

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



Bulletin

SEPTEMBER, 1963 — No. 170

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George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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Treasurer: W. A. Alexander, 145 Eberly Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio.

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DISTRICT V

President: Theo. K. Mysyk, Box 525, Hebron, Illinois.

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. R. Hallett Shumway, 2021 Clinton Street, Rockford Illinois.

OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Sec. 2. That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony; to improve the standard of excellence of the flower; to improve the methods of its cultivation and method of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring about a more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held examinations, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor, or in any other manner.

MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development, are eligible to membership.

The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send a check or money order for five dollars payable to AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to the Secretary. If cash is sent, the letter should be registered. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances made otherwise. Membership fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Peony Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members, \$5.00 for one year.

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued quarterly. Back numbers when available, will be charged at prices which will be furnished by the Editor. Current year back numbers will be fifty cents each to members.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies." Those who desire to register a new variety, and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names, should apply to George W. Peyton, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



SEPTEMBER, 1963 — NO. 170

President's Message

It is almost certain that the American Peony Society will have its annual meeting and national peony show in New York City on the grounds of the World's Fair on June 12-13-14, 1964. Our sponsor is the Queens Botanical Gardens who have just completed a new building for their offices, and new display gardens will be partially finished by next spring. The flower show will be held under huge tents with ample space for displays and every effort will be made to avoid drafts and other inconveniences of displaying under tents. Final word should be had within a week—all that is needed now is to make arrangements for the tents.

This is indeed excellent news. This will give our entire membership an additional incentive to come to the World's Fair and we will arrange for notices giving further particulars just as soon as we receive final approval. We will receive tremendous publicity all throughout the area and the attendance at the peony show will stagger the imagination.

A young man studying at a local Agricultural college phoned me asking for literature on the hybridizing of peonies. If you can help obtain this, please let me know, or better still, perhaps one

of our members will prepare an article for the next Bulletin.

The list of new members is still small and I must again plead with you to obtain at least one member now. Some members give a free annual membership with every order of \$40.00—some such incentive will help. Members are needed to continue our Society—expenses constantly increase so that new members are needed. Our bulletins get better with each issue and we need your help with new members, articles for the bulletin and continued support for our Society. Our genial Secretary, George W. Peyton, is deserving of our plaudits—he is quick in answering many letters which reach him constantly—he is alert on every important matter. All of us wish him good health and we are all, indeed, grateful.

Louis Smirnow

The September Flower and Garden has an article by Eva M. Schroeder, 'Peonies Are So Practical' which makes interesting reading. The author is from Central Minnesota. There are good black and white pictures of Festiva Maxima both bloom and plant, Tamate Boku, Isani Gidui, Le Jour and Minnie Shaylor, which occupy over 2¼ pages

☞ 3 ☞

Polyploids New in Plant World

*By Eleanor B. McClure
Garden Writer*

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St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Scientists report that at some distant date we may enjoy man-made (or man-modified) weather. Long before that halcyon day arrives, however, we may be offered a more durable breed of plants, with increased resistance to drouth, heat waves and freezes.

For some years hybridizers have been working to increase the weather resistance of such flowers as daffodils and lilies and favorite perennials like iris and hemerocallis. The rose of the future, too, will be hardier, with thick-textured petals, and better able to endure heat, wind and rain.

Among annuals, the various F1 and Tetra hybrids, for example, give a better than average performance during a Missouri heat wave. The blooms and foliage of hybrid petunias have greater "substance"—that is to say, they are hardier and more durable. They hold up well on a torrid day. The hybrid tetra snapdragons also have a built-in resistance and thus are unlike some of the older types that were bred for the greenhouse trade.

Many of these improved flowers were developed by chemical "shock treatments." Use of a potent chemical, called colchicine, can produce a "polyploid" plant, which may have two, three, or even four times the normal number of chromosomes—those tiny cellular particles that determine heredity. With such an increase in hereditary factors, there always is a chance of a real break-through that will produce a plant that is markedly different in

stem, leaves, bloom and total growth.

Shocked, Recovered

Last week, in the Belleville, Ill., garden of Harold Wolfe, I saw some remarkable peonies that had been produced by a new type of chemical shock treatment. Their superiority was readily apparent. One had only to compare a standard tree peony variety (Beatrix, for example) with a sister plant that had received and recovered from the chemical shock.

The new polyploid Beatrix is a big, buxom, beautiful plant. The leaves are exceptionally large (almost twice as big as on untreated plants in many instances), with rich, deep green coloring. They have a very heavy, leathery texture, free from any sign of leaf spot or fungus disease. In contrast the foliage of the standard Beatrix in the Wolfe garden looked pale and anemic, with some of the spots and discolorations that often plague peonies in the late summer.

There are even more exciting possibilities, for Wolfe has used the shock treatment successfully on dogwoods, redbuds and clematis. Leaves of the polyploid branches of these plants are larger and have a heavy, leathery texture. The blooms were also much larger, Wolfe says. The polyploid strains promise to have unusual vigor. There is a good chance that they will be more resistant to disease, droughts and freezes.

Wolfe's work with these plants started about six years ago. At that time he decided that the use of colchicine could not produce significant changes in his peonies.

"I had tried colchicine for 15 years, with no success," he explained, "and then I learned why. Colchicine is an alkaloid. Both herbaceous and tree peonies are nothing but alkaloids, so when you

give them colchicine, they welcome it as a long-lost cousin."

One At A Time

In a search for a substitute for the colchicine, he found a list of chemicals that had been used to produce polyploid in plants. One of these was a potent hydrocarbon call naphthalene acetamide.

"This chemical was difficult to use," Wolfe said, "for the crystals aren't soluble in anything that would be acceptable to a plant. Then I read that it vaporized at 90 degrees, so I said, 'Let's put it on the leaves and let them breathe it in.'"

He started by putting the chemical on the leaves of some herbaceous peonies, applying it to just one stem of a given plant. Each stem so treated was encased in a polyethylene bag, to retain the vapor.

It seemed discouraging at first, for the leaves turned black and all of the treated stems died. The next spring, however, each treated plant had a stem or two that had changed, for they were much thicker, and the leaves were much larger. There was no doubt that those stems and leaves had been changed to polyploids.

"By the following year there were more polyploid branches, so that about one-third of the entire plant had been changed. A year later there was usually an entirely new plant. All this from just one treatment!"

Even though the original stem or branch died, it evidently was able to transmit a portion of the chemical to the root system, where it continued to affect the growth of the plant. Since the polyploid roots and stems are so vigorous and grow so fast, they eventually take over and form what is virtually a new plant.

Growth Is Faster

Moreover, this was a permanent change. There was no distur-

tion as a result of the treatment, but every part of the plant took on the new characteristics: stems, leaves, dormant buds, flowers, and even the seeds.

Wolfe began to use naphthalene acetamide on tree peonies about four years ago and found that they were transformed even more rapidly than the herbaceous peonies.

"When you grow these polyploids, you have to revise your concept of peonies," Wolfe says. "The dark green leaves have so much more chlorophyll that the plants grow fast and are resistant to disease. The leaves of the herbaceous peonies persist much longer in the fall, and they are much greener.

"You have gorgeous blooms. The flowers are larger, and the petals have a heavier texture, so that they will stand up under rain. They last more than a week in the garden."

Since he has a remarkably large collection of choice peonies and tree peonies, he plans to have a complete range of polyploid hybrids within a few years. He also plans to give shock treatments to many other ornamentals.

After all, if the chemical works for plants as varied as peonies, dogwoods, redbuds and clematis, there's a good chance that many other trees and shrubs can be turned into polyploid varieties.

Many years may be needed to complete this ambitious project. It will be still longer before the new plants can be in production and ready for the market.

But one of these days we may be offered many kinds of "shocked" ornamentals, and they will be handsome, rugged plants that will thrive in midwestern gardens.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

NOTE: Since the above article did not give the method of appli-

cation of the chemical, Mr. Wolfe has sent us a letter from which we quote:

"As for the manner of application, etc., when I get the naphthalene acetamide from Eastman, I have it ground to extreme fineness, with ordinary talc to give better coverage and smoother application; 3 volumes of talc to one of the chemical. I have this done by a friend, who is a chemist at the Alcoa Experimental Laboratory in East St. Louis. He uses a ball mill.

"However my first applications were of the chemical only, as received. The grinding and mixing with talc are later developments. I use a large pepper shaker to apply it, after the bag is on the stem or stems, or the entire plant, as the case may be.

"I slip the bag over the leaves and tie it at the bottom (to retain most of the chemical as it vaporizes). I then cut the corner of the top of the bag large enough to insert my hand and the shaker. I then dust the enclosed leaves freely and then tie the corner I had opened, giving the bag a slap to distribute the powder a little better. Earlier I put the powder on first and then the bag, but the later method is better.

"I just leave the bags on the plants until the leaves die, then remove them. Sometimes I bag an entire plant. If I do this to an herbaceous, there is, of course, no growth until the next year, but with tree peonies, if done in early or mid-summer, they send up the mutant growth in the fall, if I give them water or if we have sufficient rainfall to make the ground moist.

"I am reasonably sure that chromosome doubling has previously occurred, spontaneously, in peonies. My attention was first directed to it at Sarcoxie (I forget the year) when 'Kansas' was best bloom in

the show. I suspected it was a tetraploid and went over next day to the field from which it came, and sure enough there was the huge stem and leaves. It was the only bloom on that particular plant, which had but three stems. The other two stems were quite normal. I kept my eyes open for other such sports or mutants and found one on a plant, the name of which I was unable to get, up at Wassenberg's. This was late in the season, so I had no idea of bloom characteristics, but the stem and leaves were huge.

"As for reversion to diploidy (if these are tetraploid), I would not be able to say, as none of my mutants have reverted on division. The tree peonies, when grafted, still maintain the same new characteristics and their seedlings evidently do also.

"I agree with you that we should carry out carefully watched dividing, to see if any reversions do occur. I shall keep close watch on mine.

"Now—Dr. Edgar Anderson of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, spent three hours in my garden, one day last week and was greatly impressed, especially with effects on dogwood. He will not confirm polyploidy until checks on chromosomes have been made; but he says that something of tremendous significance, in the plant world, has taken place. He is asking botanists and geneticists from several universities to come in and see what we have. He feels there may be some changes in the cytoplasm as well as in the nucleus, or the chromosomes. And he says that he had never before seen mutations on so large a scale, so many in one area, at one time.

Mr. Wolfe tells us that he is going to Boston where he is to receive the 33rd degree in Masonry on September 25th.

18th Annual Peony Show - The Peony Unit

Oklahoma City Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Building, April 26-28, 1963

THEME:

Peonies, Peace and Patriotism

AWARD WINNERS

(Court of Honor)

GRAND CHAMPION: Best horticultural specimen shown: Mons. Jules Elie by Mrs. Opal M. Hamilton. The Peony Unit Traveling Trophy.

CHAMPIONS: Best "Bomb" double: Mons. Jules Elie by Mrs. Opal M. Hamilton, The Mrs. Bozo Jones Trophy

BEST SEMI-DOUBLE: Minnie Shaylor by Mrs. Opal M. Hamilton, The June Day Peony Unit Trophy

BEST ANEMONE: Golden Dawn by Mrs. B. E. Gleason. The Mrs. W. H. Allen Trophy

BEST JAPANESE: Westerner by Mrs. H. B. Atkinson. The Opal M. Hamilton Trophy.

BEST SINGLE: Angelus by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sisney. The Lucky Day Peony Unit Trophy

BEST HYBRID: Red Charm by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sisney. The Mrs. W. R. Boyington Trophy

BEST TREE PEONY: No award

BEST ARRANGEMENT: Mrs. William G. Evans. The Peony Unit Trophy

BEST SEEDLING: Memory Lane by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sisney. The Rose Kamin Trophy.

HIGHEST SCORING BLUE RIBBON WINNER in Classes 1 through 6: Mrs. Lee Beck, The Tri-color award

SWEEPSTAKES: Horticultural: Mrs. Opal M. Hamilton (18 blue ribbons) Arrangements: Mrs. Harold Baumann

THE AWARD OF MERIT (Orange ribbon for the finest exhibit in the Horticultural Section): to Mrs. Opal M. Hamilton.

ENTRIES: Horticultural: 385

Arrangements: 75

ATTENDANCE: Over 1,000

REMARKS

The above report was sent us by Mrs. J. E. (Opal M.) Hamilton. She tells us that this was the earliest they have ever held the show. The winter was dry and no snow at all, but the flowers were excellent. They also kept well throughout the show as the new show room is air-conditioned.

