

# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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## Bulletin

December 1938

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### Table of Contents

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor  
Northbrook, Ill.

	Page
Color Photography— <i>Edward H. Greene</i> .....	3
The Naming of Peonies— <i>John A. Soule</i> .....	7
Peonies In England— <i>Geo. W. Churcher</i> .....	9
Growing Peonies in Wire Baskets— <i>Mrs. E. G. Freeborn</i> ....	13
Standard Divisions— <i>Flint Kelsey</i> .....	14
The Dying Peony in the East— <i>Geo. W. Peyton</i> .....	17
Peonies Experimental Farm, Ottawa— <i>M. B. Davis</i> .....	20
Mulches for Winter Protection .....	24
A Communication From Canada— <i>Dr. F. G. Brethour</i> .....	26
Mrs. Livingston Farrand— <i>C. F. Wood</i> .....	27
Mentor Graham— <i>W. E. Lanigan</i> .....	27
Japanese Beetle Quarantine— <i>Geo. W. Peyton</i> .....	28
Minnesota Peony Show— <i>L. W. Lindgren</i> .....	29
A New Cream Peony .....	31
Regional Peony Show 1939 Guelph .....	31
Question and Answer Department .....	32
Model Descriptions— <i>Geo. W. Peyton</i> .....	34
Secretary's Notes .....	35
Department of Registration .....	42
New Members & Changes of Address .....	43

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**STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24th, 1912.**  
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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 Aug. 24th, 1912 embodied in section 411. Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

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2. That the owner is: This is the official publication of the American Peony Society and is mailed to all members of the Society who have paid dues of three dollars per year membership, which includes the publication.

3. That the known bond holders, mortgages and other security holders owning or holding 1% or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 6th day of October, 1938

(Notarial Seal)

My Commission expires 12-19-39.

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Notary Public.

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# AMERICAN *Peony Society* *Bulletin*



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DECEMBER, 1938

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## *Color Photography* ELDRED E. GREEN, Chicago, Ill.

Until recently there has been no relatively cheap, and easy way in which garden minded persons could be shown the characteristics and color of the plant material during the Fall and Winter period when so many are planning for the next year. Catalogue illustrations are useful in a limited degree, but frequently the illustration is useful for only one nursery, or at most for only a small number of varieties.

Colored lantern slides have had the advantage of being useful in illustrating plants and garden materials for groups, but here again, the problem of obtaining plates, and the services of a good artist have been limiting factors in their wider use. The expense of the necessary equipment, such as a large camera, lantern, screen and slides has also been quite a problem to many persons. Minor problems such as portability, breakage and replacement costs have helped to deter others from becoming greatly interested.

Direct-color photography has appealed to a number of individuals as a means of recording plants, however, some of the processes of color photography have involved such careful technique and such expensive plates or materials that only specialists have undertaken very extensive work of this nature. Within the last few years a number of changes have taken place in the photographic field. The most important of these has been the development of color film that does not require expert attention or where the expert services are included in the film cost. The recent craze for candid cameras has also helped in bringing handier equipment on the market.

At the present time there are two color films on the market which are available in sizes to fit the home movie cameras or the candid (35 mm.) cameras. After the film is exposed there is no additional trouble or expense other than putting it in a package and mailing to the processing laboratory.

For most persons the candid camera size using 35 millimeter film is probably best as there is not the same difficulty present as is making of moving pictures and because the individual pictures are larger and can be arranged more easily to suit the individual needs. The making of small size lantern slides from the film seems to offer the greatest value to the ordinary user. The finished slides are approximately 2 inches square and all of the necessary supplies such as masks, glass and tape can be easily obtained at photo supply houses.

The equipment needed for making direct-color photographs would be a camera of the right size, (35 mm.), a small tripod, and an exposure meter. Candid cameras range in price from twelve dollars up. The more expensive ones are generally more reliable and have a greater adaptability to difference in light, distance and unusual conditions of all sorts. The less expensive ones with reasonable care in the selection of subjects and ordinary restrictions to clear daytime exposures should give favorable results. Color film is slower, (requires longer exposure time) than the ordinary black and white and so a tripod is a convenience that should not be overlooked, especially as there are several inexpensive ones available that are collapsible and handy. A tripod also allows more careful judgment in selecting the material to be taken and permits greater accuracy in focusing. An adjustable head for the tripod which allows the camera to be set in any position can be obtained for about the same price as the tripod. Four to ten dollars invested for tripod and head is well worth while if any number of pictures are to be taken. Exposure meters are quite important in color photography because the film is more expensive and also needs greater accuracy in exposure if the colors are to be true. Errors in exposure will usually cause inaccuracies in color rendition. Exposure meters vary considerably in price and accuracy. The best are the photo-electric or so-called electric eye type. These will cost about twenty-three dollars. Others of the fade-out type can be had for two or three dollars and are

satisfactory if used with care. The fade-out type are not as critical as the photo-electric and may not give good results with some people due to variations in eyesight.

The minimum cost for the photographic equipment would be about twenty dollars. Probably a few dollars spent for slightly better cameras and exposure meters would be real economy if any number of pictures are to be taken. A sum of fifty-five dollars would purchase a good tripod and head, a suitable camera, with an F. 4.5 lens and compur shutter, and a photoelectric exposure meter. These would give excellent results for most horticultural subjects.

After exposure the film is sent to the laboratory and will be returned as finished transparencies, that is, the actual film developed and colored will be returned. These films must be viewed by being held up to the light or by projection by a lantern. At the present there are several lanterns or projectors on the market that will use this size of picture. Some designed for home use cost about fifteen dollars. These smaller projectors are generally limited in their range of projection, so some of the types made for educational uses are more advantageous if the pictures are to be projected in large rooms or halls. Some of the projectors will also show the pictures while they are still in the uncut film, others require that the film be mounted as a slide.

Mounting the transparencies into slides is a simple task. The individual pictures are cut apart and mounted on paper masks which are made to fit the exact picture and cover the sides and ends of the film. The masks are about two inches square and fit the glass which is placed on each side and then taped. The finished slides should be marked and named or numbered for reference.

For the peony enthusiast there are no particular difficulties to be encountered in making color-pictures. The peony colors all photograph well, and the flowers are of sufficient size so that they can be photographed from a distance of three feet and make a good display without the use of any special lenses to magnify a small flower. In some plants the colors are difficult to photograph with absolute accuracy and the small size may add to the problem of obtaining a suitable picture.

The actual taking of the picture is controlled largely by knowledge of the equipment you are using. Once you are familiar with the use of the various parts of a camera—setting for proper

distance, setting for proper shutter speed, and adjusting the aperture the work becomes a matter of habit. Distance may be measured with a tape line on close objects or estimated quite accurately enough on distant ones, or a range finder may be purchased. Ordinarily the range finder is not necessary unless special lenses are involved. The proper shutter speed and the aperture are indicated on the exposure meter and adjusted accordingly. At this point the taking of the picture ceases to be a science and becomes an art.

Making the correct exposure of the plant is only a small part of making a beautiful picture, the rest is dependent on the photographer's idea and taste. Until one has acquired a definite technique in taking plant materials, it is a good idea to focus the camera from several different places to see the effect of distance on the picture to observe the effect of the background, to select the angle that will give the result desired such as a side view of flowers or a top view. It is this artistic selection of views that distinguish good photographs from mere snapshots. It is something that is absolutely personal.

I prefer to photograph plants from a natural position as far as possible, that is, to set the camera so that it is slightly above the flower or on the same level that one would view it naturally. I also try to avoid an appearance of artificiality that may sometimes occur if the camera is set too close to the object. Ordinarily this will not occur unless special lenses have been added to the camera.

Most pink, red and yellow flowers show well if taken against foliage or soil. Blues are hard to take with any dark background. Sky, especially if flecked with white clouds, is excellent as a background to garden views, landscapes, etc., of course the sky must be taken with the sun in back of the camera.

There is no doubt that the use of color-pictures can be easily extended from a hobby to a method of stimulating interest either commercially or otherwise. Quite likely growers of plants will find it advantageous to use color photos to stimulate interest in their product, and others not commercially interested can use the pictures as a record of what they have produced. With the new

film now available there need be no hesitancy about anyone making excellent colored photographs, it is just a question of obtaining the right equipment and using common sense and good taste in selecting the material to be taken.

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## *The Naming of Peonies*

JOHN A. SOULE, K. C., Hamilton, Ontario

Lady Juliet of the House of Capulet, once said to Romeo of the hated Montagues,

“What’s in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

This lover’s philosophy should not be authority however, for the indiscriminate naming of Peonies. When one scans the lists and finds the name *David Harum*, that old horse swapper, and then *Winnie Winkle*, the question comes, can Mickey Mouse and Andy Gump be far behind; and when my eye rests on *Tar Baby* and *Zip Coon*, the ague comes upon me and I commune with myself on graves and epitahs.

We have an outstanding peony named most fittingly for Longfellow and may I suggest that the names of some of our nature poets and the characters and places famous in song and story would be more appropriate than a succession of Mary Anns and village belles.

I commend to the namers of new introductions, Bliss Carman’s exquisite poem, “THE PEONY”, for of a certainty an outstanding flower should be named for the man who penned such lines as:

“She hath a deep hid virtue  
No other flower hath.  
When summer comes rejoicing  
Adown my garden path,  
In opulence of colour,  
In robe of satin sheen,  
She casts o’er all the hours  
Her sorcery serene.”

