
| 10. | " | x Mlokoewitschi | |
| 11. | " | x paradoxa | |
| 12. | " | x officinalis | |
| | | single crimson | |
| | | double crimson | |
| | | double pink | |
| | | double white | |
| | | single white | |
| | | Lize van Veen | |
| | | Charmer | |
| | | Ceres | |
| | | The Sultan | |
| | | Ophia | |
| | | Sabini | |
| | | Otto Froebel | |
| | | Fire King | |
| | | lobata | |
| | | vermilion form | |
| | | crimson form | |
13. Hybrids of more complicated parentage, i. e.,
 (a) those in which three or more species are combined, and
 (b) those involving back-crosses using the fertile pollen of second generation plants.

1. *Albiflora* x *macrophylla* (*tomentosa*)

This is a cross on which I began to work about 1918 and I have produced in all about 400-500 hybrid plants of this parentage.

Macrophylla is one of the earliest of all peonies; it comes into bloom in my garden usually during the first days of May while the Chinese peonies do not come in until June 5-10. This race of hybrids then gets a strong tendency to earliness from the *macrophylla* parent. They start to bloom about a week after *macrophylla* itself and then come scattering along until about the first of June. They are pleasant enough plants, but the blooms are too uniform in character to make the race a very exciting one. The flowers are almost always white or pale pink, single, and very moderate in size; also the plants are mostly quite dwarf, growing only two to two and a half feet high.

Out of all the seedlings I have had I have propagated only about half a dozen, the most distinctive being the variety to which I have given the name *Chalice*. This bears white flowers 8-10 inches across with a mass of long silky stamens which add greatly to the beauty of the flower. Another good one I have named *Seraphim* (formerly *Seraph*). It is not quite so large as *Chalice* but it is a great bloomer and when at its best it is a striking plant. Another,

called **Seashell*, is a pink single of very good quality. My preference in this race has been for the taller plants, the run of them being rather too dwarf.

Many years ago I made this cross using pollen of *macrophylla* on the Chinese peony *James Kelway*. Out of eight plants so produced three were double or semi-double. I lost one of these in transplanting, but the remaining two I have propagated and named, one of them, a pale pink being called *Audrey* (formerly *Rosalind*) and the other with some yellow in it, along with pink, *Celia*. They are for their season very nice plants, and when well established they yield blooms that are almost fully double.

I have repeated the cross on *James Kelway* a number of times since, hoping to get more doubles, but I have never again had as good success as with the first crossing. However, in a recent group I have had one double that promises to be very good, perhaps the best of the lot.

I would recommend hybridists who want to get doubleness into their hybrid plants, and who are using Chinese peonies for one parent to make use of *James Kelway* or *Lady Alexandra Duff* for I have several examples of the tendency of these two plants to throw doubleness into their hybrid offspring.

The Chinese parent of *Chalice* was *Primevere*, which I have used in a great many crossings, and with much satisfaction.

The cross using *macrophylla* pollen on Chinese peonies is not a difficult one; almost every bloom that is worked on will yield some seeds, provided the variety is itself a good seed-setter.

Most strains of hybrid peonies are sterile during the earlier years of their growth, and this strain follows the usual rule. However, after the plants have attained to full maturity they begin to set an occasional seed. I cannot tell how these seeds have been fertilized. It could be by the pollen of the bloom itself; or it could be by wind-borne pollen either from another plant of the same parentage or from anything else in the garden that was in bloom at the time. However that may be, these hybrids do acquire in time the habit of setting a few seeds, though never very many; and these seeds being viable we get from them plants which are the second generation from the original cross.

In these second generation plants there is a surprising change, for they have regained complete fertility. They have very strong pollen and are regular and fairly abundant seed-setters. Furthermore, the plants themselves are taller than the first generation plants and altogether more finished and with much more style. It would be interesting to raise a large batch of third generation plants, and I am sure they would yield some fine things though the few that I have grown were not conspicuously better than those of the second generation. Limitations of space prevent me from growing such things in the quantity I would like, but anyone who wants to have the fun of growing an authentic strain of hybrid peonies without engaging in the rather exacting business of making his own crosses would, I am sure, be rewarded if he planted some of this second generation seed. Mr. Rex Pearce the seedsman, of Moorestown, New Jersey, now carries this strain of seed of mine, so it is available for anyone who wants it.

Among the hybrids of *albiflora* with *macrophylla* there have appeared a few rather amusing sports. Some are miniatures in every way—with small flowers only two or three inches across, and with very small intensely glistening foliage; these plants are also very dwarf, being only about a foot high. Another curious form which appears occasionally is one in which the petals are strap-shaped, only about half an inch wide, and in which the foliage appears curled and blistered.

*The name *Seashell* will have to be changed, as it is, I learn, already in use.

When the reciprocal cross is made, i.e. with pollen of Chinese peonies used on *macrophylla*, there seems to be a strong tendency to doubleness. This cross takes badly and I have never had more than a few plants from it, but all of them have been double or semi-double. Another peculiarity of this group is their odor. They all smell of spices. Some of my visitors say nutmeg, some cloves, but all agree that the odor is very marked, very agreeable and very spicy. Now since *macrophylla* itself is without a very noticeable odor and the Chinese peonies, whatever odor they may have, do not smell of spices it is rather a problem where these hybrids get their odor from; all the more as the reciprocal strain in which *albiflora* is the seed parent never shows this character; nor do I possess any other peony that carries this odor except *P. Mlokozewitschi* which does indeed come from the same geographical region as *macrophylla* but which is certainly not closely related to that species botanically. I was interested to read recently a description of the white peony from the island of Crete. This plant is to be called *P. Clusii* (T. W. Stearn, in an unpublished article), and in the description the flower is said to possess the odor of cloves!

2. *Albiflora* x *Wittmanniana*.

This is the cross which in the hands of the great Lemoine yielded those charming early peonies *Le Printemps*, *Mai fleuri*, *Avant Garde*, and *Messagere*. The crossings that produced these varieties must have been made about 1890, and apparently from that time until about 1925 no further work was done with these two species.

P. Wittmanniana is a peony that does not do well under my conditions. The plant is I believe not offered for sale anywhere in America, and there must be very little of it in existence over here. I have imported it several times from Europe, and after setting a little bloom for two or three years it has always gradually faded away. Hence in the past twenty-five years I have only rarely had blooms and pollen of it to work with. When the opportunity has occurred I have used it for crosses mostly with the Chinese peonies, and the results are so good that I am sure it would richly repay some more experimentation.

The Lemoine hybrids, excepting *Messagere*, are pink, sometimes with some coffee-color or green mixed in (*Le Printemps*). *Messagere* itself is cream-colored. Now *Wittmanniana* is usually described as yellow, and it is true that the freshly-expanded flowers are rather yellow; but it is no such color as we find in *Mlokozewitschi*. Nevertheless I have found in my crossings with *Wittmanniana* that the progeny occasionally show a strong tendency towards yellow. There is one of quite a deep buff color which would be attractive if the flower were better in form. I have also a pale yellow or at least very creamy white double flower which came from a crossing of *Wittmanniana* using pollen from *Lady A. Duff*. Another seedling which I have named *Green Ivory* contains an interesting combination of creamy white with green in it.

The *Wittmanniana* hybrids show a very considerable variation in their color range and are almost always distinctive. I have several which bear flowers not unlike magnolia blooms, the color being a mixture of brown and pink. Two of these I have thought worthy of names and am calling them *Magnolia* and *Mulan*, the latter being named for the charming Chinese girl in that delightful novel *Moment in Peking*. I believe that *Mulan* in Chinese means *Magnolia*.

I earnestly recommend that some young enthusiast should set about the production of *albiflora* x *Wittmanniana* hybrids in quantity. I don't know where he would get pollen of *Wittmanniana*; but perhaps from me, as I have some young plants which I believe to be true and some of them should be of blooming age by the spring of 1942 or at the latest 1943.

I have had seed under the name *Wittmanniana* from Thompson and Morgan in England, but the seed is not true. However, it yields beautiful and interesting plants which are fertile and could no doubt be crossed with the Chinese peonies. Such crosses should give interesting hybrids for the flowers of this strain of *Wittmanniana*, so-called, have a good deal of yellow in them. My suspicion is that the strain is hybrid in character and it may possibly be *triternata* x *Mlokoewitschi* as these two species intercross very easily and give fertile offspring.

3. *Albiflora* x *tenuifolia*.

I made this cross mainly for the purpose of testing the authenticity of the current variety *Smouthi*. This peony came into commerce about 1845 as a hybrid between *albiflora* and *tenuifolia*; but in our day the plant is commonly offered as a variety of *anomala* or even as that species itself; thus you may see in catalogues sometimes the item "*P. anomala (Smouthi)*". There was the possibility that our plants of *Smouthi* were not the same as the original hybrid but were perhaps actually derived in some way from the species *anomala* and later named *Smouthi* through a confusion of labels. It seemed worth while therefore to repeat the cross and see what came of it. I did this about the year 1928 and have now a few mature hybrid plants. They all have very much the same character as the commercial *Smouthi*, varying a little in color but all possessing the same distinctive and agreeable odor which characterizes *Smouthi* itself. They also, like *Smouthi*, have many lateral buds. Hence I think we may consider it as established that that early fragrant crimson single is truly a hybrid between *albiflora* and *tenuifolia* and should not be referred to *anomala*, with which it has no connection whatever.

4. *Albiflora* x *anomala (Veitchi, Woodwardi, Beresowskyi)*.

It seems that these are only varieties of the species *anomala* itself, but the hybridist has to remember that distinct varieties may give very different results even when botanically they are to be considered as merely forms of the same species.

Crosses between Chinese peonies and any of the above-named group yield hybrids which show violent polycarpy; that is, the carpels (seed-pods) instead of being 3, 4, or 5 as is usual in peonies are multiplied up to 50 or 100—small carpel-like structures, generally with no seeds in them, and the flowers are usually without stamens. This description fits the terminals, but the lateral buds behave more normally and occasionally set seeds, from which I have now a few second generation plants which so far seem to be singularly devoid of interest or abnormality.

I should make it clear that the species *anomala*, of which I speak here, is the true wild plant, and not the hybrid *Smouthi*. There is no true stock of *anomala* in commerce so far as I know. My plants are mostly from seed obtained from the Botanical Garden of Leningrad in Russia. If you are in doubt about your plants of *anomala*, I would say this much: if the flowers are bright crimson and fragrant, and if the plant possesses laterals as well as terminal buds, then it is almost certainly *Smouthi*; but if the flowers are of a rather muddy purple, scentless, and borne one on a stem, then it may be the true *anomala*.

5. *Albiflora* x *Emodi*.

Paeonia Emodi is the Himalayan peony. It occurs only in that region and I understand no other species is found there. The plant is like *anomala* in some of its characters and is probably close to it botanically; but whereas *anomala*

is an unattractive species, *Emodi* is one of the best. It is very tall—from four to four and a half feet high—bears nodding creamy white flowers which have usually only one carpel. It crosses unwillingly with the Chinese peonies. I have from a good many attempts only two or three hybrid plants. These give flowers which sometimes show polycarpy, only the abortive carpels in this case are bright green. This makes a rather curious looking flower not without beauty—a rather large single white with a conspicuous green center and no stamens. I have a few seeds gathered from the lateral blooms, but it is too soon to say anything about second generation plants yet.

6. *Albiflora x arietina*.

Arietina belongs to the South European group of peony species, and among these the lines of demarcation are very difficult to draw. The species being therefore difficult to identify I have not used them much in my crossings. I offer no guarantee that my *arietina* is true. Whatever it is, it crosses with the Chinese peonies without too much difficulty and gives hybrids which have flowers in various shades of mauvish pink, most of them with an agreeable and distinctive odor not at all like that of the fragrant Chinese peonies.

I doubt that this line of crossing is worth continuing. I have never had anything from it that seemed good enough to propagate or of any special interest; though it is only fair to say that the number of hybrids I have raised is quite small.

7. *Albiflora x Cretica*.

The plants I have under the name *Cretica* flower very early and have blooms of a pretty, very light pink. My plants are not identical with that other species which has been called *Cretica* but which is now to be known as *Clusii* and which has white flowers. My *Cretica* is probably a form of *arietina*. Anyway it crosses with the Chinese peonies and has given me a very few hybrid plants possessing pink flowers, a very tall stature, and not much else to recommend them.

8. *Albiflora x decora*, and *decora alba*.

I have several plants under the name *decora*. The best of them is a tallish plant which bears flowers of a deep blood-red color. This crosses with the Chinese peonies and gives hybrids which bear flowers in shades of red. One of them is a flower of a very intense dark purple maroon, one of the darkest peonies I know. There is an indication here that it might be worth while to do some more work on this cross.

I am not sure that my plants of *decora alba* are correctly named but I hope they are. They cross fairly well with the Chinese peonies and give a race of hybrids of great beauty. They are singles and are almost uniform in color—white, with a flush of peach pink towards the base of the petals. The petals have great substance. Some of the plants are rather dwarf but the others are tall, vigorous and conspicuously handsome. I have had just one plant of this strain which shows signs of doubling.

I do not seem ever to have made this cross using deeper colored Chinese peonies as female parents. It might be possible to get some pink or red hybrids by that means, and if they were produced they would probably be worth the labor.

9. *Albiflora x coriacea*.

