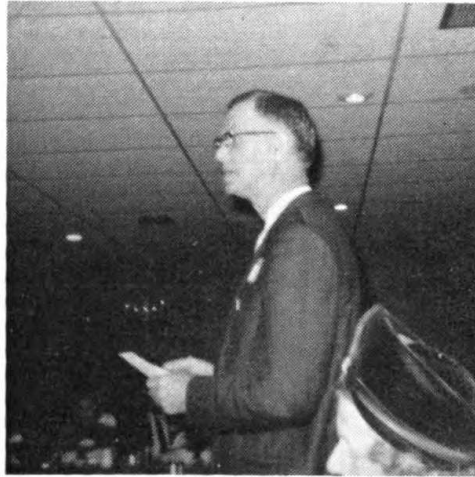


American Peony Society Bulletin

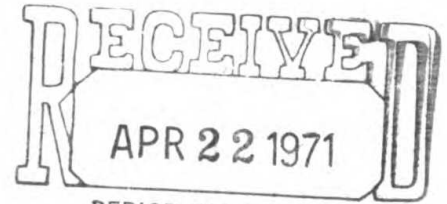


DECEMBER, 1970 — NO. 198



Samuel E. Wissing

October 28, 1899 — August 31, 1970



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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

107½ W. Main St.,
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Area Code 419-232-0861

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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.

Annual dues are \$7.50. The year begins January 1st and ends December 31st.

Applicants for membership should send check or money order payable to the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY, c/o Secretary, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances.

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This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies". Those who desire to register a new variety (and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names) should apply to Chas. D. Pennell, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee.



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THE NEW HYBRIDS OF MOUTAN

By **Leo J. Armatys**, Central City, Nebraska

Reprinted by the kind permission of the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, England. The color plate was obtained through the kind cooperation of the R.H.S.

Few flowering shrubs have resisted application of the Mendelian mechanism quite so stubbornly as *Paeonia suffruticosa*, better known as Moutan, the woody-stemmed tree peony. None can match the results now promised as the magnitude of the GRATWICK-DAPHNIS hybridizing breakthrough becomes apparent.

Late in the nineteenth century, LOUIS HENRY of Paris and VICTOR LEMOINE of Nancy (France) made the *P. lutea* x Moutan cross using pollen from Chinese-type tree peonies. The resultant hybrids are mainly heavy yellow doubles. Some of them, including 'Souvenir de Maxime Cornu', 'Chromatella' and 'Alice Harding', are still in commerce, many of these plants now coming from Japan under the names of 'Kinkaku', 'Kinshi' and 'Kinkow'. Fine though some of these hybrids were, their weak-stemmed habit of hiding blooms beneath the foliage, often face downward, was deplored by expert and amateur alike

Shortly after World War I, PROFESSOR A. P. SAUNDERS of Clinton, New York, set out to develop hybrids with better balance between stem and flower. His crossing of selected strains of *P. lutea* and *P. delavayi* x single and semi-double Japanese-type tree peonies yielded seventy-five distinctive new varieties with uniformly good foliage and well-held flowers. Demand for these hybrids still exceeds the supply. Some of the better known kinds are 'Chinese Dragon', 'Black Pirate', 'Silver Sails,' 'High Noon,' 'Golden Hind', 'Golden Isles', 'Age of Gold' and the scarce ivory single, 'Coronal'. In June, 1969, the American Peony Society celebrated the centenary of PROFESSOR SAUNDERS' birth with a mammoth display of varieties introduced by this master hybridizer.

PROFESSOR SAUNDERS grew older. More and more of his work was shifted to the willing hands of his protege, WILLIAM GRATWICK, of Pavilion, New York. This dedicated young man shared PROFESSOR SAUNDERS' oft-quoted opinion that the tree peony has reached the plateau of excellence toward which all other flowers must still strive. But he also believed that a plethora of worthwhile varieties remained locked in the mixed-up genes of Moutan. He dreamed of the ultimate breakthrough—the creation of a race of tree peony hybrids embodying the best qualities of the majestic Moutans and the *lutea* species in carefully contrived combinations. Moutan had the strong stems, the well-held flowers of great size and elegant texture. *P. lutea* would contribute finer foliage, vigour, and the yellow colour missing from the Moutan spectrum. He did not,

as sometimes reported, set out to mould a plant with three parts Moutan, one part *lutea*. He proposed instead to make every conceivable cross, trusting nature to compress Moutan's millenia into mere decades.

In 1946 GRATWICK enlisted the aid of his good friend, artist NASSOS DAPHNIS, of New York City. A fortuitous partnership has endured to this day. GRATWICK had all the SAUNDERS hybrids plus two apparently sterile F-2 offspring of those hybrids. He had hundreds of *P. lutea* seedlings from which he selected a dozen with superior foliage, flower and habit. He had specimen plants of all the better Japanese varieties and they were true to name—in an industry where this is all too seldom the case. He had long since discarded the ungainly Chinese doubles. He had three of his own introductions out of thousands grown from Chugai seed—strong, sombre, tall-growing 'Guardian of the Monastery', the big, white, characterful 'Companion of Serenity', and 'Dark of the Moon', rated as best of all the dark ones. Other seedlings of merit in this group were saved but never introduced, in line with his policy of introducing only those kinds representing a measurable improvement over existing varieties.

The flowers produced by the two F-2s that GRATWICK brought with him from PROFESSOR SAUNDERS' nursery were not impressive, but they were the only known members of the second filial generation. GRATWICK designated them simply as A and B. F-3s and F-4s soon followed. All plants used in the breeding programme were numbered and careful records kept. Sales Manager GARY P. SEAMAN shrugs off questions about botanical classification of the new generations emerging in Pavilion. The House of Gratwick is willing to leave this task to the geneticists and systematic botanists.

BILL GRATWICK and NAS DAPHNIS were ready. They had the motivation and all the tools. They had familiarized themselves with such things as heterosis, linkage, the hypothesis of crossing over of genes in the pairing chromosomes with potential of unlimited new combinations of characteristics. The curtain was about to rise on one of the most ambitious projects in gardening history!

DAPHNIS started the crossings with *P. lutea* x Moutan, and became the first to reverse the cross, Moutan x *lutea*. This first filial generation (F-1) produced several dozen worthy new plants. Eleven have already been named. Only one, the extended bloomer 'Tria', has thus far reached the market. 'Tria' is a good garden plant with three crisp yellow flowers on each strong stem, held high above delicate foliage (Fig. 64). They open in sequence, usually at four- or five-day intervals, to give a longer blooming period than any other tree peony. It is the first of the *lutea* hybrids to bloom, and the last to go. Others waiting in the wings include the rich pastel pink 'Redon' with 10-inch blooms; 'Artemis', a strong grower

with big pure yellow flowers of perfect form (Fig. 68); 'Gauguin', the most exotic flower of them all, yellow and red with boldest centre and an overall effect like the sun bursting into flames; and 'Kronos', 'Demetra' (Fig. 67), 'Tessera', 'Themis', 'Marie Laurencin', 'Persepolis' and 'Persephone'—each with a personality of its own.

The most dramatic pairing was F-1 x F-2. It was an unqualified success. At least 150 plants resulted from this cross, all of them presently used for breeding only. They are characterized by tremendous vigour and are labelled Daphnis Back Cross No. 1 (BC-1).

Now other varieties got into the act. Moutans 'Guardian of the Monastery' and 'Companion of Serenity' were used freely as both seed and pollen parents. There was Moutan x F-2 (this too is back cross); F-1 x Moutan (the largest plants yet have come from this cross); Moutan x BC-1 (the first three plants of this cross bloomed spring 1968); Moutan x F-1; Moutan x F-3; F-3 x Moutan; F-1 x F-1 ('Black Pirate' x 'Golden Isles'); lutea x F-2; F-2 x F-2; F-1 x BC-1; F-2 x F-1; F-2 x Moutan; F-2 x BC-1; BC-1 x Moutan; and even BC-1 x 'Moonrise', the SAUNDERS herbaceous tetraploid.

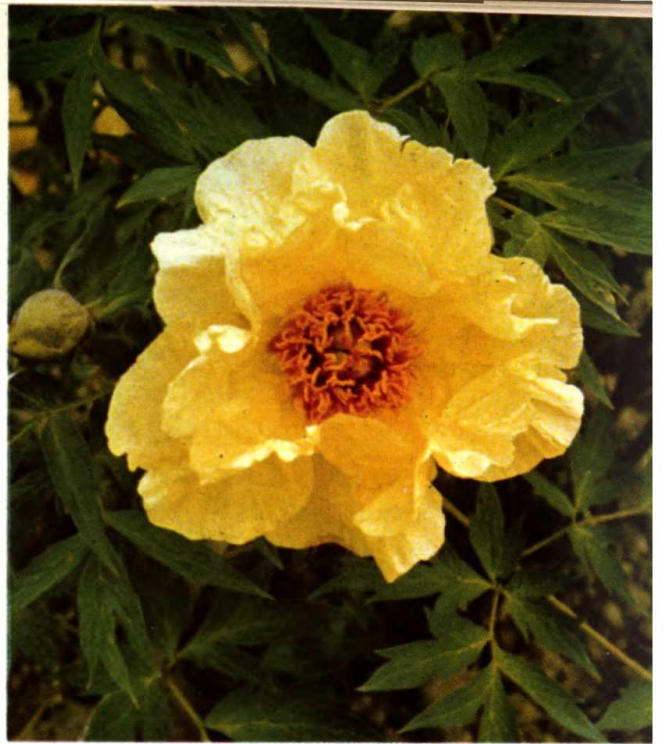
The artist's brush has diminished but not eliminated the traditional role of the bee, as these New York hybridizers leave no avenues unexplored. Self-pollinated F-1s include one of the most gorgeous reds imaginable, known simply as D-255. Self-pollinated F-2, F-3 and BC-1 seedlings are also growing in the nursery.

Then there were crosses of "Choni" with F-2 (both ways); lutea x "Choni"; Moutan x "Choni", "Choni" x Moutan; and BC-1 x "Choni". "Choni" is a rather dwarf species given to GRATWICK in 1952 by PROFESSOR SAUNDERS who raised it from seed (labelled *P. suffruticosa*, Choni Monastery, Cleveland Morgan) gathered in Tibet. But "Choni" is another story—an important one—in the continuing chronicle of the magnificent Moutan!

Still other crosses have been made and more are planned. All signs indicate that the momentum of the GRATWICK-DAPHNIS hybridizing programme will be maintained.

Blooming season in Pavilion is something that cannot be duplicated elsewhere. These advanced breeds of tree peonies are being hailed by hybridizers of all persuasions. Some day, hopefully within a dozen years, new cultivars meeting WILLIAM GRATWICK'S lofty standard of excellence will be released to fulfil their destiny in the finer gardens of the world.

Editorial Note: These hybrids are not yet available from nurserymen in the United Kingdom.

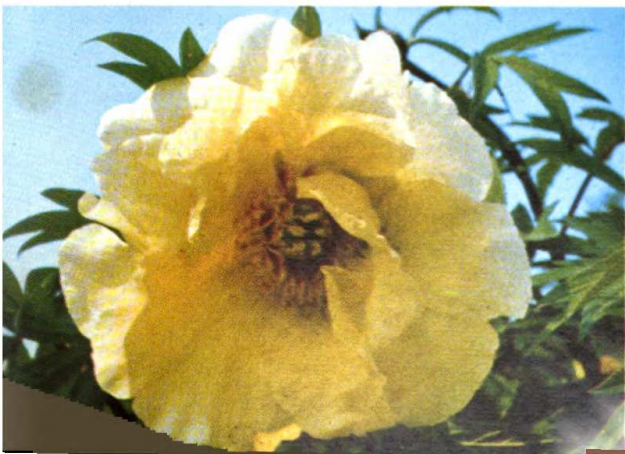


THE NEW HYBRIDS OF MOUTAN

Photos: (left) Gary P. Seaman; (right) N. Daphnis
 (above left)—'Tria' (*lutea* × Moutan). Three buds on each branch open in rotation, so extending the period of bloom by at least a week. (above right)—A close-up of a flower of 'Tria'



Photos: N. Daphnis
 (above left)—An unnamed self-pollinated F₁ hybrid. (above right)—'Demetra' (*lutea* × Moutan); a Daphnis F₁ hybrid. (below left)—'Artemis' (*lutea* × 'Guardian of the Monastery'), one of the strongest growing of the Daphnis F₁ hybrids. (below right)—An unnamed seedling from F₂(B) × "Choni"





HYBRIDIZE?

