

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



Bulletin

MARCH, 1949

Number 112

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor
Northbrook, Ill.

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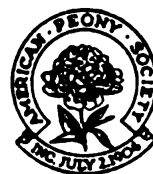
Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur growers. Nomination is not necessary for those desiring admission, but a list of applicants for membership is presented to the Society at its annual meeting and the names are there voted upon.

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

The annual dues are \$3.00 which includes the bulletins. *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 Peony Society Bulletin

MARCH, 1949

The 1949 Show and Meeting

Our 45th annual show and convention will be held here in Milwaukee on Saturday and Sunday, June 18th and 19th, 1949. The Show will be sponsored by the Fifth Regional District, comprising members of Illinois and Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Gas Light Company has granted us the use of their spacious lobby and balcony to stage this show. This will give us a combined area of over 10,000 square feet. It is a beautiful lobby, with the walls of dark green marble, furnishing a beautiful background for the flowers. It is also ideal in other respects as it has a large basement work-room with plenty of water outlets, work-tables, and low bottom caster trucks to transfer the bloom to the elevator to set up in the display room. The building is located in down-town Milwaukee only two blocks from the Northwestern Depot and only a few more from the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Depot. The Pfister Hotel, where the banquet will be held, is only one block west of the exhibition-hall. Mr. B. F. Frank, Vice-President of the Gas Company, has been very cooperative and in addition to granting the use of the lobby and balcony has also granted us the use of their 7th floor projection room for a colored-slide lecture. He has also granted the use of their 15' x 15' walk-in cooler which is also located in the building. It is not very often that we have cold storage in the building where the show is held.

In connection with our colored-slide lecture we have made arrangements with the David White Company of Milwaukee for a demonstration of their new three-dimension camera and three-dimension projection technique. I have seen some of these colored slides and they certainly appear remarkably lifelike and very beautiful. It should add an interesting note to our program.

The Show will receive good publicity locally. The Milwaukee Journal—the largest daily newspaper in Wisconsin—has assured me they will back it wholeheartedly and present a choice of two beautiful cups, or plaques, as prizes. Mr. Alex Klose, assistant county agricultural agent, in charge of horticulture, is chairman of our publicity committee. Mr. Klose conducts a radio-program and newspaper-column on gardening and is planning a series of articles on the peony and the A.P.S. Several Garden Club officers have volunteered their assistance to help make our Show a success. The Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce has offered their fullest cooperation.

In addition to the colored slide show we have also planned a trip to the Whitnall Park Arboretum. This public arboretum features one of the largest tree and herbaceous peony planting in the Middle West.

For those who are interested in, or may be curious to sample the product that made Milwaukee famous, we have made arrangements with the Blatz

brewery for a visit to their famous Rathskeller, where this golden beverage is served free to all registered visiting groups, in a beautiful old world atmosphere reminiscent of the Milwaukee of the gay nineties. This rathskeller is within a few blocks of the Exhibit Hall. All those wishing to make this visit must register with the Show Secretary. A guide will be arranged to assist you to find your way back.

The Show is, of course, the big event of our annual meeting. The business meetings are generally rushed through too fast. This year's meeting has several matters of importance to consider and I feel we should allow enough time to consider them properly. The adoption of a new set of By-Laws is of great importance. At the Guelph meeting, the proposal to adopt new By-Laws, and redistricting plan, was carried unanimously. At the Directors meeting the following morning I, as the President of the Society, was empowered to appoint Directors in those Districts where we had none or where our present Directors indicated that they could not undertake the work of organizing the District in which they resided. We now have District-Directors in six of the nine regional districts and I am still hopeful of soon completing the remaining three districts. The appointment of these new regional Directors does not mean that we have deposed our former group of Directors. In fact we who have felt that District organizations would best serve the Society would never have advocated it if it meant dropping our original Directors from the Board. At our next annual meeting, here in Milwaukee, I shall recommend that a provision be included in our By-Laws that will permit the membership to vote life memberships to Directors who have served for many years. I hope and I think we can offer a final draft of these By-Laws to our members at the next membership meeting for their approval and acceptance.

The heart of this plan is the district organization. Herein lies the possibility of great benefit to the Society. These district groups of ours will only be as good as the members of each district Board make them. There are many activities the regional Boards can foster. Among them are regional symposiums, regional trial-gardens, and regional shows, alternated in various sectors of each District. District organizations should sponsor the National Show when it is held in the confines of the host district. District group competition and District displays at our National shows should be featured. Each District group should utilize space in our Bulletin for District reports, news, etc. Each District group should work to obtain more public park plantings of peonies. The peony offers flowering plant material with a minimum of care and upkeep cost for park plantings. It is my observation that our public park systems have overlooked the value of the peony in their flower bed plans. Park Boards are generally alert and sensitive to public reaction to their work and most often are only too happy for suggestions from the public. Much can be done to spread the popularity of the peony by getting public parks to plant and maintain properly labeled peony plantings. Last but not least each District group should engage in an aggressive membership campaign. The American Peony Society should have 5,000 members, not 1,200 as we now have. Only with a continued increase in our membership can we expect to get a new manual and a better Bulletin (more pictures and like features). Mr. Christman, our secretary, edits one of the best floral society Bulletins but he forever labors under the handicap of restricted finances and must limit his costs in preparing each issue. With an increase of our membership the advertising space in our Bulletin will also be enhanced in value. Delinquent memberships can be kept at a minimum by the cooperation with the District secretaries.

There are so many inherent virtues in the District organization plan that it seems almost a necessity that it is made to work.

In closing this, my last article as president of the A.P.S., I want to thank the members who have worked with me on the membership committee and in all other work I have attempted to do for the good of our Society.

Marvin C. Karrels, President
American Peony Society



WHY?

WHY AREN'T PEONIES MORE GROWN IN CALIFORNIA? A state that grows everything else—more or less—shouldn't fall down on this loveliest of flowers.

We have grown peonies for twenty years here in the Santa Clara Valley, fifty miles south of San Francisco. And one of our society members from Van Nuys had a picture in *Flower Grower* that showed her success with them in the southern part of the state.

Yet, most people still cling stubbornly to their belief that Peonies can't be grown in California. That is if they think of them at all.

Believe it or not there are plenty of people here who have never seen a peony and wouldn't know one if they did. But sometimes they can be told. At least they aren't loaded down with misinformation and prejudice.

It's the ones who "know it all" who are discouraging. They will tell you that peonies just can't be grown here. You show them your garden with Mikado, Therese, Sarah Bernhardt, and others stealing the show from the roses and other May blooming plants. They shake their heads and decide that maybe you can grow them, but they can't. The culture is too tricky and difficult.

That's not true, of course. Next to iris and day lilies, peonies are as easy to grow as anything I know. The only difference you need to make growing them here is to omit winter mulch and add summer water. It is in the summer watering that so many people fail.

They don't expect the rest of their garden to get along without water—not even their iris, which are practically indestructible out here. But I have seen peonies stuck away in some out of the way corner, under a shrub or tree like as not, and with their poor wilted leaves drooping above the ground as dry and hard as an adobe brick. I suggest water and cultivation as tactfully as possible, nine times out of ten my words bounce against a wall of prejudice as hard as that adobe soil.

One of the causes of this prejudice seems to be a memory of how, "Grandmother grew them back in Vermont." She never watered them.

Of course the answer is that Vermont has summer rains, while out here, we have nine or ten months in which little or no rains fall. You explain that and think that you have convinced one doubter at least. But digging out a prejudice like that is a good deal like digging out the wild morning glory that plagues my garden. You think you really have it this time. But come back in a couple or three weeks, and there it is, springing up from deep and hidden roots.

I have no choice but to keep everlastingly at the morning glory. But I have learned to give up on the friend who prefers a nostalgic dream to the realities of our climate.

The persons I really hope to help are those who have gotten some "screwy" ideas from the articles they have read.

Most of the article writers haven't grown peonies in California, but some of them are willing to guess how it might be done. Some of these guesses were good and sensible. But some were very bad. I know. I tried them.

The one that cost me most dearly was about withholding water in the fall so that the roots could rest. Letting your plants dry out to rest them was quite a fad just then, and so that guess sounded all right to me. But that was a year that the rains came late and my young stuff simply withered away. What didn't die out right became so stunted they had to be thrown away eventually. The well established plants came through without much harm.

They say experience is a good teacher, but that was too costly. Out of a bed of fifty, I doubt if I salvaged half a dozen roots. Since we farm only an ordinary city lot, losing a bed of that size was a real blow.

But I was too stubborn to give up, or too much in love with the flower that to me is queen of them all. I planted another bed. And I *watered* it.

It took two or three years to get my plants back to where I didn't have to feel apologetic. In that time I got it ground into me that watering and cultivating are the vital points in growing peonies out here.

Now I start watering when the rains leave off in the Spring and I keep it up until the rains start again. Last winter I had to water all through January—the first time that's ever happened. But I had as many and as good bloom as in ordinary years.

I wonder if you who write articles for the big general magazines couldn't help us out here, by stressing this need for summer watering as the only important difference. Then your articles would help us as much as they do the grower in the peony belt.

Watering here should be a deep soaking every ten days or two weeks, depending on the type of soil and how well it retains water. But remember that the one or two gallons that you seem to find satisfactory isn't enough here. It isn't much more than a teaser.

I flood my beds. But since my soil packs easily, especially when it hasn't been cultivated enough, I can be deceived into thinking that it is well watered when it isn't. So I have learned to poke it with a stick. If the stick doesn't go more than two or three inches, I know the bed hasn't enough water, no matter how it looks on top.

If you will hammer away on watering, you can omit some of the lesser points. You can forget our warm winters. There is nothing we can do about them. Anyway they are not the problem that some people seem to think.

I don't think that you need worry too much about a special list of varieties for us. My experience leads me to think that any variety which is generally reliable will be good here. Stressing the use of well rated named varieties would help.

Next to poor summer care, I'd say that the growing of unnamed and out-moded varieties has done more than anything else to give our favorite flower a black eye.

There are two varieties that you see quite often around here—a dirty white crown type that always falls apart and a ratty magenta rose. Those two have probably scared off a lot of potential peony enthusiasts.

I look at them and am very glad that I saw my first peonies in Illinois. The memory of huge clumps with great fluffy flowers in an ethereal shade of pale pink is something that has remained with me all these years.

Somehow I have wanted my garden to inspire others, as I was inspired by those beauties in my uncle's garden. I know a number of people who are growing peonies because they saw them in my garden. But they are such a tiny, tiny fraction of the people who ought to be growing them, and would be, too, if they knew more about them.

And so this little article is a plea for help. Help to popularize this most beautiful of flowers in a state that can grow them—*with proper watering*.

(An Essay Entry)

MRS. F. L. HARBOUR, 374 S. 21st St., San Jose 12, Cal.



Some 1925 and Later Originations in a Peace River Garden

By C. M. CLARKE, *Teepee Creek, Alberta, Can.*

Following the disastrous winter of 1942 and '43 when many varieties then growing on a south slope were killed, and nearly all the others were badly damaged, the surviving plants were divided and replanted in a more sheltered location; some of the lost varieties were replaced with new stock and several new varieties have been added, so that most of the plants now in the Teepee Creek collection are four years old, or less.

As the following notes are based only on a single season's observation of mature plants of the recently acquired varieties and, as a rule, of only one plant of the variety, they are merely a tentative,—not a final appraisal of their performance here, and include only varieties of 1925 and later originations that have been growing here for at least three years. If the present contribution should prove of interest, an account of those added since 1944 will be offered later.

In most cases the notes refer to the 1947 season, but where the only plant of a variety was divided in 1945, or 1946, it is distinguished by the numerals (45) or (46) after the name, and the accompanying remarks refer to the 1945 or 1946 season.

Thanks in part to some hybrid varieties (of which only a few have reached maturity) and to a few species peonies, and in part to peculiar weather conditions, the 1947 was the longest in 25 years that peonies have been grown here, as it was extended at both ends.

Beginning with *P. tenuifolia* on May 28th—(the second time a peony has bloomed here in May)—it was continued by the double form, *P. tenuifolia F.P.* on June 2nd, followed by *Peter Barr* on June 4th, *P. Mlokesewitschi* and three Lemoine hybrids on June 6th, and then by the other hybrids in succession, ending with *Veritas* on June 27th.

Marietta Sisson, earliest *lactiflora-(albiflora)*-variety in 1946 and 1947, opened its first flower on June 29th, and *Galathee*, on July 25th, was latest; but it did not end the season.

Five consecutive dry years, each drier than the preceding one, was almost too much for plants in the driest part of the garden which were given up as lost some while before they emerged in the latter part of June. Under ordinary conditions, they never would have bloomed; buds would have all withered; but the light rains and cool, cloudy weather in the second week of July were followed by a great downpour on the 15th. and from then on there was an abun-

dance of rain, according to Peace River standard, and the remainder of the season was generally cool and cloudy, with some really wet days and a few clear warm ones in between. The late emerging plants, which included early varieties like *Edulis Superba* and *Duchesse de Nemours* all bloomed. A note before me states the last flowers were cut on August 7th; but they were cut again on August 14th, and on Aug. 31st a dozen fine blooms were cut, most of them from *Duchesse de Nemours*.

Probably because of the cool and cloudy weather during the blooming season, there was very little fading among the reds last summer, nearly all varieties holding their color 'till the flower was pretty well aged.

Hard frosts in spring greatly reduced the number of buds, particularly in the newer planting where the recent acquisitions have been placed, so that most two year old plants in this plot failed to bloom last summer and some established plants had very few flowers; but those that did bloom were grand.

Radiant Red, *R. A. Napier*, *Victory* and *Mrs. A. B. Franklin* were outstanding two year olds that bloomed. *Tarawa* and *Tulagi* were the only two Lins varieties that flowered in 1947, and I would have liked very much to see *Burma*, *Tondeleyo*, *Mandaleen* and *King Midas* as well,—particularly the last, as it bloomed in its first year and the flowers were decidedly off type, very much like *Longfellow*, but no doubt they will be seen in all their glory in 1948, and perhaps four others that were added in 1946,—*Dolorodell*, *Ensign Mannix Moriarty*, *Ramona Lins* and *Valencia*. Other notable varieties that I had hoped to see last year, but must wait until 1949 for the pleasure, are *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, *Avenger*, *Mark Twain*, *Oliver F. Brand* and *Onandaga*.

Can anyone tell me whether *Peter Barr* bears one flower to a stem, or several? According to the Peony Manual it is a *P. anomala* variety; but stock received under that name bears several flowers to a stem, and according to Col. Stern, that character is found only in *P. lactiflora*, *P. emodi* and *P. Veitchii*.

Plants received as *P. Veitchii* have never borne more than one flower to a stem; but Col. Stern tells us—(Study of the Genus Paeonia)—“I have seen a large number of living plants of *P. Veitchii* and have never seen a plant with only a single flower to a stem.” Seems mine is misnamed.

A. B. C. Nicholls (46)—third year, first blooming. Plant and flowers of excellent quality. Moderately prolific. Promising.

