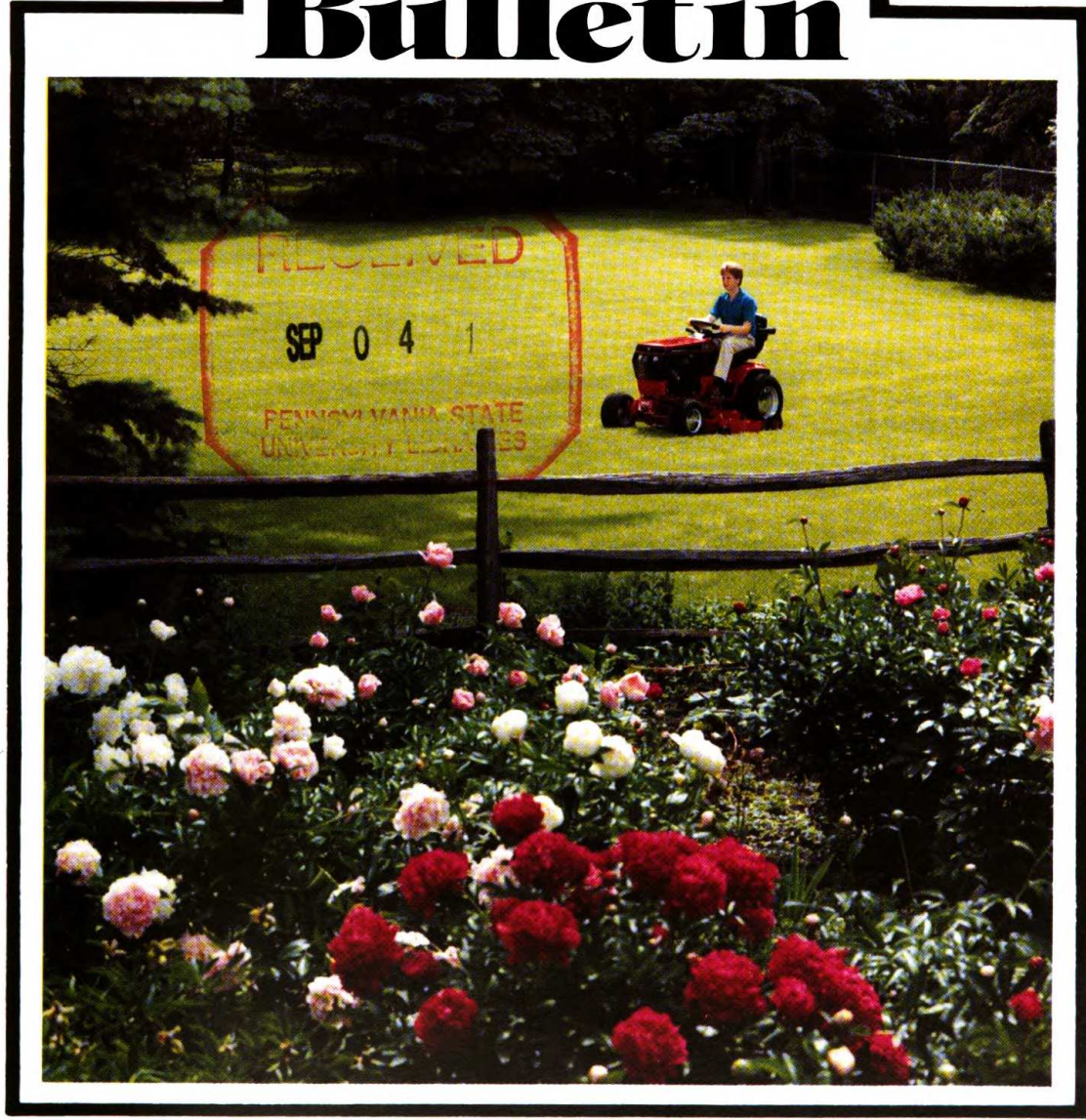


*Lipson*



SEPTEMBER 1991  
NO. 279

# The American Peony Society Bulletin



*Landscape Scene (see page 5)*

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## Announcing

The limited publication of a "TABLE TOP" edition devoted exclusively to

# AMERICAN TREE PEONIES



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- *Tree Peony history*
- *Planting and general culture*
- *Propagation by root grafting of scions*
- *Pruning, fertilization, winter protection, etc.*

Compiled and edited by  
Greta M. Kessenich;  
photos by Roy Klehm  
and David Reath

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\* *A.P. Saunders, William Gratwick, Nassos Daphnis, David Reath, Toichi Domoto, Don Hollingsworth and Roger Anderson*