Then by way of illustration, let me mention Byron’s character Bonnivard. A peony of that name would have an added

charm for me, associated as it would be with the noble prisoner of Chillon, whose spirit was unchained although his footsteps left their imprint on his prison floor :

“Let none these marks efface  
For they appeal from tyranny to God.”

As for the name of a place, Innisfree would surely find its way into my garden, remindful as it would be of W. B. Yeats' picturesque verse on that beautiful Isle :

“And I shall have some peace there, for peace  
comes dropping slow,  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to  
where the cricket sings ;  
There, midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a  
purple glow,  
And evening full of the linnet's wings.”

And now let me appeal on behalf of Colonel John McCrae, the Canadian soldier poet who lived at Guelph, the home of Mr. J. E. Carter, one of our Regional Vice-Presidents. John McCrae was the author of those moving haunting verses, “In Flanders' Fields” and “The Anxious Dead”, poems that have become the cherished heritage of the English speaking race. A glorious flower should be named for him. Of such, Rupert Brooke has written :

“These laid the world away; poured out the red  
Sweet wine of youth; gave up the years to be  
Of work and joy, and that unhopéd serene,  
That men call age; and those who would have been,  
Their sons, they gave, their immortality.”

Should others fail me, to you Dr. F. G. Brethour, I throw the Torch.

Returning to Bliss Carman :

“For peony, my peony,  
Hath strength to make me whole,—  
She gives her heart of beauty  
For the healing of my soul.”



## *Peonies In England*

GEORGE CHURCHER, Beckworth, England

I started growing peonies in 1896, mostly French varieties, the following year adding a few more, from Messrs. Barr and Sons, including the *Duchess of Sutherland*, a double pink variety of their raising. No doubt it has been surpassed by more recent pinks, but it is still worth growing for its scent alone. Fourteen years ago I moved to my present address and I continued to add to my collection. I enclose a list of the named varieties at present growing here. The bed in which 'Orion' (Canfield) is shown, was planted in 1934 and consists of the following: *Alice Harding*, *Antwerpen*, *Argentine*, *Clemenceau*, *Clairette*, *Cornelia Shaylor*, *Delight*, *Emma*, *Geisha*, *Mr. G. F. Hemrick*, *Laura Dessert*, *Reine Baronet*, *Soshi*, *Lt. Warneford*, *V. C.*, and one other.

Of the American varieties the following have been outstanding: *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Grandiflora*, (only because of its lateness), *Karl Rosefield*, *Lillian Gumm*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Walter Faxon*.

There are no special peony shows in England. I put up an exhibit at the R. H. S., London and I think in 1934 and the late Sir William Lawrence wrote in one of the gardening papers that it was the finest amateur exhibit of peonies he had ever seen, Mr. Kelway remarked that he did not know that an English amateur had such a collection.

Two years later I had an incursion of the grub of the swift moth, which necessitated the lifting of the whole of my plants and replanting with the usual result—some labels being lost or mixed.

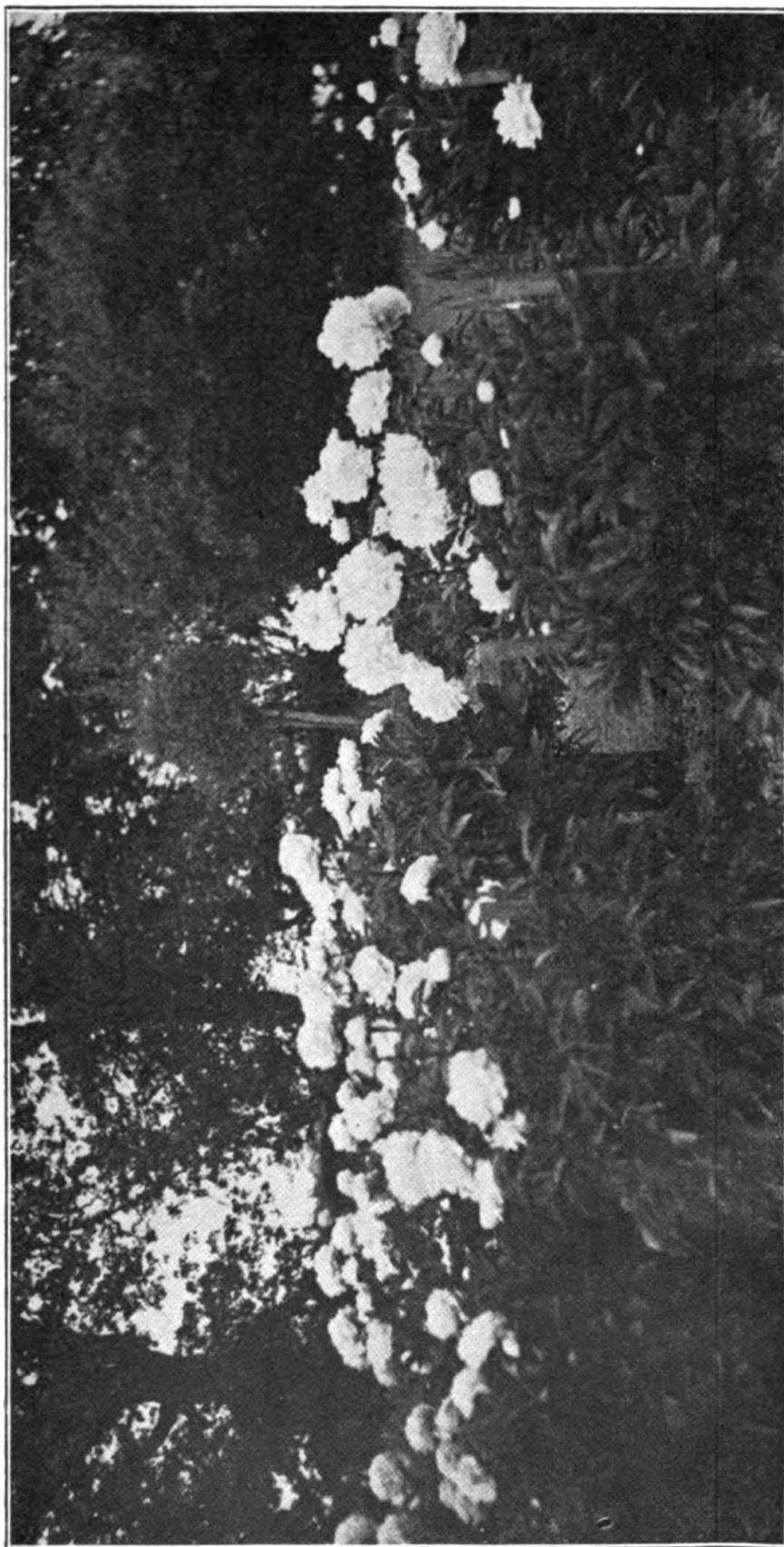
Mr. Cranfield is the largest grower known to me and of the trade growers—Barr, Bath and Kelways.

List of peonies grown at Beckworth:

*Adelaide Delache*, *Admiral Dewey*, *Albatre*, *Albert Crousse*, *Alexandre Dumas*, *Alsace-Lorraine*, *Arethusa*, *Arsene Meuret*, *Asa Gray*, *Auguste Dessert*, *Auguste Villaume*, *Baroness Schroeder*, *Bayadere*, *Beauty Mask*, *Boule De Neige*, *Ceres*, *Claire Dubois*, *Couronne d'Or*, *De Candolle*, *Delachei*, *Docteur Boisduval*, *Dorchester*, *Duc De Wellington*, *Duchesse De Theba*, *Edulis superba*, *E. G. Hill*, *Etendard Du Grand Homme*, *Eugene Verdier*, *Faust*, *Felix Crousse*, *Festiva maxima*, *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Germaine Bigot*.

Border of peonies on Mr. Churcher's estate.





Alice Harding Clemenceau Antwerpen Orion  
These are the four varieties at the right end of the long bed in photo No. 1.

Gismonda

La France

La Perle



*Gismonda, Grandiflora, Graziella, James Kelway, Jeanne D'Arc, Karl Rosefield, La France, La Rosiere, Lady Alexandra Duff, Lady Carrington, Lady of Langport, Lamartine, Louis van Houtte, Madame de Galhau, Madame de Vatry, Madame Dupont, Madame Emile Lemoine, Madame Moutot, Marguerite Gerard, Marie Crousse, Martha Bulloch, Milton Hill, Monsieur Charles Leveque, Monsieur Jules Elie, Monsieur Martin Cahuzac, Mrs. A. F. W. Hayward, Philomele, Pierre Duchartre, Primevere, Prince Pierre Galitzin, Prince Prosper, Princes Maud, Rachel, Sarah Bernhardt, Solange, Solfatare, Souvenir de Louis Bigot, Taglioni, Therese, Virginie, Walter Faxon, Eva, Fuyajo, Leonie, Mikado, Queen Alexandra, Some-Ganoko, Argus, Dreadnought, Duchess of Bedford, Eglantine, Enchantress, E. St. Hill, Fashion, General Botha, Kelways Wild Rose, Lord Morley, Milkmaid, (Cranfield), Pride of Langport, Sir Visto, Venus and Fire King.*

## *Growing Peonies in Wire Baskets for Exhibition*

MARY E. G. FREEBORN, Proctor, Vermont

In 1933 small, symmetrical, healthy roots of *Octavie Demay*, *Marie Lemoine*, *Rosa Bonheur* and *Auguste Dessert* were planted in  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch mesh, but quality galvanized wire baskets 15x20x20 inches.

The soil was light gravelly loam. The fertilizers used were wood ashes and bone meal.