A. B. Franklin (45)—third year, first blooming. Twenty-seven main buds all opened into perfect flowers. A bit slow in developing after showing color, but no trace this year of burning and distortion.

Alesia—Plant still small. Seven large flowers of excellent form. Opened well.

Ann Pfeiffer—Good plant and very fine flower when well developed; but many flowers opened poorly.

Arcturus—Has bloomed each year since planted. Fine. No fading noted this year.

Athelstane (46)—Third year, first blooming. A prolific bearer of first class flowers of medium pink that last well on the plant. Attracted more attention from visitors than any of the other recent originations that bloomed here in 1946.

Betty Blossom—Four year old plants are well grown, but only bloomed this time for the first year. Flowers fair. Opened well. Not prolific.

Blanche King—The only three year old plant, wintered badly and failed to bloom. Two year old plants bore a few flowers. Has never been a reliable variety here.

Charm—Third year, third blooming. Best red Jap. this season, but has not been as prolific as the other red Japs. in this list.

Daniel Boone—Third year. Has not yet bloomed.

Dr. G. F. Brethour—Third year, third blooming. Outstanding in every way. All flowers open perfectly.

Dr. J. H. Neeley—First class and unfailing. Lost most of its buds from frost this year. Only ten flowers.

Elise Renault—An unfailing and prolific bearer of very large flowers of good form.

Ella Christensen—Below last years outstanding performance, but equal to its average, which is always good. This and Victory Chateau Thierry are the most reliable of the "famous thirteen."

Elsa Sass—Merits here the high reputation it has earned elsewhere. A reliable bloomer.

English Elegance—My first choice among the singles with *Sea Shell* next. Flowers last longer than *Sea Shell*. Unfortunately the roots are effected with Lemoine's Disease.

Evening Star—Up to date has not shown as good form as *Elsa Sass* and does not open as well. Stock may be misnamed. Plant and flowers are very much like Marie Lemoine.

Fairleigh—Large, light pink flowers of good form. Reliable bloomer.

Florence Bond—Misnamed. Plant received under this name is a medium pink, fine and very fragrant; but unknown to me. May find it later among some of the recent acquisitions that have not yet bloomed. Bought another plant last fall.

Florence Macbeth—Fourth year. Has never bloomed.

Florence Nicholls—Third year, second blooming. Plant and flower excellent. Prolific and opens nicely.

Garden Princess—Fine plant and flower. Good bloomer. Worth its rating.

Genevieve—Name should be changed to l'Intransigent.

George W. Peyton (45)—Third year, second blooming. Flowers are slow in developing after showing color and a few of them are distorted by the drying of the outer petals before they expanded, but most of them developed into well formed, Class A. flowers.

Hansina Brand—As usual, very poor. It seldom opens.

Hans P. Sass (45)—Third year, third blooming. Buds expand slowly after showing color, but all have expanded into perfect flowers each year. They do not open well if cut too early. Deserves its present rating.

Hari-ai-nin—Third year, first blooming. Excellent. Was late this year rather than early.

Harry F. Little—Third year, first blooming. Lost most of its buds from frost. Only a half dozen flowers, not all perfect.

Hazel Kinney—Better this year than usual. Four year old plants bore a moderate crop of flowers of fair quality. They don't last long.

Henry Webster—A prolific, reliable variety. Very fragrant. Holds its color but petals soon fall.

Hermione—Plant received under this name is a misnamed red.

Hiawatha—Reliable bloomer. Moderately prolific. Good form. Unfading.

Imperial Red—Best red single. Very prolific. Sunfast.

Jack Rose—Good garden variety. One of the earliest.

Jewel—Always good. Moderately prolific. Sunfast.

Judge Snook—First class and unfailing. Blush rather than light pink.

Judy Becker—A Class A. red, but lacks fragrance. Very large flowers. Unfailing bloomer. Sunfast.

Kansas—Third year, third blooming. Good form and unfading. Color has varied each year, but always has been red rather dark pink. This year most petals are two toned.

King Bee—Very scanty bloomer, small to medium size. No fragrance. Roots found in very bad condition when dug.

Krinkled White—Fine single. Worth a place in any garden.

La Salle—Good. Flowers usually numerous. Very few this year. Sunfast.

Last Rose—Medium sized flowers of excellent color and form when well developed, but some flowers fail to open properly.

Legionnaire—Usually good. The only mature plant did not winter well and bore very few flowers this year.

Liberty Bell—Third year, second blooming. Fine color and form, medium to small, scanty bloomer. Roots not sound.

Louis Barthelot—One of the latest. Very few flowers this year. Not reliable.

Louis Joliet—Has been slow growing. Three year old plants small, but seem healthy. Only two flowers this year. Good. Sunfast.

Mabel L. Gore—Third year, second blooming. Only one flower each time.

Madame Claude Tain—A reliable and abundant bloomer. Substance not of the best.

Madam Millet—Has not been doing well the past few years. Location and weather too dry, very likely.

Margaret Lough—Third year, second blooming. Early here rather than mid-season. Fine. Promises to be well worth its present rating.

Marian Pfeiffer—Really distinguished itself in quantity and quality of bloom this year for the first time in nine years. Usually a light bearer of fair to good flowers.

Marietta Sisson—Very vigorous grower. Has been the earliest *lactiflora*-(*albiflora*)-variety these last two years. Flowers numerous and good.

Marilla Beauty (46)—Has bloomed each year since it was planted. Very large flowers of excellent form and color, all of which opened perfectly. Stems too weak to bear the weight of the flowers and were bent down over the wire support like vines, spoiling the appearance of the plant, a defect that was not observed the first two years.

Maryan—Third year, third blooming. A worthwhile variety that has always opened well.

Mary E. Nicholls—Third year. Moderate bloomer.

Minuet—Misnamed. Plant received under this name is of dwarf habit. Flowers tinted flesh, fragrant. It is a fine variety, but not *Minuet*.

Mischief—Five years of complete and consistent failure.

Miss Eckhart—Very few flowers this year. Has not been a reliable bloomer.

Monterey—Third year, first blooming. Flowers numerous, of good quality and unusual color.

Moonglow—Had only a single, very large and quite perfect flower this year. It also opened perfectly in 1946.

Mount Everest—Third year, first blooming. Very few flowers. Lacks fragrance, but otherwise perfect. Opened well this year.

Mrs. A. M. Brand—Not many flowers this year, but a few were perfect. A very unreliable variety.

Mrs. Bryce Fontaine—Very good, reliable and prolific. Not quite sunfast.

Mrs. Frank Beach—Has not done very well these past five years. Blooms have been scanty and poor compared with its earlier performance, and the plants lack vigor.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt—Very little fragrance. Perfect in all other respects and unfailing bloomer.

Mrs. Harry F. Little—Third year, second blooming. Plant and flower excellent. A moderate bearer of medium sized flowers that open nicely.

Mrs. James Kelway—Fine, worthy of its glorious sister.

Mrs. James H. Neeley—Fairly prolific. Large flowers, perfect form; all flowers open well. Among the very best.

Mrs. John M. Good—Fine and very reliable. Fragrant.

Mrs. John M. Kleitsch—A consistent failure. Has never yet opened a perfect flower here.

Mrs. J. V. Edlund—Third year, first blooming. Apparently a slow grower. Bore only four flowers this year, all opened nicely and were perfect in every way. One of them was decidedly the best flower of the season.

Mrs. R. M. Bacheller—Lost most of its buds from frost. Flowers of fine form and very fragrant, but some fail to open, or are distorted.

Mrs. Romaine B. Ware (46)—Bears some good flowers most years, but may fail to open properly each year.

Mrs. Wilder Bancroft—A Class A. variety. Japanese type.

Mrs. W. L. Gumm—Third year blooming. Has never opened a perfect flower.

Myrtle Gentry—A fine show variety, but a poor garden plant here. Often opens into a gorgeous bloom when cut in bud and brought indoors, but rarely develops a good flower on the plant.

New Era—Very few flowers. Has not been outstanding. Roots in very bad condition when dug in fall. Plant has been discarded.

Nick Shaylor—In the garden, a very important person. Lack of fragrance its only fault. It always opens nicely.

Ninon—It's rating 8.57 is right. An unfailing bloomer.

Nippon Beauty—Turned out to be *Nippon Chief*.

Nippon Brilliant—Tall, strong plant. Numerous flowers of good color and form, but buds are insignificant knobs and flowers are small. May be misnamed. Another plant obtained two years ago for comparison. Has not yet bloomed.

Nippon Chief—Reliable and prolific. Good form on opening, but petals soon become lax.

Nippon Gold—Third year, first blooming. May be misnamed. Staminodes this year were filiform, some sublate, very pale yellow.

Nippon Splendor—In all respects among the best this year.

Odile—Third year, first blooming. Every flower a gem this year.

Onahama—Fine. Indistinguishable from present mature stock of Fuyajo which is different from the Fuyajo that was lost in the winter of 1942 and 1943.

Priam—A fine red. Very much like *Splendor*. Sunfast.

Priscilla Alden—Earlier and better blooms this year than usual after eight years or poor performance; but still late midseason rather than early and not worth its rating.

Queen of Hamburg—Immense flowers of a good, deep pink, but very hard to open. This year, for the first time, two flowers opened in good shape. Too massive for my liking.

Queen of Sheba—Wintered badly and didn't bloom.

Rapture—Lost nearly all its buds from frost. Had only two small flowers this year. Perfect.

Red Goddess—Third year, first blooming. To me the most pleasing of all semi doubles that I know. Flowers numerous.

Red Monarch—Wintered badly. No flowers.

Rev. H. N. Tragitt—Worth its rating. Promises to be a very reliable bloomer.

Rosabel—Third year, first blooming. Plant very large. Bore only three small to medium sized flowers.

Rosalie—Dwarf habit. A slow grower. Four year old plants still quite small. A single plant bore its first and only flower this year.

Rosanna Schroeder—Third year, first blooming. Fine flowers of medium size. All opened perfectly. Moderate bloomer.

Rose Marie—Not a prolific variety, but has borne flowers of fine form and color each year. Sunfast.

Ruth Elizabeth—Third year, second blooming. Moderate bloomer. Opens well. Form excellent. Not quite sunfast.

Sarah M. Napier—Third year, first blooming. Only three flowers.

Sea Shell—Plant and flower of the highest rank. A strong grower and a prolific bloomer.

Shaylor's Sunburst—The only mature plant wintered badly and didn't bloom well this year.

Silvia Saunders—To qualify for this list the variety should have stopped growing older four years ago. It bloomed here for the first time in 1947 and if there is another pink semi-double like it, I'd like to know the name, as it would have to be a "must have." Not a strong grower nor a heavy bloomer, but it is unique.

Snow Sprite—Fine and a fair bloomer. Roots in poor shape when dug.

Splendor—A fine, sunfast red. Prolific. So much like *Priam* that one would be enough in most gardens.

Susan B. White—Reliable and prolific. Stems a bit weak. Flowers lack finish.

Sword Dance—Fine. A notable variety even in its first year. Sunfast.

Tempest—Probably the best red double of those in this list. All flowers opened perfectly. Sunfast.

Thor—A good red. Lighter in color than *Priam* and *Splendor*.

Thura Hires—Fourth year. Has been a very shy bloomer. Only two flowers in its third and fourth years.

Victory Chateau Thierry—Bloomed late this year and flowers far below its usual fine form. Better flowers than *Ella Christensen* but a poorer and less healthy plant. They are the most reliable of the "famous thirteen" of 1925.

W. E. Blanchette—Seems to have had a set back during the winter and earned no distinction in 1947. Roots were in such poor shape when dug that the plant was destroyed. The variety will be given another trial later.

White Perfection—Prolific and of very fine quality.

W. L. Gumm—A single model flower in 1947. The plant is healthy and should give a good account of itself later.

Yellow King—Has bloomed well every year since it was planted. It is the best of its color and type that I know.

(*Editor's Note*)—It is quite evident that the extended drought of the five preceding years was too much for some of the varieties described. Possibly the late freezes had something to do with the action of *Marilla Beauty* and others. Possibly it cannot take temperatures of 60 degrees below zero and survive the ordeal. It surely does well for yours truly.



Forcing Late Blooming Varieties for Shows

By R. F. KOBY, *Superior, Wisconsin*

How crazy can a Peony Connoisseur get, is a question I have asked myself over and over. Not as crazy as an Iris fan who sits up most of the night before a big Iris Show dipping his iris from hot water baths to cold water baths and back to the hot water bath to get a super bloom to open. I am sure no peony grower would ever put forth that much effort to display his bloom—no, not at all—he just lies awake at night trying to concoct new ways to make that super-duper showing.

This year there was a hot dry spring in our region. The few days of very hot weather forced the buds unduly for a time and then the weather turned cool with no moisture and the buds seemed to be static and no development was made. Then as the balmy days advanced and still no moisture those large buds just seemed to be glued shut and would not open.

After watching *Le Cygne* fail to open right along side of *Kelways Glorious*, which was a sweepstakes winner, you begin to wonder what helps you can lend to assist those nice large round buds out of their difficulty. It is possible that the outer layer of petals and even the leaflets of the corolla were scorched by the heat of the hot burning sun. It seemed there was no action of thrips present so that idea was discarded almost as soon as thought of.

Now for an experiment for there were other fine large buds of late varieties coming on that should be in the shows, but it looked as though they were not going to bloom. What could be done to insure their opening?

A day before the show *Blanch King* stood there with mammoth buds that would not break, and *Blanch King* has won her share of sweepstakes the last few years, and to get those buds open for the show was the problem. About twenty-four hours before a very finely adjusted hand sprayer was secured and the nozzle adjusted for a very fine mist. The canister was partly filled with water about 110 degrees F. and several of the terminal buds were sprayed about every fifteen minutes. The buds were soaked each spraying. After this had been repeated several times you could see the outer petals even though brown and parched seem to curl just a little as though it were releasing the inner petals that were willing to respond to the new treatment.

Well like every novice, bread and butter must be earned so off to work you have to go. Fortunately the sky clouded and it remained cool and by night much progress had been made in the opening of the buds thus treated in the morning. *Myrtle Gentry* and *Hazel Kinney* were likewise treated that morning. These varieties all developed that full large bloom and the results were much

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the same with *Blanch King* as they too were opening. The question was now, how far could these buds be opened by show entry time.

Time told that it took more than twenty-four hours to do the job. The second night of the show specimens of the three mentioned varieties were cut and placed on exhibit for the visitors. *Blanch King* and *Myrtle Gentry* had opened excellently. *Hazel Kinney* was not so well open but looked as though it was making progress.

There might be several lessons drawn from that experience. At least two conclusions might be deducted for peony growers that have a spell of adverse weather just about the time they were ready to prepare their fine buds for the shows.

The first conclusion is that the hot drying sun did have a very harmful effect upon those buds, but this condition might be minimized by using a very fine spray probably thirty-six hours before show date. In other words the spray of misty warm water might be well started at night and the buds soaked all night or as long as the enthusiasm of the exhibitor would permit, maybe not all night as the case of THE CRAZY IRIS GROWER but perhaps on to mid-night, which would permit the light of the breaking day to have full opportunity to pull open that doomed bloom. This spraying work should probably be continued most of the next day and on into the night, and spraying of the entire plant and root system would be suggested from this experience. It is believed the light of the second day's sunlight would just about place the bloom at its peak of perfection and it then could be cut and placed on the show table as a perfect specimen.