The species *coriacea* inhabits the Spanish peninsula and occurs also in the mountains of Morocco. The plant is, I think, not in commerce, and I doubt that authentic seeds can be had from any commercial source. I got some pollen in 1928 from a plant at the Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Canada, and with it made some crosses on *albiflora* varieties. The flowers of *coriacea* are not especially attractive, being of a rather purplish red color. It was therefore quite

surprising to find that the hybrids all have lilac-colored flowers, and I mean a real lavender lilac color. Some of them are better than others and the best are really beautiful, especially as the flowers age and become lighter in tone.

This cross should be made on the variety *James Kelway* in the hope of producing doubles or semi-doubles for with this unusual coloring they would probably be very beautiful things. I would have made this cross long since but have not had pollen available. I have twice grown seedlings from seed gathered on the Ottawa plant, but all of the seedlings that have hitherto bloomed have had sterile pollen. The reason for this is certainly a mystery.

10. *Albiflora* x *Mlokoewitschi*

I mention this cross not because I have any plants derived from it but because it forms an interesting chapter in the history of peony hybridizing. Years ago I worked quite hard on it, but as I never got anything I eventually gave it up. The desirability of producing plants of this hybrid parentage is obvious. *P. Mlokoewitschi* is the only really yellow herbaceous peony. If hybrids could be produced between it and the Chinese peonies we might by that means come into the possession of a strain of yellow peonies in the herbaceous section as striking as we now have from *P. lutea* in the shrubby section.

At about the time when I was abandoning the cross as impossible, Dr. Earle B. White of Washington took it up with the determination to get the cross to take if it was possible to do so. I do not know how many thousands of times he repeated the cross, but it seemed at last that the immovable obstacle yielded to the irresistible force, for last year he was able to show to the members of the American Peony Society a bloom or two from his first hybrid plant; and the flowers are yellow. What Dr. White may have in store for us from his other hybrid plants of the same breeding, only time will show.

11. *Albiflora* x *paradoxa*.

I do not know whether my plant of *paradoxa* is true to name, but the few plants I have had by crossing it with Chinese peonies do not offer any great inducement to go on with the cross. It seems to produce purple-flowered offspring of no great charm. Still, someone else, with probably a different *paradoxa*, might have better luck.

12. *Albiflora* x *officinalis*

I have no plant of the wild *P. officinalis* that I can be sure is true. All the forms of the species that I have used, and they are many, are the garden varieties, with the exception of one; this is a single of my own raising. My records on it are incomplete and I cannot be sure of its parentage, but it is obviously a form of *officinalis* and it bears good-sized flowers of a deep blood crimson. I began to use it for crossing nearly 25 years ago, and with good success. It is the father of all those varieties which are now brought together under the name "Challenger Strain". This includes the named varieties *Challenger*, *Defender*, *Buccaneer*, *Liberator* (formerly called *Commander*), *Man of War*, and *Erebus*. Of these *Challenger*, *Defender* and *Liberator*, three of the best in the group, are all children of *Primevere*.

There is such a bewildering variety of hybrids between *albiflora* and the forms of *officinalis* that one hardly knows where to begin with them. It seems that each separate variety of *officinalis* imparts peculiar characters to its offspring. Thus the *Challenger* group is quite different from that in which the *officinalis* parent was the variety *Sabini*, and these in turn are quite distinct from that large and important group derived from *lobata* or *lobata Sunbeam*. *Lobata* itself is a variable plant. I have several times raised batches of seedlings

of *lobata*, and they do not come at all uniform in color. The plants that I have done most work with came from Amos Perry in England and are said to have been found wild somewhere near Smyrna in Asia Minor. They are very nearly or quite identical with the plant which is in commerce under the name *Sunbeam*. This plant is not very well known in America, but in England it is much grown. Its rather small flowers are of a clear vermilion color and it blooms quite late for an *officinalis* variety. It has one peculiarity which should endear it to the heart of the hybridist. That is that its pollen takes on the Chinese peonies with incredible freedom. It is no uncommon experience to get ten or twenty seeds out of a single pod. When I made my first crosses using *lobata* pollen I was determined, if possible, to get a good number of seeds to start off the new strain. I had already made many crosses with other forms of *officinalis* on to the Chinese peonies and they had always taken rather poorly; so I assumed that *lobata*, being, as I believe, a form of *officinalis*, would do likewise and that in order to get a reasonable amount of hybrid seed in the autumn I must make a campaign. Which I did. The result was that in September I gathered about 3000 cross-bred seeds, which yielded me later something like 1200 hybrid plants. I am inclined to think that this strain is the most important that has yet come out of the labors of peony hybridists. Mr. Glasscock has worked on it for years and I understand that many of his finest things are of this parentage.

It seems to make a lot of difference what form of *lobata* one has to work with. The plants from Amos Perry gave progeny the flowers of which vary from a pale salmon pink to crimson, but mostly in salmon, cherry and coral pink—a most lovely range of colors. But I have also a crimson form of *lobata* and when I used that on the Chinese peonies I got a group of plants which are all crimsons, varying in depth of color, but without one pink in the whole group.

These *lobata* hybrids are mostly singles but I have a number of semi-doubles, and a few that are fully double; and I imagine that the other breeders who have worked on this cross will have had similar results.

The impressive beauty of the hybrids of the *Challenger* strain suggested that one might get something interesting by crossing a single white *officinalis* with the *albifloras*. I had in my imagination a race of tall whites analogous to the *Challenger* strain which might come out of such a cross. I got a single white *officinalis* from Barr and Sons in London and proceeded to use its pollen on the Chinese peonies. I got a fair number of hybrid seeds the plants from which began to bloom a couple of years ago. To my surprise there have been no single whites among them. The color is almost uniform throughout the group—a pale pinkish lavender. All that have yet bloomed are single. The flowers are very large but so far the plants have nothing like the vigor and stature of the *Challenger* group. I think I was hostile to their color at first from my disappointment in getting no whites, but I have gradually come to think better of them and I now hope that there may be a few worthy of propagation.

A group that has greatly interested me is that derived from the variety *Otto Froebel* when crossed with the Chinese peonies. My original plant of *Otto Froebel* came from Barr in England many years ago. It bears flowers of a rosy salmon color and seems to be identical with what Barr now offers as *Officinalis Charmer*, whereas plants of *Otto Froebel* that have come from Barr in more recent years have flowers of a deeper shade than the old *Otto Froebel*. However that may be the cross between my *Otto Froebel* and the Chinese peonies has yielded many fine things, and they are especially good in the exhibition hall. The colors seem to lend themselves to artificial lighting. I always have the

impression that the *Otto Froebel* hybrids look better in a show than they do in the garden whereas with the *lobata* hybrids the reverse is true. Among the best of my *Otto Froebel* hybrids I would name *Birthday*, *Victoria Lincoln* (formerly *Victoria*), *Amity*, *Hope*, *Mercy* (formerly *Patience*). (These changes in the names of some of my varieties have been made to avoid confusion with older names on other varieties; and since mine have already been disseminated it seems necessary in speaking of them to give both names.)

I do not know whether anyone else has worked with *Otto Froebel*. I doubt that other breeders possess that variety identical with mine. Those who have the darker type would quite surely get a different set of hybrids from it, and perhaps even better than those in my garden.

I do not think there is any object in considering here all the many hybrids that I have obtained from the different forms of *officinalis*. Fine things have come from *rubra plena*, *rosea plena*, *Sabini*, *Lize van Veen*, and in fact from all of those named in the beginning of this article, and the hybridist may be quite sure that whatever forms of *officinalis* he may have available they will all give interesting and beautiful things when crossed with the *albiflora* varieties.

13. Hybrids of more complicated parentage, i.e.,

- (a) those in which three or more species are combined, and
- (b) those involving back-crosses, using the fertile pollen of second-generation plants.

We come now to a group of hybrids many of which are still in the very early stages of their growth, and yet containing such interesting possibilities that I would like to speak of them here. These are the multiple hybrids, i.e., those in which three or more species are combined in the resulting plant.

One race of these is already well established and has yielded several fine things. Its history is as follows: the species *macrophylla* crosses rather easily with the forms of *officinalis*, and gives hybrids which are fertile even in the first generation. With their pollen we may fertilize *albiflora* varieties, and thus we get a strain of hybrids in which *albiflora*, *officinalis* and *macrophylla* are combined. It is an interesting and very varied group of plants. The best things that have come out of it so far are a variety which I have called *Burgundy*, with flowers of a blackish purple tone and possessing a good deal of style, and another which has as yet only a number (No. 8497) and which is a very upstanding white.

The union of these three species has also been brought about in the following way: I have said that the crosses between *albiflora* and *macrophylla* which are almost completely sterile, though not quite, do occasionally set seeds and that these seeds give second generation plants which are fertile. Such a second generation plant may be used for crossing with forms of *officinalis*, and the resulting plants will again represent a union of *albiflora*, *officinalis* and *macrophylla*. My variety named *Pageant* was produced by that mode of procedure.

Another group of multiple hybrids was produced in this way: *P. macrophylla* crosses though not too easily, with *Mlokošewitschi*. The hybrids bear yellow flowers, are extremely early, and their pollen is good. It is rather surprising to find strong pollen here for the two plants do not seem to be related botanically, and their chromosome numbers are different, *Mlokošewitschi* being diploid while *macrophylla* is tetraploid. These fertile yellow-flowered hybrids should be widely used on other species as they are likely to give some novel forms. I believe Dr. White has some such experiments under way. I have made some crosses with this pollen on *albiflora* varieties and have now out of a small group that have already flowered, two which are distinctly yellow. Here again the variety

James Kelway should be brought into the picture for the chance of getting some offspring with double yellow flowers. These hybrids are a union of *albiflora*, *macrophylla*, and *Mlokoewitschi*. In them the objections which *Mlokoewitschi* shows to crossing with *albiflora* have been overcome by what might be called diplomacy.

A group in which one more complication is added, is the following: The fertile hybrid of *macrophylla* and *Mlokoewitschi* was crossed with several different forms of *officinalis*. The cross takes fairly well and produces fertile plants. Pollen from these was then used on *albiflora* varieties. The resulting hybrids represent a combination of *albiflora*, *officinalis*, *macrophylla* and *Mlokoewitschi*. The various crosses used here all take fairly well and I have now several large groups of young plants of this complicated parentage; but it will still be two or more years before any of them come to blooming age.

Another group worth mentioning in that involving hybrids between *Mlokoewitschi* and *tenuifolia*. These two species cross rather easily and give sterile hybrids; these, following the usual rule, give in time a few seeds, and from these, second generation plants are produced which show restored fertility; hence their pollen may be used on anything you please. I have now a number of plants in which *albiflora*, *Mlokoewitschi* and *tenuifolia* are combined. They are still too young to bloom but it will be interesting to see what they produce when they come to blooming age.

A different line of attack is that in which fertile second generation plants, for example of *albiflora* x *macrophylla*, are used to breed back again on to one of the ancestral lines. Where the first generation hybrid gives pollen of some vitality the back-cross may be from it. Thus the variety which I now call *Garden Peace* is the result of using pollen of *Chalice* (*albiflora* x *macrophylla*) on an *albiflora* variety.

This story could be continued almost indefinitely, but I have the feeling that I have already said perhaps too much. The multiple hybrids are the things that now interest me most because they seem to contain the possibility of new breaks. I hope they will justify my faith in them.

In the earlier years of this adventure it looked as if there might be a time when it would come to a natural ending. When each species had been crossed with every other species and the progeny of all the successful crossings brought to maturity, that would be the completion of the survey of the genus and a rounding-off of the study. But long before this is completed we find on our hands some fertile hybrids of the first generation and many more second generation hybrids of restored fertility; and with every one of these there is a new beginning to be made and a vast new series of crosses to be initiated; so that instead of narrowing in as we get farther along, the field continually widens out, and what has been done is only a beginning. The breeding of successive generations of peonies is a work involving such a long series of years that the continuation of the story must be left to younger hands. I have indicated some of the lines that seem to me to offer the greatest prospect of success and interest.

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Some Outstanding Peonies in 1941

GEORGE W. PEYTON Rapidan, Virginia.

After a fall of ample rain peonies entered the winter in as good condition as they have done for many years. Promise of a glorious blooming season in 1941 was the best for a long time. But while the winter months were not cold, just about normal, yet they were almost rainless and the months of March, April and May even more so. This fact coupled with periods of intense heat in April and May and violent onslaughts of thrips the last half of May made conditions more unfavorable than they have been for a long time. However, while there were many bad disappointments, as usual the peony showed its ability to withstand adverse conditions and there were many fine flowers.

As a general thing young plants gave no good bloom. Only the three year olds made at all representative flowers. Most of them were somewhat undersized. Reds were almost invariably much off color, only a few having the ability to keep their color. The season lasted longer than usual. It opened about ten days ahead of last year and ended a few days later. The first blooms were rather longlived and the last very fleeting. Very few varieties failed to open a few flowers, but the majority of the flowers on the lates did not open.

The tree peonies and hybrids opened the season the last week in April for me. They were not good as a rule. *Buccaneer* and *Black Warrior* were the best, both dark and red singles of almost the same shade. *Helen* was the first albiflora variety to open on May 5. It was quickly followed by the entire procession of singles. The best white single was undoubtedly *Pico*. It showed up everywhere on top and won the best white single at Syracuse and its place in the Court of Honor. *White Perfection* was also a very fine flower there.

