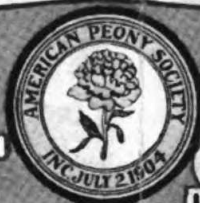


AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Bulletin



VOL. 30

DECEMBER, 1931

No. 48

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Editor*
Northbrook, Ill.

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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION,
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STATE OF ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF COOK—ss.

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared W. F. Christman, who, having been duly sworn, according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the American Peony Society Bulletin and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of March, 1931.

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(My commission expires July 23, 1932.)

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The Christmas Rose

By RUTH H. BRANT, *Iowa City, Ia.*

The wise men journeyed far by night
Under the guiding star
And brought rich gifts of gleaming gold,
And frankincense and myrrh.
A little shepherdess softly crept
And peered within the cot,
Then slowly turned away and wept
For she could give Him naught.
An angel met her, bowed with grief,
Who waved a lily wand,
When lo, the earth was white with flowers
Upspringing from the sand.
She pressed an armful to her breast
And brought them to the Child.
He turned away from gold and spice
And stretched His hands and smiled.
Since then, in cold and winter snow
When the world is chill with gloom,
Like sun-rays from the Christ Child's smile,
The Christmas roses bloom.

Some Asiatic Peonies

By A. P. SAUNDERS, *President, American Peony Society, Clinton, N. Y.*

I PROPOSE to discuss in the following pages some of the peony species that have come to us out of Asia; and as the geographers do not tell us exactly where in Caucasia is the line which separates Europe from Asia I shall feel free to include some of the Caucasian species—the ones with which I have had first-hand experience—and to omit others which I know less well.

The Caucasus is rich in peony species and has given us some of the most precious native forms we have, though most of these are still but little known to the gardening public.

Anyone interested in peony species should not fail to consult Major Stern's excellent paper in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* for January, 1931. I shall have occasion to refer to it more than once in the course of this article.

P. macrophylla, the coarse-leaved peony.—This species is well named. The individual leaflets are entire, that is, not lobed or dissected; and they attain proportions which for a peony are enormous. I have measured a terminal leaflet that was 9x6 inches. If drawn on paper this looks like an incredible size for a peony leaflet; and so I felt when I later ran across the measurement in my records. So in the succeeding spring I again laid a tape measure along the leaves, and had no difficulty in finding several of the same dimensions.

The plant is a very early bloomer, coming in with the single *tenuifolia*, which contests with *macrophylla* the honour of being the first of all peonies to open its blooms in the spring. I have a number of seedlings of *macrophylla*, and they vary a little in season; but each year it is a race between the earliest of these and the single *tenuifolia* to see which shall be first. In a normal season—if there be such a thing—these two plants open their first blooms in my latitude about the tenth or twelfth of May, though in a very early year I have seen blooms in April. Mr. F. W. Moore, in *The Garden*, vol. xlv., p. 71 (1894), gives the following dates for the first blooms of different species in his garden:

- P. cretica*, May 1.
- P. tenuifolia*, May 3.
- P. arietina*, May 4.
- P. humilis*, May 6.
- P. peregrina*, May 7.

My *P. cretica* bloomed for the first time in the spring of 1930, and was by no means one of the first species to bloom; but perhaps when the plant is better established it may appear at an earlier date.

The expanded flowers of *P. macrophylla* are white, botanical descriptions designating them as yellow to the contrary notwithstanding. True, the opening buds are sometimes greenish or yellowish; but any such colour fades out as the bloom expands, and by the time it is open the petals are white. The seedlings I have raised show very little variation in the colour of their flowers.

On the whole the plant is a good one, especially on account of its earliness. It crosses fairly well with the Chinese peonies as well as with the forms of *officinalis*, and gives interesting hybrids, some of them very fine.

P. macrophylla is easily recognized by its very early bloom and by its coarse foliage, which is as if blistered; that is, the veins are depressed so that the shining surface of the leaf stands up above their level. If any further mark of recognition were needed, it would be supplied by the box-like odour of the leaves, which in full sunlight is quite strong, and, so far as I know, belongs to this species alone.

The seed-pods when open, display blue-black fertile seeds along with many large, brilliant, rose-red, sterile ovules. It is hard to see what purpose these sterile ovules can have served in the evolutionary process, but they are common to quite a number of peony species, and they do add greatly to the beauty of the plant in autumn.

P. Mlokosewitschi.—"This pleasing little assortment of syllables," as Farrer calls it, is applied to a plant which, like *P. macrophylla*, is a native of the Caucasus region. It is not only one of the most distinct of all peony species, but in the whole range of peonies it is to my thinking one of the most beautiful we possess. It should be in the garden of everyone who cares for lovely plants. If my readers get nothing else from my efforts except the determination to add this plant to their gardens, their time and mine will not have been wasted. Unfortunately it cannot be counted on to thrive everywhere. With me, on a stiff clay and in a very severe climate it flourishes almost like a weed, though I must admit that I lose a plant now and then from crown rot. But some of my correspondents in various parts of the United States find it an uncertain grower, and M. Lemoine writes me that it does poorly with him at Nancy.

The blooming season of *P. Mlokosewitschi* is extremely early—only a few days later than that of *P. macrophylla*; and the flowers are of a light clear yellow; not a cream-white called yellow, but a true and enduring yellow, such that when the petals fall off they still retain their full colour. The shade is neither so deep nor so bright as in *P. lutea*, it is true, but no one would hesitate to call these flowers yellow, and a very beautiful shade of yellow.

The foliage is glaucous green with some bronzy-red in it, and the stems are bronzy-red. There is some variation of colour in the leafage of different seedlings, and most of them are of a plum-purple colour when the shoots first appear above ground. The plant is handsome even out of bloom; when in bloom it is strikingly beautiful. In autumn when the seed-pods burst they are seen to be filled with dark-blue seeds mixed with bright, rose-red, sterile ovules similar to those of *P. macrophylla*. The leaves are apparently covered on the upper surface with some waxy secretion, for they are not wetted by water-drops, which lie in the depressions like little spheres of crystal.

It would seem as if this plant had been specially created to yield us by crossing with the Chinese peonies of our gardens a grand race of double yellow peonies. But, after making a good many hundred attempts to produce such crosses without ever getting so much as one hybrid seed, I have come to the conclusion that its creation must have been for some other purpose. Apparently its Caucasian blood is curdled by the mere thought of accepting a Mongol mate. And yet, Cophetua-like, it accepts the little beggar-maid *tenuifolia* and mates with her willingly.

The botanical affiliations of *P. Mlokosewitschi* seem to be with *triternata*, and probably with *corallina*, though regarding the last I have as yet no direct evidence.

P. triternata.—This plant has a good deal the appearance of *Mlokosewitschi*, though it is light green instead of bronzy. The bloom of *triternata* is light mauve pink, but not a bad colour, and it fades into a rather pretty shade. Its habitat is the Caucasus region and Asia Minor. The species has been long in cultivation, but for only a very short time in my garden, and I do not therefore feel well qualified to speak about it, except to say that it is a desirable plant. It crosses on *Mlokosewitschi* with extreme ease, and is no doubt closely related to that species, with which it shares an undying hatred of the Chinese peonies, for with them it will apparently have nothing to do.

P. Wittmanniana.—Here is another desirable plant from the same region of country; though this one has been found also in northern Persia. In general appearance *P. Wittmanniana* might be described as the feminine counterpart of *P. macrophylla*. She has refinement and delicacy where he has strength and coarseness. Matrimonial alliances between the two houses seem to be warmly favoured on both sides, and are fruitful; this I take to indicate that the two species are rather closely related.

The blooms of *P. Wittmanniana* are of a very pale yellow colour. One might call them yellow if one were looking for a yellow peony, or cream-white if one were after a white one. M. Lemoine has used this plant in producing his famous crosses with Chinese peonies, which bear the names *Mai fleuri*, *Le Printemps*, *Avant Garde*. These hybrids are excellent plants, and with me have far more vigour than the species *Wittmanniana*, which shows a tendency to enjoy poor health in my garden. This species has also been crossed with *P. officinalis*, and a hybrid form is on the market under the name *P. Wittmanniana splendens*. It is not very splendid, but it does hold its own at that early season when there are few peonies to compete with it.

The leaflets in all four of the species so far considered are entire. Those of *Mlokoewitschi* and *triternata* are much rounded at the ends; those of *macrophylla* less so, while in *Wittmanniana* the leaflets are rather pointed. This species, like the others, shows the idiosyncrasy of producing red sterile ovules mixed with the fertile seeds. This character is, I presume, very marked in *corallina*, from its name; but that species will not be dealt with here, as I have still to see it in bloom. Not but what I have bought plants under the name *P. corallina* several times and grown them on for years; but so far all that have come to maturity have turned out to be something else. Would that we could devise some way by which the careless nurseryman who sells us plants not true to name could be compelled to replace not the plants, but our lost years!

The ease with which they intercross would indicate a close relationship between *P. macrophylla* and *P. Wittmanniana*, but I do not believe that *P. Mlokoewitschi* is at all close to either of these, for it does not cross readily with them. Furthermore, the hybrids of *macrophylla* with *sinensis* and of *Wittmanniana* with *sinensis* are in general very much alike, while *Mlokoewitschi* does not give hybrids at all with *sinensis*.

