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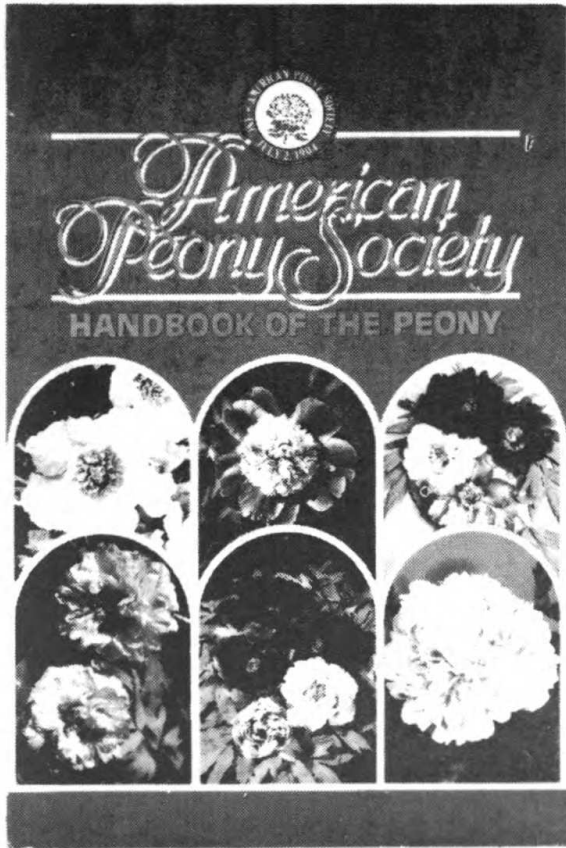


# The American Peony Society Bulletin

MAR 2 1988

Our  
85th  
Anniversary

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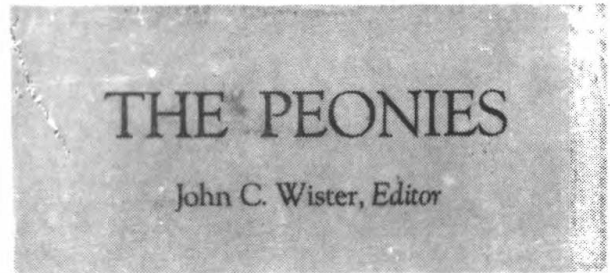
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The department was formed to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies. All new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

## OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Section (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 methods of its cultivation and methods 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 kind of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held exhibitions, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor or in any other manner.

The AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN is the official Society publication. It is mailed postpaid quarterly to all members in good standing.

## 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 for membership. Dues are as follows:

Single Annual .....	\$ 7.50	Junior or member family .....	\$ 2.50
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For those who wish to further support the Society, the following special memberships are available.

Contributing .....	\$25.00	Supporting .....	\$100.00
Sustaining .....	50.00	Patron .....	250.00



# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin




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# FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

DON HOLLINGSWORTH

**Dear Friends:**

It is my pleasure to call your attention to this, the 85th year of the American Peony Society. By your affiliation with this Society, you are a part of that long history of service and creativity in the field of peony growing.

In 1903, a few persons of considerable vision and dedication—it was not quite as simple then to come together over great distances as it is today—came together and undertook the first organized effort at putting order upon the varietal names used for peonies in commerce. The purpose of that project remains the central theme of the Society's programs today, the latest a color book of North American tree peonies, now in process.

During the intervening years, the Society has fostered a climate of support of the search for excellence in peony growing, the improvement of quality and the expansion of color, form and flowering season through breeding, and the distribution of quality peonies through propagation, exhibition and recognition.

While the landmark breeding achievements which resulted in the new hybrids of peony were made by individuals, the work was carried on with the resources of the Society at hand. Publications have been a primary tool of the work throughout this long history, and during the last 15 years the array of publications has been greatly multiplied under the able leadership of our Editor and Secretary, Greta Kessenich.

We have plenty of reason to be proud of what has gone before, and, through the aggregate efforts of the present members, we will continue to serve the interests of persons who value peonies. I hope many of you will have the opportunity to further the interests of such persons in your communities this year.

Best Wishes, Don Hollingsworth

# 85 YEARS

*Greta Kessenich*

There is something magical about that number 85—yes, 85 years—the age of the American Peony Society is enough to make all of us smile with satisfaction that we have reached that milestone. We have had our peaks and valleys over the years, but through any adversity, the Society has always continued to go forward.

The peony has advanced in kind, color, and varieties, membership has increased, and the Society is financially stable.

Those few lines sum up the achievement that was made possible because all of us have worked together in various avenues to make this come about. Individually you, our loyal and faithful members, make up this Society, and it is you that we look to for continuation. A Society is just that, a group of members interested in one common goal or working together to further that cause.

Peony history is of great interest and we must take a backward look to see progress. Like the peony, we feel that it has taken so much time to bring about results, but as we analyze the accomplishments over the years, the peony has made giant strides forward.

In 1903, peonies were, in most part, sent to America from France and England and were grown commercially. A correct nomenclature had to be established as men in America began producing fine peonies. The American Peony Society was formed and our forefathers laid a firm foundation with rules and regulations, of which we are following today. In 1904, the organization was incorporated. We were seeing beautiful peonies, introduced by the early hybridizers. Then men of vision came forward and we were introduced to the hybrid peony with its many shades and early blooming period, adding to the doubles, semi-doubles, Japanese and singles.

We do not say much about the anemone peony but we should not let that type of peony pass us by. It takes some study on our part, but once it is understood and correctly classified, they are a beautiful group of peonies in themselves. Just to name three beauties that you may grow: **Gay Paree**, **White Cap** and **Butter Ball**.

The tree peony has become very popular; the lutea has come forward with flowers of exotic colors, from yellow with flares of red on through the spectrum of the rainbow—from pearl to the deep shades, with flares and colors suffused.

Now comes the Itoh Hybrid, the exciting peony of tomorrow. Today it is being grown and talked about with enthusiasm, with colors of great beauty from the single to the full double.

Peony seed gathered from our gardens from different varieties is sent to members everywhere, on request. We have books on all aspects of the peony, and a Bulletin is published four times a year. The Bulletin was originally introduced for you, to all members, so that you

might exchange ideas, have articles of interest regarding the peony, and that you may read of the activity of the Society. It reflects what we are, where we are going, and what has been achieved.

The past 85 years have been good with many accomplishments and good fellowship. Now we look to the future, with continued progress in both the peony and the Society.

## THE 1987 SEED COUNTER

*Bill Seidl, 732 S. 19 Street, Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220*

Two other seed donations are gratefully acknowledged: moutan seed from Roger Anderson (Ft. Atkinson, Wisc.), and herbaceous hybrid seed from Chris Laning (Kalamazoo, Mich.). The latter were in three packages: (1) mixed colors of early tets from selected clones, (2) from P.C. #123: Quad F<sub>3</sub> x Moonrise F<sub>2</sub>, a 3/4 double pink, a "new color in pink," and (3) Roy's Best Yellow F<sub>2</sub>.

By the time this is read in the March Bulletin, most 1987 seed will probably have been distributed. But I am running late this season and my target date for completion is mid-February. Part of the problem has been beyond my control—some time-demanding family crises—but one part is entirely of my own making. Freshly harvested seed from my own garden went directly into Ziploc freezer bags and, to my dismay in November-December, many were discovered to be rooting. Apparently the water vapor trapped within the sealed bags was enough to initiate the first stage in the germination process. These were transferred to vermiculite and cool conditions, for planting out this Spring. The remaining seed were cleaned—many had also become moldy—and repackaged. Although not visibly rooting, internal changes toward that end may have begun, and normal dry storage until outdoor planting time may interrupt this process and adversely affect germination percentages. I regret any disappointments this may cause but it's left me a little wiser for future seasons.

Speaking of which, it is time for potential seed donors to consider what hand-pollinations, but not necessarily bagged, they might make this coming season for the Seed Counter. And don't forget the shrub (tree) peonies, including 'Rock's Variety.' If you have only a few but rather widely separated plants, give the bees a helping hand by dabbing pollen from one variety into opening flowers of other varieties. The bees like all peonies and will inefficiently spend their time on Itoh crosses, carrying pollen from the earliest herbaceous peonies to the moutans, but don't hold your breath.

If a late order for out-of-stock seed is not filled and not acknowledged, you can assume it has been set aside for the 1988 crop.

---

**If you cut a tree, plant a tree.  
It is nature's replaceable energy.**

# CONTAINERIZED TREE PEONIES

by Roy G. Klehm

The more our company worked with the tree peonies, the more I realized that they should be grown, handled, and marketed the same way we generally handle and market smaller growing woody shrubs . . . i.e., produce and sell tree peonies in containers for all-season planting.

Considering the generally accepted Northern and Central states planting season (April through October and sometimes November), one realizes that ornamental plants grown in containers can safely be planted any time during this approximate thirty-week season. Most certainly, certain precautions must be taken when planting during intense summer heat or late autumn installations. The convenience benefits of this long planting season, however, far outweigh these minor cultural adjustments. Our customer response and their garden results so far have been good, and therefore we deem this program a success.

I also have always felt that planting a bare root woody shrub (like a tree peony) in the later Fall is not a good horticultural practice. One might achieve some root growth action at this time but the above-ground exposed stems will desiccate moisture all winter. This injures newly transplanted plants, and I've noticed that tree peonies are especially sensitive to wind drying damage during their first winter after transplanting.

Installing a containerized tree peony in April, May, June, or even through the Fall months, has the advantage of:

- a) an undisturbed and complete root system that should be able to replace desiccated stem moisture.
- b) the roots and stem/leaf surface would be in balance in a containerized plant.
- c) initial growing season additional time to produce more roots and therefore "knot" into the surrounding soil environment. The plant should experience little if any "check" in its growth cycles.
- d) an end result and ultimate goal of more plant liveability and better plant response.

The general procedure we follow is to grow the newly-grafted plants for one growing season in elevated, outdoor field soil beds. In early October, (Northern Illinois environment) after this initial season, the one-year plants are carefully lifted for containerization into special elongated five-liter plastic pots. The remaining leaves are cut at the petioles and any dead wood is removed. The plants are graded for size and the herbaceous nurse root is partially removed to encourage the underground scion/stem to produce its own roots. Many times these one-year grafts already have a young "own root" system. These



rootlets are never allowed to dry as they are young and sensitive.

The growing media we now use is our blended mixture of 40% spagnum Canadian peat moss, 40% coarse, moistened perlite, and 20% special composted sludge we obtain from a local county processing plant. These ingredients are thoroughly machine mixed and pre-moistened before use. This porous media promotes good root development. Additional slow-release plant nutrients are top dressed in mid-Spring.

The plants are potted with about 3" of woody stem tissue below the surface. Again, it's our belief that a tree peony should be encouraged to make its own roots because the plants are more vigorous and healthy when this happens. This elongated pot with our deeper planting and partial severing of the nurse root does help and encourage the plant to form its own roots.

The potted plants are grown at least one, and sometimes two, full growing seasons before they are marketable. In essence, two to three-year-old plants are being sold with full root systems. A preventative maintenance fungal spray program is practiced and the nutrient level of the plants is closely watched. The potted plants are overwintered in recessed below-ground frames that have an overhead greenhouse pipe structure. Four mil opaque plastic is stretched over this plant house in November to further protect the plants from severe winter weather. These non-energy greenhouses are vented in March depending on how the Spring is breaking. By mid-April, the plastic cover has been removed. We try to keep the plants in the same physiological state inside these frames as they would be outdoors in their natural environment. These growing frames also provide a suitable structure to provide summer shading if deemed necessary.

We ship these plants in specially designed "pot-locking" boxes which provide safety for the tree peonies even though they may be tipped and handled roughly in transit.

It's March, it's June, it's September, it's August, it's October . . . it doesn't matter, because tree peonies can now be planted during these times. So why wait? Don't procrastinate! Do plant some tree peonies now because they take a few years to mature enough to show their true alluring beauty. Believe me, once you grow them, you will have a life-long love affair with this beautiful plant.

\* \* \* \*

#### FROM THEO PERSON

St. Lawrence, Jersey Channel Isle, Great Britain, Jan. 30, 1988

I hope the weather was kind to you last peony season. We were fortunate in Jersey to have our crop gathered and in cold storage before the heavy rains. We are covering the plants with plastic now but the ground is really too wet.

(Mr. Person is a commercial grower of the peony for cut flowers.)

— 7 —

# DOWN THE PEONY ROAD

*Chris Laning, Kalamazoo, Michigan*

The American Peony Society is now 85 years old. The goals set initially have been attained, such as the straightening out of the nomenclature and the formation of a peony registry. The early history of the A.P.S. can be found in the book, *PEONIES*, edited by James Boyd, as well as in the book edited by Greta Kessenich entitled *THE BEST OF 75 YEARS*. These articles give a nice presentation of the childhood of our Society, and offer enjoyable reading.

Many introductions by these early founders are still highly rated today and the interest these men instilled in us remains to this day.