The second conclusion might be that it is better to leave the bud on the plant rather than to cut it and give it the same treatment in a warm room or a steam chamber. The plant itself is surely able to force feed its bud, having a root system to draw upon to supply food, better than can possibly be supplied through a cut stem which must rely upon osmosis, or absorption of moisture to provide food for the opening bud.

Buds that are cut in a normal state of opening often are forced by placing in a warm room supplied with a good amount of steam, but it is doubtful if this injured bud would respond to this treatment alone. It seems as though the atomizing of the bud is the important step in preparation of the bloom for the show table.

A third conclusion might be drawn from this experiment. When hot, burning weather is experienced at peony blooming time it might be wise to adjust your hose nozzle to a very fine spray and at evening time spray well all of the blooms you are preparing for the shows or exhibits. This practice should be handled carefully, for as you recall, the experiment day turned out to be a dark day and no burning sun was present that day. So if you protect your thinking you can see how easily it might be that great damage to the bloom could be done if only half enough were used on a hot day.

Now just how crazy do you have to be to be a Peony Showman? You tell me.

* * *

Paeonia Arborea

By ABRAHAM NEWHOUSE.

Peony Specialist at the Cottage Gardens, Lansing, Michigan

Tree Peonies have always been more or less scarce which has given the opportunity to comparatively few people to know much about them. They are however a group of plants that has increasingly become more popular.

They are often called the Rhododendron of the Middle West because their blossoms come not only in the same brilliant shades as Rhododendrons but in addition possess various shades of yellow.

Rather than a tree, the Tree Peony really becomes more of a large shrub. It possesses beautiful foliage and lends itself superbly to landscaping. I have seen plantings of Tree Peonies in various colors planted in front of groups of evergreens and I would not know of anything that could produce a more startling picture.

The reason why Tree Peonies have never been plentiful is in their difficulty of propagation. They must be grafted in order to propagate to variety. They can be grown from seed but most of the flowers from seedlings would be insignificant singles. We grow yearly from 8 to 15,000 plants which in August are grafted on the root of the herbaceous peony. Usually we have a fine stand of grafts which are placed in 3" pots around January. They remain in these pots until late spring when they go into 5" pots for one or two years and part of them are shipped for orders, the balance planted into the field. In between these operations there often is a great deal of loss, caused by various difficulties. The greatest difficulty is to get good roots on the understock.

Tree Peonies bloom about three weeks ahead of the general line of herbaceous peonies and often bloom after the season for herbaceous peonies is over. Such varieties as *Surprise* often blooms again in September. Tree Peonies like the same soil conditions as ordinary Peonies, rich sandy loam with perfect drainage.

I would like to mention a few varieties and how they bloomed this year. The first ones opened May 15, *Adzuma-Kagami* with flowers 10-12" across, of the richest red imaginable and of single type. Then came *Jules Pirlot*, a tall grower with full double flowers of a soft satiny pink. Next *Athlete* showed up beautifully, a large flat rose type blossom with full double flowers.

Triomphe De Vandermaelen, a rich deep pink to deep purple at the base. A very free bloomer. Next came *Kuro Botan*, a tulip-like bloom of very rich dark maroon. *Souvenir De Charles Mechin*, a fine soft pink.

Reine Elizabeth is without question the finest of the double pink. An unusually rich salmon rose of perfect double type.

Flora. A large single with flowers 12" across of fine white with purplish base. Is one of the freest bloomers. Now we come to the star of Japanese type tree peonies: *Yeso No Mine*, a flower of unbelievable beauty, 10-12" across, semi-double, giving the resemblance to the 17th century lace collars. On May 30 the Golden Lemoine (*Lutea*) Hybrids started to bloom. The first one, *La Lorraine*, a prize winner at many of the European shows. Soft sulphur yellow with a salmon tinge. Like other lutea hybrids this also will often repeat during summer.

Flambeau. A large blood-red with tints of burned orange and deeper color at base.

Souvenir De Maxime Cornu. Very broad yellow with shades of orange salmon.

Surprise. Large full irregular petals of various shades of yellow, orange and salmon. This produces flowers on tall stems and often repeats even in September.

Chromatella. A magnificent pure yellow of the most charming softness in color and form of flowers. This variety will sometimes show a trace of salmon but most flowers are of soft yellow.

Satin Rouge. An unusual color, satiny rose to blood orange.

Alice Harding. One of the latest Lemoine accomplishments. A pure yellow double Tree Peony of remarkable clearness of color.

The one handicap to a wider distribution of Tree Peonies is their slowness of propagation. They are ideal in the Landscape development. They do very fine in semi shade but if near the roots of trees they should have good applications of decayed stable manure to be augmented by bone meal. In England tree peonies are used freely in formal garden designs. They have few insect enemies but in order to keep the plants in good form it is well to dust with Bordeaux when the foliage starts in early spring and repeat at three weeks intervals one or more times. If you should find a wilting stem, remove it below the wilt and burn it. This goes as well for herbaceous as for tree peonies.

One advantage also of Tree Peonies is that they can be forced. I have had tubs of Tree Peonies in bloom as early as January. There is a good deal of fascinating history connected with Tree Peonies but space is lacking me to broaden on that subject.

(Foot Note: Mr. Abraham Newhouse joined the Cottage Gardens organization in 1928. He originally came from the Netherlands where he was for years known throughout Europe as an authority on the Peony. He also is an accomplished grower of such things as Hybrid Lilacs, Flowering Crab Apples and Evergreens.



Pass Along the Orchids

Every year new varieties of Peonies are introduced. It seems that all lovers of this flower nowadays are trying their skill at hybridizing and with the concerted effort of the professional and amateur growers the number of these new varieties are increasing to astronomical figures. A great many of these creations greatly surpass the old standbys, which have been our measuring sticks or empiric standards, so to speak, for years. How excitingly one reads descriptions of the new members of the ever increasing Peony family such as these; same color as *Felix Crouse*, but larger and with a better stalk! Then, identical color and size of *Tourangelle* but a more certain bloomer, and so on and on.

True lovers of Peonies, or any flower for that matter, are ever chasing rainbows. They will scrape the bottom of the barrel to get funds to buy new outstanding introductions as soon as they are appraised of them. To those more fortunate, who have an almost inexhaustible supply of money and available space in their garden, it must be a joy indeed, and one can suppose that new acquisitions keep ever encroaching on the remainder of the available garden space until the Grim Reaper aborts further expansion of their flowery domain. But to those who have champagne appetite with a beer income, have space and who worship at the shrine of loveliness, that is most unfortunate. And for the lover of this queen of flowers who have neither funds or space it is tragedy indeed. They can only dream and hope. But possession alone of these heaven sent flowers does not mean that every one else is excluded from admiring them, on the contrary, everyone should visit exhibitions, or growers in their vicinity where they will find effluency rampant.

At the best, most of us can only have one small bite out of the large Pie of Peonydom. Each succeeding year we hope to take a still larger bite. But alas, the pie increases and inflates rapidly in the meanwhile, and our next bite is only a small nibble on this ever expanding heaven of floral treasures. But even these small nibbles almost suffice in the present tempo of the age.

At present it is appropriate to rise to the defense of those growers with whom it has been my pleasure to deal with for so many years and who wrongly

have been branded "Racketeer," "Horse Thief," etc. by certain fatuous people. One frequently hears remarks about the highway robbery prices asked for new introductions. But are they high? When \$20.00 maximum is asked for a division of a variety where there are only a total of 100 roots in existence the price does not seem high. For instance, if there were only 100 postage stamps in existence, the philatelist would ask at least \$1,000 each. But these two figures of course are not directly comparable, because the quantity of a limited issue of postage stamps never increases while the Peony stock will continually increase.

If we want to continue to compare values, how about those one Orchid corsages for five dollars plus, that we often bought for the old girl? After wearing them for a few hours and then watch them wilt away in a couple days the remains of these ephemeral flowers were tossed in the refuse can, excepting on one of two cases when they had found their way to the treasure chest for sentimental reasons. How does the overall value compare with the outlay of \$5.00, \$10.00 or perhaps \$20.00 for a rare choice Peony root? Yes, here we have something permanent that enhances in value and beauty as the years fade by—something to remind us each year that you cannot place a price tag on a beautiful living thing. While assaying values, I just paid seven dollars for a seven blossom Poinsetta to be in the swim for the season! When the petals fall all we will have left are our memories that will fade as we leave the misty past behind us. When anything is purchased the law of supply and demand always determines the price, where free enterprise is permitted, and therefore, one must pay the price based on the conditions current and the time of the purchase. Then too, when one considers the large quantities of seeds that have to be planted, cared for, hand weeded, cultivated, divided, exhibited and replanted for years, it is doubtful in one's mind whether the originator is rewarded by even the average business man's profit. I believe that the development of new varieties is sparked mainly by one of these motives: 1st—the love of the work, 2nd—increase of prestige in the Peony business and 3rd—the fame and glory that comes with success rather than financial gain.

Here is a good place to pass along an Orchid to the Peony growers and the reason may be well illustrated by my following experience. I placed a good sizeable order for roots and with my order I asked whether it was possible to procure a substandard, or split-root of a certain rare variety. I received an acknowledgement of receipt of this order but nary a word about whether they would sell me a split division. Why, certainly it made me boil and my family clearly knew that all was not well on the Peony front. When the roots were received one of the divisions of a medium priced variety was very poor and off I went into another crescendo of bar room English. So, I did the natural, I sent a very vitrolic letter reserving nothing. A few hours later after I released my letter, I received a letter from the grower stating, that because of an inferior size division, he proposed to give a split division of the scarce variety that I had inquired about when I placed my order, gratis, to "Make up Things." Well, my face was red and it was then my turn to "Make up Things." In my 28 years of dealing with Peony growers I always got what I ordered and a good measure at that. So pass along an Orchid to those growers, who not only treat us right, but also produce those angelic creations that give us an escape from the abrasions brought about by the daily grind.

MR. F. P. TIKALSKY
312 N. Spring Avenue
LaGrange Park, Illinois

A Peony Pilgrimage

H. M. Hill, *LaFontaine, Kas.*

BEAUTY HAS NO BOUND

*Where can the place
Of beauty be found?
High as the highest star,
Low as the ground.*

Beauty may be in the mind—or where you seek it—but modern man has evolved until he goes far to look for greater beauty. We traveled from the flat prairie of south Kansas across the rolling hills of north Kansas, and on through the richer and more rolling hills of Nebraska and Iowa to the deep, black, level land of Illinois; longing to see the most beautiful of peonies. Here in the center of the richest bread basket in the world, prominent citizens can make a hobby of peonies, and Edward Auten, Jr., grows acres of his own originations in a wide variety of forms; from wee dwarfs to the big bloated beauties on stems to near four feet. After looking over his great fields of long rows in all colors, one could hardly vision him as limiting beauty, but he seems to specialize in useful beauty, growing many commercial sorts; and he knows the superb quality demanded by florists. It would require long columns to list his own carefully selected seedlings, but we cannot resist mention of a few of our favorites. In singles, *Angelus and Arcturus*; in Japs, *Nippon Beauty* has long been a favorite and *Nippon Brilliant* is just that and very striking to all visitors. In hybrids, *Tempest* is big, tall and bold, a rich velvety red in full bomb form. *Mary Auten* is a choice, pure white, and perhaps a coming queen of the market peonies is *Cathie Ann*.

We have attended numerous National Peony Shows, and years ago at Lincoln, Nebr., we were amazed at the brilliance of a big, single hybrid named *Flame*, shown by Lyman D. Glasscock. At that time it was in such strong demand at \$50.00 that we could not get it. Later when it got down to half that price, we secured it, and other hybrids, and we have had blooms of *Flame* as big as a dinner plate. So we satisfied years of longing with a visit to the Glasscock fields near Elwood, Ill.

Peonies are not just a hobby, but a life business of Lyman Glasscock, and peony fans of the world can be grateful that he has toiled, and planned, and thought peonies, through many long years. Here you can see more than quality and superb beauty; he has the most brilliant hybrids we have ever seen, if not the most brilliant of all flowers. His pinks seem to carry enough orange tone to give them striking brilliance, but he also has lighter toned pinks in many shades, and reds from very light cherry, to deep mahogany and regal crimson, and a near lilac pink, *Mrs. Eva Barron*, as fragrant as a rose. We fully agree with Mr. Glasscock when he says that his *Evensong*, most brilliant pink single, is in a class all by itself; in other words the culmination of a lifetime of thinking and planning more brilliant beauty for us.

Then on we traveled by the Lincoln shrine at Springfield, Ill., where all true Americans can bow to that wonderful freedom which citizens of no other nation on earth can enjoy. His early days were spent amidst savages and slavery, but he quietly persisted in learning to think and live. Why should any American now want to go back to the savagery and slavery of Russia?

*How far is home?
How near does it stand?
Wide as the universe,
Close as the hand.*

On through the sunny Ozark Hills and by the Gilbert H. Wild & Sons peony farms at Sarcoxie, Mo., but too late for the peony and iris bloom there except some fine new *Hemerocallis*. The Wild Peony Fields are widely known as the most beautiful, most extensive peony plantings in the world.



Pity the Poor Buyer

By W. A. ALEXANDER, *Bowling Green, O.*

The average person who knows nothing about peonies finds the ordeal of selecting a few varieties from most growers' catalogs comparable to ordering dinner from a menu in a foreign language. Those of us who have learned our "a,b,c's" about peonies but haven't reached the "x,y,z's" find the going about as tough. Growers have unwittingly made this a most confusing business. The prospective purchaser has a feeling of frustration because he knows his choice is largely a matter of chance rather than intelligent selection. There are several factors which add to the bewilderment of the unhappy customer; and when the customer is unhappy, the seller is likely to become so before long.

First, there are too many varieties from which to choose—too many old, mediocre varieties, which should be discarded entirely, and too many new ones which have little to commend them except their newness. A recent survey showed ninety-four white doubles offered by one grower. Over a hundred pinks are listed in one catalogue. Another has a total of over five hundred varieties. I venture to say (without being able to prove it) that many of those varieties are sold only by catalog and to people who, of necessity, use the "eeny, meeny, meiny, mo" system or some variation of it in making their selections. If the inferior varieties are not in the catalogs, they will not be chosen or sold. The results will be greater customer satisfaction and savings for the grower in space, time and printing.

Adding to the confusion of numbers is the factor of inadequate descriptions. A variety may be described so briefly and in such general terms as to be of little value. For example: mid-season white, full double. Or, (and this is more common) descriptions are couched in glowing superlatives for almost every variety. Such terms as "exquisite, charming, lustrous, outstanding, gorgeous, lovely, surpassing beauty" lose their kick after one has read them a hundred times. The would-be purchaser suspects there are at least a few of those "gorgeous beauties" which have some slight weaknesses and longs to see a good, honest adjective now and then even though it may be slightly derogatory.