By Anthony J. DeBlasi

Yes, that is a question mark in the title. Let me be the last one to answer: "No." But there are some **Cons** to this business, and the following criticism of the hybridize craze developing in our society (and underway in others) is offered if only to balance the one-sided discussion.

It is this observer's opinion that the attempt to bring "something new" into the world, through cross-pollination (or otherwise), should be tempered by a foreknowledge of what is involved and should be undertaken with a sense of responsibility and not of immortality.

Sure, there is no harm in brushing the pollen off this flower onto that flower to "see what will happen." This can be great fun. Even exciting if pursued to second, third, etc. generation crosses. But as we surround ourselves with hordes of plants, by such efforts, some of which are "different," most of which are mongrels, are we willing to discard the entire lot when we know (deep down) that we have not succeeded in making a **distinct improvement** or **important change**—or will our vanity prevent us from parting with them because they are "our children" and it was an awful expense in terms of time and effort? Do we have the heart to assign all seedlings that fall short of excellence or promise to their deserved place in oblivion? Or are we, like the photographer who gets a new box of slides, going to keep every one of them, "just in case," even though we would reject them if they were someone else's work?

Have you noticed what such uninhibited procreative activity has been doing to other flower societies? Many of them become inundated by "novelties" that are so similar to each other and to past varieties—and **so few** of which are actual improvements of the race—that the

yearly catalogs are more like fashion shows than offerings of value. Do we want fad parades for our society?

Recently I walked through an extensive planting, which included some of "the latest," of the world's favorite flower (not the peony, mind you). Had I been in charge of the breeding program that produced them, I would have discarded about 80% of the lot. In that 80%, **not one** variety could compete with the finer varieties of yesterday. Of the 20%, most of them were older, established favorites!

Hybridizing, to be successful, must be a way of life. Anyone who is seriously concerned with improving a group of plants must be dedicated, as an artist to his work or a minister to his calling. Spare-time dabbling won't do. One must model one's efforts after those of the great hybridists of the past and not live in the hope of a "lucky strike." Your chances at Las Vegas are better.

Anything short of such serious-minded dedication is dilettantism. Fascinating as a hobby. Nothing wrong with it. But if you must do it, please—keep the mongrels to yourself, and chances are that will be well over 99% of them (or consider expanding the compost heap). Like home movies, such products should be kept at home.

I would recommend the following two mottoes for hybridists:

"One fine variety is greater than all lesser varieties combined."

"**Nil sine magnum laborum.**"

FESTIVA MAXIMA WINS AWARD OF MERIT

Festiva Maxima—exhibited by Mrs. Ernest L. Schneider, 3204 Birch Street, Wichita Falls, Texas 76309 was judged best specimen of the Show and awarded the American Peony Society Award of Merit at the 1970 annual Wichita Falls Florarama.

This annual event, sponsored by the Wichita Falls Florarama Council of Garden Clubs, was held April 25th and 26th 1970. Theme “Galaxies 1970” was timely and provided a challenge to all exhibitors.

Festiva Maxima is a double type; very large; early. It was originated by Miellez, 1851. It is a beautiful white peony with prominent crimson flakes on a few central petals; tall; very floriferous. It is fairly fragrant and the foliage is large and dark green. From the book “Peonies”, the manual of the American Peony Society edited by James Boyd in 1928 and now out of print, we quote: “This is an excellent Peony for both garden decoration and cutting. The flowers are globular, with white petals of heavy substance, loosely arranged, and last well when cut. It is an old, thoroughly tested variety whose merit is proved by its very great popularity”. Festive Maxima never fails to attract attention and has received many awards. The schedule for the Show was one of the best this writer has had an opportunity to read and would be an example for Flower Show Committees serving in any section of the country. There were three divisions: I-Horticulture; II-Artistic Arrangements; III-Educational Conservation and Civic Projects were a challenge to all gardeners. Horticulture Rules numbered 8 and were coupled with 14 Artistic Rules. Horticulture Awards and

Artistic Awards were well planned and augmented with descriptive analysis of the main types of Contemporary Artistic Design and Elements of Design.

Section F in this Division was devoted to the PEONY. The American Peony Society is appreciative of the opportunity to present an Award of Merit this year. Theme of this Section was “Cloudcaps of Color”.

Garden Club members interested primarily in arrangements must have been delighted with the various classes including Earth—Deserts— Seas— Mountains— Skies— Moon—Sunbeams—Dawn—The Heavens—Stars—Big Dipper—Weather Clouds—Planets—Venus; all carrying out the theme of the Show—“Galaxies 1970”.

Three classes in Section B of Division II with the theme “The Seasons”, were **TABLES**;

(a) Lunar Dinner—A spring setting;

(b) Solar Brunch—A summer setting; and

(c) Celestial Supper—A fall setting.

Entries in these classes were eligible for the Tricolor Award.

PLANT HYBRIDIZING, A FASCINATING STUDY

By A. P. Saunders

reprinted from June, 1943 bulletin no. 90

Having devoted all my leisure time for the past twenty-five years to hybridizing peonies, I ought, by this time, to have something to say about my experiences.

The actual process of cross-fertilization is with most flowers not difficult, and with the peony very easy. You simply bring some pollen from a flower on one plant and put it on the stigma of a flower on another plant, and leave nature to do the rest.

There is much difference of opinion as to how the word **hybrid** should be used. If you put pollen of one Chinese peony, say **albiflora the Bride** on to another plant of the same race, say **James Kelway**, do you get true hybrid plants as a result, or must your two parent plants be of different species to give true hybrids? This is for you to decide. Ordinary usage is in favor of calling anything a hybrid in which the male and female plants are different—different species or merely different varieties. Personally I prefer to use the term in its narrower sense and to consider only those plants as true hybrids which are the result of crossing different species. But here, as usual, the moment you try to frame a rule you find you are in trouble. For you must now make up your mind as to what you mean by species and what species are distinct and valid, and while perhaps you can make up your own mind you cannot make up the mind of anyone else so that he will agree with you. Thus, we only go on from one trouble to another.

My own efforts in the production of hybrid peonies at any rate have been confined to making crosses between such different forms as have

at least by some people been considered to be distinct species.

The technique of crossing is perhaps worth a moment's attention. I gather anthers from any flower I wish to use, when it is just opening. These anthers are put on a watch crystal and left in a dry room for a day or two, during which time they burst open (**dehisce**) and shed the pollen on the glass. This pollen, if stored in a dry atmosphere, will keep very well there for months. I use a chemist's desiccator with some diluted sulphuric acid in it to absorb the moisture. Stored in this way pollens keep so well that I have had some that still showed activity after a full year.

You plan in the morning what crosses you will make, select the appropriate pollens and put them in your work basket. The little watch crystals should be contained in separate boxes so that the pollen shall not be blown away by wind and so that direct sunlight shall not fall on it for any length of time. Some workers like to transfer the pollen to the stigma by picking some up on the end of the finger and dabbing it on; but I prefer to use a very small brush, as this involves much less loss.

After the cross is made, I put a paper bag over it and attach a wooden label marked with a number which corresponds with an entry in my cross book.

In the autumn the crosses are all gathered, the bags opened, the number of seeds, if any, recorded, and the seeds then planted. In due time, six or seven years, you will know whether the cross was worth making and should be continued with.

As a general rule species hybrids in peonies are sterile, though not

absolutely so. By that I mean that every strain of peony hybrids that I have made has eventually produced some seeds; very few perhaps, but some.

When I was younger and more confiding, I was told by a botanist that what I needed was to know the number of chromosomes in the various species and that I would find that where the numbers were alike the species would intercross, but that they would not if the chromosome numbers were different. This suggestion was meant kindly but as later experience showed bore no relation to the facts. All peony species have in the pollen and egg cells either five or ten chromosomes. My records show that the chances of success are not better when you cross a five chromosome variety with five than when you cross a five chromosome variety with a ten, though crossing ten with ten does give a somewhat better chance of success than either of the other combinations. But, just as there seems to be no absolute sterility among these hybrids, so I am inclined to think that there is no absolute incompatibility between the species. And this is illustrated by the following story:

There is a yellow-flowered species native to the Caucasus region, which is called *P. Mlokosewitschi*. It is a diploid, that is, it has five chromosomes in the reproductive cells, ten in the plant as a whole. (The number of chromosomes in the reproductive cells is always half of those in the body cells.) The ordinary Chinese peonies of our gardens are also diploid, and hence according to my botanical friend the Chinese peonies should cross nicely with *P. Mlokosewitschi*. But if you try to make the cross you will not describe it as taking "nicely". I made about 500 such crosses and got nothing from any of them; so I

gave it up. About the same time my friend Dr. E. B. White of Washington started on this cross and in the course of four or five years made something like 5,000 crosses; and he was rewarded in the end by getting two or three evidently hybrid plants as the results of his labors.

These plants are of great interest to the peony grower but I cite them here not for the reason, but to show that a cross which refuses to "take" when you make it hundreds of times may finally submit if you make a few thousands. Your motto therefore should be "Never Say Die."

If you are to undertake any extensive crossings you must learn to test the pollens you use. I had my lesson on this when I brought over one year from Holland some plants of the species *P. Wittmanniana*. This plant bears pale yellowish flowers and in the hands of the great Lemoine it yielded, by crossing with the Chinese peonies, those attractive early-flowering varieties which are in commerce under the names **Le Printemps**, **Avant Garde**, **Mai fleuri**. I wanted to continue this line of work, and the first spring after importing these plants I made a number of crosses. None of them took. The next year I began to work with them again but about that time I also began to test my pollens, and I found at once that my imported plants gave only sterile pollen; in other words they were not the species I had bought them for at all but a hybrid of some kind which was sterile. Lucky for me that I began to test pollens when I did. Otherwise, I might have gone on for years trying to get crosses with dead pollen.

Perhaps at this point I should describe the method of making pollen tests. I measure out 100 cubic centimeters of water, heat it to boiling and put in one gram of agar jelly. When this has been taken up by

the water I run it through a filter of absorbent cotton and then add enough sugar to parts of it so as to have a 5, a 10, and a 15 percent sugar solution along with the agar. These solutions all gelatinize on cooling but can be brought to the liquid state again by warming. I then put three drops, one drop of each solution, on to a microscope slide and with the point of a knife-blade touch a little of the pollen on to each drop.

What happens when a pollen grain lights on the stigma of a flower is that the sticky juice which covers the stigma stimulated the pollen into activity and it makes a long root-like growth called the pollen tube. Well, your sugar-agar solutions imitate the juice on the stigma, and so here on the microscope slide the pollen grains are stimulated into growth if the pollen is really "viable"; so that if you let the slide stand for about six hours and then examine it, it looks as if a whole skein of wool has got tangled up in the drop; pollen tubes everywhere, wound around in wild confusion. On the other hand a completely sterile pollen shows not a sign of a pollen tube, the slide showing just as it was when first made.

There are many little details of procedure that would take too long to discuss here, but this perhaps should be mentioned: the microscope slides must not be left exposed to the air, for the jelly solution would dry up and harden, thus preventing the growth of the pollen tubes. So after a set of slides are prepared they should be put into a moist chamber of some kind while the pollen tubes are forming. I use for this again a desiccator, but with water in the bottom.