The edges of the baskets were placed two inches below surface of soil to allow cultivation.

After five years the baskets were taken up. After removing the dirt to base of one side of basket and partially from the others, the baskets were easily lifted with a crowbar. The plants were all healthy, the baskets in good condition and full of roots.

It would seem that the presence of the baskets did not inhibit growth and that one could easily tub the plants to ship for exhibition.

## *Standard Divisions*

ERNEST FLINT KELSEY, East Aurora, N. Y.

The American Peony Society has apparently standardized nearly everything in peonies except so called "Standard divisions." Names, classes, colors, ratings and descriptions are well defined but the so called "Standard division" still remains "Jones' Choice." The usual smug designation is "three to five eyes with an adequate root system." The three to five eye clause is easily determined—though quite frequently there is a vast majority of the three eye divisions—but the adequate root system is hazy to many peony men. In all too many instances any root that has three eyes stuck on any old stump is a "Standard division."

The writer recently received a shipment of thirty-six divisions. The entire lot was enclosed in a box measuring 8½ in. by 10½ in. by 21½ in, outside measurement, with a generous padding of excelsior at top and bottom. There were port holes in the crown and bung holes in the bottom, with an absence of fibrous roots and with many eyes in sore need of an oculist. A sorry exhibition of what peony divisions should not be. These were advertised and purchased for "Standard divisions."

Another peony man sent out "Standard divisions" four years ago so small and shrunken that the most of them have not bloomed yet. They all had at least three eyes. In many instances the number of eyes seems to be the sole unit of measurement of a "standard division". In some instances three eyes seems to be predominantly the "standard".

Am I correct in stating that the worth of a peony division depends more upon the size and condition of the root system than on the number of eyes. This deponent sayeth that he would rather have a one or two eye division on a healthy, sizable root system than any number of eyes on a sawed off pick handle.

Perhaps my conception of what constitutes a "standard division" is too great. Perhaps I expect too much. If so let the intelligence of peonydom speak up and clarify the situation. If I have "spoken out of turn" I'll take the birch gad without a whimper.

Am I expecting too much to believe that the A. P. S. could better conditions and approximate a uniformity in divisions, making

the so called "Standard divisions," really standard. Doesn't it seem worth consideration?

What would be the reaction if some one was appointed to receive specimens of "Standard divisions" from members of the A. P. S. or if we had a class of "Standard divisions" at our National Peony Show. If this was done I am quite sure that two things would happen; there would be a realization of the wide difference of opinion of what is a standard division, and also some who are inclined to be careless in this matter would be more particular with what they send out as "Standard divisions". Also it would demonstrate that at present we have in reality no "Standard division."

The floor is yours—

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## *Random Thoughts About Peonies and Peony Shows*

J. W. FRENZ, Baraboo, Wis.

We are all interested in the Society and ought to do what we can to extend its influence and attract new members.

It is easy to find fault, but not so easy to suggest practical and useful remedies. I think that we can all agree that one of the important things the Society does each year is to stage a National Show. There are also regional or district shows in prospect. What I have to say will apply with equal propriety to all peony shows. I will, therefore, make a few suggestions that I hope will prove helpful.

The first point I desire to make is that there is not enough competition at the shows. There are not sufficient entries in the various classes. Something must be done to make exhibiting easier and more attractive.

The big class at the National Show is the 80-100 class. I think that this class is too large. It should be limited to fifty varieties. That is large enough. At the Lansing show there were only four entries in the 80-100 class. It would be much better if there were a dozen exhibitors showing fifty peonies each than three or



four showing 100 varieties. The fact is that the class as it now stands is too large to attract growers. There is too much work involved and certainly too much expense. There are doubtless scores of members who grow enough varieties to enter the 80-100 class. Why do not more enter? There is only one answer. It costs too much and involves too much work. Exhibiting ought not to be a burden; it should be a pleasure.

Another thought that occurs to me is that peonies that are not in commerce at all, or not in general commerce, should not be allowed to compete, except for certificates of merit or something of that kind. I do not think it fair to the average grower to have to compete against peonies that cannot be bought on the market, or are for sale at prices so high as to make them unavailable.

My impression is that a little too much stress is being put upon new varieties. I would not do a thing to discount the work being done by the originators or introducers of new varieties. They are doing a great work and are entitled to much credit and praise. However, the thing that has always appealed to me about peonies is that they do not go out of style like some other flowers I could name. Some of our best peonies have been popular for a half century. But there seems to be a feeling among some peony lovers that if they do not have the latest originations it is something of a disgrace. The result is that frequently peonies of outstanding merit are either overlooked or neglected in the desire to possess something new and different that oftentimes is much inferior.

Why not have a class from which all new peonies would be barred? This might stimulate some peony fans to exhibit who do not do so now because they feel that no one has a chance unless he is able to show new and rare varieties. Recently, in going through the descriptive list in the Manual, I made a large list of some of the finest peonies known, all of which were introduced more than twenty-five years ago. An entire show made up of these varieties alone would leave little, if anything, to be desired.

It was suggested at the Lansing meeting by Mr. Little that the Society should stage an "educational exhibit", by means of which the public could be educated as to the merits of certain peonies not often seen at shows, or something along that line. The idea is a good one, but I would elaborate on it a bit. I think that on the big



afternoon or evening of the show, the time when there normally would be the largest attendance, some one should give a short, interesting talk on peonies, using the peonies on display to illustrate the talk. I think the Society is overlooking a great opportunity here not only to interest the general public in peonies but to obtain new members for the Society. The visitors could be invited to ask questions of the speaker on anything that occurred to them concerning the subject. A very interesting programme could be given at each show with very little preliminary preparation and without expense.

A better system of labeling the peonies on exhibition ought to be devised. Thanks to the work of the Society, the public has now become name conscious and wants to know the names of the different varieties on exhibition. The visitors handle the peonies, looking for the label, even taking the peonies out of the containers sometimes and putting them back in the wrong container. Occasionally the containers are tipped over. It makes for confusion generally. I know an exhibitor who writes the names of the varieties on stiff white paper or light card board with a heavy black crayon and places the card flat on the table against the container. The name can be seen at a glance, without handling the peony or the container. It is the best system I have seen. The exhibitor could have his name and address printed on the cards he uses, and the cards placed after the judging has been done.

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### *The "Dying" Peony in the East*

GEORGE W. PEYTON, Rapidan, Virginia

In Bulletin No. 70, December 1937, there appeared an article from the pen of my very good friend, Mr. J. F. Styer, one of our Directors, entitled "More Popularity for the Peony in the East". With the avowed aim of that article to increase the popularity of the Peony in the East there can be no quarrel. It is an undoubted fact that many thousands of peonies could find homes in these states with profit to all concerned. That more members of the Society are needed in this area is self-evident. That magazines do not feature the peony as they do other flowers is plainly apparent

to all who read them. That we do have some disease among our peonies all of us know who plant them. We welcome any action that will tend to correct these conditions.

However there are some statements in that article with which I cannot agree. Some of these will be mentioned at times in this article. The actual territory intended to be covered by Mr. Styer's article is not entirely clear, but I am assuming from several things mentioned that he means by East the entire seaboard from Maine on the North to Florida on the South with the states adjoining. He mentions specifically the Middle Atlantic States and the South-eastern States.

This article states that this section abounds with disappointed gardeners whose peonies have died or failed to bloom. While I do not presume to have an intimate acquaintance with all the gardens of this vast territory, yet I may say that I have never yet found one of these disappointed gardeners. I have advertised for them in our Virginia-published magazine, Garden Gossip, which reaches practically all sections of the South, and the response has led me to believe they do not exist down here. Peonies live and bloom in Virginia. There are literally hundreds of thousands of plants in its gardens from ten to one hundred years old that annually bear their full quota of bloom and they are albiflora varieties mostly, and their owners are satisfied. My complaint is that the darn things live too long. The old fellows keep on doing their duty so long that the gardeners see no need of getting any new ones.

Next this question is asked, "How many members, how many shows, how many well-known gardens, how much publicity do we have in these states?" Well, over one third of the members of the American Peony Society live in the Middle Atlantic States. New York has more members than any other state except Illinois. Virginia with only one thirtieth the population of the country stands number twelve in the membership of the Society and its membership has increased about four hundred per cent during the past ten years. Has any other state done better? One of the biggest annual peony shows in the country is held annually in the City of Boston. Hundreds of local clubs feature the peony yearly at their annual spring shows. There were four such in my small county alone his year. Until the American Horticultural Society ceased

holding shows there was an annual peony show for years in Washington. But we need more.

In this area is located the world-famous garden of the late Mrs. Edward Harding. No one in the Society is ignorant of the existence of the garden of Mr. Little. The gardens of the late Mr. James Boyd, of Dr. Earl B. White, of Dr. W. E. Sanger, of Dr. J. Horace McFarland, to mention a few who are well known, but we need hundreds of others. In the twenty years that I have been interested in peonies I have made an average of about two talks a year on peonies to various garden clubs in Virginia. I have made non-competitive shows in nearly all the principal cities and many of the small towns usually making two or three each year, all I can handle. Many others have made talks and shown flowers also. But we need ten times this much publicity if we could get it.