Failure of the catalog makers to classify varieties in simple and natural groupings further complicates the buyer's problem. Two methods are in common use: first, alphabetical listing with no attention to color groupings or season of bloom. Second, color groupings which may or may not be put up alphabetically and according to blooming time. Of course, all growers classify as to type—doubles, singles, etc. Listing in groups of similar color and blooming season is most helpful, and to reach its maximum value, should include eighteen groups: early, mid-season and late for each of six color classes (white, flesh or tint, light pink, dark pink, light red and dark red.) Varieties in each group should be arranged alphabetically. This scheme brings competing varieties together so that descriptions may be studied and compared without a lot of searching and sorting and possibility of missing some entirely. If further assistance is given in the form of a simple, reliable and easily-understood rating system, the buyer will be getting the breaks he has been looking for. This writer has some ideas about ratings but space limitations prevent their inclusion in this article.

How many varieties should be listed by a peony specialist? At what point does the "confusion of numbers" begin—the place where the buyer begins to feel that he might just as well close his eyes, make a stab with his pencil and say "this is it?" Nobody knows the answer. This would make a good research problem for a graduate student in marketing. My own feeling is that an average of ten doubles and semi-doubles in each of the eighteen classes previously mentioned would be about right. This would be 180 varieties which, I believe, offers a sufficiently wide choice for 95 per cent of people who buy from catalogs. Adding to this the standard Japs and singles along with some novelties, hybrids and species, the total should not be over two hundred fifty which is enough, maybe too many. If a grower wishes to continue propagation of more varieties, he can so state and invite correspondence relative to unlisted ones and thus take care of the occasional customer who can't find what he wants in the printed list.

* * *

Report of December Mailing of Bulletin

	Mailed		Mailed
Alabama	6	New Hampshire	5
Arkansas	6	New York	93
California	28	New Jersey	35
Colorado	5	North Carolina	9
Connecticut	4	North Dakota	13
Delaware	1	Ohio	54
Florida	1	Oklahoma	7
Georgia	4	Oregon	12
Idaho	2	Pennsylvania	44
Illinois	129	Rhode Island	1
Indiana	39	South Dakota	4
Iowa	35	Tennessee	10
Kansas	39	Texas	16
Kentucky	6	Utah	8
Massachusetts	19	Vermont	2
Maryland	10	Virginia	16
Maine	3	Washington, D.C.	4
Michigan	35	Wisconsin	65
Mississippi	2	Washington	25
Missouri	23	Wyoming	2
Montana	3	Foreign	13
Minnesota	87	Canadian	77
Nebraska	23		
		Grand Total.....	935

This will give you an idea of the membership in the various states as it stands at the present time. There is a great chance for missionary work in many of the states represented. In states where the peony does well and in nearly all the states represented above the peony is satisfactory. I am very glad that my state shows up so well in this list. New York is a close second with 93 members, only 36 behind the leading state. With a few more hustlers like we have in the state of New York, the state of Illinois will have to get busy in order to hold its lead.

I can see no reasonable excuse for so many states to be so lightly represented in our membership. I am sure something can be done about it, and I hope the year 1949 will be the one that will see a great change in the totals

of this list. Personally I am going to watch the progress of this list with the hope that by the end of the year we have at least 1500 members as a total. Who is willing to lend a hand to help me see this goal attained? I am positive there are many. Watch our membership list grow, which will be mute evidence that my wish is being gratified.

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary*



Notes From Indiana

HARLEY R. BALL, *Indianapolis, Indiana*

Your letter came to me some time ago and I laid it out to be answered right away. Where I laid it is a conundrum, but I would like you to know that I appreciated very much hearing from you personally. From the Bulletin I know you must be very busy and how you even get the Bulletin out at all is a wonder to me. What little correspondence I have is very much mistreated. My accounting work has nearly doubled on me so my time for the place is cut way down—and it looks it. I am thankful there are some flowers that bloom exceedingly well with NO attention and the Peony is one of them. I often think of the list of flowers given out a long time ago by the Flower Grower for the LAZY man. While the term does not fit, the lack of time to give to the flowers makes the application of the thought very applicable.

The collection of Japanese Peonies you helped me gather some years ago are doing wonderfully well. I don't believe there is another as large a collection of Japs in this part of the State. I have had some color slides taken of a number of them and they always bring the Oh's and Ah's whenever I put them in the projector. I had anticipated adding to the collection, but wisdom bids me leave further plantings of ANY material alone. I am going to enjoy just what I already have, and that is a lot.

I sure appreciate the personal interest you gave me. It is always a pleasant remembrance. While I can't pay you back personally, I do pass on to others lots of the beautiful flowers produced from my collection, so that your assistance is passing pleasure on to others.



Comments from Iowa

G. E. WINCHELL, *Oskaloosa, Iowa*

There was a large number of plants that did not bloom at all. Some of them produced buds but there was a small bug that got down on the crown, and the buds would fall off.

What does a thrip look like? Possibly the cause is here.

I do not see how anyone can pick out the best ten peonies. However, I will try, and will give you a list of the best ones for me this year.

In the whites I am going to put *Mrs. R. M. Bacheller* first, then *Jean Harlow*, *Harry F. Little* and *A. B. Franklin*.

In the pink, *Eleanor*, *James Pillow*, *Blanche King* and *Nancy Dolman*.

In the reds, *Ella Winchell* and *Hattie Baker*. Oh! how I would like to leave out *Festiva Maxima*, but I can't do it for it is a sure bloomer wherever it is planted.

I had a good year but I ran short of a lot of bloom and could not fill all my orders.

Have just finished making a planting (October 20th) but they will not do anything next year.

Secretary's Notes

This past winter has come, and at this writing (Feb. 18th), there is Spring in the air (52 degrees), and we are getting flower conscious. In a letter from one of our members in southern Indiana received recently, we are informed that spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, narcissus, jonquils, etc., are peeping through the ground. From Nebraska comes the word that peonies are coming through mother earth. We also note that the Azelia exhibition in the southland is to be held a month earlier than usual. From all the reports we get, an early Spring is assured. Personally, this gives me a feeling of considerable concern, for my many years of experience with early springs makes me rather apprehensive and reluctant to believe that all is not well with our flowers. Late freezes are so apt to put in an appearance and do considerable damage. Heaving of plants is also more pronounced.

In this particular district of Northern Illinois, we have experienced a moderate winter with little snow. The western states have suffered greatly, in various sections, with terrific snowfall and isolation from the rest of the world.

We are due for a good peony season, as last year, with the late frosts and freezes, coupled with a heavy infestation of thrip, disappointed a good many peony lovers. Many did not realize the trouble, as it was the first time on record that an extensive territory reported thrip damage, as well as frost damage. Of course, frost damage is not a stranger to many peony lovers but last year marked a new trouble maker in that little insect known as thrip. Fortunately D.D.T. (5 per cent, or a slightly heavier solution) will take care of the situation very nicely. This should be applied at least two or three times before the buds open, depending upon conditions. If considerable rain is experienced during this period, it will be necessary to make additional applications to do the trick. Commercial growers are faced with the risk of general spraying in the peony fields to combat thrip. 1948 was an unusual year for thrip and they may not be in such large numbers in 1949, but the chances are they will survive the mild winter and be here in large quantities this season.



Peony growers in the midwest will welcome the news that our peony show this year will be held in Milwaukee, Wis. Full particulars will be found in this issue of the bulletin.

Those growers in the south whose peonies bloom considerably earlier in the season will have to resort to cold storage to hold their bloom. This is not a difficult problem and can be handled very satisfactorily. The singles, semi-doubles and Japanese types can be cut in pretty tight bud and will carry nicely. By this, we do not mean that the buds should be hard and green. Color should have been formed in the buds but the calyx should not be broken. The doubles must be left some time later for development. They, too, should be cut when there is a decided development in the bud that produces a slight softness upon pressure of the fingers. It takes a season or more of experience to tell just the proper time to cut buds for storage, but it can be done with a great deal of accuracy after a few years of experience. I take it that most of you have had this experience and many have mastered the art quite expertly. To be efficient at this is to have a pretty thorough knowledge of your varieties to know their

opening habits. If they open freely, they will admit of cutting at a slightly earlier date than the very late, slow opening varieties. If cut too tight in bud, as often happens, and put in storage, they will fail to open in time for the show, if, in fact they open at all. This is not an uncommon sight at our shows in the past. One year's experience in cutting buds too tight will prove a lasting lesson, and that is why we are anxious to have every new exhibitor informed of the few basic principles that must be followed.

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At the last meeting of the Society in Guelph, Ontario, it was decided at the business meeting to simplify the class schedule to make it more easily understood. It appears in this issue of the bulletin and we think you will find it comes up to the requirements specified. It is our hope that every class will be represented in a very generous measure and that we will have an outstanding exhibition. Plans have been made to take care of anyone who is desirous of exhibiting their flowers.

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We feel sure you will be interested in the articles presented in this issue of the bulletin.

Prof. A. P. Saunders is preparing a special article for us that we hope will be ready for the June issue of the bulletin. If it reaches me in time, it will appear in this issue. We have several good things in store for our members this coming year and with additional articles that we hope to receive, we will have a fund of good things to offer. The essay contest has brought out some very good articles which will appear in forthcoming issues. One or more will appear in this issue.

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Don't forget to make notes of your outstanding varieties this season and report them to us. We like to get the performance of various varieties in the different sections of the country. Some seem to do well in a widely separated territory while others prefer more limited districts. If we can determine these characteristics, they can be publicized to enable prospective purchasers to be guided in their selections. This is desirable information that should be available to anyone interested.

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When you get this bulletin, go over the schedule very carefully. We are sure you will find a class that you can enter and display your bloom. Help us make this an outstanding exhibition of marvelous bloom.

Mrs. Harbour has given us some food for thought in regard to growing peonies in California. I am sure this article will be well received by our California members as well as the many who have had the impression that California was utterly unsuited for peonies. We are glad to present this illuminating article and are sure it will do a great deal of good.

Mr. Gayle has gone to considerable trouble in preparing his list of favorites in his "All American Collection." I trust this will incite considerable interest and be the means of bringing in several similar lists of the favorites. We will present these lists in the bulletin for comparison and study.

Mr. Clarke, in far away Northern Alberta, has gone to great pains to present the performance of his peonies for the year 1947. This should have appeared some months ago. It is still of much value and we are hoping for further reports of the performance of some of the varieties he mentions. Those five years of drought evidently had a very deteriorating result on many of the varieties he mentions, as he states that some of the roots when dug had to be destroyed.

Mr. van Loon in his "Peony Patter" touches upon many interesting items relating to the growing and handling of peonies. Mr. van Loon is an ardent peony lover and surely knows how to raise and show them. We need more enthusiasts of his caliber.

Mr. Koby has given us some real ideas about opening late blooming varieties for shows. Warm water will assist greatly in opening slow opening buds. It is well worth giving it a trial if put on the spot.

* * *

We have had several articles on tree peonies in our past bulletins and are privileged to present a very informative article from Mr. Abraham Newhouse, who is a peony specialist at the Cottage Gardens, Lansing, Mich. We are delighted to hear from him for publication. We know you will enjoy the information on tree peonies that he has so ably presented.

Mr. F. P. Tikalsky has taken up the argument in favor of the peony grower and is passing out the orchids in his favor.

Mr. Hill takes us on a little peony pilgrimage in an interesting article naming some of the outstanding varieties he liked.

Mr. W. A. Alexander of Bowling Green, Ohio has a rather unique title for his article, "Pity the Poor Buyer," and I can see just how he arrives at his conclusions. This article is food for thought and should bring in some articles. I wonder if Mr. Alexander has ever made out a catalog and tried to please the readers of same. Some want the catalogs alphabetically arranged; others want them in color classes, some desire brief descriptions; other like descriptions full as possible; some would desire them in full color so they could have something for the kiddies to cut out for their scrap books—and so it goes.

The peony, as we all know, is not immune from disease and if you have trouble with mildew the article presented in this issue of the bulletin should be helpful.

We do not have the time to touch upon all the articles in this issue. We hope to have the list of Classes for the Milwaukee show as well as our First Regional District Report. As these notes are written it is not at hand so we cannot comment further on this item, more than to say that it will be a regular feature of the bulletin in the future. Other Regional Districts will doubtless follow with the same quarterly reports. This should keep us much better informed and we will have a much wider representation and be able to build up the Society much more rapidly.

* * *

Dues for membership renewals have been coming in very nicely but there are still many who have not responded. Won't you please do this? To keep these bulletins coming regularly we will have to depend upon your remittances. We want to keep the size of the bulletins as large as circumstances will permit. We dislike very much to keep constantly making these appeals, but we have no resources to fall back on other than membership dues, and don't forget the printing of these bulletins means a considerable outlay each issue.

* * *

It's Almost Time

It's almost time to be thinking
Of the joys a garden will bring:
It's almost time to be hearing
The song the first robin will sing:
It's almost time to be feeling

The warmth of a fair southern breeze:
 It's almost time to be watching
 For greenness on new budding trees.
 It's almost time for our hearts to sing
 The happiness of returning Spring.

—Lucille Veneklasen

* * *

In making our comments on the various contributors I had not entered the article of Mr. Gayle entitled "Sedition." This article needs no comment from me and covers a controversial subject that has been both cussed and discussed over a period of some years.

I have just had an opportunity to glance over the new proposed schedule and it is surely streamlined and we hope will be a real innovation at the Milwaukee Show, bringing out a grand array of fine displays.

We will be looking for you at our annual exhibition and we hope many who have never tried to exhibit before will do so this year. Join our regular exhibitors who never fail us in putting on a fine display and give them a thrill by making them look to their laurels to keep in the winning classes.

We want to make this one of our best peony years and we will pledge you some interesting bulletins during 1949. Many of the essay articles will appear and we hope you like them.



* * *

Peony Notes for Southern Wisconsin

As we work with peonies through the year we think we have experienced all the troubles there are, but each additional year seems to bring us new experiences. Last year—1947—we had severe late frosts that killed quite a few buds. This year something—we think it unseasonable hot weather in April—blasted about one-half of our buds. Many that did bloom were distorted. Petals did not fill out and stamens were brown, giving the blooms an unpleasant appearance. I judge we had only about 50 per cent good blooms.

For several years the Wisconsin University has been experimenting with a ground spray to control scab in apple orchards. They put on a spray of Elgetrol early in the spring to kill scab spores in the apple leaves lying on the ground. This has resulted in much less scab on the trees later. Wondering if the same spray would prevent leaf spot on peonies I have put on the same ground spray for four years now. So far I have seen no bad results even when the peony sprouts had started to show. The state nursery inspectors tell me that I have the cleanest peony plants of any they inspect. I have heard of Bordeaux mixture being used for this purpose. Have any other members had any experience in spraying peonies? I have seen very few articles about peony pests and trouble and they were mostly about what to do after you got the trouble. For instance, "dig up the roots and destroy" "cut off the leaves and burn." Should we not have articles on how to prevent troubles?