JUDGES

Horticultural: Mrs. E. E. Bryant, Midwest City, Oklahoma.

Mrs. E. L. Chase, Oklahoma City

Mrs. Homer Jenkins, Okla. City.

Mrs. Joe P. Crawford, Okla. City

Mrs. L. M. Limpus, Okla. City

Mrs. P. H. Rankin, Okla. City

Arrangements: Mrs. H. B. Atkinson, Midwest City

Mrs. Charles Gambel, El Reno

Mrs. L. J. Weisenberger, Oklahoma City

SHOW CHAIRMEN:

General Chairman: Mrs. T. P. Swails

Co-Chairman: Mrs. James Harris

Staging and Publicity: Mrs. J. E. Hamilton

Co-Chairman: Mrs. A. L. Guild

Schedules: Mrs. T. P. Swails

Awards: Mrs. W. R. Boyington

Judges: Mrs. James Harris

Hospitality: Mrs. Melvin T. Watson

Entries: Horticulture: Mrs. Jim Karnes

Arrangements: Mrs. Harold Baumann

Classification: Horticulture:

Mrs. E. W. Sisney; Co-Chairmen:

Mrs. W. L. Whitson, Mrs. A. L. Guild

65 7 60

Arrangements: Mrs. B. E. Gleason

Clerks: Horticulture: Mrs. W. L. Whitson

Arrangements: Mrs. M. G. Walker

Educational Display: Mrs. W. H. Allen

Dismantling: Entire Membership

THE AWARDS BANQUET

This was held on Saturday evening, April 27, at 7:30 in the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Building, with Mrs. James Harris, president, presiding.

Mr. E. W. Sisney spoke on Hand Pollenizing and How to Condition Blooms for Exhibition.

Mr. James Harris showed movies of gardens and some of his travels.

NEW OFFICERS

of the Oklahoma City Council of Garden Clubs

The following officers were elected for the next two years:

President: Mrs. James E. Hamilton (Mrs. Opal M. Hamilton)

Vice President: Mrs. Jim Karnes

Secretary: Mrs. B. E. Gleason

Treasurer: Mrs. L. A. Guild

Council Delegate: Mrs. Harold Baumann

Civic Chairman: Mrs. W. R. Boyington.

Parliamentarian: Mrs. James Harris

Librarian: Mrs. Mel Watson

Fifth District Regional Show

Social Hall, Congregational Universalist Church

Woodstock, Illinois — June 14-15, 1963

COURT OF HONOR

GRAND CHAMPION: Avelyn, shown by Marvin C. Karrels.

CHAMPIONS: Double-white or flesh; Dr. J. H. Neeley.

-light pink: Moonstone.

-medium pink: Majestic Rose.

-dark pink: Mme. Emile Debattene.

-red: Lora Dexheimer

Semi-double—any color: A. G. Perry.

Japanese—any color: Departing Sun.

Single—any color: Dawn Pink.

Herbaceous hybrid—any type or color: Avelyn.

Amateur bloom: James Pillow shown by Ludwin Musialek.

NOTE: a close contender for Grand Champion was a beautiful bloom of Moonstone.

OPEN CLASSES

No limit to number of entries by each exhibitor.

NOTE: The Open Classes presented evidence of the old mock rivalry between Mr. Marvin C.

Karrels and Dr. D. S. Hyde with an approximate division of honors. Only the varieties are given. The names of the exhibitors are not given and only first place varieties are reported in the Specimen classes Nos. 3 to 26 inclusive.

1. COLLECTION of 15-20 varieties, any type. One bloom each. Hybrids permitted.

First Exhibit: Doris Cooper, Flower Girl, Hari-ai-nin, Imperial Red, Kansas, Lottie Dawson Rea, Marilla Beauty, Mattie Lafuze, Midnight Sun, Mme. Emile Debattene, Moonstone, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Nancy Nora, Nick Shaylor, Peter (Joseph ?) Christie, Philippe Rivoire, Red Charm, Seashell, Tuckdawa, Victory.

Second Exhibit: Adonis, Alice Harding, Dr. J. H. Neeley, Edward Steichen, Ernest F. Kelsey, Florence Bond, Florence Nicholls, Geo. W. Peyton, Kansas, King Midas, La Lorraine, Mabel L. Gore, Margaret Lough, Martha Sharp, Matilda Lewis, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Nick Shaylor, Ruth Clay, Souvenir

de Louis Bigot.

2. **OUT OF TOWN. COLLECTION** of ten varieties, one bloom each, Hybrids permitted. Open only to exhibitors living more than fifty miles from Woodstock.

First exhibit: Alice Harding, Carol, Dorothy J., La Lorraine, May Delight, Miss America, Nevada, Red Charm, White Gold.

Second Exhibit: Black Monarch, Elsa Sass, Florence Bond, Friendship, Heritage, Lovely Rose, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Nippon Beauty Red Charm, White Gold.

SPECIMEN CLASSES

One bloom, Hybrids not permitted, unless specified.

DOUBLE

3. White or blush: Dr. J. H. Neeley.

4. Light pink: Moonstone.

5. Medium pink: Majestic Rose

6. Dark pink: Helen Hayes.

7. Red: Lora Dexheimer.

SEMI-DOUBLE

8. White or blush: A. G. Perry.

9. Pink: Flamingo.

10. Red: Red Goddess.

BOMB

11. White or blush: Beryl Crockett.

12. Pink: Mons. Jules Elie.

13. Red: No awards.

ANEMONE

14. White or blush: No awards

15. Pink: Coral Isle

16. Red: Ruth Clay.

JAPANESE

17. White or blush: White Gold

18. Pink: Departing Sun

19. Red: Hari-ai-nin

SINGLE

20. White or blush: Pico

21. Pink: Dawn Pink

22. Red: Imperial Red

HERBACEOUS HYBRID

23. White: Sanctus

24. Pink: May Delight

25. Red: Avelyn

TREE PEONIES

26. Any color: Souvenir de Maxime Cornu

AMATEUR CLASSES

Open only to those who do not sell flowers or roots. No limit to number of entries by any one exhibitor.

27. **COLLECTION** ten varieties, one bloom each. Hybrids permitted.

First: Dee Garrison with Convoy, Elizabeth Huntington, Ella Lewis, Felix Crousse, Illini Belle, Lora Dexheimer, Mons. Jules Elie, Rashomon, Red Charm, Sarah M. Napier.

Second: Mrs. Irene Sulka with Baroness Schroeder, Dolorodell, Elizabeth Huntington, Festiva Maxima, June Rose, Mons. Jules Elie, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Queen of Sheba, Tempest.

28. **AMATEUR'S SPECIAL.** Collection five varieties, one bloom each. Hybrids permitted.

First: Ludwin Musialek with Elsa Sass, James Pillow, L. W. Pollock, Myrtle Gentry, Nick Shaylor

Second: Mrs. Irene Sulka with Dr. F. G. Brethour, June Rose, Mons. Jules Elie, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Tempest.

Third: Dee Garrison with Convoy, Illini Belle, Kansas, Lora Dexheimer, Mons. Jules Elie.

SPECIMEN CLASSES

One bloom each variety. Hybrids not permitted.

DOUBLE or SEMI-DOUBLE

29. White or blush: First: Ludwin Musialek with James Pillow.

Second: Ludwin Musialek with Nick Shaylor.

Third: A. L. Volz with Nancy Nicholls.

30. Pink: First: Ludwin Musialek with Nick Shaylor

Second: A. L. Volz with Pink Formal.

Third: A. L. Volz with Nick Shaylor

31. Red: First: Dee Garrison with Lora Dexheimer

Second: Mrs. Irene Sulka with Tempest.

Third: Mrs. Irene Sulka with Tempest

JAPANESE

32. White or blush: No awards

33. Pink: First: J. Earl Smith with Doreen

34. Red: First: A. L. Volz with Nippon Brilliant

Second: Arthur Enerson with Midnight Sun

Third: Mrs. Irene Sulka with Onahama.

SINGLE

35. White or blush: no awards

36. Pink: First: Mrs. Irene Sulka with unnamed variety

37. Red: First: J. Earl Smith with unnamed variety

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Open to all. Peonies must predominate. No limit to number of entries by any one exhibitor.

38. Basket of Peonies—with or without other flowers or foliage.

First: Ludwin Musialek with a mixed bouquet and Second with an arrangement of pink peonies with blue delphinium.

39 Vase of Peonies with or without other flowers or foliage.

First: Collen Strohm

Second: Julie Tappan

Also reported: First: Mrs. Mel Fries with a beautiful line arrangement of white peonies with mock orange blossoms. This also won the Tri-color Ribbon as the best arrangement in the show.

40. Bowl of Peonies with or without other flowers or foliage.

First: Julie Tappan

Second: Mrs. Arthur Enerson

Third: Julie Tappan

Also reported for Class 40. First: Rita Shaw

Second: Cheryl Strohm

SEEDLINGS

41. No report

42. Commercial Growers: no report.

REMARKS

The arrangement classes, as usual, stressed idea and design rather than the usual specimen form. It is obvious that there is much work to be done to ameliorate the difference in attitude and thereby promote a wider interest in flower shows. Arrangement classes perhaps can do this. The flower arrangers made a creditable effort with some very nice arrangements.

Mr. A. L. Volz of Milwaukee exhibited some excellent specimens in the Open Classes including Pink Formal, Mrs. Livingston Farrand and L. W. Pollock. He also had his recently named seedling, Norma Volz, a beautiful blush double with fine form and good substance.

Mr. Dee Garrison, also from Milwaukee and a first time exhibitor, was thrilled with his accomplishments in the Open Classes. The specimens and ribbon winners included Lora Dexheimer, Mons. Jules Elie and Lovely Rose.

Mr. Theo Mysyk took some ribbons with Elizabeth Huntington and Souvenir de Maxime Cornu. With the wedding of his daughter the second day of the show, we do not know how he had as much time to devote to the show as he did.

This was a well staged show with 960 feet of bench space, cloth-covered benches in brown and green crepe bottle covers. Decorations of natural blooming bushes were at the bench ends and in groups. It made a beautiful show. Thanks to all who participated.

Mrs. D. S. (Hertha) Hyde

NOTE: The thanks of the Society are due Mrs. Hyde for the above report.

JUDGES

PEONIES: Classes 1-26: Samuel E. Wissing, Lombard, Illinois.

27-37: Dr. and Mrs. D. Sanford Hyde, River Forest, Illinois.

ARRANGEMENTS: Mrs. Emil

Walker, Crystal Lake, Illinois.
Clerk to Mr. Wissing: Miss Jane
Hyde, River Forest, Illinois

EXHIBITORS

WISCONSIN

Dee Garrison, Milwaukee
Marvin C. Karrels, Milwaukee
A. L. Volz, Milwaukee

ILLINOIS

Dr. D. Sanford Hyde, River Forest
Ludwin Musialek, Rockford
Theodore R. Mysyk, Hebron
J. Earl Smith, DeKalb
Mrs. Irene Sulka, Wonder Lake

LOCAL

Mrs. Arthur Enerson
Mrs. Mel Fries
Rita Shaw
Cheryl Strohm
Collen Strohm
Julia Tappan

SHOW OFFICERS

General Chairman: Theo. R. Mysyk, Hebron, Illinois
Chairman: Publicity: Roy Noren
Floor: Arthur Enerson
Show: Lyle Trumble
Schedule: Marvin C. Karrels
Secretary: James Hecht, 604
Bunker Ave., Woodstock

40th Annual Exhibition

North Dakota Peony Society

St. Mary's Church Auditorium, Grand Forks, North Dakota

JUNE 27-28, 1963

COURT OF HONOR

GRAND CHAMPION (Best flower in the Show). Dorothy J., George E. Tollefson.

CHAMPIONS:

Double-white: Victory, Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Anderson

Double-flesh: Dorothy J., George E. Tollefson.

Double-light pink: Frances Mains, Walter W. Seidenkranz.

Double-dark pink: Blanche King, Mr. Seidenkranz.

Double-red: Felix Supreme, Mr. Seidenkranz.

Japanese: Nippon Brilliant, Mr. Tollefson.

Single: Seashell, Franklin Page.

Herbaceous hybrid: Red Charm, Mr. Page.

Garden Flower Arrangement: Mrs. Armin Rohde with a hall table arrangement of mock orange.

GROUP A—Amateur Classes

Class 1. One bloom, white, 1st Mrs. Anna Tronson with Kelway's Glorious

2nd, Mrs. William Graham with Baroness Schroeder

Class 2. One bloom, flesh peony.