Angelus was the Court of Honor choice for best pink. It seems to me that it really belongs to the blush pinks or whites. But it fully deserved its place. While *Pride of Langport* still holds its own, *Sea Shell* is one of the best singles I grow. It has good stems, is tall and fully clothed and very floriferous. *Josette* is a light pink or blush that few can equal in every way. A variety under number, *Higgins No. 6*, is an immense blush white that is truly spectacular in the garden. *President Lincoln* was the best red in my garden. Its large ruffled flowers of a dull dark red were sensational. At Syracuse, of course, all red singles had been kept in storage for a long time. Storage does not improve their colors. They all looked much alike to me and were of a dull, nondescript red. But certainly *Arcturus* and *Man o' War*, are outstanding and the flower of *Kankakee* that won best red single, and a place in the Court of Honor, was an excellent example of a good red. In the garden *Flanders Fields* was by far the most brilliant this year. With one exception, to be mentioned later, it held its color better than any other red. *Imperial Red*, was, as usual, about the largest thing in the garden, but it was not its usual brilliant self. *Captain J.*, very similar in coloring, was literally covered with its well shaped blooms. In a rather medium pink, *Cinderella* was the outstanding flower. Almost a brilliant scarlet the early flowering *Fire King* was not to be passed lightly by.

Having seen most of the new white Japs either in the garden or the show room, I may say that not yet has *Isami-jishi* (*Isani Gidui*) lost its place in my estimation as the loveliest peony that grows. *Moon of Nippon*, when had on more mature plants, may come near it, and *Roberta* has qualities that make it a near competitor. One of the most cherished memories of my trip was the sight of a mature plant of *Shaylor's Sunburst*, standing head and shoulders above its

neighbors and bearing proudly aloft a dozen or two of its glorious flowers, which open flushed with pink and quickly fade white. I place this one next to *Isami-jishi*. *Margaret Atwood* with a slight pink tint and *Toro-no-maki* are flowers of great beauty and worth. A flower from the above mentioned plant of *Shaylor's Sunburst* was the Court of Honor winner for white and blush Japs. *Jan van Leeuwen* is a white Jap that is a late *Isami* and *Hakodate* and *White Lady* are two whites with colored carpels that leave little to be desired for perfection.

There are three new pink Japs that look very promising. They are all good growers and beautiful flowers. They are *Ecstasy* (Newhouse), *Solo Flight* and *Rose Valley*. It has not been my pleasure to see any of Mr. Auten's new pink Japs. It is hoped he will have them in fine form at Topeka next year. *Fujizome-gorono* was the winner as best pink for the Court of Honor at Syracuse and justly so. Few varieties are more beautiful though it does not have as good a plant habit as some others. It was formerly sold both as *Amanosode* and *Tamate-Boku*. There are a number of pink Japs that bear flowers of great beauty and each of which has some difference of form or tint that makes it worthwhile. Some of them are *Oriental Pearl*, *Yamagoochi*, *Osaka*, *Mary May*, *Mary Moy*, *Calypso*, *Shavano*, and *Silver Plume*.

We have myriads of red Japs, each slightly different from the others, but some so slightly that few can distinguish between them, though they are not quite as bad as the red singles in that respect. Mrs. Wilder Bancroft had the distinction of being chosen the best of the lot for the Court of Honor in competition with some fifteen other reds. It well deserved the honor. It is dark red, medium sized flower of a deep madder color. No visitor to the garden of Mr. Little could come away without a distinct memory of two very brilliant spots of color in it, one formed by a row of *Nippon Brilliant* and the other by *Sword Dance*. These two varieties in their shining red garments so flashingly ornamented with large yellow centers are certainly among the finest garden flowers we have. *Nippon Beauty* is the quiet, dignified member of the reds and *Charm* the darkest. *Hari-ai-nin* is, in slightly darker red, a serious rival of *Brilliant* and *Sword Dance* for efficiency in spot lighting, and *Onahama* is not far behind.

There are several very beautiful peonies in my garden that are not really singles nor are they full doubles that make garden subjects unsurpassed for charm and beauty. To illustrate, we all know *Silvia Saunders* as among the most charming flower we have. *Minnie Shaylor* is along the same line. And so here belongs a pure white from the garden of Mr. Herbert Chase of Andover, Massachusetts. It has five or more rows of pure white petals flattened out and a large center of brilliant yellow stamens. Its name, *M. Leslie Chase*. It flowers quite late in the season here. Equally beautiful and of identical build, but with a distinctive flush at first, is Mr. Kelsey's *Rare China*. This flower has more than once served to bring back hope for a season that looked doomed. It is early. In a shade of pink, almost the same as *Silvia Saunders*, but with different colored carpels and foliage entirely distinct, is Mr. Andrews' *Flamingo*. In reds the nearest approach I know to this type is Mr. Brand's new one which he lists as a single, but it looks to me to be really a semi-double. On a small plant it had rather small flowers, but they were of an intense shade of red which rivals *Flanders Fields* in brilliancy and is equally long lasting without fading. Here also may belong Mr. Brand's *Fireball*, which this year, on a very small plant, looked to be the nearest approach that has been made to a scarlet in *albiflora* peonies. It was almost the exact shade of *Fire King* mentioned above. If I were a young man, with my life still before me, I think I should be tempted to try for a scarlet full double, with *Fireball* as one of the parents. It could be either male or female.

It has always seemed slightly strange to me that the color which we associate with the most contemptible of human qualities, cowardice, should be the most eagerly sought for in all flowers. Hybridizers have been busy for long years trying to get better yellow roses, irises and to produce a yellow peony under almost insurmountable difficulties, has been the aim of many a peony enthusiast. Dr. White has at last accomplished the seemingly impossible and now has, as we have heard before, a true yellow hybrid from that unpronounceable Russian, (Mlokošewitschi) which we hope to see when it can be shown. But we all have quite a thrill when we find a peony that has a decided yellow glow that covers the entire flower, even though it may be fleeting. There were two such in my garden this year. Both of these flowers are, of course, really white, both have the same symmetrical rose like formation, but are quite distinct in growth and time of flowering. One is Col Nicholls' *Thura Hires* and the other Rosefield's *Moonglow*. Just as the full moon always casts its sentimental spell on even the most hardened of us all, so these flowers of enchanted moonlight arouse feelings of silent ecstasy in all who behold them. But like all such things, time works its change, and the moonlight gives way to glorious day and so white gradually overspreads the yellow glow, leaving flowers of a purity and perfection that few can equal.

As I have said before there were not many red peonies that were not badly off color in my garden and I noticed few elsewhere that call for any extended comment. However in Mr. Little's garden, none entered who did not exclaim over the immense balls of red of his own seedling *Ziba*. This is a full double, very tall and strong stemmed and on smaller plants made much the same display in my own garden.

Tempest and *Carolynae Mae Nelson* vied with each other for top honors and *Carolynae* won for best red in the show and the place in the Court of Honor.

Dark pinks do not usually come in for a large share of honors at our shows, but this year an immense, perfectly formed bloom of *Blanche King* was first for best dark pink for the Court of Honor and far more was rightly judged the Best Flower in The Show, with no criticism of the choice.

It was a real treat to see so many fine examples of *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* in evidence, though that was to be expected as the Show was held in its native heath. Those who were privileged to see it in either Col. Nicholls' garden or that of Mr. Little know that it lacks little to make it a flower that has few faults. Its stem, when grown in the open with no crowding, is just as good as that of the great majority of the Class A peonies of today. If you plant this variety and give it plenty of room and let it alone in a few years, it will be found a candidate for Best Flower in the Show and will have a big chance of winning the election. It was a great source of satisfaction to me to see my namesake in such good condition in Col. Nicholls' garden and in his exhibits, especially on the last two days of the show. A number were heard to remark the second day that it was the most beautiful flower in the show. His new white, *Mary E. Nicholls* was likewise shown in good form and the Colonel thinks it may yet prove his best. In the light pink classes *Florence Nicholls* also made an excellent record. It is a very large flower with an immense center that overshadows almost completely the large rounded guard petals. It was one of the best in my own garden. His new Japs also were very fine and a large container of his white *Jap. No. 251* called *Sunmist* now, which name I suppose will stick, was a prominent landmark in his booth. If some of these flowers had been entered in the New Variety Class No. 58 and for the American Home Achievement there would probably have been a few more medals distributed.

The winner of the Best Light Pink and the runner up for the best flower in the Show was *Ella Lewis*. All who saw it were struck with its fine form and beautiful coloring. This is another of the very scarce ones that are so hard to obtain.

Another light pink that was shown in superb condition was *Lottie Dawson Rea*. This flower could also easily have been a sharp contestant for the Achievement Medal. In my own garden there were several light pinks that were especially good. For a number of years I have grown *Frank Wade*, one of Mr. Gumm's fine ones. It had never shown any especial merit until this year when it came to the front as one of the most finished and beautiful flowers I had. For long years I had lost track of another that formerly was one of the finest. This year in a neglected corner of my old garden I saw blooming a grand pink, and on investigating found it to be *Lucy Dunn*, my old favorite. *Hans P. Sass* showed me its true colors this year for the first time and I no longer wonder why Mr. Sass named it for himself. In passing I may say that wherever I saw it, it was good and it has foliage of a distinctive yellowish green that identifies it everywhere. *Walter Lindgren* also gave me excellent flowers and it fully deserves the high opinion held of it. Again we run into a scarce one.

Winning Best Blush and so a member of the Court of Honor, was Mr. Little's origination, *Mrs. Harry F. Little*. This was no surprise to me, for those of us who have the honor to have this flower in our collection know that there is not a finer or more dependable peony grown in its class. It has done well everywhere it has been grown, and if I mistake not will duplicate the career of *Nick Shaylor*, which, as we all now know, won the Gold Medal at Syracuse, not because it was entered in any class for it, but because it was known to be an outstanding flower wherever grown and deserved that recognition of its merits. There was not a single dissenting voice in its award. Tall, graceful and delightful is another blush peony that does well everywhere and is a splendid garden variety—*Nancy Nicholls*. We were again privileged to see *Oliver F. Brand*. There is no peony that has better stems or larger buds. It is extremely scarce. It often makes flowers of perfect form and great beauty.

I have a very good friend in Chicago who has the reputation of having one of the finest peony collections in this country. Therefore I was much pleased when I learned that Mr. Brand had named one of his seedlings which he had sent me under number 33-83 for him. This peony, *R. A. Napier*, is another of those blush flowers with inimitable charm and exquisite coloring that makes them irresistible in appeal. Some fifteen years or more ago Prof. Saunders went to France and wrote an account of his trip in the Bulletin. Among other fine things he saw he mentioned a certain peony under number in M. Dessert's garden, saying that it was considered a *Tourangelle* brought to perfection. As I had cherished the belief that only *Solange* could be a rival to *Tourangelle* in beauty of coloring, I kept a close watch on this peony and asked after it every year until it was finally introduced under the name *Odile* in 1928. I immediately made myself poor by buying ten of them. The first year only one plant bloomed, because I had cut those ten into twenty-two, but it showed me that it had merit. The following year a number had fair blooms on it, and the third year I was away from home, but my wife told me it equalled *Kelway's Glorious* in beauty. For some two or three years longer it kept up its reputation, but then a slump came and for years I was afraid it would never come back. I had placed it in a number of gardens and reports said it was a pretty flower but nothing to rave about and Otis said it was nothing but a high hat. But in 1938 and again in 1939 it was probably as fine a flower as he had in his garden, fully equalling those I had seen in my own garden in former years. This year it came back for me to its first beauty, and likewise in Mr. Bongers' garden,

so I am convinced that I was not entirely wrong in my first judgment of the flower.

Winning Best White, and so a member of the Court of Honor, was that grand flower of so capricious a disposition, *Le Cygne*. I am always pleased when some of the oldsters win high honors. I have grown *Le Cygne* for twenty years. Each year I have hoped that I would have one as perfect and as large as those I had seen elsewhere, but my hopes never were realized until this year when every bud on every plant opened perfectly. To say that I was delighted is putting it mildly. Will I live to see it happen again? I hope so. It would be just as remarkable if *Kelway's Glorious* should once fail me. So far it never has and I hope it never will. Possibly the finest bloom in my garden this year was *Florence Bond*. It has much the same habit as *Florence Nicholls* but is pure white and high built in a rather different fashion. It was one of the best in Mr. Little's garden, and so of course at the show. In both my own garden and that of Mr. Little, *Jane Addams* won my fancy as a demure, a dainty flower of perfect form in creamy white.

I always watch with a great deal of interest and not a little anxiety the last flowers to bloom. So often they fail with me mainly because heat usually gets intense and thrips very plentiful by the end of the season so it is always to me a reason why any variety should be marked up many points in the scale if it defies all such enemies and opens perfectly. This year there were many that failed but few that came through with flying colors. Three of these were *Dorothy J.*, *Marilla Beauty* and *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*. All know the beauty and worth of these who have seen them, and it is a source of great satisfaction that they may also be placed in the number of always dependable ones. *James Pillow* must not be left out of that category for it also opened all of its flowers without a failure. A peony whose name seems to me to be just a little misleading, *Coral Queen*, was especially fine in the two gardens most frequently mentioned here. To me it is a blush flower and while the pink tint may be coral, yet the name would always imply a flower of rich glowing color, but this one is not brilliant, but delicately tinted and very fine.

It is always a joy to me to look at a plant of *Elsa Sass*. It may not be as tall and stately as some, but it has a quality of cleanliness that always reminds me of a well groomed woman. Its buds are also models of perfection and the flowers are beauty unveiled.