The proper naming of peony clones has given practical results since most of the older introductions were from the lactiflora variety. While this has been adequate in the past, most of the new introductions are hybrids; therefore, the parentage of each one is of importance to the hybridizer. Three men come to mind when thinking of early hybridizers: Professor Saunders, Lyman Glasscock, and Edward Auten, Jr.—oh, and maybe Dr. Earl White. These men made use of many species (wild) peonies which are incorporated in today's hybridizing efforts.

In the 1960's, further advances were made in developing the species hybrids to a point where the upcoming generations have become fertile. The outstanding man in this venture was Roy Pehrson. He expended great energy working with his beloved peonies but failed to receive any great satisfaction or recognition since all his efforts were intermediate with the breakthroughs coming after he died. Because he shared and distributed his stock to us, the current hybridists, it is possible to build on his efforts.

The present state of the art is encouraging. Results are coming in ever increasing numbers. The fertile hybrids are now offering new colors and patterns. Along with these advances in the herbaceous line, tree peonies (suffruticosa and lutea) traveled and are still traveling the same road. When these tree peonies are propagated with ease (something that is not as yet in the offing), they may even surpass the herbaceous hybrids in beauty and desirability! What we would like to see is these tree peonies propagated from cuttings and stolens, and maybe root cuttings.

The newest avenue for hybridizing is the "Itoh Cross" road. The Itoh is the result of lactiflora flowers being pollinated by lutea hybrids. While the cross is extremely difficult, the results are fantastic! The plants have woody stems which do not survive the winter even if brought indoors to escape freezing. This may be a big plus, affording fall clean-up and a spring of rebirth—always, these Itohs look neat and proper. The flowers are of such great substance that, when cut, they remain in good condition for a week or more and if left on the plant, up to two weeks.

Until recently, only yellow was the color obtained but now others are forthcoming. Propagation is a pleasure since these Itoh clones are very easy to divide. At present these plants are expensive but surely they could make a durable hedge extraordinary! Probably the leader of this particular channel is Roger Anderson of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. If and when some of these beauties set seed, we will seem to have the world by the tail!

It must have been about fifteen years ago that the late Roy Pehrson brought to our Peony Show a red flowered Itoh, but was it an Itoh? The bloom was of medium size, the color was bright, bright red, and it had a good amount of pollen. The pollen may have been viable or maybe not, but there was little or no follow-through, so results are unknown. He carried the posy around for a day and then gave it to me—so maybe there is a red Itoh. Its parentage was given as lactiflora by T.P. mix. This could mean that it was (and is) a lactiflora by suffruticosa (T.P.) which in the strict sense would not be an Itoh, but what then should it be called—a Pehrson cross? What is important, in my opinion, is that a whole new field or line of hybrids is possible. Oh! I can see it already—all the suffruticosa colors and textures incorporated in the Pehrson cross! Most disconcerting is the fact that this type of a cross usually produces incomplete flowers, flowers with only strips or narrow petals, or none at all. We should, notwithstanding, continue.

Looking into the future is impossibly cloudy but it won't stop us from dreaming of a time when all humanity can enjoy the "Peony Beautiful." Maybe that will be the time when the supermarket will be selling potted blooming peonies! Until such a time, we, the privileged few, will remain the elite gardeners.



*One of the border gardens of Wilma Zapka, South Deerfield, Massachusetts.  
Lilac—James MacFarlane.*

*Iris, Bridal Wreath, Fox Glove, in bud, Fairy Petticoat, in bloom, P. Rosedale  
Monkshood, Potentilla.*

# THE ITOH HYBRID, PEONIES OF THE FUTURE

*Roger Anderson, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin*

The Itoh hybrid has been in existence for over 25 years. This cross was once thought impossible until completed by Toichi Itoh of Japan. There are four in commerce today: **Yellow Heaven**, **Yellow Crown**, **Yellow Dream**, and **Yellow Emperor**. These plants all derived from crossing the lactiflora, **Kakoden** x the lutea tree hybrid, **Alice Harding**.

In the 1960's, American hybridizer, Roy Pherson, started experimenting with this cross using many different cultivars for both pollen and seed, raising many seedlings in his efforts, only to be disappointed due to incompleteness of bloom and spotted foliage; both due to a genetic defect. Roy produced the first red Itoh that I know of; possibly others. Other American hybridizers have had success with the Itoh cross—Don Hollingsworth, the originator of **Border Charm** and **Garden Treasure**; Bill Seidl and Chris Laning (none named).

Today the Itoh hybrid is scarce and the only color we have to choose from is yellow. Not that yellow isn't a nice color; it was the color sought after in peonies; that's the reason for the Itoh cross. However, I believed we needed all colors in this cross, so in 1976 my Itoh breeding program began. The first few years weren't very productive while I searched for two compatible parents. However, at the time, I didn't really think these two magic plants existed. But four years later, they were discovered and many crosses were being made, and in the Fall many seeds gathered. In 1984, my first Itohs bloomed and in 1986 five were named—one yellow, two pinks, and two whites. See Bulletin #259 for description.

The Itohs being bred under my breeding program are blooming in many different and unheard of colors in the peony world. Among the colors not yet mentioned are: solid radiant pink and red, bi-colors red and yellow, orange and yellow, purple and white, and one tri-color, red, yellow and orange.

To date, my garden is the home of more than 500 Itoh hybrids—50 of which have bloomed with 185 or more of blooming age in 1988. This Fall over 130 new seedlings were added. In a few years, the Itoh hybrid should become more plentiful as all my named varieties are under propagation, and every year more are added.

For those unfamiliar with the Itoh: The Itoh hybrid is herbaceous in nature and it is propagated by division. However, they must be divided with the aid of a saw. The Itohs have excellent plant habit with symmetrical form and extremely wind resistant due to its strong tightly-bunched stems—perfectly hardy. It will make a much better landscape plant than either of its parents. It holds its green color and foliage longer than other peonies and has a longer bloom period. On the negative side, as with other peonies, tissue culture has not been successful. I do believe, once this plant becomes plentiful, and a good

assortment of colors are obtained, this peony will be the one most sought after; or as I usually say, the plant of the future!

Being an F1, is there any hope for future generations? As of this writing, this question is already being answered. At present, I have one plant from Itoh seed, and twelve or so from Itoh pollen. There is still some question as to the latter twelve, but the one from Itoh seed leaves no doubt. If and when this plant blooms and regains its fertility, we are in for a whole new phase in peony breeding. This will be a new frontier.

Should there be any of our readers undecided on which way to go in a breeding program, try a challenge—try the Itoh cross.

## THE NEW ITOH HYBRID, BARTZELLA

*by Sandra Anderson, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin*

I thought it necessary to write a small article concerning the name **Bartzella**. Many have inquired about the name and as they ask, they do so with disbelief in their voices. I can understand the tone after seeing other names of flowers that usually depict something that gives hints as to the flower itself.

**Bartzella** is a big double yellow Itoh hybrid that was introduced by my husband in 1986. In its second year of blooming, it had more than sixty of those big double yellow flowers on top and out from the bush, with a lovely lemon fragrance. That bush has caught everyone's attention as they drive by. It seemed to be saying, "Look at me."

We had been anxiously waiting for it to bloom. We were quite excited about it because of the large buds and tightly-grouped stems. Even before it bloomed, the foliage itself was exciting to admire. For days we'd walk to the garden to check on the progress. One day our minister decided to pay us a visit. After he left, we again walked to the garden. As we approached the plant, two buds had decided to burst forth. As we stood there admiring the beauty we were seeing, and saying adjective after adjective to try to describe what we were seeing, it just seemed we could use the same adjectives to describe our minister. Thus, the name **Bartzella**—his name is Bill Bartz. I felt Bartz was just a bit harsh to name a flower, but with Ella added on, it seemed more appropriate.

A good friend, Bill Seidl, had been kept informed of the progress and he, too, was excited when it finally bloomed. He wrote us a letter of congratulations when he saw the blooms. In his writing, he was including many names that would have been appropriate for the flower and would have given the reader an instant description. But seeing there was a sequence of events the day **Bartzella** bloomed, it seemed only right to name it as we did—and it still seems right.

I would imagine that anyone who has named their plants also has a story to tell as to their choice. Seeing we've been asked so many

times and as I said in the beginning, with disbelief, I thought I would explain it.

God willing, we will continue the good fortune in the Itoh hybrid, and there may be more unusual names; but none more curious than **Bartzella!**

## A CENTURY OF PEONIES— INDIAN HEAD, SASKATCHEWAN

*Brian J. Porter, Horticulturist, Saskatchewan Agriculture*

Located in south-eastern Saskatchewan, 45 miles east of Regina along the Trans-Canada Highway, is the Agriculture Canada Experimental Farm. Although no longer involved in horticultural research, the Experimental Farm maintains a number of flower beds, and demonstration areas. One of these demonstration areas includes a collection of peonies.

The Experimental Farm began operations a century ago in 1888, shortly after the first settlers began farming in Saskatchewan. Twelve acres were designated for nursery and windbreak plantings. Hardiness and variety testing for shelterbelt trees, fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants was begun immediately. This was a time when shelterbelt trees were desperately needed by farmers. Much of the region, particularly west of Indian Head, was devoid of natural tree stands, and failure to establish trees was common. The Experimental Farm was initially devoid of trees, and it was difficult to establish trees there as well. Winds blew seeds and plants out of the ground repeatedly. Often those that survived (especially fruit trees) were winterkilled. Drought and grasshoppers were also a problem. Eventually, shelterbelt trees such as Siberian pea tree (*Caragana arborescens*) and boxelder, a native maple, proved successful, and today the Experimental Farm is well sheltered by caragana, spruce, Scots pine and maples. The farm was responsible for distribution of hundreds of thousands of tree seedlings to farmers until 1903, when a new nursery was established about a mile away to grow tree seedlings.

With good shelter on the Experimental Farm established, more success was reported with other types of garden plants. In 1893, vegetables grown on the farm received awards at the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition, and crabapple trees were producing for the first time in 1898. Many other ornamental plants were proving successful.

Peonies at Indian Head were first reported on in 1892. The following year, they were reported as "hardy." By 1896, peonies were thriving, and 13 new varieties were added that year.

In the Spring of 1900, an additional 33 peonies were planted, all received from the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa. The list included a few familiar ones (*P. tenuifolia flore-plena*, **Festiva Maxima**), but nearly all are unfamiliar ones today, such as **Faust** (Meillez, 1855),

**Souvenir de l'Esposition Universelle (Calot, 1867)** **Lilacina Superba** (Buyck, 1842), **Festiva** (Donkelaer, 1838), **Pulcherrima** (Guerin, 1842), and others (**Arthur**, **Oliver**, **Thorbecki**, **Heckla**, **Tricolor Grandiflora**) of unknown origin. This was before the American Peony Society sorted out the confusion in peony names that abounded in those days, so perhaps some of the latter ones were illegitimate names. If names can be trusted, the 1900 planting may have included one tree peony, **Professor Morren** (Makoy, 1867), but it was likely an herbaceous variety. Unfortunately, not all of these survived their first Summer, perhaps due to lack of water or shelter. By the Spring of 1901, only 16 out of 33 had survived. This included 'Professor Morren' and the fernleaf peony. By 1903, however, the peonies were flowering well, the best ones being **Souvenir de l'Exposition Universelle**, **Thorbecki**, **Festiva**, **Prosper d'Aurenberg**, **Officinalis Mutabilis**, **De Candolle**, **Festiva Maxima**, **Rubra Plenissima**, **Rubicunda**, **Albo-Marginata**, **Duchesse d'Orleans**, **Ambroise Verschaffelt**, **L'Eclatante** and the fernleaf peony.

Reports in the following years mostly gave blooming dates. In some years, the fernleaf peony was in bloom by May 23, but in others, as late as mid June. An unusual year was 1907 when the peony season was recorded as July 9 to August 9 (presumably all lactifloras).

In 1914 the perennial beds were redesigned, and all the peonies were replanted. For the next ten years, the peonies were rated as good to outstanding. In the Fall of 1923 some of the peonies were replanted again, and this resulted in the loss of a few varieties that Winter. By 1925, 80 peony varieties were being grown, and a list of recommended varieties was available from the Experimental Farm. **Duchesse de Nemours** was illustrated in the Annual Report for that year. That same year, 27 more varieties were planted. It was noted that Fall planting was now recommended, although at the Experimental Farm the peony beds were always given a light covering of strawy manure after freeze-up. This was removed in early Spring.

In 1927, ten peonies were recommended as being outstanding in size and quality of blooms. These were: **Mme Geissler**, **La Perle**, **Floral Treasure**, **Baroness Rothschild** (all pinks), **La Tendresse**, **Mmc Crousse** and **Mme de Verneville** (whites), and **Felix Crousse** and **Monsieur Krelage** (reds). **Monsieur Martin Cahuzac** was also recommended, as a pink variety—so obviously, something else was being grown under that name. Today, only **Felix Crousse** remains from this group.