Now since no peony hybrids, as it seems, are completely sterile, it

follows that if you watch and wait you will find seeds on all of them in time. One of the first hybrid strains I worked on was the cross **P. albiflora** (Chinese peonies) x **P. macrophylla**.

This is a white-flowered species from the Caucasus which comes into bloom very early. The hybrids are also early bloomers, and, generally speaking, set no seed. But very soon I observed here and there a swelled seedpod, and in due time the pods opened and gave matured seeds. These I religiously planted and in another six or seven years I had strong plants of the second generation from the original cross—F₂ plants the botanist calls them. The first one of these to come into bloom was the one bearing the serial number 4992 in my records. It bloomed for the first time in 1931 and at once tested its pollen. Imagine my amazement to find that the pollen possessed a completely restored vitality. The pollen tubes were very abundant and extremely vigorous. What is more this plant proved to be a regular and abundant seed-setter. It and its sister plants have ever since given a good crop of seeds each year. For I found later as more and more of the F₂ plants of this strain came to blooming age that this restoration of vitality was the general rule.

In many other hybrid strains the same phenomenon has appeared; but not in all. In some strains it appears that only an occasional plant shows restored vitality in the F₂ generation.

The children of these F₂ plants are of course of the F₃ generation. They do not seem to show any very marked difference from the F₂'s. I have not gone farther than F₄ and do not expect to, as the time interval from one generation to another is hardly ever less than six years.

These F2 plants have an importance in the general breeding plan, for their pollen can be used for outcrosses on to other species. Thus by using the pollen of 4992 on *P. officinalis* we get plants in which three species have been combined; and some fine things have come out of this cross. One could go on in this way producing more and more complicated strains of hybrids, as has been done in the case of the rose, but I have gone no farther than the union of four species, and these plants are still younger and began only last year to give a few blooms (1942). They should be very interesting this year.

Visitors sometimes ask how you know what you will get from a given cross; and the answer is that you don't know. It is all hit or miss, for these experiments are all aimed at producing new things that have some quality that makes them desirable as garden plants. If one were breeding for some one quality it would be different. As it is, when you get something new and interesting from a cross, that is good luck; otherwise, it is just the usual bad luck.

Many of the wild peony species have flowers of a not very pleasing purplish red; and they are apt when crossed with the Chinese peonies to give plants whose flowers are not better than what you started with. But I have found one plant that showed a different behavior. In the spring of 1928 I made a trip to Ottawa, Canada, where there is a large collection of peony species. I wonder when anyone else has made as long a trip for the sole purpose of gathering some pollen grains. At any rate I brought home with me a number of different pollens gathered from plants that were then in bloom. Among these was the species *P. coriacea* which is native

to Portugal and the mountains of Morocco. I made a good many crosses with *coriacea* pollen on Chinese peonies and a few on *officinalis* (the old double crimson). Then I waited for five years and in 1933 and 1934 about ten of the hybrid plants came into bloom. They were all much alike; all single, sterile, and they all gave flowers of a lovely lavender color. They are somewhat reddish at first, but the color soon changes into a clearer and lighter shade and the red goes out of it. Who could have predicted that these clear lavender flowers would come out of a cross between a purple red and apparently no matter what in the way of a Chinese peony?

This race of *coriacea* hybrids is highly sterile. I do get a seed once in a long while, but from the few seeds I have had in ten years there are so far no germinations. It has to be remembered that peony seeds are in no hurry to germinate. They sometimes come up the spring after they are planted in the autumn, but more often they do not make their appearance until the second spring. It should also be remembered that seeds which are formed with so much reluctance are likely to be poor things with perhaps no vitality in them.

I should very much like to have F2 plants out of this cross, for these hybrids represent a break in the conventional color scheme of the peony and if such plants turned out to be fertile they ought to give interesting outcrosses on *officinalis*, *macrophylla*, and other species.

From the few crosses made on *officinalis* with the *coriacea* pollen I got only two or three plants, but these have flowers of a fine intense deep purple maroon color which contrasts with the gray-green foliage to produce a very striking ef-

fect. Unfortunately these plants have proved slow and difficult to propagate.

There is still one more cross that I should like to speak of before closing, and that is the cross between the Chinese tree peonies and *Paeonia lutea*. This plant is still very little known ingardens, but it is desirable for its handsome fern-like foliage as well as for its bright buttercup yellow flowers. It is, like the Chinese tree peonies, shrubby in growth, and it crosses with them, not too easily but well enough so that you can count on at least a dozen or two seeds from, say, a hundred crosses. M. Lemoine in France who first worked on this extraordinary race of yellow hybrids, wrote me some years ago that he had never had a seed from any of his plants. I began working on this strain a number of years ago and have now quite a large block of hybrid plants. They are the most exciting of all hybrid peonies, for while yellow is the dominant color they go off into various reds, pinks and even into white; many of them are enormous in size and they may be single, semi-double, or fully double. I have of late years been able to gather a few seeds every year. They are not good seeds, for most of them are soft and it is difficult sometimes to decide whether a given seed is hard enough to make it worth planting. I usually give them the benefit of the doubt and plant them anyway. Two years ago I had two germinate. One was sickly and died in infancy, but the other shows signs of reaching maturity and should in fact bloom next year, if all goes well. Last year I had one more germination, and this year another. I pray for their health. The first and oldest plant is rather nondescript in appearance but the others look very much as one would

expect. It would be great luck if they should turn out to be fertile; but in this game it doesn't do to expect anything. I often say that there is just one thing that you can be sure of with your hybrids, and that is that if you expect anything from a given cross you will get something else.

There are many other hybrid strains in my garden that we might have considered, but I think I have said enough to show the general character of my experiences. A few strains have turned out extremely well from the gardener's point of view; some on the other hand are quite worthless; there is for instance one group of hybrids which the carpels (seed-pods) instead of being three, four, or five as is usual in peonies, have split up into a multitude of small abortive carpels taking the place of the stamens and making a very unsightly center to the flower. I suppose the cross did not want to be made, and when I insisted on making it, this deformity was produced as a kind of revenge on me.

Usually however the plants, like most people, do about as well as they can under the circumstances, and I cannot complain that they have on the whole done badly for me.

There is one thing that I would like to see done, though I do not want to do it myself. We have an American peony, **P. Browni**, which refuses in spite of all I have been able to do, to so much as look at any other peony. I wish someone would make a few thousand crosses of Browni with some of the other species, just for the satisfaction of seeing what sort of offspring they might produce.

—From Horticultural News,
Michigan Horticultural Society.



TREE PEONIES

Leo J. Armatys

There are leaks in the Great Bamboo Dike. The trickle of tree peonies reaching the West from China (almost all tree peonies are natives of the Orient) may soon become a torrent.

Togetherness:

In a sunny corner of my garden I've grouped four plants that may combine to produce interesting results. One is Rock's variety from Sir Frederick Stern. I call it Big Rock's to distinguish it from my Little Rock's—also from Stern and from the same batch of seeds collected by Dr. Rock in Tibet. Next is Choni, from Professor Saunders old garden, grown from Rock's seed and closely related to the Choni included in the pedigree of a fine new race of tree peonies being developed by William Gratwick. Third, from Dr. Reath, is P. Potanini, var. Tall Yellow. And finally, "Chameleon," a hybrid of uncertain parentage from Switzerland, grown from seed distributed by the Scottish Rock Garden Club. Its flowers are said to be rather small, a lively chestnut brown with yellow underneath, of a hue comparable to Iris Barbata. O.K., hybridizers, what do I do now?

Weather Warning:

Except for some mounded dirt or similar mulch the first year, tree peonies don't seem to require winter protection here. I've used straw, evergreen boughs, etc., on lutea hybrids with good results, but even if a plant loses stems during a severe winter it usually blooms on new growth the following spring. I did cover two young plants this fall with styrofoam rose protectors, just to see if they'd act any happier than the unprotected ones next spring.

Rumors:

Does the A.P.S. have serious financial problems? Will it become necessary to reduce the size or frequency of our quarterly Bulletins? Will 1971 see the end of our once-proud group?

Not if everyone interested in peonies will stand ready to help resolve the rumored crisis. It is easy to say we need more members, but someone has to search them out and convince them that membership is worthwhile.

Now is probably the time to start building up the Bulletins to cater to those members and prospective members (a big majority I'm sure) who do not attend meetings and shows, whose main contact with the society is thru the Bulletins. They are looking for news of the better varieties, for answers to questions about planting and caring for peonies, for basic and advanced information about hybridizing and grafting, for new ideas on companion plants and landscaping with peonies. And all members want to get their Bulletins on time!

If all else should fail, then I'd hope a group of tree peony enthusiasts would organize a similar society but with a shift in emphasis to *P. suffruticosa* and its hybrids—to gardens rather than shows—with bi-monthly Newsletters, and a Yearbook each fall of a quality, format and flair that would make it a collector's item for all serious gardeners.

“AT THE END OF ITS LINE” EXPLAINED

1. Father Fiala (for Advanced Students)

Genetically, we refer to a hybrid plant “at the end of its line” when after a certain length of time during which it was always fertile to its own pollen (i.e. when “selfed”) it finally reaches its maximum, and from then on, declines in fertility and vigor.

Genetically, this is most probably due to several factors. Incompatibility of certain genes that, through inbreeding, have now become dominant. Incompatibility of chromosomes that have now become irregular in count and structure, and whose “pairing” has now, through “odd counts” deteriorated. Or chromosome fracturates (rather than continue inbreeding with incompatible genes).

And we must be aware that in all true hybrids the genetic structures are not truly compatible, for they are “something new”. Nature seems to prefer to make the plant adaptable for an otherwise difficult or impossible outcross, through chromosome additions or subtractions; or else it destroys the plant through weakness or infertility in both pollen and pod. Thus the hybrid that began by being fertile both ways (pollen and pod) ends by being infertile both ways, and the plant is “at the end of its line” — genetically unable to reproduce.

In Mr. Cousins’ work he used the macro x Mloko cross, on itself, until he came to his “4 Klose” which he never mentions as a pod parent but only as a pollen parent — undoubtedly indicating that it had genetically reached about the limit of its inbreeding possibilities. Some easier crosses go on for generations before running out.

One other instance of being “at the end of its line” is the lutea hybrids. This cross (*P. lutea* crossed by Jap tree peonies) seems to be at, or very near, the end of its genetic line. This is indicated by so many of the hybrids having little or no pollen and very limited fertility.

2. E. L. (Roy) Pehrson (for Elementary Students)

Continued Selfing—that is, crossing one plant onto itself—causes a progressive decline in vigor in each succeeding generation, until a point is reached where, “at the end of its line” it will no longer produce seeds to its own pollen.

At this stage, it may still make seeds quite well when **other** pollens are used. And its own pollen should also be perfectly viable when used on **other** varieties. Vigor in the seedlings created either way, would be fully restored, and if the cross were made to some other strongly-inbred seedling, the resulting seedlings of **that** cross would have “hybrid vigor” or “heterosis”. This is exactly what is done in producing the commercial “varieties” of hybrid corn.

I have no doubt that Mr. Cousins selected from the F₂’s those which were segregating for the yellow character from Mloko, and continued doing this until his “4 Klose” was completely homozygous for the trait.

What a shame every hybridizer cannot have a plant of it to use! It would be far more valuable to breeders than any peony plant now in existence. Much more so than even the beautiful “end products” he brought to Mansfield, June, 1969. There is a possibility here of a great tragedy. These plants, the culmination of so many years of effort, CAN become LOST. They represent many years of a carefully planned and scrupulously followed Program of Work, and are a very great advance in exactly the direction we should follow, and that we **must** follow, in any event.