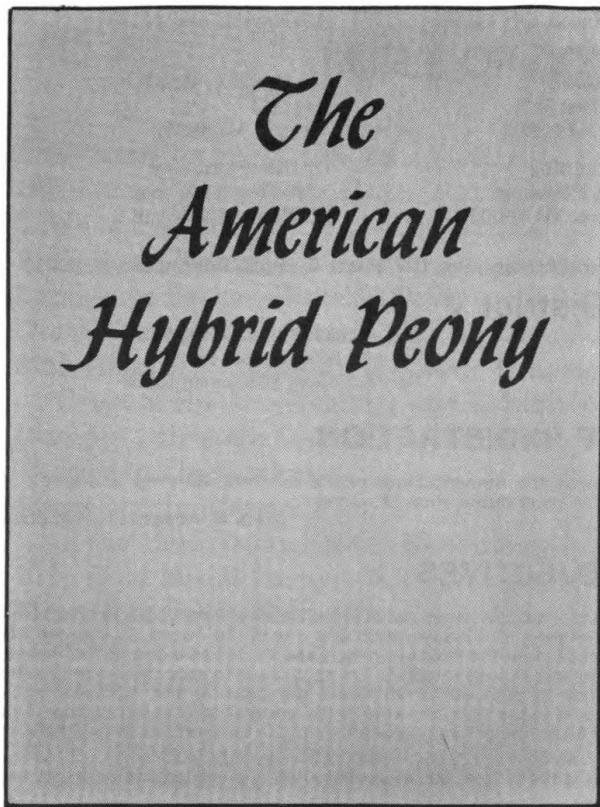
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## DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

## OBJECTIVES

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

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

## MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the Peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development are eligible for membership. Dues are as follows:

Single Annual.....	\$ 7.50	Junior or member family.....	\$ 2.50
Single Triennial.....	20.00	Life.....	150.00
Family Annual.....	10.00	Commercial membership.....	25.00
Family Triennial.....	27.50		

Family membership, any two related members in same household..... One Bulletin  
Junior membership, any age through completion of high school..... Separate Bulletin

For those who wish to further support the Society, the following special memberships are available.

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



# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



September 1991 — No. 279

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In my first report to you as the new President of the 88-year-old American Peony Society, I want you to know that I consider the office to be a very great honor, and one of which I hope to be found worthy. I am most fortunate to follow an outstanding Past President, Kent Crossley, who, with the unceasing and untiring support of our Secretary-Treasurer, Greta Kessenich, leaves our Society in excellent condition in all respects: financial, membership numbers increasing, and with an attractive and informative new book, "*The American Hybrid Peony*," a most welcome and useful companion to the recent "*The American Tree Peony*," both of which we are indebted to Greta Kessenich for. Both books are available for new and old members alike.

Memories linger from the recent annual Exhibition held in the exceptional Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario. In spite of an "unusual" Spring growing season for most growers with wild fluctuations of temperature and rainfall, exhibitors brought outstanding blooms to be judged and I felt the quality of the blue ribbon winners, and especially the Court of Honor, were worthy of comparison with the best of past shows. Thanks must be expressed to John Simkins and all his helpers at the Royal Botanical Gardens as well as to all the others who contributed time and effort to make the Show a success.

I had no idea when I attended my first Show at Kingwood Gardens in Mansfield in 1968, when I brought a peck basket of blossoms picked that Saturday morning for entry in the Novice Class, that 23 years later I would serve the Society as President. I am grateful to be supported by a young and knowledgeable Vice President, Scott Reath, and am pleased to have such an experienced peony grower as Carroll Spangler join the Board of Directors. Together, I hope to see the increase in members continue and especially to encourage more members to experience the exhilaration of exhibiting. There were blossoms exhibited for the first time by some of our Canadian friends in the Novice Class that were worthy of being in the Court of Honor. A few plants with personal attention can produce flowers that can successfully compete against the largest growers, and there is no feeling like the pride one feels when one of his "babies" wins a prize! I hope to find new ways to promote the popularity of the peony, and lend all the support possible to our members whose main interest is hybridizing, on whom the ultimate future of the peony depends. I invite suggestions and inquiries from present and prospective members.

By the time you are reading this you will have made your selections for additions to your peony beds, or starting your first planting. I hope the weather this Fall is favorable for planting, that you will experience all the joys the Peony can provide, and that your Fall clean-up will be an easy one for all of you.

Faithfully yours,  
**Robert F. Schmidt**

## Landscape Scene—

### BULLETIN COVER

Two years ago, we in Minnesota experienced a drought, causing severe damage to trees, shrubs, grass, and all plant life. Last year the rainfall did elevate the situation but the effects are still with us. We did have a generous supply of rain to raise the lake levels and streams in some areas. The trees still show the effects; many have died because of lack of moisture.

This year, the rain came, rain and rain, beginning in May when the peonies first began to show, and it has continued to rain intermittently. The water level is high, lakes completely back to normal, and the rainfall above the normal average.

The grass came back from the very dry year and it grew so fast like it was trying to play catch-up with the past; so did the peonies—they grew tall and beautiful. The plants were full of bud; however in May, the exceptionally hot weather did not give the early peonies time to mature. The doubles seemed to make up for the lack of substance in the early bloom.

The picture on the cover shows a corner of my garden which borders the width of the beautiful landscape home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Swanson. Now, he could take care of his lush lawn by having it cut with the riding Toro every few days, while my peonies bloomed, and seemed to enjoy the growing cool wet weather. With rain and hot weather comes weeds of untold origin. Up and down the rows they grew, in soil too wet for any equipment, for hoeing, and even pulling them. This was becoming a problem, so I resorted to the Toro grass trimmer—the tool with the string that cuts close to objects. The weeds were cut to the ground in every row and the outside perimeter of the garden. When the weather permits and the soil dries to that point, the roots will be tilled out long before planting season. This was my first attempt with this tool, but it seemed to be a valuable asset for me.