Tucked away in a corner among the Amateur exhibits at Lansing was a flower that was the sole representative of Canada there and that seemed to me to have fine possibilities. I had never heard of it before and I mentioned it in my article in the Bulletin. This won for me a root of it for my garden, the first to leave the garden of its originator, Mrs. Evelyn Lossing and the flower was named for her daughter *Louise Lossing*. In 1939 it proved to be one of the sensations of the Guelph show being a very large high built flower almost as deep as it is wide. The two year old plant bloomed for me this year and it fully met my expectations. If I am not far wrong in my judgment, future years will see this one rank high and win its share of honors.

During the prevalence of our ninety-five plus temperatures in the latter days of May, I received four packages of peonies from the Mid West. All of them were enroute for about forty hours. Two of them contained mostly hybrids. Those cut in tight bud opened well, but those wider open were almost a total loss. One of them had three buds of *albiflora* seedlings which were so badly dried up that only the color could be seen. The fourth package had some eight or ten open flowers of a peony I had been quite anxious to see—*Rosanna Shrader*. About half an hour after they had been placed in water and a dark place, they fully regained their freshness and kept in good condition so long that they were used for

decoration at the Class Day exercises of our High School on Friday, the day after they came, again on Sunday morning for Church, and to top it all for the High School commencement on Monday night, then taken home by a lady and how much longer they lasted I do not know. The flower is a beautiful shade, or shades of pastel pink. It looks to me as if it might prove to be a fine garden subject as well as an excellent cut flower. It certainly has powers of endurance.

It was a delight to me to see the hybrid peonies in such abundance and such perfection at the show. Few flowers were more beautiful than *Marta*. Few more brilliant than *Alexander Woollcott*, *Golden Glow*, *Eros*, *Flame*, *Sunbright*, *Sophie*, *Legion of Honor*, *Ellen Cowley* all sounded new notes of color so much to be desired. May their race increase until we have full doubles that can match the *albiflora* varieties in perfect form as well as exceed them in brilliance of color.

Prof. Saunders also brought a number of fine tree peonies all hybrids of *lutea*. *Banquet*, a yellow suffused strawberry, was awarded the high honors and another was very striking, a perfect rose of dark crimson, afterwards named *Reward*.

In the seedling classes many new ones were shown, but they were only in rare instances in good condition, and so the Committee could only pick out what seemed to be the most promising and give them Honorable Mention. The only named variety in the *albiflora* section to win this was Mr. Kelsey's, *The Fleece*, a fine white of good form. We were disappointed that we did not see his fine flowers in good condition. He brought about seventy different ones with him but owing to the fact that they did not come through in show condition they were only to be seen on his work table; but we very confidently expect that some like *Laura Kelsey*, *To Kalon*, *Grace Kelsey*, *Grace Gedge*, *Noel*, *Reunion* (which he tells me was his finest this year), *Charlene*, and many more will rank very high. Small blooms on small plants in my garden gave promise of many good things in the future. None of Mr. R. H. Jones were shown. They were all there but were frozen in storage and had to be thrown on the dump heap. We know that *Conquistador*, *Ethereal*, *Mellow Moon*, *Keren* and others will push their way to the top. *Rapture* and *Arthur H. Fewkes* were also present but not shown in good condition.

Mr. John Waldmann brought a lot of his seedlings but I failed to locate them when I went to make my notes on the show. Mr. Reineke had a number unnamed, though his two named ones *Myrtle Reineke* and *Mrs. R. T. Whittaker* were well shown in Class No. 2. His seedlings all seem to me to possess stems of the best, colors refined and beautiful and quality few have. We shall watch them with much interest. Mr. Glassock had a large number of hybrids there. Two of them won Court of Honor awards one *Rose Marie* in the double hybrid class, and one under number in the red single class. He likewise won Honorable Mention for several under number. They have been mentioned elsewhere.

Now I shall end this account of what I thought were worthy of special mention. No doubt many will occur to me after I send this in that I should have mentioned but the account is already too long. I hope that I shall be privileged to make a similar report on the Topeka show next year, but now it is only a hope and will probably end only one.



Calgary Peony Show

I have received a brief report of the Calgary (Canada) Peony Show held there this spring from Mr. A. Murdoch, 904 Blvd., N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Mr. Murdoch is one of the real peony enthusiasts that are to be found in that part of the country and we will hear more from him in the future. He has been doing a fine piece of work in promoting these shows and seeing that they are well attended.

They had a beautiful Peony Queen in the person of Miss Doris Brown, I would like to have a cut made but the mat sent me was entirely too large for the bulletin page and so I could not use it. Mr. Murdoch sent me the newspaper account of this show but in some manner it has been mislaid and I am unable to give definite dates of the exhibition but think it was held early in July, possibly the 5th.

I have permission to quote from Mr. Murdoch's letter as follows:

"I am forwarding you under other cover a copy of the Calgary Herald giving an account of our Peony Show, also a printer's copy of the picture on the front page.

"I noticed in your June-September 1939 Bulletin that they had a Peony Queen at the Guelph show, so I borrowed the idea, believing that if they fell for a Queen in the East we could fall doubly hard for one in the West. Accordingly we nominated three candidates; one to represent the Army, one the Navy and one the Air Force. The Army tickets were red, the Navy white and the Air Force blue. The sale of the tickets was under the auspices of the Independent Order Daughters of the Empire; and did they go after the troops. Before the tickets were half sold the campaign had developed into a regular blitzkrieg and we ended up by electing the Army candidate and putting \$980.00 in the till, half of which went to war work.

"The crowning ceremony took place at eight o'clock in the evening and was performed by Col. Jull, Commandant of Mewata Barracks. A Guard of Honor was provided by men representing the three branches of the service. The two defeated candidates acted as Ladies in Waiting to the Queen.

The procession entered the Show Room to the strains of "Beautiful Lady" played by the orchestra. Little Miss Shirley Flock acted as Flower Girl and scattered peony petals along the route, while Masters Donald and Henry Flock, dressed in white hussar uniforms were the Queen's train bearers. The ceremony lent a touch of brilliance and glamour to the show room that seemed to blend most appropriately with the almost endless array of bloom, flanked by stately palms and evergreens, all of which combined to create a sort of Fairyland effect.

During the evening a program was provided by Mrs. S. C. Nickle, violinist, Miss Alice Gaynor, soprano, Mr. H. S. Flock at the piano and the Flock Trio in Dance Review. The show was closed at 10 P. M. by singing the National Anthem. Members of the executive committee and those taking part in the program, together with the Queen and her attendants, retired to the banquet room of the Club Cafe where a luncheon was served."

Mr. Murdoch is very anxious to start a peony society up in that section of the country and we have no doubt but that he can get a good one lined up before another year passes. Peonies do very well in that section and we are sure it will have the effect of popularizing the peony throughout that part of the country.

The peony should be an ideal perennial as it does excellent several hundred miles further north than Calgary.



Report of 1941 Peony Show

Duluth Peony and Iris Society held its 26th annual peony show on June 30 and July 1, 1941, exceedingly early dates for this section. Mr. E. W. Becker of Wayzata, Mr. A. M. Brand of Faribault, and Mr. A. B. Franklin of Minneapolis, served as judges.

The show was held in the City Hall, and was attended by visitors from nineteen States and two foreign countries.

Sweepstakes was won by "Milton Hill", which measured nine inches across, ex-

hibited by Mrs. F. Arthur Johnson, Chairman of the show. The point of greatest interest, perhaps, was a gorgeous white seedling exhibited by Omer Prudhomme, an amateur grower. This seedling is to be introduced under the name of "Mary Prudhomme." The judges were enthusiastic in praise of its merits.

Our show is financed by a sale of peony roots each fall. This of course is a public sale, and in connection with it we have several demonstrations of the proper planting of peonies. We are therefore obtaining a wide distribution of peonies and many public peony plantings have been made this past year by garden clubs, Rotary and other civic organizations.

MRS. H. E. REYNOLDS,
Co-Chairman.



**THE THIRD REGIONAL PEONY SHOW
OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
HELD IN GARFIELD PARK, CHICAGO, ILL.
JUNE 7th and 8th, 1941**

The Third Regional Peony Show held in Garfield Park on June 7th and 8th proved a much better display than the preceding year. The exhibition conservatory was properly ventilated and the usual beautiful settings were again in evidence. In setting up a display at Garfield Park Conservatory, plants of various kinds are brought in from the conservatories and all blank spaces are filled, giving any show a most finished appearance. There were a large number of flowers brought in and while the exhibitors were not large in number, they made up for it in quality of bloom displayed.

Mr. R. A. Napier of Blue Island, Ill., won the silver medal of the American Peony Society with a grand display of bloom and his hundred named varieties follow: A casual glance over this list will soon convince any peony admirer who is conversant with varieties, particularly the new ones, that they were on display in large numbers. I did not get the opportunity I wanted to go over these individual blooms to pick out the outstanding ones in my opinion, but I do want to say that it was an unusually fine exhibit, splendidly displayed and staged by experienced exhibitors. The blooms all seemed to be very uniform in size and all were in excellent condition. Mr. Napier is purely an amateur who loves peonies and who has in his collection nearly all the worth while peonies on the market at the present time. His gardens are a delightful spot to many thousands each June. If my memory serves me correctly, Mr. Napier has won this medal at our last three regional shows.

Mr. Napier graciously supplied me with a list of names of the varieties in his display as other matters took up my time and I was unable to get the details as I would have liked.

Did not get a list of Mr. Boehland's fine varieties that won second in this class. Pres. Coolidge, Mme. Edw. Doriat, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Therese, Queen of Sheba, Onondaga, Martha Bulloch, Spring Beauty, Rose Shaylor, Le Fee, W. E. Blanchette, Peach Blow, L. W. Pollock, Victory Chateau Thierry, Judge Berry, Adolphe Rousseau, Miriam Napier Rohe, Mrs. J. H. Neely, Hermione, Mrs. Harry F. Little, Mabel L. Gore, Nick Shaylor, Mrs. W. L. Gumm, Floweret of Eden, Matchless Beauty, Mrs. Frank Beach, West Hill, Laverne Christman, Priscilla Alden, Ninon, La Lorraine, Flower Girl, Sensation, Mme Claude Tain, Elsie Renault, Rita, Dr. J. H. Neely, Mr. W. L. Gumm, Grover Cleveland, Souv de Louis Bigot, Gloriana, Alice Harding, Kelway's Queen, Maude, Kelway's Glorious, Blanche King, Aviator Lindbergh, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Sarah Bernhardt, Hiawatha, Myrtle Gentry, Solange, Odile, Chas. McKellip, Wm. F. Turner, Barbara Jean Rohe, Majestic, Phyllis Kelway.

Mary Brand, Garden Princess, Lulu Little, Georgiana Shaylor, Ruth Elizabeth, Silvia Saunders, A. G. Perry, Liberty Bell, Charles Nidel, Georgie Montague, Mrs. John M. Kleitsch, *Le Cygne*, Mrs. C. S. Minot, Pres. Wilson, Nanette, Wiesbaden, White Batson, Elizabeth Baum, Henri Core, H. A. Hagen, Grace Batson, Raoul Dessert, Nimbus, Modella, Geo. W. Peyton, Mons M. Cahuzac Carolyn Mae Nelson, Mrs. A. M. Brand, Alesia, Lottie Dawson Rea, Florence Nicholls, Frances Willard, Robt E. Lee, Lady Kate, Sarah M. Napier, Oliver Brand, Hans P. Sass, Mary Auten, Dorothy J., Mrs. C. Martin Rohe, Elsa Sass, Ball O'Cotton.

In CLASS No. 2, collection of 15 named, double varieties, the following awards made:

First, R. G. Gayle, Rockford, Ill.

Second, Lyman D. Glasscock, Elwood, Ill.

Third, R. A. Napier, Blue Island, Ill.

CLASS No. 3. One named variety, ten blooms, double or semi-double, white, cream or flesh.

First, R. G. Gayle with *Solange*.

Second, G. J. Boehland with the same variety.

Third, R. A. Napier with *Le Cygne*.

CLASS No. 4, one named variety, ten blooms, double or semi-double, light pink

First, R. G. Gayle with *Grandiflora*

Second, G. J. Boehland with *Milton Hill*.

Third, R. A. Napier with the variety *Sarah Napier*.

CLASS No. 5. One named variety, ten blooms, dark pink.

First award to R. A. Napier with the variety *Mabel L. Gore*.

No second or third awards.

CLASS No. 6. One named variety, ten blooms, red, double or semi-double.

First, R. G. Gayle with *Philippe Rivoire*.

Second, R. A. Napier with *Philippe Rivoire*.

Third, Lyman D. Glasscock with *Red Giant*.

No entries in CLASSES No. 7 and 8.

CLASS No. 9. Specimen bloom double or semi-double, white, cream or blush.

First to G. J. Boehland with variety *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*.

Second to R. A. Napier with *Nick Shaylor*.

Third to R. G. Gayle with *Baroness Schroeder*.

CLASS No. 10. Specimen bloom, light pink.

First, Eldred E. Green with *Hansina Brand*.

Second, R. A. Napier with *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*.

Third, Charles Klehm, Arlington Heights, with *Nick Shaylor*.

CLASS No. 11. Specimen bloom, dark pink.

First, R. G. Gayle with *Walter Faxon*.

Second, Eldred Green with *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch*.

Third, G. J. Boehland with *La France*.

CLASS No. 12. Specimen bloom, double or semi-double, red.

First, R. A. Napier with *Karl Rosenfield*.

Second, R. G. Gayle.

Third, H. P. Heizer. Judges book does not show name of variety of either second or third award.