WE SHARE A LETTER FROM ANTHONY J. DeBLASI

September 1, 1970

Janet and I and wee Gina have just returned from bonnie Scotland. We spent three wonderful weeks there (with a weekend in London). Scotland is a beautiful, friendly, and horticulturally very active country. The climate is cool and rainy and the summer days are extra long; this combination makes a cool greenhouse out of every garden—feast your imagination on that! Stocks, carnations, tuberous begonias, sweetpeas, snapdragons, lobelia, roses, and hundreds of other plants; a few others that I remember seeing in many gardens were: dahlias, sweet alyssum dianthus, calendulas, asters, impatiens, nemophila, hydrangea, clematis, hypericum, and marigolds (French). Oh, and there is a hardy fuchsia that grows wild throughout Scotland—also seen in many gardens—a bushy plant up to five feet high and loaded with perfect red-and-purple fuchsia blossoms. And also wild is an unbelievable profusion of heather. Many of these are fidgety in our climate, grow to perfection there, without pampering and without watering! Flower gardens in front of the property are exuberant and brilliant against the back yard. There are many small greenhouses where Americans would have garages, with tomatoes growing in some of them since it is too cool for them outdoors. Neighbors vie with each other to have a beautiful garden. Lawns are perfect; but then, in that climate, if you simply planted grass seed and kept the grass mowed, you would have a picture-perfect lawn: the lazy (Scottish) gardener does just that! Here, to maintain a lawn that approaches such a picture is a full-time job! The soil is black and the gardening in general is organic.

There were peonies in some gardens but they were decidedly a minority. All the peonies I saw in Scotland were herbaceous.

During our trip to London we spent a glorious day in Kew Gardens, without a doubt one of the most impressive botanical gardens in the world. It is overwhelming in the variety, beauty, and excellent care of its offerings. Plants and flowers suddenly sprang into living, perfect form before my eyes that I had only read about or seen in pictures. Mind you, the New York area, my "home town," is not exactly a desert! We have two large and famous botanical gardens, and some smaller ones, but all combined these could not compare to Kew Gardens! Needless to say, we covered only a fraction of this floral wonderland. Kew Gardens is a must for any flower grower visiting London and, if there is time left, Syon Park as well (we were not in London long enough to enjoy the latter, reputedly another great show place).

Peonies observed at Kew Gardens, London, August 9, 1970, by Anthony J. DeBlasi. NOTE: Those preceded by asterisk had bloomed this year.

P. Ludlow, Sheriff	*P. Arietina
*P. obovata	*P. Veitchi
*P. Wittmannia	*P. chamaeleon
*P. trolliodes	*P. tomentosa
*P. Mlokosewitchi	*P. Potanini
*P. officinalis	*P. peregrina
*P. officinalis rosea	*P. lactiflora
*P. officinalis alba plena	*P. anomela intermedia
*P. humilis	*P. Lusitanica
*P. humilis villosa	*P. hybrida
*P. mascula	(P. anomela x tenuifolium)

P. Woodwardii
 *P. delavayi
 *P. tenuifolia
 P. emodii
 *P. pubens

*P. lutea x potanini
 *P. Smouthi
 *P. mollis
 *P. suffruticosa

Back in Scotland we went to the flower show held at Ayr (in Dam Park, of all places!). Assembled under a network of tents were the most fantastic dahlias, carnations, sweetpeas, tuberous begonias, chrysanthemums, pansies, potatoes, gardens, and exhibits I had ever seen! Yes, potatoes! There were pink ones with purple eyes, some with reddish splotches, others with purple tints, and many other color combinations I never saw before. There were camellia-form carnations that were a dark, gray-purple with dark red splotches; white carnations with a thred-thin purple pencilling along each petal edge, and a great many other surprises and delights. Some would say that Scotland is a backward country. I wonder.

Hope you have had a pleasant summer. Our best to all.

Cheerio,
 Anthony J. DeBlasi

P.S. Would you believe that the outdoor quarters of the animals at the Edinburgh Zoo were **landscaped!!** Even with such exotic shrubs as **Aucuba japonica?**

NORTH DAKOTA PEONY SOCIETY STAGES ANNUAL SHOW

The North Dakota Peony Society held their 1970 Show June 24 at Grand Forks, North Dakota. A new Loyde C. Thompson Memorial Trophy, purchased by the Society, was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Page of Hamilton, N.D. for exhibiting the best six blooms of one variety — **KANSAS**.

Mr. Harold Thomforde, Crookston, Minnesota, served as judge of Peonies and Mrs. Max Kannowski judged garden flowers and arrangements.

The Court of Honor winners were:
 Grand Champion (Red Charm) . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Page, Hamilton, N.D.

Peony Sweepstakes . . . Ralph Rohde, Grand Forks, N.D.

Best Red Single Hybrid Class (Red Red Rose) . . . Ralph Rohde

Best Bloom Single Red Class (President Lincoln) . . . Ralph Rohde

One Bloom Red Double Class (Kansas) . . . Mr. and Mrs. Franklin

Page

Single White Japanese (Carrara) . . .
 Mrs. Stuart McDonald, Grand Forks, N.D.

One Bloom Flesh Class (Alice Harding) . . . Mrs. Harold Jeglum, Grand Forks, N.D.

One Bloom Dark Pink Class (Ensign Moriarty) . . . Ralph Rohde

Founders Trophy (Amateur Best Bloom) . . . Mrs. Tom Clark, Grand Forks, N.D.

Best Garden Flower Arrangement . . . Mrs Tom Clark

Garden Flowers Sweepstakes . . . Mrs. Ralph Rohde

Directors Meet

The meeting of the Board of Directors was held immediately after the Show and the following officers and directors were elected for 1970-71:

President—Mrs. O. Lewis Ugland, 1904 Belmont Rd., Grand Forks,

Vice-President—Mrs. Leo LaBelle, 1910 5th Ave., N., Grand Forks,

Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. Harry Rice, 2811 Olson Dr., Grand Forks,

Directors:

Mr. Harry Romberg, 2216-2nd Ave., N. Grand Forks, N.D.

Mrs. Max Kannooski, 1205 Belmont Rd., Grand Forks, N.D.

Miss Mabel Tronson, 1524 Robertson Court, Grand Forks, N.D.

Mrs. Stuart McDonald, 607 Maple Ave., Grand Forks, N.D.

Mr. Harold Thomforde, Crookston, Minn.

Mr. Franklin Page, Hamilton, N.D.

Mr. George Tollefson, 366 Elmwood Ave., Fargo, N.D.

Mr. Ed Olson, 423 River St., Grand Forks, N.D.

Mrs. Lawrence Hanson, 1117 Cherry, Grand Forks, N.D.

Mrs. Nicholas Kohanowski, 3532-10th Ave., N., Grand Forks, N.D.

Mrs. Loyde Thompson, 923 Reeves Dr., Grand Forks, N.D.

1970 IN NORTH DAKOTA

By Ben Gilbertson, Kindred, North Dakota

The season of 1970 was a good one in every aspect for the North Dakota Peony grower, starting out a little earlier than normal, then slowing a little as the blooming season came along with cooler weather than normal for that time of year. Several hundred new seedlings showed their faces for the first time and there were many good pink and red doubles, two of which I thought were very outstanding.

A pink one was observed about a week before it opened as the bud had developed to the size of a to hens egg before ever starting to open. It turned out to be a huge medium pink, very formal and neat looking flower with only one bloom to a stalk and will need staking. It had three flowers. Pure Lactiflora. No pollen. No carpels.

The other was a dark red high built of a velvety texture which stood up very well and held its color very long, in fact, it did not fade but rather got old and dried up. It had six large flowers, no pollen and no carpels. A Lactiflora.

A hybrid—S. Tenufolia x our

seedling 5908—had a very fine, very dark red single flower on semi-fern leaf foliage. I have never seen Early Scout in bloom but believe that this one is at least somewhat similar. It had only one bloom. has pollen and carpels but may not be productive.

Another interesting plant was an open pollinated Oriental Gold seedling. It was quite similar to its mother and not much to look at but it has carpels and should be able to produce seed.

Last year—1969—season—we had three identical bi-color doubles and I cannot help but wonder if these all came from the same seed pod. The flowers are large medium pink, somewhat flat with many pale yellow petals scattered throughout the center.

Our 'Peony Patch' is presently—Feb. 3, 1971—resting snugly under a nice white blanket of snow of some 20 inches in depth. Me—I'm wondering what fantastic new seedlings will show themselves this year. I shall let you know in due time.

WHO KNOWS MR. GOLDSMITH?

We have recently had a request from Mr. Howard S. Andros, Walpole, New Hampshire 03608, for the name of a peony dealer in the State of Oregon by the name of Goldsmith.

We have sent out inquiries; however, replies are slow in coming and to date we have not been able to locate Mr. Goldsmith. If anyone knows, won't you please write Mr. Andros? We will also appreciate knowing.

CANADIAN PEONY SOCIETY TO BE REACTIVATED

Following excerpts are taken from a letter received from John E. Simkins, with reference to the Canadian Peony Society: "I understand that during the 1930's the Canadian Peony Society ceased operation. Mrs. A. L. Cooper of Don Mills, Ontario, Mr. Gilbert of Elora and I are talking about resurrecting it.

As a preliminary step we propose to contact Horticultural Societies in the Hamilton, Oakville and Toronto areas to see if we can generate enough interest in Peony fanciers to warrant proceeding. If so, we will go forward with the society and then may consider approaching the Canadian Iris Society and the Royal Botanical Gardens with a view to obtaining space and staging a small show as part of the Iris Society Show in 1971.

Meanwhile if any reader has any information relating to the Canadian Society i.e. names of former directors or members so that we might locate any old books or records, I would be pleased to hear from them.

Any other ideas on this subject would also be appreciated. Would you like to help?" If so, please contact me—John E. Simkins, 1246 Donlea Cres., Oakville, Ontario, Canada

LINS GROUNDS AND BUILDING PURCHASED

Mr. Manson Caverly, R. R. 4, Box 989, Excelsior, Minnesota, 55331, has purchased the land and buildings formerly owned by Eugene Lins, Cologne, Minnesota.

During the intervening period since Mr. Lins death, numerous inquiries have come into our office. We are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Loren Franklin who made a trip to Cologne, and after searching learned about the new owner. To date we have had no reply from Mr. Caverly regarding his future plans for the ground and buildings.

It is our earnest hope that the many fine peonies particularly MARCELLA are not lost to the peony world.

PICTURES APPEARING ON COVER

The pictures on the cover appeared first in the December, 1968 Bulletin. Marvin Karrels is shown presenting a placque to the late Samuel E. Wissing, in recognition of his work in hybridizing peonies and for his efforts in disseminating his knowledge.

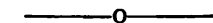
The award was made at the Fall meeting of District V. It was the privilege of the writer to have been seated on the recipient's left and the heart-felt appreciation of every member there was observed on the faces of everyone. This was indeed a real tribute to the man who had spent 30 years in peony breeding. Mr. Wissing's modest acceptance did not take away from his enthusiasm in endeavoring to win everyone over to his hobby, that of hybridizing.