Greta Kessenich



### *Greta Kessenich Honored*

High praise was bestowed upon Greta Kessenich during the annual meeting banquet for her twenty years of service to the American Peony Society as secretary, treasurer, and editor. Board member, Lois Klehm, introduced the recognition, enumerating Greta's many accomplishments. It was individually attested by everyone present through an impromptu receiving line.

**THE 88TH ANNUAL MEETING  
86TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION  
4TH INTERNATIONAL SHOW  
of  
THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, June 7, 8, 9, 1991**

**COURT OF HONOR**

Grand Champion—**Ruffled Sunset**—Reath Nursery, Vulcan, Michigan  
Double white—**Mothers Choice**—Carl Klehm  
Double blush—**Martha Reed**—Carl Klehm  
Double light pink—**Dinner Plate**—Carl Klehm  
Double dark pink—**Princess Margaret**—C. Spangler  
Double red—**Highlight**—C. Klehm  
Bomb, any color—**Charlie's White**—C. Klehm  
Semi-double, any color—**Miss America**—C. Spangler  
Japanese, any color—**Westerner**—C. Klehm  
Single, any color—**Dawn Pink**—W. G. Sindt  
Double hybrid, any color—**Carol**—Joseph Glocka  
Semi-double hybrid—**Illini Belle**—Carl Klehm  
Single, any color—**Illini Warrior**—C. Klehm  
Japanese, any color—**Walter Mains**—C. Spangler  
Lutea tree peony—**Ruffled Sunset**—Reath Nursery—**Grand  
Champion**  
European tree peony—**Alice Harding**—John Simkins  
Japanese tree peony—**Teikan**—Bob Schmidt  
Itoh hybrid, any color—**Garden Treasure**—Don Hollingsworth

**DIVISION I. Open to All Exhibitors**

Class 101 — Twenty-five varieties any color or type. One bloom in a separate container.

1st WON by CARL KLEHM, SO. BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

**Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ann Cousins, Kansas, Moonstone, Big Mama Bear, Miss America, Nice Gal, Westerner, Lotus Queen, Honey Gold, Detroit, Old Faithful, Etched Salmon, Red Charm, Paula Fay, Dawn Pink, Ala Mode, Friendship, Postilion, Coral Supreme, Maxine Cornu, Leda, Godiasha, Rimpo, Yellow Dream.**

2nd WON BY JOSEPH GLOCKA, WEST ALLIS, WISCONSIN

**Miss America, Ruth Clay, Loren Franklin, Madylone, Minnie Shaylor, Westerner, Rose Glory, Cytherea, Mrs. Liv-**



**ington Farrand, Elsa Sass, Westhill, Philippe, Rivoire, Marietta Sisson, Glory Hallelujah, Friendship, White Cap, Kansas, Sarah Bernhardt, Marilla Beauty, Walter Faxon, Norma Volz, Firebelle, Carol, Red Goddess, A. Krekler.**

Class 102 — Fifteen varieties herbaceous only any type or color. One bloom in a separate container.

**1st WON BY CARL KLHEM, SO. BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS**

**Gratis, Dawn Pink, Krinkled White, Cora Stubbs, Evelyn Tibbitts, White Cap, Nice Gal, Miss America, Charlie's White, Sweet 16, Bowl of Cream, Moonstone, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Highlight, Big Mama Bear.**

**2nd WON BY ROBERT SCHMIDT, BRECKSVILLE, OHIO**

**Dolorodel, Glory Hallelujah, Pink Jazz, Pillow Talk, Miss America, Therese, Myrtle Tischler, Hoosierland, Bowl of Cream, Lavender Bouquet, First Lady, Norma Volz, Anne Bigger, Queen of Sheba, Annisquam.**

**3rd WON BY JOSEPH GLOCKA, WEST ALLIS, WISCONSIN**

**Mabel Gore, Raspberry Sundae, Westhill, Kansas, Prairie Afire, Mons Jules Elie, Hermione, Red Splendor, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Philippe Rivoire, Snow Mountain, Paul M. Wild, Onandaga, Red Emperor, Madylone.**

Class 103 — Ten varieties herbaceous hybrids, any type or color.

**1st WON BY CARL KLEHM, SO. BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS**

**Paula Fay, Etched Salmon, Coral Charm, Garden Peace, Friendship, Showgirl, Coral N' Gold, Prairie Moon, Burma Ruby.**

**2nd WON BY REATH NURSERY, VULCAN, MICHIGAN**

**Superior, Salmon Dream, Mackanic Grand, Alida, Red Charm, Prairie Moon, Lemon Chiffon, Coral Sunset, Paula Fay, Cytherea.**

**3rd WON BY JOSEPH GLOCKA, WEST ALLIS, WISCONSIN**

**Laura Magnuson, Athena, Carol, Buckaneer, Lovely Rose, A Krekler, Nevada, Chief Logan, Edward Steichen, Firebelle.**

Class 104 — Ten varieties tree peonies only any type or color. One bloom each in a separate container.