CLASS No. 13. Specimen bloom, white Japanese

First to H. P. Heizer with *Toro no maki*. No other awards given.

CLASS No. 14. No entries.

CLASS No. 15. Specimen bloom, Japanese red. No first or third award.

Second award to H. P. Heizer with *Rashoomon*.

No awards in CLASSES No. 16, 17, 18.

CLASS No. 19. No award.

CLASS No. 20. Seedlings of pure *Albiflora* species

First Class Certificate to Lyman D. Glasscock of Elwood, Ill. for seedling 66-G-5, a large, double, white fragrant peony.

Honorable Mention to Seedling M-9-2, a large dark pink single exhibited by Miss Mabel Maxon of Harvard, Ill.

CLASS No. 21. Seedlings from Specie Crosses or pure species other than *Albiflora*.

First Class Certificate to Lyman D. Glasscock for seedling 1-G-37.

First Class Certificate to Lyman D. Glasscock for seedling 42-K-4.

Honorable Mention Certificate to Lyman D. Glasscock for 7-N-102.

CLASS No. 22. Display of Tree Peonies. The Cottage Gardens of Lansing, Mich. brought in a fine display of tree peonies that were much admired. We have mentioned the outstanding varieties later in this report.

CLASS No. 23. Named and numbered varieties of Hybrid species or pure species other than *Albiflora*. Mr. Lyman D. Glasscock won first with *Sunbright*, second with *Black Monarch* and third with *Eros*.

CLASSES No. 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 not represented.

AMATEUR CLASSES

CLASS No. 29. Ten, not to exceed 15 varieties of named peonies, double or semi-double. One bloom each.

First award to Glen Pierce, Villa Park, Ill., who had a very creditable display

Second award to H. P. Heizer. No third award given.

CLASS No. 30. One specimen bloom, white, cream or flesh.

First, H. P. Heizer with *Kelway's Glorious*.

Second, Glenn Pierce with *Baroness Schroeder*.

Third, James Mason, Chicago, with *La Lorraine*.

CLASS No. 31. One specimen bloom, light pink.

First, H. P. Heizer with *Solange*.

Second, Glen Pierce with *Pres. Wilson*.

No third award given.

CLASS No. 32. One specimen bloom, dark pink.

First, H. P. Heizer with *Martha Bulloch*.

Second, M. Zimmerman, Chicago, with *Clemenceau*.

Third, Glen Pierce with *Evening Glow*.

CLASS No. 33. Specimen bloom, red.

First, Glen L. Pierce with *Philippe Rivoire*.

Second, H. P. Heizer with *Philippe Rivoire*.

CLASS No. 34. Specimen bloom, Japanese, any color.

First, H. P. Heizer with *Toro-noOmaki*.

Second, James Mason with *Mikado*.

Third, Glen Pierce with *Ohirama*.

CLASS No. 35. Specimen bloom, single. Any color.

First, James Mason with *Darkness*. No other awards.

CLASS No. 36. Five blooms, one named variety, any type or color.

First, James Mason with *Belle*.

Second, M. Zimmerman with *Kelway's Glorious*.

Third, H. P. Heizer, with *Ama-no-sode*.

CLASS No. 37. Collection of named singles and Japanese varieties won by H. P. Heizer. No other awards.

CLASS No. 38. Large basket or vase double or semi-double peonies.

First to James Mason.

Second, Mrs. James Silk, Chicago, Ill.

Third, H. P. Heizer.

CLASS No. 39. No entries.

CLASS No. 40. Bowl or low basket of peonies.

First, Mrs. Marsch, 5840 W. Circle Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Second, H. P. Heizer.

Third, Mrs. Herrmann, 5824 Addison Street, Chicago, Ill.

Northbrook Gardens, Northbrook, Ill., had 140 varieties on display, not in competition.

The Vaughan Seed Co., of Western Springs, and Chicago, Ill., had a very nice display of peonies and a few other perennials on display, not in competition.

River Drive Peony Gardens, of River Grove, Ill., had a fine display of peony blooms and delphinium.

Charles Klehm of Arlington Heights, Ill., also brought in many fine bloom for decorative purposes and had several beautiful groups down through the center of the exhibition hall. They displayed a *Nick Shaylor* that was a beautiful specimen, as well as many others. *Nick Shaylor* also showed up fine in Napier's exhibit as did *Flower Girl*, a delicate pink, also in the Napier exhibit, Class No. 1.

Mr. Boehland of Rockford, Ill., brought in a number of blooms for both display and competition as did Mr. Roy G. Gayle of the same city. Rockford, Ill., has a number of peony enthusiasts and the number is growing yearly, due to the efforts of Mr. Boehland, Mr. Gayle, Mr. Howard E. Wigell and others.

The show was held in cooperation with the Midwest Horticultural Society who have for the past three years assisted in every way in making the show a success. We plan to stage another show next year that should surpass any we have heretofore staged.

The Court of Honor consisted of *Walter Faxon*, a very large glowing pink specimen (about as large as I have ever seen of the variety), that was exhibited by Mr. Roy G. Gayle, Rockford, Ill. This was truly a grand bloom and excited a great deal of interest.

Three mammoth white double blooms exhibited by Lyman D. Glasscock of Elwood, Ill. This variety won a First Class Certificate of the American Peony Society.

The best double red in the Court of Honor was *Philippe Rivoire*, exhibited by Roy G. Gayle of Rockford, Ill. It surely was a splendid specimen and a winner in any class.

Another fine single pink seedling No. 9-2 exhibited by Miss Mabel Maxon of Harvard, Ill., for the late Dr. Maxon, got in the Court of Honor and was awarded an Honorable Mention Certificate of the A.P.S.

A bright red hybrid peony named *Sunbright* grown and exhibited by Lyman D. Glasscock of Elwood, Ill., also found a place in this Court of Honor.

The second best flower in the show was a bloom of *Hansina Brand* exhibited by Eldred E. Green of Chicago. It was a fine specimen and well worthy of the award.

Cottage Gardens of Lansing, Mich. brought up a fine display of tree peonies, the first ever shown at our Regional Shows here. *Chromyla*, *Souv. de Maxime Cornu*, *Surprise* and *La Lorraine* were outstanding in the exhibit. Many had never seen a yellow peony and this display attracted a great deal of attention and interest and I feel sure that Cottage Gardens will get many inquiries that will result in orders for these fine things. They were not entered in competition but a special First Award was given them.

Mr. Lyman D. Glasscock of Elwood, Ill., brought up a very fine display of his hybrid peonies. His display was not as large as the previous year due to the fact that he had sent many of his fine specimen bloom to the Syracuse, N. Y. show of the American Peony Society held late in the month.

Mr. J. G. Boehland of Rockford, Ill., came in with a fine lot of bloom and won second in Class No. 1, a close second to Mr. Napier. Mr. Boehland is a fine showman and has a grand collection of peonies. He has always been a faithful exhibitor at our shows and we hope to see him with us for many years to come.

PEONY SHOW COMMITTEE

Mrs. Frank C. Lambert, General Show Chairman, 5445 Iowa St., Chicago, Illinois.
W. F. Christman, Secretary, Northbrook, Ill.

Eldred E. Green, Registration Chairman, 2334 W. 110th St., Chicago, Ill.

Judges-Clerks: Mrs. Frank J. Marech, Mrs. W. M. Hermann, Mrs. E. C. Freed,
Mrs. Fred E. Haines

Arrangements: Mr. Irving Johnson, William Keffmeyer, Fred Horwath, Al Havellick, Mrs. Thos. Doane, Mr. A. Papsien and Mr. George Kolze.

Reception: William Blaesing, August Koch, Mr. and Mrs. William Beaudry, Mr. T. P. Schlichting, Robert Van Tress, Charles H. Auten, Dick Cook, Mrs. George Rieter, Mrs. Eldred E. Green, Mrs. Frank C. Lambert, W. F. Christman, and Warren A. Maines

Luncheon: Mrs. Beatrice Harms, Lawndale 0019, Mrs. William Birk, Bittersweet 8977

Publicity: Yonda Gustafson

Schedule: W. F. Christman



The Syracuse Peony Show - 1941

Our memories of the Syracuse Peony Show are all pleasant ones. Those of a show well managed, no officious bosses, efficient officials whose sole desire was to have every thing pass off pleasantly with no one overlooked or offended, willing helpers, ample room, abundance of containers, water easily available, and good will everywhere, are some that every one carried home to think over in the days to come.

Notwithstanding the lack of exhibitors in many classes, it may well be said that probably no show ever had exhibited more of the outstanding new peonies in every type than were shown at Syracuse. Including the Educational classes there were about six hundred doubles, eighty Japs and sixty singles shown, most of them in excellent condition and set up so that every one could see the variety without it being so crowded that it was hard to pick it out from its neighbors.

There were exhibitors from a number of states. New York of course took the lead, but Ohio and Illinois were there, Minnesota took its quota of blues, Massachusetts was represented, Vermont had its exhibitor, and Kansas walked off with the majority of the honors in the Advanced Amateur Classes. Is that a forerunner of what we may expect at Topeka next year? Let us hope so. Indiana and Virginia made noble efforts to be represented, but failed through conditions over which they had no control.

It was due to Harry F. Little that such splendid exhibits were set up in the Open-to-all classes. He was the only one who competed in these classes who had the large number of varieties necessary to set up Class No. 1 — The Gold Medal Class. That he did set up two entries in this class in which only one variety was duplicated speaks volumes for his ability to grow and exhibit exhibi-

tion flowers. Few men in the world could have done this. His exhibits of Japanese and single peonies were more extensive than have ever been shown before. There is no other man in the Society that I have any knowledge of who would have given so unstintingly of his time and money to make a show the success that this one was except Harry F. Little. This is shown by the fact that there are many growers who could have put on exhibits by storing their flowers for no longer time than he did, but none of them are willing to give the necessary time and trouble to the task to do it. The American Peony Society owes Mr. Little a debt of gratitude that cannot be easily repaid. He shows the flowers and others reap the benefit. Day and night for forty days he cut, bagged and stored blooms for this show. All honor to him.

But we cannot dismiss the subject without a word of praise for Colonel Nicholls of Ithaca, N. Y. and Mr. Ernest Flint Kelsey of East Aurora, New York for their efforts also. They cut large numbers of blooms and entered the classes that they were able to enter and their blooms were good. Neither of them had ever cut flowers for exhibition before. Neither of them had adequate home storage. From what I can learn Col. Nicholls had rather variable temperatures to contend with while Mr. Kelsey had to cut and ship 150 miles or more to storage. This meant that the blooms were often enroute from field to storage some twenty-four or more hours. This was, to say the least, not good for the blooms. Mr. Kelsey brought about seventy of his own originations to the show, but few of them were in show condition when set up and so were found mostly on his work table where only those saw them who went to look. But we can say with all honesty, that a great many of them possess great merit and in future will make their way to the top. Colonel Nicholls was more fortunate with his varieties for nearly all of them were shown in good shape. That gracious lady, Mrs. R. H. Jones of Peru, Indiana and her daughter Dorothy, whose namesake can only approximate her charm and beauty, brought a number of Mr. Jones's seedlings, in fact, about all he has named, but they were frozen in storage and had to be discarded at the show.

Again we must commend both Mr. Lyman D. Glasscock of Elwood, Illinois and Prof. A. P. Saunders for the outstanding show of hybrids that was made by them. These must have remarkable keeping qualities to stand up as they always do. They were cut for a month or more for the most part yet they were as fresh as if they had just been brought from the field. Both of these gentlemen are masters of the art of cutting and storing for exhibition. Then there is Mr. Moots of Newton, Kansas, who also knows what he is doing when it comes to cutting and storing, for he began on May 12 and his blooms were sent over a thousand miles to the show, yet they won everything in sight in the classes in which they were shown. If more of our members had the industry and endurance required to do what these men did, we would have shows that would be history making in the annals of the Society for numbers of exhibitors. Then there were Messrs. Reineke of Defiance, Ohio, Lindgren and Fisher of St. Paul and Minneapolis who did their bit, and no little one either, towards making the show a success. Mr. John Waldmann of Spring Valley, New York brought in a large number of seedlings for his bit.

It was a source of great satisfaction to see fine entries in the Visitor's Class (No. 2). This class was tried out in Boston in 1935 and there were four entries in it. This year it had three. The blooms shown in it were of exceptionally high quality and it is hoped that the class will be continued in other shows. Why not make it a feature class with say a bronze medal of the Society as first award?

It was disappointing not to have more exhibitors in the Amateur Classes. So far as I have been able to determine there was only one exhibitor, Mr. T. P. Dutton, and he seems to have shown a total of three blooms, each a different variety. Syracuse has a very large number of members of garden clubs and lovers of flowers. Have they left the peony out of their gardens? The fault should be remedied.

In the classes for herbaceous hybrids and species peonies, it is probable that more named varieties were shown than ever before. Then both Prof. Saunders and Mr. Glasscock, the two leading growers of these varieties, were represented. It was interesting and encouraging to note a few departures from the usual run of red singles in these hybrids. There were some notable red doubles and a few pinks of fine quality. There were no whites exhibited. While no one can deny that the hybrid peonies excel in purity of color in red peonies and possibly some shades of pink, yet they have not yet attained anything like the perfection of form in double peonies that we find in the *albiflora* varieties, nor do they have white or blush varieties even in singles that are better than our old standby's. When we look over a list of them it seems to the casual observer that the preponderance of red singles is to be deplored. The same remark may be made with equal truth of the list of named singles we have in *albiflora* varieties. The Educational Exhibit of Japs and singles was set up in color order beginning with white and shading through to the darkest reds. And the reds took up more than half the tables in both Japs and singles. Let us have a let up in reds and give us better whites, blushes and pinks, though these should not be overdone. I see little excuse with burdening the market with innumerable reds which even the greatest expert of them all will have difficulty in telling apart and the amateur no hope at all.