Where there is no vision the people perish...—Proverbs 29:18

INQUIRIES RECEIVED RECENTLY

- Charles T. Arnold, 7 Rockland St.
Nashua, New Hampshire 03060
- Martha Chambers, 18601 Martin
Ave., Homewood, Ill. 60430
- Mrs. H. M. Challender, 215 Brighton,
Elk Grove, Ill. 60007
- Mrs. Julia Collings, 352 West St.
Charles Road, Lombard, Ill. 60148
- Mr. John R. Diaz, 918 Ann Arbor
Avenue, Ventura, Calif. 93003
- D. Ellis, 305 East Euclid, San An-
tonia, Texas 78212
- Mrs. Virginia Ferguson, 10122 So.
Buell Court, Oak Lawn, Ill. 60453
- Louis Fiore, 16 Oakley Place, Staten
Island, N.Y. 10306
- Mrs. W. H. Francisco, 3525 Rustic,
St. Paul, Minn. 55112
- Edward Fox, 1336 Davine Drive,
Glendale, Heights, Ill. 60137
- Mrs. Lynn Fulton, Chr. Iowa Plant
Society, R. R. 2, Independence,
Iowa 50644
- Mrs. V. J. Helpling, 617 N. Main
Street, Englewood, O. 45322
- Narl Hung, 1204 N. President, Whea-
ton, Ill. 60187
- Wesley W. Hyde, 11 Solmar Drive,
Rochester, N. Y. 14624
- J. M. Igou, 3219 Woodbridge Drive,
Woodridge, Ill. 60515
- Julian L. Janus, O.D. 4947 W. Hur-
on St. Chicago, Ill. 60644
- Don M. Jenkins, Box 192, Brevard,
N. Carolina 28712
- Roy J. Jensen, 1018 S. Fifth St.,
Knoxville, Iowa 50138
- Miss Henrietta Justus, 2545 N. St.
Louis Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60647
- Arthur Kazmierczak, N. 112 W.
19666 Mequon Rd., Germantown,
Wis. 53022
- Mrs. Viola Kucinas, 4023 S. Scovill,
Berwyn, Ill. 60402
- Marion Komendec, R. R. 1, Box 287,
Scottsville, Pa. 15683
- Mrs. Norman Kurz, Creston, Ill.
60113
- Mrs. Inez Langer, 2608 Payne, Ev-
anston, Ill. 60201
- P. Chris Laning, 553 W. "F" Ave.,
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49000
- Ginn Larsen, Olav Magnussons
Veil, Fooo, Trondheim, Norway
- Mrs. Vernell Law, 1921 Bradley Dr.,
Aurora, Ill. 60538
- Mrs. Andree H. Lundgren, 417
Forest Ave., Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137
- Mrs. E. P. Lyons, 2422 Westbrook,
Franklin Park, Ill., 60131
- Mrs. R. McPherson, 138 Rochelle
Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19128
- George Messner, 599 Foster St., So.
Windsor, Connecticut 06074
- Mrs. A. Reginald Miller, 603 Mid-
land Trail Rd., Covington, Va.
24426
- R. Mitchell, 17 W. 415 Belmont Rd.,
Bensenville, Ill. 60106
- R. E. Moore, 1428 Division St., Mor-
ris, Ill. 60450
- Mrs. Louis A. Mueller, 2313 E. 97th
St., Chicago, Ill. 60617
- Mrs. Lewis M. Owens, 5429 Wake-
field Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37220
- Mrs. R. Parthun, 624 Manhattan
Rd., Joliet, Ill. 60433
- Mrs. Ron Peterson, 618 South Quin-
cy, Hillsdale, Ill. 60521
- Joe Quintal, Jr., 1128 S. Green
Meadows Blvd., Streamwood, Ill.
60103
- Nathanial T. Riddle, E. 314-28th
Ave., Spokane, Washington 99203
- Mrs. C. G. Riddle, 704 S. Tillery,
Rocky Mount, N. Carolina 27801
- John W. Rosenberg, Box 89 Deer
Run Rd., Califon, New Jersey
07830
- Mrs. Fred Sack, 1602 Carter St.,
Richmond, Va. 23222
- Miss Eva E. Scheitler, 1236 Milton
Lane, Schaumburg, Ill. 60172
- John Schneider, 19 Court St., East
Lislip, New York 11730
- Mrs. Edward T. Schwendemann,
2225 Oakdale, Highland, Indiana
46322
- Mrs. A. P. Shirey, 211 L. Street,
Midland, Texas 79701

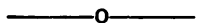
Martin Sinclair, Rover Route, Box 114, West Plains, Missouri 65775
 Miss Jean Schindler, Floyd Central High School, R. R. 2, Box 445—A, New Albany, Ind. 47150
 Mrs. George Stasen, 23WO55, Red Oak Drive, Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137
 J. A. Staundenbaur, Jr., 729 N. Elmwood, Oak Park, Ill. 60302
 United Future Builders of America, Kinzey Patterson, Pres., Rt. 1, Box 34, Ulmer, So. Carolina 29849
 Miss Marvis C. Webb, Wise, Virginia 24293
 Mrs. Bessie McCoy Webb, 212 Church St., Boaz, Alabama 35957
 Gene De Monoco, 11209 Lakepointe, Michigan 48224



CALENDAR THESE DATES !!

Calendar June 19th and 20th 1971 to attend the Annual Meeting and Peony Show to be held at the Southdale Shopping Center, Edina, Minnesota. This is located in the St. Paul Minneapolis area and according to the planning committee, the program will be unusual and exciting.

Complete plans together with maps and schedule are being printed in the March Bulletin.



TREE PEONIES

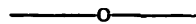


WILLIAM GRATWICK
 PAVILION — NEW YORK 14525
 (40 miles south of Rochester)

BINDERS AVAILABLE!

Binders for American Peony Society Bulletins are available at the nominal cost of \$3.50 each. This multiple tailor-made binder is made of heavy weight forest green virgin vinyl, electronically sealed over rigid board, each fitted with a 2" multiple mechanism and 16 thin wires. These can be inserted in the center of each Bulletin. Front cover and backbone are stamped with the name of the Society in gold lettering. The clear label holder extends 2¾" high from bottom of backbone.

Send now before supply is exhausted—to the Society Office, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891.



PEONIES FOR CHRISTMAS

Gene Wild of Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Inc., Sarcoxie, Missouri, wrote early in December stating—"One of our customers, Mr. Bryan H. Tonkin, Warburton, Victoria, Australia, is sending us Peony cut flowers for Christmas. Mr. Tonkin wrote that they should arrive Tuesday night in Springfield, Mo., but they are to be in this morning . . . doubt if they'll be much good since he shipped them the 5th and that would be the 4th our time. Will be fun to see them. We have shipped him many Peonies and daylilies in the past years."

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Wild visited Mr. Tonkin when on a trip to Australia and New Zealand last January and February.

Before the letter to us was sealed to mail, Gene added a hastily written note—**Peonies arrived!** Are in tight bud—Look beautiful!

TREE PEONY TOPICS

By Louis Smirnow

During this past peony season I visited several gardens looking for the unusual varieties. Several lutea hybrids were outstanding:

Apricot — pale yellow — dusky rose tones — silver gray fern like foliage — flowers held high — single —

Canary — dazzling yellow — cup shaped single dramatic heart —

Conquest — immense strawberry red flowers lighted with yellow — semi-double —

Charioteer — deep maroon — semi-double — satiny texture

Chinese Dragon — crimson lutea — dark flares — large, golden center — semi-double beauty fern like foliage —

Golden Vanitie — magnificent large cup shaped single — clear yellow with waxed petals — free bloomer.

Phoenix — lustrous silvery crimson — large single to semi-double dark center — edges of fern like foliage tipped purple.

Renown — semi-double — bright light copper red-yellow overtones.

Segovia — refined large purest yellow single — free flowering

Tea Rose — large semi-double — exquisite yellow — tinted and suffused rose —

Spring Carnival — gold flowers — red edged with dark flares — semi-double

Among the Japanese Tree Peonies the following rare varieties did well —

Kintagio — refined double of palest pink with white pistol base — semi-double.

Ruriban — fragrant — dark maroon shaded purple — full double

Shuchinka — large semi-double — free bloomer — fragrant — rose pink

Howzan — brilliant light pink — full double — twisted petals. —

* * * *

I found several instances of tree peonies planted too shallow — the union of the graft and understock should be planted at least two inches below ground level to encourage new growth from the root systems. Tree peonies perpetuate themselves by this new growth — the old branches die off and this new growth forms the new flowering branches.

* * * *

In one garden I saw a row of eleven 3 year plants with blooms — often these young plants will give one bloom the first year and increase the flower yield with each additional year of growth.

* * * *

During this growing season we spoke with many visitors to the gardens — they were interested mainly in the names of varieties that were easy to grow and the best bloomers. — It is difficult to select a few and state that they are the best. We feel perfectly safe in recommending a few that do well every year —

White — Godaishu, Gessekai, Stolen Heaven.

Red — Taiyo, Nissho, Hinode sekai.

Maroon — Black Pirate, Ubatama, Kokko no tsukasa.

Pink — Howdai, Momoyama, Hanakiso, Tamafuyo, Howzan.

Purple, Lavender, etc. — Rimpow, Kamada Fuji, Mystery, Hanadaigin.

Yellow — Age of Gold, Mine d'Or, High Noon, Golden Isles.

Other Luteas — Countess, Marchioness, Chinese Dragon, Savage Splendor —

* * * *

In this area tree peonies seem to do better in light shade than in full sun — this was told to me by several gardeners at a recent meeting.

GARDENING THERAPY FOR LIVING

We pass along encouragement to all those in the "twilight of their lives" as expressed by one of our members. This encouragement is in appreciation of gardening (peonies, of course) and what it can do for one.

This comes to us from one of our own loyal peony growers Edward Auten, Jr., who has contributed much in the field of paeonia culture. We quote from his recent letter, "Did a lot of hoeing this summer, still trying to write music and poems"

Mr. Auten is 89 years young. "My health beginning September 1st is much improved," he wrote "in fact, better than several years before that, but still run on low horsepower, with frequent rests through the day."

There is a possibility that Mr. Auten may leave Princeville, Ill., going to reside with his daughter, Mrs. James L. Rainey, Abington, Pennsylvania 19001. He stated he was destroying his seedling and business records, "as nobody would need them now, and my varieties speak for themselves, good or bad."

Mr. Auten is sharing his back Bulletins with the Society. We are most grateful, as we are low on several issues of back Bulletins.

His letter was written October 28. At that time, he stated if his home was sold within thirty days, he would have a sale and go east; if not he would stay until spring.

8 CENTS LETTER POSTAGE LIKELY BY APRIL

It is our understanding the United States Postal Service, facing a revenue deficit of \$2.4 billion this fiscal year, is expected to raise the price of letter mail to 8 cents by mid-April, 1971?

The postal reform legislation was signed August 12, last year, by President Nixon, and conversion of the 200 year old post offices from its present status, must be carried out one year from that date.

LENGTHY HOLIDAYS AHEAD IN 1971

The year 1971 is the year Americans will begin enjoying long three-day weekends provided by Congress more than two years ago. This was done, you will remember, with a liberal juggling of federal holidays.

From the beginning of the year, George Washington's birthday, Memorial Day, Columbus Day—a new federal holiday—and Veterans Day will be celebrated on Mondays, regardless of the date. The other four holiday weekends are for Christmas, New Year's, July 4 and Labor Day.

Although the law only affects federal employes and federally operated and controlled institutions, most businesses were expected to go along with the plan.

This will enable gardeners to spend more time in the garden. Let's all plant more peonies!!!

OBITUARIES

SAMUEL E. WISSING

Samuel E. Wissing was born October 28, 1899 and passed away August 31, 1970. It is with deep regret that we received word of Mr. Wissing's passing. He became interested in Peonies about 35 years ago and started to hybridize about 30 years ago trying to improve his method each year.

He was fortunate in getting a color break in peonies several years ago which was the result of his "Coral Charm" the Klehm nurseries purchased from him.

This year (1970) several of his seedlings showed some crinkling which he was very happy to see. However, next year will be a better judge of this trait.

Sam Wissing was one of the first members of the Society to "drop in" the office of the Society after removal to Ohio from Virginia. He and Mrs. Wissing stayed with us for a couple of days and helped by showing us their color slides and later providing us with an article in the March, 1965 Bulletin "Hybridizing Peonies". This was in regard to the first step one should take in hybridizing and of great help to the beginner. Mr. Wissing's splendid seedling exhibit to the 63rd Annual Peony Exhibition in the famous Mitchell Park Horticultural Domes, Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1968 encouraged many persons to seek further information regarding new varieties and how to hybridize. Mr. Wissing spent long hours in preparing his exhibit. Mr. and Mrs. Wissing served as president and secretary of the Fifth District and Mr. Wissing brought distinction to the Society by bringing in more new members than any other member.