**1st WON BY REATH NURSERY, VULCAN, MICHIGAN**

**Vulcan M II, Chinese Dragon, Marie Laurencin, Hephestos, High Noon, Ruffled Sunset, Age of Gold, Godaisha, Icarus, Shintenshi.**

**2nd WON BY CARL KLEHM, SO. BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS**

**Mme. Andre Bevillers, Savage Splendor, Harvest, Godaishu, Zephyrus, Leda, Nike, Age of Gold, Harvest, Hephestos.**

Class 105 — Five varieties Japanese type, lactiflora only, any color.

One bloom in a separate container.

1st WON BY CARL KLEHM, SO. BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS  
**Largo, White Cap, Lotus Queen, Westerner, West Elkton.**

2nd WON BY JOSEPH GLOCKA, WEST ALLIS, WISCONSIN  
**Prairie Afire, Westerner, Hari Ai Nin, White Cap, Goshō  
Nishiki.**

Class 106 — Five varieties single type lactifloras only, any color.  
One bloom each in a separate container.

1st WON BY CARL KLEHM, SO. BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS  
**Mischief, Krinkled White, President Lincoln, Ivory Jewel,  
\_\_\_ not readable.**

### **THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY, LACTIFLORA, IN ONE CONTAINER**

Class 110	1. <b>Ann Cousins</b>	— Carl Klehm
Double white	2. <b>Mothers Choice</b>	— Carl Klehm
	3. <b>Cheddar Cheese</b>	— Carl Klehm
H.M.	<b>Ann Cousins</b>	— Joseph Glocka
Class 111	1. <b>Moonstone</b>	— Carl Klehm
Double Blush	2. <b>Marilla Beauty</b>	— Joseph Glocka
	3. <b>Moon River</b>	— Carl Klehm
H. M.	<b>Florence Nicholls</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 112	1. <b>Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt</b>	— Carl Klehm
Double	2. <b>Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt</b>	— Carl Klehm
Lt. Pink	3. <b>Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt</b>	— Robert Schmidt
Class 113	1. <b>Princess Margaret</b>	— W. G. Sindt
Double	2. <b>Edulus Supreme</b>	— Carl Klehm
Dk. Pink	3. <b>Lake O'Silver</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 114	1. <b>Matilda Lewis</b>	— Don Hollingsworth
Double	2. <b>David Harum</b>	— Carl Klehm
Red	3. <b>Ruth Clay</b>	— Joseph Glocka
Class 115	1. <b>Zuzu</b>	— Carl Klehm
Semi-dbl.	2. <b>Minnie Shaylor</b>	— Carl Klehm
White or Blush	3. <b>Miss America</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 116—Semi-dbl.—Pink	1. <b>Nice Gal</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 117—Semi-dbl.—Red	1. <b>Viking Chief</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 118	1.	
Bomb, any	2. <b>Sweet 16</b>	— Carl Klehm
Color	3. <b>Raspberry Ice</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 119	1. <b>Primevere</b>	— Carl Klehm
Japanese White or Blush		

Class 120 Japanese Pink	1. <b>Westerner</b> 2. <b>Cora Stubbs</b> 3. <b>Gay Paree</b>	—John Simkins — Carl Klehm — W. G. Sindt
Class 121 Japanese Red	1. <b>White Cap</b> 2. <b>Ray Payton</b> 3. <b>Red Bird</b>	— Carl Klehm — Carl Klehm — Carl Klehm
Class 122 Single White or Blush	1. <b>Krinkled White</b> 2. <b>Ivory Jewel</b> 3. <b>Ala Mode</b>	— Carl Klehm — Carl Klehm — Carl Klehm
Class 123 Single Pink	1. <b>Dawn Pink</b> 2. <b>Dawn Pink</b> 3. <b>Gratis</b>	— Carl Klehm — W. G. Sindt — Carl Klehm
Class 124 Single Red	1. <b>Florence Bruss</b> 2. <b>Gratis</b> 3. <b>Gratis</b>	— W. G. Sindt — Carl Klehm — Carl Klehm