The collection in 1931 included 91 varieties, nearly all of which were lactifloras. Some of the oldest varieties still being grown were: **Modeste Guerin** (1845), **Altrosanguinea** (1850), **Fulgida** (1850), **Francois Ortegat** (1850), **Festiva Maxima** (1851), and **Reine Hortense** (1857). Newer ones, in their day included **August Dessert** (1920), **King Albert** (1916), and **Philippe Rivoire** (1911). Also included were *P. tenuifolia flore-plena*, *P. officinalis* 'Rubra Plena' and 'Rosea Plena.'

The peonies survived the drought years of the 1930's reasonably

well, as irrigation water was available. Other crops were not so fortunate.

Replanting took place again in 1946; the collection had dwindled to 44 varieties. Twenty-five varieties were replanted in the Spring of 1948, still including most of the very oldest varieties such as **Francois Ortegat, Alexandriana, Delachei, Heumei Carnea** and **Jeanne D'Arc**.

Horticultural Research at the Experimental Farm gradually swung over to vegetable trials, and little work was done with ornamentals. By 1957, most of the peonies had been discarded and that year a new planting was made of 12 cultivars (all lactifloras) plus 10 seedlings, totaling 132 plants (6 of each). The named cultivars have been maintained up to the present time. The seedlings were sent for evaluation from the Agriculture Canada Research Station at Morden, Manitoba, but none were ever named, and they have been discarded, except for two which have regrown.

In cooperation with the Saskatchewan Horticultural Association and Saskatchewan Agriculture, an attempt was made to expand the number of peony cultivars growing at Indian Head, starting in 1980. Through the purchase of new plants and a private donation, the number of cultivars increased to 50. In all, there are about 140 peonies, plus a few others growing among the landscaped grounds. The collection included 21 hybrids, but unfortunately the Winter of 1986-87 caused the loss of the only specimen of **Prairie Moon**, and some of **Coral Charm** and **Burma Ruby**. This was the first Winter loss recorded on hybrid peonies. One tree peony, **Banquet**, bloomed sparingly for the first time in 1987, but this was delayed a few years by a seasonal gardener who pruned the plant to ground level each Fall.

The blooming season in 1987 was unusually early, peaking in Mid June. A few varieties did not do well under the conditions of moderate frost in late May and extreme heat during June. Some primary buds aborted on **Cavatina, Kansas, Nick Shaylor, John Harvard, Mandaleen, Honey Gold, and Sword Dance**. Outstanding varieties were **Frances Willard, Chief Justice, Early Scout, Burma Ruby, Ludovica, Claire de Lune, Ellen Cowley, Gay Patee, Alice Harding, August Dessert, Felix Crousse, Mme Jules Dessert, Moonstone, Denise, Elsa Sass, Bowl of Cream, First Lady** and **Red Charm**.

The Experimental Farm is open to visitors daily from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and is a popular picnic site for tourists as well as local residents. The grounds are attractively landscaped with annual and perennial flowers, and many mature trees. Demonstration beds include a large lily collection, a small daylily collection, and some of the newest hardy shrub roses from Agriculture Canada, Ottawa. It is well worth a visit at any time during the growing season.

\* \* \* \*

A soft rope around your peony bush and anchored to a stake on one side will hold the plant intact during the rainy season.

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## IN MEMORIAM

*FRANKLIN PAGE, 1890 - 1987*

Franklin Page of Hamilton, North Dakota passed away Nov. 17, 1987, at the age of 97.

He served in the State Legislature for 22 years, was a lawyer and banker. He was known as a cornerstone of Hamilton and was also known for the peonies he grew, the awards he won, and was a firm supporter of the North Dakota Peony Society.

From the beginning of the Society in 1922 when the first peony show was held, until June, 1975 when the final show ended, Franklin Page never missed taking his peonies and entering them in exhibition. He always grew several hundred plants, with many different varieties.

He was always a contender, winning awards, Grand Champion many times, and always on the Court of Honor. Competition was keen in those days with great peony growers like Ralph Rohde, George Tollefson, Harold Thomford and Frances Kannowski, to name a few. This was an organization known for the quality of peonies they grew and the active men and women that made it so successful for the 57 years of its existence.

Franklin Page was a big part of this organization. He was frequently on the Board of Directors, was President of the Society more than once, and was a competent peony judge.

When show time came, Franklin Page was always there with a load of peonies that had been cut, bagged, and were always displayed in perfect condition. He kept abreast with the new varieties and hybrids as they came along, but with all his peonies, Kansas was his favorite.

Franklin Page never retired from work. He went to the bank daily until he was 95. He would read the Wall Street Journal and give advice on the bond market.

The County Fair at Hamilton was a major part of his summers. For 63 years, from 1918 to 1981, he was the Fair secretary. In 91 years, he missed only one Fair while he was a medical Corpsman with the U. S. Army in World War I.

He was described as a "salty old fellow, very conservative, a man of his generation; he was a gentleman and a scholar."

\* \* \* \*

*(Mrs. Lydia Franklin passed away January 30, 1988)*

*The Franklin Nurseries were a big part of peony history in Minnesota. Her husband, Loren Franklin, preceded her in death in 1985.*

*The obituary of Lydia will be in a future Bulletin.*

# THE 85TH ANNUAL MEETING 83RD ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY June 3, 4, 5, 1988

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS  
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For the benefit of those wishing to attend the Convention, Chicago Botanic Garden is located on Lake-Cook Road (a.k.a. County Line Road) just east of Edens Expressway. From the north, take I-94 south to Rt. 22 (Half Day Road), east to Rt. 41 (Skokie Hwy.), south to Lake-Cook Road, east about .6 miles to entrance. From O'Hare Field, take I-294 north till it joins with and becomes I-94, continue to Deerfield Road, east to Rt. 43 (Waukegan Road), south to Lake-Cook Road, east to entrance. From the south around Lake Michigan, to by-pass downtown Chicago, continue on I-80 to I-294, north past O'Hare Field and continue as above. To go through Chicago, follow I-90 as it becomes the Skyway, then Dan Ryan Expressway, then joins up with I-94 and becomes the Kennedy Expressway, then continue north to where they separate and take I-94 (Edens Expressway) north as it joins up with Rt. 41, follow Rt. 41 north to Lake-Cook Road and exit eastbound to entrance, about one-half mile. (See map.) Dan Ryan Expwy. will be undergoing major repairs in 1988 so try to avoid this route. Note: There is no interchange at Lake-Cook Road and the Tollway. See page 26 for parking and unloading.

## Friday, June 3

**8:00 a.m.** —Exhibitors will be allowed to enter the Botanic Garden to prepare show entries. South and west greenhouse galleries will be used as workrooms. Work area will be open Friday evening as needed. Extremely limited refrigerator space available.

**8:00 p.m.** —Board of Directors meeting, Exhibition Hall

## Saturday, June 4

**7:00 - 11:30 a.m.** — Set up and enter exhibits

**8:00 a.m.** —Registration — Banquet reservations, page 25

**11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** — Judging

**12:00 noon** —Exhibition opens to public

**1:00 p.m.** —Lunch in "The French Baker" at your leisure

**3:00 p.m.** —Lecture and Slide Presentation by Roy Klehm on "How to Grow Peonies," followed by panel discussion fielding questions from the audience, in the Linnaeus Meeting Room.

**7:00 p.m.** —Banquet, Phil Johnson's, Lake-Cook & Waukegan Roads  
—Annual Meeting

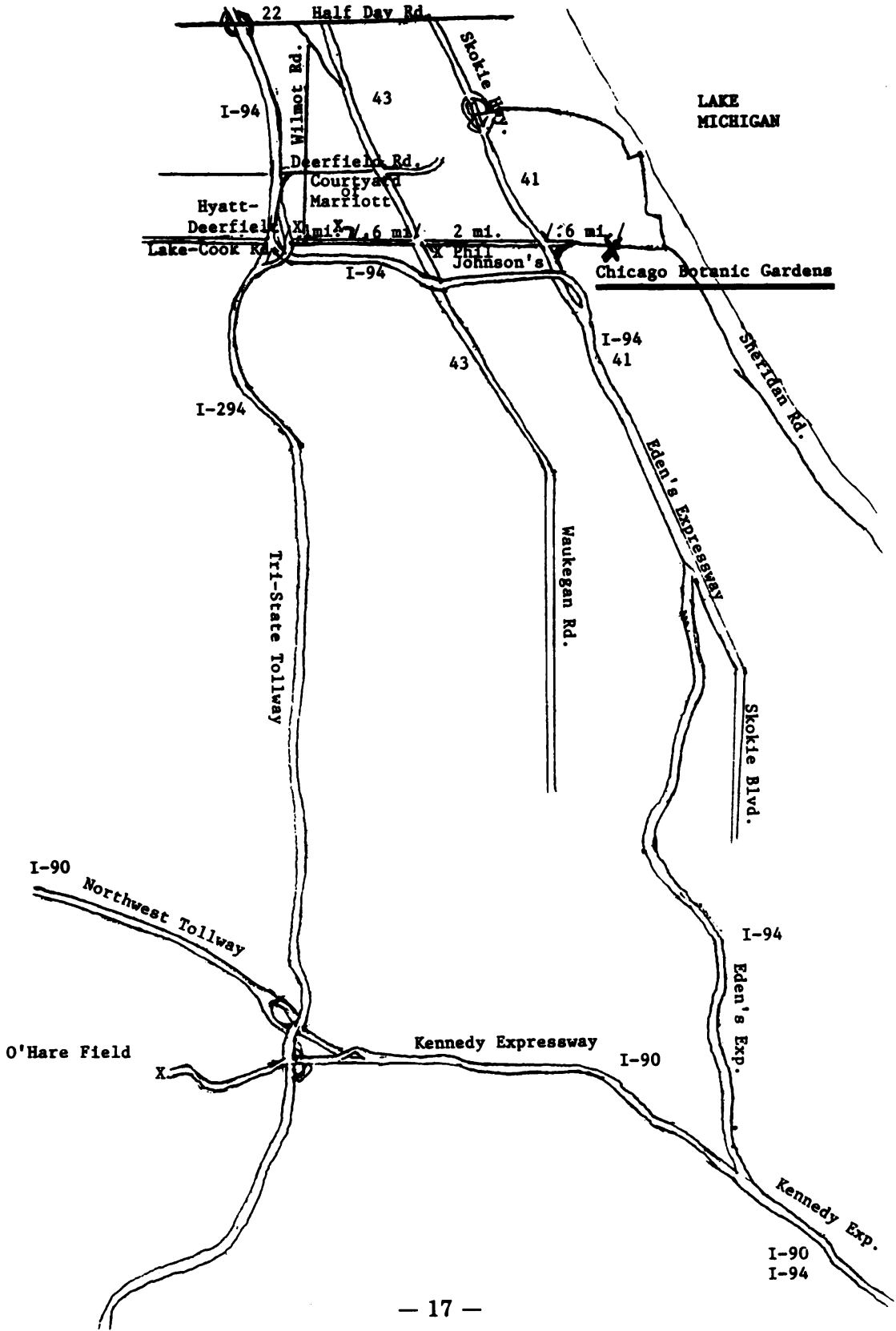
—Root Auction—Peony roots to be donated

Sunday, June 5

9:00 a.m. —Board of Directors meeting, Exhibition Hall

10:00 a.m. —Show opens to public

5:00 p.m. —Show closes



## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS June 3 and 4, 1988

### COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

800 Lake-Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015  
Phone—800/321-2211  
Contact June (before May 13)  
20 Double rooms reserved  
\$48.00/rm. up to 4 persons  
Mention American Peony Society when making reservations

### HYATT - DEERFIELD

1750 Lk. Cook Rd. at Wilmot Rd.  
Deerfield, IL 60015  
Phone—312/945-3183  
(Call before May 13)  
20 Rooms reserved - 5 sgl., 15 dbl.  
\$55.00/rm. sgl. or dbl.  
Mention American Peony Society when making reservations  
Check out time up to 1:00 p.m.

## RULES FOR SPECIMEN EXHIBITS

1. All entries must be completed and in place by 11:30 a.m. on opening day.
2. All entries must have been grown by exhibitors.
3. Entry tags supplied by the Society must be filled out completely as to class, variety, and name and address of exhibitor. In addition, each variety must be identified with a small wood tag with the variety name legibly printed thereon. Entry tags may be obtained in advance from the secretary of the American Peony Society. The exhibitor or his agent shall be responsible for proper completion of the entry tags.
4. Stems should be approximately 12" long (tree peonies excepted.)
5. Exhibitors are limited to one entry each in classes 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 201, and 301. In all other classes up to two entries of each variety are permitted; however, any number of different varieties may be entered.
6. The show committee may combine or divide classes if the number of entries warrants it.
7. Correct varietal labeling is mandatory in the Open and the Amateur classes. It is recommended in the Novice classes, but no entry shall be disqualified for failure to identify.
8. Standard containers will be furnished by the show committee and must be in all classes.
9. The American Peony Society Handbook will govern bloom types and color.
10. Anemone types such as Gay Paree shall be shown as Japanese.
11. Awards need not be given to unworthy exhibits.
12. Flowers are to remain as placed on the show tables by the exhibitor, moved only when necessary, and then the exhibits must be kept in the same position.
13. The decision of the judges is final—NOTE: See Page 23. Division VI—COURT OF HONOR CANDIDATE CLASS

**DIVISION 1. Open to all Exhibitors.**

- Class**      **101**    American Peony Society Award  
Twenty-five varieties, any color or type.  
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 102**    American Peony Society Award  
Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only, any type or  
color  
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 103**    American Peony Society Award  
Ten varieties, herbaceous hybrid only, any type  
or color  
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 104**    American Peony Society Award  
Ten varieties, Tree peonies only, any type or color  
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 105**    Five varieties, Japanese Type lactiflora only, any  
color  
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 106**    Five varieties, single type lactiflora only, any color  
One bloom each in separate containers.