The next question is "How much is peony culture discussed in publications originating in this area?" Personally I have written and had published about two hundred and fifty such articles in the past twelve years. Most of them were published in the small magazine *Garden Gossip*, mentioned above, some in *Garden Digest*, *Horticulture*, *Gardening*, *Flower Grower* and *Gardeners Chronicle*. Others have appeared in magazines outside this area. But this is not enough. Our larger garden magazines practically ignore the existence of the peony. We wish the situation could be corrected. They devote hundreds of pages a year to roses, irises, gladiolus and dahlias, but a mere column or two to the Peony. Our peony friends and advertisers who are patrons of these magazines should demand more articles on the subject. I did not write all the articles on the peony published in this area, but others contributed a goodly proportion. But we need more writers on the subject.

I cannot agree that root rot is a serious menace to our peonies in Virginia. In my own garden it has never been a factor except when the roots planted were heated in storage before planting. Few have died from it though on occasion in one field they have been subjected to flood conditions with water standing around them for days at a time. I only marvelled that so few died. Our roots are certainly not over large. The tendency is to long roots of small diameter and exceedingly hard in texture.

Some late varieties often fail to open and some are chronic offenders. But the great majority always do well whether early

or late. I have often thought that if we could control thrip in our late blooms we would go a long way towards solving the problem of late blooming. Does any one know of an effective control?

This article is not meant to discourage peony propaganda in the East or a search for the ills that beset us, far from it. We need all that can be done for us. But it seems to me that very definite harm may be done the peony in this territory if the notion got abroad that peonies were only planted to rot and die, when as a matter of fact they do just the opposite in the great majority of our gardens. I hope that impression will not linger in anyone's mind for it is certainly contrary to fact in my section of this territory and in all sections of it that I have visited or heard from.

We need definite information however on how to combat our troubles when we do have them. Thrips are a menace to our late blooms, nematodes often attack the roots, leaf spot will sometimes almost denude our plants, rot will occasionally kill a plant. Some of our members are very much interested and in a position to find out the most up-to-date methods of control for all of these ills. May we hear from them often.

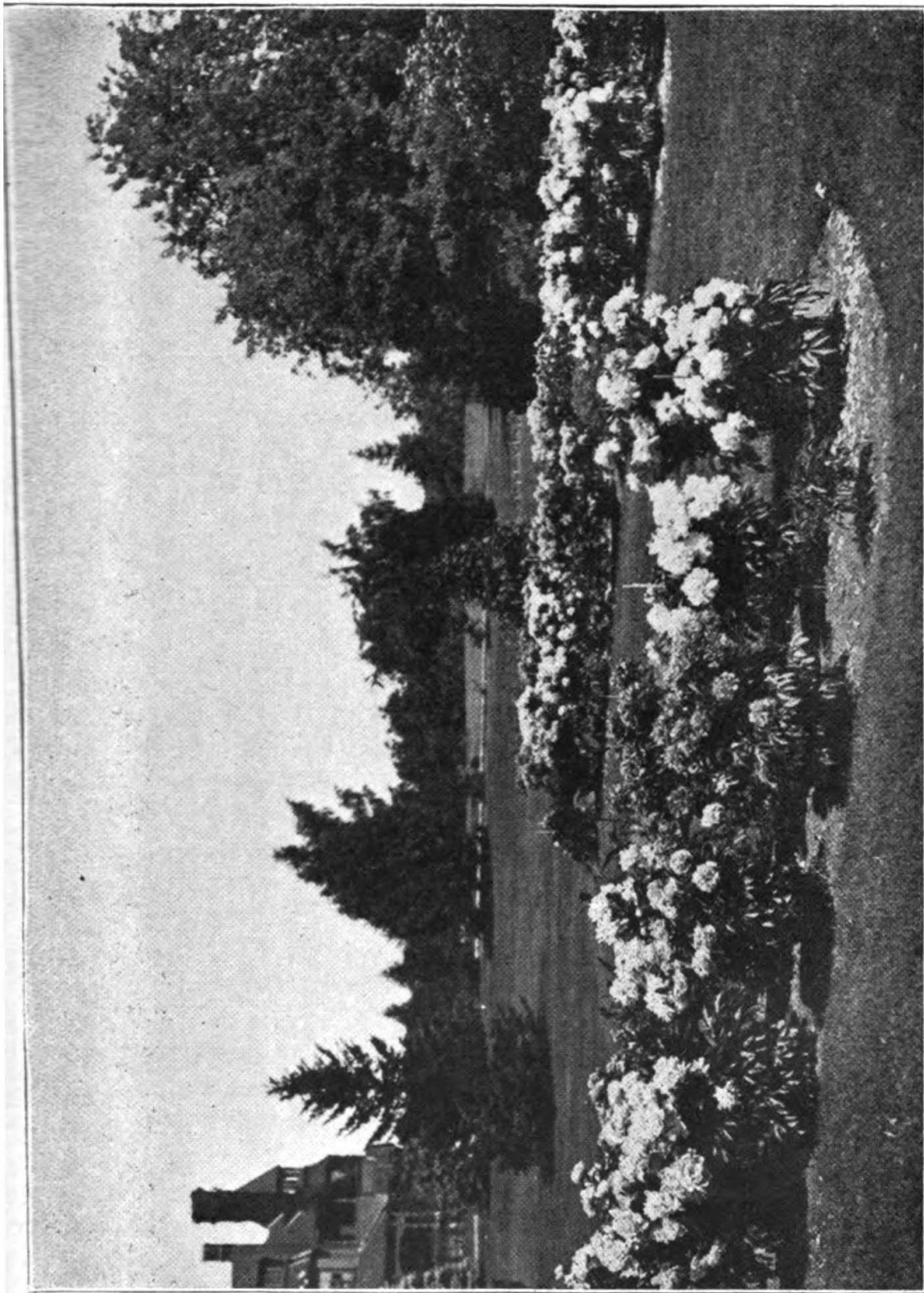
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## *Peonies at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada*

M. B. DAVIS, Dominion Horticulturist

The Experimental Farms Branch of the Department of Agriculture was formed in 1886 and the late Dr. William Saunders was appointed Director by the Dominion Government. He was well known for his interest in horticulture and it was not long before he started collections of ornamental plants of all kinds. I have not been able to find the exact date when the first peonies were planted but in the Report of Experimental Farms for 1896 there is an illustration of peonies in bloom and a note in the text to say that they were planted three years before. It is also stated that peonies had flowered well for two years at the Brandon, Manitoba and Indian Head, N.W.T. (now Saskatchewan) Experimental Farms.

In an old record book there is a list of the seventy varieties in the first large planting at Ottawa. These were in beds on the



Peony beds on the main lawn at Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada, 1904

Main Lawn which were made in 1895. Two years later seventy-three other varieties were obtained including a number of Japanese varieties which were imported from Japan. In 1898 the following were considered to be the most attractive:

*Berlioz, Charles Verdier, Jules Lebon, Marielle, Mathilde, Mme. d'Hour, Mme. Lebon, Mme. Lemoine, Mme. Lemoinier, Mme. Raquet, Mme. Victor Verdier, Mons. Dupont.*

In 1903 there were one hundred and eighty-two varieties. The photograph, (page 21) taken in 1904 shows these beds on the lawn in front of the Director's house.

In a "List of Herbaceous Perennials" by W. T. Macoun published in 1908 is a reference to this collection and the best twelve are listed: *Artemise, Berlioz, Charlemagne, Festiva maxima, Lucrece, Mme. d'Hour, Mme. Lemoinier, Marie Lemoine, Mons. Dupont, officinalis rosea (Old Double Rose), officinalis rubra, rubra superba.*

In the same bulletin a list prepared by one of Ottawa's most famous amateur gardeners is also given: *Asa Gray, Claire Dubois, Floral Treasure (Delicatissima) Festiva maxima, Lady Leonora Bramwell, La Rosiere, Marie Lemoine, Mme. d'Hour, Mons. Jules Elie, Queen Victoria, rubra superba.*

Another list in this same publication was compiled by Dr. A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y.: *Adolphe Rousseau, Agnes Mary Kelway, Delicatissima, Eugene Verdier, Festiva maxima, Jeanne d'Arc, La Rosiere, Marie Lemoine, Mont Blanc, Richardson's grandiflora, Richardson's Perfection, Triomphe de l'Exposition de Lille.*

In the Report of the Dominion Horticulturist (Mr. W. T. Macoun) for 1921, twenty-seven good varieties are listed: *Adolphe Rousseau, x Asa Gray, Avalanche, x Claire Dubois, Couronne d'Or, x Duchesse de Nemours, Marie Jacquin, x Marie Lemoine, x Mlle. Le'onie Calot, x Mme. Auguste Dessert, Mme. de Verneville, x Mme. Geissler, x Edulis superba, x Eugene Verdier, x Felix Crousse, x Festiva maxima, La Rosiere, x Livingstone, x Marguerite Gerard, x Triomphe de l'Exposition de Lille, x Modeste Guerin, Mons. Dupont, Mons. Jules Elie, x Mons. Martin Cahuzac, x Octavie Demay, x Richardson's grandiflora, x Therese.*

In 1926 Mr. Macoun's list includes those marked with an 'x' in the 1921 list with the following added: *Le Cygne, Longfellow.*

*Mme. Jules Dessert, Philippe Rivoire, Sarah Bernhardt, Solange, Tourangelle, Walter Faxon.*

In 1938 many of these varieties are still very popular but we would add the following: *Blanche King, Cherry Hill, Frances Willard, Judge Berry, Kelway's Glorious, Lady Alexandra Duff, Le Jour, L'Etincelante, Luetta Pfeiffer, Mary Brand, Myrtle Gentry, Silvia Saunders.*

In 1899 a collection of *Paeonia* species and varieties of species was obtained and planted in the Arboretum which at that time was under the control of the Division of Horticulture. It is now part of the Division of Botany but the long perennial border is in good order and many of these peonies are still growing in it. The names are copied from the "List of Herbaceous Perennials":

*P. albiflora* the beautiful white single which is worth a place in any garden.