A rather regrettable error was made in judging the exhibits in Class No. 23 which called for a collection of *named* varieties of hybrid peonies. First prize was given to an exhibit which had only two named ones in it and twenty-one under number. Second went to an exhibit which had twenty named varieties and none under number and third to an exhibit that had seven named varieties and none under number. There are certain rules laid down for these exhibits and no set of judges has a right to waive these rules. Classes were provided for varieties under number and they should have been entered there. It is doubtful if either the exhibitor or the judges ever looked at the rules for this class. If they had I am sure that the exhibitor would never have made the entry as he did for he had ample named ones to have filled it, and the judges would never have so far exceeded their authority as to have made the award. Both exhibitors and judges should thoroughly familiarize themselves with the rules for the classes they enter or judge. Why make them if they are not going to be observed? For many years I have advocated having some competent peony man go over these classes in which errors are liable to be made and see that there are no violations of the conditions. But it seems almost impossible to get any one with time on his hands to do this.

The necessity for a guiding hand was also clearly seen in the lack of entries in some of the seedling classes. These classes were well filled generally, but most of the flowers were in poor condition and so the Seedling Committee did not feel justified in going beyond Honorable Mention on any varieties shown. Through a misunderstanding a number of very fine varieties, which were at the show in excellent condition, were left out of Class No. 58 calling for New Varieties that have been divided, named and placed into commerce. Many were entered it is true, but so many were left out that could have been shown.

Then there were no entries for the American Home Achievement Medal. This was entirely due to misunderstanding and oversight. There were probably ten or fifteen very fine varieties there in good condition that could easily have been entered in this class and it would have been a real fight over which would have won, but we did not have any entry. If some member of the Seedling Committee had been delegated to take charge of these seedling exhibits he could have seen to it that entries were properly made and I feel very sure the Society would have had another medal or two to give, and the American Home Achievement Medal would not have gone begging. The Gold Medal awarded Nick Shaylor was given for outstanding excellence and performance in all sections.

The Court of Honor as set up this year, seemed a very decided success and strange to say no criticisms of the decisions of the judges were heard. That is a rare occurrence. One thing that could be bettered would be to have the special judges get to work on this Court at once and not have to judge other classes first and then rush through the job of selecting the various blooms for the Court of Honor after the other judging is completed. It delays the show too much. It would seem that a number of Classes in our schedules could be combined with others and so the number of judges could be decreased thus setting free some for this special task. The duty of selecting the Best Bloom in the Show was given the Seedling Committee this year and again we had no complaints and much confusion was avoided.

There was only one exhibit of tree peonies. This contained eleven varieties all hybrids of *lutea*. Some other exhibitors had stored a few tree peonies but they fell when taken from storage. Possibly Prof. Saunders could give us some pointers on the requirements for storage of these so that we shall have better success at future shows. It is almost absolutely necessary to store these blooms as most of our shows are entirely too late to bring them in freshly cut. Next year however growers should have a chance to do this for some varieties at least, so we shall hope for good exhibits then.

And now I wish to say a word of tribute to two men of the official management of the show who were probably more directly responsible for the success of the show than any others except the exhibitors. First let me mention Mr. E. L. Bisdee the General Manager, who so quietly, calmly, good naturedly and above all efficiently went from place to place giving advice and help where needed and straightening out the few tangles that did arise to the complete satisfaction of all parties concerned and then Mr. Kenneth Painter, our Peony Consultant, whose careful planning and ability to be everywhere at once solving satisfactorily all problems that arose, made a show noted for the smoothness with which everything passed off. Long life to such men.

I think I may be pardoned also for mentioning some personal high lights of my trip. For instance the delightful ride from home to New York on the new Diesel electric Streamliner, The Southerner, of the Southern and Pennsylvania Railroads; a train unexcelled in beauty and convenience of appointments, on which the welfare of the traveler is so well cared for by the Train Representative of the Passenger Department and the many courteous train men, but most of all by the young, and needless to say good looking hostesses, capable, friendly, but always preserving their dignity in good temper and making every passenger feel as if he were a member of a jolly good company of friends, then the courtesy of the officials of the New York Central Railroad who allowed me to use their famous de luxe coach train, The Pacemaker, from New York to Syracuse to avoid a late night arrival; and the unvarying friendliness of their employees, both in Grand Central Station and on the train, who even went out of their

way to make one feel welcome and even an honored guest. A visit to the Home Garden Company was very enjoyable where I saw so many fine peonies in such excellent shape. Two most pleasant visits were made to the hospitable home of Col. Nicholls, where we saw his peonies growing in perfect condition, and also had the pleasure of seeing his fine colored slides of both peonies and iris. The remaking of old friendships and the making of new always seems to be full reward for the trip. The rest afforded a tired body on that comfortable couch in Mrs. van Allen's and Mrs. Nicholls' Antique booths made possible a much greater enjoyment of the show than would have been possible otherwise. Then that memorable Saturday night dinner in Skaneateles where the combined efforts of a dozen fair waitresses were needed to keep certain members of our directorate in food. But above all my thanks are due to those good friends who took such good care of me for ten days and made my visit such a joy to remember and whose hospitality I can never forget—Mr. and Mrs. Little.

I hope to publish an additional article in which I shall attempt to give some account of the varieties which seem to me worthy of special mention both seen in my own garden and those of others as well as on the show tables.

We are all looking forward to the Show next year at Topeka. We know that there are a number of enthusiasts around that city or within showing distance of it and from the show put on at Lincoln we think they will not mind a little work to make their show a success. Here is hoping for a reunion of us all next June.

GEORGE W. PEYTON.

Rapidan, Va., July 28, 1941.

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Department of Registration

We have received the following information for registration of a seedling peony developed by Mrs. Elley Swinden Bulluss of Finch Ave., Meriden, Conn.

Henry Swinden (Swinden 1941). Dark red, Japanese type, center red, tipped with yellow. Midseason to late. Tall, large flower well above foliage.

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New Members

Chase, C. L., 1609 N. W. 17th Street, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Cope, George, 4900 Oak Street, Kansas City, Mo.

Donohoe, Dr. John, 307 National Bank of S. D. Building, Sioux Falls, S. D.

Gillis, Mrs. Mary B., 41 Highland Ave., Tuckahoe, N. Y.

Goodman, C. V., 906 Waban Hill, Madison, Wis.

Gowan, Mrs. A. S., Excelsior, Minn. (Reinstated).

The D. H. Hill Library, North Carolina State College of Ag. and Engineering of the University of N. Carolina, Raleigh, N. C.

Kampen, R. W., 557 Pearl Ave., Rockford, Ill.

Lumry, Carl C., Mount Arbor Nurseries, Shenandoah, Iowa.

Morese, A. B., Printing Co., St. Joseph, Mo.

Myers, B. L., 6707 Nall Ave., Overland Park, Kan.

Seybold, Mrs. F. L., 311 Orchard Street, Topeka, Kan.

Shuford, Mrs. A. L., Jr., Box 191, Newton, N. C.

Simonelli, Frank, 825 63rd Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Smirnow, Louis, 11 E. 26th Street, New York City, N. Y.

Thimlar, Dr. J. Wiley, Thimlar Gardens, Ft. Wayne, Ind. (Reinstated).

Tinetti, Mrs. H. C., Mosinee, Wis.

Wickham, A. T., Wickham Lane, Chagrin Falls, O.

Secretary's Notes

It just don't seem possible that a year has passed since I last prepared the September bulletin and spoke of planting activities that were in full swing, but we know it has, and when we look back we realize that much has happened since that time. We can be thankful that the God of War is not running wild in this country and causing destruction and suffering in its wake, at least we can still plant our gardens without being troubled to dodge bombs or other missiles of war.

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We are delighted to have Prof. Saunders give us a splendid article on Hybrid Peonies and when one is familiar with the work he has done along this line, as well as with the tree peony, we can feel that we are getting some real sound advice from one of the most outstanding hybridizers of this line of peonies. It is a slow, and sometimes discouraging process to work out results from planned crosses, and they often do not work out just the way we hope they will. It takes unlimited patience and a strong determination to succeed to come out successful. This Prof. Saunders has done in a most outstanding manner. To see his fine originations at our annual shows brings one to a closer realization of what he has really accomplished in his years of research and experimenting.

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Before I get the reputation of being a poet, I want to say that the poem with which I ended my notes in last issue is not one of my own. Wish it were. I do not know the author but I thought it expressed a good thought and wanted to pass it along. I may inflict other poems on you of a similar vein from time to time as I like them and think they are well worth knowing.

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There are still reports to come in from shows that have not as yet been received at my desk. We want to keep our members advised as to what is being shown at the various exhibitions and also the winning varieties.

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I will not comment on the various articles appearing in this issue but will let them speak for themselves.

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I would like to see more of our members who have peonies or plants to sell, advertise through the columns of the Bulletin. I know there are a number who grow and sell peonies and I feel sure they would find that by advertising in the Bulletin they would get results, as every copy goes to a potential peony customer. I think this subject is well summed up in the following lines:

THEY ADVERTISE

A hen is not supposed to have much common sense or tact,
Yet every time she lays an egg she cackles forth the fact.

A rooster hasn't got a lot of intellect to show;
But none the less most roosters have enough good sense to crow.

The peacock spreads his tail and squawks, pigs squeal and robins sing;
And even serpents know enough to hiss before they sting.

But man, the greatest masterpiece that nature could devise,
Will often stop and hesitate before he'll advertise.

Anonymous, The Ad-Clubber.

Patronize our advertisers as they help pay for the Bulletin and are all worthy
of your orders.

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Canada is going in for the peony in a big way in some sections of the provinces as is evidenced by the report I get from Orillia, Ontario, where they are starting the planting of a mile of peonies entering the town. Flowering shrubs and various other flowers as well as trees, will be freely employed to beautify the landscape and make it a beauty spot. The Orillia Horticultural Society at their recent meeting voted to plant three memorial beds of peonies, one each of red, white and pink, to commemorate their Silver anniversary. The surrounding area will be laid out in lawn, and planted to phlox, ornamental shrubs and rugosa roses with a background of American elms already planted. The Horticultural Society has already received a generous donation from the Orillia Board of Trade, and have been promised grants and support from several civic and fraternal organizations. Private citizens are helping the cause by donating sums in various amounts.

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How many of my readers, as a child or as a grown person, has had a dog for a pal? You know how attached you can become to such an animal and how they seem to understand your every move, and by a wag of their tail or a cheery bark they seem to tell you just what they expect of you as their friend. Well, I have just returned from burying my fine Cocker Spaniel who has been a constant companion for over ten years. It was a tough job and I could not restrain my tears as I gently laid her to rest in a neatly prepared grave. It seems to me that while many years have passed us by, we are still grown up boys in trying periods like this one. If we could be as positive that all our friends would be as faithful as our pet dogs, what a grand world this would be. I still have two more Cockers and that takes off some of the sting.

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Those of you who have small plantings of peonies and have the room to plant them, I urge you to add a few more to your collection. They will many times repay you for the investment you make in securing them.

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I cannot help but feel that the members of our Society are like one, big, happy family, and while we possess widely divergent views on the topics of the day, we all seem to be in one accord in placing the peony in the top rank as one of our most valued and cherished perennials.

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Any member not having a copy of color classification of peonies, can have same by addressing this office.

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Here is something to remember—Iron Sulphate, at the rate of one tablespoonful to a gallon of water, applied to plants having poor colored foliage will be found a valuable remedy.

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We can use a number of articles for the December issue of the Bulletin. We know we have some excellent talent in our membership. Send in your peony experiences the past season and if you have tried out some new method of grow-

ing or handling peonies, it would be most helpful and interesting to know about it. Those of you who have contributed, we invite you to repeat the good work. Those who have not as yet sent us in a contribution in the way of an article, we most cordially invite you to do so. This is what makes good Bulletins and we want to keep them interesting and instructive. Surely you have had some outstanding peonies this past season that you would like to tell others about. You can't do it in any better way than through the Bulletin. Remember it's YOUR Bulletin and we want to make it a publication that you will eagerly await each quarter.

I came across the following article the other day and I want to pass it on to you. Perhaps some of you have not read it.

"It is a universal fact that but few of us know how rich we really are. I don't mean how much money we have in the bank or how much our real estate is worth,—there are other riches more valuable than these."

"You are richer today than you were yesterday if you have laughed often, given something, forgiven even more, made a new friend, or made stepping-stones of stumbling-blocks; if you have thought more in terms of 'thyself' than 'myself,' or if you have managed to be cheerful even if you were weary. You are richer tonight than you were this morning if you have taken time to trace the handiwork of God in the commonplace things of life, or if you have learned to count out things that really don't count, or if you have been a little blinder to the faults of friend and foe. You are richer if a little child has smiled at you, and a stray dog has licked your hand, or if you have looked for the best in others and have given others the best in you."

—The Silver Lining.

H. F. Christman

Seasonal Blooming Dates

By M. H. SCOTT, Piper City, Illinois

A record has been kept of the first day on which *Edulis Superba* has bloomed from the year 1920 to 1941 inclusive of each year, except the year 1923 which is missing, being a record of 21 years, at Piper City, Illinois which is a station in the latitude of Peoria, Illinois and of Logansport, Indiana, and about 80 miles South and 20 West of Chicago, in black, corn belt land.