1st Mrs. Ole Paulson (Crookston, Minn.) with Albert Crousse.

Class 3. One bloom, light pink peony, 1st, Kenneth Hageman of Fargo, with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

2nd, Mrs. Anna Tronson with Minuet

3rd, Mrs. William Graham with Therese.

Class 4. One bloom, dark pink. 1st, Mrs. Clarence G. Olson with Walter Faxon.

Class 5. One bloom, red. 1st. Mrs. Anna Tronson with Karl Rosenfield.

Class 6. One bloom, hybrid, any color. No entries.

Class 7. One bloom, single, any color. 1st, Mrs. Armin Rohde with Sea Shell.

Class 8. One bloom, Japanese, any color. No ribbons awarded.

Class 9. Three blooms, one variety, white. 1st, Kenneth Hageman with Elsa Sass

2nd, Mrs. E. W. Johnson, Crookston, Minn., with Yukon

3rd, Mrs. Anna Tronson with Kelway's Glorious.

Class 10. Three blooms, one variety, flesh. No entries.

Class 11. Three blooms, one variety, light pink. 1st, Kenneth Hageman with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

Class 12. Three blooms one variety, dark pink. No entries.

Class 13. Three blooms, one variety, red. 1st, Mrs. Clarence G. Olson, with Philippe Rivoire.

Class 14. Collection of three named varieties. No entries

Class 15. Six specimen blooms, any one named variety. No entries

GROUP B—Advanced Amateur Classes

Class 16. One bloom, white, named. 1st. Walter Seidenkranz (Moorhead, Minn.) with Amalia Olson.

2nd, Mrs. E. A. Masee (East Grand Forks) with Mrs. J. V. Edlund.

3rd, George Tollefson (Fargo) with Mrs. J. V. Edlund

Class 17. One bloom, flesh, named. 1st, George Tollefson with Dorothy J.

2nd, Donald G. Hoag (Harwood, N.D.) with Alma Hansen

3rd, Martin Lystad with Nancy Nicholls

Class 18. One bloom, light pink, named. 1st, Walter Seidenkranz with Doris Cooper

2nd, Loyde C. Thompson with Minuet

3rd, George Tollefson with Mme. Jules Dessert

Class 19. One bloom, dark pink, named. 1st, George Tollefson with Tondeleyo

2nd, Walter Seidenkranz with Loren Franklin

3rd, Martin Lystad with Blanche King.

Class 20. One bloom, red, named. 1st, Walter Seidenkranz with Felix Supreme

2nd, George Tollefson with Matilda Lewis

3rd, Harold Thomforde (Crook-

ston, Minn.) with Noel

Class 21. One bloom, hybrid, named, any color. 1st, Franklin Page (Hamilton, N.D.) with Red Charm.

2nd, Walter Seidenkranz with Red Charm

3rd, Loyde C. Thompson with Carina.

Class 22. One bloom, single, named, any color. 1st, Franklin Page with Sea Shell

2nd Mrs. E. A. Masee with Sea Shell

3rd. Mrs. V. J. Cranley with Krinkled White

Class 23. One bloom, Japanese named, any color. 1st, George Tollefson with Charm

2nd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde with Plainsman.

3rd, Mrs. J. P. Hemmingsen (McCanna, N.D.) with Plainsman.

Class 24. Three blooms, one variety, white, named. 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Anderson with Victory

2nd, Walter Seidenkranz with Mother's Choice

3rd, Mrs. Carrie Houge with Yukon

Class 25. Three blooms, one variety, flesh, named. 1st, Walter Seidenkranz with Alma Hansen

2nd, Donald G. Hoag with Alma Hansen

3rd, Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Anderson with Dorothy J.

Class 26. Three blooms, one variety, light pink, named. 1st, Walter Seidenkranz with Frances Mains

2nd, Loyde C. Thompson with Minuet

3rd, Mrs. E. A. Masee with Ella Christiansen

Class 27. Three blooms, one variety, dark pink, named. 1st, Walter Seidenkranz with Blanche King

2nd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde with Sarah Barnhardt

3rd, Martin Lystad with Blanche King

Class 28. Three blooms, one variety, red, named. 1st, Walter Seidenkranz with Ruth Elizabeth.

2nd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde with Kansas

3rd, Mrs. E. A. Masee with Kansas

Class 29. Three blooms, one variety, hybrid, named, any color. No entries

Class 20. Three blooms, one variety, single, named, any color, 1st Franklin Page with Sea Shell

2nd, Mrs. E. A. Masee with Krinkled White

3rd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde with Krinkled White

Class 31. Three blooms, one variety, Japanese, named, any color, 1st, Mrs. E. A. Masee with Nippon Brilliant

2nd, George Tollefson with Nippon Brilliant

3rd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde with Plainsman.

Class 32. Collection of three, double, three different varieties, named. 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Anderson with Hansina Brand, Ramona Lins, and Victory

2nd, Loyde C. Thompson with Blanche King, Minuet and Red Charm.

3rd, Martin Lystad with Longfellow, Blanche King and Ramona Lins

Class 33. Collection of three hybrid, three different varieties, named. No entries.

Class 34. Collection of three single, three different varieties, named. No entries

Class 35. Collection of three Japanese, three different varieties, named. 1st, Walter Seidenkranz with Hari-ai-nin, Lotus Queen, and Moon of Nippon.

2nd, George Tollefson with Battle Flag, Nippon Beauty and Charm

Class 38. Collection of five double, five different varieties, named. 1st, Walter Seidenkranz with Victory, Doris Cooper, Moth-

er's Choice, Frances Mains and Alma Hansen

2nd, Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Anderson with Alice Harding, Florence Ellis, Victory, Nancy Nicholls and Hansina Brand.

3rd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde with Kansas Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, LaLorraine, Hansina Brand, and J. C. Nicholls.

Class 37. Collection of five hybrid and/or single, and/or Japanese, five different varieties, named. 1st, Franklin Page with Red Charm, Sea Shell, L'Etincelante, Lady Alexandra Duff and Chocolate Soldier

2nd, Walter Seidenkranz with Hari-ai-nin, Laura Magnuson, Lotus Queen, Nippon Beauty, and Mrs. Wilder Bancroft.

3rd, Ralph Rohde with Plainsman, Red Star, Aureolin, Red Emperor and Krinkled White

Class 38. Collection of ten varieties, one bloom each, named. 1st, Walter Seidenkranz with Thura Hires, Ramona Lins, Felix Supreme, Victory, Ensign Mariarty, Ann Cousins, Blanche King, Nancy Nicholls, Doris Cooper, and Mary Nicholls

2nd, Franklin Page with Sea Shell, Red Charm, Frances Willard, Walter Faxon, Kansas, Festiva Maxima, Dolorodell, Philomele, Albert Crousse, and Mrs. Romaine B. Ware.

3rd, George Tollefson with Big Ben, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Ann Cousins, Kansas, Marilla Beauty, Gene Wild, Sea Shell, Mons. Jules Elie, Minuet and Nick Straylor

Class 39. Collection of fifteen varieties, one bloom each, named. 1st, Walter Seidenkranz with Philippe Rivoire, Alma Hansen, Nancy Nicholls, Red Goddess, Burma, Victory, Lowell Thomas, Valencia, LaLorraine, Minuet, Mattie Lafuze, Baroness Schroeder, Hari-ai-nin, Amalia Olson, and Mrs. J. V. Edlund

2nd, Franklin Page with Philippe Rivoire, Sarah Bernhardt, Walter Faxon, Frances Willard, Sea Shell, Red Charm, Karl Rosenfield, Alice Harding, Dolorodell, Chas. La-
Veque, Milton Hill, Kansas, Boule
de Neige, Albert Crousse, Mrs. Ro-
maine B. Ware

Class 40. Six specimen blooms,
any one variety, named. 1st, Mrs.
Ralph Rohde with Kansas

2nd Martin Lystad with Nancy
Nicholls

3rd, Loyde C. Thompson with
Hansina Brand

Class 41. Seedling. 1st, Mrs.
Ralph Rohde

2nd, Mrs. J. P. Hemmingsen

GROUP C — Garden Flowers and Arrangements

Class 42. Mixed bouquet garden
flowers in a vase or bowl, figures
allowed. 1st, Mrs. James Mathews

2nd Mrs. H. F. Smith

3rd, Mrs. Charles Gothberg

Class 43. Artstic arrangement
garden flowers, no figures or orna-
ments, 1st Mrs. H. F. Smith

2nd, Mrs. Anna Tronson.

Class 44. Artistic arrangement
peonies without other flowers or
foliage. Vase not to exceed 12" in
height. 1st, Mrs. H. F. Smith

2nd, Mrs. Armin Rohde

3rd, Mrs. Loran Hendrickson

Class 45. Arrangements in odd
or unusual container, 1st, Mrs.
Carrie Houge

2nd, Mrs. Paul Vaaler

3rd, Mrs. Armin Rohde

Class 46. Arrangement featuring
drift wood, 1st, Mrs. Trude Bul-
lard

2nd, Mrs. James Matthews

Class 47. Old fashioned nosegay.
No entries

Class 48. Arrangement of fresh
fruits and flowers or fresh fruits
and foliage, figures allowed. 1st,
Mrs. H. F. Smith

2nd, Mrs. Trudie Bullard

Class 49. Centerpiece arrange-

ment, accessories allowed. 1st, Mrs.
Carrie Houge

2nd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde

3rd, Mrs. John D. Wood

Class 50. Arrangement for hall
table, back to wall. 1st Mrs. Armin
Rohde

2nd, Mrs. John D. Wood

3rd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde

Class 51. Arrangement for spec-
ial occasion such as shower, child's
birthday party, etc. 1st, Mrs. Ar-
min Rohde

2nd, Mrs. Trudie Bullard

3rd, Mrs. E. W. Johnson

Class 52. Miniature bouquet. Not
over 4" with container. 1st, Diane
Zeuty (Grand Forks Air Force
Base)

2nd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde

3rd, Mrs. Robert Lander.

Class 53. Arrangement in cup
and saucer. 1st, Mrs. Trudie Bul-
lard

2nd, Mrs. H. F. Smith

3rd, Mrs. Leo LaBelle

Class 54. Japanese arrangement.
1st, Mrs. Robert Lander

2nd, Mrs. Ralph Asleson

3rd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde

Class 55. Unusual arrangement
not covered in above classes. 1st,
Mrs. Edward Zeuty (Grand Forks
Air Force Base)

2nd, Mrs. James Mathews

Class 56. Collection of delphin-
ium. 1st Mrs. Robert Lander

2nd, Mrs. Edgar Masee

Class 57. Collection of roses. 1st
Mrs. Edgar Masee

2nd, Mrs. Ralph Asleson

3rd, Mrs. H. F. Smith

Class 58. Collection of daisies.
1st, Mrs. H. F. Smith

2nd Mrs. Ralph Rohde

3rd, Mrs. Honore Oslon

Class 59. Collection of pansies
or violas, 1st, Mrs. Charles Goth-
berg.

Class 60. Collection of lilies. 1st,
Mrs. H. F. Smith

Class 61. Collection of Sweet Wil-
liam. No entries

Class 62. Collection of columbine, 1st, Mrs. H. F. Smith

2nd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde

Class 63. Collection of poppies.
No entries

Class 64. Collection of iris. 1st, Mrs. Ralph Rohde.

Class 65. Collection of petunias. 1st, Mrs. Charles Gothberg

Class 66. Collection of African violets, one to three plants. No entries

Collection of house plants, one to three plants. No entries.

SWEEPSTAKES

PEONIES: Walter W. Seidenkranz. Silver cup from 1st National Bank.

GARDEN FLOWERS: Mrs. H. F. Smith. Silver cup from Mr. and Mrs. Loyde C. Thompson.

SPECIAL CITATION

Special Honorable Mention to Mrs. Edward E. Grant of Grand Forks Air Force Base for a Japanese display.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Grand Champion trophy given by E. J. Lander Company won by George E. Tollefson.

Founders' Traveling Trophy given by Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, won by Kenneth Hageman for best flower shown by an exhibitor from outside Grand Forks or East Grand Forks.

Five dollar root for best flower shown by a first year exhibitor won by Walter W. Seidenkranz.

GARDEN FLOWERS: Entries 94; exhibitors 23.

PEONY DIVISION: Entries 211; Exhibitors 22.

TOTAL ENTRIES: 305; Exhibitors 45.