E. L. WHITE, *Burr Oaks Gardens, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin*

(Secretary's note: Spraying with Bordeaux mixture will take care of leaf spot on peonies. It is one of the best things we know of for this purpose.)

**Forty-Fifth Annual Exhibition
of the
AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY**

MILWAUKEE GAS LIGHT BLDG.

626 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

SATURDAY and SUNDAY

JUNE 18-19, 1949

Sponsored by the

FIFTH REGIONAL DISTRICT

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M. C. Karrels, President
Jerome Host, Vice President
Roy Gayle, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

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Ralph Schroeder
James Mason

Exhibition Hall donated by the Courtesy

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Floor	Paul Sbonik	Exhibits	Ralph Schroeder
Awards & Classification	Roy Gayle	Cold Storage	Otto Zillmer
Staging	Jerome Host		

PROGRAM**Saturday, June 18, 1949**

Registration and Arranging of Entries

All members and guests are requested to register with show secretary.

11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Judging of Exhibits and Awarding of Prizes

3:00 P.M.

Formal Opening of Show

Open to Public - No Admission Charge

6:30 P.M.

Banquet

Open to Members, Guests and Public

Pfister Hotel, 424 E. Wisconsin Ave. (2 blocks west of Show Bldg.)

Reservations must be made with the show secretary before 4:00 P.M. Saturday.

Banquet tickets \$3.00 each

8:00 P.M.

Annual Meeting of the American Peony Society in the Banquet Room

Sunday, June 19, 1949

8:00 A.M.

Directors Meeting

Exhibit Hall—Open to Public

10:00 A.M.

Visit to Whitnall Park Arboretum

Transportation will be furnished to all requesting same from the show secretary before 9:45 A.M. Sunday.

3:00 P.M.

Colored Slides and Demonstration of Three Dimension Photography and Projection

Projection Room—7th Floor in Show Building

9:00 P.M.

Formal Closing of Show

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHIPPING, STORING AND STAGING

1. Exhibits cannot be staged in the Exhibition Hall before 7 P.M. Friday. June 17th.
2. All shipments must be sent prepaid.
3. Cold storage will be available any time after June 1st.
4. Shipments whether to be staged by the owner or by the Staging Committee must be addressed to:

Mr. C. C. Pollworth—For Peony Show
802 N. Market St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

A card or letter should precede all shipments, addressed to

Mr. Otto Zillmer
9502 W. North Avenue
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

clearly stating number of boxes in shipment, how shipped, and date of shipment.

Cold storage will be available at both the Gas Light Bldg., and the Poll-worth Co. Mr. Zillmer will personally see that they are promptly delivered to cold storage or to the show room.

5. All shipments will be delivered to the Exhibition Hall 8 P.M. Friday unless otherwise specified.
6. Shipments to be staged by the staging committee must be marked for the "Staging Committee." The owner must have each individual entry carefully labelled and the Class into which they are to be placed clearly indicated.
7. An exhibitor wishing to make special arrangements will notify the Chairman of the Staging Committee, Mr. Jerome Host, 225 E. Detroit St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
8. No charge will be made for cold storage not exceeding 25 square feet.

SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Each Exhibitor should read these carefully.)

1. Entries are open to anyone. Membership in the American Peony Society is not a requirement for exhibiting.
2. Entries of exhibits are open to three classes of exhibitors as follows:
 Novice Amateur—For those who grow peonies solely for their own pleasure and do not sell roots or flowers and do not have more than 50 plants in their collection. See division "C" in schedule.
 Advanced Amateur—For those who do not sell peony roots and flowers as a regular business or issue price lists and catalogues. Novice Amateurs may also enter this class. See division "B" in schedule.
 Open—This class is open to Novice Amateurs, Advanced Amateurs, and Commercial growers.
3. Entries may be made up to 11:00 o'clock the first day of the show.
4. All exhibitors must register with the secretary of the show before commencing to set up his or her exhibits. The secretary will be at the desk at the entrance to the show room.
5. No exhibitor may make more than two entries in any one class, nor receive more than one award in a class except in the Seedling Class, which see for rules governing them.
6. All varieties of peonies must be correctly named and labelled except in the Seedling Classes which may be either named or numbered. In the arrangement classes neither names or numbers are required.
7. All peony blooms staged for competition must be cut from plants owned by the exhibitor, except in the Arrangement Classes.
8. Any exhibit containing more or less material than specified in this schedule or that in any other way violates the conditions, will be disqualified.
9. All containers except in the Arrangement Classes will be furnished by the Exhibition Committee.
10. In the Arrangement Classes the container must be furnished by the exhibitor at his own risk. Name and address of owner should be placed on the bottom of the container.
11. Length of stem for specimen peonies should not exceed eighteen (18) inches.
12. Any exhibitor may reclaim his own exhibit after the closing time of the show. Exhibitor desiring to so reclaim his bloom must so indicate his desire

by reporting to General Chairman of the Show. All flowers remaining unclaimed will be disposed of by the Show Committee.

13. The American Peony Manual will govern type of bloom shown.
14. Three ribbon awards will be made in all classes unless otherwise specified.
15. In collections, duplication of varieties will automatically disqualify the exhibit unless after the removal of the duplicate the exhibit will then conform with rule 8.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CLERKS

1. Two clerks shall be assigned to each panel of judges.
2. It shall be the duty of the clerks to properly record the judges' selections in the judging records which will be furnished by the Secretary of the A.P.S. Clerks must study these records before starting their duties.
3. After the panel of judges have judged the class and passed on to the next class the clerks shall unfold the exhibit tag and make their entries into the judging records from these exhibit tags. If the clerks find that the judges have awarded more than one place to the same exhibitor they shall promptly notify their panel of judges that a duplicate award has been awarded. They must then amend or change their record to conform with the change in award by the judges.
4. It shall be the duty of the clerks to attach the place award ribbons awarded by the panel of judges to whom they are assigned as follows: 1st place—blue ribbon; 2nd place—red ribbon; 3rd place—white ribbon.
5. After all the judging of the show, including the judging of the Court of Honor and best flower in the show has been completed, the clerks shall detach the lower part of each exhibit tag of the group of classes they have been assigned to. They shall then properly secure the detached exhibit tags with a rubber band or clip and then turn over all of these detached tags to the Secretary of the A.P.S.
6. Clerks are cautioned to wait until all rejected candidates from the Court of Honor have been returned to their proper places before detaching tags.

RULES RELATING TO JUDGING

1. Judges will be selected by the Secretary of the A.P.S. the morning of the first day of the show, except in classes where the standing seedling committee constitutes the panel of judges.
2. Three Judges shall constitute a panel.
3. Judges may disqualify an exhibit deemed unworthy even if it is the only entry in the class.
4. First, second and third places must be awarded unless lack of entries or disqualifications prevent, or unless otherwise specified in schedule. The clerks will record the Judges selections and if their selections resulted in two awards to the same exhibitor the clerks will so promptly inform them and the judges must then return to the class and award another place or places. Judges are cautioned not to get too far ahead of their clerks.
5. No Judge shall participate in judging a class wherein he has an exhibit of his own unless such exhibit has already been eliminated from consideration for a place award. The procedure shall be as follows: When the panel of judges starts to judge the bloom on exhibit in the class the judge so having a bloom or blooms in competition shall notify the other two judges that he has an exhibit in the class and then promptly withdraw to a distance of several feet. Should the entry be eliminated, he then can again reenter and participate in the judging by informing his fellow judges that his entry is no longer under consideration.

6. If two or more judges have so disqualified themselves, they must ask the secretary for additional judges to judge the class or classes from which they have withdrawn.
7. Failure of judges to withdraw, inadvertently or otherwise, will result in their awards being disqualified.
8. If the withdrawal of a judge produces a tie vote they then must ask the secretary for a third judge to break the tie.
9. Each panel of judges with the exception of the standing Seedling Committee may upon completing their class judging, select a candidate from each class they have judged for Court of Honor consideration. If, in their opinion, none is so worthy they may fail to make a nomination. If they find worthy nominations they shall so indicate their choice by attaching a red tag which will be furnished by the secretary of the show at the desk. After tagging their Court of Honor nominations and after they have finished their class judging they must carry these tagged choices to the Court of Honor table. Candidates so brought to the Court of Honor table must have their exhibit tag properly refolded to conceal exhibitor identification. Each panel of judges shall then inform the Secretary of the A.P.S. that they are now ready to participate in the Court of Honor Judging.
10. It is the duty of the Seedling Committee to bring their choice of the American Home Achievement Medal to the Court of Honor Table for consideration as a candidate for the Court of Honor and the Best Flower in the show.
11. All Judges of the show excepting the judges of the Arrangement Classes shall participate in the selection of the Court of Honor. The Court of Honor judging procedure shall be presided over by the Secretary of the American Peony Society who shall be designated as the Chairman of judges. He shall cast no vote except to break a tie. It shall be within his power to appoint an alternate. The procedure shall be by secret ballot and progressive elimination.
12. After completing the Court of Honor judging the judges must return all rejected candidates to their proper places in the classes from which they were removed.
13. The decision of all judges is final.

RULES GOVERNING JUDGING OF SPECIAL AWARDS

Best Semi-Double or Double Chinensis Flower in the Show—B. H. Farr Medal
 Donated in Memory of Bertrand H. Farr

This award will be selected from the Court of Honor winners, or any other bloom in the entire show, which has been brought to the Court of Honor table, either by the judges or any other person or exhibitor who deems a flower of his or her choice as worthy of consideration. No candidate can be considered after judging has started. Only Chinensis varieties on double or semi-double type can be considered for this award. The judging procedure in selecting this bloom shall be the same as employed in selecting the Court of Honor winners.

James Boyd Memorial Medal

Donated by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for the best and most distinguished peony group entry in the show.

This award to be made by a panel of Judges composed of one judge from the panel judging Class 1-a, one judge from the panel judging 1-b and one judge from the panel judging class 40 to be appointed by the Secretary of the A.P.S.

American Home Achievement Medal

Donated by American Home Magazine Corporation
 Selected by Judges of the Standing Seedling Committee

Milwaukee Journal Sweepstakes Cup (2)

Awarded by the Milwaukee Journal in duplicate to the winners of most points. One for out of state exhibitors and one for Wisconsin exhibitors. Winners to be determined by local show committee on the basis of points as follows: 15 for each 1st, 10 for each 2nd, 5 for each 3rd, 15 points for each Court of Honor place.

Gold Medal Award

To a variety which has been proven, by the test of time and universal acclaim to be a plant and flower of extraordinary merit. This award shall be made by the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society by unanimous vote.

SCHEDULE

See RULES & REGULATIONS governing exhibits
 Each individual Class entry must be in ONE CONTAINER excepting Class No. 1

DIVISIONS		
A	B	C
Open	Amateur	Novice

CHINENSIS

Class:

1. 1 each of different varieties, in separate containers (not to exceed 40% Japanese & Single types) 50 to 60 25 to 30 10 to 15

Doubles

2. WHITE, 1 variety	3	2	1
3. BLUSH, 1 variety	3	2	1
4. PINK, Light, 1 variety	3	2	1
5. PINK, Medium, 1 variety	3	2	1
6. PINK, Dark, 1 variety	3	2	1
7. RED, 1 variety	3	2	1
8. Assortment: 1 variety of each color-class	6	6	3

Semi-Doubles

9. ANY COLOR, 1 variety	3	2	1
10. Assortment, 1 each of White, Pink and Red	3	3	3

Japanese

11. WHITE OR BLUSH, 1 variety	3	2	1
12. PINK, any shade, 1 variety	3	2	1
13. RED, 1 variety	3	2	1
14. Assortment: of all above colors	6	5	3

Singles

15. WHITE or BLUSH, 1 variety	3	2	1
16. PINK, any shade, 1 variety	3	2	1
17. RED, 1 variety	3	2	1
18. Assortment: of all above colors	6	5	3

**Decorative
 (undisbudded stems)**

19. ANY COLOR, any type, 1 variety	3	2	1
20. Assortment: difefrent varieties, mixed colors	3	3	2

HYBRIDS

Doubles & Semi-Doubles—Hybrids

21. WHITE or BLUSH, 1 variety	3	2	1
22. PINK, any shade, 1 variety	3	2	1
23. RED, 1 variety	3	2	1
24. Assortment: of all above colors	5	4	3

Japanese—Hybrid

25. WHITE or BLUSH, 1 variety	3	2	1
26. PINK, any shade, 1 variety	3	2	1
27. RED, 1 variety	3	2	1
28. Assortment: of all above colors	5	4	3

Singles—Hybrid

29. WHITE or BLUSH, 1 variety	3	2	1
30. PINK, any shade, 1 variety	3	2	1
31. RED, 1 variety	3	2	1
32. Assortment: of all above colors	5	4	3

TREE-PEONIES

33. ANY TYPE, any color, 1 variety	2	1	1
34. Assortment: of various types and colors	3 to 10	3 to 10	2 to 5

FLORAL ARRANGEMENT

Open to all Exhibitors

35. BASKET of Peonies, with or without other flowers or foliage.
 36. VASE, of Peonies, with or without other flowers or foliage.
 37. BOWL of Peonies, with or without other flowers or foliage.
 38. FLORAL DESIGN, with peonies no less than 80% predominant.

**CLASS NO. 40
Select Specimen**

Open to all Exhibitors—

Each first place winning variety in this class must be taken to the court of honor as a candidate. Exhibitors are urged to enter their finest bloom in this class.

- 40—a, 1 DOUBLE, White
 b, 1 DOUBLE, Blush
 c, 1 DOUBLE, Pink, light
 d, 1 DOUBLE, Pink, medium
 e, 1 DOUBLE, Pink, dark
 f, 1 DOUBLE, Red
 g, 1 SEMI-DOUBLE, any color
 h, 1 JAPANESE, White or Blush
 i, 1 JAPANESE, Pink, any shade
 j, 1 JAPANESE, Red
 k, 1 SINGLE, White or Blush
 l, 1 SINGLE, Pink, any shade
 m, 1 SINGLE, Red
 n, 1 HYBRID, Double or Semi-double
 o, 1 HYBRID, Japanese
 p, 1 HYBRID, Single
 q, 1 TREE-PEONY, any type. any color

41—SEEDLINGS AND NEW VARIETIES—OPEN TO ALL

The following classes shall be judged by the STANDING SEEDLING COMMITTEE of The American Peony Society. If less than three members of this committee are present the President of The American Peony Society shall appoint sufficient temporary judges to serve.

Any variety that has not been offered for sale in general commerce shall be recognized as a seedling. It may be shown under either name or number.

Any variety of comparatively recent origin that has been named and offered for sale shall be recognized as a New Variety.

Each exhibitor is limited to five entries in classes 43 and 44 and to ten entries in classes 47, 48 and 49.

Class No. 42—Guests of the City. Open to any Exhibitor eligible to Divisions "A," "B," & "C," and living in excess of 150 miles from the host city.

For the best individual collection of not more than Twenty (20) and not less than (15) different varieties, of any specie, type, or color. \$10.00 Cash Prize.