Two other species remain to be considered, which have their haunts in Caucasia and near-by regions. These are *P. tenuifolia* and the so-called *P. hybrida*.

P. tenuifolia.—I have already spoken of this as one of the earliest of all peonies to come into bloom. The plant is familiar to almost everyone who grows perennials; and no one could fail to recognize it from its feathery foliage. The leaves are the very opposite of those in the species heretofore considered, for these are divided and dissected until you would think the plant had a mania for leaf dissection. I once had the curiosity to count the points on a leaf of *tenuifolia*, and there were over two hundred. This passion for subdivision, curiously enough, does not come on the plant at the beginning of its life, but grows on it by degrees. The germinating seedlings of *tenuifolia* do not have their first leaves any more divided than are those of several other species, such as *Veitchi*, *Woodwardi*, *Emodi*. Indeed, the young *tenuifolias* could scarcely be distinguished from the young plants of these other species. Small weak roots, the result of root division of *tenuifolia*, will also, sometimes for a year or two, makes leaves which show no more subdivision than do those of *Veitchi*.

The species *tenuifolia* has single bright crimson flowers, which nestle in the leaves at the top of the stem—are “sessile,” having no stems of their own. The colour of the flower is clear and brilliant and it is a favourite in old-fashioned gardens; it is indeed already so widely known that there is no need to stress its merits.

P. tenuifolia is native to the region stretching from Transylvania to the Crimea, the Caucasus, and Armenia. It was introduced to English gardens in 1765, and has since that time spread itself widely around. It is stoloniferous, *i.e.* makes runners underground, and forms buds on root fragments; hence there is no difficulty in multiplying it if one is so minded.

There are two forms of *tenuifolia* which are probably mutations from the original species; these are the double crimson, having the colour of the single-flowered plant, and the single form known as *tenuifolia rosea*, which bears blooms of a peculiar watery pink. These are both pretty; the double-flowered form, which is of unknown antiquity, blooms about a week later than the single; it is widely offered by nurserymen, but the pink single form is rather rare, though it is carried in England by Messrs. Barr and Sons, Mr. Amos Perry, and perhaps others.

The single-flowered plant sets seed to its own pollen, but, with me at least, never abundantly. The double-flowered form has no stamens and therefore sets no seed unless hand-pollinated; but it does give seed

to the pollen of other species when there is not too high a degree of incompatibility between them.

The seedlings of *tenuifolia* show a difference from other peonies in bringing their seed-leaves above ground when they are germinating. Most peonies keep their seed-leaves tucked away in the seed, and the first leaf they send up is a true leaf; but *tenuifolia* brings up first two rather long strap-shaped seed-leaves, and later the first true leaf. The tree peony also does this once in a while but only very exceptionally.

A plant sometimes offered in catalogues along with *tenuifolia* is the one known as *tenuifolia latifolia*. The name is sufficiently descriptive, the leaves being somewhat broader than in the type. The bloom is crimson in colour but not so good as *tenuifolia* itself. I have had the plant under observation for a couple of years and find that it sets no seed and has sterile pollen. It is therefore to be considered as probably a hybrid. I have been unable to find any record of its origin. It may be a *tenuifolia-anomala* hybrid, but there is no method of analysis by which this can be determined; the only method is to raise a strain of *tenuifolia-anomala* hybrids for comparison; and this is being done.

The name *P. laciniata*, which is sometimes coupled with that of *tenuifolia*, seems to be a synonym of *P. anomala*, and is, I think, generally accepted as such.

P. hybrida.—This plant has a peculiar history. The legend that attaches to it is to the effect that it "was found by Pallas in the Botanic Garden at St. Petersburg, growing near its two parents, *P. anomala* and *P. tenuifolia*." This is an unfortunate legend, for the plant is known to exist in the wild state, and the evidence is quite conclusive that it is not a hybrid at all. Lynch in his monograph on *Paeonia* (1890) very rightly treats it as a true species, as it has been found native in the Caucasus and other regions; and the botanic garden at Leningrad has in recent years offered in its exchange list seed collected in various localities. Its pollen is very active and has none of the appearance of a hybrid pollen. The plant is not unlike *tenuifolia* in general appearance, but the colour of the petals is somewhat lighter, and the flowers are stalked above the leaves, so that the plant when in bloom makes a rather better show in the garden than does *tenuifolia*. I consider *P. hybrida* a desirable garden form, and I wish it had a better name; for to name a species "*hybrida*" is bad at the best, but to call this one *tenuifolia hybrida*, as is often done, is much worse if it is neither *tenuifolia* nor a hybrid. I

wish it might be renamed after Lynch, who first credited it with the independence that is its due; but I suppose it is too late for that.

P. anomala.—This species has already been mentioned. It occurs as a wild plant in Europe and all through the western half of Siberia, especially in the Ural and Altai mountains and in the region of Lake Baikal. The true species is not commonly supplied by nurserymen. Most of the plants one buys as *anomala* turn out to be either one or other of the forms known as *anomala insignis* and *anomala intermedia*. I believe both of these to be hybrids between *anomala* and some other species, but the evidence is not yet conclusive. However that may be, they are both of them preferable to the type as garden plants, for they both have fairly good bright crimson flowers; the blooms do indeed become purplish with age, but they never descend to such a dull and muddy purple as characterizes the true species. For the breeder, on the contrary, the varieties *insignis* and *intermedia* are but poor substitutes for the type, as they are, I think, sterile both as to seed and pollen; and if one is carrying out breeding experiments, a fertile plant, even if ugly, is to be preferred to a sterile one. My opinion of the species *anomala* is based on the plant under that name in the collection at Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y. If it should turn out that their plant is not true to name, my judgment as to the merits of this species would have to be revised.

I have had a bad time with seeds of *P. anomala*. I have bought them wherever I have seen them offered and have never had a single germination. Is it possible that *anomala insignis* sometimes sets a few seeds, and that most of the so-called *anomala* seed in commerce is of that origin? Or is the seed of *anomala* perhaps of very slow germination, lying in the ground for a number of years before it comes up? I hope to have the true species in bloom in my garden this year or next and shall then be able to make more exact observations on it.

P. Emodi.—This is the only peony that has so far been reported from the Himalayas. It is found at elevations of 5,000 to 10,000 feet, from Kumaon to Kashmir. The flower is white, 3 to 4 inches across, and is said to be very beautiful. Some suspicion still attaches to it on account of doubts as to its hardiness. We can scarcely believe that a mountain plant growing at such altitudes could be tender. Yet Major Stern, in the article to which I have already referred, states that he does not find the plant hardy in his garden and that he has never had it in bloom. I have also not yet bloomed it, but it came safely through the severe winter of 1929-30 and made good growth in the following sum-

mer. And I can now report (April 1931) that it is pushing up strongly for another year's growth; and even a group of young seedlings which germinated a year ago and were set out last summer are every one in good growth. And none of these plants have had more than a light protection of straw. I feel convinced, therefore, that the plant withstands the winter well, and that Major Stern's difficulties with it must have some other origin.

It is not possible to say much about the natural affinities of this species. The leaflets are much divided, recalling *P. Veitchi* or *P. anomala* in their general appearance, and I suppose it is mainly on this account that a relationship has been assumed between *P. Emodi* and *P. anomala*. I do not very much believe in similarity of leaf forms as indicating close relationship in peony species. Further, this species is said to bear several flowers to a stem, sharing this peculiarity with *P. Veitchi* and *P. sinensis* (*albiflora*); and some have found here an indication of a relationship to *P. sinensis*. Now the plant can hardly be related to both *sinensis* and *anomala*, for these two are certainly not at all close to one another. There is something individual and distinctive in the general style of *P. Emodi*, which suggests that it may perhaps stand by itself without any close affiliations with the species named. The question of its relationships must be left open until the plant can be more carefully studied.

There is a group of forms from Western China to which several specific names have been attached; but it looks as if they might all really be variants of one species.

P. Veitchi was at first referred by Kew to *P. anomala*, but was later recognized by Lynch as distinct. Then came *P. Woodwardi*, which is certainly close to *P. Veitchi* and perhaps no more than a variety of that species. *P. Woodwardi* is different in colour, blooms a week or ten days earlier, and has its young shoots differently coloured. But later in the season the two plants are almost indistinguishable; and their compatibilities in cross-breeding experiments are so far as I have gone, practically the same. *P. Woodwardi* is a much more attractive plant than *P. Veitchi*, mainly because the flowers of *Woodwardi* are of a charming rose-pink colour, whereas those of *Veitchi* are of a magentaish deep pink. Mr. Amos Perry, who has raised a large batch of seedlings of *Woodwardi*, tells me that it is extremely variable, yielding occasionally very beautiful and distinct forms. An American correspondent reports a white-flowered form as having appeared in a small group of seedlings.