### ONE BLOOM LACTIFLORA ONLY

Class 130 Double White	1. <b>Bowl of Cream</b> 2. <b>Ann Cousins</b> 3. <b>Bowl of Cream</b>	— Robert Schmidt — Carl Klehm — Carl Klehm
Class 131 Double Blush	1. <b>Moon River</b> 2. <b>Annisquam</b> 3. <b>Marilla Beauty</b>	— Carl Klehm — W. G. Sindt — Joseph Glocka
Class 132 Double Light Pink	1. <b>Nick Shaylor</b> 2. <b>Mrs. Livingston Farrand</b> 3. <b>Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt</b>	— Robert Schmidt — Joseph Glocka — Carl Klehm
Class 133 Double Dark Pink	1. <b>Feather Top</b> 2. <b>Edulus Superba</b> 3. <b>Myrtle Tischler</b>	— Robert Schmidt — Carl Klehm — Robert Schmidt
Class 134 Double Red	1. <b>Onandaga</b> 2. <b>Jay Cee</b> 3. <b>Kansas</b>	— Joseph Glocka — Carl Klehm — Carl Klehm
Class 135 Semi-Double White or Blush	1. <b>Zuzu</b> 2. <b>Miss America</b> 3. <b>Minnie Shaylor</b>	— Robert Schmidt — Carl Klehm — Carl Klehm
Class 136 Semi-Double Pink	1. <b>Golly</b> 2. <b>Liebchen</b> 3. <b>Nice Gal</b>	— Robert Schmidt — W. G. Sindt — Carl Klehm
Class 137 Semi-Double Red	1. <b>Hoosier Land</b> 2. <b>Viking Chief</b> 3. ---	— Carl Klehm — Carl Klehm

Class 138	1. <b>Honey Gold</b>	— Carl Klehm
Bomb White	2. <b>Top Brass</b>	— Carl Klehm
or Blush	3. ---	
Class 139	1. <b>Mons Jules Elie</b>	— Joseph Glocka
Bomb Pink	2. <b>Sweet 16</b>	— Carl Klehm
	3. ---	
Class 140	1. <b>Detroit</b>	— Carl Klehm
Bomb Red	2. <b>Fire Opal</b>	— Carl Klehm
	3. ---	
Class 141	1. <b>Cheddar Elite</b>	— Carl Klehm
Japanese	2. <b>Lotus Queen</b>	— Carl Klehm
White or Blush	3. <b>Cheddar Tall Boy</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 142	1. <b>King of England</b>	— Robert Schmidt
Japanese	2. <b>Doreen</b>	— Robert Schmidt
Pink	3. <b>Westerner</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 143	1. <b>Ray Payton</b>	— Carl Klehm
Japanese	2. <b>Barrington Belle</b>	— Carl Klehm
Red	3. <b>White Cap</b>	— Robert Schmidt
Class 144	1. <b>Ala Mode</b>	— Carl Klehm
Single White	2. <b>Ivory Jewel</b>	— Carl Klehm
	3. ---	
Class 145	1. <b>Dawn Pink</b>	— Carl Klehm
Single Pink	2. <b>Dawn Pink</b>	— Carl Klehm
	3. ---	
Class 146	1. <b>Topeka Garnet</b>	— Robert Schmidt
Single Red	2. <b>Flanders Field</b>	— Carl Klehm
	3. <b>President Lincoln</b>	— Carl Klehm

### **THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY HERBACEOUS HYBRID OR SPECIES IN ONE CONTAINER**

Class 150	1. <b>Prairie Moon</b>	— Carl Klehm
Double or Semi-double White, Blush or Yellow	2. <b>Prairie Moon</b>	— Robert Schmidt
	3. ---	
Class 151	1. <b>Etched Salmon</b>	— Carl Klehm
Double or	2. <b>Coral Charm</b>	— Carl Klehm
Semi-Double Coral	3. <b>Chamelian</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 152	1. <b>Paula Fay</b>	— Carl Klehm
Double or	2. <b>Cytheria</b>	— Reath Nursery
Semi-Double Pink	3. ---	
Class 153	1. <b>Carol</b>	— Robert Schmidt

- Double or      2. **Postilion**                    — Carl Klehm  
Semi-Double Red      3. ---
- Class 154      1. **Show Girl**                    — Carl Klehm  
Japanese,      2. **Walter Mains**                — C. Spangler  
any color      3. **Show Girl**                    — Carl Klehm
- Class 155 — Single Yellow — None
- Class 156      1. ---  
Single White    2. ---  
or Blush      3. **Garden Peace**                — Carl Klehm
- Class 157      1. **Coral 'N Gold**                — Carl Klehm  
Single Coral    2. **Coral 'N Gold**                — Carl Klehm  
                  3. ---
- Class 158      1. **Friendship**                    — Carl Klehm  
Single Pink    2. ---  
                  3. ---
- Class 159      1. **Burma Ruby**                    — Carl Klehm  
Single Red    2. **Illini Warrior**                — Carl Klehm  
                  3. **Flame**                         — Carl Klehm
- Class 159A    1. **Border Charm**                — Carl Klehm  
Itoh Hybrid,    2. **Garden Treasure**            — Don Hollingsworth  
any color      3. **Border Charm**                — Carl Klehm

### ONE BLOOM HERBACEOUS HYBRID OR SPECIES

- Class 160      1. **Lemon Chiffon**                — Scott Reath  
Double or      2. **Prairie Moon**                — Carl Klehm  
Semi-Double Yellow    3. **Prairie Moon** — Carl Klehm
- Class 161 — Double or Semi-Double White
- Class 162      1. **Coral Supreme**                — Carl Klehm  
Double or      2. **Coral Charm**                    — Carl Klehm  
Coral          3. **Chamelian**                    — Carl Klehm
- Class 163      1. **Salmon Glory**                — Robert Schmidt  
Double or      2. **Paula Fay**                      — Carl Klehm  
Semi-Double Pink    3. **Paula Fay** — Carl Klehm
- Class 164      1. **Red Charm**                      — Maurice Menard  
Double or      2. **Old Faithful**                    — Carl Klehm  
Semi-Double Red    3. **Fayette**                        — Robert Schmidt
- Class 165      1. ---  
Japanese      2. ---  
any color      3. **Walter Mains**                — Carl Klehm
- Class 166      1. ---