**Three Blooms, one variety lactiflora only, in one container.**

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Class</b>                             | <b>117</b> Semi-double red         |
| <b>110</b> Double white                  | <b>118</b> Bomb any color          |
| <b>111</b> Double blush                  | <b>119</b> Japanese white or blush |
| <b>112</b> Double light pink             | <b>120</b> Japanese pink           |
| <b>113</b> Double dark pink              | <b>121</b> Japanese red            |
| <b>114</b> Double red                    | <b>122</b> Single white or blush   |
| <b>115</b> Semi-double white or<br>blush | <b>123</b> Single pink             |
| <b>116</b> Semi-double pink              | <b>124</b> Single red              |

**One Bloom Lactiflora Only**

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Class</b>                             | <b>138</b> Bomb white or blush     |
| <b>130</b> Double white                  | <b>139</b> Bomb pink               |
| <b>131</b> Double blush                  | <b>140</b> Bomb red                |
| <b>132</b> Double light pink             | <b>141</b> Japanese white or blush |
| <b>133</b> Double dark pink              | <b>142</b> Japanese pink           |
| <b>134</b> Double red                    | <b>143</b> Japanese red            |
| <b>135</b> Semi-double white or<br>blush | <b>144</b> Single white or blush   |
| <b>136</b> Semi-double pink              | <b>145</b> Single pink             |
| <b>137</b> Semi-double red               | <b>146</b> Single red              |

**Three blooms, one variety Herbaceous Hybrids or Species in one container.**

**Class**

- |     |  |      |                        |
|-----|--|------|------------------------|
| 150 | Double or semi-double white, blush or yellow |      |                        |
| 151 | Double or semi-double coral                  | 155  | Single yellow          |
| 152 | Double or semi-double pink                   | 156  | Single white or blush  |
| 153 | Double or semi-double red                    | 157  | Single coral           |
|     |  | 158  | Single pink            |
| 154 | Japanese, any color                          | 159  | Single red             |
|     |  | 159A | Itoh, hybrid any color |

**One bloom Herbaceous Hybrid or Species**

**Class**

- |     |                                      |       |                        |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| 160 | Double or semi-double yellow         |       |                        |
| 161 | Double or semi-double white or blush |       |                        |
| 162 | Double or semi-double coral          |       |                        |
| 163 | Double or semi-double pink           |       |                        |
| 164 | Double or semi-double red            |       |                        |
| 165 | Japanese, any color                  |       |                        |
| 166 | Single yellow                        | 169   | Single pink            |
| 167 | Single white or blush                | 169A. | Single red             |
| 168 | Single coral                         | 169B. | Itoh hybrid, any color |

**Three blooms, one variety, tree peonies only, in one container.**

**Class**

- |      |  |                  |             |
|------|--|------------------|-------------|
| 170a | Japanese (Moutan) White, Single                              |                  |             |
|      | 170b semi-double   | 170c             | double      |
| 171a | Japanese (Moutan) Pink, Single                               |                  |             |
|      | 171b semi-double   | 171c             | double      |
| 172a | Japanese (Moutan) Red, single                                |                  |             |
|      | 172b semi-double   | 172c             | double      |
| 173a | Japanese (Moutan) Violet single<br>(Really purple lavenders) | 173b semi-double | 173c double |
| 174a | Japanese (Moutan) Maroon single                              |                  |             |
|      | 174b semi-double   | 174c             | double      |
| 175a | Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single                         |                  |             |
|      | 175b semi-double   | 175c             | double      |
| 176a | Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single                                 |                  |             |
|      | 176b semi-double   | 176c             | double      |
| 177a | Lutea Hybrid, blend, single                                  |                  |             |
|      | 177b semi-double   | 177c             | double      |
| 178a | Lutea Hybrid, pink, single                                   |                  |             |
|      | 178b semi-double   | 178c             | double      |
| 179a | Lutea Hybrid, red, single                                    |                  |             |
|      | 179b semi-double   | 179c             | double      |
| 180a | Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single                               |                  |             |
|      | 180b semi-double   | 180c             | double      |

**One bloom tree peony only.**

**Class**

185a	Japanese (Moutan) white, single	185b	semi-double	185c	double
186a	Japanese (Moutan) pink, single	186b	semi-double	186c	double
187a	Japanese (Moutan) red, single	187b	semi-double	187c	double
188a	Japanese (Moutan) violet, single	188b	semi-double	188c	double
189a	Japanese (Moutan) maroon, single	189b	semi-double	189c	double
190a	Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single	190b	semi-double	190c	double
191a	Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single	191b	semi-double	191c	double
192a	Lutea Hybrid, blend, single	192b	semi-double	192c	double
193a	Lutea Hybrid, pink, single	193b	semi-double	193c	double
194a	Lutea Hybrid, red, single	194b	semi-double	194c	double
195a	Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single	195b	semi-double	195c	double
196c	European tree peony				

**DIVISION II AMATEUR:** Open to exhibitors who raise peonies chiefly for pleasure, sell plants or cut flowers only casually, and do not grow more than 200 plants.

**Class** 201 American Peony Society Award  
Ten varieties, any type or color  
One bloom each in separate containers.

**Three blooms, one variety lactiflora only, unless otherwise stated, in one container.**

<b>Class</b>	205 Double white or blush		
206	Double pink	210	Japanese any color
207	Double red	211	Single any color
208	Semi-double any color	212	Hybrid any color
209	Bomb any color	213	Tree any type or color

**One bloom lactiflora unless stated otherwise.**

<b>Class</b>	220 Double white	225	Semi-double any color
	221 Double blush	226	Bomb any color
	222 Double light pink	227	Japanese any color
	223 Double dark pink	228	Single any color
	224 Double red	229	Hybrid any type or color
		230	Tree, any type or color

**DIVISION III NOVICE: Open to all amateur gardeners who exhibit peonies only at local shows.**

**Class 301 American Peony Society Award**  
Five varieties any type or color in separate containers.

**Three blooms one variety lactiflora, unless otherwise stated, in one container.**

**Class 305 Double any color**  
**306 Semi-double, any color**                      **308 Single, any color**  
**307 Japanese, any color**                      **309 Hybrid, any color**

**One bloom lactiflora, unless otherwise stated, in one container.**

**Class 315 Double white or blush**  
**316 Double pink**                      **320 Japanese any color**  
**317 Double red**                      **321 Single any color**  
**318 Semi-double any color**                      **322 Hybrid any color**  
**319 Bomb any color**                      **323 Tree any color**

**DIVISION IV: Seedlings and New Varieties.**

**Class 401 Seedlings.**  
Three blooms, one variety in one container, not currently introduced.  
Variety must have been divided at least once.  
Must be shown under name or seedling number.

**402 New Varieties:**  
Three blooms, one variety in one container. Limited to varieties named and registered with the American Peony Society and introduced no earlier than five years prior to show date.  
Awards given in the two preceding classes may be Certificates of Merit or Honorable Mention at the discretion of the judges, but no ribbon awards. Varieties having won either award in previous competition may not be shown again in that class, except that varieties shown in class 401 may be shown again in class 402 regardless of awards.

**403 Seedlings:**  
One bloom. This class is for display only.  
No awards will be given and any seedling entered in class 401 is ineligible.

**DIVISION V: Special Entries.**

**Class 501 Commercial Exhibit.**



Collection by commercial grower of 25 to 50 varieties in separate containers. A placard approximately 9" x 14" may be furnished by the exhibitor to identify his display.

**502** Visitor from greatest distance.

Five different varieties any type. Mileage verified on entry tag.

**503** Multiple bloom.

Single stalk not disbudded. Must show at least three open blooms.

**Class 504—505** North Dakota Memorial Award

One bloom each separate container, any color, only named varieties. One entry per individual family.

**Class 504—**Tree peonies, Lutea and Japanese. Herbaceous hybrid, double and single.

**Class 505—**Lactiflora, Double, semi-double, single, Japanese.

These two classes are not considered for Class VI.

#### **DIVISION VI: Court of Honor Candidate Class**

Court of Honor blooms will be selected from this Division.

Exhibitors are urged to enter their best bloom and are limited to two in each class.

Judges may select two blooms from the floor in addition to placements, for consideration of Grand Champion on the Court of Honor.

**One bloom Lactiflora**

**Class 601** Double white

602 Double blush

603 Double light pink

604 Double dark pink

605 Double red

606 Bomb any color

607 Semi-double any color

608 Japanese any color

609 Single any color

**One bloom Hybrid or Species**

**Class 610** Double any color

611 Semi-double any color

612 Single any color

613 Japanese any color

**One bloom Tree**

**Class 614** Lutea any type or color

615 European any type or color

616 Japanese any type or color

**Class 617** One bloom Itoh Hybrid any color.

#### **Grand Champion**

The best flower in the show will be selected from all named entries in the show.

# ARTISTIC DIVISION

## DIVISION SEVEN ARTISTIC CLASSES

### **THEME: PEONIES AROUND THE UNIVERSE**

The "Queen of Flowers" is grown all around the world so let us pay tribute to her enchanting beauty by using other material from many places.

**CLASS I TROPICAL SPLENDOR**—A design using some tropical foliage.

**CLASS II LANDSCAPE BEAUTY**—A design using a branch from a deciduous tree or shrub.

**CLASS III INFLUENCE OF THE ORIENT**—A design in the Japanese manner.

**CLASS IV SEASIDE TREASURES**—A design incorporating some treasures of the sea.

**CLASS V WOODED SCULPTURES**—A design using a piece of driftwood or weathered wood.

## ARTISTIC DIVISION RULES

1. All artistic exhibits must be made by the exhibitor.
2. An individual may make only one entry in a class; however, he/she may enter as many classes as desired.
3. No artificial foliage or flowers permitted.
4. Peonies must be used in all designs; however, the flowers need not be grown by the exhibitor. Peonies will be available from the committee.
5. Designs will be staged on standard exhibitional tables covered with a white cloth. Space allotted for each exhibit will be a depth of 28" x 30" width.
6. Accessories, mats or bases may be used in all designs.
7. Properties belonging to the exhibitor should be marked with the owner's name (not in view). Neither the American Peony Society nor the Chicago Botanic Garden will be responsible for damage, but every care will be given.
8. All entries must be in place by 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 4, and not removed before 5:00 p.m., Sunday, June 5.
9. All artistic designs must be registered by June 3. Please call or write to: Bernice Fick, 918 S. We-Go Trail, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056, Tel. 312/259-1277.
10. Judging Artistic exhibits will be done by qualified artistic judges.

\* \* \* \*

A Grand Champion rosette will be awarded to the best in the show.  
A Reserve Champion rosette will be awarded to the second best.

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# THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BANQUET

DATE: June 4, 1988 - 7:00 p.m.

SITE: Phil Johnson's, 49 Waukegan Road, Northbrook, IL 60062  
(At the intersection of Lake-Cook Rd. & Waukegan Rd.)

**MENU:**

Vegetable Soup  
 Chef's Tossed Salad    Choice of Dressing  
 Entree #1, #2, or #3  
 Vegetable of the Day  
 Baked Potato    Sour Cream on the Side  
 Dinner Rolls  
 Vanilla Ice Cream    Choice of Beverage

ENTREE #1: Roast Prime Ribs of Beef, Au Jus ..... \$15.25  
 ENTREE #2: Whitefish ..... \$13.40  
 ENTREE #3: 1/2 Barbecued Chicken (Sauced on the Side) ..... \$10.65

NOTE: The French Baker is a restaurant located in the Education Center of the Chicago Botanic Gardens, adjacent to the Exhibition Hall. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Exhibitors may stop in for lunch at their leisure.

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## AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BANQUET RESERVATIONS

Name _____	Choice of Entree
Address _____	___ # @ \$15.25 ___
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	___ # @ \$13.40 ___
Mail with check to: (by May 20, plse.)	___ # @ \$10.65 ___
Charles Klehm & Son Nursery	___ Total ___
Attn: Alice Hacker	Choice #1 - Rare _____
Route 5, Box 197	Med. _____
S. Barrington, IL 60010	Well _____

A special parking area for Exhibitors will be roped off and designated in the Number 1 Visitor Lot, the Visitor Lot closest to the Education Center. Parking in the Employee Lot west of the Education Center is restricted to handicapped visitors only. Supplies may be dropped off at the loading zone of the Education Center by pulling into the driveway with the overhead door. No vehicles may drop off supplies in the West Portico area, as they interfere with the tram and emergency vehicle routes.