Class No. 43. Seedlings of *Albiflora* varieties that have never been divided or propagated. One to three blooms of each variety may be shown. Only Certificates of Honorable Mention may be awarded.

Class No. 44. Seedlings of any species other than *albiflora* or herbaceous hybrid seedlings that have never been divided or propagated. One to three blooms of each variety may be shown. Only Certificates of Honorable Mention may be awarded.

Class No. 45. Seedlings of *albiflora* varieties that have been divided and propagated. Three blooms of each variety must be shown and each variety must be in a separate container. Gold, silver, bronze medals, First Class Certificates and Certificates of Honorable Mention may be awarded.

Class No. 46. Herbaceous hybrid seedlings or seedlings of species other than *albiflora* that have been divided and propagated. Three blooms of each variety in one container must be shown. Gold, silver, bronze medals, First Class Certificates and Certificates of Honorable Mention may be awarded.

Class No. 47. Seedlings of tree peonies any species or hybrid that may have been propagated or not. From one to three blooms of each variety may be shown, each variety in a separate container. Gold, silver, bronze medals, First Class Certificates or Certificates of Honorable Mention may be awarded.

NEW VARIETIES

Class No. 48. New varieties that have been named and offered for sale. Three blooms of each variety and each variety in one container must be shown. Three peonies, hybrids and any species may be shown. Gold, silver, bronze medals, First Class Certificates or Certificates of Honorable Mention may be awarded.

Class No. 49. THE AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL CLASS. This medal in silver is offered by the magazine American Home published by The American Home Magazine Corporation of New York, to the originator of the Best and Most Distinguished New Peony shown by him or someone else.

The following conditions must be met:

1. A specific entry must be made in this class. The number of entries made by any one exhibitor is not limited.
2. Not less than three blooms of each variety entered must be shown.
3. Any type, species or hybrid may be shown including tree peonies.
4. The varieties entered must have distinctiveness as compared to existing varieties.
5. No variety that has been offered for sale for more than three years prior to the date of this show may be entered.
6. No variety that has won this award in any previous year may be entered.
7. Every variety entered must be named and the name approved and registered by The American Peony Society. No award will be confirmed until this provision has been met.
8. The award shall be made by the Standing Seedling Committee of The American Peony Society.

NOTE: Any variety entered in the above classes that has been previously awarded an honor is eligible only for higher awards.

CLASS NO. 50**Originators Identification Exhibit
(Non-Competitive)**

Each variety, regardless of number, to be in one container.

Open to hybridizers, or any other person or persons selected to represent them, for the display of their new or finer introductions.

The number of varieties an exhibitor may display is not limited. It is the privilege of any hybridizer to display his complete line of introductions.

It is not required that the blooms be grown by the exhibitor, as any member desiring to add worthy specimens to an originator's exhibit may do so by permission of the Exhibitor.

Note: The purpose of this exhibit is to assist the members in locating varieties for examination, as with many thousands of blooms on display it is difficult to locate many varieties for identification and inspection.

The Show Committee will reserve a special section of booths with the name of the Originator plainly displayed. Originators are requested to inform the National Secretary of the American Peony Society at a reasonable time in advance of show dates, of the approximate number of varieties to be displayed so space will be reserved and Originators name placards made.

CLASS NO. 51**Milwaukee Journal Sweepstakes**

No entries will be made in this class. Open to all exhibitors. Two cups or plaques will be awarded. One to the Wisconsin exhibitor from any other state except Wisconsin winning the greatest number of points. Point values will be as follows:

1st—15 points 2nd—10 points 3rd—5 points
15 points for each Court of Honor place

It is the intent of the donor and the purpose of this class to encourage the exhibitors to enter as many classes as possible.

A W A R D S**SPECIAL AWARDS****B. H. Farr Memorial Medal**

Bronze medal donated in memory of B. H. Farr for the
"Best Flower in the Show"

James Boyd Memorial Medal

Donated by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for the
"Most Distinguished and Outstanding Exhibit"

American Home Achievement Medal

Class No. 49

Donated by the American Home Magazine Corp. for a
"New variety of outstanding merit"

Seedlings

Class No. 41 to 45

See schedule for awards.

New Varieties

Class No. 48

See schedule for awards.

Gold Medal Award

This award is given as a special honor to a variety as a recognition of its outstanding merit, for its excellent qualities of plant and flower as proven by the test of time and universal acclaim.

This award can also be given posthumously or directly to a person or

persons, firm or organization deemed worthy by the Board of Directors for their contribution to the advancement of the peony or the Society.

Awards

Gold Medal—Division "A" Class 1.
Silver Medal—Division "B" Class 1.
Bronze Medal—Division "C" Class 1.

Class Awards

1st.....Blue Ribbon 2nd.....Red Ribbon 3rd.....White Ribbon

Court of Honor

1. Best flower in the show—Royal Blue rosette ribbon.
2. Best white Japanese type flower in the show—Purple Rosette ribbon.
3. Best pink Japanese type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
4. Best Red Japanese type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
5. Best White Single type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
6. Best Pink Single type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
7. Best Red Single type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
8. Best Semi-Double type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
9. Best White Double type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
10. Best Blush Double type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
11. Best Light Pink Double type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
12. Best Med. Pink Double type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
13. Best Dark Pink Double type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
14. Best Red Double type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
15. Best Double or Semi-Double Hybrid type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
16. Best Japanese Type Hybrid type flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.
17. Best Single Type Hybrid flower in the show—Purple rosette ribbon.

Court of Honor Awards

- B. H. Farr Memorial Medal in Bronze for best double or semi-double Chinensis bloom.
American Peony Society medal in Bronze for best Single type bloom in show.
American Peony Society medal in bronze for best Japanese type bloom in show.
American Peony Society medal in bronze for best herbaceous hybrid type bloom in show.

PRIZES

Court of Honor

18 prizes in the form of a \$10.00 credit to be applied to the purchase of peony-roots selected from the list offered by the donor.

• • •

NOTICE

New Show Dates, June 18-19

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Louis Smirnow
6 Hartley Rd.,
Great Neck, New York

President

Neal R. van Loon
Newton, N. J.

Vice President

J. F. Styer
Concordville, Pa.

Board Members

W. F. Gratwick
Linwood, N. Y.

Ben Massey
Paterson, N. J.

John Rick
Reading, Pa.

J. V. Rodimer
Newton, N. J.

WHAT'S COOKIN' IN REGION NUMBER TWO?

**Honorary
Board Members**

Mrs. Harry F. Little
Fine View, N. Y.

Prof. A. P. Saunders
Clinton, N. Y.

John Wister
Swarthmore, Pa.

At the top of this page, brethren and neighbors of the peony clan, you cannot help but see the Indian sign and Hex-a-boo of Region Number Two of the American Peony Society. This Region henceforth will be known as the Gard-Em-Key. The first syllable stands for New Jersey, the Garden State; the second stands for New York, the Empire State and the third stands for Pennsylvania, the Keystone State.

At first we thought we would copy-cat the motif and motto of one of the flags used during colonial days; the one with the rattlesnake, remember, and the words "Don't Tread On Me"? After more mature reflection we figured it would just be our luck to have Herr. Gayle, or some other tough, unconscien-

tious scoundrel from the middle west turn out to be most skillful and willing at the nice little game of picking up snakes by the tail and snapping their fool heads off, Ach Nein!

And just look at that graceful tail we do have. We are too benign and modest to say: "Pressing on to the best things." We are content to just plug on for the "better things." By these, we refer to more and better members, more and much better dope for the Bulletins, better gardens, better peony varieties, and more and better shows and showmen. If we can't find the where-with-al to always beat the other fellow we are determined to at least beat ourselves. So, not by a jugful are we saying that we aim to land on the top of the heap of achievements of the Nine Regions. We do say we have no intentions of landing at the bottom.

Now for a few introductions; some necessary, some not. The artist who designed our Hex-a-boo is Mrs. Francis Lambert of Newton, N.J. and a member of our Society. Let me, here and now, declare unto you that if all our Society affairs were handled with the same efficiency and dispatch that the Lambert's exercise in handling theirs, we would soon outshine the American Rose, Iris and Dahlia Societies combined.

The Lambert's grow cabbages—and red-headed children—the best in the country! Since all five members of the family are red-heads, I never could fathom why they grow green cabbages instead of red. To see them in action at harvest time is a sight for sore eyes. "Fire," (that is what he calls her) in her bathing suit, and with hair of gleaming gold streaming in the breeze, stands beside a crate. "Red," with a horrible looking knife, that makes him look like a pirate bent on blood and plunder, goes about in a broad circle. With one or two deft strokes he is able to toss over his shoulder, without so much as a glance, one cabbage after another in a steady stream, all dressed and trimmed. "Fire" catches them and tucks them neatly into the crate. The first thing you *know* the job is done and the whole field is covered thick with sweet, succulent cabbages, crated and ready for market. They have a few dozen good peonies started now in their best black soil and they may well become dangerous contenders for high peony honors.

Mr. J. F. Styer is known, at least by name, to all of you. He is an experienced and serious grower of fine peonies down in the Southeast corner of our great Keystone State. He has been a regional officer for years and a former Director of the American Peony Society.

John Rick hails from Reading, Pa. He has an intense interest in all matters horticultural. What few moments he grudgingly takes away from his gardens he employs in the role of merchant prince.

Louis Smirnow bids fair to become both shirt and tree peony king of this whole cock-eyed world of tears, laughter and sin. He turns out Van Heusen shirts by the boat-load for all the proud and naked denizens of everywhere. I think I shall order from him a few special jobs for some of my choice friends; a pink one with blooming arbutus designs all over it for W. F. Christman; a lavender one with abundant, squashed huckleberry trimmings, would be nice on Marvin Karrels and would be an effective foil to his round, rosy cheeks. Then I want a peach and saffron colored one for Mr. Peyton. I will insist that this one must have photos all over it of Washington, Jefferson, Byrd and Glass. Most of all, friend Smirnow must get out a special job equipped with steel buttons sewed on with piano wire. This honey is to be presented to the hombre winning the Gold Medal at our National Show. Thus, you see, that when his chest begins to swell and heave, the buttons will not zing off and konk out the eyes of innocent bystanders.

Mr. Gratwick is one of our skillful artisans in up-state New York. Hybrids and tree peonies are his meat and in no mild manner. He is associated with Prof. Saunders. In the tree peony line, Region Number Two has something to really "holler" about. Just consider Swarthmore, Sinking Springs, Rochester and Great Neck!

Ben Massey has taken a goodly portion of primeval jungle land near Paterson, N. J. and is converting it into one of the ante-chambers of Paradise. He schemes day and night how he can dress and beautify his section of the world. He has a fine collection of peonies, iris and "hems." He is also taking a serious fling at hybridizing.

J. V. Rodimer is associated with the black gold business. Up to now he has not been able to get full control of Atlantic or Standard, nor is he yet a proven veteran at the peony show game, but I note his blood shot eyes and that look of wistfulness as he contemplates the growing of the world's best peonies. He has drawn considerable blood in the peony prize ring and I predict he will be one of our very worst customers to beat in the near future.

Mrs. Harry F. Little is the queen of our Regional Board. The illustrious feats of her late husband in the shows will always be remembered with awe. A quarter of a century ago already, at Des Moines, I was struck with the fact that everywhere you looked, literally, where the blue or purple was, the main thing you saw was Little, Little, Little.

Mr. Wister's name is a household word wherever peonies are talked or grown. He administers the affairs of the magnificent peony project of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Foundation at Swarthmore College. What a noble work to be associated with an institution of higher learning. Why do not more of our colleges and universities venture into serious horticultural fields of research? Here you have Engineering, Art, Science and Medicine all wrapped up in one wonderful package.

Prof. Saunders, the dean of hybridizers, is revered and loved by all. We have no heart to ask him to tax his strength to advance the program of our Board. Just to have his name associated with ours will be a potent stimulant and inspiration. May his twilight hours, and those of his beautiful wife, be hallowed with a calm afterglow of garden bliss, until he is graduated, *magna cum laude*, into a higher class in that gentler climate where peonies grow lush and big and where all his crosses will nick beautifully.

Passing from the sublime to the ridiculous: (fools always seem to do it that way) a word or two about the writer: He loves a good peony and a good meal. His false teeth scour very well indeed. He washes his ham-like mitts not of the soil but *in* the soil! Like the colored preacher, his right size in a shoe is a ten; an eleven is even better, but a twelve feels so good that he always wears a thirteen. The little woman sums everything up cryptically when she commiserates upon her lot thusly, "The life of a peony widow is not so hot." She could not reform him so she joined him and now has a goodly number of peonies started.—the best extant.

We here in Region Number Two will try to spike together a few well splintered planks into a challenging platform. If implemented with fidelity, we should be proud to stand on it and with it.

Platform

1. More members for the Society that honors the greatest flower in the world and is honored of it. I call it the Poet Laureate of Flora's Kingdom.
2. More and better material for the bulletin.
3. A Regional Show every year, locating, wherever we can strategically, to the utmost bounds of our area.

4. Offer stiff competition to all areas and Regions invading the National Shows.
5. A Regional Symposium.
6. Pre-empt every year with a definite forward move, "shutting ourselves from heaven with a dome more vast."

Our tentative and hoped for Show Schedule:

1950 First Regional Show at Essex House, New York City, co-operating with the New York Horticultural Society.

1951 Regional Show, Reading, Pa.

1952 Regional Show, County Show and National Show, Lake Mohawk Country Club, Sparta, Sussex County, N. J.

1953 Regional Show, Buffalo-Rochester area.

1954 Regional Show and Fiftieth Anniversary Show of the American Peony Society Show, New York City, N.Y.

We propose all these moves and events to inspire ourselves to nobler effort and to more daring effort. Also we deem it worth while to pique all our beloved brethren of other Regions into broader competition. For example, take this friendly pin prick. We plan an East-West Class as a special feature of the 1952 show, and no holds barred. Gorgeous George will likely not be there but we can do without his curlicews if we can have only a few—say five, behemoths like "Gallows Gallem Gayle," "Kick-'em-in-the-Teeth Karrels," "Mal-treatum Moots," "Luggum-out Stiff Lindgren" and Buttum-in-the Stomach Bigger, or other sundry desperadoes bent on homicide de luxe.

Don't tell anybody, but we are bellowing out a dangerous and pretentious challenge. Like Babe Ruth calling his shot before he batted, not only the ball, but Charlie Root's heart also, out of the park a few years back in that thrilling series, so we are calling our shot!

The doctor has ordered us to do the impossible, to unscrew the unscrutable, and to remove the unremovable. He says for us to lift the peony axis and capital of the world from the beastly valley of the Mississippi and set her down where she belongs—somewhere in the heavenly terrain East of the Alleghenies. We are going to try to do it. We can't let the doctor down. *Sicherlich! Gans genau! Geviss, Geviss.* See you next quarter. V.L.