JUDGES

PEONIES: Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, Grand Forks.

GARDEN FLOWERS: Mrs. Ted Drengson, McCanna.

PERSONNEL

General Chairman: Mrs. Ralph W. Asleson.

Registration: Mrs. Loyde C. Thompson.

Decorations. Donald G. Hoag.

Floor. Mrs. John A. McDonald, Chairman and Assistants: Mrs. Edward L. Olson, Mrs. Robert Vaaler, Mrs. Honor Rovelstad, Mrs. Duane Fossum, Mrs. Jack Hagerty, Mrs. Robert Lander and Mrs. Glenn Cunningham.

Finance: Loyde C. Thompson.

Garden Flower Registration. Miss Edna Thompson

Exhibits: Mrs. Robert C. Fischer.

Entries from Grand Forks Air Force Base: Mrs. Charles Brannon.

Staging: W. B. Johnson

Properties: Homer Abbott.

Helpers: Girls from the Kitchen Kitten 4-H Club: Misses Sarah Chambers, Vonnie Blair, Caroline Holte, Nancy Eastburn and JoAnn Paulson.

NEW MEMBERS

Henry C. Arno, 1002 Drexel Ave., San Antonio, Tex. 78210.

Crawford F. Barnett, M.D., 2628 Rivers Rd., N.W., Atlanta 5, Georgia. 30305.

Mrs. H. Guy Brown, New Springfield, Ohio. 44443.

Matthias P. Harpin, Box 586, Peekskill, N.Y. 10566.

Johnson Lawn and Garden Store, 469 Dayton Avenue, Xenia, Ohio. 45385.

Mrs. Luke Robinson, 2514 West Avenue K., San Angelo, Texas. 78170.

B. G. Roskopp, 10473 Story Book Drive, Cincinnati 42, Ohio. 45242.

Harold Siegel, 1214 Title Insurance Bldg., Minneapolis 1, Minnesota. 55401.

Mrs. Nelson V. Sutphen, 4 Marie Drive, Somerville, N.J. 08876.

TREE PEONIES

Leo J. Armatys, Central City, Nebraska

To quote from a recent article in a leading garden magazine, the tree peony is a garden sensation. "Why didn't someone tell me?" was the author's reaction to the fact that she planted her first tree peony just a year or so ago. Charted in graph form, the history of tree peony popularity is a wavy series of highs and lows. The new high now building rests on a firm foundation. The continuing publicity is reaching serious gardeners, into whose hands we are willing to entrust Moutan's future.

CONTEST NEWS:

Delay in publishing the June Bulletin left less than two weeks for entries to meet our August 15 deadline. Gremlins in the linotype room provided more complications. How could I ask for a list of 5 *tree* peonies, and specify that at least one tree peony and one herbaceous hybrid be included? Each member who submitted an entry despite these obstacles will receive a small division of the first prize albi-lobata hybrid.

While the number of entries was disappointing, quality was good. Some of the descriptive comments that formed a part of each entry were more informative than lengthier descriptions used by some nurseries.

THE LIST:

Some excellent tree peony cultivars won't appear in the new "recommended" list. Most growers give highest ranking to older varieties. Moutan improves with age. Later lists will include a number of the newer varieties now being tested or in limited supply:

GROWING HINTS:

Don't wait for symptoms of Botrytis, the gray mold blight. It can cause stems to die back in similar manner to those on some recent transplants. Spray with Bordeaux mixture in the spring and repeat several times during the growing season.

PLANTING SIZES:

1 year plants—Don't bother with them. Let nurserymen absorb the

heavier death loss common to first year grafts.

2 to 3 year plants—If you are buying a number of tree peonies, this may be your best buy. A majority will live, and in three years will be as large as most five year olds planted at the same time.

4 to 7 year plants—Still less chance of death loss. All should have developed "own roots", and, having bloomed in the nursery, you can be sure of getting the exact variety ordered.

8 year and older plants—These are the specimens. They have made the crucial go or no-go decision under the watchful eye of a specialist, and are certain to live if reasonable care is exercised in transplanting. They may or may not hold their old wood—stems over a year old. Some experts recommend cutting back old wood to the crown. I prefer to leave most of it. The root system knows its own strength. If the old stems do die back, remove them and you have lost nothing that can't be regained within a fairly short time.

INFORMATION PLEASE:

Shall we stage another Contest? What changes would you suggest in the rules, prizes, etc.? Comments from members will help us decide whether or not more contests should be scheduled.

COMING SOON:

Progress report on *P. suffruticosa*, var. J. F. Rock.

Effect of micronized iron on established plantings.

NISSHO re-evaluated.

And more—about tree peonies!
EDITORIALLY SPEAKING:

Old tree peonies, like old soldiers, never die. Some of the younger ones just fade away. Let them go! This ancient plant is a prime example of nature's first law—survival of the fittest. If the young plant senses something within itself or its environment that will prevent it from attaining perfection at maturity, it will go underground. Slowly, deliberately, it will take another reading of its complex components, then make an irrevocable decision. It will die, or it will go into a state of semi-dormancy until its root system builds up a reservoir of strength to enable the plant to burst forth with renewed vigor. Let it make that decision alone.

Without attributing immortality to the tree peony, it does appear that outside factors cause the eventual death of this plant. Gardeners limit its life span when they choose its planting location. Some tree peonies are older at 50 years of age than others at 100. It would be impractical to set aside a space 30 feet in diameter, prepare the entire area as you should prepare a planting hole (but more deeply), set your plant in the center, provide a bit of shade, and furnish wind protection above average height. But if you did, symptoms of senility wouldn't appear until its roots were probing beyond the boundaries of the planting area.

Referring to the Tree Peony article by Mr. Armatys in the June Bulletin, we regret that we failed to erase the word 'tree' in the Prize Contest Rules (a), page 40.

Also we should like to see the article on the White House garden which Mr. Armatys said would appear in the August issue of the *Flower Grower*. So far we have

been unable to locate a copy.

And what about the green tree peony?

NEW TREE PEONY BOOK

THE MOUTAN OR TREE PEONY, Hawarth-Booth, Michael. 106 pages, illustrated, bibliography. St. Martin's Press, New York, 1963. \$3.95.

Reviewed by Elizabeth Hill in *The Garden Journal* of the New York Botanical Garden, September-October issue, 1963; page 193, as follows: "This excellent little book by one of England's great plantmen is dedicated to Silvia Saunders 'in appreciation of her great work for the Tree Peonies, carrying on that of her father, the late A. P. Saunders.' Mr. Haworth-Booth, well known in this country and abroad for his *The Hydrangeas* (3rd ed., Constable, 1959) has again produced an important monograph on the subject of tree peonies. Among his American fellow-horticulturists to whom he pays tribute is Henry F. duPont, who took over to the Chelsea Flower Show in 1962 a collection of American varieties of tree peonies, which was awarded the Lindley Silver Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society."

NOTE: See Bulletins Nos. 166 (September, 1962), 169 (June, 1963) and 170 (September, 1963) for accounts of this show and awards won by the exhibitors. This book may be obtained from The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York 58, N.Y., for \$3.95—*Editor*

The August, 1963 issue of the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* contains a review of *The Peonies* by Sir Frederick C. Stern.

If we can get permission to publish it, we shall probably do so in a future Bulletin.

THE GOD OF COLOR

Anthony J. De Blasi
Floral Park, New York

It is a pity that the Greeks and Romans did not have a God of Color; festivals to that god could have been magnificent. It seems to me that color would have been worthy of the honor, since it is one of the world's most important and enticing visual phenomena. (Would we be the same creatures without the stimulation and extra information color gives?) Of course, my mythical God of Color has been recognized and celebrated for centuries by *Paeonia moutan*.

In quiet splendor it has shed its jewelled light for time immemorial, scattering white light rays into spectral tangents beyond the rainbow. What I mean is that in the tree peony, nature (no doubt aided by ages of patient selection by Chinese and Japanese horticulturists) has taken color for an extraordinary ride of experiments.

And the result is sheer delight. The beauty of *moutan's* sparkling colors is not a luxury for the eyes of ancient oriental aristocrats to behold (as indeed it once was) but for us, here and now; every May.

It just isn't possible to describe these colors. Nor will you ever see them even in the best of color photographs; no film will reproduce the hues as they really are. (The author knows whereof he speaks, having recently arrived at the end of his wits trying to find the right combination of film and light to do the tree peony justice. He has even gotten himself accused by a representative of Eastman Kodak of trying to record subtleties of color beyond the scope of color film to register.)

Rather than present a straight recitation of the tree peony's range of colors, which admittedly is impressive, but rather dry and uninformative, I shall instead leave the

reader with a semi-poetic hint of this range. I take my cue from the Japanese, who understood the power of suggestion long before Freud (hence such names for tree peonies as: "Palace of Violet Light" . . . "Kingdom of the Moon" . . . "Ashes of the Setting Sun" . . .)

. . . the shimmering, serene white of Gessekai, whose purity speaks of another world . . . the strange gray-lavender of Kamada-fuji that hints of sacred origins . . . the imperious, deep purple of Rimpō, telling us of treasure chests in ancient Chinese castles . . . the incredible mahogany-maroon of Kokuko-no-tsukasa, giving no clue to the sorcerer who invented him . . . the vibrant red of Taiyo, telling of great ruby quarries in a land of eternal sunlight . . . the radiant pink of Sakura-gasane, speaking of volcanoes that spew nothing but molten rose quartz . . . the ethereal, soft yellow of Mine d'Or, rising from the pearly golden mists of a heavenly waterfall. . .

Harmonious madness, Shelley might say. But where mere words limp, the imagination must take over. We owe to this poet, incidentally, one of the world's most beautiful images:

*"Life, like a dome of many-coloured glass,
Stains the white radiance of
Eternity . . ."*

I have never been closer to this dome's panes of glass as I have been while gazing at tree peonies in May.

Some of our members send us articles for publication, that originally appeared in other publications. Many of these are by-line articles and most of them are copyrighted. This being so we must obtain permission to publish them. If not copyrighted, courtesy demands that we get this permission.

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES OF TREE PEONIES

This list is compiled from five sent in by Mr. Smirnow and were from: 1. Louis Smirnow; 2. John R. Lambert; 3. Leo J. Armatays; 4. John C. Wister; 5. Harold E. Wolfe. It contains only those that appeared on two or more lists, the number of lists is given last. No type is given as it varies with the season and location. No time of bloom is given. It begins about a week after the earliest herbaceous hybrids and the hybrids overlap the early lactifloras.

They are listed alphabetically by colors which are those given in the Tree Peony Monograph now incorporated in The Peonies, or in Bulletin No. 95. Marked differences may be noted. The spelling is also that used in The Peonies. The originator or introducer and date are given when known. Those marked J came originally from Japan. The date given with these indicates that they were known before that date.

I. WHITE

- Bijou de Chusan (China-Fortune 1846) 2.
Flora (Japan-Siebold. Krelage, 1867). 2.
Fuji-no-akebono (J. 1929). 2.
Gabisan (J. 1898). 2.
Gessekai (J. 1929). 5.
Godaishu (J. 1931). 3.
Haku-banriu (J. 1898). 2.
Hira-no-uki (J. 1934). 2.
Imachowkow (J. 1929). 2.
Kamakaze (Kamakase). (Syn. Jimpu). J. (No year). 2.
Renkaku (J. 1931). 4.
Suisho-haku (J. 1919). 2.
Tama-sudare (J. 1931). 2.
Yaso-okina (J. 1933). 2.

II. PINK.

- Akashi-gata (J. 1893). 3.
Hana-kisoi (J. 1929). 5.
Jeanne d'Arc (Seneclass before 1888). 2. (Salmon).

- Sakura-gasane (J. 1924). 2.
Shuchiuka (J. 1909). 3. Listed as white in The Peonies.

- Suigan (J. 1931). 3.
Tama-fuyo (J. 1919). 3.
Terute-nishiki (J. 1917). 2.
Yachyo-tsubaki (J. 1931). 3.
(Yachiyo-tsubaki)

III. ROSE RED

- Higurashi (J. 1929). 2.
Hinode-sekai (J. 1931). 3.
Hodai (J. 1931). 2.
Kagura-jishi (J. 1926).
Reine Elizabeth (Casoretti before 1846). 3.

IV. SCARLET

- Hatsu-hinode (J. 1926). 2.
Jitsu-getsu-nishiki (J. 1927). 3.
Kin-ka-den (J. 1934). 3.
Nissho (J. 1934). 2.
Taiyo (J. 1931). 2. (Taiyo Sun in The Peonies).