## TREE PEONY PHILOSOPHY

*by Anthony De Blasi*

If you have an active imagination, you sometimes think or dream of something that doesn't exist but that would be remarkably useful, or intriguing, or beautiful if it did exist. Well, inventors and artists do this all the time, by somehow forcing their visions onto or into paper, metal, wood, clay, notes, etc. for the rest of us to see, hear and use. Where do these visions come from? And what could all this possibly have to do with tree peonies? Hold on!

Here is one theory. It may sound way-out, but my purpose is to stretch some brain cells that don't get much exercise. The kind of mind-flexing that must have triggered first the Chinese, then the Japanese, and finally the Europeans and Americans, into forcing the tree peony into its breath-taking heights of development. That same creative mental activity continues to select out and refine the best in plants today.

Where do these visions come from? Now for the twilight zone. Suppose these things don't (yet) exist but we imagine and spend time and effort trying to realize—suppose they, in fact, did once exist, but were lost? Lost in the sense that the unique flora and fauna of an area are sometimes lost to flood, lava, or chainsaw? Does not the Earth cry out for their replacement? Like a starfish growing back a broken "leg," is it possible that these vacuums are picked up by the imagination, which then gets busy filling them with their original contents?

Just a thought. I do get carried away, sometimes. An easy thing to do when you dwell upon a thing of beauty, such as the tree peony—the product, surely, of a divine imagination. You wonder, what if the tree peony had been lost—as to might have—instead of escaping from its oriental enclaves and spreading to our gardens? Would artists still have painted these fabulous flowers, out of pure imagination—from a well of "memory" too deep for words? No doubt, some, observing the fantastic effusions of brush-stroke and color, would say, "How beautiful! But something like that could never actually exist!"

# EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS OF HERBACEOUS PEONIES

*Kent Crossley*

As most members know, The American Peony Society was formed by a small group of nurserymen who met for the first time in June of 1903. The group's original interest was to assure that proper names were associated with the peonies available to gardeners in the United States. To reach this goal, almost two-thousand varieties were provided by both American and European growers and planted at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Several careful years of observation enabled a small group of experts to make major improvements in the nomenclature of the peony. (The Society continues to take a leadership role to assure that peony names are unique and used consistently for the same variety).

When our Society began, virtually all of the available peonies were lactifloras (i.e. derived from crossing different cultivars of *P. lactiflora*). Although a few species peonies were in common garden use (notably *P. lactiflora* and *P. officinalis rubra*), hybrid peonies were unknown and tree peonies were rarely grown in the United States. In this article, I will mention some peonies available at the time of our Society's founding which are still sold, and discuss some of the major improvements in lactiflora peonies that have occurred in this century.

Of the many varieties that were evaluated in Ithaca, very few have remained. *The Peonies*, (edited by James Boyd and published by the American Peony Society in 1928) contains a list of "Chinese Peonies" (i.e. lactiflora) felt worthy by the Board of Directors. There are seventy-one pages of names and descriptions. Perhaps a third were introduced before 1903. Less than a dozen of these very old varieties are readily available in 1988. (Certainly others are occasionally offered. In particular, European growers catalog a number of venerable varieties not often listed by American growers).

Most Society members, when asked to name a peony that has been available for many years, would probably answer "Festiva Maxima." This peony is certainly one of the oldest lactiflora variety in commerce having been introduced by the French grower Mieliez (about whom little is known) in 1851. It blooms early, has a nice fragrance, and bears white flowers with central crimson streaks. It is inexpensive. The flowers are of medium size and loosely structured. The foliage is an attractive dark green. The stems are adequate for this flower.

Perhaps the next most widely known of these old varieties is *Mons. Jules Eli*. First listed by Crousse, a prominent French nurseryman, this variety is 100 years old in 1988. The flowers are always compared to those of a chrysanthemum. They are rather flat and the petal shape and arrangement does remind one of a mum. The notable thing about the flower is the unusual silver sheen which develops on the edges of the petals. It is unique and allows one to readily recognize this peony. This variety blooms before any other

pink lactiflora. It has foliage of a light green color. **Mons Jules Eli** is a fine cut flower, and requires support.

An excellent older variety (which does not seem to be very widely sold) is **Mons. Martin Cahuzac**. This peony was introduced by Dessert in 1899. It bears dark maroon flowers which are often said to be the darkest colored of any lactiflora peony. Some growers would argue that **Judy Becker** or **Matilda Lewis** are very similar in color. The petals have a silky luster. In contrast to most nineteenth century introductions, the stems are strong and hold the flowers erect. It blooms midseason.

One of my other favorite peonies also dates to this period. This is **Reine Hortense**, introduced by the French grower, Calot, in the year 1857. This variety deserves to be more widely grown. Although usually described as pink flowered, I find the blooms to be a wonderful combination of pink, silver, and ivory white. The petals often are deeply notched. The flowers are very large and the stems are strong. Unfortunately, it is not a very fragrant flower.

**La Lorraine** (introduced by Lemoine in 1901) remains a popular peony. The flowers are a soft ivory tinted with dainty shades of pink. Some buried stamens are usually present which gives a yellow hue to the center of the bloom. The plant is tall and flowers mid-season. This is a good garden peony and a long lasting cut flower.

**Avalanche** (Crousse, 1886) is the only peony described in this article that I have not grown. The flowers are ball-shaped and a blush color. It is said to have a strong fragrance.

**Dutchess de Nemours** (Calot, 1856) is an early season white peony with a center of light yellow petals. The flowers are large and very fragrant. It has strong stems, bears a large number of flowers, and is a good garden peony.

**Madame de Verneville** (Crousse, 1885) is common in the wholesale trade and is often sold as an unnamed white double peony. The flower is rather small and the stems are adequate. It has a pleasing fragrance.

**Edulis Superba** is credited to Lemon and said to have been introduced in 1824. The flowers are fragrant and of a rose pink color. They are small. This variety is commonly used as an unnamed pink double peony. It is not often available from peony growers.

**Marie Jacquin** (from the Verdier family; late nineteenth century) is a wonderful variety often called 'the water lily peony.' The guard petals are long and create a deeply cupped flower of pale pink which fades to white. The center is filled with large tufts of yellow stamens.

**Baroness Schroeder** (introduced by the British firm of Kelway in 1889) is a white flowered peony with strong stems. The large flowers are light pink when they initially open. An excellent late midseason variety.

Almost all of the peonies now available to American gardeners have been introduced in the years since our Society was founded. The major improvements over the last eighty-five years have been develop-

ment of stronger stems and larger flowers. Varieties such as **Madylone** and **Douglas Brand** are wonderful examples of what has been achieved. Both bear very large flowers (which may be ten inches or so in diameter) on stems which are able to hold these enormous blossoms erect.

Some advances in color have occurred but most new colors (notably the corals) have been in hybrid peonies and not in lactifloras. Shades of yellow and tan lactifloras have been seen in recent years at the annual meetings. Green and blue lactifloras are said to exist in China but the evidence is not well established.

My own suspicion is that there will be no dramatic advances in lactiflora peonies in the near future. Although genetic technology to modify flower colors will probably soon be practical for many other genera of garden plants, peonies are unlikely to be early candidates for such transformation. I find it hard to imagine that there could be real improvements among the progeny of *P. lactiflora*. Certainly some of the most beautiful flowers we know belong to this family.

## Letters

From Tom Richards, Boyceville, Wisconsin

1986-87 was a very mild Winter and Spring, which brought on a very early and satisfactory peony season. On my daughter's sixth birthday, May 14, we decorated the table with a peony bouquet. Varieties in bloom were: **Early Scout**, **Fantasia**, **Clair de Lune**, **John Harvard**, **Early Windflower** and **Wind Chimes**. Usually on this date, we cut Lily-flowered tulips for the occasion.

Two days later, Mary and I had the pleasure of touring the garden of Carroll Spangler at Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, and did see his prize-winning peonies. We were early for the great burst of bloom but were treated to the early hybrids and the spectacular tree peonies. Carroll also drove around the countryside to the field of Roger Andersons and his Itoh Hybrids. Roger was not at home and most of his Itohs were in bud. Nevertheless, it was exciting to be in the field of a next generation of peonies.

The last couple of years I expanded my garden and I began falling behind in the weeding chore. I continue to shy away from the recommended solution of using any one of the short-lived broad spectrum herbicide. I do not think that all the long-term health and environmental questions concerning these chemicals have been answered. In my search for a weeding solution, I found an ad of Sunbird/Solo, Cornwall Road, Dept. 2257, P.O. Box 906, Middlebury, Vermont 05753. My heavy soil and extensive garden size justified the purchase of a slightly heavier Sunbird/Solo. It arrived by UPS in easy-to-assemble parts. In my peony beds, the Solo tiller has done an impressive job at tilling, between plants. I caught the weeds when they were small and I could do a row of peonies with no strenuous effort.

For a small garden, a lightweight tiller would be sufficient for many tilling chores, and could eliminate most hand weeding. Garden Way Speedy hoe, of the Garden Way Mfg. Col., 102nd St. and 9th Ave., Troy, NY 12179-0006, might be helpful. If other members have found means of dealing with weeds, the *Bulletin* is a good way to share their method—Happy Gardening!

\* \* \* \*

Vernon Kidd, 425 Riverside Drive, New York writes—

The arrival of the December *Bulletin* presages your welcomed annual greeting with its gentle reminder of dues. Not that I neglect paying bills, but I actually look forward to this one.

Last year, during a tour of single-family brownstone homes in the historical Park Slope area of Brooklyn, at one stop there was a bouquet of the most exquisite Orchid-colored double Peonies imaginable. They were rather large flowers, and I inquired as to their name, but the owner didn't know, saying that he had ordered them from a florist.

Since then I have searched through catalog descriptions, and do not come across a self-Orchid coloring. Are there such, perhaps older well-known varieties, which are good commercial cut flowers, since these obviously came from a florist? My Peony experience is quite recent, dating to the late 70's, and I am not familiar with many of the older varieties. (Some, pictured in Klehm's new catalog, like La Lorraine, are tempting.)

The "Short Course in Peony Culture" in December's *Bulletin* was welcome, and has already answered questions regarding my plantings. Last year, the dry winter caused my first losses, and still the bloom was wonderful.

Red Grace remains a favorite with all who see this stunning ruby-red bomb, and Pink Jazz is another breath-taker, both rather new additions to the Peony family. Myra MacRae is a lovely delicate pink (the nearest to Lavender-Orchid I have)—alas, not as hardy as the others. Still, in cut arrangements, it is a glowing standout.

My Peony collection, all cherished, includes: Whopper (a large flower but with such subtle, delicate shades of pink, yellow and ivory, it seems misnamed), Moon River, Vivid Rose (another special favorite for its form and color), Douglas Brand, Cheddar Cheese (which I didn't really care for at first, and now can hardly wait for it to bloom each year). New to the collection (having bloomed only once or twice) are: Elsa Sass, Bridal Shower, Coral Charm (it goes from a deep Salmon-pink color fading to a lemony white in the sun) and Red Charm.

This last, a sister to Red Grace, seems to be everyone's favorite red, and has been around much longer. I finally ordered it to compare the two, and its form and color are excellent. I believe, however, that Red Grace has the edge, a truly spectacular beauty.

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It's always good to read that the Society has had a good year, and that interest in the peony continues to grow.

May I champion three peonies for award and recognition by our Society? In my garden *Ensign Moriarity* is a super dark pink. I find its color, form, and stem outstanding. Then a blush that I find which equals *Moonstone* and *Nick Shaylor* is *Florence Nicholls*. Everything about it is great and its lovely fragrance is a bonus. The third is the great red, *Paul M. Wild*. It grows to over 40" tall here, and it has the stem even at that height to support the huge bloom except, of course, when significant rain hits.

Les Wiley, Cobleskill, New York

\* \* \* \*

Letter to Gilbert H. Wild, Sarcoxie, Missouri

My order of peonies from you was received—all big healthy roots.

In your instructions you advised never to plant peonies in the same place after dividing. My mother and her Godparents followed the old German tradition of fertilizing with wood ashes. My great aunt, *Louise Klem Miller*, was curator of School Gardens in Cleveland, Ohio, for 30-plus years. She also recommended wood ash for the potash content. Their peonies were exceptional. All of them were divided every five to seven years and replanted in the same place without any trouble. They soaked both peony and iris roots in lime water when dividing, to kill grubs.

Helen King Boyer, Kansas City, Missouri

\* \* \* \*

Louisa Bateman, Klamath Falls, Oregon, writes:

I was interested to see that the December 1987, *Organic Gardening* magazine had an article about (Black Tail) Deer-proof ornamentals. I live in the southern end of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon, in the forest—no neighbors, but many deer. Our deer are probably a hybrid, black tail x mule deer as we are on the dividing line. Regardless of that, we grow herbaceous and tree peonies both behind and outside a deer-proof fence. We have had our garden here for more than 25 years. The herbaceous peonies have never been molested by deer, rabbits, or any other critter. They must taste horrid to them.