Single yellow	2. <b>Roys Best Yellow</b>	— Carl Klehm
	3.---	
Class 167	1. ---	
Single White	2. <b>Garden Peace</b>	— Carl Klehm
or Blush	3. <b>Requiem</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 168	1. <b>Coral 'N Gold</b>	— Carl Klehm
Single Coral	2. <b>Superior</b>	— Robert Schmidt
	3. <b>Coral 'N Gold</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 169	1. <b>Cytherea</b>	— Robert Schmidt
Single Pink	2. <b>May Apple</b>	— Robert Schmidt
	3. <b>Friendship</b>	— Carl Klehm
Class 169A	1. <b>Bright Knight</b>	— Carl Klehm
Single Red	2. <b>Montezuma</b>	— Carl Klehm
	3. <b>Illini Warrior</b>	— Carol Klehm
H. M.	<b>Defender</b>	— Robert Schmidt
Class 169B	1. <b>Yellow Emperor</b>	— Carl Klehm
	2. <b>Yellow Emperor</b>	— Carl Klehm
	3. <b>Border Charm</b>	— Carl Klehm

### **THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY TREE PEONIES, IN ONE CONTAINER**

Class 170A — Japanese White Single — 1. **Godaishu** — Carl Klehm

Class 174B — Japanese Semi-Dbl. Maroon — 1. **Rimpo** — Carl Klehm

Class 176A — Lutea Hybrid Yellow Single — 1. **Amber Moon**—John Simkins

2. **Roman Gold** — Carl Klehm

Class 176C 1. **Age of Gold** — Carl Klehm

Lutea Hybrid 2. **Golden Mandarin** — Carl Klehm

Yellow Double 3. **Golden Hind** — Carl Klehm

Class 177A 1. Not readable — John Simkins

Lutea Hybrid, Blend, Single, 2. **Hesperus** — Carl Klehm

Class 177B 1. **Ruffled Sunset** — Scott Reath

Lutea Hybrid, Blend, Semi-Double

Class 178B 1. **Leda** — Carl Klehm

Lutea Hybrid, Semi-Double, Pink

- Class 178C 1. **Zephyrus** — Carl Klehm  
Lutea Hybrid, Double, Pink
- Class 179A 1. **Chinese Dragon** — Carl Klehm  
Lutea Hybrid, Single, Red
- Class 179B 1. **Mephestos** — Scott Reath  
Semi-Double, Red 2. **Banquet** — Carl Klehm  
**ONE BLOOM , TREE PEONY, ONLY**
- Class 185A 1. **Rocks Variety** — Carl Klehm  
Moutan, White, Single
- Class 185B 1. **Gessekai** —Robert Schmidt  
Moutan, White 2. **Hakuow Jishi** — Carl Klehm  
Semi-Double 3. **Haku Ban Ryu** — Scott Reath  
H. M. **Godai-shu** — Scott Reath
- Class 185C 1. **Fuso no Tsukasa** — Robert Schmidt  
Moutan, White, Double
- Class 186A 1. **Yachiyo Tsubaki** — Robert Schmidt  
Moutan, Pink, Single
- Class 186B 1. **ShintENCHI** — Scott Reath  
Moutan, Semi- 2. **Hana KisoI** — Carl Klehm  
Double Pink 3. **Gyokusho Kaku** — Carl Klehm
- Class 186C 1. **Teikan** — Robert Schmidt  
Moutan Double 2. **Reine Elizabeth** — Scott Reath  
Pink 3. **Higurashi** — Carl Klehm
- Class 187C Not Readable — Carl Klehm  
Moutan Double Red
- Class 188B 1. **Kamada Fuji** — Scott Reath  
Semi-Double 2. **Hiru Kumon** — Scott Reath  
Moutan, Violet 3. **Kamada Fuji** — Scott Reath
- Class 196C 1. **Souvenir De Maxime Cornu** — John Simkins  
European 2. **Alice Harding** — John Simkins  
Tree Peony 3. **Mme Andre Devillers** — Carl Klehm

## DIVISION III. Novice

Open to all Gardeners who exhibit Peonies only at local shows

Class 301 — Five varieties any type or color in separate containers

1. **White Charm, Heavenly Pink, Avant Garde, Joyce Ellen, Douglas Brand** — Ed and Rena Preston  
**THREE BLOOMS ONE VARIETY LACTIFLORS, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, IN ONE CONTAINER**

Class 305      1. **Dinner Plate**  
Double Any    2. **Mothers Choice**      — All Ed and Rena Preston  
color          3. **Douglas Brand**  
H. M.          **Kansas**

Class 306      1. **Exotic**  
Semi-Double   2. **The Mighty Mo**      — All Ed and Rena Preston  
any color      3. ---