V. RED

- Black Pirate (Saunders, 1935). 4.
Hybrid.
Hatsu-garashu (J. 1929). 3.
Kokko-shi (J. 1929). 3. (Black red).
Kokko-no-tsukasa (J. 1931). 2.
(Black red).
Kuro-botan (J. 1896). 3. (Black Peony).
Satin Rouge (Lemoine, 1926). 2.
Hybrid.
Shugyo-kuden (J. 1919). 2. (Shuy-go-kuden in The Peonies).
Sumi-no-ichi (J. 1926). 2.
Thunderbolt (Saunders, 1948).
Hybrid. 2.
Ubatama (J. 1921). 3. (Syn. Hatsu-garashu). Ubatama means Pitch Black.

VI. PURPLE

- Koku-ryn-nishiki (J. 1905). 2.
Rimpo (J. 1926). 3.
Souvenir de Ducher (Ducher, before 1889). 2.

VII. MAGENTA

- Esu-gata (J. 1926). 2 Also listed as Lilac Rose VIII by some.
Kamada-fuji (J. 1893). 3. Various-ly listed as Smokey Lavender, Bluish Pink, Lilac or Lavender.

Also considered the nearest to Blue in a peony. The name means Wisteria at Kamada.

VIII. LILAC ROSE.

See Esu-gata under VII. Magenta.

Note: All listed under IX. Yellow and X. Yellow with reddish tones are hybrids of *lutea* or *delavayi* and *suffruticosa* (moutan).

IX. YELLOW.

Age of Gold (Saunders, 1948-50). 2

Alice Harding (Lemoine, 1936). 3.

Argosy (Saunders, 1928). 3.

Canary (Saunders, 1940). 2.

Chromatella (Lemoine, 1928). 4.

High Noon (Saunders, 1952). 3.

L'Esperance (Lemoine, 1909). 3.

Roman Gold (Saunders, 1941). 3.

Silver Sails (Saunders, 1940). 3.

X. YELLOW WITH REDDISH TONES

Angelet (Saunders, 1952). 2.

Chinese Dragon (Saunders, 1950).

3.

Souvenir de Maxime Cornu (Henry 1897, also given as 1920). 2.

LISTED ON ONLY ONE LIST

Note: 83 other varieties appeared on only one list each. See Bulletin No. 170, September, 1963, for list. Price 50c.

I. WHITE

Daigyo-kuden (Daigo or Daisy)
No date.

Fuso-no-tsukasa (J. 1931).

Fuji-oe-ryo (J. 1931)

Gekkyu-den (J. 1910)

Hakuo-jishi (J. 1910)

Haku-gan (J. 1898)

Haru-no-akebono (J. 1929). IX
Yellow in B. 95.

Horen (Howren). (Chugai 1935-40). IX in B. 95, III. in The Peonies.

Kabuki. No data. Not listed in The Peonies.

Kinnipaiseten (Kimpaiseten). (J. 1913)

Okina-jishi (J. 1926).

Shiro-tae (J. 1931).

Tatio-shishi (J. 1938).

Tose-haku (J. 1929).

Yaso-no-mine (J. 1930).

Yuki-zaza (Yuki-zasa). (J. 1931)

II. PINK

Osaka-Akashi-gata. No data.

Akatsuki-no-uki (Chugai 1929-35)

Aya-goromo (J. 1937).

Danten-mon (Chugai, 1932).

Daio (Daioh). (J. 1931). VII in
The Peonies.

Dokushin-den (J. 1913).

Doun (J. 1931)

Howzan (Hozan) (J. 1934).

Kasumi-gaseki (J. 1929).

Hana-Kurabe (J. 1926).

Momo-yama (J. 1931).

Saigyo-zakura (J. 1893).

Shin-tenchi (J. 1931).

Shujakumon (J. 1932).

Yachyo-jishi (J. 1910).

(Yachiyo-jishi)

III. ROSE RED

Beni-tsukasa (J. 1919).

Dai-kagura (J. 1896).

Dohun (J. 1937).

Ima-shojo (Imo-shojo) (J. 1931).

Mikasa-yama (J. 1902).

Mikuni-no-homare (J. 1926).

Miyo-no-hikare (J. 1936).

Ukare-jishi (Ukara-jishi) (J.
1919).

IV. SCARLET

Adzuma-shibori (J. 1909).

Hino-tsukasa (J. 1931).

Hiryo (J. 1896).

Impu-mon (Chugai, 1932).

Kimpikurin (No data).

Kumono-nishiki (J. 1893).

Mikado-nishiki (J. 1929).

Nishiki-no-tsuya (J. 1931).

Ryukimon (J. 1932). (Ryokimon).

Teikwan (Teikan) (J. 1931).

Yo-mei-mon (J. 1929).

V. RED

Aboukin (J. 1896)

Black Douglas (Saunders, 1948).
Hybrid.

Black Panther (Saunders, 1948).
Hybrid.

Koko-mon (Chugai, 1932). (Kokamon).

Koku-tsuru (J. 1938).

Ori-hime (J. 1931).

Osiris (China-Fortune, 1864).

Shogun (J. 1931).

VI. PURPLE

Fuyo-ren (J. 1929). (Fuyorem).
Gumpo-den (J. 1929).
Hana-daigin (J. 1910).
Horaku-mon (Chugai 1932-40).
Kenrei-mon (Chugai 1932).
Ruriban (J. 1893).
Shun-koden (J. 1939).
Taisho-no-hokori (J. 1931).

VII. MAGENTA.

Princess (Saunders, 1941).
Shiko-den (J. 1926).

VIII. LILAC ROSE

Muehnsai (No data).

IX. YELLOW. All Hybrids

Amber Moon (Saunders, 1948).
Daffodil (Saunders, 1948).
Eldorado (Lemoine, 1949).
Festival (Saunders, 1941).
Golden Bowl (Saunders, 1948).
La Lorraine (Lemoine, 1913).
Mine d'Or (Lemoine, 1941).
Narcissus (Saunders, 1941).

X. YELLOW with reddish tones

All Hybrids

Apricot (Saunders, 1948-50).
Aurore (Lemoine, 1936).
Harvest (Saunders, 1944-50).
Mme. Louis Henry (Henry, 1920).
Spring Carnival (Saunders, 1944).
Surprise (Lemoine, 1920).

SPELLING JAP PEONY NAMES

It seems impossible to arrive at the correct way in which to spell the names of the tree peonies brought in from Japan. Note the different spellings of the ones above.

The matter was referred to Dr. Wister, who probably has made every effort to use the correct way. He tells us that when he prepared his list, he got the best advice he could get from various scholars at the University of Pennsylvania and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and mostly they did not agree among themselves. He adds that there is no consistency at all in the Japanese catalogs.

However to be as consistent as possible, we have used the spelling

in The Peonies in the peony articles appearing in the Bulletin as a general thing. This has often meant changing it in the manuscripts submitted, though this was not always done.

PEONY NOTES

One of our Japanese friends frequently sends us copies of a Japanese publication, which being printed in Japanese, we cannot read. However, he sometimes writes out the translation of parts of it. One came a few days ago on one cover page of which there were excellent color pictures of two tree peonies with a young Japanese lady admiring them. One is labelled 'Kokaman' (spelled 'Koko-mon' in The Peonies, in which it is listed as crimson, but appears to be a dark pink or rose red in the picture). The second one is labelled 'Shokkonishiki' and is a white tinged reddish in the center. In The Peonies this is spelled 'Shokko-nishiki' or 'Shokko-no-nishiki' and is said to be crimson. In Bulletin No. 95 it is listed as rose red and is spelled 'Shoko-nishi'. The pictures were taken at Botan En Nursery, Yamamoto, Takasazukashi, Hyogo-ken, Japan.

The sender was Mr. Eikichi Satomi, 342 Unane, Setagaya-Ku Tokyo. Probably the most beautiful Christmas card received last Christmas was from him.

Many requests are received for sources of supply of certain varieties of peonies. Since only a few of our members who grow peonies for sale ever send us their price lists or catalogs, we are quite restricted in our recommendations. Naturally we then recommend those growers who do send us their lists or who advertise in the Bulletin or the Handbook. If you issue a list, and ship outside your local area, please send us a copy. It might be to your advantage.

The Brand Peony Farm Show

This annual show was held June 8-23, in the show room on their farm, Fairbault, Minnesota. For beauty and quality of bloom, few shows can equal it. Fresh flowers were brought in every day to keep the show in the best condition.

In spite of the freakish weather experienced this year, the reports received indicate it was as good or even better than usual.

Over four hundred of the finest varieties are grown on this place and visitors can see most of them when at their best. The collection includes many of the herbaceous hybrids as well as the lactifloras. So far no tree peonies are grown.

For the benefit of those who wish to see what peonies do in the garden, a large exhibition garden is maintained close by the show room. This saves much rough walking through long rows in the fields, in search of some particular variety.

The following letter from Mr. R. W. Tischler, one of the owners, gives us some details of the weather they experienced and of the show and a few of the varieties shown.

August 7, 1963

Dear My Peyton:

I have been putting off this letter writing too long now. If I don't finish it now, the fall digging will catch me and I never will get it done.

This past spring was a strange one. We had a hard frost May 20-21st and some varieties in some of the fields did not bloom at all. The buds that were just right for the frost really got hit.

We set our opening show date for June 8th. From June 1st on, it was cold and rainy. We were about to reset our show dates. The plants in our show bed were beautiful, very tall and strong. Minuet

stood as tall as I. We had some blooms along with some Iris to make the opening weekend. The next week, Friday, a strong wind tore through the show beds twisting the bushes about. This was followed by heavy rains which helped further to knock the plants down. We spent many hours tying the bushes up and getting the show bed to look as well as possible. As we had been cutting blooms during the week and putting them in the cooler, we had a fine weekend show in our buildings.

Teh next week was very hot and humid and the blooms did not stand up. In fact, some of the blooms came and went so fast that I now notice very few varieties had time to set seed.

Also this crazy weather caused a jumbled up blooming period. Many of the late varieties bloomed way ahead of some of the early ones. Never knew just what varieties to look for when one went about the fields. Considering the weather about the rest of the country, I guess we were not too bad off. Plenty of people visited the show and all seemed well satisfied.

Some reports have come in to us of winter losses of '62-'63. We came through well. I think our plants looked better than ever. Lately we have had dry-hot-humid weather. One just can't feel like doing any work about the place. I suppose at digging time we will get plenty of rain. Mr. Neilson spent most of one day here and we spent much of it in the show patch.

Some of our seedlings showed up fine and others we will have to wait for another year. We have some fine Japs coming on and some new doubles. Some of the Franklin seedlings showed well—one of which we have named—and the Hopkins seedlings were good,

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large blooms and strong, stiff stems. We are hoping to place some of these on the market soon. Oliver Brand was excellent, wish I had more stock of it. Many others out-did themselves and others did not come up to standard.

We are enclosing a description of two seedlings which we would like to register. One, Franklin's seeding No. 471, we are naming for our sister. I know you are familiar with this variety. The other, a very striking Jap variety, we are naming for Archie's grandson. Others will follow as soon as we can build up stocks. We have many more selected that we feel are very good.

Also the seedling so called "Peyton's Place" and Fantastic showed up very well.

Very truly yours,
BRAND PEONY FARMS
R. W. Tischler

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

The following cultivars (varieties), whose names have been approved by the Nomenclature Committee are presented for registration.

By Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minnesota, originators and owners

TERRY GRUDEM (Brand Peony Farms, 1963) J. M. Bright red. Parentage not known. Seedling no. not given. Midseason Japanese type. Bright red in color. Staminoles a matching red, tipped light yellow. Plants tall, bright green foliage. Strong stems bearing many beautiful blooms. Blooms 7 to 8 inches in size. A standout variety in the show field.

A living memorial in the form of a peony has been named after Terry Grudem, the fifteen year old grandson of the Archie Tischlers,

who passed away on May 21 in Minneapolis. Terry was the son of the Donald Grudems, who are former Faribault residents, Mrs. Grudem being the former "Tiny" Tischler. The peony is a deep red color with yellow stamens, a Japanese variety.

—Faribault, Minnesota, *Daily News*, June 15, 1963

By A. B. Franklin, deceased, and Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minnesota, owners and growers.

MYRTLE TISCHLER (Brand Peony Farms, A. B. Franklin, 1963) D. M. DP. Seedling No. 471. Parentage unknown. A very large flower, excellent deep rose pink. Blooms 9 to 10 inches across. Full double, opening out into a rather flat bloom, which is carried on a tall strong stem. Plant 36 to 38 inches high. Bright green foliage. Midseason.