My tree peonies have been almost as lucky, except on rare occasions when the deer have been mean and eaten off a few buds which is infuriating, but it does not happen every year. I don't believe Black tail, White tail or Mule deer are very different in their dietary likes and dislikes—so do not let the deer population stop you from growing peonies.

\* \* \* \*

Rosalie Doolittle of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is a radio commentator on gardening at age 83—also lectures to garden clubs, and she writes: "We have had a good year for peonies because of more rainfall. Spring was colder and the plants developed more slowly. So often we go right from Winter into Summer, but Spring was longer this year. Since I have a small garden, I do not have room for some of the beautiful new cultivars. There is more interest in peonies here and I have talked to different garden clubs about them. I always advise planting peonies here that bloom early as they are very unhappy to have heat arrive when in bloom. We have walls around our gardens as a protection from wind. I have 5-foot walls of concrete blocks plastered, and plants on the north side of the wall do very well."

\* \* \* \*

Here's my check for \$10.00 for another year and the Peony *Bulletin*. I seem to have lost contact with my peony friends since I have spent almost all my time in hospitals. I am quite well now, and by June I hope to be in the Peony Patch again.

Ben Gilbertson, Kindred, North Dakota

\* \* \* \*

I have a very old white peony that has been growing for 20 years under the big maple tree. I have done nothing to it and on the last of April it has the most beautiful white blossoms you ever will see.

R. Turner, Reform, Alabama

## *Places to Visit*

**THE STAMPE LILAC GARDEN**, Duck Creek Park, 3000 East Locust, Davenport, Iowa.

This project of the Davenport Horticultural Society is of scenic beauty with thousands of flowering bulbs and 6000 tulip for early Spring.

Then comes the peonies, over one-hundred varieties, early and late, and 300 lilacs with season of bloom complimenting all the garden.

\* \* \* \*

The peony plantings at Stan Hywet Hall in Akron, Ohio, have been increasing in beauty ever since the late Z. R. Prentiss planted them twenty-five years ago.

Mr. Prentiss, a member of the American Peony Society, planted the 400 roots that were given and transported by truck to Stan Hywet by William H. Krekler.

The mansion and grounds are open for touring, except Mondays. Ground tours are less expensive than tours which include the house, which is about \$4.00. The mansion was built by F. A. Seiberling, founder of Goodyear and is very beautiful. Tour guides are well informed.

The beautiful **GOLDEN GLOW GARDENS**, 115 Sligo Road, Cumberland Center, Maine, is open to the public from Tuesday through Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. There you will see a variety of perennials, the official Daylily display garden; many herbaceous peonies and tree peonies—also hostas. The peonies are displayed in extensive borders and in rows.

\* \* \* \*

My husband and I own and operate Edgewood Gardens. As this is a commercial garden, we grow several thousand peonies, consisting of many of the old standards such as **Festiva Maxima**, **Mons Jules Elie**, **Big Ben**, **Mandaleen** as well as the newer type peonies. Among the most popular are **Fancy Nancy**, **Tolro no maki**, **Red Charm**, **Mothers Choice** and **Peppermint**.

The new and delightful salmon coral colors are becoming popular also—**Coral Fay**, **Paula Fay**, **Cytherea** and **Angelo Cobb Freeborn** to name a few. The peony that really radiated last year was **Dr. David Reath's SUPERIOR**, a super lusty growing salmon which is a coral single with a puffy gold center. A clump with a dozen blooms was a real knock-out!

Visitors were also enchanted with **Tenuiflora Ruba Plena** with its delicate lace-like foliage and flaming red blooms. Peonies are such a satisfying plant; even when not in bloom, the foliage is attractive; when in bloom, they are spectacular.

Anna Walrad, Rt. 2, Box 505, Warrenton, VA 22186

\* \* \* \*

## **JAPANESE type peonies**

So called because the Japanese people prefer them to all other types of blooms and were the first to develop many new kinds. This type is the first advance toward the double type, with narrow center staminodes, usually edged with yellow.

They furnish color contrast in the same flower obtained in no other type and are especially valuable for cutting. —*Edward Auten, Jr.*

Some very beautiful varieties are **DIGNITY**, **CARRARA**, **BRIDE'S DREAM**, **TORO-NO-MAKI**, **AMA-NO-SODE**, **WESTERNER**, **BU-TE**, **DO-TELL**, **KAY TISCHLER**, **TOM ECKHARDT**, **BARRINGTON BELLE**.

## **SINGLE type peonies**

Five or more petals arranged around a center of pollen-bearing stamens and carpels. A class of peonies that is not recognized sometimes by the viewers at an exhibition. Many viewers only know the peony as a large ball form double that has been grown for years. Now they see a single pink beauty called **SEA SHELL**, and **PICO**, a pure snowy white with large cup-shaped bloom, followed by **VIRGINIA DARE**, a medium-sized white, a real beauty. The list goes on with **SPELLBINDER**, **SPARKLING STAR**, **TOPEKA GARNET**, **MR. THIM**, and **CAMDEN**.

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Mr. Frank Moots of Newton, Kansas has written and sent a list of twenty-five of his favorite peonies. He writes: "I have found it difficult to keep the list to only 25. Solange, to me, is the most beautiful when it opens well, of all the herbaceous peonies. Unfortunately, it is such a poor opener here in Kansas that I do not recommend it for a small garden in this area."

Mr. Moots has been a Society member for many years—President in 1949, was a commercial grower of fine peonies, and was in charge of judging at the National exhibitions for years. He is growing peonies now and does have all but two that are listed here.

Elsa Sass	Lottie Dawson Rae	Paul Wild
Alesia	Norma Volz	Bonanza
Mother's Choice	Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt	Philippe Rivoire
Luxor	Princess Margaret	Seashell
Bowl of Cream	Blanche King	Moonrise
Moonstone	Helen Hayes	Diana Parks
Judge Snook	Kansas	Lois Arleen
Myrtle Gentry	Chippewa	Cytherea
		Red Charm

\* \* \* \*

From Mr. Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas

Twenty-five best liked peonies, plus 4.

Mr. Bigger joined the Society in 1928 and all through the years, he has been growing peonies. He sells peony roots to this day and also remains in the cut flower business. He has introduced many of his own varieties which are considered the best in peonies.

Two of his peonies have received the Gold Medal, **Kansas** and **Westerner**. He was President of the Society in 1958, always on the Board of Directors, exhibited peonies at the National shows, and a prominent judge of peonies.

<b>Kansas</b>	<b>Shawnee Chief</b>	<b>Myrtle Gentry</b>
<b>Pink Derby</b>	<b>Capital Dome</b>	<b>Pure Joy</b>
<b>Comanche</b>	<b>June Rose</b>	<b>Cloud Cap</b>
<b>Paul M. Wild</b>	<b>Westerner</b>	<b>Douglas Brand</b>
<b>Eastern Star</b>	<b>Spellbinder</b>	<b>Myron D. Bigger</b>
<b>Truth</b>	<b>Sparkling Star</b>	<b>Gibraltar</b>
<b>Mons Jules Elie</b>	<b>Lovely Rose</b>	<b>Adonis</b>
<b>Myra MacRae</b>	<b>Cytherea</b>	<b>Red Charm</b>
<b>Jayhawker</b>	<b>Velvet Princess</b>	<b>Topeka Garnet</b>
<b>Reine Hortense</b>	<b>Aerie</b>	

Mr. Bigger comments: **Paul M. Wild** is on a par with **Kansas** and **Douglas Brand**. **Comanche** is the best red Japanese. **Pink Derby** is worthy of a Gold Medal and probably **Gibraltar** is as good as any other dark pink. **Eastern Star** is getting better and is a dead-white, and a good grower.

Marvin Karrels has been a member of the Society for many years. He was president in 1947, a member of the Board of Directors through the consecutive years and continuing. He is a senior judge of the seedling committee. He wrote the 'Guide for Exhibition Judging' and is an authority on the evaluation of the peony. He has exhibited his peonies at the National shows for 43 continuous years, always on the Court of Honor, winning awards.

Recommended list of peonies by Marvin C. Karrels

**White double**

Ann Cousins  
 Dr. J. H. Neeley  
 Elsa Sass  
 Frankie Curtis—bomb  
 Le Cyge  
 Mary E. Nicholls

**Blush double**

Annisquam  
 Moonstone  
 Norma Volz  
 Madylone

**Light pink double**

Ella Lewis  
 Hansina Brand  
 Marilla Beauty  
 Nick Shaylor

**Medium pink double**

Dolorodel  
 Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
 Mons Jules Elie  
 Mrs. Livingston Farrand  
 Sarah Bernhardt

**Red single**

Arcturus  
 Imperial red  
 President Lincoln

**Dark pink double**

Blanche King  
 Loren Franklin  
 Rose Glory  
 Gibraltar

**Light red double**

Kansas  
 Mabel Gore

**Medium red double**

Mary Brand

**Dark red double**

Highlight  
 Karl Rosenfield  
 Phillipe Rivoire  
 Onandago

**Single White**

Cygnnet  
 Pico

**Pink single**

Sea Shell

**Semi-double**

Red Goddess  
 Sylvia Saunders  
 Miss America

**Japanese**

Hari Ai Nin  
 Largo  
 Lotus Queen  
 Red Splendor

**Hybrids**

**WHITE:**  
 Chalice  
 Seraphim  
**PINK:**  
 Cytherea  
 Lovely Rose  
 Friendship  
 Laura Magnusson  
 Roselette  
 Athena

**RED:**

Alexander Woolcott  
 Diana Parks  
 Golden Glow  
 Heritage  
 Red Charm  
 Walter Mains - Japanese

**YELLOW, LEMON,  
 CREAM TINTS:**  
 Clare de Lune

**SALMON-CORAL:**  
 Coral Charm  
 Pink Hawaiian Coral

# History of the Peony

This historical document was written by Mr. A. M. Brand in 1922. It relates the years leading up to the American Peony Society, the hybridizers at that time, and the beginning of introduction of peonies in America.

Mr. R. W. Tischler, friend of A. M. Brand and former owner of the Brand Peony Farm, Faribault, Minnesota, submitted this history for the 85th Anniversary of the American Peony Society. Mr. Tischler now operates the Tischler Peony Garden, with all recognized peonies of the Brand era, and also his own creations of present and past years.

## *Paeonia Officinalis*—

A number of species of the peony are known to botanists. The many varieties of our modern gardens are descended in the main from two of these, *Paeonia officinalis* and *Paeonia albiflora*.

This species is a native of Southern Europe. In its wild state it bore single red flowers; but in a state of cultivation double ones appeared. Whites and pinks also were produced. It is the species to which the name *paeonia* was first applied. The ancient Greeks named it from a physician Paeon, who, according to ancient fable, cured the wounds received by the god Mars in the Trojan wars. It was supposed to have medicinal power, and, in time many miraculous powers were attributed to it. Bits of root were worn around the neck as a charm to keep off enchantments. It was introduced into England at an early date. Here, well into the last century, it was planted at the door of many a cottage to keep out evil spirits. It became so common that it was for a time scorned by the wealthy. From England it was brought to New England, and from here it has been carried all over our country.

The bright red peony of old-fashioned gardens is the finest variety of this species. The "piny toes," which our New England great-grandmothers separated from their cherished clumps and gave to their friends were what we should now buy as divisions of *Rubra officinalis*, although their owners would not have recognized them by this name. This is the earliest of the really good peonies. Being a native of the South, the blooming season comes earlier than that of the other garden varieties, whose ancestors came from the far North. With us it is generally in bloom for Decoration day. The whites of the *officinalis* species are poor and the pinks indifferent. But the old standby, *Rubra officinalis*, is a splendid variety, which we could ill-afford to lose.

## *Paeonia Albiflora*—

This is the species from which are descended most of the varieties of the modern herbaceous peony. It is a native of the cold portion of Siberia, where the temperature often stands at 60 below for a long time. It is no wonder that its descendants are among our hardiest flowers. In its wild state its flowers are typically single, and, as its name implies, they are generally white. But Prof. N. E. Hanson, of the State Agricultural Station at Brookings, S. D., who has been sent by the United States Government on several expeditions into Siberia to search

# Miscellaneous Topics of Interest

for hardy plants, tells us that he has seen semi-double blooms, and that occasionally he has run across a pink or a red.

Chinese traders passing over the great wall very early in the Christian era were taken with the flower, and on returning home took roots with them. It soon spread over that great empire and into Japan. Both the Chinese and Japanese have always been flower-loving people. Their nurserymen are ingenious and painstaking to a marked degree. They found the peony, with its different colors, its abundance of seed, and its tendency to throw sports an easy plant to work with; and by the year 600 A. D. they are said to have had hundreds of varieties in singles, semi-doubles, and doubles. The interest in the flower, even at that remote period, was such that they had peony societies, held shows, and kept records of their varieties.