Of the four varieties of *P. anomala* two have survived, *P. anomala insignis*, Peter Barr and *P. anomala intermedia*. The species *P. arietina* seem to have been a great favorite and eleven varieties were planted. We still have the *P. arietina* and varieties *alba, Baxteri, Crown Prince* and *Northern Glory*.

*P. Bakeri* and *P. Broteri* still survive but *P. corallina* and its variety *Russii* have been lost.

*P. coriacea* was until recently the only known plant of this species in cultivation. *P. cretica* is listed as half hardy and died out.

*P. decora* and four varieties were planted of these *P. decora elatior* and *P. decora Pallosii* are still growing.

*P. humilis* and *P. microcarpa* are alive but *Jonathan Gibson*, a variety of the latter has died. *P. mollis* listed as half hardy has been lost.

*P. officinalis* and twelve varieties were planted and the following have survived—*anemonaeflora, atrorubens plena, blanda, Excelsior, Old Double Flesh White, Old Double Red, Old Double Rose, Otto Froebel, rosea Sabinii* and *Sunbeam*. *P. paradoxa frimbiata* is still living but the species has died. *P. peregrina* and seven varieties are listed of these *byzantina, compacta* and *Seraph* still survive. *P. tenuifolia* is growing but two varieties have been lost. *P. tri-ternata* and *P. Wittmanniana* both died.

From these notes it will be seen that the peony has long been a favorite flower in Canada. Its extreme hardiness as well as its beauty of foliage and flower gives it a prominent place in gardens all over the Dominion.

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## *Mulches for Winter Protection of Perennials*

Recent experiments indicate that perennials are winter-killed in two ways. The first and probably the most important, are very low temperatures. One investigator lists the effects of low temperatures as 1, mechanical injury; 2, desiccation of the protoplasm; 3, chemical effects; and 4, suspension of metabolism.

Secondly, freezing and thawing may result in injury to young plants by tearing the fine roots. It has also been found that a rapid fall in temperature is more injurious to plants than a slow one.

### *Variation In Plants*

There is considerable variation in the hardiness of plants, which may be divided into two classes; 1st, very hardy plants such as peonies, iris, phlox and delphinium; and 2nd, semi-hardy plants such as canterbury bells, fox-glove and primroses. The latter keep their leaves somewhat green throughout the winter so moisture and ice plays a considerable part in winterkilling.

It is probably best to lay over them something which will keep the mulch off the plants, such as a peach crate which is only about three inches high.

We know, of course, that if plants are not well drained they will be injured if water stands on them and then freezes. Probably a raised bed for our flower border would be best.

### *Glass Wool Best Covering*

In experiments conducted by the Cornell, New York Experiment Station, glass wool was found to be a very effective mulch. A thickness of two inches appeared best, and the plants wintered best under this type of covering of any mulch used. There was considerable evidence that the light transmitted by the glass wool was of decided value, especially upon plants which keep their leaves through the winter. The plants retained their green color and there were no



dead or rotting leaves, and it was especially good on large plants of fox-glove and *campanula media*.

#### *Snow Good Covering*

In the New York experiment, tests were run in which the snow was removed from plots as soon as it fell. These plots were then compared with checks where the snow was allowed to remain. Removal of snow resulted in much winter injury. The snow acted as a very good insulator and decreased fluctuation in temperature.

All of the mulches prevented heaving and wide fluctuation of temperature. Still some mulches did not protect the plants as well as others.

**OATS STRAW GOOD**—In the New York experiment oats straw proved to be a little more favorable for the plants than other types of straw material. *Silene Schafta* came through 100 per cent under oats straw, but died under buckwheat. Temperature fluctuations were greatly reduced and the soil averaged higher in temperature than under any other mulch. The oats straw was applied to a depth of 6 inches. This straw may contain considerable weed seeds however.

**EXCELSIOR POOR**—Excelsior (5 inches) was less effective than other types of mulch material, largely because of its lack of sufficient insulation value and the temperature fluctuations were somewhat greater than under other types. Soil conditions were very good and there was no tendency to become wet or soggy.

**MANURE**—(4 inches) Fresh strawy horse manure was about equal to excelsior and it seemed to permit some fluctuation in soil temperature. A great deal of moisture was retained around the plants and the soil remained wet throughout the winter.

**LEAVES**—(6 inches) Leaves showed very excellent insulating value and practically prevented fluctuation of temperature. However their effect on plants was decidedly detrimental. Moisture seemed to condense on the lower layer of leaves, resulting in a soggy condition.

**BALSAM WOOL**—(1 thickness) Showed very poor insulating value compared to other mulches, being backed by black waterproof paper it was completely impervious to light and moisture, and the soil was very wet. Nearly 100 per cent of the plants died.

**BURLAP**—(1 thickness) Burlap showed very little effect on fluctuating temperatures and the ground, tended to freeze and thaw

much the same as in the check, but heaving was somewhat less. Burlap proved of little value.

*PEAT MOSS*—This applied at a thickness of 3 inches proved to be very effective in preventing fluctuations in temperature and with some plants decreased winter killing. However, it was somewhat detrimental to fox-glove and campanula.

(The results of tests are from the proceedings of the American Society of Horticultural Science.)

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## *A Communication from Canada*

DR. F. G. BRETHOUR, Toronto, Canada

I am enclosing a couple of prints which, if you see fit, you may use for the Bulletin. This past season has been a pleasant one from the garden point of view. All kinds of flowers have been fine, excepting the Lilacs, which had to take a rest after their great effort in '37. I cannot deny the fact, however, that the three dry years of 1935-6 and 7, left the ground so dry that the peonies were not quite as good as they should have been. After the plentiful rains and splendid growing weather of this summer, we can expect them to get back some of the strength they had lost. It was a great year, all the same for those temperamental peonies like *La France*, *Milton Hill* and *Solange*. I haven't seen them so beautiful for many years.

I was honored by a visit from Mr. J. A. Bongers and Mr. Geo. W. Peyton, who took in my garden after the Lansing show. We spent a full day in looking over my peonies, and I derived a lot of benefit from their criticisms and appraisal of my seedlings, but unfortunately, a few of my best ones had not opened when they were here. They did not see my seedling, *Mrs. Alice Brethour*, a picture of which is sent with this; nor *Shirine*, a specially fine pink, nor *Hidden Blushes*, which is unique that you do not see the exquisite blush-pink tint all through the flower until you look right into it. This one is a tall, strong grower, showing the incurving petal formation, and also has lovely perfume. They did not see *Moosenee*, a huge bright pink that should attract attention in a show room. I am not sending a detailed account of my peonies

as I think Mr. Peyton in his inimitable way, may write an account of his visits to the various gardens he saw this summer.

I hope you had a pleasant summer with your flowers and that you had a good time at Lansing. There is a growing desire for another peony show in Toronto, but it will likely be some time before we can get the National show here again. We are likely to have a regional show next year.

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## *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*

C. F. WOOD, London, Ontario

I have had this letter in mind for some time because I wanted to write you about a new peony variety, which I believe to be the best and most outstanding American introduction to date. The variety, *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, was originated by Mr. J. C. Nicholls. This season was the second since planting the one root I have and it produced six blooms on tall, straight, strong stems. The blooms were medium in size, better than average form, but the color was marvelous beyond description. This peony is the only really pink peony in existence, to my knowledge. Impossible as it may seem, *Walter Faxon* and *Raoul Dessert* both appear to be a dirty magenta when placed beside *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*.

I have always felt that there are far too many peonies being introduced in the United States, and *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* is certainly the exception that proves the rule.

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## *Mentor Graham (1800-1886)*

W. E. LANIGAN, Lincoln Ill.

Mentor Graham, eldest son of Jeremiah Graham, was born in Kentucky in 1800.

Aided by his uncle, (Rev. Johnson Graham), Mentor secured a good education and began teaching in his native state at an early age.

In 1828 the young educator and his wife moved to Illinois, settling near New Salem. He followed the teaching profession in that community for over forty years.

His first meeting with Abraham Lincoln took place in 1831. The two men were near the same age and they soon became good friends.

Finding Lincoln's education was very limited, Mr. Graham persuaded his unlettered friend to study and gave him all the assistance he was able to give. Lincoln was an apt student and the education he acquired under Mr. Graham's supervision was invaluable to him throughout the remaining years of his life.

Mentor Graham died in South Dakota in 1886 and was buried in a cemetery near Blunt in that state. In 1933 his remains were removed from the cemetery near Blunt and re-buried in Farmers' Point cemetery near New Salem in Illinois.

Mrs. Frank Seller, who selected and christened the peony which has been named for her grandfather (Department of Registration, Bulletin No. 73) is the eldest daughter of Mentor Graham's youngest son (Harry Lincoln Graham). She served creditably as a teacher in several school districts in central Illinois previous to her marriage to Mr. Seller.

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## *The Japanese Beetle Quarantine*

To those who may be affected by this quarantine the following remarks may be of interest.