The value of this record lies in the fact that, while the record is only of the blooming dates of this one variety, the earliness or lateness of the seasons applied to and affected all other varieties.

Such *Edulis Superba* blooming dates were as follows:

June 1, 1920	May 28, 1928	June 1, 1935
May 20, 1921	May 22, 1929	May 23, 1936
May 22, 1922	May 21, 1930	May 29, 1937
June 4, 1924	May 29, 1931	May 15, 1938
May 22, 1925	May 27, 1932	May 27, 1939
May 28, 1926	May 25, 1933	June 3, 1940
May 24, 1927	May 23, 1934	May 22, 1941

The average blooming date was May 26th.

The earliest blooming date was May 15th and the latest was June 3rd, making an extreme variance in blooming time of 19 days.

Peonies In Eastern Indiana

By HARRY L. SMITH, *Redkey, Indiana*

As you requested I will give you a fairly accurate account of the 1941 peony season as they grew and bloomed in my garden in central Eastern Indiana. However, this will not be a Mr. Peyton report either in interest or description.

We had a very dry spring,—local paper stated 40% of normal rainfall. A late, cool spring with five frosts April 21st to 26th. and another in early May. That may have been the cause of several failures.

I had some newer ones that I was anxious to see bloom but will have to wait another year. I will not list them as it may not sound good to some growers and it may have been just an unfavorable season for them. Of the older, established varieties that failed, it will not hurt their reputation, as most everyone grows them and will continue just as I do.

Le Cygne, full of nice big buds,—not a one of them opened. *Martha Bulloch*, *Loveliness*, *Ella Wheeler Wilcox* could not open. *Solange* gave great promise but only fair bloom opened, so I will just wait another season for them. I have waited six years to see a *Martha Bulloch* bloom in my garden. Grew the first one three years before I learned it was not the true variety. The same with *Lady Alexandra Duff*. Very disgusting experience.

Some of my pleasant experiences this season were the good color of the pinks, the large size of bloom and the different formations of some bloom. Some plants did not adhere to their regular season of bloom.

Cherry Hill was the first to bloom; bright, dark red, some very double, others showing many yellow stamens. *Inspecteur Laverne* very attractive, lasts well on stem. *Marietta Sisson*, good color. Made quite a display. *Adolphe Rousseau*, double and semi-double, deep red, held high in the garden. Those four opened a few days ahead of the others.

Mons. Jules Elie, the old reliable; larger this season than ever before. While it was at its peak it was the most talked about peony in my garden. *Therese* had opened about the same time with its fine, large blooms and got a great deal of the praise. *Judge Berry* and *Jubilee* full of bloom but not up to former years. Was disappointed with *Jubilee* as it had always been one of my first choices.

James Kelway, a plant full of extra fine bloom. One of these was my champion bloom of the season, the largest bloom of any variety I had ever seen.

Kelway's Glorious made a fine showing. I do not know of anything too good to say about it. *Marie Lemoine* has always pleased me in form and color. It was quite large,—eight inch flowers. *Georgiana Shaylor*, fine color, came rather early. *Elisa*, quite double and a most beautiful flower. These plants were not disbudded and gave a long period of bloom. *Mme. de Verneville*, cheap in price only. *Peach Blow* I expected to be much earlier. I had a young plant but was anxious to see it so I left two blooms open. I am sure it is going to please me. *Victory Chateau Thierry* on a young plant opened at the same time as *Peach Blow*. It too, will suit me fine.

So many open now that I cannot give them in rotation of bloom. *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*, very dark and large. Some full double, other bloom on same plant semi-double or single, with yellow stamens. A favorite with visitors. *Katharine Havemeyer* and *Mme. Jules Dessert* were in top form and very beautiful. *Milton Hill*, quite pink this time, with crimson blotch, was quite fine. *La France* not too good this time. *Phyllis Kelway*, most beautiful, if not left too long on plant, received much comment from visitors.

Philippe Rivoire, large and of fine color and held well on the plant. This was also a favorite with visitors. *Aviateur Lindberg* was not overlooked. I think it is extra fine. *Marie Crousse* was easy to see in the garden and a dandy under the lights. *Karl Rosenfield* is always good for me. *Gene Stratton Porter*; I could get along without this one. *Walter Faxon* not up to standard this year but a very good color.

Hansina Brand, full of delicate light pink in center of bloom. This is the first year it has done well for me. *Elsa Sass* had few fine bloom on two year plant. I will love it more if the blooms get larger on older plants. *Nick Shaylor*, I hesitate to mention, as I only got one bloom but it was of such beauty that I also think I should say something about it. I will try to be patient for them to bloom next year.

Will leave out the singles and Japs with few exceptions. Mine are ordinary and the exceptions did not bloom this year. *Le Jour* was good. *Petite Renee* was covered with bloom, four to the stem and a long blooming period.

Rubra Superba; poor color but very late. Will continue to grow it. I put No. 1 size bags on many of my buds, marking the date on the bottom of the bag when to cut and opened them in the house for display. This saves confusion in the garden and the bloom are nicer and better color.

I try to get a statement from all visitors as to what they like the best. Pink is choice of majority and size has much to do with selection. If I could originate peonies I would strive for size first of all. I believe selections were in this order:

Mons. Jules Elie, *James Kelway*, while that large bloom lasted, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Therese* and *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*. *Phyllis Kelway* got much praise.

I would caution every grower to be sure to send true to name varieties, and give illustrated planting instructions. Believe it or not, I saw four plants last Sunday that were planted upside down last October. They had put up small stems.



Popularizing Peonies

ELDRED E. GREEN, Chicago, Illinois

Mr. J. W. Frenz in the March Bulletin laments on the lack of popularity that the peony justly deserves and proposes that a price reduction might be the answer. I have been trying for several years to popularize the peony and here are some of the concrete cases that I have run into.

My own interest was aroused in peonies by the displays of named varieties which Mr. Christman staged at flower shows wherever he could. Prior to observing his displays I had not really paid much attention to named sorts but had drifted along with the common roadside kinds. Mr. Napier's display of named peonies at many flower shows also stimulated my interest. Thus the display of named sorts at shows or for public exhibition will stimulate interest.

I know of several cases where ardent peony enthusiasts were created by visiting the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Napier. There the finest of peonies are displayed with labels. No one can walk through the garden without observing the differences in plants of the same color and looking for the names. Mr. Napier's practice of giving his surplus plants to friends has also caused many of them to purchase others and to become show exhibitors. Thus displays of peonies in private gardens with appropriate labels and the gift of a plant now and then to the right persons would aid materially in building up a group of peony fans.

Lastly but not leastly is the right kind of advertising by the commercial growers. One woman just recently was complaining to me about not getting varieties

that were wanted. It turned out that she had been purchasing plants by asking for red peonies. The result was that she had been getting ones that ranged from pink to medium red and not the deep red that was wanted. I told the lady to buy by name from reliable peony specialists, and if possible to select the variety when in bloom at a peony show or in a labeled collection.

Peony growers could also help themselves if the sale of unlabeled plants was discouraged. Roadside stands, department stores, and others carry peonies by color. A little extra work at blooming time to straighten out and label mixed varieties would be advantageous in educating the public to the practice of buying by name. If all peonies sold were to be labeled a larger demand would result. No one is likely to buy a second pink peony if they have one, but many would buy *Reine Hortense* if they had *Edulis Superba*. *Felix Crousse* could more easily be sold to someone that had *Karl Rosenfield* than to someone that had a red and didn't want another like it. It may be quite a job but elimination of sales of peonies by color at the large wholesale nurseries, and the correct labeling of every root sold for retail purposes, would be big factors in building a larger demand. Possibly bargain sales of named varieties would be helpful. How about a joint ad by several peony growers in the larger popular garden magazines offering several named varieties for 25 or 35 cents each delivered. If mail order houses can buy and deliver at this price certainly the growers can too. Such a sale would mean new customers and new names for mailing lists.



Boston Peony Show

The peony exhibition held at Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass., June 11 and 12, while hardly up to the high mark usually seen at Boston shows, was good considering the dry season and erratic temperature changes. The exhibition filled all of the halls and was splendidly staged. The chief falling off was in the many classes devoted to cut flowers, where competition, usually strong, was pretty light.

Cherry Hill Nurseries, West Newbury, Mass., are always the largest exhibitors at Boston peony shows. Last year they received the president's cup for the most outstanding exhibit of the year. It is no detraction from last year's display to say that this year's was distinctly superior. This filled the entire large exhibition hall.

Looking down on the large hall from the loggia, one could see that a fence and arched gateway divided the exhibit in two parts. The first, the more informal, had weather-scarred white pines rising twenty-five to thirty feet high, and below these were beds of rhododendrons, kalmias and azaleas of the calendulacea type on either side of the central path, while at the sides were other beds of peonies. A pool with water lilies was a pleasing feature here.

The second and rather more formal half of the hall was mainly banks or beds of peonies. Included here were two groups each covering 400 square feet, two of 200 square feet and an equal number of 100 square feet. Large vases plunged in peat moss contained a wide variety of flowers in all types well arranged as to colors. Along the walls and as backgrounds quantities of large-size arbor-vitae were used. This exhibit in itself made a whole show, and happily the weather was cool and the flowers stood up finely.

The small hall was, as usual, devoted to the cut flower classes. Here, again, Cherry Hill Nurseries swept most of the prizes. In addition, this firm was awarded a gold medal for its extensive garden layout.

For a group of hardy perennials covering 100 square feet, Mrs. John D. Hassett, Worcester, was first and Bay State Nurseries, North Abington, were second. Louis Vasseur, Milton, led for a 25-foot group.

For a 50-foot group of cut flowering shrubs, Bay State Nurseries were first and Cherry Hill Nurseries second.

Among the miscellaneous displays, Louis Vasseur received a silver medal for a fine exhibit of large-flowered clematises, also a vote of commendation for *Lilium Vilmora*. Special prizes went to Bay State Nurseries for displays of Russell lupines and herbs.

William N. Craig, Weymouth, Mass., received a silver medal and special prize for a large collection of peonies and other hardy perennials, which included a dozen varieties of early-flowering lilies, mainly hybrids. Kenneth W. Houghton, Dedham, Mass., received a special prize for a collection of annuals and perennials, the latter mostly aquilegias.

—From *American Nurseryman*, July 1st, 1941.



My Hobby

Is there any among us without a hobby? If so, all that I can say is, I am decidedly sorry. We all need a hobby. Especially is this so in these days of confusion, anxiety and unrest.

A hobby is a refuge from the cares of the world. And if there are any here without care, we again extend our most humble, profound sympathy, for it is of such who are failing to note the processes and the defenses of democratic citizenship.

Someone has said that hobbyists are born so. We wonder if that is so? If it is, irrespective, we still believe that given a garden and a hoe for instance, the idea of a hobby will yield to cultivation! If not, then I am led to suspect that I must have been born a hobbyist.

As I look back over the years, fond recollections come to view. Pigeons, bees and peonies in each succession have predominated. And, we recall also at one time when we were hard-pressed to gratify the instincts of a hobby we planted some sweet-peas around the office where we were employed as a book-keeper and made some extensive plantings of geraniums and other display flowers. The press of the city characterized it as "the bachelor's flower garden." This was going a little far, we thought at the time, but it pointed the way! We married shortly after.

Our hobbies lead us not only by the proverbial still waters but as a consequence in various other directions. If we hadn't have loved flowers we feel quite sure we never would have been asked to become a member of the Blue-bird Garden Club, this an organization we prophesied at the beginning might last six months but has now been going on to its eleventh year. Here is an organization, one of our members has aptly said, where we do not have to play cards as an excuse for entertainment and intelligent thinking.

It is a thrill to meet with some people. (We hope you do not put too broad a construction on this.) The friends we meet and the enjoyment of the various contacts justify a hobby.

We will illustrate: Last year in June we attended the international show of the American Peony Society at Rochester, Minnesota. As we were walking along the aisles of the exhibition we met there a man, almost head-on, clad in his shirt sleeves, coat on arm, for he had been apparently hard at work. He looked at me in surprise, and I was surprised that he was surprised. Finally I said, "Well, you look to me like an old campaigner in this matter of exhibiting peonies. Do you live hereabouts?" "No," said he, "I live in New York state." "You

are a long ways from home," said I, but "I am a member of the American Peony Society, perhaps I ought to know you."

"My name is Harry F. Little," said he, and lo and behold we stood before the greatest showman and one of the leading originators of new varieties of peonies in America.

We met here also Dr. Christopher Graham, for whom Mr. Brand has named a new peony, the triumvirate with the Mayo Brothers in the establishment of the famous Mayo clinic. And, as I looked at that man, I said to myself, "What a man, what a great doctor, and, he of all persons pursuing a hobby."

Was he happy among the peonies? His erect carriage, ruddy complexion and elastic step were the answer.

Referring to the matter of gardens: Was it not intended at the beginning that all the world should be a garden? If so, have we not drifted afar? The ravages of time have been most unkind.

There was a time when all Wisconsin was a garden. There is much beauty still but nothing like what it might be or might have been. The beautiful wild flowers that once graced the landscape are still within the memory of some of us of this generation. The early pioneer came to subdue a forest and is there any among us who will not say that he overdid it?