English traders, penetrating China about the first of the Nineteenth Century, saw the flower and took roots home with them. China had many varieties at this time, and the importers must have selected what seemed to them the finest. Nevertheless, we know of but three of these early importations that are still commonly found in peony lists. They are *Whitleyii*, *Humei*, and *Fragrans*. The peony received a warm welcome in England and soon passed over the Channel into France.

## The Work of French Producers—

Although England has had many cultivators of the peony, and some producers, it is in France that the real history of the modern peony begins. A number of French gardeners raised peony seedlings in the early part of the Nineteenth Century and named a few of their best sorts (see table.) Some of these old varieties still find a place in most lists of peonies and a few are splendid varieties. Among the good ones are *L'Indispensable*, *Delicatissimi*, *Festiva*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Edulis Superba*, *Grandiflora*, *Nivea Plena*, *Alexander Dumas*, *Modeste Guerin*, *Purpurea Superba*, and *Madame Calot*. Since 1850 France has had four great originators—Calot, Crousse, Lemoine, and Dessert. Each has produced a long list of good peonies.

CALOT was the first of France's really great peony breeders. His work was done at Nancy, directly East of Paris perhaps a hundred and fifty miles. He inherited the collection of the Comte de Cussey; and, using this as a foundation for his work, he produced and named many meritorious varieties. He continued sending out seedlings up to the year 1872. Of the Calot peonies I have selected sixteen very fine sorts, all of which I consider well worth growing, and many of which are strictly first class (see table, p. 25). *Eugene* and *Eugenie Verdier*, *Marie Lemoine*, *Mons. Dupont*, and *Reine Hortense* we consider his best. In fact, we rank these among the world's best.

CROUSSE: Calot's work as an originator ceased with the year 1872, and during that year his collection passed into the hands of Crousse. It was a fortunate transfer. Calot was a great florist, but Crousse seems even greater. He was a tireless worker, and most painstaking. During the years this great collection was in his hands he produced more good sorts than any other one man. He had a genius for selection, and the flowers

he named and sent out are, as a rule, of a very high standard. From 1872 to 1879 he continued to send out from the Calot seedlings, but after 1879 the flowers were his own. The first good flower accredited to him in order of time is *Livingstone*, a magnificent deep pink and a flower hard to excel. *Livingstone* was introduced in 1879, and was followed during the next 17 years by a long list of uniformly high class flowers. His *Avalanche* is a flower without defect. We had rather sell to a beginner a *Mons. Jules Elie* than any other peony.

**THE LEMOINES.** In the same garden at Nancy where Calot and Crousse produced their wonderful flowers, Victor Lemoine, the greatest flower originator of all time, also did his work. He produced fine varieties of roses, geraniums, begonias, lilacs, and many other flowers, as well as of the peony. The uniformly high quality of the Lemoine peonies is remarkable. *Le Cygne*, the rival of *Therese* in general favor, *La Fee*, *La France*, *Solange*, *Sarah Bernhardt*,—the collector wants these and all the rest.

His son, Emile Lemoine, is now carrying on his work. Through the many raids upon Nancy during the late World War, he stayed bravely at his post, though a bomb from a German gun landed within a hundred yards of his house and about the same distance from the entire stock of one of his most cherished peonies.

**DESSERT:** At Chenanceaux, in Southern France, lives a genial gentleman styled Mons. A. Dessert. He is the originator of *Therese*, which is very generally considered the most beautiful of all peonies. Dessert is the greatest living authority on the peony. He has produced many varieties, and as a rule they are of the very highest order. While Calot and Crousse seem to have worked for beauty of form, for constitutional vigor of plant, and profusion of bloom, Dessert seems to have worked also for beautiful color combination. *Tourangelle* we consider equal to *Therese*.

### The English Producers—

**THE ENGLISH KELWAYS**, father and son, are the great English originators. They have sent out an immense number of varieties. The most of these have been inferior in quality. However, they have some remarkable varieties. Of these *Baroness Schroeder* is the best known. *Kelway's Glorious* is a truly wonderful flower. The call for it at \$40.00 per plant is so great that I have been compelled by insistent purchasers to sell some of the yearlings in my show bed.

### The Work of American Originators—

For perhaps a half century American peony lovers have been producing seedling peonies, some on a large scale, others on a small one. Most of their work it is too early to estimate, but we feel confident that some of these early American seedlings are destined to hold a permanent place in the list of the world's best peonies. We are sorry we are not familiar with all the productions of American originators, but we cannot close this account of the modern peony without giving some account of achievements in our own country.

**JOHN RICHARDSON**, of Dorchester, Mass., was a plant breeder of very high order. He worked on a limited scale, but



he loved his work and was painstaking. His *Walter Faxon* and *Milton Hill* are wonderful for their good size, pure color, and fragrance. *Milton Hill* must be cut in the bud and developed inside, as its colors are too delicate to stand the sun. His *Grandiflora* comes to us when everything else is gone. It is a pink, beautiful in both form and color. His *Rubra Superba* is also a splendid flower, and as late as *Grandiflora*. It is surprising that the same man should have produced both the best very late red and the best very late pink.

MR. HOLLIS, of Massachusetts, I am inclined to believe, produced but three first-class peonies. But these rank high. *Standard Bearer* is a splendid variety. The habit of this plant is excellent. The stems are very stout and rigidly erect. They are strong enough to carry well their immense loads of beauty. *Standard Bearer* is a *Madam Ducl* on a very large scale. *Love-liness* is all the name implies. It is an immense flat flower of a uniform hydrangea pink. *Maud L. Richardson* is another splendid Hollis variety.

MR. ROSENFELD has given us in *Karl Rosenfeld* a flower of the first order. It is an immense bright red, a good bloomer, a fine cut flower, and a splendid show flower. Considering its shade of red, it is one of the best reds ever produced.

MR. TERRY sent out a long list of varieties, but we are afraid that but few of them will stand the test when compared with those of more discriminating growers. But his *Rachel* is a splendid flower. *Etta* is very good. It is a late pink of good form and color.

MRS. PLEAS worked long and diligently with her seedlings, and has been rewarded by seeing two of her varieties take the very highest rank. *Jubilee* is a wonderful white of great beauty, while in *Elwood Pleas* she has given us a fine pink of a very pure attractive shade. Both varieties show up splendidly in the show room.

THE THURLOWS have produced at least four very fine peonies,—*President Wilson* (undoubtedly the best), *E. C. Shaw*, *Cherry Hill*, and *Pride of Essex*.

SAUNDERS has shown some very good things. His *Grace Loomis* is a fine large white, and *Sylvia*, a semi-double pink, very much resembles a large semi-double wild rose.

MR. FRANKLIN also has some fine seedings. Probably the best are *W. F. Christman* and *Mabel Franklin*.

MR. SHAYLOR has produced some seedlings that have won hearty praise. His *Georgiana Shaylor* and *Mary Woodberry Shaylor* we know are exceptionally fine.

We were fortunate enough to attend the Cleveland National Convention when his *Mrs. Edward Harding* received the \$100.00 prize. The three specimen blooms upon which the prize was received were as fine white peonies as we have ever seen. They are the only perfectly developed blooms of this very recent variety that we have ever seen.

THE BRAND PEONIES have received a recognition of which we are proud. Of the 22 varieties which, according to the vote of the American Peony Society, rank as the world's choicest, five were produced by Lemoine, five by Dessert, four by the Brands, and three by the Kelways. No other originator has produced more than two.

# Historical Table of Peonies

## Chief Producers and Their Varieties

In this table the chief peony originators and their productions are arranged as nearly as possible in chronological order. The table shows also the ratings of the varieties in the symposium of the American Peony Society.

### French Producers—

<p><b>Average</b></p> <p><b>LEMON.</b></p> <p>7.6 Edulis Superba (1824)</p> <p>8.1 Grandiflora Nivea Plena (1824)</p> <p><b>DONKELAER</b></p> <p>8 Festiva (1838)</p> <p><b>DELACHE</b></p> <p>6.8 Purpurea Superba (1855)</p> <p>7.1 Delachei (1856)</p> <p><b>GUERIN</b></p> <p>7.8 Modeste Guerin (1845)</p> <p>7.1 Alexandre Dumas (1862)</p> <p><b>MIELLEZ</b></p> <p>9.3 Festiva Maxima (1851)</p> <p>8.1 Mme. Calot (1856)</p> <p><b>CALOT.</b></p> <p>8.7 Reine Hortense (1857)</p> <p>8.1 Duchess de Nemours (1858)</p> <p>8.2 Gigantea (1860)</p> <p>8.1 Mlle. Leonie Calot (1861)</p> <p>8 Boule de Neige (1862)</p> <p>8.3 Eugene Verdier (1864)</p> <p>8.6 Eugenie Verdier (1864)</p> <p>7.8 Triomphe de l'Exposition de Lille (1865)</p> <p>7.9 Mme. Crousse (1866)</p> <p>7.8 Augustin d'Hour (1867)</p> <p>8.5 Octavie Demay (1867)</p> <p>7.5 Constant Devred (1869)</p> <p>8.5 Marie Lemoine (1869)</p> <p>8.3 Mons. Dupont (1872)</p> <p>8.1 Couronne D'Or (1873)</p> <p>8.1 Mlle. Rousseau (1868)</p> <p><b>CROUSSE</b></p> <p>8.1 Livingstone (1879)</p> <p>7.9 Mme. Geissler (1880)</p> <p>8.4 Felix Crousse (1881)</p> <p>8.5 Mme. Emile Galle (1881)</p> <p>7.7 Mme. Forel (1881)</p> <p>7.5 Mme. de Galhau (1883)</p> <p>8.7 Albatre (1885)</p> <p>7.9 Mme. de Verneville (1885)</p> <p>8.7 Claire Dubois (1886)</p> <p>8.5 La Perle (1886)</p> <p>8.3 La Rosiere (1888)</p> <p>9.2 Mons. Jules Elie (1888)</p> <p>8.9 Marie Crousse (1892)</p> <p>8.4 Marguerite Gerard (1892)</p> <p>8.6 Albert Crousse (1893)</p> <p>8.1 Asa Gray (1895)</p>	<p><b>Average</b></p> <p>8.2 Gismonde (1895)</p> <p>8.2 Pierre Ducharte (1895)</p> <p><b>LEMOINE</b></p> <p>8.9 Mme. Emile Lemoine (1899)</p> <p>8.1 Galathee (1900)</p> <p>9.0 La France (1901)</p> <p>8.6 La Lorraine (1901)</p> <p>8.9 Enchantress (1903)</p> <p>8.8 Alsace Lorraine (1906)</p> <p>9.2 La Fee (1906)</p> <p>9.0 Sarah Bernhardt (1906)</p> <p>9.9 Le Cygne (1907)</p> <p>8.6 Primevere (1907)</p> <p>9.7 Solange (1907)</p> <p>8.4 Lamartine (1908)</p> <p><b>VERDIER.</b></p> <p>8.3 Marie Jacquin</p> <p><b>DESSERT</b></p> <p>8.5 Adolphe Rosseau (1890)</p> <p>7.6 Pierre Dessert (1890)</p> <p>8.3 Eugene Bigot (1899)</p> <p>8.2 Mme. de Treyeran (1899)</p> <p>8.8 M. Martin Cahuzac (1899)</p> <p>8.4 Albiflora, the Bride (1902)</p> <p>8.5 Germaine Bigot (1902)</p> <p>9.8 Therese (1904)</p> <p>9.0 Rosa Bonheur (1905)</p> <p>9.4 Mme. Jules Dessert (1909)</p> <p>9.0 Raoul Dessert (1910)</p> <p>8.8 Souv. de Louis Bigot (1913)</p> <p><b>RIVIERE</b></p> <p>9.2 Philippe Rivoire (1911)</p>	<p><b>Average</b></p> <p><b>HOLLIS.</b></p> <p>8.5 Maud L. Richardson (1904)</p> <p>8.8 Standard Bearer (1906)</p> <p>8.8 Loveliness (1907)</p> <p><b>ROSENFELD</b></p> <p>8.8 Karl Rosenfeld (1908)</p> <p><b>TERRY</b></p> <p>7.9 Rachel</p> <p>8.0 Etta</p> <p>8.2 Grover Cleveland</p> <p><b>MRS. PLEAS</b></p> <p>8.5 Opal</p> <p>8.7 Elwood Pleas</p> <p>8.9 Jubilee</p> <p><b>SHAYLOR</b></p> <p>8.9 Georgiana Shaylor (1908)</p> <p>9.4 Mary Woodberry Shaylor</p> <p>9.9 Mrs. Edward Harding</p> <p><b>FRANKLIN</b></p> <p>W. F. Christman</p> <p>Mabel Franklin</p> <p><b>SAUNDERS</b></p> <p>9.2 Grace Loomis (1920)</p> <p>Sylvia</p> <p><b>THURLOW</b></p> <p>8.6 Cherry Hill (1915)</p> <p>8.8 Pride of Essex (1916)</p> <p>9.4 Pres. Wilson (1918)</p> <p>9.4 E. C. Shaw (1919)</p> <p><b>THE BRANDS</b></p> <p>7.8 Charles McKellip (1907)</p> <p>9.2 Elizabeth B. Browning (1907)</p> <p>9.1 Frances Willard (1907)</p> <p>8.5 Henry Avery (1907)</p> <p>8.6 Judge Berry (1907)</p> <p>9.0 Longfellow (1907)</p> <p>9.2 Martha Bulloch (1907)</p> <p>8.7 Mary Brand (1907)</p> <p>8.8 Phoebe Carey (1907)</p> <p>8.8 Richard Carvel (1907)</p> <p>8.1 Ruth Brand (1907)</p> <p>8.4 Chestine Gowdy (1913)</p> <p>8.4 Lora Dexheimer (1913)</p> <p>7.8 Winnifred Domme (1913)</p> <p>8.4 Luetta Pfeiffer (1916)</p> <p>8.7 Brand's Magnificent (1918)</p> <p>8.2 Faribault (1918)</p> <p>David Harum (1920)</p> <p>Mrs. Jennie R. Gowdy (1920)</p> <p>Desire (1922)</p>
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### English Producers—