The third plant in this group is *P. Beresowskyi*. This plant is found in the same general region as the two preceding, namely, the western borderland of China, between China and Tibet. Farrer found plants of this group in the mountains of that district, but did not distinguish between them. He speaks thus: "Sp. 67 (?*Beresowskyi*) abounds between 8,000 and 9,000 feet on the alps of Thundercrown and Satanee—not a woodland plant but loving grassy, stony dells and glades on the open alp . . . It is in my eyes a species of singular charm and delightfulness; it has voluminous lucent foliage and stems of 12 to 20 inches, carrying several flowers in all sorts of clear and clean tones of rosy pink, light or dark, with a golden eye of stamens, and so intoxicating a fragrance of roses that all the hill becomes a rose-garden as you go by its generous jungles of large and lovely blossom in May and June" (*English Rock Garden*, vol. ii., Appendix, p. 589). I notice that in the recently published book on the plant introductions of Reginald Farrer the Species No. 67 is referred to *P. Woodwardi*. I have had a plant under the name *P. Beresowskyi* in growth for several years, and last year it bloomed for the first time. In general character the plant is certainly very near to *Woodwardi*, and in the colour of the flower the two are also scarcely distinguishable; but *Beresowskyi* came into bloom about a week later than *Veitchi*, which would be nearly two weeks later than *Woodwardi*. This may, of course, have been due to the fact that the plant was blooming for the first time; yet I notice that in the early days of April, *Woodwardi* was shooting up strongly, whereas *Beresowskyi* had not yet appeared above ground.

Taken all together, I think the evidence suggests the existence here of a species which has not yet "settled down." Farrer's description indicates considerable variation in colour among the plants which he saw, and which we may presume were all of the same species; and this is confirmed by the experience of Mr. Amos Perry. But this is not all. Major Stern, in the article already mentioned, gives the height of *Veitchi* as about 40 inches, whereas *Woodwardi* is given as being about 1 foot high. Lynch's original description of *Veitchi* gives its height as 2 feet, which is a very different matter from 40 inches. However, an article in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* for June 18, 1927, describes *Veitchi* as being 2-3 feet high. I have never seen any botanical description of *P. Woodwardi*, but Major Woodward, who knew the type plant, said of it in a letter to E. H. Wilson: "It differs from *Veitchi* in that it flowers ten days to a fortnight earlier, is rosy pink, whereas *Veitchi* is a darker red,

and the leaves of *Veitchi* are a shining green, those of *Woodwardi*, especially on some plants, being of a bronzy hue at first." He says nothing of any marked difference in height, which he could hardly have failed to mention if one of them had been three times as tall as the other, or even twice as tall. With me both plants are of the same height, namely, about 1 foot as they stand; but, as the stems are arching, their actual length would be from 1½ to 2 feet. Does not all the evidence point to the existence here of a group of plants of one species or of several, in which colour, stature and season are so variable that no sharp specific lines can be drawn? With regard to the fragrance of *Woodwardi*, so vividly described by Farrer, I must say that the plant as it grows with me has no noticeable odour; nor do I detect any smell in *Veitchi*, though it stands recorded (*The Garden*, vol. lxxiii., p. 542; 1909) that "owing to the peculiar smell possessed by the plant it is known in China by a native name which means 'stinking moutan'," *i. e.* stinking peony. Perhaps, then, variable in odour as well as in stature and in colour.

Spread over parts of China and in Japan and Korea is a group of forms, all at least related to each other, to which the following names have been attached:

In Japan: *P. obovata* in its two forms, *rosea* and *alba*; *P. japonica*.

In Korea: *P. oreogeton*.

In western China: *P. obovata alba*; *P. Willmottiae*.

P. obovata is the native wild peony of Japan and occurs in both pink and white forms. Farrer says of the variety *alba*: "The Japanese *obovata* whose pearl-white goblets I remember above Shoji is a jewel quite outside any condemnation" (*Alpine and Bog Plants*, p. 53). I have not yet bloomed this plant, but I have seedlings coming on in various stages of maturity. Seeds of *P. obovata* may be had from Japanese seedsmen.

P. japonica (Miyabe and Takeda; *Gard. Chron.*, 3rd ser., vol. xlvi., p. 366; 1910).—This seems to be a renaming of *P. obovata alba*, the native white form of the Japanese wild peony; while *P. oreogeton* (Baker and Moore, "Contributions to the Flora of N. China," *F. Linn. Soc.*, vol. xvii.; 1880) appears also to be at least closely related to the same plant.

Coming now to western China, we have two plants, or at least two names, *P. obovata alba* and *P. Willmottiae*. I have bloomed the former of these, and a most beautiful plant it is. My plants of this *obovata*

alba came from Allgrove in England, who has continued the strain grown in Veitch's Nursery and derived from seed sent home from western China by the late William Purdom in 1909. The foliage of this plant is so distinct that, once seen, it could hardly thereafter be forgotten. The leaves are laid out with a peculiar flatness, and have a very handsome dull reddish-bronzy colour; indeed, they look as if they might be of bronze. The flowers are of an absolute whiteness such as I know of in no other peony; and the whole plant possesses a quality of distinction which casts my young Japanese plants quite in the shade.

P. Willmottiae ("Dr. Stapf in *Bot. Mag.*, vol. cxlii., T. 8667, made *P. Willmottiae* a distinct species; he regarded *P. obovata*, Maxim, as its nearest ally"—communication from Kew).—Whether this plant is really distinct from the *P. obovata alba* from the same region can only be finally determined by observations on the two plants growing side by side. I have as yet no plants of *P. Willmottiae*. But the late E. H. Wilson, who knew Chinese and Japanese plants as few have known them, made to me the following statement regarding this group a few months before his death: "There is one species native to Japan, *P. obovata* and its white form *P. obovata alba*, which seems to be the same as *P. japonica*. There is also a Korean *P. obovata* which is larger and hairier (*P. oreogeton*.) Then, in western China, there is *P. Willmottiae* or *P. obovata alba*. I consider these two identical, but the plant is a very distinct species from the *P. obovata alba* in Japan. The plant from western China is a larger and far superior plant."

It should be added that Fedde (*Report nov. spec. regni vegetab.*, 1913, pp. 319-320) gives *P. japonica* as a good species, distinct from *P. obovata alba*, while Matsumura (*Index plant, Jap.*) gives *oreogeton* as a synonym of *P. obovata*. And there the matter rests at present.

It is most desirable that all these plants should be brought together so that they may be studied side by side, not alone as to their visible characters, but also as to their behavior in cross-fertilization experiments with other species.

We come now to a species native to northern China and Siberia which has had a rather special history. This is *Paeonia albiflora*, also called *Paeonia sinensis*, the remote ancestor of that great race of garden plants which we call Chinese peonies. What is one to say of such a plant? Once a modest wild flower, it is now one of the glories of our spring gardens, a florist's flower grown by hundreds of acres in America, a fancier's specialty, and a plant of which tens of thousands of seedlings

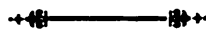
are raised every year in the hope of finding some new variation that will bring fame or profit to its originator.

It seems strange that this wild plant should have been capable, without, as I believe, any intercrossing with other species, of giving rise to the thousands of named varieties which cumber the lists of peony specialists today. But it must be remembered that the plant was widely cultivated in China a thousand years ago, and that when introduced into Europe about the beginning of the nineteenth century, it already existed in China in at least a hundred distinct varieties.

You in England do not specialize so much in the Chinese peony as we do in America. With us, besides its general use in gardens, it has become a very popular florist's flower, and the cut flower trade absorbs hundreds of thousands of peony blooms every year. There is an immense demand for peonies for the so-called Memorial Day trade. This falls on the 30th of May, and is a national holiday in commemoration of the men who fell in the Civil War. Graves all over the country are then profusely decorated with flowers, and cut peonies for that purpose are bought in enormous quantity.

But of the Chinese peony as a cultivated plant I do not wish to speak. The primitive species should be my theme; but that plant is rare in cultivation, and I have never seen it in bloom. I believe that I now have it in my collection, and I presume it is not materially different from the many single-flowered plants which appear in a batch of seedling Chinese peonies. Farther than that I cannot at present go.

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A Method of Learning the Color of Peony Varieties

By L. W. KEPHART, *Takoma Park, Md.*

DESPITE the fine effort of the writers in the Peony Manual to give us understandable descriptions of peony varieties, many peony enthusiasts are still very much confused with respect to the relative colors of the varieties. The color of a variety frequently is described in a dozen different ways in as many catalogues, each writer using his own ideas of color and of the English language. Even in the Peony Manual the phraseology is inconclusive. How many persons can obtain even a fair understanding of the distinctions between "rose pink,"

"light rose pink," "bright old-rose pink," "dull old-rose pink," "dull rose pink," and "old-rose pink"? These terms are the official scientific nomenclature for color as given in Ridgeway's and similar color standard charts. Most persons, however, do not have access to these charts and the words, so far as they are concerned, are therefore a rather meaningless jumble.

The average amateur peony grower thus finds it difficult to obtain a clear mental picture of peony varieties, especially those which he has not himself seen and handled. When buying a new variety he must depend upon the printed description and only too often finds after two long years of waiting that the result is not at all as he had pictured it.

After several disappointing experiences of this kind, he therefore may reasonably be pardoned if finally he reaches the not unwarranted conclusion that many of the new varieties have no real distinction in color—that the difference between them and some older and cheaper varieties is largely imaginary and that his interest in peonies has been exploited by some one endowed with a glib use of words.