NOTE: The variety registered above as Myrtle Tischler is well known and quite widely grown under its seedling No. 471. Those who have visited the Minneapolis shows may have seen it in many prize winning collections. Please note its name and do not show or sell it under its number.

By Mrs. H. Guy (Katherine) Brown, New Springfield, Ohio, 44443, originator and owner.

TEENIE WEENIE (Brown, 1963). J. M. LP. Seedling No. 43. Parentage unknown. A real miniature flower with blooms about two inches in diameter and plant about 18 inches tall, small leaves, blooms in midseason. It is a true Japanese type with medium light pink guards, staminodes same color suffused white, pointed tips and stigmas same shade of pink. Awarded the Myron D. Bigger Plaque at Kingwood Center, June 8, 1963. for the best and most distinctive new peony shown.

OBITUARIES



William Sheraden Bockstoce (1876-1963)

With the passing of Mr. Bockstoce at his home, 2803 Bergman St., Pittsburgh, Penna., on September 4, 1963, after a long illness, the Society has lost one of its most distinguished hybridists and valuable members.

He was born at Castle Shannon, Pittsburgh, on October 2, 1876, and was the grandson of the founder of the community in which he lived, William Sheraden. He was educated at Pittsburgh Academy.

On June 4, 1904, he married Miss Jean E. Jackson who with a cousin, Mrs. Sara Sterling, survives him.

He was one of the founders of the Sheraden Building and Loan Association and served as its secretary for sixty years. Until his retirement in 1951, he was an active building contractor.

His horticultural interests were

quite varied. While we know him best as a hybridizer of peonies, yet he was much interested in growing foreign plants, wild flowers and flowering crab apples.

He was a member of several horticultural societies. He joined the American Peony Society in 1921. His church affiliation was with the Sheraden Community Presbyterian Church of which he was a member for more than fifty years. He was also a member of the Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M.

For more than thirty years he has been actively engaged in hybridizing peonies. He seems to have used only varieties of *officinalis* and *lactiflora* in his work. For some years he has forced *lactifloras* into earlier bloom by planting them in a cold frame. He has named and introduced 16 varieties. The first was introduced in 1933

and the last in 1962. Of these 14 are double, one semi-double and one single. Seven are pink and nine red. Probably the two best known are Diana Parks and Carol. Both are noted for their brilliance of coloring.

Many of us have had the privilege of knowing him personally and meeting him at several of our annual meetings. The last one he attended was at Van Wert in 1960, where he had the pleasure of seeing his variety, Carol, the sensation of the show. Since Mr. Bockstoce did not enter any class, Carol did not receive any official recognition. Many thought it the finest flower there.

At the Cleveland Exhibition in 1951. Mr. Bockstoce was awarded an Honorable Mention for his seedling No. 10-E-6, a full double deep crimson. Its parentage is given as a double white *lactiflora* x *Officinalis Rubra*. Doubtless this has since been named, but as we do not know the seedling numbers of any of his named varieties, we cannot say which one this is.

A complete list of his named varieties is here given. The descriptions are taken from his own given in the registration descriptions or those in the Gist Check List, Bulletins Nos. 91 and 129 or from a list sent in 1958.

* * *

ORIGINATIONS OF W. S. BOCKSTOCE

NOTE: All these are hybrids of *Officinalis Rubra* and some *lactiflora* variety.

Anna M. Smith (1935). S. E. R. Early red single. Note: This is the description and name of this variety sent in by Mr. Bockstoce himself and also so described in the Gist Check List. We note it listed in the only price list in which we have seen it as Annie M. Smith and described as a new, double, bomb type. Attractive light pink.

Bess Bockstoce (1955). D. E. LP. Medium height, good stem, light showy pink.

Carol (1955). D. E. R. Bright red double, rose center, good stems, medium height.

Diana Parks (1942). D. E. R. About 42" tall, pleasing fragrance. Single row of guard petals surrounding center of lacinated petals around the base, full uniform petals throughout the balance of the flower. Texture and color splendid, brilliant red.

Edgar Jessep (1958). D. E. R. Large brilliant red double, medium height, rose center.

Emmeline Sellers (1962). D. E. R. Rose centered bright red double with heavy stems and a large flower.

Hazel Dolence (1962). D. E. DP. Full double, rose center, good stems, average sized flower, dark pink.

Henry Bockstoce (1955). D. E. R. Tall, dark red double, rose center, strong stems.

Hi-Mabel (1961). D. E. P. Double, early, rose center, brilliant bright pink.

Howard R. Watkins (1947). D. VE. R. Medium height, large bright red. Strong stems, no stamens, carpels tipped pink. Double. Note: This was named for a Department of Agriculture chemist who was also a former secretary of the American Iris Society.

Jean E. Bockstoce (1933). D. E. R. Double early bright red. Note: Mr. Bockstoce's description only says red bomb. Bulletins 91 and 129 say bright red. Other description says lustrous dark red bomb.

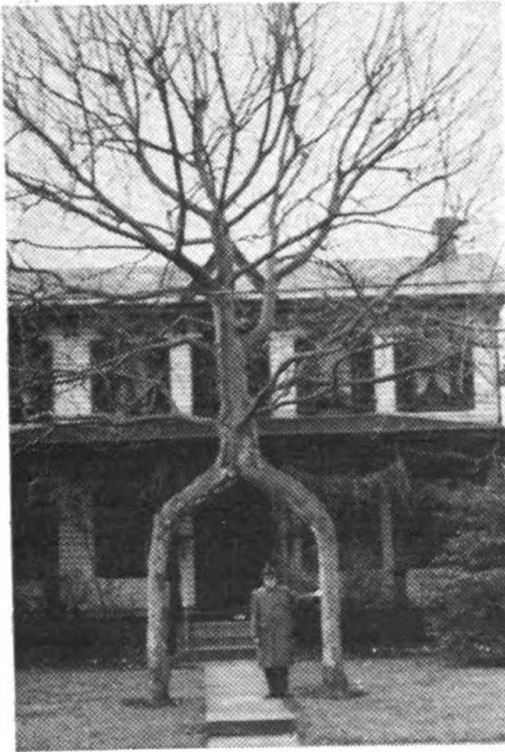
Langley (1955). SD. E. P. Medium height, cup shaped semi-double, pink.

Marjorie Horrell (1961). D. E. P. Double, rose center, early, bright pink. Note: We find it listed as Marjorie Harrell, but Mr. Bockstoce's spelling is Horrell.

Mary E. Hall (1935). D. E. P. Early double pink bomb. Note: Also listed as Mary E. Hale and Bulletin 91 says 1933 and red, but this was an error.

Two-In-One (1955). D. E. R. Four or more feet high, thick stems, large flat flower composed of two blooms in one with two complete sets of petals, stamens and stigmas.

William Sheraden (1955). D. E. P. Tall, light pink double, good stems and flowers 6 to 7 inches in diameter.



**Grafted Sycamore Tree(s)
Entrance to Bockstoce Residence**

RICHARD N. MAXWELL

It is with much regret that we report the death of Mr. Maxwell. While not many of us have had the privilege of knowing him personally, yet he had been a valued correspondent of a number of our members and since he became a member of this Society in 1948, he has contributed several valuable articles to the Bulletin.

Our sincere sympathy is extended his family and friends. The following short account of his life was sent us by his daughter, Mrs. Ruth M. Burbank for which we thank her.

Richard N. Maxwell, Old Hundred Lane, Middleton, Mass., died Wednesday, Sept. 25, 1963, after an illness of nearly a year. Born in Marmot, N.D., he came East as a child where he eventually found his love for flowers while working in the greenhouse of his employer. That love stayed with him through his entire life. Written in the peony diary for 1963, which he kept every year were these words by Edgar A. Guest:

“ . . . Life seems to lose the dead weight of its gloom
In those wonderful weeks when the peonies bloom.”

Because of his ill health, these words must have expressed his feelings perfectly.

He has resided in Middleton for the past forty years, and has raised peonies during the entire time.

His survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Burbank, a son, Raymond R. Maxwell, 2 sisters, Mrs. Alice Brock, and Mrs. Zora Bigelow, 8 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

Many of you have been regular correspondents of Mr. Maxwell's for several years. He has found his release from pain—in peace.

(Knowing he could not get better, he asked that his peony friends be notified. This is the only way I know to do it.—Mrs. Ruth M. Burbank)

ERROR

How many of our readers caught the error in the June Bulletin in which we published a picture of an oriental poppy for a peony? No one has called our attention to it to date.

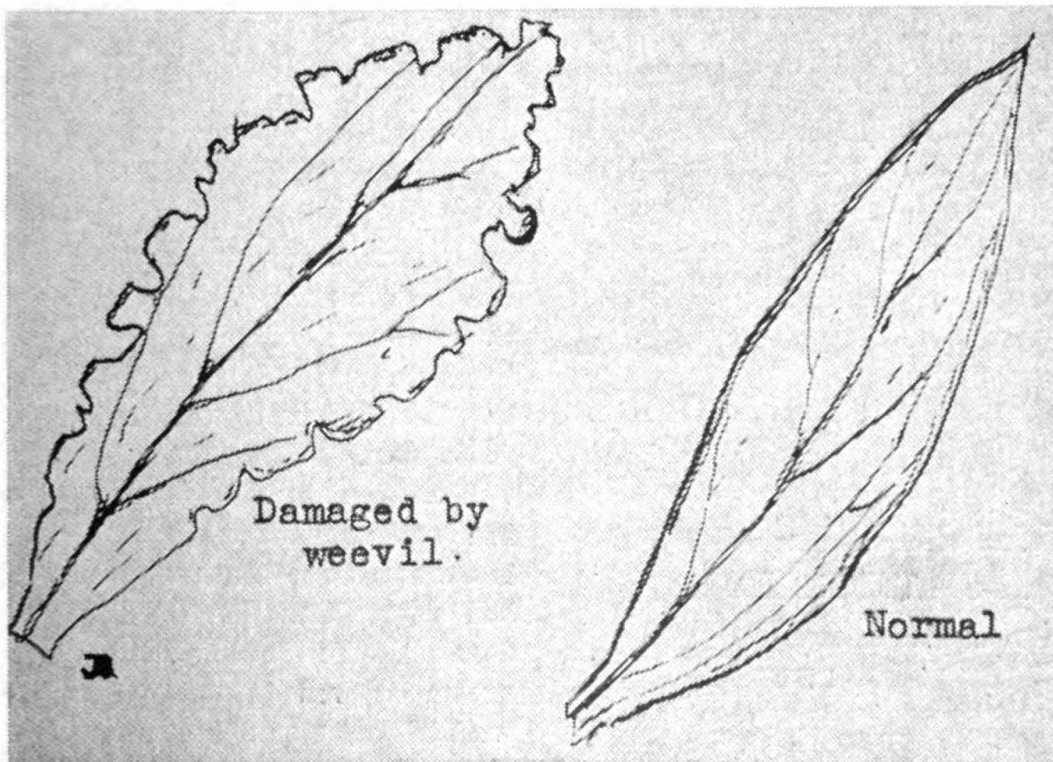
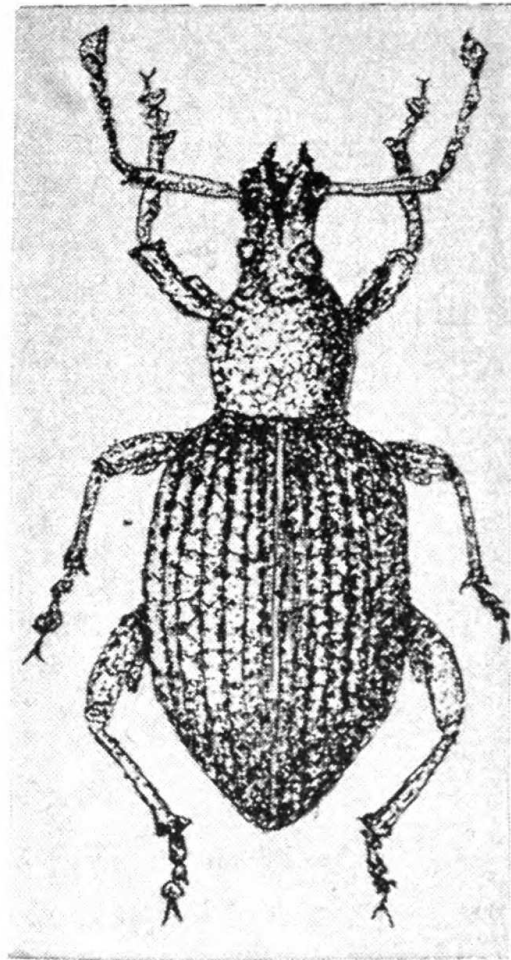
Vine Weevils Attack Peonies

J. PAUL MILLER,
Grandview, Washington

During the month of June, 1963, hordes of vine weevils attacked a planting of peonies in Grandview, Washington. Almost every leaf on the peony plants in the infested planting was fed upon as shown in the illustration.