Class 307      1. **Gay Patee**              — The Prestons  
Japanese, any color

Class 308      1. **Krinkled White**      — The Prestons  
Single, any color

Class 309      1. ---  
Hybrid, any    2. **Red Charm**              — The Prestons  
color          3. ---

### ONE BLOOM LACTIFLORA, ONE CONTAINER

Class 315      1. **Ethel Mars**              — John Upmalis  
Double White   2. **Mary Eddy Jones**      — Ed and Rena Preston  
or Blush              3. **Elsa Sass**              — John Upmalis  
H. M.              **Cheddar Cheese**      — Ed and Rena Preston

Class 316      1. **Dinner Plate**              — Ed and Rena Pre-  
ston  
Double Pink    2. **Judy Ann**              — Ed and Rena Preston  
                         3. **Dinnerplate**              — John Upmalis

Class 317      1. **Douglas Brand**      — Ed and Rena Preston  
Double Red    2. **Kansas**                  — Ed and Rena Preston

Class 318      1. **Exotic**                  — Ed and Rena Preston  
Semi-Double   2. **The Mighty Mo**      — Ed and Rena Preston



## DIVISION IV. Seedlings and New Varieties

Class 401 — Variety must have been divided at least once. Must be shown under name or seedling number. Three blooms in a container.

#995 — Certificate of merit — Don Hollingsworth

#685 — Certificate of merit — Don Hollingsworth

Class 402 — Seedlings. One bloom in a container.

**Lemon Chiffon** — Certificate of merit — Reath Nursery

## DIVISION V.

Class 502 — Visitors from the greatest distance exhibiting  
W. G. Sindt, Afton, Minnesota

Class 503 — Multiple bloom — single stalk not disbudded — must show at least three open blooms

1. John Upmalis with **Philippe Rivoire**

2. John Simkins with **Kay Tischler**

3. Carl Klehm with **Cheddar Tall Boy**

Class 504 — North Dakota Award — Five full doubles named varieties, any color

1. Carl Klehm with **Dinnerplate, Moonstone, Bowl of Cream, Kansas, June Rose**

### ARRANGEMENTS ON DISPLAY

Bob Kjarsgaard, Burlington, Ontario

Rena Preston, Pickering, Ontario

Lillie Hanorth, Grinsby, Ontario

Leila Bradfield, Kalamazoo, Michigan

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### To the Simkins, thank you

It was the fiftieth anniversary of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Thanks to John Simkins for his invitation to the American Peony Society to hold their 88th Annual Meeting and 86th Annual Convention at the Royal Botanical Garden Center. With the beautiful flowers displayed by Canadian members, and those taken there by truck and car from the U.S.A., the spacious display room was full of peony bloom. All this was capably managed by John Simkins. Vi Simkins took care of every detail, always so important at every Convention, and under her competent direction, it was a smooth-running Convention.

We thank John and Vi Simkins for their genuine hospitality.

★ ★ ★ ★

# IEWS AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE 1991 PEONY SHOW

*Kenneth E. Liberty, Bangor, Maine*

Peeking through the long narrow window in the door into what appeared to be a preparation or work room, I got my first look at a few of the beautiful peonies I had traveled some 900 miles to see. The blossoms on that end of the table near the door were shades of yellows and creams, and they seemed to glow with a light of their own. We had traveled from Bangor, Maine, to the Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, by way of the New York Thruway and Niagara Falls, which was our bridge between the United States and Canada.

We had just arrived at the 1991 American Peony Society two-day flower show (and Annual Meeting) an hour before the opening of the Exhibition Hall. It was a very hot and sunny day, and as we walked out of the beautiful modern headquarters building to view the gardens on the other side of the highway, we looked down on the criss-crossing jets of water in the large fountain shooting from either side of the fountain like two opposing armies besieging each other with multiple water cannons. In the heat of the day I was tempted to wade right in and cool off. We descended past the pool and under the highway to tour the magnificent rose gardens, which are a special feature of the Royal Botanical Gardens.

It was the fact that the Peony Show was being held at the Royal Botanical Gardens which finally persuaded me to make the long trip, since this would be my first experience to see both the Peony Show and the Gardens. I had wondered if the Peony Show alone would be worth the travel time and expense. I remembered my first trip to the Grand Canyon, when I wondered if the long anticipated Grand Canyon might look a great deal like a gravel pit or abandoned quarry back home. The Canyon didn't disappoint at all, of course—and certainly the Peony Show turned out to be very special, too, and well worth the effort to attend.

Having viewed the roses, we returned shortly after 1:30 p.m. to the Exhibition Hall, which was now open. Walking into the hall filled with peonies was rather like coming into a hall of stained glass windows. The mosaic of multi-colored lights dazzled one's eye. In some cases, light seemed to come from the magnificent peonies themselves: the yellows, the creams, the whites, those with yellow centers, the pinks, the blush—they sparkled. In other cases the Reds were so dark that they seemed to absorb the light, or the brighter Reds and shades gleamed with the depth of precious jewels, only far richer and alive. And the smell of peonies was in the air. All around the room people moved, admired and judged.