To be sure, the situation with respect to new varieties is improving rapidly as the seedling and registration committees of the American Peony Society begin to function, and there is no longer much reason for a buyer to feel that his new varieties will not be worth while. Nevertheless, the feeling is widespread that some means should be devised to make a knowledge of exact flower color more readily available. Nothing delights a peony fancier more than to be able to identify varieties at sight and this ability depends first of all on the ability to recognize colors.

Some years ago when staging an exhibit at a large peony show I arranged the flowers of a large collection in the ascending order of their color, from whitest at one end to darkest red at the other. The purpose was mainly to make a pleasing display, one somewhat different from the ordinary calico mixture of reds, pinks and whites. The result was surprising. Not only was the display odd and artistic but it was immensely instructive. In fact, I soon forgot the original purpose of the display in noting the color sequence of the varieties.

Le Cygne, I had always thought of as the most nearly dead white of all varieties; to my surprise, *Kelway's Glorious* was distinctly whiter. Also, like many others, I had had difficulty separating such closely similar varieties as *Judge Berry*, *Eugenie Verdier* and *La Lorraine*. When brought side by side, the differences were very plain.

On the other hand, by this method of arrangement I have found,

at least to my own satisfaction, that there is no consistent and dependable difference in color between the red varieties—*Longfellow*, *Richard Carvel*, *Lora Dexheimer*, *Mary Brand* and *Karl Rosefeld*. In catalogues these are commonly described respectively as cherry red, brilliant crimson, crimson, deep red and dark crimson. I do not know exactly what is meant by these terms, but in any case, the difference in color of these varieties on most show tables is almost indistinguishable. Parenthetically, it might be remarked that dealers would be well advised in their literature to cease making color differences between varieties where differences do not exist, and to promote these varieties on the basis of differences in habit of growth, season, floriferousness, soil preference and regional adaptations in which respects there is plenty of room for description.

The following is a list of peonies taken from a typical show and arranged in the order of color from white to red:

Kelway's Glorious	Judge Berry	Mme. Emile Debatne
Le Cygne	La Lorraine	Suzette
Mrs. Edward Harding	La France	Edulis Superba
Ball o' Cotton	Marguerite Gerard	Auguste Villaume
Avalanche	Venus	Dr. Caillot
Jubilee	Lady Alexandra Duff	Augustine D'Hour
Frances Willard	Reine Hortense	Mr. L. van Leeuwen
Baroness Schroeder	Albert Crousse	Auguste Dessert
Festiva Maxima	E. C. Shaw	Felix Crousse
Mme. Emile Lemoine	Mme. Auguste Dessert	Longfellow
Mont Blanc	Georgiana Shaylor	Philippe Rivoire
Duchesse de Nemours	Claire Dubois	Mary Brand
Tourangelle	Martha Bulloch	Lora Dexheimer
James Kelway	Phyllis Kelway	Karl Rosefeld
Primevere	Mons. Jules Elie	Cherry Hill
Mme. Jules Dessert	Sarah Bernhardt	Benjamin Franklin
Octavie Demay	Raoul Dessert	Francois Rousseau
Marie Crousse	Souv. de Louis Bigot	Adolphe Rousseau
Asa Gray	Walter Faxon	Mons. Martin Cahuzac
	Lillian Gumm	

It is hoped that at some future national or other large show, where many varieties are available, a more complete list can be compiled. By means of such a list any one with even a slight acquaintance with varieties could obtain a very fair idea of the color of an unknown variety through its position with reference to other and more familiar varieties. Color, of course, is a relative quality, and will vary more or less with soil and seasonal conditions. The manner of cutting and handling also affects color. It is understood, therefore, that in preparing such a list the flowers should all be grown on the same kind of soil and the blossoms opened in the dark to preserve their true color values. Also, in the case of a variety like *Lady Alexandra Duff*, having a pronounced mixed color, there will be differences of opinion as to its proper position on a list.

New European Peony Introductions

Summary of paper entitled, "The Newer Peonies from Europe," prepared by George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Va., and read at the annual meeting of the Commercial Peony and Iris Growers' Association at Chicago.

IN THESE days when the search is always for something new and better, many maintain, even at great expense, laboratories in which this search is carried on. With a similar idea in view, I began some time ago to import and try out in my gardens the new peonies from abroad, as well as those from domestic introducers. In this way I have assembled a fairly complete collection of the newer varieties, my notes on which are given herewith.

Kelways produced eleven new varieties in 1928 and fifteen in 1929. Those which I shall mention were introduced in 1926 or earlier. Of the doubles which I have I shall describe only two. *James William Kelway* is a tall peony of sturdy growth. Its flower is large and of a brilliant purple rose color, showing stamens in the center. It will appeal to many, but to many others it will not. It will certainly make a good landscape variety and for that reason, if no other, is worth growing. *Mrs. James Kelway* is heralded as the largest white ever put out. It is late, a fine grower, sturdy and tall.

Sir Henry Stone, of Japanese type, has distinctive coloring, with lavender pink guards and red staminodes edged and tipped yellow.

Of the singles, *Santorb* is a fine, big, dark red, rather dwarf in growth. *Bloodstone* is also a good red. *English Elegance*, a beautiful light pink, and *Pleasure*, a large lavender pink fading lighter, are both splendid peonies. *Bethcar*, *The Oaks*, *Kelway's Humorist*, *Lovely Lady*, *Rose of Delight* and *Silvo* are all pink singles of varying shades which are good. Kelways also claim to have a peony named *T. C. Thurlow*, which is described as a rosy purple single.

To sum them all up, I should say that none of Kelway's new ones measure up to many of the old ones.

NEW FRENCH VARIETIES

In 1924 there came from Holland a peony named *General Gorgas*, introduced by Van Leeuwen. This peony is a tall, strong grower. It is a large double white with a ring of petals strongly marked red near the center. Some are pleased by it, others are not. This year there comes from the same source a new one, *Nobility*. There are also two new ones of Japanese type, *Jan Van Leeuwen* and *B. H. Farr*. In 1927, a single,

Mr. *Thim*, was introduced by the same raiser, which is said to be the largest pink single on the market. It has not yet proved to be so with me.

An obscure Hollander introduced in 1929 two new pink peonies, *Miss Eckhart* and *Zus Braun*, which are said to be remarkably vigorous in growth and capable of producing 12-inch flowers from a division. Perhaps I can say more about this next year.

In France, Millet & Son have put on the market a great number of varieties which bear high-sounding Japanese names, but are Japanese in nothing but name. All I have observed are plain, ordinary singles. *Jappensha-Ikku* is a good red. *Katori-Nabiko* is another really fine peony; its color is much like *L'Etincelante*, but, I think, much better. It is late for a single, which adds much to its value. Unless its name kills it, it should prove to be one of the really great singles. Its brilliant pink color is most compelling. Mrs. *Helen Rooker* and *Mademoiselle Louise Delattre* are both excellent, big singles of the lighter shades of pink.

The three doubles introduced by this firm in 1924 are all noteworthy. *Souvenir de A. Millet* is a tall and brilliant medium dark red. In stem it is rather bending, while it is similar in bloom to *Karl Rosefeld*. It is a late midseason bloomer.

Reine Baronet is described as a cross between a Japanese and chinensis type, with a Japanese flower. It is a big, semi-double, dark rose pink, a vigorous grower, good increaser and excellent bloomer. Its color appeals to many, but a number do not like it. It is a darker *Phyllis Kelway*.

Maman Millet is considered by Millets to be one of the finest peonies in the world. Its origin is the same as *Reine Baronet*, and it was named for the wife of the head of the firm. It is a tall peony, with good stems, and has blooms sometimes as large as ten inches in diameter. It is a pale pink, shading to white in the center, and is similar to *Lady Alexandra Duff*. I like it immensely.

Rivieres have put out three new varieties recently. Two I do not have. The third, *Souvenir de Madame Collette Veillet*, is much like *Madame Calot*. Only time will tell whether it will be its equal.

LEMOINE'S PRODUCTIONS

Lemoine has introduced a number of new ones lately. All of them are doubles. They are, as a rule, much like his others in growth. They are slow to develop, but are beautiful when the mature plant blooms. They are all late, and appear to be subject to nematodes more than most others.

Alice Harding is, of course, the most famous and, I suppose, it is one of the best peonies of today. Its growth is vigorous and its stems are of the best. It blooms when young and is a good increaser. While the blooms are not of the best fragrance, they are large, of excellent form and beautiful in color. It is classed as a white, but its guards are a pale pink, shading to white, tinted yellowish. Under artificial light it is almost impossible to distinguish it from *Solange*, but in sunshine it is lighter in color. From every standpoint it is certainly the most valuable peony from abroad for fifteen years. Lemoine claims it is better than *Le Cygne*. When *Le Cygne* comes in all its perfection, it is certainly the more beautiful peony, but *Alice Harding* is a far more reliable bloomer. The young plants have a habit of blooming much earlier than the older ones.

Argentine is probably the next best Lemoine peony. It is by some considered the best. It is a strong grower, with stiff stems, medium tall, a fair increaser and not subject to disease. The form of its bloom is much like that of *Enchantresse* and its date is a little earlier, so it sometimes fails to open well in Virginia, but in the North it should be a great peony. It is a full double, creamy white.