* * *

Peony Patter

By NEAL R. van LOON, "Mady lone." *Newton, N.J.*

At one time I automatically said "botrytis" every time I saw a brown or blasted bud on a peony stalk. No more. I think I know better now. If there are any spores developing I can be sure that it is, indeed, a case of botrytis, otherwise I call it just a plain case of Winter injury.

* * *

Very few favorable words are heard for the practice of removing excess peony shoots from a clump in the Spring.

I think it just as sound practice to do this to a peony plant as it is to prune away a part of a tree or shrub when it insists upon developing too much top growth. This should be done in the early Spring though, as soon as all the shoots are through the ground. Also, one should be moderate. It stands to reason that a heavy shoot right against a smaller one will be greatly benefited by the removal of the latter. The ideal growing clumps would have the shoots at least two inches apart and near the center of the clump.—three inches would be

better. All this points to a better balanced plant. Since one cannot see what takes place underground, a sensible guess should be made to approximate as closely as possible a symmetrical plant with tops, crown tissue, large storage roots and their finer feeding roots all in proportion. A heavy established clump that is allowed to develop ten blooms will do a better job than a similar clump allowed only five blooms.

* * *

If you move your flowers as little as fifty feet, the chances are their performance will be definitely better or definitely worse. Of course, this change will naturally be more striking in the more temperamental kinds than in the steady ones like "*Myrtle Gentry*" and "*Mons. Jules Elie*." These grow well almost anywhere. In the varieties that do well in general, locally, I should prefer to buy locally grown roots. In the varieties that I consider indispensable from the show viewpoint and which do not do well locally, I should prefer to buy from a distant grower.

* * *

I find the disbudding job a lot of fun and the observance of individual characteristics in this particular extremely interesting.

The varieties that grow a lot of fat side buds will naturally show the greatest improvement in the size of the terminal flower.

If I were disbudding the variety "*Mildred May*" I should leave either three or five buds. On some stems I should remove side buds only and on others the terminal bud would be the first one off. I do not yet grow this variety but I surely will not go another year without it. It comes very close to being the most beautiful of all herbaceous peonies for my money.

When I disbud the plants of "*Gay Paree*" I invariably take out the terminal bud and all but about five of the best of the rest. Then you get arrangement material that is out of this world on stems like wire about ten to fourteen inches long,—long enough.

"*Nina Secor*" and "*Lady Alexandru Duff*" make a whole head of laterals, —maybe ten or more. "*Tourangelle*" grows them spindly and tough; "*Sarah Bernhardt*" has lateral stems so short you can hardly get hold of the little cusses, while "*Mons. Jules Elie*" is a pleasure to work on.

* * *

"*August Dessert*," ("*Old Silversides*") is just about second to nothing for mass arrangement. This variety is a plebeian, pure and simple by itself when only one bloom is shown. It immediately becomes a patrician, and I don't mean maybe, when shown in the mass.

* * *

Any depth to plant from one to three inches I am convinced is O.K. If you elevate your rows at all, as through cultivation, you expose your plant to eventual winter injury if you have any heavy winter rains at all. If you grow your peonies in a trench where much manure, sod, or compost has been buried, look out for a surprising settling of the soil which will put your peonies far too deep. The growth will become unnatural and the eyes will develop in the wrong place, if indeed they develop at all.

The peony plant has several kinds of tissue just like a tree or shrub. There is leaf and stem tissue, crown tissue, woody root tissue and cellulose tissue as in the finer and fleshier feeding roots as well as storage roots. Are the large roots processing roots as well as storage roots? I knew a man who did not remove his mounds of earth in the spring from his yearling plants. Straightway that following autumn the plants were putting out leggy small eyes up high on the stems instead of on the crowns.

Scientific men like Prof. Laurie could tell us all about these things, but beginners, like myself, can only observe and make as sensible guesses as we can.

* * *

At one time I carefully gathered all my tops in the fall and burned them. No more! I feel I cannot afford this waste. The tops now go on the compost heap. Peonies are like people, treat them reasonably and they will throw off most of their common ills; baby them too much and they go soft on you. I am thinking of two large families of children. One home was kept at about eighty degrees and the children were babied constantly with heavy clothing and medicines. Those kids were sick most of the time with colds and bronchial troubles. In the other home, which was little more than a barn with fifty to sixty degree temperatures, there was nary a cold. Those kids were fed well with plenty of milk and green stuff and they could really take it.

* * *

The nitrogenous fertilizers like Chilean Nitrate of Soda, Sulphate of Ammonia, Cyanimid and poultry manures are all best left alone unless you want to ruin your plants. Fish meal will give you enormous plants with ten cent blooms.

Roy Gayle will joke you about "Kabloona" and "super annuated fish," but don't worry, he knows the game too well to fall for this himself. He knows that if you get a flower as big as a wash tub, it will be just about as pretty. I tried fish meal on a row of strawberries once. I can't tell you how it worked out for the neighbors half starved cows got out, and in, and they ate all those plants and enough soil beneath them to fill a county truck!

I do believe potash, (I prefer the now hard to get Sulphate form to the Muriate but don't ask me why,) will strengthen the stems of a peony plant. Father always used plenty of potash and our barley and other grains, with their heavy heads, would stand up straight in a gale or storm while fields all around us would go down flat. Some day when I can get the beastly stuff I am going to mix up a concoction of Peruvian guano, sixteen percent common phosphate and sulphate of potash and sprinkle it around some peony plants in a ten inch band every two weeks, April to June. Will it take me to the higher levels in the shows, or to the dumps?

* * *

All this noise and fury and racket from the organic gardening people is only an example of the American trait of going all out on any and every popular fancy that comes along. Many of the premises in the arguments these people use are childish. If they want to do away with the chemicals they better make a big bomb and blow the earth to atoms and us with it, for "chemicals" is all we are!--plus immortal souls, of course!

* * *

A friend of mine is going to have himself an eyeful in a couple more years. He put forty divisions of "*Cherry Hill*" in a double row in front of a great hedge of rugosa roses. The house sets in a cove down the hill from this site and there is an elegant sloping lawn in between. "*Cherry Hill*" is reputedly quite tously in the middle-west. Hereabouts it is a wonderful garnet flower in clusters on an enormous red plant.

* * *

What we need in the American Peony Society is a good, active "Liars' Club". Nothing is more conducive to a good night's sleep than to let off excess steam!

"*Victory*" and "*Mary Auten*" should never be viewed in ordinary artificial light. They go dead at one,—the colors, I mean.

By the way, who is going to come up with an effective scheme of lighting for peony shows? The three shows I viewed this past year of 1948 all had lighting that was positively abominable.

"R. A. Napier," "Moon of Nippon," "A. B. Franklin," "Plymouth" and "Mattie Lafuze" are all capable of very great things but all except the last named one are persnickety about their performance.

* * *

Just once, before I die, I hope to see a "Peony vs. the Rose" exhibition! The schedule could be arranged color for color, and general type for general type; doubles, semi-doubles, clusters and singles are present in both flowers. For novelty the Japs and anemones and trees could all be brought in and the seasons are about the same.

The American Peony Society would not need hesitate to challenge the American Rose Society on such a proposition any time, any place, any anything! We would not keep them waiting.

* * *

Department of Registration

Mr. G. E. Winchell, 1002 South E Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa, submits the following varieties of his origination for registration:

Barbara Utterback (Winchell, 1948). D. M., R. Seedling No. 91 A. Parentage not given. Large very dark red, somewhat darker than Mons. Martin Cahuzac, but two weeks earlier. Strong stems. Good bloomer. Midseason. Full double.

Red Elie (Winchell, 1948). D., M., R. Seedling No. 10 CJ. Parentage not given. Double red same type as Blanche Elie. Stems strong. Blooms midseason.

Colonel J. C. Nicholls of 114 Overlook Road, Ithaca, New York, presents the following varieties of his origination for registration:

J. C. Nicholls (Nicholls, 1948). D. EM., W. Seedling No. 913, *Marie Crousse x Spring Beauty*. White with glowing pink center, lighted by strong greenish yellow underglow. Beautiful shape, Spicy fragrance. Huge but chaste and refined. Lasting substance. Tall, very strong stems. Robust grower and free bloomer. Early Midseason.

Florence Ellis (Nicholls, 1948). D. M., MP., Seedling No. 926, *Marie Crousse x Lady Alexandra Duff*. Clear medium pink of beautiful tone. Wide petals, perfect rose shape. Very large. Lasting substance. Tall strong stems. Vigorous and floriferous, Nice fragrance. Midseason.

Catherine Crain (Nicholls, 1948). D. EM., LP. Seedling No. 451, *Marie Crousse x Spring Beauty*. Glowing light pink of exquisite tint. Wide petals. Perfect rose shape. Very large blooms of lasting substance. Robust and floriferous. Tall very strong stems. Very fragrant, spicy. Early midseason.

George J. Nicholls (Nicholls, 1948). D., L., W. Seedling No. 978, *Marie Crousse x Lady Alexandra Duff*. Cream-white with strong amber underglow, deepest at center. Color similar to that of Solange and George W. Peyton. Wide petals, perfect rose shape. Huge refined blooms. Very tall strong stems. Robust and floriferous. Waxy substance. Late.

The varieties, J. C. Nicholls and Florence Ellis (Maiden name of Mrs. J. C. Nicholls), were so named at the request of Mr. Allen J. Wild, the other two with the consent of the persons for whom named. The entire stock of these peonies is in the hands of Gilbert H. Wild and Son of Sarcoxie, Missouri. They have not yet been offered for sale.

Col. J. C. Nicholls of 114 Overlook Road, Ithaca, New York, presents the following variety of his origination for registration:

MARTHA SHARP (Nicholls, 1949). D., M., P. Seedling No. 1251. Marie Crousse x Lady Alexandra Duff (possibly). Full double clear rose pink with occasional light markings on the petals. Wide petals, lasting substance, medium height, strong grower, free bloomer. Midseason. Increases rapidly.

Mr. J. F. Styer of Concordville, Pennsylvania, presents the following variety of his own origination for registration:

JACOB STYER (Styer, 1948). D., L., W. Parentage not given. Full double white, tall, strong stems.

* * *

New Members Since Last Bulletin

- Allison & Sons, W. S., Gardner, Ill.
 Anderson, C. S., 9322 Washington Ave., Brookfield, Ill.
 Ave., Emile, Box 127 Niagara Square, Buffalo, 2, N. Y.
 Bills, Edwin C., 5253 N. Winthrop Ave., Chicago, 40, Ill.
 Blankenship, Beryl, 4858 West Point Loma Blvd., San Diego. 7. California.
 Bond, Lawrence C., Roy, Utah.
 Brown, Mrs. Granger, 359 E. Scott St., Lake Forest, Ill.
 Brown, Leon, Brown Floral Co., 214 E. 2nd St., Salt Lake City, Utah.
 Brockmeyer, H., Mankato, Minn.
 Cairy, L. N., Eagle Gardens, Eagle Grove, Iowa.
 Castle, Mrs. Floyd, 225 Conklin Ave., Grand Forks, N. D.
 Caywood, Mrs. Freeda, 107 14th St., Dodge City, Kas.
 Cole, Leland H., 1512 Grace Church Road, Silver Spring, Md.
 Cook, Mrs. Hans, 1309 Pecon Street, Gainesville, Tex.
 Cremer, Rev. Bernard, 509 3rd St., S.W., Puyallup, Wash.
 Fyffe, William, 8824 Bishop Street, Chicago, 20, Ill.
 Gardiner Dr. B. R., Orilla, Ontario, Canada.
 Hoierman, Paul F., 6166 N. Lydell Ave., Whitefish Bay, Wis.
 Kana, Mrs. L. A., Secretary, N. D. Peony Society, 1409 Cottonwood, Grand Forks, N. D.
 Kannotski, Mrs. M. B., Pres., N. D. Peony Soc'y., Box 63. Grand Forks, N.D.
 Knapp, Mrs. Earl W., Box 312 A, Rt. 5, Noblesville, Ind.
 Leighton, Mrs. Kilburn, Woods Edge, Jamacia. Vermont.
 Long, Pope M. Jr., Star Route, Kasper, Alabama.
 Mendle, Mrs. Norma, S., 748 Cella Road, St. Louis, County 5. Mo.
 Mills, L. K., 4th Street at Hathaway, Owensboro, Ky.
 Nielson, Ralph, R.F.D. 1, Box 517, Provo, Utah.
 Pennsylvania State College, Agr. Library, Patterson Hall. Room 101. State College, Pa.
 Provo, N. W., 1329 Straight St., Topeka, Kas.
 Ramsey, Mrs. C. C., 3704 Chateau Ave., Waco, Texas.
 Shinkle, Mrs. Herbert S., R. R. 1, Box 165, Clayton, Ohio.
 Smith, Kenneth, 63 W. Thornton Street, Akron, O.
 Stollery, Howard, R. R. 1, Dawnsview, Ont., Canada.
 Streeter, James C., 546 Illinois Ave., McDonald, O.
 Thayer, Thomas E., 864 Honey Creek Parkway, Wauwatosa, 13, Wis.
 Turbee, Harry A., 981 Beaconsfield Ave., Grosse Pointe, 30, Mich.
 Van Name, R. L., Box 157, R.F.D. 2, West Chicago, Ill.
 Van Wagenen, Mrs. Marvin, J., 1729 Irving Ave., S., Minneapolis. Minn.
 Wadovich, Frank P., R.F.D. 3. 2804 Richmond Road. Chagrin Falls. O.
 Zygmont. Miss M.. R.F.D. 1. Yardville, N. J.

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Harry Norton Passes On

Harry A. Norton, retired industrialist who, with his sister, Miss Helen Norton, was responsible for many philanthropies in the Eastern Townships, died yesterday, December 21, 1948, in hospital in Montreal after an extended period of failing health.

Mr. Norton, whose home was in Ayer's Cliff, Quebec, was in his 77th year. The funeral was private.

Many institutions throughout the Eastern Townships have benefited through the generosity of Mr. Norton and his sister. Among their more recent philanthropies was a joint donation of \$50,000 to the Bishop's University Extension Fund campaign.

Previously they had jointly given \$100,000 to the Sherbrooke Hospital building campaign and \$125,000 towards a new wing, bearing their name, at the Wales Home at Melbourne.

Mr. Norton entered hospital in Montreal during the summer for a check-up. His health had been deteriorating, but it had been hoped that he might recover. Recently, however, his illness became more critical.

Harry Arunah Norton was born at Coaticook, Que., on Nov. 8, 1872, the son of Arthur O. and Helen M. (Richardson) Norton.

He was educated at Coaticook Academy and Bishop's College and started in business at the age of 18 with his father in the manufacture of ball-bearing lifting jacks.

Mr. Norton's father had begun the manufacture of the Norton Ball Bearing Lifting Jacks, designed especially for railroad work, in 1838 and they were at

that time the only jack of their kind then known. The A. O. Norton Company, Ltd., became one of the world's leading manufacturers of these jacks.

Harry Norton devoted special attention to the publicity and foreign trade departments of the company, making several trips abroad and introducing Norton jacks into many foreign countries.

He was married in 1907 to Miss Sidney Elizabeth Austin, daughter of E. B. M. Austin, of Coaticook, who predeceased him in 1937. They had no children.