<p><b>THE KELWAYS</b></p> <p>8.3 Venus (1888)</p> <p>9.0 Baroness Schroeder (1889)</p> <p>8.7 James Kelway (1900)</p> <p>9.1 Lady Alex. Duff (1902)</p> <p>8.8 Phyllis Kelway (1908)</p> <p>9.8 Kelway's Glorious (1909)</p> <p>8.8 Kelway's Queen (1909)</p>
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### American Producers—

<p><b>RICHARDSON</b></p> <p>7.7 Dorchester (1870)</p> <p>7.2 Rubra Superba (1871)</p> <p>8.8 Grandiflora (1883)</p> <p>9.0 Milton Hill (1891)</p> <p>9.3 Walter Faxon (1904)</p>
--

## MR. E. J. SHAYLOR ORIGINATIONS

Cornelia Shaylor	Mrs. Edward Harding
Doris	Mrs. E. J. Shaylor
E. J. Shaylor	Mrs. M. P. Clough
Eunice Shaylor	Mrs. Shaylor Force
Georgiana Shaylor	Nell Shaylor
Jessie Shaylor	Rose Shaylor
Lucy Shaylor	Secretary Fewkes
Mary Woodbury Shaylor	Shaylors Dream
Minnie Shaylor	Will McClellan
Mrs. Charles Gilbert	Wilton Lockwood
	Wm. F. Turner

## SINGLE AND JAPANESE VARIETIES

Alma	Le Noir
Aureolin	L'Innocence
Deborah Sayles	Marjorie Allison
Dorothy Allison	Ruth Force
La Nuit	Shirley Walker
LeJour	

Because of failing health, his assistant, F. H. Allison, continued the business.

From *Bulletin #29*, Mr. Christman, Editor

(All of Mr. Shaylor's peonies may be found in the first part of "*History of Peonies and their Originations.*")

## ANEMONE type peonies

While this peony resembles the Japanese type, it is easily distinguished from it because there are no anthers and the stamens, called petaloids, are broader, forming the center of the flower. The petaloid centers have no contrasting yellow marking, though some have yellow centers. The anemone has been favored by many peony fanciers and the varieties have been accepted as having much individual beauty.

To name a few, **PRIMEVERE** is a creamy white with a center of sulphur yellow. **GOLDEN DAWN** has ivory white petals with a pale yellow center. **GAY PAREE** is a beautiful two-color novelty peony. **PRAIRIE AFIRE** is a pink with fiery red petaloids.

**White Cap**—guards almost red, petaloids fading white.

# GRAND CHAMPION PEONIES — NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

1947 <b>BLANCHE KING</b>	1967 <b>DORIS COOPER</b>
1948 <b>YUKON</b>	1968 <b>CAROL</b>
1949 <b>A. B. FRANKLIN</b>	1969 <b>NICK SHAYLOR</b>
1950 <b>KANSAS</b>	1970 <b>PRINCESS MARGARET</b>
1951 <b>RED CHARM</b>	1971 <b>DOUGLAS BRAND</b>
1952 <b>NANCY NICHOLLS</b>	1972 <b>SPELLBINDER</b>
1953 <b>LE CYGNE</b>	1973 <b>DINNER PLATE</b>
1954 <b>ANN COUSINS</b>	1974 <b>PRINCESS MARGARET</b>
1955 <b>JAMES PILLOW</b>	1975 <b>ROBERT W. AUTEN</b>
1956 <b>LE CYGNE</b>	1976 <b>CAROL</b>
1957 <b>NO SHOW</b>	1977 <b>JAMES PILLOW</b>
1958 <b>DORIS COOPER</b>	1978 <b>PRINCESS MARGARET</b>
1959 <b>HANSINA BRAND</b>	1979 <b>Tree Peony—YACHIYO TABAKI</b>
1960 <b>LE CYGNE</b>	1980 <b>MISS AMERICA</b>
1961 <b>FRANCES MAINS</b>	1981 <b>DOUGLAS BRAND</b>
1962 <b>LOVELY ROSE</b>	1982 <b>Tree Peony—HAKU-RAKU-TEN</b>
1963 <b>MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT</b>	1983 <b>CYTHEREA</b>
1964 <b>HANSINA BRAND</b>	1984 <b>MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT</b>
1965 <b>RED CHARM</b>	1985 <b>HANSINA BRAND</b>
1966 <b>ANNISQUAM</b>	1986 <b>MINNIE SHAYLOR</b>
	1987 <b>HIGH NOON</b>

## THE GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

Since 1923, the American Peony Society has from time to time chosen certain varieties of peonies to receive the Society's Gold Medal, for outstanding excellence and performance.

The following is the list of these prestigious peonies.

**MRS. A. M. BRAND** (Brand, 1925), St. Paul, 1923  
**A. B. FRANKLIN** (Franklin, 1928), Chicago, 1933  
**MRS. J. V. EDLUND** (Edlund, 1929), Chicago, 1933  
**HARRY F. LITTLE** (Nicholls, 1933), St. Paul, 1934  
**NICK SHAYLOR** (Allison, 1931), Syracuse, 1941  
**ELSA SASS** (Sass, H. P., 1930), Minneapolis, 1943  
**HANSINA BRAND** (Brand, 1925), Rockford, 1946  
**GOLDEN GLOW** (Glasscock, 1935), Rockford, 1946  
**MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** (Franklin, 1933), Guelph, 1948  
**DORIS COOPER** (Cooper, 1946), Milwaukee, 1949

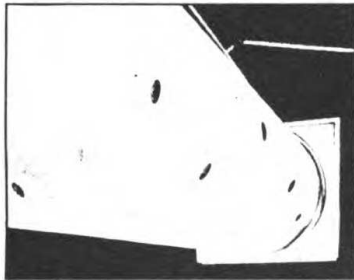
These ten varieties were the ones listed by Mr. Peyton up to the time of his search of records. Since then the following have been added to the list:

**RED CHARM** (Glasscock, 1944), Dixon, Illinois, 1956  
**MISS AMERICA** (J. R. Mann-Van Steen, 1936), Dixon, Ill., 1956  
**KANSAS** (Bigger, 1940), Grand Forks, North Dakota, 1957  
**MOONSTONE** (Murawska, 1943), Minneapolis, 1959  
**MISS AMERICA** (J. R. Mann-Van Steen, 1936), Mpls., 1971  
**NICK SHAYLOR** (Allison, 1931), Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, 1972  
**AGE OF GOLD** (Saunders), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1973  
**WALTER MAINS** (Mains, 1957), Hamilton, Ont., Canada, 1974  
**BU-TE** (Wassenberg, 1954), Kingwood Ctr., Mansfield, Ohio 1975  
Both **MISS AMERICA** and **NICK SHAYLOR** were awarded a second time because no one remembered they were already among the elite, which emphasizes their excellence.  
**CYTHEREA** (Saunders, 1953), Ithaca, New York, 1980  
**BOWL OF CREAM** (Klehms, 1963), Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, 1981  
**WESTERNER** (Bigger, 1942), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1982  
**CHINESE DRAGON** (Saunders), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1983  
**DOLORODELL** (Lins, 1942), Kingwood Center, 1984  
**BURMA RUBY** (Glasscock, 1951), Mahomet, Illinois, 1985  
**CORAL CHARM** (Wissing, 1964), Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1986  
**NORMA VOLZ** (A. L. Volz, 1962), Kingwood Center, 1987

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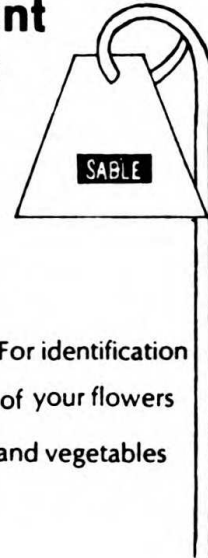
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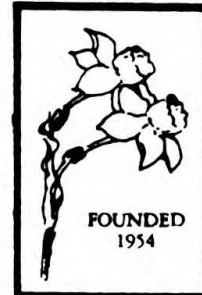
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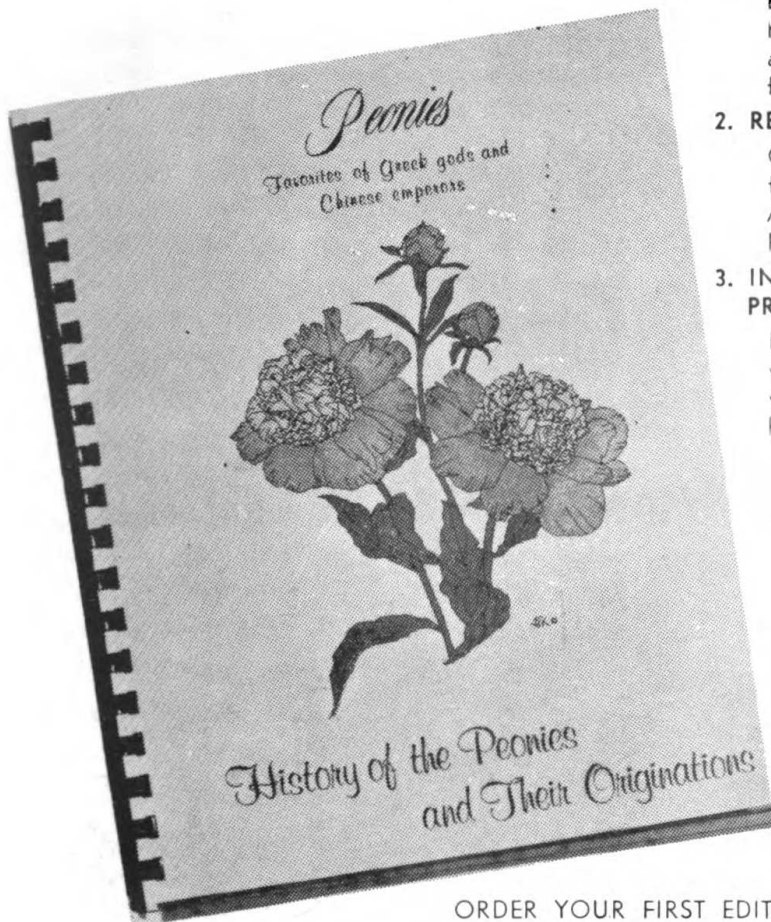
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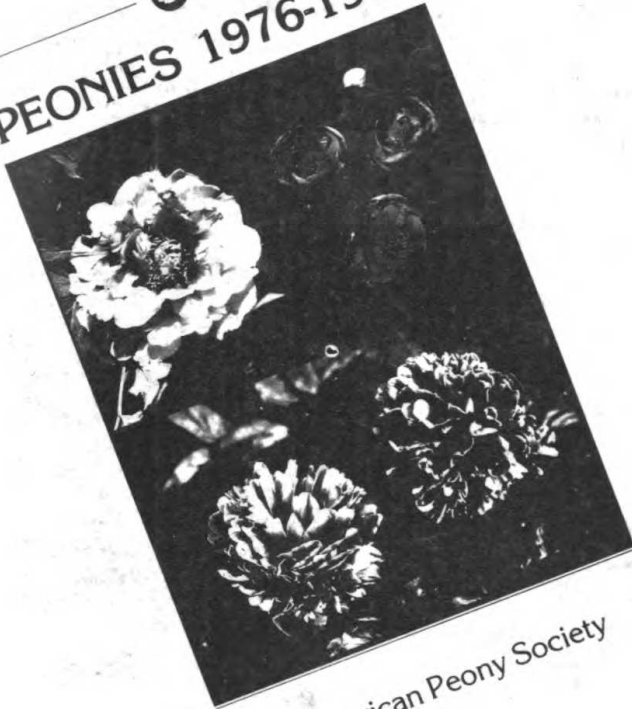
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