There are two other new Lemoine peonies that are similar to *Argentine* in color, form and time of bloom. These are *Alesia* and *Genevieve*. They all have the massive, enormous, creamy white blooms that open so badly as a rule in the South, because they bloom so late, but they should prove fine in the North. *Argentine* exceeds them on stem length, I think, but not in height of bush.

Lemoine also has four pink peonies of recent introduction that flower so late I have never seen a good bloom. They are *Beaumarchaise*, *Dulcinee*, *Faustine* and *Rosine*. *Dulcinee* and *Faustine* seem to me to have better stems than the others. They are all rather tall growers. *Jocelyn*, a fine, silvery, lavender pink, made beautiful blooms one year, but I have not been able to observe it the past two years.

Denise is a strong, upright grower, a good bloomer and increaser. It is a late midseason variety, with immense, full double, white blooms, having a ring of decidedly red-marked petals near the center. I like it much, but it is subject to the same criticism that *General Gorgas* is. I believe it is a better peony; certainly it is worth a more extended trial.

Odalisque was one of the most beautiful peonies in the garden this year. Its bloom is built with the same regularity as that of *Le Cygne*, but it is not so full double, which gives it a charm of its own. It is moderately tall, with creamy white blooms on fair stems.



PRIMEVÈRE

Madame Escary is another fine white, with amber tints in the center. It is similar to *Odalisque*, but not so tall, I think. *Sylviane* is still another white, with large petals which are deeply cut, giving the flower a distinctive feathery appearance, which is highly attractive. *Eliane* has not made good blooms for me yet. *Gilberte*, a pale pink, bloomed well on a two-year-old plant. This year, Lemoine is introducing a red, intended to be called *Rubens*, but to be changed to *Rubicon*.

FROM DESSERT'S SEEDLINGS

Doriat & Son have introduced a number from Dessert's seedlings, which they are now disseminating. *Charlot* is a tall, vigorous grower, with blooms of pale, rose pink and silvery tones, shading to a brilliant color in the center. It makes a big show and attracts much attention. It should prove one of the best sellers.

Elisa has a fine, light pink color, but my data on it is not complete. *Madelon* is an excellent grower and increaser, with good carriage, but it is entirely too late for Virginia. It has, with me, the bad habit of bursting its buds long before they are ready to open and so damaging the bloom.

Madame Edouard Doriat is a tall, upright grower with good stems. The only year I have had good blooms they were large, white, not full double, with stamens showing. They were really beautiful flowers. It has not made good blooms the past two years.

Nanette is an early, semidouble white, which opens pale pink. It is of good size, on the order of *Phyllis Kelway*. It has excellent habit, is medium tall, has fine stems and is a good increaser. Personally, I like it better than any of Doriat's other introductions. *Ninon* is darker, smaller, full double. Its color is distinct and it is attractive.

To those who like peonies that combine several shades in marked contrast, *Henri Core*, *Directeur Ursat* and *Denis Debatene* will appeal. They belong to the unusual, and as such will not have the wide market they otherwise would, as my observation leads me to think that most buyers pass over the unusual. They are all of varying shades of pink.

NAME ONE FOR LINDBERGH

Of the 1927 introductions I can only mention three. *Aviateur Lindbergh* is a loosely built, semidouble red of good color, which may have to depend on its name only to make it popular. *Madame Claude Tain* is much like *Baroness Schroeder*. *Madame Emile Debatene* looks to me like

a winner. It is similar to *Souvenir de Louis Bigot*, just as large and brighter in color, with a much better stem, if I may judge by two-year-old plants of each growing side by side.

Odile, a 1928 introduction, is heralded as a better Tourangelle. As it bloomed on a one-year-old plant, it resembled *Le Cygne* greatly, but it appeared later and had a beautiful, pale pink bloom. I shall watch it with much interest.

Inspecteur Lavergne is one of the most distinctive reds in cultivation. Its form and habit are those of *Felix Crousse*, but its color is much better, being dark, with some brown, which puts it in a class by itself.

Three singles have been put out. *Rabelais* is a good medium pink. *Jeanne Ernould* is a large, silvery, carmine pink, fading almost to white; it is one of the most beautiful singles in my garden. *Verdun* is about the best red single I know. It is a sturdy, upright grower, with fine stems and immense blooms of brilliant, dark red.

JAPANESE VARIETIES

Four Japanese type varieties have to be mentioned. *Henri Potin* is of good, medium pink color, similar to *Pride of Langport*. *Jeanne Lapidary* is a white, with long, pale yellow staminodes; it is distinctive and much admired. *Instituteur Doriat* is a red, unlike anything else on the market. It has a splendid upright carriage, rather tall and blooms late. The blooms have dark red guards and staminodes of the same color, appearing much like an anemone-flowered peony. It should be a winner. *Kukenu Jishi* is the best light pink in this class, much lighter than *Amano-Sode*, and should occupy the same rank.

Considering the newer introductions as a group, I should say there are ten or a dozen of them that will rank with the best among peonies, while the others will gradually fade into the ranks of occasional sellers. It is probably better so, as too many varieties are now being carried on our lists. I hope many growers in different sections of the country will establish trial gardens of their own and report their findings. These are the notes of a lone grower and should not be considered final. I believe, however, that any peony that does well in Virginia will do well anywhere.

Note.—Mr. Peyton wrote a similar article in the June Bulletin but as there are some comments on varieties not mentioned in the former article, we are glad to present it.—
EDITOR.

A Native Western Peony

By LESTER ROWNTREE, *Carmel, Calif.*

(Reprint from *Horticulture*, October 15, 1931)

PAEONIA BROWNI, the wild peony of the West, does not resemble the garden peony so much as it does *Helleborus niger*. It is a hardy perennial and has large, attractive gray-green leaves, ternately divided. The flowers are one to two inches broad with thick, leathery, mahogany-red petals partially closing over a heavy yellow center, looking rather like a half-open single rose. The petals are deep red, almost black, toward the base, becoming lighter at the tips.

After the flower has passed, the large and divergent seed pods at the ends of the one or two-foot stems bend earthward with their increasing weight, and at the appropriate time deliver the big, brown seeds to the awaiting soil and to the small, wild, hungry creatures.

In cultivation *Paeonia browni* requires good drainage. Light soil containing an ample humus will satisfy it. This plant, like the majority of California wild flowers, thrives best upon a slope or in a rocky bank. In burned places the peony plants respond with eagerness and following forest fires the strong lush foliage makes vigorous clusters. The prosperous appearance of the plant continues until late spring or mid-summer, when, having performed its mission, it yellows and blends with the browning tones of the whole country-side.



To the Peony Grower in General

By OSCAR L. EASTBURN, *Howison, Va.*

IHAVE been thinking for some time how we could stir up more interest in our most wonderful flower, the peony, among the general public, and especially those who buy flowers, or those who would buy a flower if we could get them interested. In these times of depression we have to do like we do in adverse weather conditions, namely, dig harder; so why not get right down to it with shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand and all work together to accomplish a successful end? In these hard times of depression we growers will have to do a little harder work; we will have to advertise our products before the general public as we have never done before. Get the general public interested and stirred up to such a pitch just before peony season this next spring that they will spend a dollar for peonies for Decoration Day before they

know what they are doing. Have everybody talking about our glorious flower, the peony, and there is no other way than to advertise.

Could Wanamaker, Sears-Roebuck, etc., be where they are today, without advertising? No! Then let us get where they are by advertising and let us advertise and advertise in the modern way. Let us broadcast our beautiful flower all over this land of ours for one or two weeks, the first part of next May. Let us broadcast from Washington, D. C., Philadelphia, New York, and let the western growers broadcast from Chicago or elsewhere. I am too far east to take care of the West, but I can take care of Philadelphia and New York. So let us all chip in and broadcast our product in the modern way. A fifteen-minute program will cost us \$245 a week between the hours of 6:00 and 11:00 p. m.—half that price in the day time. A two weeks' program of fifteen minutes daily would not be very expensive and if we could get fifty to chip in it would be less than \$10 each, and it surely would pay us a thousandfold. If those growers and others who read this article and are interested and willing to contribute their proportionate share, will communicate with me, we will see if we can get the ball rolling.



Comments on Varieties

COMMENTS ON VARIETIES FROM PENNSYLVANIA

By HARRY W. CLAYBAUGH, *Franklin, Pa.*

I ARRIVED back home from the Fort Wayne, Ind., show, Saturday afternoon, but not many of my plants were blooming. I had some fine *Therese*, *Longfellow*, *Luetta Pfeiffer*, *Silvia Saunders*, and a new one from Prof. Saunders named *Corinth*, I liked very much. The following week-end, June 20, was my peony season. I surely had some wonderful blooms; believe the best blooming season for my garden in spite of last year's drought.

The garden was a wonderful sight at four o'clock, Saturday afternoon and fifteen minutes later was a wreck as we really had a cyclone and rain. Five fine fruit trees in my orchard were twisted off at the ground and you can imagine what the peonies looked like after such a storm; all the blooms were on the ground after the storm.