It goes without saying that the monetary memorial to Mr. Wissing given by District Five of the American Peony Society is a tribute. However, the splendid work done by Mr. Wissing over the past 35 years will be an even bigger memorial in the field of paeonia culture.

Our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Wissing and the family.

JAMES F. MURAWSKA

Friends of the late Art Murawska were shocked to learn of the sudden death of his youngest son, James, who passed away Tuesday, September 15, 1970. He was born November 2, 1935; he was 34 years of age. James had a degree in Botany and had taught Botany at Leyden High School. At the time of his death he was also Dean of Boys at the High School. His father, Art, was extremely proud and interested in his son's interest in his home surroundings which were beautifully landscaped. This pleasure was evidenced by sending pictures of the home to our office.

DR. CASPER NELSON

Word has been received of the death of Dr. Casper Nelson, August 8, 1970. We have no further details other than the information listed on Mrs. Casper Nelson's card regarding the Annual Fall Dinner of the Fifth District. Mrs. Casper Nelson's address was listed as

4817 Sheboygan Avenue
Apartment 104
Madison, Wisconsin

NEAL RAYNARD VAN LOON

Neal Raynard van Loon passed away July 17, 1970, he was born January 3, 1897 in Tomoh, a Wisconsin town 150 miles west of Milwaukee and 40 miles east of LaCrosse. Mr. van Loon attended John Fletcher college and Seminary receiving his BA in 1923 and his BD in 1926. He won his Masters in 1927 from Drew Theological Seminary and serving after that as pastor of several Methodist Churches. Mr. van Loon became interested in Peonies at the national show in Des Moines, Iowa, 1924 and at the time he accepted the presidency of the American Peony Society at the Cleveland meeting, June 1951 had 175 varieties. His favorites were Mattie Lafuze, Plymouth, A. G. Perry and Pico. It was Mr. van Loon's desire to make the 48th annual Exhibition of the American Peony Society, Lake Mohawk, New Jersey, June 21-22, 1952, the most beautiful show in the history of the Society and it must have been. The special features were worthy of everyone's attending and included the dedication of Harry F. Little Memorial Garden and Plaque and open house at Madylone, the van Loon home.

Mr. van Loon registered his Peony, Madylone after moving from New Jersey to Sun Prairie, Wisconsin with an interlude in LaGrande, Oregon. His reflections of past shows are all contained in his article "Seduction of the Innocents" which appeared in the March 1965 Bulletin. At that time we learned that he was completely charmed with Mons. Jules. Elie, West-erner, Blanche King, L. W. Cousins' Ann Cousins, Brand's delicate Vanity and Art Murawska's Break-O-Day. He wrote us in May of 1968 that his health was in a "beastly" state. He suffered a stroke February 28, 1969.

Our sympathies are extended to Mrs. van Loon.

LET'S ALL ENCOURAGE THE STUDENTS

Student inquiries regarding peonies have been gratifying this year. The United Future Builders of America, Rt. 1, Box 34, Ulmer, South Carolina 29849, wrote some time ago stating they were "considering the idea of starting a garden as a chapter activity" and would like to know something about the Peony.

We hope our readers will encourage these young people in doing something about it and give assistance in donating peony roots for the project.

Miss Jean Schindler, Floyd Central High School, R.R. 2, Box 445-A, New Albany, Indiana 47150, wrote a card requesting "information on Peonies. We are studying about them in Horticulture."

Martin Sinclair, Rover Route, Box 114, West Plains, Missouri 65775, wrote "Will you please send me some information on Peonies. I would like it very much if you would", Needless to say, the information was sent, however, if adults will encourage these young people, they would soon learn, there is no generation gap.

Our Readers Write . . .

ALABAMA

Miss Dora C. Bumann, 324 N. 73rd. St., Birmingham, Alabama 35206 wrote for our Handbook. Her reply to our invitation to membership is quoted as follows: "Thank you for your kind response and copy of the Handbook. I gladly enclose \$1.00 for the cost of it.

"I first read of the Peony Society in an article in some magazine. While it would have been a great pleasure to me to work with the Peony Society and take some part in the membership I must explain that I am past the age when I can do this. I am 85 years old now but have raised peonies (and love them), for over 40 years, not knowing that the South is supposed to be unfavorable in climate. However, I have had good success and have interested my neighbors and helped them in their first plantings. Now a member of the Garden Club here has become interested and she reports that hardly any member is familiar with **peonies** or knows anything about them!

I came from Illinois 40 years ago and have known what natives in my home town called "pineys" as long ago as I can remember. So they are life long friends to me. My mother before me always raised some.

I am physically not able to carry on much out-door garden work. I have about 12 varieties growing in my yard (which is too low and wet in a rainy year) but I have banked up the ground for them!! Thank you again . . .

MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Donald R. Smith, 15 Stillwater Drive, Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 is trying to obtain a copy of Boyd's Manual published by the American Peony Society and currently out of print!

NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. C. G. Riddle, 704 South Tillery, Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27801, is a **new member**. Mrs. Riddle is anxious to know what kind of peonies to buy. She is eager to raise peonies, and to learn to hybridize peonies.

OHIO

Mrs. Lee Boham, 317 Edgefield Blvd., Marion, Ohio 43302 has asked for help with her problem, as follows: I have three (3) Chinese peonies, tree peonies I guess they are called, because the stems are woody. Blooms have become small and one has quit blooming altogether, I don't know what to do for them. I have had them three (3) years, have never cut the stems off as I didn't know whether it would kill them or not. I don't know why the one has quit blooming and why the others blooms are so small. Can you tell me what to do or where I can get some information? I just love them and want to take care of them. Got your address at the Library."

TENNESSEE

Mrs. Lewis M. Owens, 5429 Wakefield Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37220 and her husband are planning within the next year to start growing peonies both as a hobby and for profit. They are anxious to get started, learn about care of the plants and any special marketing ideas or procedures. Won't you write them?

VIRGINIA

Mrs. A. Reginald Miller, 603 Midland Trail Road, Covington, Virginia 24426 is interested in becoming a member. She stated "My yard space is limited so my peonies, of necessity, must be limited, but, even so I would like very much to learn how to raise the very finest peonies. My aim is quality, not quantity."

REGISTRATIONS



"Fairy's Petticoat"

PATENT WRITE UP

849S "FAIRY'S PETTICOAT"

Carl G. Klehm

2 E. Algonquin Road

Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of peony plant of the genus *PAEONIA* species *lactiflora*. Its uniqueness is characterized by its unusual flower form appearing to be midway between a bomb shape and rose double shaped type of blossom, ruffled beautiful flower petal arrangement, and out standing soft, soft pink delicate flower color.

This peony variety was originated by me at my nursery in Arlington Heights, Illinois, in 1945. The pollen or male parent was W. L. GUMM, a large white vigorously double grower with rose double flower form. The pod or female parent was Mons Jules Elie an early blooming bomb shaped pleasing pink blossom.

The hybridization was accomplished by hand pollinization. The germinated seedling did not bloom until 1951 at which time it was selected from many other seedlings of the same cross. For the past 19 years it has been under strict and comparative observation at which time it has been propagated by a sexual root division.

Although the applicant variety derived its characteristics from random pairing of the genetic banks of both parents, its ruffled flower petals can be most attributed to the pollen parent, W. L. GUMM which has a slight petal ruffling but not to the same degree as applicant. The soft and extremely delicate blossom color has to be the white pollen parent gene influence over a possibly light pink gene—from seed parent. The color combination is very fine being dainty and discriminate. The clean, blotch-free and succulent green foliage has to be attributed to Mons Jules Elie (seed parent) for it seems to pass on its wonderful foliage, plant and root habit to the majority of its progeny. Its DISTINCT flower form appears as a mutual compromise between the pollen parents double rose type blossom form and the seed parents typical bomb type form. This resulting conciliatory complex is ruffled semi bomb and semi-rose double shaped.

Therefore the variety applicant is considered unique because of its flower form, the hue of its flower petals, and the appearance of the flower petals themselves.

This variety is an extremely useful garden and landscape plant because of its clean foliage which adds season-long interest as a fine border or backdrop for other flower settings. Its unusual flower form lends well to exotic arrangements or cut-flower uses.

The accompanying picture is reproduced from an original photograph of the applicant variety—the color being as nearly true as reasonably possible in a color illustration of this character.

As a convenient summary, the following detailed description of this new peony plant is given with color terminology generally in accordance with **The Royal Horticulture Society Color Chart** (except where general color terms are used.)

SUMMARY

Parentage:

Seed Parent: Mons Jules Elie (non patent)

Pollen Parent: W. L. Gumm (non patent)

Flower:

Blooming Habit: Annually considered mid season

Bud:

Size — Large

Form — Smooth and round

Color — Fan 1 56C

Sepals — Smooth green with even edge

Calyx — polysepalous

Peduncle — None

Opening — easily, a dependable performer

Bloom:

Size — Large 7½" average expanded

Borne — Singly — one main bud per stem with 1-3 auxiliary buds

Stems — Stout and strong 26-30" tall

Form — Unusual combination double rose type and stereotyped bomb form

Petalage — double

Color — Fan 1 56D

Variegations — none

Discolorations — none

Petals:

Texture — thick

Appearance — ruffled and exotic

Form — ruffled and slightly notched

Arrangement — Imbricated
Persistence — soft, peony average
Fragrance — soft peony
Lastingness — good, above average
Genital Organs:
Stamens, Anthers, Filaments, Pollen — none
Styles, Stigmas, ovaries — present in semi atrophic condition
Fruit: None

PLANT

Form: Bush
Growth: Healthy, Strong and Vigorous
Foliage:
Leaflets — 5-6
Size — Medium large
Quantity — Average
Color — Fan 3 Plate 136B
Shape — Elliptically acute
Texture — Dorsal is glossy with pronounced veins
Edge — Smooth
Serration — None
Leaf Stem — Thick and succulent
Stipules — none
Disease Resistance — Resistant to leaf blotch and other bacterial peony diseases as observed for many years at Arlington Heights and Barrington, Illinois.

I claim a new and distinct variety of peony plant especially characterized by its flower form and beautiful petal color and unusual petal arrangement.

References:

Color Chart — Royal Horticulture Society, London, England 1966

PATENT WRITE UP

79G "FIRST LADY"

Carl G. Klehm

2 E. Algonquin Road

Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of peony plant of the genus *PAEONIA lactiflora*. Its uniqueness is especially characterized by the early blooming dates of the flowers. Year in and year out it shows color and opens before any other major *lactiflora* species being two to four days ahead of the standard variety *Mons. Jules Elie*. Its flower color is a vivid rose pink overlaid on a soft red background with silver edging on the flower petal extremities. This distinct flower color combination singles out this variety as unique in the *Paeonia* genus.

This peony variety was hybridized by me at my nursery in Arlington Heights, Illinois, in 1939. The pollen or male parent was 69J a "bull" type seedling kept for its ability to pass its vigorous growth and hardiness to its progeny. The pod, a female parent, was *Mons. Jules Elie* (both varieties not patented).

The hybridization was accomplished by hand pollinization. The germinated seedling did not bloom until 1945 at which time it was selected from many other seedlings of the same cross. For the past 25 years it has been under strict and comparative observation at which time it has been propagated by a sexual root division.

Although the applicant variety derived its characteristics from random pairing of the genetic banks of both parents, its early bloom habit has to be judged a marvel of genetics since both parents historically bloom later. Each parent must have latent or hidden genes for early bloom. The flower color drew the finest hues from each parent particularly taking on the deeper Vivid pink and rose red shades. The plant habit is typical of both parents ie: healthy deep green, succulent and spotless foliage, thick strong relatively weather resistant stems, and dependability of flower bud formation and opening. The root system typifies the female parent being rather fine texture, balance, and virgourous.