Persons who live in the quarantined area who intend to ship roots or other plant material affected by the quarantine and peony roots come under the ban, should get certificates of inspection from their local inspector for every such shipment made. If beetles have actually been found in your territory the shipments must be inspected before the certificates are issued. No charge is made for this. Do not ship any prohibited material without the necessary certificate just because you may get by with it. You may cause very serious trouble to the recipient as well as yourself. If no beetles have been found in your territory though you may live inside the quarantined area, always require the certificates to be attached to any shipment you may receive from the quarantined area. This is not necessary but highly advisable as it relieves you of the necessity of having your shipments actually inspected if you desire to make any. Any shipment received from the quarantined

area without a certificate automatically puts you in the area from which all shipments must be inspected, a trouble that can be avoided by requiring the inspection certificates.

All persons living outside the quarantined area should demand that inspection certificates be attached to every shipment they receive. You may have serious trouble if they are not. Do not risk it just because it is some trouble for your friend. You do not want an infection set down on your door step.

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### *Report of Annual Peony Show held by Minnesota Peony and Iris Society*

L. W. LINDGREN, St. Paul, Minn.

The peony show, sponsored by the Minnesota Peony & Iris Society was held at the Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis, Minn., June 23rd and 24th. It was a very fine show and fully up to the high standard set by former shows.

The Court of Honor brought out the high quality blooms. This class is divided into five colors, white, flesh, light pink, dark pink and red. Single specimens are entered and the best flowers chosen from each group. From these winners the Grand Champion is chosen.

The winners were: white *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*; flesh, *Solange*; light pink, *Milton Hill*; dark pink, *Blanche King*; red, *Philippe Rivoire*. *Solange* was chosen as the Grand Champion and shown by Louis R. Fisher of Minneapolis. This bloom was without question the finest *Solange* I have ever seen, perfect in form and very deep color. It could very easily have been entered as a light pink.

Only blooms entered in this class are eligible for the Grand Championship award.

There were four entries in the class calling for 50 varieties, one bloom each. All four entries had high quality bloom. This class has been greatly improved by reducing the number of varieties from 100 to 50. The color classes have also been improved by reducing the number from 20 to 10, as the blooms can be arranged much better.

The winners in these classes were: white or flesh, *Solange*; light pink *Myrtle Gentry*; dark pink, *Martha Bulloch*; red, *Mary Brand*.

Eight judges were asked to name the best varieties on exhibition and the following twenty-four varieties were mentioned in the voting. *Nick Shaylor*, *Blanche King*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, received unanimous votes. *Solange*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Hansina Brand*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *Mrs. Harriet Gentry*, *Lady Kate*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Mary Brand*, *Alesia*, *Reine Hortense*, *Walter Lindgren*, *La Lorraine*, *Le Cygne*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Therese*, *A. B. Franklin*, *Henry Avery*, *Matilda Lewis*, *Milton Hill*, *Glorious 1910* and *Alice Schneider* comprised the list.

The above list discloses that many of the old time favorites are being replaced by newer and better varieties.

In the class of three blooms, white (advanced amateurs) *Le Cygne* has ruled supreme for years. This year *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* placed first, second and third. *Le Cygne* was not as good generally as in former years, nevertheless there were very good *Le Cygne* entered in this class. Its equal has arrived.

Mr. Bunn exhibited one of the newer varieties, namely *Mrs. W. L. Gumm*. This peony is of a pleasing shade of light pink. The bloom is very large and well formed. The plant is tall, stems strong and the buds do not partly open as is the habit of some. This is a really fine peony.

A vase of three *Nick Shaylor* was very popular. The color was almost a flesh shade, the blooms very large and the form all that could be asked for. This variety has wonderful substance. The writer took the blooms home after the show and they kept in perfect condition for three days.

Mr. R. C. Schneider of St. Paul, Minn., won sweepstakes in the open class; Glen H. Greaves also of St. Paul won in the advanced amateur and W. H. Holden in the novice class.

Outstanding blooms shown by the following exhibitors were:  
Wm. Anderson—*Myrtle Gentry*, *Blanche King*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*,  
*Lady Kate* and *Mrs. Harriet Gentry*.

C. W. Bunn—*Mrs. W. L. Gumm*, *Hansina Brand*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *La Lorraine* and *Mrs. A. M. Brand*.

T. E. Carpenter—*Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *A. B. Franklin*, *La Lorraine* and *Blanche King*.

Louis Fisher—*Solange*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Alesia*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* and *Hansina Brand*.

- Glen H. Greaves—*Alesia*, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Mrs. A. M. Brand, *Philippe Rivoire* and *Blanche King*.  
 L. W. Lindgren—*Nick Shaylor*, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, *Walter Lindgren*, and *Le Cygne*.  
 R. C. Schneider—*Henry Avery*, *Alice Schneider*, *Mary Brand* and *Martha Bulloch*.  
 A. J. Wilkus—1910 *Glorious*, *Matilda Lewis*, *Le Cygne* and Mrs. *J. V. Edlund*.  
 Joe Novotry—*Reine Hortense*, *Onahama* and *Philippe Rivoire*.

*A New Cream Peony from the Forests  
of Northern Manchuria, Eastern Asia*  
L. PTITSIN, Harbin, Manchuria

One of my cooperators while collecting wild seed in an unexplored section of the wilderness, known as the region of the thirteen volcanoes, discovered a new peony with cream colored flowers. This plant should be referred to the species of *Paeonia oreogeton* S. Moore, described from North China. It differs substantially from all other species of the peonies in that it blooms in the middle of May. *P. oreogeton* prefers northern slopes of mountains and grows amidst bushes and standing timber. Its development starts in April, in the first days of May it unfolds its leaves and in the middle of May it blooms. Its seed ripen in August. That is one month earlier than those of other kinds of peonies.

It reaches a height of 10-20 inches. The flowers are usually single, 3-4 inches with a pleasant odor. The root of this plant is found at a depth of not more than 1-1½ inches and lies horizontal. It consists of elongated cylindrical tubes. The seeds are very bright blue-black colored, resembling berries. This species has as yet never been cultivated and may prove to be a new plant of value for shady parks. The locality where it was found is noted for its low winter temperatures reaching 30 degrees Centigrade.

*Regional Peony Show at Guelph, Ont.*  
THE GUELPH MERCURY, Nov. 7, 1938

Regional exhibition of the American Peony Society, a flower show on a scale vaster than anything Guelph has seen in many

years, will be held in this city next June, it was decided at a meeting of peony growers and other interested persons here this weekend.

J. E. Carter, of Guelph, regional vice-president appointed by the American Peony Society, was named president of the organization which will stage the great show here at the height of the peony season, and a strong executive committee will commence immediately to put committees to work. A secretary and a treasurer will be named at the first meeting of the executive committee.

Representatives from many points throughout Western Ontario attended the meeting, which was enthusiastic and which plans to stage the great show on a large scale. Committee chairmen who were appointed will start immediately to form groups to carry out the mass of detail which will be necessary.

W. W. Simpson, of Guelph, who for some years has staged the annual shows of the Canadian Gladiolus Society, was appointed show manager.

Other committee chairmen were named as follows: first vice-president, O. Kummer, Preston; second vice-president, John A. Sewell, Hamilton; finance committee, the president, two vice-presidents and the treasurer; show and decoration, W. W. Simpson; prize list, Prof. A. H. McLennan; publicity, H. Occomore; reception, R. Beverley Robson; banquet, Miss N. Stockford; judging, Prof. A. H. Tomlinson; peony festival, Tom Colley.

Representatives were present at the meeting from Woodstock, Toronto, Hamilton, Elora, Preston, Galt, Milton and other points.

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## *Question and Answer Department*

In bulletin No. 72 we stated that we wanted to inaugurate a department of the bulletin where questions could be presented and answers given to peony problems that might be presented.

We are glad to present some questions asked by one of our members, H. E. Anthony, D. Sc. Curator of The American Museum of Natural History, New York City, N. Y.

Mr. Anthony writes as follows:



"I have received the peony Manual and find it exceedingly useful and interesting, but the point in which I desire information is apparently not touched on in the manual. I have a well established plant of Mons. Jules Elie which produces beautiful flowers. This spring one of the shoots very early outdistanced all the others and was up about a foot by the time the others were an inch above the ground. This early stock developed a bud which was about the size of a pea before the growth was arrested.

I was very much interested in the possibilities of this freak shoot because the foliage and behavior of growth was so distinctly different from the other shoots. Unfortunately, the rest of the plant came on with a rush, caught up to the early shoot and then grew to about twice the height, shutting off light and swamping the particular shoot in which I was interested. I had a dozen or fifteen gorgeous pink blossoms of the typical pattern, but my early shoot produced nothing but foliage.

"The questions I should like to ask are these :

1. Will a peony root send out a shoot which is a sport or perhaps a reversion to one of the ancestral strain?
2. Do new varieties ever arise in this fashion?
3. Is it worthwhile for me to divide the clump and attempt to segregate the root that throws this early shoot? I can do this because the stalk is still standing.
4. If I leave the plant as it is and cut back most of the typical shoots as they come out next spring, will this throw the vital force of the plant into the remaining shoots and insure opening of the buds on them?"

Who will be the first to volunteer replies to these four interesting questions? Send your reply direct to the secretary so we can compile and present them in the next issue of the Bulletin. This is a splendid start to make this department one that our members will appreciate and from which they will derive profit.

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## *Model Descriptions*

GEO. W. PEYTON, Regional Vice. Pres., Rapidan, Va.

Below are given descriptions of three new peonies sent in by the originator, Mrs. Mary G. Freeborn of Proctor, Vermont. They give just the information needed to intelligently list them in the supplement to the Manual now in process of making.

Will every originator of new peonies who wishes his varieties to be listed, send us the descriptions in similar form as soon as possible? "Time's a-wasting."