I remember the article in your BULLETIN on the *Shaylor* varieties last year in which the writer mentioned *Shaylor's Dream* as being fine and which I had never thought so much of. The blooms on this variety

were wonderful this year on four-year plants. *Rose Shaylor* was one of the finest things in the garden. *Cornelia Shaylor* was much admired by the visitors; guess possibly because of the size. *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Jessie Shaylor*, *W. F. Christman*, *E. C. Shaw*, *June Day*, *Mabel L. Franklin*, *Red Bird*, *Ball o' Cotton* were wonderful; in fact, all the Franklin varieties were extra good. *Lillian Gumm* good as usual, *Good's Dream* very fine, also *Kelway's Queen*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Souvenir de Louis Bigot*, *Walter Faxon* and *Phyllis Kelway*. Of the Brand varieties, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Mrs. Frank Beach* and *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch* were the best.

I did not get any buds of *Mrs. A. M. Brand* to open well, most of the late varieties were poor. A couple of the new Thurlow varieties, *Governor Fuller* and a numbered variety, No. 19, were good; also fine blooms of *James Boyd*. *Miss Henninger* was fine as usual as was also my friend, *Sass'* variety, *Grace Batson*, and his *Elizabeth Huntington* I sent you last fall was a dream. I know this variety will be in demand, also several of his numbered seedlings were noted as being fine. I am still of the opinion, *Philippe Rivoire* is the finest red. Blooms were not large but they held up at least ten days on plants after all other reds were gone. I secured peonies six or eight years ago from Frank Garman with *E. C. Shaw* and among the ones I greatly admired and purchased from them were *Jennie E. Richardson*, noted as being the Havemeyer variety and a variety named *Laverne*, the last variety was very fine last year and again this season one of the outstanding varieties.

I never had blooms of *Jennie E. Richardson* until this year but on my four-year plants it was surely worth while. Several of the Vories varieties were good. As I remember, *Mary B. Vories* and *Lady Kate* were extra fine. I expected to get something from the new things in my two-year planting but most of the blooms were small. I guess one should not expect real blooms before three or four years. I was surely very well pleased with my peony season and guess as my plants are getting older, I will soon have some real peony blooms.

If you are writing to Mr. Franklin tell him his varieties surely showed up fine in my garden this year and if *A. B. Franklin* is better it will have to be extra fine.

COMMENTS ON VARIETIES FROM IOWA

By W. A. KREGAL, *Garnavillo, Ia.*

ADOLPHE ROUSSEAU (Mid-season.)—Grown on black loam (heavy), makes a fine show in the garden. A splendid semi-double red; with me a good, reliable grower and free bloomer. Have grown this variety three years.

- ALBERT CROUSSE** (Late.)—A very large light pink. As grown by me on black loam. Is a strong grower and free bloomer. Its blooms equal in size the very large blooms of Therese, Souv. de Louis Bigot and Martha Bulloch in my garden. Was much admired by flower lovers here.
- BARONESS SCHROEDER** (Late mid-season.)—Grown three years on black loam. The large beautiful blooms open pinkish but turn white when fully open. A good grower and free bloomer.
- CHERRY HILL** (Early.)—Very dark garnet red, grown on black loam. A very tall grower and free bloomer. The tall upright stem supports the medium sized flower very well.
- CLAIRE DUBOIS** (Mid-season.)—Deep pink of a most beautiful shade. As grown by me on black loam. It is a good, strong grower and reliable, free bloomer every year.
- ENCHANTRESSE** (Late.)—Grown on heavy black loam. Is one of the finest whites I have. It is a good grower; has tall, upright stems and is a free bloomer. Last June it had the largest blooms of any white peony I have. Blooms opened well, even in hot weather, but the dry season may be the cause of this.
- FELIX CROUSSE** (Mid-season.)—As grown by me on black loam. It is a good grower and fairly good bloomer. Flowers are an attractive red and of good size.
- FESTIVA MAXIMA** (Early.)—The old stand-by. Grown by me for many years. It is hard to beat as a good grower and free bloomer. The very large beautiful flowers are sure to come every year, even if neglected in cultivation.
- KARL ROSEFELD** (Early, mid-season.)—As grown by me on heavy black loam. It is a tall, strong, upright grower and a very free, reliable bloomer. The flower, a beautiful dark red, is much admired and lasts well. I have grown the variety three years.
- KELWAY'S GLORIOUS** (Mid-season.)—Grown on black loam. Had a good sized bloom the first year. A few rather small blooms last June. It is a beautiful white. With me a poor grower—it is probably diseased stock. After blooming last June, the foliage started to dry up, starting with a brown spot on the outer part of leaves. I sprayed it with Bordeaux (using dry mixture) and shaded it from the hot sun and removed dry leaves as soon as dried up. Watered freely. Now (August 30) all leaves are affected. Most of them are dried up, but stems do not seem to be affected.
- LA FRANC** (Late mid-season.)—Grown on heavy black loam. A most beautiful pink, shaded deeper in center. A late bloomer, but opens well with me. Stems are tall, and support the large bloom well. The variety is a good, strong grower and free bloomer; in every way satisfactory.
- LE CYGNE** (Mid-season.)—Grown three years on black loam. Is one of the strongest growers and best bloomers I have. The stems are tall and upright and carry the large white blooms well. The tall upright stems and dark green foliage give the plant the best appearance after blooming of any in my garden. With me it is very fine and satisfactory.
- LONGFELLOW** (Mid-season.)—Grown on heavy black loam for three years. My outstanding red, the most beautiful red in my collection of over twenty reds. It is not dwarfish as listed by some growers and the Manual, but rather tall, with strong upright stems, a good, free bloomer and strong grower. I bought my plant from the originator and think I have the true variety.
- MARIE JACQUIN** (Early mid-season.)—Grown on black loam. Good grower and free bloomer.
- MARTHA BULLOCH** (Early mid-season.)—Pink. Grown on black loam. A good, reliable grower and bloomer.
- MARY BRAND** (Mid-season.)—As grown by me on black loam. It is a good, healthy grower but shy bloomer. When good the blooms are large dark red well-formed flowers.
- MIKADO** (Jap. Early mid-season.)—Grown on black loam for three years. A beautiful red, with yellow center. Plant is tall and upright; strong grower and free bloomer.

- MILTON HILL (Mid-season.)—Grown on heavy black loam. A pretty light pink flower that seems to come good and regular every year. Plant is a strong grower.
- MONS. JULES ELIE (Mid-season.)—Grown on black loam. With me a shy bloomer. I have three clumps bought of three different growers, and I think I have the true variety. All three are alike. It is a dull light rose pink and has rather lax stems; flowers are large. Have grown variety three years, only one bloom on one.
- MONS. MARTIN CAHUZAC—Grown on heavy black loam for three years. Bloom is very dark red. The plant is a weak grower and shy bloomer; one bloom in 1930; no bloom this year.
- PHILIPPE RIVOIRE (Late.)—Second year grown on black loam. Plant looks healthy; fair grower of slender stems; medium height; one small dark red bloom; rose fragrant; flower had no stamens.
- PRIMEVERE (Mid-season.)—Yellow center. Grown on black loam. It is a good, strong grower and fairly floriferous. The flower is much like Laura Dessert but there is a noticeable difference. The later variety has a little more sturdy plant. I grow both, but I like Primevere best.
- REINE HORTENSE (Mid-season.)—Grown on heavy black loam. A most beautiful pink variety, admired by all who see it. A good, healthy grower and free bloomer.
- RICHARD CARVEL—Fine early red as grown on black loam. A good grower and free bloomer.
- SARAH BERNHARDT (Mid-season.)—Grown on black loam three years. Fine apple blossom pink. Is a strong grower and good, reliable bloomer here. Blossoms get very large.
- SOLANGE (Late mid-season.)—Almost white as grown on black loam. Is a shy bloomer. Plants seem healthy. I have two clumps.
- SOUV. DE LOUIS BIGOT (Early mid-season.)—A very large pink flower. As grown by me on black loam. It is a strong grower and free bloomer.
- THERESE (Early.)—Grown on heavy black loam for three years. A very large light pink, and a most beautiful flower. Stems are strong and upright and carry the large blooms well. The variety is satisfactory and reliable with me.
- TOURANGELLE (Mid-season.)—Pretty light pink. Grown on black loam. Strong grower and very reliable free bloomer. Flowers are sometimes nearly white but mostly have a delicate light pinkish touch.
- WALTER FAXON (Mid-season.)—Grown on heavy black loam for three years. Is a fair grower but shy bloomer. No bloom last June. Plant looks healthy and is of good size. When it did bloom the flower, a beautiful pink, was much admired.

COMMENTS ON VARIETIES

L. W. KEPHART, *Takoma Park, Md.* (Near Washington, D. C.)

(Soil a gravelly loam.)

- ADOLPHE ROUSSEAU—The best of the more common dark reds for garden effect. Flowers too soft for cutting. Needs rich soil for good blossoming. Seven years.
- ALSACE-LORRAINE—An in-and-outer here. Blooms well about every third year. Blossoms not distinctive enough to overcome this drawback. Keeps well after cutting. Six years.
- AUGUSTE DESSERT—From one young plant I judge this is a slow starter. If this is a weak grower it will have a hard time this far south.
- CHERRY HILL—A 9.0 peony here. The earliest red to blossom, a fairly free bloomer and very dependable. Flowers remain on the plant for a week or more without fading. Three years.
- CORNELIA SHAYLOR. The best of the Shaylor's and the only one worth its rating here, except possibly Mary Woodbury Shaylor. Blossom has excellent texture and holds its shape for many days, not shooting up into an unlovely crown as do others of the name. Three years.