It is only within recent years that much attention has been given the conservation of our natural resources and their restoration. It is to us through the influence of garden clubs and such like that we may aid in bringing back the conditions that made Wisconsin the paradise of the naturalist it once was. It is in this way we may become in truth the real friends of our native landscape.

As we gather here and discuss gardens and beautiful, peaceful things, how many of us really realize that we are living in a world that is anything but that? Much as we are disturbed about the war that is going on, we should be as much or more concerned about the kind of world we may expect or think possible after the war is over. We must keep a calm, sane outlook. This comes best in just such things as tending a garden or beautifying our surroundings. Let us get a hoe, develop a hobby, and resolve to look with more favor upon the beautiful things of life, such as "nature's charms, the hills and woods, the sweeping vales and foaming floods that are free alike to all" as the poet has said.

J. D. MILLAR,

Read before the Menomonic Woman's Club, February 11, 1941.

Not Only LeCygne

MARTIN A. ELIASON, *Appleton, Minn.*

This Article Written for the March Bulletin—Editor

The article by J. W. Frenz in the December Bulletin, "*Le Cygne*. Is It Rated Too High?" blew new life into several questions about rating of peonies that have occurred to me from time to time, so here they are.

Is the question in the above-mentioned heading as important as the following?

Should permanent ratings be given to any variety of peonies?

Shall the American Peony Society stand bound for all time — committed to the judgments of the past as to the comparative merits of varieties or any other matters that may confront the Society in a rapidly changing world? Would that not result in ultimate stagnation and death?

Shall ratings, when given, remain unchangeable, even though later and more general knowledge may show that some changes are indicated? Why

are ratings given to varieties of peonies, in the first place? Is it not primarily for the benefit of the amateurs who may not know but wish to find out what varieties are NOW generally considered to be of superior value, and in every way most worthy of planting, and suited for whatever purpose the planter has in mind?

Will not the ardent peony fan — the expert, we might say — look around and procure and plant just what suits his purpose or appeals to him most? If that is true, then ratings will be of small value to him as a planting guide, but he most certainly would like to see his own and his contemporaries' productions enter into and exist in the field on a fair footing, as compared to the productions of the past.

When a less-informed person wants to plant a plant as enduring as the peony (that may last one hundred years or more), should not that person have available the very best information that the lovers and producers of such plants can give at that particular time?

Is that person anywhere nearly as much concerned about what varieties were considered to be the best twenty years ago as about which are so considered today?

Is not the very best information that the most informed and sincere peony lovers can give today not only likely but SURE to be inadequate, and even possibly misleading, twenty years from today?

Is not this part of the reason for the existence of the American Peony Society, that no other agency can so well and dependably gather such information and make it available to a less-informed public? If such information is going to have the greatest possible usefulness and value to the public, must it not, first of all be true, accurate and dependable at the time when it is given? If it shall be dependable, it must be honestly arrived at and up to date (as far as we can possibly keep it so).

Is it not true that whatever the experts (in any line) consider to be the very best today will have to compete with whatever is produced in a near or far future, and endure or be displaced according to whether it is equal, superior or inferior to such new production?

When *Le Cygne* and many other varieties were rated in 1921 and earlier, no one had seen the varieties that had been originated since that time. Many of these new varieties are exceedingly lovely and appear to be superior to *Le Cygne* and other older varieties, in some ways at least.

Is it not easily possible that many of those who voted a rating of ten for *Le Cygne* would today vote a lower rating if they were all alive and had a chance to vote again?

If there is a feeling among the members of our Society (and there is) that some varieties are rated too high and others too low, why wouldn't it be only fair to give the whole membership a chance to vote for a re-rating of the entire list of varieties at certain predetermined intervals of time?

Why not make it the policy of our Society to have new varieties rated within five years after introduction, and to have a general re-rating of all varieties every twenty years?

Would not our rating have much greater value if each variety were rated for three purposes — for garden or landscape use, for commercial and for exhibition purposes? It seems to me that such a triple rating would be even better than the suggested double rating so ably set forth by L. E. Foster on page 40 of Bulletin No. 76. Does it not seem that such a policy would ward off stagnation, increase interest in and also enhance the work our Society is trying to do?

Can any person consider a peony and say with full assurance, "This is the perfect, the ultimate peony — no better one can or will ever be produced!" and feel sure that he will not sometime wish to retract or modify his statement?

Can we hope to do any better than to make an honest, united attempt to make our ratings indicate, as nearly as possible, the true difference between what any variety is and what an ideal, a PERFECT peony should be?

Another advantage to be gained by re-rating the entire list of peonies, at stated intervals, would be that it would give the Society a chance to rectify some injustices that may have crept in or had been planned into our list of ratings as they are today. The above refers to the practice that may have been used to secure unwarranted high ratings for some varieties by simply getting in touch with a number of introducers with a proposition something like this: "You vote so high a rating for my introductions and I will do the same for yours." If it should be that any ratings have been secured in some such way as that, then we should, at least, have some chance for present and future members of our Society to re-rate such varieties more nearly as they should be rated, rather than to mislead the peony planters for all time by maintaining and perpetuating such fictitious ratings.

If the present policy in regard to permanent or inflexible ratings is continued in force, I am very much afraid that the World of tomorrow will some day sneer and say, "Oh! The American Peony Society? — Huh! they are asleep! — look at the ratings they gave to this, that and the other peony, and they will not change them even though they know that many such ratings are not in line with the facts."

We would not really like to have that said about us: now would we?



Tree Peonies in the Landscape

Planted as Specimens or in Masses, Shrub Form of Peony Provides Interesting Texture of Foliage and Wide Range of Color Without Difficulty in Culture — By N. I. W. Kriek

About twenty years ago, in the midst of a wave of enthusiasm for the marvelous developments in herbaceous peonies, I became fascinated by the tree peony. I was astounded by its wide range of color, offering brilliant salmons, the long-sought yellows, purples, all shades of pink, mauve, white and even shades of rust.

The beauty of the tree peony led me to obtain all possible information on the subject, and I decided to make an importation of what were then the finest varieties from France. Since then I have added to this collection hybrids originated in France and Japan as well as the United States.

Under the most trying conditions the tree peony has proved perfectly hardy in Michigan and reports have shown that there are fine plants in Wisconsin and other northern states.

In contrast to herbaceous peonies, that die to the ground every winter, tree peonies become woody plants. They produce woody stems, on which eyes form from which sprout soft wood, part of which develops into woody stems again later in the summer. The name "tree peony" is somewhat misleading, as the plants really become medium-size shrubs.

A planting of tree peonies becomes a marvelous asset to a properly maintained garden.

Tree peonies bloom earlier than the herbaceous type of peonies, and their colors are of the most glorious hues.

Tree peonies require no more attention than any other type of peony. If small plants are used for planting out, they should be protected against rough handling, but plants 3 and 4 years old or older can be used as the average good shrub. Sometimes it is advisable to spray with Bordeaux mixture for leaf protection, but, as a rule, tree peonies pretty well take care of themselves. Tree peonies must have perfect drainage. They seem to prefer a sandy loam and generally react to the same cultural directions as roses. They are gross feeders, and well rotted cow manure mixed thoroughly with the soil helps a great deal.

I have grown tree peonies at Lansing, Mich., for well over ten years and have never found tree peonies here less hardy than ordinary herbaceous peonies. This does not refer to a small planting in a protected location, but to plantings in lots of several thousands in the open field without any protection whatsoever. Lansing is away from the lakes, and we cannot depend on a blanket of snow during the winter. In my opinion there is no reason why tree peonies should not be hardy anywhere in the United States.

Centuries ago tree peonies were considered almost sacred in the imperial gardens of the Chinese emperors. They were not only grown in borders and beds, but also in large tubs placed in inner courts. It is known that such tubbed tree peonies produced as many as 400 blooms to the plant. They were so highly regarded that single plants were valued at 100 ounces in gold, and when first introduced in Europe in 1789, they were sold for as much as 100 louis d'or (\$460) each. They have long been cultivated in England, until today there are but few gardens there that lay any pretense to beauty which are not adorned by the gorgeous flowers of the tree peony. In European parks and on estates they have proved their value for planting in large formal or informal beds.

Tree peonies reached America from England in the early years of the nineteenth century. It has been proved that the tree peony not only will thrive here, but it will bloom freely year after year.

Tree peonies are propagated by grafting. They are grown in small pots, later to be transplanted into 5-inch or 6-inch pots. In Europe these 5-inch pot plants are standard in tree peonies and pot plants make it possible to ship tree peonies almost throughout the year. In September and October plants can be shipped in dormant condition from the field.

Tree peonies come in white, pink, red, yellow and intermediate shades such as orange-yellow, salmon, purple and cream. They bloom in Michigan from late May until the end of June. Some varieties, especially the yellow shades, produce new buds while the plant is in full bloom. Their colors are exquisite in the spring picture. Mass planting of tree peonies against evergreens produce an unforgettable scene.

Considering that the ultimate height of tree peonies reaches five feet and the average height is three feet, they can be used in masses as average-size shrubs. For long-time use, they should be planted at least four feet apart. Planting in large solid beds, either in formal or informal design, is ideal. They can also be used as specimen plants, in borders and in special color patterns. Tree peonies like to be in semishade, but if planted near trees they should be well fed.

While there are a great many varieties, some of the outstanding kinds in the various available colors are the following:

WHITE:

Lactea — Pure white double flower, inside bottom petals marked carmine; free bloomer.

Flora — Pure, transparent white; immense flower of Japanese type.

PINK AND INTERMEDIATE SHADES:

Archiduc Ludovico — Enormous flower, flesh-pink turning to a soft lilac; free-blooming.

Athlete — Large double flower of fine glazed mauve, shaded rose; vigorous and prolific grower.

Banksi — An old-time semidouble pale lilac rose; free-blooming.

Baronne d'Ales — Large imbricated bloom of vivid salmon-pink, deeper in center.

Carolina d'Italie — Large silvery-flesh flower with salmon reflex; prolific and very beautiful.

Comtesse de Tuder — Extra-double; glowing salmon, petals tipped satiny white; free-blooming.

Fragrans Maxima plena — Magnificent salmon-pink self-color, bronzed foliage; perfect form.

Jules Pirlot — Large globular flower, perfect in form, of a satiny pink flushed carmine.

Madame de Vatry — Large globular bloom; pink shaded lilac; vigorous and prolific.

Reine Elizabeth — One of the richest shades in peonies and generally considered among the finest of tree peonies.

RED SHADES:

Flambeau — Large double flowers of bright salmon-red with purple veins, passing to a paler shade after a few days.

Georges Paul — Large amaranth and violet bloom.

Satin Rouge — Blood-orange, an altogether new color in peonies.

(From October 15, 1940, American Nurseryman)



There is a wealth of new and beautiful seedling peonies in many gardens. The prices of many have been greatly reduced. Keep your garden abreast with some of these fine originations. Try Brand's, Auten's, Nicholl's, Glasscock's, Franklin's and others. We have some fine ones too, some we think the peer of any. There is a list of them awaiting your request.

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AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

THE American Iris Society has, since its organization in 1920, published 45 Bulletins which cover every phase of Iris growing and should be useful to all gardeners.

The society has copies of all but three of these bulletins for sale. A circular giving list of contents of each Bulletin, price, etc., may be secured from the Secretary, B. Y. Morrison, Room 821, Washington Loan & Trust Bldg., Washington, D. C.

In order to dispose of surplus stocks of some numbers we offer 6 Bulletins (our section) for \$1.00.



Through an endowment given as a memorial to the late Bertrand H. Farr, the American Iris Society is able to offer free to all Garden Clubs or Horticultural Societies the use

of our traveling library. This library contains all books ever published on Iris and a complete file of the Bulletins of this society and the English Iris Society, and miscellaneous pamphlets.

The library may be borrowed for one month without charge except the actual express charges. Organizations desiring it should communicate with the nearest of the following offices:

Horticultural Society of New York, 598 Madison Ave., New York City.

Mrs. Lelia M. Bach, 1111 E. Grove St., Bloomington, Ill.
Sydney B. Mitchell, School of Librarianship, Berkeley, California.

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The American Horticultural Society

invites to membership all persons interested in any phase of gardening. As specialists in peonies you will certainly want to know about all the other sorts of plants that go into a good garden. In the quarterly NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE you will find authoritative articles on many kinds of plants and superb illustrations. We can also supply a reprint of peony species, pictures only, for fifty cents. Membership is by the calendar year. The annual dues are three dollars, and should be sent to the Society in care of the Secretary, 821 Washington Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

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This is truly an exceptional bargain which should promptly place this valuable Manual in the hands of every peony lover. If you already possess a copy, secure another one for a peony loving friend or persuade them to send for one at once before the limited supply is exhausted.

There are only a few hundred copies available and this offer will be withdrawn promptly at the end of this year, or at any time before that period if available stock has been depleted to a point beyond our actual requirements.

Supplements will be prepared, which may be obtained at a nominal cost to cover preparation, printing and mailing, that will keep the Manual constantly up-to-date.

Send in your order for as many books as you can use while they are still available. All checks should be made to the American Peony Society and sent to:

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Secretary,
American Peony Society,
Northbrook, Ill.

To members who do not have the manual whose 1941 dues are paid, manual will be sent them for \$2.00.

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The new ratings appearing in Bulletin No. 82, together with additional data, has been bound in pamphlet form and is now ready for distribution. A small charge of 50c per copy has been made to cover cost of printing, handling, etc. In the new form it will make a neat supplement for the Peony Manual if you already have a copy.

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