Name	Flower	Plant
<b>Killington.</b> When well grown, should rate 9.	Moderate size, full double, warm white. Petals whorled, of delicate texture and moderate substance. Flower lasts long time. Tea rose fragrance.	Wiry stems, 27 inches. Good small plant of distinctive foliage. Free bloomer. Faults: tender to spring frosts and so late gets caught by the heat.
<b>Pico.</b> Should rate 9.5 if lack of fragrance in singles is accepted as normal	Large single, pure white, Petals cupped, stamens moderate in amount. Odor not rank. Endurance good. Carpels light green, stigmas white, kernels white.	Stems 36 inches. Strong, not stiff. Foliage bold and handsome. Plant has distinction. Blooms on every stem in mid-season.
<b>Miriam Marsh.</b> Should rate 8.8.	Medium sized blush white. Japanese type. Cupped petals, Pale yellow staminodes with brighter edges with enclosed pollen. Center sometimes feathered. Lovely color. Good garden variety. Carpels light green, stigmas and kernels white. Not fragrant.	Good stems 30 inches. Plant good, resembling Isani Gidui. Free bloomer. Midseason.

NOTE: In transmitting the above short article Mr. Peyton writes: "Having just received a letter from Mrs. Freeborn with the descriptions of her new seedlings, I am copying three of them and enclosing them, as they are to my mind models of what good descriptions should be. If every grower would send us descriptions of their new ones with the full information contained in these three, it would be a grand thing."

We fully agree with Mr. Peyton and feel it would be a very simple matter for originators to comply with the request and it would enable Mr. Peyton to assemble the information in a concise, yet complete form. Mrs. Freeborn does not hesitate to enumerate the faults as well as outstanding qualities.--Editor.



# Secretary's Notes



"In days of anxious fear, traditions appeal. It is a stable element in an unsure world. Rooted to the past, it flourishes in the present and it projects into the future. It is permanence in the midst of change. But not all tradition is good. Simply to cling to the old because it is old may be to relieve the stupid and the bad. Life grows, it adapts and it discards. The established ways must continue to serve or they must die. Life is a process of selection."

It has been a tradition of the American Peony Society since its inception nearly thirty-five years ago, not only through oral delivery of information, opinions, practices, etc., but through printed pages to disseminate articles that would reach all its membership, conveying to them in plain and easily understood English, the best methods of growing our chosen flower; results of experiments; opinions and suggestions for the betterment of the Society; reports of exhibitions with detailed reports of winning varieties; best methods of fertilization, handling, storing, in fact every phase of peony interest that comes to our attention.

In the first twenty years of its existence, the Society published only eighteen bulletins. During the last 15 years, fifty-six bulletins have been mailed to our members and during that time it has been my duty to prepare and solicit contributions for these fifty-six bulletins. Without adequate funds to purchase articles, we have had to rely upon the good will and cooperation of our members to supply them and are gratified to report they have responded very graciously.

There is a constant revision of practices in our daily life; we must meet the ever changing modes and regulations that our democracy demands if we are to keep up with the procession. The world in which we are now living is a vastly changed world from the one many of us knew in years gone by but we can be truly thankful that we are living in a land of freedom where flagrant transgression of our rights is not countenanced; where the privilege of expressing our opinions is not met with suppression and

violence and where the peaceful pursuit of our vocation in life is not challenged or denied us.

It is true that tolerance must be exercised and diligence and perseverance practiced in our daily routine of living, but that builds character and a sound foundation for a happy and contented life.

\* \* \*

These lines are written December first, and even at this early date the traditional Christmas spirit is in the air. We are endeavoring to get out this issue of the bulletin so it will reach our members before the new year and unless our plans meet with unforeseen delay, we will accomplish our aim. We hope you will find much of interest within its pages. Be free with your comments as well as your contributions to make it a still better bulletin.

\* \* \*

In this vicinity we have experienced a most glorious fall. Peony planting started with us Oct. 20th and was terminated Nov. 30th. As we are seated at our trusty typewriter, the welcome sound of rain beating gently on the roof of our office is a most glorious sound indeed. Considerable rain has fallen the past 24 hours and the ground is getting that much needed moisture to provide the plants ample liquid requirements for the winter season. Prospects for a good season with improved business conditions seems to be inevitable. That oft repeated phrase that "Prosperity is just around the corner" seems to be coming more of a reality instead of a myth. We are hopeful that the coming year will in every way show an improvement over the one just past.

\* \* \*

In a recent communication from Mr. Geo. W. Peyton of Rapidan, Va., our regional vice president, I am told that his appeal for information for the new supplement to the manual has not been complied with as generally as he had hoped. The success of this undertaking depends upon our members and we want to again urge upon you to reread this article and comply to the very best of your knowledge with his requests. He tells me he received a letter from one of our enthusiastic members stating that he was sorry he could be of no particular help in the work, but Mr. Peyton says he unwittingly gave him more information than any of the letters he had received. Mr. Peyton will give us a supplement that

we can be proud of and one that will bring the Manual right up to the minute. WE NEED YOUR HELP AND FEEL SURE WE CAN DEPEND UPON YOU. DON'T FEEL THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO HELP WITH THIS WORK. THE INFORMATION YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SUPPLY MAY BE JUST WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR. You will be proud to have had a hand in making this supplement outstanding. I hope to see Mr. Peyton receive a vast amount of information from which may be assembled information of great value to all peony lovers.

\* \* \*

We expect to have a color classification for presentation in our next bulletin. It should be of considerable value to members who exhibit peonies at local exhibitions as well as at the national shows held each season. Mr. J. W. Lindgren of St. Paul, Minn., one of our new directors has charge of this matter and has recently written me that the preliminary list is about complete.

\* \* \*

A considerable number of manuals have been mailed out since the price reduction. The price of \$2.25 is not to be carried indefinitely and if you do not have a copy, avail yourself of the opportunity to procure one at once. If you have a copy, why not secure another for a peony loving friend as a gift. Nothing more appropriate could be secured.

\* \* \*

Color photography is being more generally employed each season due to the fact that it is now practical for use by amateurs as well as professionals. The process has been simplified to a scientific standpoint and free information is available to enable anyone so inclined to enjoy color photography and achieve considerable success, and in many instances producing results that are outstanding. The cost has also been greatly reduced so that color reproductions can be secured at a slight increase in price over black and white.

Mr. Eldred E. Green, one of our new members, has sent us a short article on this subject and has presented it in such a way that most any amateur photographer can have reasonable success in color work. To become an expert takes years of patient experience and research. We are hopeful that during the coming blooming season, many of our members will try their hand at color

photography. We are desirous of securing colored photographs of new peonies of the 2 in. x 2 in. size that we can use in our various talks throughout this territory, also for a collection we are assembling to be sent to various peony societies, garden clubs, or flower societies of any nature who might wish to display them. We know of no better way to popularize the peony. Those who do not feel they can donate the pictures to the Society, we will be glad to purchase any that prove satisfactory and which can be obtained at a fair price. We have already been promised a number by one of our foremost peony originators and know that others will follow his lead. Will have more to say about this in a later issue.

\* \* \*

Mr. John A. Soule, one of our esteemed Canadian members, has given us food for thought in his article, "The Naming of Peonies". Let us have views and comments from others on this subject. It should bring out some interesting and instructive articles.

\* \* \*

The brief but informative article by Mrs. Mary E. G. Freeborn of Proctor, Vermont, giving her experience in growing peonies in wire baskets for exhibition purposes should appeal to many of our readers. Has any member tried out a similar method that proved satisfactory? This would greatly facilitate the handling of clumps needed for exhibition purposes without greatly disturbing the root structure of the plant.

\* \* \*

It is a pleasure to hear from our far away members who have been one of us for many years. Mr. George Churcher of Beckworth, England has sent me a short article together with three pictures of his peony plantings. How lovely these peonies blend with the beautiful landscape pictures. To have a large estate where ample room can be allotted each plant is a privilege not enjoyed by all of us, but even in a humble back yard a glorious setting can be secured by a judicious selection of choice varieties. Even mediocre varieties will present a most pleasing symphony of color.

\* \* \*

Our good friend Mr. Flint Kelsey has some pertinent remarks on "Standard Divisions" that cannot be overlooked or laid aside. How can this matter best be clarified? Let us hear from other

members on this subject.

Mr. J. W. Frenz, one of our enthusiastic members from Wisconsin, has presented some very sound and logical suggestions for improving our annual exhibitions. May we hear from others on this important subject?

\* \* \*

Mr. Geo. W. Peyton, our Regional Vice President from Virginia, who is one of our "old dependables" and a very enthusiastic peony lover, as well as a most capable judge and writer on the subject, has taken exception to an article appearing in a recent bulletin and voices his disapproval of some of the statements contained therein. The article was written to bring out a discussion of views and we all know that a difference of opinion is what makes horse races, or brings out a large gathering at any sport activity of note. If we all thought alike, civilization would cease to advance and life would be a dull existence. We are always glad to present contrasting views and opinions.

\* \* \*

I have asked Mr. M. B. Davis, Dominion Horticulturist of Ottawa, Canada to give an account of the work in his district and we are happy to present his reply in this issue, together with an illustration of the planting near the administration buildings.

\* \* \*

Mulches for winter protection is something most of us are interested in and while we do not have to bother about the peony very much in this respect, it is well to know the results of scientific tests and experiments. When rock wool becomes more reasonable in price its general use will doubtless increase materially. I think it will prove a surprise to many to know that rock wool proved the most efficient covering of any tried.