- FRANKIE CURTIS—Next to Kelway's Glorious the best white that I have tried. Dependable, floriferous, a sturdy grower and an exquisite and durable bloom. Three years.
- GRACE LOOMIS—An excellent peony but, like Nina Secor, is probably too late for this latitude. Both are fine flowers *when* you get them. Two years.
- JEANNOT—Is hardly worth its new rating with me. I have never, so far as I can recall, seen Jeannot on a show table in Washington. It seems to be too late to be dependable here. Four years.
- JUBILEE—Weak stems and all, this is a high class, dependable and distinctive white peony and the blossom is not excelled even by Kelway's Glorious, which it closely resembles. All peonies need support anyway and Jubilee is no harder to support than many others. I would not de-rate it. Six years.
- KATHERINE HAVEMEYER—I have never seen a good Katherine Havemeyer in the Washington district and shall not buy it until I do. It may be all right here but it has not proved so as yet.
- KELWAY'S GLORIOUS—The best peony in the South. A strong grower, dependable bloomer, and hot weather lover and the flowers have extraordinary stamina considering their lacy appearance. Far outranks Le Cygne here. Five years.
- LA FRANCE—A fine peony elsewhere but always a sad disappointment here. Hot weather is always just a day or two too soon for it and it practically never opens. Six years.
- LA LORRAINE—My one plant is six years old and I have never had a good flower from it. The plant does not appear diseased, yet it probably is. With healthy stock this variety is probably worth its rating. Six years.
- LAURA DESSERT. Just about as much better than Primevere as its rating indicates. Is a trifle more yellow and the stems are a little stronger. Four years.
- LE CYGNE—My greatest disappointment in peonies. In this region Le Cygne appears definitely unsuited. It grows slowly, does not form more than four or five buds and these rarely open well. In six years I have had, this year, just one good bloom. As a show flower nothing yet developed equals the full rose form and perfect color of Le Cygne. But these are of little use if the plant does not grow. Six years.
- MARTHA BULLOCH—A matter of taste. Some like it and some do not. Personally I do not admire the color and the centers of nine out of ten flowers are bad. The plant is only moderately vigorous with me. Four years.
- MILTON HILL—This, with Le Cygne and Tourangelle are the most disappointing varieties I have had. I have yet to have a good bloom of Milton Hill. Six years.
- MME. EMILE LEMOINE—A variety difficult to judge. Sometimes it grows well and has exquisite flowers. Often it is very ordinary. On the average it is hardly worth 8.9. Seven years.
- MME. JULES DESSERT—The color of this may well be considered the standard of excellence for light pinks. Blooms rather sparingly but very dependably. I have had exactly eight flowers, no more and no less, each year for five years. Well worth 9.4 in this vicinity. Seven years.
- MONS. JULES ELIE—A good peony but it seems to be losing its appeal. Perhaps, like Festiva Maxima, it has been overplanted. Mons. Jules Elie is not a strong grower and as a garden flower does not rate more than about 8.5 here. Yet it is still a good show variety. Eight years.
- MRS. EDWARD HARDING—The last symposium cut this too severely. Wherever I have seen it it has been a remarkably fast, strong grower, a sure and abundant bloomer with a blossom of almost perfect quality. Easily one of the ten most nearly perfect peonies. Four years.
- NINA SECOR—A fine peony but far too late. See Grace Loomis. Two years.
- PHYLLIS KELWAY—One of those flowers that you never can forget. There is none other quite like it. The plant is not a strong grower and seems to be subject to some strange disease. But the peculiar color and huge lacy shape of the blossom make it indispensable to the peony fancier. Five years.

- PRESIDENT WILSON—Another real misfortune to those in the South. Everyone with whom I have talked agrees with me that President Wilson does not do well here. I do not know why. And I cannot afford to gamble with it.
- RAOUL DESSERT—Three days earlier and this would be a wonderful peony here. Even so, I would not do without it. The color is highly distinctive, the plant is strong and if we have good luck we get a very fine display. Four years.
- REINE HORTENSE—The old reliable. Good years and bad old Reine Hortense is with us. For a sturdy, reliable pink it is hard to beat. The color is a little splotchy but it makes a blaze of color in the garden and gives a good account of itself on the show table as well. Six years.
- RICHARD CARVEL—I first obtained Richard Carvel because of its reputed earliness. But it is not, with me, a day earlier than Karl Rosefeld. However, it is a far more reliable bloomer. Karl Rosefeld does very poorly here. The flowers of Richard Carvel are soft and go down quickly in the heat. Six years.
- ROSA BONHEUR—Almost a complete failure. The plant is weak and goes down quickly with disease. I have discarded it. As I have never seen it in any show I wonder how it obtained its high rating. Six years.
- SOUVENIR DE LOUIS BIGOT—This is a good variety and well worth its new rating but it certainly is not a substitute for Walter Faxon in color. Nothing, in fact, is. Four years.
- SUZETTE—A true bright spot in the garden. The lively color, half way between the dark pinks and the light reds, is unlike any other. The plant is only fair in vigor and not too abundant in bloom. But it is dependable and it is distinctive. Four years.
- TOURANGELLE—Just too bad. It simply does not grow well unless heavily fertilized and when fertilized once, it is done. Wonderful when well developed but ——. Seven years.

COMMENTS ON VARIETIES FROM WISCONSIN

By DR. A. H. LEMKE, *Wausau, Wis.*

THE call for remarks on peonies listed in BULLETIN No. 44, page 35, brings to you my experience on the following varieties, originally tested in the home garden, after vegetables had been grown therein for many years. These grounds were at the edge of a real peat swamp. In its preparation for garden use, a layer of sand six inches deep was hauled upon it and then worked up by hand to a depth of sixteen inches including green manure.

Peonies in my home garden bloom from five to seven days earlier than in the open field, where the bulk of my plants have been growing for many years. The open field site is a light clay loam, ideal for peonies. The earliness of the blooming period in the home garden is caused by the surrounding shrubbery, trees, and buildings.

ADOLPHE ROUSSEAU—An attractive plant of good growth in stem and foliage, carrying the blooms erect in practically any weather condition. A beautiful landscape variety among the early reds. Its beauty lasts only about three days, when it becomes unsightly, in size of petals, fading and burning.

CHERRY HILL—An early attractive red. In the home garden it grew too tall and not enough substance to the flower. Have not had the opportunity to observe it in the open field. Last spring the plants failed because of the freeze. Its tall growth is its handicap—unable to hold its own in a little rain.

- HENRY AVERY**—With its peculiar make-up, it appears almost freakish. In its coloring it is beautiful. A free bloomer. The stems are a bit weak for its flowers, which sometimes come extra large on a light clay loam.
- JUBILEE**—For one's own pleasure, and for comparison, no garden or collection should be without Jubilee. Because of its enormous size and its weak stem, it has no commercial possibilities, but its pureness and make-up puts it into a class of its own. Pasteur comes nearest in style but only half in size. Both are proportionally weak in stem, but Jubilee is a rank grower, which, of course, is a balance for the immense flower. To get a real kick out of Jubilee when in bloom is to stake it and protect it from sun and rain with the family umbrella or a similar covering.
- LE CYGNE**—Le Cygne is really a typical plant in growth, sturdiness, and flowers. The make-up in the latter is ideal. The fragrance could be stronger. I believe that if the newer types, and some unnamed seedlings were up for a drawing card that Le Cygne could get a set-back. I would like to see it in competition for a show-down. When in bloom, try this plant under a cover.
- MARTHA BULLOCH**—Have grown this plant for eight years and in all that time have had only one small flower on the plant. It would have been discarded long ago if it grew in the seedling beds.
- P. S.**—Martha failed again this season, '31. Absolutely no good with me.
Editor's Note: Looks very likely that Dr. Lemke has not the true variety or has a diseased plant. This is one of my favorite varieties and while a slow grower it certainly produces wonderful show bloom. It nearly always is to be found in the winning classes.
- MILTON HILL**—Can do no better than produce but half-open blooms with me. The soil may be classed on the heavy side in make-up. Have had it in my collection for many years.
- MONS. JULES ELIE**—If late frosts do not interfere, you can always depend upon it to give wonderful blooms. But this season, '31, it failed me and cannot assign any cause. There were some blooms there but unrecognizable.
- PHYLLIS KELWAY**—Is a gaudy butterfly among peonies. Beautiful for landscape effect. Among the first to be noticed in a collection. Nearly always reliable. But mine failed completely this season because of erratic weather conditions.
- RAOUL DESSERT**—Would rather not pass my opinion on this plant this year. Have had a few good blooms in the past, but last season, '30, the buds froze and this season the plant failed completely, as did Phyllis Kelway.
- TOURANGELLE**—Is certainly beautiful when it comes nice. But the blooms are so heavy that the stems cannot carry them. Not fit for commercial purposes. Only a baby; needs coddling along by staking, etc.