Two species: *Brachyrhinus sulcatus* (Fab.), black vine weevil, and *Brachyrhinus rugifrons* (Gyll.), rough strawberry weevil, were identified. The black vine weevil is slightly the larger of the two species, about 8.5 mm. in length, oblong, brownish black, usually characterized by scattered yellow or golden scales on the roughly punctured, striated elytra. The rough strawberry weevil is very similar but is smaller and somewhat more rounded posteriorly.

Both species are nocturnal and somewhat similar in feeding habits and are known to feed on a large variety of plants. Interest-



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ingly they apparently attack different plants in different ways. For example, on the privet hedge and the peonies the obvious feeding is on the edge of the leaves but on grapes the adult weevil feeds on the petioles of the fruit clusters and has not been observed molesting the leaves in any way. The feeding on the peony leaves may not be too serious (we do not know); but we are concerned with the insects' habit of the larva and and presumably the adults feeding on the roots and crowns.

In this instance it is suspected

that the population build-up may have occurred in the privet hedge adjacent to the peony planting.

The plot was treated with 'ALDRIN' which has proven an effective control on other crops. If used, the directions on the label must be adhered to in all respects as this is considered a dangerous chemical.

Peonies In Texas



White Peonies and Red Roses

A letter from one of our new members, Henry C. Arno, tells us that he has good success in growing peonies in San Antonio. He has been growing them for six years now.

The two pictures he sent us show fine looking plants. We think this is about as far south as we have had any information that peonies do well. We do know they are grown as well in the north and west of Texas as almost anywhere.

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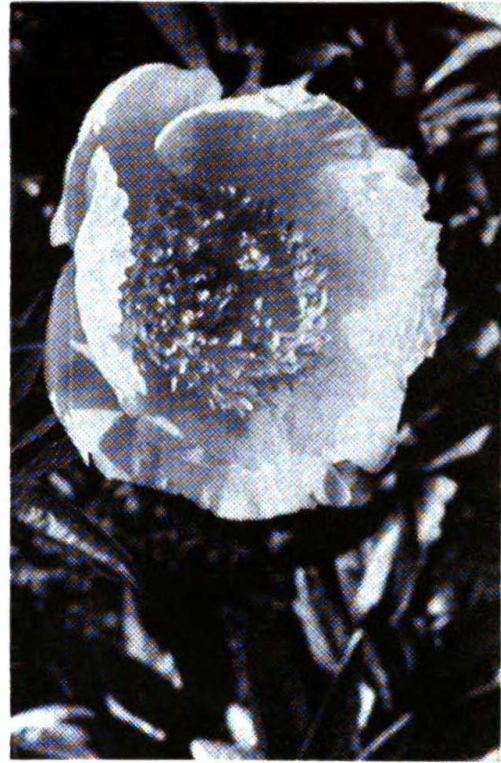
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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
 (Signed) George W. Peyton, Editor.



Roselette



Ivory



Seraphim

Peonies in Pennsylvania

As usual, we have been unable to get any good black and white pictures of blooms shown this year. However, Mrs. Virginia P. Conklin, of Stroudsburg, Penna. has sent us pictures of three hybrids which were taken in her garden. We are glad to present them here. Mrs. Conklin has also sent us an article from the Joplin (Missouri) Globe by Mike Hall, which gives an interesting account of the peony industry in Sarcoxie, Missouri. This article will be published later.

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Atabatics or The Peony vs. Jack Frost

By Virginia P. Conklin, Stroudsburg, Penna.

Riches! Riches! Three peony books in a row! One for the amateur—the Nehrlings'! One for the botanist and hybridizer—the Wisters'! And now, one for the nurseryman, *The Moutan or Tree Peony* by Michael Haworth-Booth of the Farall Nurseries near Haslemere, Surrey, England. We have yet to hear from florists as distinct from these groups of peony growers but here is a hope that we will get their particular slant on peony culture in due course.

The nicest thing about such reading is the fact that the more you know about growing peonies, the more it can mean to you—you know so darned well what the writers are driving at. And there are bonuses in each one's contribution of original thinking. The English book, for instance, uses words that are strange (secateurs, in case you wonder, are pruning shears, listed in the Oxford Dictionary and in Larousse but not in Webster). And then comes a discussion of "atabatics" and while the term is strange, if you keep on reading you will recognize the subject as one that may have been talking to your subconscious for a long time. The word itself is derived from the Greek but it is doubtful if those lively people ever used it as it is applied today in horticultural practice. Literally, it means "to afford a means of descent" and what you want to expedite the descent of in your garden is cold air—frost. Does that seem crazy? Be patient and you may discover that it is at least one good answer to those late spring freezes that play havoc with peony bloom in so many of the more temperate areas of our United States.

The peony is one of the hardiest

and most tolerant of plants. It has adjusted to a vast range of climate and soils throughout the north temperate zone. It grows and blooms in all of the first six zones of the Plant Hardiness Zone Map published by the USDA but in many areas it is a serious gamble commercially because lush, young growth is killed by the sudden cold snap that follows a warm period in early spring. Usually, the major loss is the flowers, the plants survive but may be retarded in growth for a while. When plant cells freeze, they burst and then, just as with Humpty Dumpty, there is no putting them together again for another year or more. But if you can *delay* the development of your plants until the late frosts are over—then you can save them. This happens naturally in the far northern range of the plant's habitat and it can be induced in milder climes by practicing katabatics.

Our parents and grandparents for generations back studied the elements and suffered and prayed and sacrificed to various persnickety dieties but, as Mark Twain remarked, nobody tried to do much of anything about the weather. There was talk about exposure, the relative merits of a south slope as compared with an east slope and the convenience of growing things on the level. Old ladies, wise in gardening, would remark that they "liked the lay of the land", or didn't, as the case might be. If pressed for a reason, they would point out that it could be easily warmed by the sun's rays and that it was sheltered from the colder winds. Then they might add that it wasn't a "frost-pocket".

What is a frost-pocket? It is a



hollow that fills with cold air when the temperature drops suddenly. A treacherous place—because when the temperature warms up again, it can be a heat-pocket, too. At any season, it a place that lacks ventilation and all plant life is especially subject to molds and mildews and all those ills that thrive in stagnant air when grown in it. Such pockets vary in size from tiny sink holes to great river basins and humanity has tended to settle in them by sheer force of gravity. They take their toll in human lives, too, the countless victims of smog as charged to asthma, cancer, heart disease and TB.

At the present time in America, as happened earlier in Europe and Asia, population pressure, using high taxes as a weapon, is forcing the farmer and horticulturist to take to the hills. And that can be a very good thing. Men and plants will be healthier for the move and when the move is made the wise peony grower will take katabatics into consideration when he picks a new location. He will look for a place where cold air will move over his plantation—and off it.

That means choosing a slope, for cold air moves down hill, keeps moving down hill until it reaches the bottom unless it hits an obstruction. Various objects may block its way, a building, a thicket, a wall, or a rise of land. If the obstruction is on the planter's property he may be able to do away with it. A bull-dozer, an axe or a charge of dynamite may turn the trick. If it is on his neighbor's land it may be impossible to remove it; best he find another site altogether. If you can find a spot where there is no obstruction at all, grab it, and if it has a stream, however small, pour special libations to the gods who led you to it, for there is nothing better than running water for drawing cold

air down hill with it, in its course.

North slopes are a poor bet today because they are being taken over by the frantic fraternity of skiers who don't stop for any peony growers in their way. East, south, west slopes all have their advantages when used with skill; Mountain *tops*, even hill tops are to be avoided. They are too bleak, too windy, too poor of soil to be worthy of cultivation. Try for elevation one-third to two thirds of the way up, where the land isn't too precipitous and where a succession of rises and terraces is possible. You will find it frustrating to attempt to work such land with power tools, especially the larger ones as they are used on the prairies, but peonies can be perfectly happy if they never see a tractor, provided they are properly planted and receive a minimum of loving care each year.

The final refinement in katabatics—the ideal location—is one that has a woodland in the right place. Unlike the windbreak, which consists, as a rule of trees more upright in growth and branching densely from the ground up, the woods are more valuable if they are made up of trees that form a canopy, oaks, elms, maples and the like. If woods are not to be had, you can settle for an apple orchard—plant one if necessary. (If you can't bear the thought of waiting fifteen years for it to grow to size, don't grumble when you pay the price you pay when you do without it!) Such trees serve as *warm air traps*.

When heated air rises from the ground as it does on a sunny day, it is caught and held by the forest canopy. Warm air goes straight up if there is no wind. You can watch a hawk soar on such drafts, planing from one to another with lazy wing strokes. Gliders take advantage of them. But when the wind

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rises they are diverted from the perpendicular, sometimes with great turbulence, and then, if the woods are in the right place, they find refuge in them. It is warmer in the forest on a windy day than it is in the open. And that is katabatics upside down—blocking the means of ascent.

Such a location, with warm and cold air currents moving constantly over it, the air tempered by the presence of trees is distinctly outlined on an early morning when both valley and mountain top are shrouded in mist while the rays of the sun glow on the slope between. It is called a *“thermal belt”*. Nearly all our species peonies came from such country and even the rarest hybrids seem to rejoice when they can return to it. Within it, you will discover that you can juggle your plants to get a far wider range of bloom season than you have enjoyed in the past. It is instinct with the gardener to try to get there “fustest with the mostest” like the Confederate general but the last of the June brides will be just as grateful for your massive double whites as she who marries in May. Hold back a handful of them, planting on the level in cold clay, if you have it, even on the north side of a house where the buds will be sheltered a bit from the hot noonday sun. Beside them it may be a good idea to plant the very earliest just precisely to keep them from blooming *too* early. But, if the winters are long and cold and the spring finds you starving for that first brilliant color from your flowers, plant a precocious species or two on a south slope where the sun’s rays strike at a 95 degree angle on March 21. Protect the tender buds if necessary in a cold snap and the chances are you will get bloom almost as soon as you would in the lowlands. Delay your early flowers and force

your late ones and you will be able to make crosses that are impossible otherwise unless you save and store pollen when you try for a hybrid. Remember, too, that sandy, black loam is warm, clay, cold. Rocks store up heat and release it when the temperature goes down. Use them as warming pans. Bodies of water do the same and, while it may be baffling to try to measure their output in British thermal units, it is appreciable.

If you are lucky enough to have traveled, you may have memories of the terraced hillsides of the Orient or of the Cote d’Azur and the Incas knew a trick or two when it came to growing on the heights of the Andes. You can’t go far wrong when you steal a page from their example.

H. T. Skinner Receives Horticulture Award

Swarthmore, Pa.—Dr. Henry T. Skinner, director of the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., and president of the American Horticultural Society, was awarded the Arthur Hoyt Scott Garden and Horticultural Award. The award, which is given every two or three years, consists of a medal and \$1,000 gift. Dr. Skinner was born in England and studied at Wisley Gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society before coming to this country in 1927 to work at the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass. He studied and worked at Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania, earning undergraduate and graduate degrees. He has also been awarded the Jackson Dawson Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the American Home Achievement Medal.

—August 1963, Horticulture

Laurence D. Baker Retired

(From *Indianapolis News*, June 27, 1963, under column of MICKEY MCCARTY SAYS:)

Fellow Taxpayers: Hoosier Taxpayers should deeply regret the recent announcement by Laurence D. Baker, member of the State Tax Board, that he is retiring from state government after service in various capacities for the last eighteen years.

Widely known from one end of the state to the other, Larry, as his cronies call him, has been a consistent friend of the down-trodden taxpayer ever since he was elected to the House of Representatives from his home in Kendallville in 1945. And in all the time he served the state he helped save the taxpayers millions of dollars.

Respected: As chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, as Chairman of the State Budget Committee and in other posts, Larry's extensive knowledge of operations of the multitude of state institutions and departments enabled him to see opportunities for economy not always apparent to administrators. At the same time, his conscientious efforts won him the respect of all state officials who worked with him.