The variety applicant is therefore considered unique because of its relatively dependable early blooming date and distinct color break in this particular genus.

The size of the individual flowers ranges from 6 to 7½ inches in diameter under normal growth conditions. Its flower form is considered fully double, rose type blossom with stamens.

This variety is especially useful with other perennial plantings such as Iris since it will be in bloom when the Iris are blooming and will lend a color unavailable from other genus. Its clean foliage makes a fine border or back drop for other flower settings. It performs well as a cut flower being bold and shockingly beautiful in a vase.

The accompanying picture is reproduced from an original photograph of the applicant variety — the color being as nearly true as reasonably in a color illustration of this character. (Picture not available for Bulletin).

As a convenient summary, the following detailed description of this new peony plant is given with color terminology generally in accordance with **The Royal Horticulture Society Color Chart** (except where general color terms are used.)

SUMMARY

Parentage:

Seed Parent: Mons Jules Elie
Pollen Parent: 69J

Flower:

Blooming Habit: Annual considered extremely early

Bud:

Size — Large
Form — Slightly Krinkled
Color — Fan Z 588
Sepals — Krinkled green with uneven edge
Calyx — polysepalous
Peduncle — None
Opening — Easily with no malformities

Bloom:

Size — Medium large average expanded 7 inches
Borne — Singly, one main bud per stem with 2-4 auxiliary buds
Stems — Strong 30-32" tall
Form — Rose type double with 2-3 rows guard petals
Petalage — Double
Color — Blend of Fan z 58B, Fan 1 55A and Fan 1 49D
Variegations — None
Discolorations — None, although the relative intensity of the sun affects the color blending and silver petal edging.

Petals:

Texture — Medium Thick

Appearance — Shiny & multitudinous
Form — Slightly wrinkled & notched
Arrangement — Imbricated
Persistence — Above average
Fragrance — Slight
Lastingness — Above average

Genital Organs:

Stamens Anthus — present
Stamens, filaments — present
Pollen — present and viable
Styles, Stigmas, Ovaries — None

Fruit: None

PLANT

Form: Bush

Growth: Healthy, strong early and vigorous

Foliage:

Leaflets — 5-6

Size — Large

Quantity — Average

Color — Fan 3 135A

Shape — Elliptically Acute

Texture — Glossy with pronounced veins

Edge — Smooth

Serration — None

Leaf Stem — thick and succulent

Stipules — None

Disease resistance — resistant to leaf blotch and other bacterial peony diseases as observed for 25 years at Arlington Heights and Barrington, Illinois.

I claim a new and distinct peony plant variety characterized by its earliness of bloom and unusual flower color combinations as shown and described herein.

References:

Color Chart — Royal Horticulture Society, London, England, 1966

PATENT WRITE UP

830S "SUSIE Q"

Carl G. Klehm

2 E. Algonquin Road

Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of peony plant of the genus *PAEONIA* species *lactiflora*. Its uniqueness is especially characterized by the petite plant form extremely short and cute — combined with a vivid pink blossom color rather unique in the peony kingdom.

This peony variety was originated by me at my nursery in 1944. The pollen or male parent was 69 J, and F. of Mons Jules Elie. The seed or female parent was 69A also an F. of Mons Jules Elie. These line bred varieties not patented.

The hybridization was accomplished by hand pollinization. The germinated seedling did not bloom until 1951 at which time it was selected from many other seedlings of the same cross. For the past 19 years it has

been under strict and comparative observation at which time it has been propagated by a sexual root division.

Although the applicant variety derived its characteristics from random pairing of the genetic banks of both parents, its heterozygosity of the pink blossom color and the general shortness and compactness of the plant habit. The applicant also displays upon inspection clean, disease free roots, stems and foliage—good lush green shoots, stems and foliage a balanced and vigorous root system.

Relative to the size of the plant, the flower size is considered large, being 6 to 6½" diameter across under good culture. It has a full double, slightly flat rose-type bloom with no stamens or carpels. Its blossom color is a pleasing Vivid coral pink with deeper highlights and slight silver petal edging.

The variety is especially useful for garden and landscape purposes because of its shortness and compact plant habit. It can make a neat rather formal hedge, or planted in grouping can lend an enticement to any perennial setting.

The accompanying picture is reproduced from an original photograph of the applicant variety—the color being as nearly true as reasonably possible in a color illustration of this character. (Picture not included).

As a convenient summary, the following detailed description of this new peony plant is given with color terminology generally in accordance with the **Royal Horticulture Society Color Chart** (except where general color terms are used).

SUMMARY

Parentage:

Seed Parent: 69A

Pollen Parent: 69J

Flower:

Blooming Habit: Annual—considered mid to mid-late season.

Bloom:

Size—Medium

Borne—Singly one main bud per stem with 0-3 auxillary buds

Stems—Medium strong but short 20-23 inches.

Form—Rose type

Petalage—double

Color—Fan 1 Plate 55C

Variegations or Discolorations—None

Petals:

Texture—Medium thick

Appearance—shiny and neat

Form—smooth

Arrangement—Imbricated

Persistence—average

Fragrance—Slight

Lastingness—average

Bud:

Size—Medium large

Form—Smooth and Round

Color—Fan 1 Plate 55B

Sepals—green with smooth even edge

Calyx—polysepalous

Peduncle—none

Opening—easily with no splitting—a dependable performer.

Genital Organs:
None, complete petalody
Fruit: None

PLANT

Form: Short Bush
Growth: Healthy, but short.
Foliage:
Leaflets — 4-5
Size — medium
Quantity — medium
Color — Fan 3 Plate 135B
Shape — Ellistically acute
Texture — Glossy and Smooth
Edge — Smooth
Serration — Entire
Leaf Stem — Medium
Stipules — none
Disease Resistance — Resistant to leaf blotch and other bacterial peony diseases as observed for many years at Arlington Heights and Barrington, Illinois.

I claim a new and distinct variety of peony plant characterized by its unique short growth habit and out standing Vivid flower color as shown and described herein.

References:

Color Chart — Royal Horticulture Society, London, England, 1966

PATENT WRITE UP

84 dup No. 9 "GLORY HALLELUJAH"

Carl G. Klehm

2 E. Algonquin Road

Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of peony plant of the genus PAEONIA species *lactiflora*. Its uniqueness is especially characterized by its large bold flower blossoms of a pleasing unusual color which are held of strong tall and straight stems. Its tremendous plant vigor casts a degree of polyploid probability and of course shows results of hybrid vigor. This peony variety was originated by me at my nursery in Arlington Heights, Illinois in 1945. The pollen or male parent was 71D a "bull" type seedling kept for its ability to pass on hybrid vigor to its progeny. The pod or female parent was Mons. Jules Elie (both parents not patented.)

The hybridization was accomplished by hand pollinization. The germinated seedling did not bloom until 1952 at which time it was selected from many other seedlings of the same cross. For the past 18 years it has been under strict and comparative observation at which time it has been propagated by sexual root division.

Although the applicant variety derived its characteristics from random pairing of the genetic banks of both parents, its tremendous plant height can be attributed to its pollen parent 71D. The applicants color appears to be a blend of the darker tones of each parent with a touch of brilliance unknown to either parent.

The flower size is large being 8-8½ inches in diameter under good culture and normal growth conditions. It has a full, double rose-type bloom with no stamens or carpels. Its blossom color is an extremely

pleasing blend of cherry red, rose red, and vivid rose pink with a slight moon silver petal edging. The color reminds one of a patriotic red.

The variety is especially useful as a cut flower because of its long stout stems. As a flower show blossom specimen it is supreme for it has excellent neat flower petal arrangement and the individual blossom size to impress any one.

The accompanying picture is reproduced from an original photograph of the applicant variety—the color being as nearly true as reasonably possible in a color illustration of this character. (Picture not sent).

As a convenient summary the following detailed description of this new peony plant is given with color terminology generally in accordance with **The Royal Horticulture Society Color Chart** (except where general color terms are used.)

SUMMARY

Parentage:

Seed Parent: Mons Jules Elie
Pollen Parent — 71D

Flower:

Blooming Habit — Annual — Mid Season

Bud:

Size — Large
Form — rippled but relatively round
Color — Fan Z Plate 57B
Sepals — green with rippled edging
Calyx — polysepalous
Peduncle — none
Opening — easily with occasional calyx splitting a yearly dependable performer.

Bloom:

Size — considered extremely large 8-8½ inches
Borne — singly, one main bud per stem with 3-4 auxilliary buds
Stems — strong and tall 32-38"
Form — rose type double with one row of guard petals
Petalage — double
Color — Mainly Fan 1 Plate 50A
Variegations — none
Discolorations — none — although the relative seasons solar intensity affects the amount of silver petal edging

Petals:

Texture — thick
Appearance — dense and shiny
Form — recurved
Arrangement — Imbricated
Persistence — excellent
Fragrance — strong typical peony scent
Lastingness — excellent

Genital Organs: None

Fruit: None

PLANT

Form — Bush
Growth — tall, robust, vigorous and healthy

Foliage:

Leaflets — 5-6
Size — large
Quantity — average

Color — Fan 3 Plate 136B
Shape — Elliptically acute
Texture — smooth
Edge — smooth and entire
Serration — none
Leaf Stem — thick
Stipules — none
Disease Resistance — Resistant to leaf blotch and other bacterial peony diseases as observed for many years at Arlington Heights and Barrington, Illinois

I claim a new and distinct variety of peony plant characterized by its huge flower heads, tall growth habit, and pleasing VIVID red blossom color as shown and described herein.

References:

Color Chart — Royal Horticulture Society, London, England, 1966

PATENT WRITE UP

844Y "BEST MAN"

Carl G. Klehm

2 E. Algonquin Road

Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of peony plant of the genus *PAEONIA* species *lactiflora*. Its uniqueness is especially characterized by its extremely thick, stout and strong stems. In our opinion, the applicant has the thickest stem of any *Paeonia lactiflora* variety given equal cultural and seasonal conditions of any peony variety under our observation. Upon this rigid framework dwells extremely large, many petaled, high crowned, fully double rose type blossoms of a shade of light red seldom found in *lactiflora* species.

This peony variety was originated by me at my nursery in Arlington Heights, Ill. in 1945. The pollen or male parent was 71D, a "bull" type variety used for its ability to pass on hybrid vigor plant habit. The pod or female parent was Mons. Jules Elie (both parents not patented.)

The hybridization was accomplished by hand pollination. The germinated seedling did not bloom until 1952 at which time it was selected from many other seedlings of the same cross. For the past 18 years it has been under strict and comparative observation at which time it has been propagated by a sexual root division.

Although the applicant variety derived its characteristics from random pairing of the genetix banks of both parents, its extremely thick and tenacious stems can be best attributed to 71D the pollen parent which is an F₁ generation of seed parent, Mons. Jules Elie. The resulting F₂ line bred applicant shows every sign of polyploidy conditions which theoretically can only be explained by cell mutation thus changing the chromosome number. The individual blossom is larger and many more petalled than either parent. The plant habit exhibits a commendable amount of vigor and strength.

The flower dimensions are large: 8-8½" diameter with a 4½-5" crown off the perpendicular of a horizontal plane of the ventral guard petals. It is fully double rose type bloom with no stamens or carpels. Its flower petals unfold off the center meristem in such a manner that a "crater" effect of seemingly non-ending ruffled petals is experienced.

The variety is especially useful for garden and landscape purposes be-

cause of its wind resistant stems and large, showy, bold blossoms. Its clean foliage makes a fine border or backdrop for other flower settings. Because of its smooth bud and "opening in water after cutting" qualities it is also suitable for cut flower purposes.

The accompanying picture is reproduced from an original photograph of the applicant variety—the color being as nearly true as reasonably possible in a color illustration of this character. (Picture not included).