COMMENTS ON VARIETIES FROM MICHIGAN

By N. I. W. KRIEK, *Lansing, Mich.*

REFERRING to comments on page 17 of the PEONY BULLETIN of June, 1931, we would like to give our experience with some of the varieties:

- JEANNOT**—Has proven with us to be one of the few dependable late peonies, that produces lovely well-formed flowers on tall stems. This variety together with Pierre Duchartre and Stanley form a trio that we can always depend on for fine late blooms, while Livingstone only very seldom gives good flowers.
- LE CYGNE**—This variety needs cool weather to give perfect blossoms. Two years ago we had a cool blooming season and even our two-year Le Cygne produced a marvelous lot of flowers, all coming as evenly as any other variety.
- LA FRANCE**—Although this variety has a reputation as a poor bloomer, we do not find it that way here. It is late and likes cool weather but it is only seldom that we do not get a uniform grade of blooms from it. We think the pure coloring, long stem and size of the flower make it of outstanding value.

LA LORRAINE—We consider this among the greatest of all peonies, a strong grower, free bloomer, and flowers of great charm, possessing that outstanding beauty of a Solange or Le Cygne, but is not so particular as to weather conditions, always coming in fine quality. A great many diseased roots have been bought and sold of this variety but that should not be held against the variety. If all would refuse to accept knot-root affected plants, growers would be obliged to destroy them and keep their stocks clean.

MME. EMILE LEMOINE—In our opinion this is the successor of Festiva Maxima, marvelous flower of fine form and opening a beautiful baby pink. The stem, contrary to that of Festiva Maxima, is strong and the flowers last well. In the low price class there is no better flower, unless it would be Baroness Schroeder, which, however, comes later.

MME. JULES DESSERT—In comparing this variety with Therese, Marie Jacquin, Lady Alexandra Duff, Tourangelle, and Mme. Emile Galle, we can say that in our opinion, Mme. Jules Dessert is the best, if not the only one of the group that is good for commercial cut flowers.

In Mr. Alderman's notes we believe that injustice is done to *La Perle*. With us it is a very fine peony, beautiful cup-shaped flower of fine lilac-pink. The plants make coarse roots, and should be on high, heavy soil.

That there are diseased peonies should not be held against the particular variety. It is the business of the grower not to propagate diseased plants, but build up healthy stock and send out nothing but healthy stock.

Secretary's Notes

ANOTHER YEAR is coming to a close as these lines are being written; another page of history will soon be recorded; greetings are being exchanged and the holiday spirit prevails everywhere. We face the coming year of 1932 with fortitude and with renewed inspiration, determined not to be dismayed by any obstacles that may have crossed our path the past year. We have every reason to be optimistic over the outlook for more normal conditions during the coming year.

* * *

Mr. Kephart's method of learning the color of peony varieties will prove of interest I am sure and it is hoped that we can present a much longer list in the future showing the gradation of color according to this system.

* * *

The splendid article by Prof. A. P. Saunders covering "Some Asiatic Peonies," leads us into a field of endeavor that has not been very much discussed and I am sure this valuable article will be read with much

interest by all. We are indebted to *The New Flora and Silva* and to Prof. Saunders for permission to publish this article that appeared in their magazine. Prof. Saunders' work with new hybrid peonies has added considerably to our list of extreme early varieties. His work is equally gratifying in producing new tree peonies.

* * *

The following poem taken from *The Scouters' Gazette* rings pretty true:

DEAD AND GONE

The things you did a month ago,
Or what you did last year, old Scout;
Or even what you did last week—
Don't give you much to brag about.

The birds that brag about their past
Might just as well come out and say:
"I used to do things years ago,
But, well—I'm not so good today."

The things that happened in the past
Are dead and gone, so why not say
Good-bye to them? And show the world
That you can saw some wood today?

For folks aren't interested much
In retrospective past reviewing,
They don't much care what you have
done—
They want to know what you are
doing!

And that is just what we are trying to do through the columns of the BULLETIN.

* * *

Comments on varieties are presented in this number from various sections of the country. Please continue to send in your comments on varieties as I am sure much information will be gained from reading these comments. It is very apparent that varieties that prove exceptionally well in some locations do not always give as satisfactory an account of themselves in other sections of the country.

* * *

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Prof. Ivan W. Goodner of Seattle, Wash., one of our most ardent peony fans. It was our hope to have a short history of his life to present in this issue but necessary information has not been supplied and we are unable to carry out our desire in this respect. His health had been failing for some months and he had cut down his labors to half-time. He was connected with the University of Washington Law School and was on his way to his classes when he was stricken with a heart attack. He undoubtedly was conscious of impending danger as he had driven his automobile to the curb and stopped, where he was found dead at the wheel. A personal acquaintance of several years had cemented a close friendship, and a request from me for peony news from the Pacific Coast was always readily complied with. He possessed a fine collection and planting of

peonies and devoted considerable time to their care. He had reached the age of 73 years. Mr. Goodner was a man of exceptional ability and was highly respected by all his competitors on the Pacific Coast and wherever he was known for his sound business methods and gentlemanly manner under all circumstances. His passing will be keenly felt by all who knew him.

* * *

We are again favored with a beautiful poem from Mrs. Brant who has contributed to the BULLETIN in former issues. Mrs. Brant advises that *Helleborus niger*, the Christmas rose, is related to the peony in the crowfoot family, which claim of kinship is sufficient for its inclusion in the PEONY BULLETIN.

* * *

It will prove a great help to your secretary if your dues, which are payable in advance, can be remitted as soon after the first of the year as possible. We have had your co-operation in the past and feel confident that we can count on it in the future. Canadian members should add exchange to their remittance.

* * *

The officers and directors of the American Peony Society extend to you the season's heartiest greetings with the hope that we can make the year 1932 an outstanding one for the peony.

◆◆————◆◆

Department of Registration

THE Society takes no responsibility as to the quality of the varieties registered here. A system by which new varieties can be officially rated and approved by the Society has been established. It is hoped difficulties inherent in dealing with the peony can be overcome.

The purpose of this department is to provide an opportunity for all growers to register the names of their new varieties which are being put on the market. To avoid duplication of names, every new-named variety should be submitted to the secretary, who has a complete list of varieties now in commerce.

Mrs. Ruth H. Brant of Iowa City, Ia., has presented for registration the following peonies:

WATERLILY (Brant). Single, with a double row of petals waxy white. Medium sized flower of excellent substance resembling a water lily. Very chaste in appearance and lasts well.

RADIANCE (Brant). Brilliant, dark red single of very lasting quality. Tall, stiff stems.

FIRELIGHT (Brant). Similar to Radianee in color but of entirely different seed parent.

A more complete description will be given after another blooming season.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST ISSUE OF BULLETIN

Ashley, R. V., 172 Grand Boulevard, Battle Creek, Mich.
 Ayers, Dr. W. M., Vernon Manor Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Fitzgerald, Mrs. J. P., Mellen, Wis.
 Haw, Miss Meriam, 203 W. Fifth St., Ottumwa, Ia.
 Maxwell, Alex., 601 N. Naches Ave., Yakima, Wash.
 Morningside Nursery, Sioux City, Ia.
 O'Connor, Dr. D. J., P. O. Box 41, Appleton, Wis.
 Puffer, W. J., 505 Chemical Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.
 Shippy, Mrs. Leo C., Edgewood, R. R. 7, Anderson, Ind.
 Tunnell, Wm., 3510 Allendale Ave., Duluth, Minn.
 Waldmann, John, Eckerson Road, Spring Valley, N. Y.
 Watson, Dr. Henry D., 151 Front St., Binghamton, N. Y.

CHANGES IN ADDRESSES

Arnett, Mrs. C. N., 902 S. Wilson Ave., Bozeman, Mont., change to 1168 Marion St., Denver, Colo.
 Hampton, Chas., Hamburg, N. Y., to Brandenton, Fla.
 Neilson, J., 626 McPherson Ave., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Can., change to 2449 Dwight Way, Berkeley, Calif., until June.

The House of Quality

Has again merited its name by being awarded the following so far in 1930:

June 7-8—MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GOLD MEDAL FOR BEST DISPLAY OF POTTED HYBRID RHODODENDRONS. FIRST PRIZE FOR BEST DISPLAY OF HARDY AZALEAS.

June 11-12—NEW BEDFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SILVER CUP FOR BEST DISPLAY OF PEONIES.

June 21-22—MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY LARGE GOLD MEDAL FOR BEST DISPLAY OF PEONIES. PRESIDENT'S CUP FOR MOST MERITORIOUS EXHIBIT IN ENTIRE SHOW. FIRST PRIZE FOR BEST COLLECTION OF PEONIES RATING AT 8.5 AND OVER. SILVER MEDAL FOR BEST SEEDLING PEONY (Our No. 16).

June 24-25—NORTH SHORE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GOLD MEDAL FOR DISPLAY OF PEONIES. SILVER MEDAL FOR BEST DISPLAY OF EVERGREENS.

OUR CONSISTENT WINNINGS FROM YEAR TO YEAR PROVE THAT WE ALWAYS HAVE THE QUALITY.

CHERRY HILL NURSERIES

(Thurlows and Stranger, Inc.)

Catalog

West Newbury, Mass.