\* \* \*

Mr. C. F. Woods letter, which we have been given permission to present, is only one of the many we expect to receive after the variety *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* is more widely disseminated. This beautiful pink was a sensation at the Lansing, Mich., national peony show, and is without doubt one of the greatest color breaks we have had for some time. I cannot refrain from personally singing its praises whenever the opportunity presents itself. Color slides of

this variety will be available after another season so we can enjoy its beauty until such time as sufficient stock is available to have it growing in our gardens.

\* \* \*

Mr. W. E. Lanigan of Lincoln, Ill., recently registered a peony under the name of Mentor Graham and gives us an interesting history of its namesake. Most of our named peonies would have an equally interesting history if the originators would advise us how they came to name their plants.

\* \* \*

Mr. Peyton gives us additional information relative to the Japanese beetle quarantine touched upon in a former issue. This pest is being controlled but it is only by strict adherence to rules and regulations of the quarantine that we can hope to end its existence.

\* \* \*

A delayed report of the Minnesota Peony & Iris Society's annual exhibition of peonies held in Minneapolis, Minn., June 23rd and 24th is presented in this issue by Mr. Lindgren. From a glance at this report it will be apparent to any one acquainted with peony varieties that the most outstanding peonies in cultivation were on display at this show. I have had the privilege of attending many of these exhibitions, in fact was present at the very first efforts attempted, and can say with confidence and without fear of successful contradiction, that no finer display of new and outstanding peonies is usually shown. There are many large growers of peonies in that region as well as scores of peony lovers who have comparatively small but very choice collections of the very finest peonies obtainable and competition is always keen for the coveted awards.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. E. Carter, our Regional Vice President of District No. 11 is right on the job as will be observed by the small news item presented of activities already started for a 1939 show. Watch later issues of the bulletin for the progress being made. Mr. Carter has pledged himself to secure at least forty new members for the American Peony Society during the year. Knowing Mr. Carter, we have every assurance that he will accomplish his goal. Several of our members have recently sent in new members and we hope



this will be a banner year for membership gain. Let us all strive to make 1939 an outstanding one in the history of the society.

\* \* \*

There is always space in the bulletin to present information relative to new or outstanding peonies. Hybridizers might find real merit in the cream colored peony described, a product of Northern Manchuria. Seeds as well as plants are available.

\* \* \*

At our annual meeting June 18th at Lansing, Mich., it was voted that the 1939 exhibition of the Society be held in connection with the World's Fair Horticultural Committee and the matter left in the hands of the president and secretary to make arrangements.

One of our directors, Mr. Edw. Auten, Jr., of Princeville, Ill., made a trip to New York to investigate the possibility of holding a show there and his findings do not warrant attempting to stage a show at the World's Fair. The space available under present plans is 10' x 140' which would hardly accommodate the single display made by Mr. Little at Lansing. There is also another small space of 40' in diameter available. This space would be entirely inadequate to properly stage a national peony show. We attempted to stage two peony shows in connection with the 1933 Century of Progress Exposition and both of them failed to come up to our usual standard. As Mr. Auten states in his letter to me: "I cannot help but believe the other exhibits, in such enormous number and size, would completely overshadow us", and President Cook commenting on the matter states, "The annual show of the American Peony Society in most cases is an EVENT, but if held at Fair in New York would be only an INCIDENT."

The east is rightfully entitled to the 1939 show and Mr. Arno H. Nehrling, Exhibition manager of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society wrote me on Sept. 15th that the Exhibition Committee had voted to invite the American Peony Society to hold its show and annual meeting in conjunction with their June show next year.

On Oct. 27th we received an official invitation from Mr. E. I. Farrington, Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society extending to us a hearty welcome and the facilities of their splendid horticultural building for our meeting and exhibition in co-opera-

tion with their June show.

A definite announcement of meeting place and exhibition will be made in March issue of the Bulletin.

\* \* \*

We started out these notes with a few comments on tradition. We will end them in the same manner.

It has also been a tradition handed down through the years that at this season of the year a reminder is usually sent out advising our members of the importance of promptly renewing their membership by the remittance of dues to enable us to carry on the work of the Society.

We have endeavored to get out good bulletins but to do this means a considerable outlay. We want to illustrate them more freely. This also calls for additional funds. As we have repeatedly stated, dues are payable in advance and this point many have overlooked. It will save a considerable outlay in postage if dues are sent in without our having to send out the regular statements.

\* \* \*

Bulletin 447 issued by the University of Illinois, Agricultural Experiment Station has just been mailed to all members. This bulletin is a splendid contribution to the single and Japanese type of peony and will be reviewed in the March issue.

\* \* \*

We will close in expressing to every one of our members the Season's Greetings, in which every one of your officers and directors join me. Let your contributions of articles be even more generous than in the year just closing and with your cooperation, our bulletins will continue to improve. A most happy PEONY YEAR to you all.

### *Department of Registration*

Following are new peonies sent in by Wm. Brown, Flora, Ontario, Canada for registration:

ATHELSTANE. (Brown, 1938) Double type; midseason. Large cupped shaped bloom of an unusual shade of lavender-pink carried well above the foliage. Pleasing fragrance, floriferous. Strong plant with broad leaves of a deep green color.

FAIRLEIGH (Brown, 1938) Double type; mid-season, large, blush-pink slightly deeper toward the center, fragrant. Strong stems, robust plant of good height.

## *List of New Members and Changes in Address*

The following changes in address have been received at this office:

- Mrs. H. E. Chauvin, 60 Gramercy Park No., removed to 117 E. 77th Street, New York City, N. Y.
- The Gardeners Chronicle, 522 5th Ave., Times Square, N. Y. City, change to 1270 6th Ave., N. Y. City, N. Y.
- Mrs. A. W. Holdreth, Home Garden Club, 4519 Bryant St., Denver, Colorado, change to 4877 Raleigh St., Denver, Colo.
- Frank J. Jones, 316 Straight Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich., change to 169 Monroe Ave., N. W., Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Karl K. Lorenz, 2320 Ridgeway Road, Route 7, Dayton, Ohio, Same address but omit Route 7.
- V. E. Newbury, 725 Magnolia, Long Beach, California, change to Forest Home, California.
- Mrs. Frederic C. Rice, 726 Lawton Street, S. W., Atlanta, change to 1570 N. Decatur Road, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.
- Dr. F. C. Mann, Institute Hills, Dochester, Minn., should be Box 256, Rochester, Minn. Town reported incorrectly in bulletin 73 due to a printer's error that slipped past unnoticed by the editor.
- Reno Rosefield, Valley Jct., P. O. Route 1, Des Moines, Iowa, change to No. 36, N. E. Sacramento, Portland, Ore.
- Charles M. Hampton, R. R. I. Hamburg, N. Y., change to winter address, 2706 First Street, Bradenton, Florida.
- Robert T. Jackson, Petersborough, N. H., change to 128 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.
- NOTICE: Nearly all these changes were reported by the Post Office and not by the members themselves. If you do not want to miss bulletins, be prompt in advising any change of address so we can correct our records.—Editor.

The following new members have been received into the Society since last issue of the bulletin in September.

- Benwell, Dr. H. D., Grand Forks, N. D.  
Frame, T. C., 1212 Elk Street, Franklin, Pa.

Fuerstenan, Dr. L. A. 5260 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Milwaukee,  
Wis.

Gomph, Geo. E., Campfield Road, Pikesville, Md.

Hobbs, Bert, Cedar Creek Farm, Aiken, S. C.

Milliman, W. E., Rockford, Mich.

Ploen, George, 381 State Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Real Gardening, Robert S. Lemmon, Editor, New Canaan,  
Conn.

Rick, Chester, Crompond Road, Peekskill, N. Y.

Stearns, Mrs. Pearl, Nogal, New Mexico.

Topham, Mrs. Roy G., Kemnay, Manitoba, Canada.

Wood, Walter E., Fern Valley Estates, Idyllwild, California

NOTE: The state of New York is the only one showing two members in the list of new members. Note the widely separated districts. We hope to have a much larger list to present in the March bulletin.

#### CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur growers. Nomination is not necessary for those desiring admission, but a list of applicants for membership is presented to the Society at its annual meeting and the names are there voted upon.

Those who make application for membership at any time receive the current publications of the Society as they are issued.

The dues are \$3.00 a year, of which \$1.00 is toward a year's subscription to the American Peony Society BULLETIN. *All checks covering membership dues should be made to The American Peony Society and sent to the Secretary with application for membership.* Dues in future are to run from January 1st to January 1st of the following year.

Back BULLETINS of the Society will be charged for at the rate of 25 cents per copy and 50 cents for the Symposium Number (No. 14). To non-members these prices are doubled. No BULLETINS available prior to No. 13.

## AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

The American Iris Society has, since its organization in 1920 published 70 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, Howard R. Watkins, Room 821, Washington Loan & Trust Bldg., Washington, D. C.

In order to dispose of surplus stocks of some numbers we offer 6 Bulletins (our selection) 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, Calif.

Lantern Slides Rental Fee (to members) \$10.00. Apply to Mrs. Herman E. Lewis, 180 Grove St., Haverhill, Mass.

## 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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With a time limit covering the balance of 1938, the Directors of the Society have reduced the price of the Peony Manual and supplement to \$2.25 delivered. Membership for one year and Manual for \$5.00.

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 1938 dues are paid, manual will be sent them for \$2.00.

Dealers, why not offer the manual as a premium for a certain sized order?

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