As a convenient summary, the following detailed description of this new peony plant is given with color terminology generally in accordance with the Royal Horticulture Society Color Chart (Except where general color terms are used.)

SUMMARY

Parentage:

Seed Parent: Mons. Jules Elie

Pollen Parent: 71D (and F1 of Mons. Jules Elie)

Flower:

Blooming Habit: Annually—considered late season blooming

Bud:

Size—Extremely large

Form—Slightly ribbed but basically round

Color—Fan 1 Plate 46A

Sepals—Smooth green with uneven edges

Calyx—Polysepalous

Peduncle—none

Opening—Easily with occasional splitting—a dependable performer.

Bloom:

Size—large and high 8-8½" wide by 4½" tall

Borne—singly, one main bud per stem with 2-4 auxiliary buds.

Stems—thick up to 5/8" at base, until 8".

Form—rose type high crowned.

Petalage—extremely double double.

Color—Fan 1 Plate 45A

Variegations—none

Discolorations—none

Petals:

Texture—thick

Appearance—fluffy

Form—recurved and slightly notched

Arrangement—Imbricated

Persistence—above average.

Fragrance—Strong peony fragrance.

Lastingness—excellent.

Genital Organs:

None: Complete atrophy

Fruit: None

PLANT

Form: Bush

Growth: outstanding strength.

Foliage:

Leaflets—5-7

Size—large

Quantity — above average
Color — Fan 3 Plate 136B
Shape — Elliptically acute
Texture — pronounced ucins
Edge — smooth
Serration — entire (none)
Leaf stem — also thick and strong
Stipules — none
Disease Resistance — Resistant to leaf blotch and other bacterial peony diseases as observed for many years at Arlington Heights and Barrington, Illinois

I claim a new and distinct variety of peony plant characterized by its thick stems, huge flowers, and apparent polyploidy as shown and described herein.

References:

Color Chart — Royal Horticulture Society, London, England, 1966

PATENT WRITE UP

847D "HONEY GOLD"

Carl G. Klehm

2 E. Algonquin Road

Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of peony plant of the genus *PAEONIA* species *lactiflora*. Its uniqueness is especially characterized by the unusual white, pink and yellow flower petal color combinations and flower form on a normal blossom. The variety definitely possesses desirable hybrid vigor as can be observed of its robust, clean foliage and succulent growth habit and balanced vigorous root system.

This peony was originated by me at my nursery in Arlington Heights, Illinois, in 1945. The pollen or male parent was 71D a "bull" type seedling kept for its apparent hybrid vigor, large flower heads, and unusual color combinations. The pod or female parent was Mons Jules Elie, a pleasing pink bomb shaped flower with good plant habit. Both parents are non-patented.

The hybridization was accomplished by hand pollinization. The germinated seedling did not bloom until 1951 at which time it was selected from many other seedlings of the same cross. For the past 19 years it has been under strict and comparative observation at which time it has been propagated by a sexual root division.

Although the applicant variety derived its characteristics from random pairing of the genetic banks of both parents, its unusual flower color combination was probably inherited from the male parent which even though is white, blush, and cream, has the pink genes of Mons Jules Elie, since 71D is progeny of Mons Jules Elie. This line breeding brought out the vigor and health of both parents to obtain excellent plant habit, clean, disease free roots, stems and leaves; lush, deep green shoots, stems and foliage; a short and strong growth stature; and a balanced and vigorous root system.

The unusual and distinctly unique flower color and form is a pure white double row of notched guard petals dorsalled with 6-9 rows of lemon yellow petaloids and true petals dorsalled again with 15 to 30 slightly larger and ruffled light pink petals. This amount of yellow on

actual petals of ***Paeonia lactiflora*** is heretofore unknown. Its an extremely attractive and delicate color combination foreign to most flower species.

The size of the main flower is medium, being 6 to 6½" in diameter under normal culture. It has a frilly and ruffled bomb shaped blossom with slightly atrophic carpels and no stamens. Its clean foliage is a lush pleasing bright green.



847D "Honey Gold"

This variety is especially useful as a garden landscape specimen since its flower combinations will certainly be a conversation piece. Its clean foliage makes a fine border or backdrop for other flower settings. Because of its smooth bud and "opening in water after cutting" qualities it is also suitable for cut-flower purposes.

The accompanying picture is reproduced from an original photograph of the applicant variety—the color being as nearly true as reasonably possible in a color illustration of this character.

As a convenient summary, the following detailed description of this new peony is given with color terminology generally in accordance with **The Royal Horticulture Society Color Chart** (except where general color terms are used.)

SUMMARY

Parentage:

Seed Parent — Mons. Jules Elie
Pollen Parent — 71D (line bred progeny of seed parent)

Flower:

Blooming Habit: Annually considered early to early mid season

Bud:

Size — Medium large
Form — smooth and round
Color — Fan 1 Plate 36D
Sepals — smooth green with even edge
Calyx — polysepalous
Peduncle — none
Opening — smooth and easily

Bloom:

Size — Medium 6-6½" diameter
Borne — singly with 3 auxillary buds
Stems — strong 30" tall
Form — frilly bomb shape
Petalage — double
Color — Fan 4 Plate 155B, Fan 1 Plate 8A, Fan 1 Plate 36D
Variegations — none
Discolorations — none

Petals:

Texture — medium
Appearance — shiny
Form — ruffled, notched and frilled
Arrangement — imbricated by frilled
Persistence — above average.
Fragrance — slight peony
Lastingness — above average

Genital Organs:

Male — none
Female — slightly atrophic stigmas and styles

Fruit: None

PLANT

Form — Bush
Growth — Healthy, strong and lush

Foliage:

Leaflets — 5-7
Size — Medium
Quantity — above average
Color — Fan 3 Plate 135B
Shape — elliptically acute
Texture — Dorsal is glossy with pronounced veins
Edge — Smooth
Serration — None
Leaf Stem — thick and succulent
Stipules — none
Disease Resistance — Resistant to leaf blotch and other bacterial

peony diseases as observed for many years at Arlington Heights and Barrington, Illinois

I claim a new and distinct variety of peony plant characterized by its flower color combination and petalage as shown and described herein.

References:

Color Chart — Royal Horticulture Society, London, England, 1966

PATENT WRITE UP

87L "ANGEL CHEEKS"

Carl G. Klehm

2 E. Algonquin Road

Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of peony plant of the genus *PAEONIA* species *lactiflora*. Its uniqueness is characterized by pleasing pink flower hues tipped with red candy striping on an unusually compactly formed bomb shape blossom. The plant height and growth habit is also singularly dwarf. Its foliage is lush soft green characteristic of its seed parent.

This peony variety was originated by me at my nursery in Arlington Heights, Ill. in 1948. The pollen or male parent was 69J a "bull" type line bred seedling of the seed or female parent Mons Jules Elie (both parents non patented).

The hybridization was accomplished by hand pollinization. The germinated seedling did not bloom until 1954 at which time it was selected from many other seedlings of the same cross. For the past 16 years it has been under strict and comparative observation at which time it has been propagated by a sexual root division.

Although the applicant variety derived its characteristics from random pairing of the genetic banks of both parents, its bomb shaped flower form comes from Mons Jules Elie — the compactness of this form can be attributed to the related line-bred parents. The male parent, 69J, has the compact petal arrangement which was passed off to the applicant. Neither parent shows the singular dwarfness of applicant so it can be assumed that the heterozygous arrangement of the combines line bred genes produced this phenomenon.

The variety applicant is considered unique because of its dwarf growth habit being 20 to 24" tall and its red petal tipped candy striping on the extreme top of an extremely compactly formed cameo pink blossom. The double row of slightly notched guard petals blend and mellow to a lighter and softer pink at the petal extremities. The 2 to 3 rows of extreme ventral petals in the bomb flower portion are a creamy peach color and slightly variable texture and form. The red candy striping is on the dorsal extremities of top most petals. The amount of red can vary from flower to flower.

This variety is especially useful for mass use in landscape hedges or

backgrounds because of its short stiff stems which resist wind and rain. It has clean foliage and draws water readily after being cut for arrangement purposes.

The accompanying picture is reproduced from an original photograph of the applicant variety—the color being as nearly true as reasonably possible in a color illustration of this character.



Peony 87L "Angel Cheeks"

As a convenient summary, the following detailed description of this new peony plant is given with color terminology generally in accordance with **The Royal Horticulture Society Color Chart** (except where general terms are used.)

SUMMARY

Parentage:

Seed Parent: Mons Jules Elie
Pollen Parent: 69J

Flower:

Blooming Habit: Annual mid-season
Bud:
Size — Medium

Form — Smooth and Round
Color — Fan 1 Plate 37 D
Sepals — Smooth Green with even edge
Calyx — Polysepalous
Peduncle — None
Opening — Easily — a dependable performer.

Bloom:

Size — Medium to Medium Small (5½-6")
Borne — Singly, one main bud per stem with 2-3 auxilliary buds.
Stems — Short strong 20-24" Tall
Form — Compact Bomb shaped
Petalage — Double
Color — mainly Fan 1 Plates 49C and 49D
Variegations — none
Discolorations — None

Petals:

Texture — Medium thick
Appearance — Neat and glossy
Form — slightly notched and slightly frilled
Arrangement — Imbricated
Persistance — Above average
Fragrance — none
Lastingness — above average.

Genital Organs:

Male stames — none
Female stigmas and styles — few immature.

Fruit: None

PLANT

Form — Short Bush
Growth — Rather dwarf, healthy and strong.

Foliage:

Leaflets — 5-6
Size — medium
Quantity — medium
Color — Fan 3 Plate 136C
Texture — Smooth
Edge — Smooth
Serration — None
Leaf Stem — Thick and Succulent
Stipules — None
Disease Resistance — Resistant to leaf blotch and other bacterial peony diseases as observed for many years at Arlington Heights and Barrington, Illinois

I claim a new and distinct variety of peony plant characterized by its unusual flower hues, compact bush form and tightness of flower petal arrangement as shown and described herein.

References:

Color Chart — Royal Horticulture Society, London, England, 1966

PUBLICATIONS

Handbook of The Peony — A 36-page booklet containing concise articles on why and when to plant, the care, culture and propagation of peonies of all kinds, including 8 pages on Tree Peonies. Three line drawings, and 8 black-and-white photographs are included, as well as lists of varieties and sources. Price: \$1.00 each. 25 to 49 copies, \$.75 each. Over 50 copies, \$.50 each.

Back Bulletins. Current Issues, \$1.00 each, to members. \$2.00 to non-members.

Peonies Outdoors and In by Arno and Irene Nehrling (1960). Hearthside Press, 381 Park Avenue, South, New York, N.Y. 10016. 288 pages, including 11 color plates and 118 black-and-white sketches and photographs. A complete guide to selecting, growing and using herbaceous and tree peonies. A 50-page section on Peonies Indoors including Arrangements, and How to Stage a Show. About 40 pages are devoted to the Tree Peony. Price: To Society members, \$4.95. To non-Members \$5.95. Send check or money order to American Peony Society, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

The Peonies, edited by John C. Wister (1962). Published by the American Horticultural Society, 2401 Calvert Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008. 220 pages, packed with up-to-date information on Herbaceous, Tree and Hybrid Peonies. Many techniques of growing, propagation and breeding. A must for every Hybridizer. Profusely illustrated. Send check or money order to American Peony Society, 107½ W. Main Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891. Price to Members: Clothbound \$3.50 Paperbound \$2.50. Non-Members, \$5.00 and \$3.00 respectively

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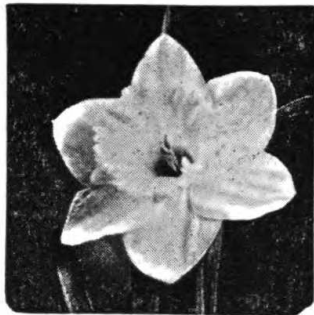
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