In addition to his ability to spot places for economy, Larry is a great lover of flowers and is the operator of three of the largest peony farms in the state—one at Crandall, in Harrison County, another near Bloomington, and the third one at his home in Kendallville. Besides a total of about 60 acres of peonies, he has an apple orchard of considerable size in Kendallville.

Ousted Zinnia: By an act of the Legislature in 1957, the peony was

made the state's official flower, largely as a personal tribute to Larry. Prior to that time, Indiana had three state flowers. The first was the carnation, adopted by the Legislature in 1913. The second, the flower of the tulip tree, was adopted in 1923, and the third, the zinnia, was officially adopted in 1931.

During the '57 session of the General Assembly, The News farm editor, Frank Salzarulo, a peony fancier, who was covering the House, suggested to a couple of House members that a Senate bill, seeking to change the zinnia to the blossom of the tulip tree be amended to set as the state flower the peony. It was then Larry got into the picture in a big way.

Peony Poem: Taking up the cause of his favorite peony, Larry quoted a brief poem by Eddie Guest, poet laureate of Michigan. This prompted a House member—a tulip tree blossom advocate—to say: "I'd rather pass a Wassermann test, than hear a peony poem by Eddie Guest." However, after all the fun had subsided, a Senate-House conference committee decided to "say it with flowers" for Larry's sake. Thus we have the peony as the official state flower.

Now, with the cares of his varied state service behind him, Larry plans to spend more leisure time fishing in his well-stocked 7 or 8-acre lake back of his Kendallville home. And, if you doubt his ability as a fisherman, he'll show you quicker than you can say Larry Baker, Kodak pictures of his various "strings" of bass and blue gill. Of course, his family and his peonies (it's still undecided whether it is pronounced "piney" or peony) will continue to occupy the topmost spot in his heart and mind.

Reports On Season

Cobleskill, New York
June 29, 1963

Dear Mr. Peyton:

I am not aware whether any member of the Society reports to the Secretary's office on the Peony season in central New York State. If not, this letter may be of some use to you. You may use any of my observations for any reason or purpose that they may serve.

The peony season started very late in Cobleskill. For the first time since 1949, I did not have blooms available on *Officinalis Rubra Plena* for Memorial Day. When finally it did bloom, it was somewhat larger than usual. As usual, it faded and fell very quickly whether allowed to open in the house or on the plant. I got my first look a bit later at *Red Charm* blooming on a two year old plant. This one I am going to like.

Although I lost an appreciable number of buds to a severe frost May 24, the herbaceous varieties started to open during the week of June 10. Incidentally, the two varieties that seem to have suffered the most from frost were *Mons. Jules Elie* and *Myrtle Gentry*, On the latter, I lost most of the buds—only six of twenty remaining vital. Although our spring was dry again this year, most of the peonies in my garden were excellent. I should hate to estimate the number of pails of water that I carried to the sixty plants in my collection. I think that it paid off in yield and in size of bloom. Eight inch blooms were not uncommon from several varieties. When one considers that none of my herbaceous peonies are over five years of age, this seems like good performance to me. All varieties opened well this year—even *Martha Bulloch*. This was the first time in her five year

history with me that she has opened well.

Among the whites, I shall have to say that nothing surpassed *Mary E. Nicholls*. *Mother's Choice* was almost as wonderful. I am still enjoying some very fine specimens of *Victory*, *Elsa Sass* and *Evening Star*. Speaking of the last variety—I wonder why it is described in some catalogues as huge. It most certainly is not that for me. It is a three year old plant. *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* was close to a failure. Weak stems, too many stems, small discolored flowers are all complaints that I have with this variety. I shall never understand its high rating when the society last held a rating symposium. All of the "great white four", *Festiva Maxima*, *Le Cygne*, *Kelways Glorious* and *Elsa Sass* were excellent. I suspect that *Le Cygne* could have been better, but it received a terrific wind storm and an inch of rain on it just as it was coming into full flower. Even at that, it was good.

Dolorodell, *Nick Shaylor*, *Mrs. F. D. R.*, *Myrtle Gentry* (what was left of it), and *Moonstone* were my best and largest light pinks. It was from these varieties that the giant sized blooms came. *Therese* and *Mandaleen* were not far behind. Two year old plants of *Doris Cooper* and *Florence Ellis* were surprisingly large and beautiful although I suspect that the latter may be a somewhat crooked opener for me.

Since *Solange* produced perfect flowers this year, it had no rivals among the blush peonies. It is still blooming. It's a tremendous variety when right.

The dark pinks are easily topped in my garden by *Loren Franklin*. It forms a huge blossom on 40-44 inch stems. It is an excellent cut flower. I do not know why it is

not more popular. Tondeleyo had many blooms almost all of which lay down in the mud. I love its color—but. After three years, I got only one good bloom from Mons. Jules Elie. It does produce beautiful flowers for others in this area though. Sarah Bernhardt was very good, but the second best dark pink was one that I bought locally for Blanche King. It is not that variety, however, since it consistently opens early. It has a brighter and much larger bloom than Blanche. It is a fast grower and has good stems. It lacks fragrance. I wish I might get it identified. Mrs. Livingston Farrand continues to open well, but it grows so slowly and produces such small flowers that I wonder at its popularity. It has a true pink color, but even with this, I must rank it far down the list of my dark pinks. Too, it is only four years old. I have let two blossoms develop on Paul Bunyan, a first year plant. I hope this may become a good running mate to Loren Franklin.

As for reds, Kansas and Philippe Rivoire are the best. I produced a 7-inch Philippe this year. It was spectacular. Highlight and Tempest both attracted much attention and produced good flowers. Speaking of reds—where can I find another good one to bloom with P. Rivoire? It is the only red that I have now blooming among numerous whites, blushes and light pinks.

This about sums up the season here. I was unable to show this year because there were no shows in the area that I knew of. I wonder why the Society doesn't run a regional show in the East, if this section is considered too remote for the national show. Let me know if I can be of help in this matter another year.

Now comes the time for planning for next year. I hope to add a few

more varieties and some second plants of some varieties that I now have. I think that I can get some better blooms from a few of the old stand-bys in different locations.

—Leslie J. Wiley.

PEONY NOTES

A letter from our former director, Mr. Laurence D. Baker, Kendallville, Indiana, tells us that on June 3 he keeled over in his peony field at Bloomington, and later on June 29th suffered a coronary while planting iris also at Bloomington. After a two weeks stay in the hospital, he was brought home by ambulance and at the time of his letter, September 5th, was still confined to his bed. We all wish Mr. Baker a speedy recovery.

Also on June 29th, he retired from his position on the Indiana State Tax Board. See the account here given, of his activities in the service of his state.

A good article on *Herbaceous Peonies Are Boon to Beginning Gardeners* by Martha P. Haislip, appeared in The New York Times, September 22, 1963, in which the author gives excellent advice to beginners. However she does err in listing Westerner as a single peony when we all know it is a Jap. Also she lists Aerie as an anemone type which it is not, but a semi-double just beyond the single stage. The sprays recommended are ferbam or captan.

Varieties mentioned as especially suited for individual specimens are Le Cygne, Westerner, Lillian Wild, Isani Gidui. Listed as excellent are the singles Le Jour, Seashell, President Lincoln. Choice Japanese are Isani Gidui, Tatsugashira, and Mrs. Wilder Bancroft. Good anemone are Aerie, Golden Dawn and Coral Isle. Coral Isle is described as red. It is a

distinctive shade of coral which is usually called a shade of pink and it is also listed in our literature as a semi-double. Golden Dawn is listed as yellow. This yellow is only in the center petals and quickly fades to white or near-white. Tatsugashira is said to be pink. The Gist Check List gives it as listed in Wild's catalog for 1952 and as a dark pink, though our old Manual says it is red. It is evidently one of those on the border line. It would be hard to find now. No list of doubles is given.

The Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society for September, 1963, has a good color picture of *Paeonia rhodia*, with the notation, "a fine white paeony endemic to the Isle of Rhodes." A paragraph in an article on Flowers in Greece in the same number states: "There are several fine peonies in Greece, though collection has made some of them rare: Greek botanical students are said, for instance, to have eradicated *P. mascula* (syn. *corallina*) from Mount Parnes, close to Athens. This is red flowered; Crete has the white *P. clusii* and Rhodes also its own species, *P. rhodia*, which has large creamy flowers, but is unfortunately not at all hardy in Britain. It is not uncommon and grows all over the lower slopes of Mount Profitis Elias, as well as elsewhere." Also it is mentioned that oranges, lemons and even bananas grow in favored locations on Crete. Maybe hybrids of the above species would grow in our Southland. Are there any? None can be found in any list on file, but Mr. Smirnow offers *P. clusii* for sale.

Lately we have received from Mr. V. Nesaule, 2 Lenin Street, Telgava-Latvia (USSR) a book "Native Plants from the Far East"

by Mrs. Maria Suripka. It has thirty-six pages of text in Russian and 35 full page color pictures of many plants, one of which is of a single paeonia albiflora, Pall. white with pink tones.

The text also has a short article on *Paeonia albiflora* Pall.; *Paeonia oreogeton* S. Moore and *Paeonia obovata* Max. taking up about three-quarters of a page. If we can get any one to translate the text we shall publish it in a future Bulletin.

The color pictures are excellently done, the size being about 6½x10 inches.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AWARDS

By the Floral Committee B, May 20, 1963, *A Certificate of Preliminary Commendation to Paeonia 'Mystery'* (votes 18 for, 5 against) as a hardy flowering shrub. Exhibited by H. F. duPont, Esq., Wintertur, Delaware, U.S.A.

Other Exhibits:

Paeonia veitchii (exhibited as *P. beresowskii*), from Mrs. Robert Lukin, Lockram House, Goddards Green, nr. Mortimer, Berks.

Paeonia: Age of Gold, Apricot, Arcadia, Argosy (F.C.C. 1956), Black Douglas (A.M. 1957), Black Pirate (F.F.C. 1959) Canary, Chinese Dragon (P.C. 1962), Countess, Daredevil, Princess (P.C. 1962), Red Cloud, Renown, Roman Gold (A.M. 1957), Silver Sails (P.C. 1962), Thunderbolt, Vesuvian (A.M. 1962), from H. F. duPont Esq.

By the Floral Committee A, May 20, 1963. *Selected for Trial at Wisley*: *Paeonia Clarisse*, from Sir Frederick Stern, O. B. E., M. C., F. L. S., V. H. M., Goring-by-Sea.

CHELSEA SHOW, 1963

Gold Medal to Messrs. Walter Slocock & Sons Ltd., Woking, Surrey, for an exhibit of rhododen-

drons, azaleas and tree paeonies.

Silver-gilt Banksian Medal to Messrs. Kelway & Son Ltd., Langport, Somerset for an exhibit of herbaceous and tree paeonies.

Flora Medal to Mr. G. B. Rawinsky, Haslemere, Surrey, for an exhibit of tree paeonies, acers, wisterias, woodland plants and cannas.

By the Floral Committee B, April 30, 1963, the *Banksian Medal* to Mr. Rawinski for an exhibit of tree paeonies and rhododendrons.

The note which follows was taken from the August, 1963, issue of *Horticulture*.

**DR. WISTER WINS
AMERICAN HOME MEDAL**
Lima, Pa.—Dr. John C. Wister,

director of the Tyler Arboretum, Lima, Pa., and the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa., was awarded the "American Home" magazine's Achievement Medal for 1963. Established in 1924, the medal is awarded annually to the person who, during the previous year, has made "the most outstanding contribution to America's enjoyment of gardening." The winner is selected from a list of 12 candidates by the presidents of national horticultural associations. Dr. Wister is the author of *Bulbs for American Gardens* and *Four Seasons in Your Garden* and editor of the American Horticultural Society's *The Peonies*.

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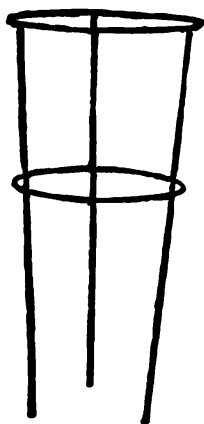
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PEONIES OUTDOORS AND IN by Arno and Irene Nehrling, Hearthsides Press Inc., New York, 288 pages, 100 black and white illustrations, 11 color plates. Contents similar to those in Handbook with addition of section on Peonies Indoors and arrangements. About 40 pages on Tree Peonies. Price to members of the American Peony Society: \$4.95, to non-members, \$5.95.

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