Among Mr. Norton's many interests were art and flowers. He and his sister were generous contributors to the Art Association of Montreal, of which Mr. Norton was an honorary president. In his Ayer's Cliff home he had an outstanding collection of paintings by Canadian artists.

Mr. Norton's garden was one of the finest in the country and his peonies, in which he specialized, were of outstanding beauty. He was responsible for the development of several new types of peony.

Officials of Bishop's University this morning announced their deep sense of loss at the news of the death of Mr. Norton, who had been a member of the Corporation since 1927.

Mr. Norton's many benefactions to the University are well-known," the University officials said. "They included valuable additions to the furnishings of the college chapel and a sum of money for improvement of the lighting.

"He recently contributed the magnificent sum of \$50,000 towards the Extension and Endowment Fund campaign. He was a generous benefactor to many other institutions and his death removes one of the most public-spirited philanthropists it has been our good fortune to have amongst us, and a very sincere friend."

A. A. Munster, chairman of the E. T. committee for the Bishop's extension fund and chairman of the general committee of the Sherbrooke Hospital, which is in charge of the hospital's new building project, said this morning that it was difficult to find words fitting to express tribute to Mr. Norton.

"The loss of a man of his stature, who has contributed so much, not only financially but by his interest as well, to Sherbrooke and the Eastern Townships, is irreparable," Mr. Munster said.

"He was a very remarkable man, a philanthropist of the first degree and his loss is one that we cannot begin to fill. I don't know how we can replace him."

Mr. Norton was a former president of the Sherbrooke Hospital and was a member of the general committee which Mr. Munster, himself a former hospital president, heads.

Dr. C. E. Manning, secretary of the Wales Home of which Mr. Norton was honorary president, said the death of Mr. Norton would be a "very great loss to the Home."

"He had been one of our biggest benefactors," Dr. Manning said, "and always took a keen interest in our work here and kept in close touch with what was going on."

* * *

The above information was supplied to us through the kindness of Miss Helen Norton, sister of the deceased, and we are very grateful for this data.

About ten years ago it was our good fortune to be invited to the lovely home of Harry and his genial and most gracious sister. Here we had the delightful pleasure of viewing a section of his rare Egyptian, Greek and Roman glass, some of it dating from 1100 B.C., valuable and almost priceless articles

of Persian pottery gathered from many sections of the old world. Both Mrs. Christman and myself were thrilled with the wonderful spectacle which was beyond our wildest dreams.

Harry was one of the most modest, gentle and unassuming of men and shunned praise for his good works. He avoided being in the limelight yet he was approachable and companionable and the twinkle in his deep blue eyes spoke louder than words when he would meet you after an absence of some months. I well remember the time he had made a business trip to Europe when he learned the American Peony Society was to hold a meeting in Boston. He took the first boat back and after the show was over returned to Europe. He loved his peonies and they were a part of his life, and he maintained a most beautiful garden at his home at Ayers Cliff, Quebec. Through his generous contribution, assisted by the Thurlow Brothers, we enjoyed a most wonderful shore dinner, and Harry gave us a demonstration of the proper way to handle clams. His demonstration was a revelation to those of the party unfamiliar with the intricacies of this gastronomic function, but soon we were all busily engaged with both hands in gymnastics that produced desired effects and we were soon devouring these tid bits with epicurean delight.

We have lost a great admirer of the peony; a most genial and delightful friend whom we held in high esteem and one whose modesty, combined with his many wonderful accomplishments and generous artistic and philanthropic life will leave a void difficult to fill (Secretary)

* * *

It has recently been reported to this office the passing of one of our Virginia members, Mrs. Robert J. Keller, Jr., of Lynchburg. No details have been supplied.

* * *

Mr. C. R. Jenks, of Stillwater, Minn., passed away recently, we are informed indirectly. He had been a real interested member of the Society for many years. We have no detailed information on his passing and are unable at this time to give an account of his life. We have personally known Mr. Jenks for over 30 years and all those years his interest in the peony never wavered.

* * *

Most of our readers have no doubt heard of the passing of Mr. J. D. Long, of Boulder, Colorado, Dec. 5, 1948. He had reached the age of 75 years and was quite active his entire life. Heart trouble was responsible for his passing. The past few years his activities were considerably curtailed by this affliction. The writer had many pleasant and interesting letters from him during the past 15 or 20 years. He was a member of the Society. His catalogs were well interspersed with very witty verses. He will be greatly missed by his many thousand customers. Understand his son will carry on the work in which he was associated with his father. This son is now one of the new members of the American Peony Society and we predict that he will follow the policy of his father in most pleasant dealings with his customers. It is fortunate that the father had a son like Everett C. Long who could go ahead and continue the work. Understand he has been associated with his father since 1934.

Mr. Long is survived by his wife, two sons, Everett C. Long of Boulder, Colo., and Carleton C. Long of Beaver, Pa., and a daughter, Mrs. Charles Blessing of Chicago, Ill.

* * *

It is with deep regret we report the passing of Mrs. Louise Murawsk of 8740 Ridge Street, River Grove, Ill., who died March 2nd, 1949. She was the wife of Arthur Murawska of the River Drive Peony Gardens who is well known among peony growers of this section, as well as among a large acquaintance of peony lovers who have had the pleasure of having some of his originations in their plantings. Mrs. Murawska was a keen judge of the peony and knew them intimately. She had made a deep study of the characteristics of all the good ones and took a great deal of pleasure in pointing out their chief characteristics, whether good or bad. There are very few lovers of the peony as well posted on the better peonies and their merits as was Mrs. Murawska, and during the flower season she spent most of her time among them. She leaves to mourn her loss her husband, Arthur Murawska, three sons William, Arthur Jr., and James, a brother Edw. Gongall and sisters Ella Fuller and Dorothea Ames. She had reached the age of 52 years. She had been in failing health for several months before her death but was active and kept active up until the last minute of her life. She will be greatly missed as she had a large circle of friends acquired through years of service to others.

Secretary.

* * *

Sedition

ROY G. GAYLE, *Rockford, Ill.*

Thoughts sometimes creep, crawl, and drag themselves around in my mind and these aforesaid lurid thoughts seem to subsist on controversial subjects. Fight as I do, I fail to subdue them in their ambitious desire to be expelled from my mind, so I will proceed to explode and be relieved of the pressure. Several obsessions obsess me (maybe I should substitute abscess for obsess), and here they are:

First: I maintain, in the face of anticipated opposition, that an exhibitor should be permitted to enter as many entries in any one class as he may choose, provided, however, that he be restricted to not entering more than one entry of a specific variety in any one class. The present rules permit but two entries, and one award.

Why should an exhibitor be limited to two entries per class? My records disclose that I am growing 46 varieties of white doubles, 29 varieties of blush, 52 light pink, 23 medium pink, 15 dark pink, 23 red, and 21 varieties of Singles in all colors, and 40 Japs. Of my 46 whites there are at least one-third of these varieties that would make worthy exhibits. Now, I am not disposed to cut 15 varieties of fine whites and be compelled to junk at least 12 of them. The other color classes would hold approximately the same percentage of exhibition bloom.

My contention is that a Show to be worthwhile must have flowers—and more flowers. The day of Harry F. Little and R. A. Napier has passed and Shows of today are destined to decline unless counter-active measures are adopted. The big commercial growers are seldom represented in Shows except in their immediate bailiwicks so, as we analyze the potential possibilities of exhibitors, we find that our future shows must depend on a limited group of loyal fans, both commercial and amateur. So it is apparent that the policy of our Society must be adjusted to compensate for this change in order to encourage exhibitors and fill our show benches with exhibits.

The record of the past three Shows is a record of barren booths with little or no class competition. These shows lack the spirit of keen competition and

many exhibitors have voluntarily expressed their feeling about winning hollow honors. No true sportsman feels proud of honors won by default of competition.

It is diversification of varieties that stimulates interest—and what do we find: *Elsa Sass*, first; *Elsa Sass*, second; *Elsa Sass*, third. Exhibitors can only make two entries in that class and naturally “*Elsa*” is a must. Such a restricted ruling as now exists is productive of monotony and will in time destroy incentive. Limiting a *variety to one award in a class* might produce a diversified group of class entries.

Now for the second blast:

Too many show classes cause confusion and spread exhibits too thinly. so this condition suggests that the number of classes be reduced. Increase in the “Open” Class, the number of flowers to three of one variety per container and with unrestricted entries we’d really see spirited competition and fine exhibits. Three perfect blooms of one variety having uniformity in size, form, and color, is a challenge to any exhibitor and is a sight that would stir the emotions of the lowest order of animal life.

Three blooms in one container would also simplify the judging as it is difficult to select one outstanding single specimen from a dozen perfect flowers. With each container having three flowers of one variety the judges’ task of selecting awards would be made much easier and would be far more accurate.

And now the finale:

A Rule should be adopted whereby an exhibitor is limited to entering in but two of the three divisions (Open, Amateur, and Novice). By this I mean that I, an Amateur with over 1,500 plants, would be self penalized, if I (lacking in sportsmanship) elected to enter in competition as a Novice, by being barred from competing in the Open classes. A “ribbon” means a lot to a Novice so let us encourage him and give him protection. He is a potential future show maker.

So throw the gates wide-open and invite a flood of flowers. What do we exhibitors particularly care for ribbons—we crave rugged competition. If Bigger is bold enough to think he can beat me just let him try. If Karrels is conceited enough to think he has better flowers than I have then let him produce the proof. If Van Loon is loony enough to hoist his battle-flag then I’ll take him on with the rest. We crave rugged competition! Permit the whole list of blood-thirsty antagonists to enter into unlimited competition and see what happens. If any one exhibitor can walk away with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd awards in any class—then the more power to him, and award him an extra solid gold cup. I’ll call all bets that no one exhibitor will walk off with all three awards in the really active classes. If he does he will give the spectators a real thrill that will come but once in a lifetime and he will honestly earn his honors and can feel mighty proud of them.

If these ideas are revolutionary just reflect on the fact that this nation had Sedition for its father, Revolution for its mother—and grew strong enough to be ruled by the Democrats and still survive. That is evidence of stamina! I believe our Society has that quality, too.

* * *

Notice:

To the Members of the American Peony Society: At the next Annual Meeting of the American Peony Society. I shall move for the adoption of certain amendments to the New By-laws of the American Peony Society, as adopted at Guelph in 1948. to make them more nearly conform to New York laws and to our articles of Incorporation.

George W. Peyton, Mar. 22nd, 1949.

Overhead Waterspray Protects Gardens From Frost

Louis Fischer had a very late crop of flowers which he protected from frost until late October. It happened nearly ten years ago, but what he said gave me an idea for the peony patch in early May.

Fischer told me that he could protect his glads from freezing by turning on the overhead sprinkler system. He was speaking of a slight drop below freezing.

In his case he would stay up late to watch the temperature, because, by midnight he would know whether or not it might be advisable to turn on the water, and leave it on till morning.

My own adaptation of this idea is a bit different because in my peony patch my sprinkler "system" is only a hose with one nozzle (on the end). Each morning in early May I look out the window to see if there is any frost on the peony or iris plants. If so, by 7:30 A.M. the frost is all washed off with water from the hose. This year the temperature hit 30 degrees one morning in May.

The theory is that frost does not damage peonies (or irises) if the frost is removed before the sun melts it.

This theory has been proven to my own satisfaction more than once. I even saved wax beans. Next-door-neighbor's beans, beyond the reach of my hose, were killed by that same frost.

Perhaps the colleges have proof of this idea. Does anyone remember reading about it elsewhere?

I cut a perfect peony (side bud) on July 6, and the variety was *Last Rose*. The first to bloom was *Smouthi* on May 13. *Last Rose* puts everything else to bed each year, for me.

JAMES MASON, *Chicago, Illinois*

* * *

Changes in Address

Nelson, Mrs. A. C., change to 1403 Knoxville Ave., Peoria, 4, Ill.

Peter, August, 1621 3rd Street, Wauwatosa, Wis., change to 1621 Church Street, Wauwatosa, 13, Wisconsin.

Ball, Harley R., change to 1506 E. 8th Street, Indianapolis, 20, Ind.

Denison, Mrs. J. F., change to Ridgeway Blvd., Rt. 2, Hot Springs, Ark.

Frank B. Windsor, R.R. 1, Salem, Oregon, change to Mrs. Frank B. Windsor, R.R. 1, Box 470, Salem, Oregon.

Nelson H. James, Greybull, Wyoming to Nelson H. James, 1102 McKinley, Casper, Wyoming.

Kolze, Mrs. George, change from Box 176, Itasca, Ill., to 1006 San Tomas Road, Campbell, Calif.

A Request

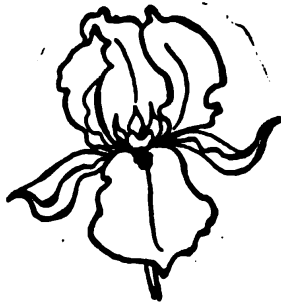
H. F. STOKE, *Roanoke, Va.*

As you suggested, I wrote to Wm. Gratwick, Linwood, N. Y. for his experience in getting blossoms of the European type tree peony. His reply is as follows:

"I believe you will find yourself discarding the European type tree peony. Your findings are the same as everyone else's. If you have a good collection of Japs they will be superior to the others in every respect."

I would suggest that, through the Bulletin, growers are invited to send in their experiences covering the comparative blooming habits of the European and Japanese type tree peonies. The result may be painful to some growers for sale, but the buying public have an indisputable claim on reliable information

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10 Acres of Iris — 5 Acres Hemerocallis**



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Aerie—white semi double.

Miss Dainty—White shaded light rose pink very dainty.

Plainsman—fine light pink Jap.

Also do not forget Westerner and Kansas both American Home Medal winners. Send your name and address and I will send you my complete list containing full descriptions of the above as well as Lady Orchid, Snow Mountain, Prairie Belle and all the rest of the "Bigger" peonies.

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The American Iris Society, since its organization in 1920, has published 83 Bulletins which cover every phase of iris growing. These bulletins go four times each year to all members, who may also purchase any back numbers in stock for 50c a copy. Because the bulletins are not for sale except to members a

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER of SIX for ONE DOLLAR is made to non-members. The six are our selection from surplus stock.

THE ALPHABETICAL IRIS CHECK LIST, edited by Ethel Anson S. Peckham and published in 1940, is an invaluable reference book for all who grow irises or wish to know about irises. The book lists about nineteen thousand names of irises (including synonyms and mis-spellings) and contains as nearly as is humanly possible all the old species and varieties as well as the new ones, with added information about obsolete varieties, species, section, season, color and fragrance. There is a long list of names of breeders, introducers, dealers and authors, with brief biographical details. The binding is durable, water-proof cloth, and in spite of its 582 pages the book is of a size comfortable for holding and carrying. The price to A.I.S. members is \$3.00, to non-members \$4.00.

All orders should be sent to the office of the Secretary, Sam Y. Caldwell, 444 Chestnut Street, Nashville, 10, Tenn.

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