Where to begin? As a novice, I had no real idea how the show was organized. But, of course, the peonies were displayed by entry classifications, as published in the American Peony Society Bulletin. We began to our left along the wall, which led us to the wall featuring the beautiful floral arrangements

under the theme "Canadian Sights." Each arrangement was simple, dramatic, tasteful, beautiful, and, of course, featured one or more peonies. Incorporated into the last arrangement was a dramatically beautiful black peony blossom, whose color was accented with strategically located whisps of curled yellow filaments. I asked and learned its name is **Black Swan**, and is a great Murawska origination. For me, it would have been worth the trip just to see this one beauty [or almost]!

I began to make notes on varieties I wanted to order for my own garden in the future. I soon realized I was making notes on just about every peony displayed, except, of course, those I already have. Back in Maine, when I left home on Monday, only **Early Scout** and **Dutch Dwarf** had actually blossomed, in addition to my tree peonies. But I knew that many of my own herbaceous peonies must be putting on their own display this weekend. It was a joy to see prize blooms displayed similar to my own **Red Charm**, **Walter Mains**, **Gay Paree**, **Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt**, and others.

As my list for the future grew, I began to wonder if I really had any peonies at all at home in my garden. My list included **Coral Charm**, **Paula Fay**, **Coral and Gold**, **Feather Top**, **Do Tell**, **Carol**, **Mrs. Euchid Snow**, **Garden Treasure**, **King of England**, **Fancy Nancy**, **Largo**, **DawnPink**, **Nice Girl** and more. Enough to keep me going for the next few years, as I budget money and time, and create more garden space. Pictures in catalogs are beautiful, but never can they capture all the subtlety of the actual flowers themselves.

But there was more than just the flowers themselves, which made the trip worthwhile. I've always sensed a strong feeling of "family" and real people as I've read my quarterly Bulletins from cover to cover over the years. There are names of Peony Society people which become familiar to you. And lo and behold, the words were made flesh, as we circulated around the Exhibit Hall. I became very much aware of a very busy lady trying to be sure that the details of the Show were going smoothly and that the judging was being recorded properly. People would gravitate in her direction to speak to her and she greeted them warmly or answered their questions. I concluded to myself that this had to be the Society Secretary, Greta Kessenich. I knew her only through her personal notes at Membership Renewal Time or when ordering a book. And she had persuaded me to write a recent article for the Bulletin [Why? I'm not sure!]. I introduced myself to her, as busy as she was. She immediately wrote my name tag from memory and gave me the kind of attention which makes one feel that they are an important member of the Peony Society, and that she had nothing more urgent to do than to talk with you and make you feel at home. She has to be the **FIRST LADY** of The American Peony Society! And I'm sure I'm not alone in my feelings!

And there were others! Don Hollingsworth was overheard as he shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for peonies with another. George Allen talked with me about peonies and his travels in the peony world. A peony lover from Australia and another from New Hampshire made their presence known. You knew that the Klehms, Reaths, Lanings, and others were near-

by. They were there and their friendly, helpful enthusiasm was felt. I realized that while the Peony was the center of attention at this Show, it was really the people in the Society that give it its backbone and the structure on which the peony world depends, and from which we all benefit. I don't know what the Peony world is outside of North America, but certainly we must be one of the most dynamic peony societies in the world.

I'm glad I attended the Show, and I hope to go again, and I'm even tempted to think that even I might enter a peony or two, and have a chance to bring home a prize.

I returned home on June 11th to find that my own peony garden had exploded into a wonderful display of color in my absence. Our extremely hot and dry weather has speeded the flowers past a little faster than usual, but as Independence Day nears, I still have a couple of nice peony flowers here and there.

I came away from the Peony Show with three strong impressions. First—the beautiful peony flowers themselves. Second—of the friendly, enthusiastic and informed people who grow peonies. And third—the warm spirit which pervades the whole American Peony Society. The peony and the people are very important, but it is the spirit of our Society which makes it alive and dynamic. It is the spirit which gives life to both the people and the flowers.

LONG LIVE THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY!



## 1991 GOLD MEDAL PEONY

*W. G. Sindt, Afton, Minnesota*

The Board of Directors of the American Peony Society at its regular meeting on June 9, 1991, awarded the Gold Medal to the variety **WHITE CAP** by unanimous vote. **White Cap** was introduced in 1956 by G. E. Winchell of Oskaloosa, Iowa. It is described in the 1976 check list as "guards dark pink, stamens white, tall, stiff stems. Midseason." I find that the guards are indeed **dark** pink, more nearly red. It is an excellent garden variety, standing up well through our Spring rains, with color that is visible and outstanding. In addition to being a good garden variety, it is also a top show variety, having been best Japanese at a number of shows. It was runner-up or reserve champion at the show held at Cornell College in 1980. **White Cap** is an excellent peony for the exhibitor, as well as for those who just want a beautiful plant.

**White Cap** is available from most nurseries that sell peonies, at a modest price. Some of the criteria used by the Board of Directors in awarding the Gold Medal are: the plant must grow well, it must be attractive, it must be readily available at a modest price, it must be a unanimous decision by the Board. **White Cap** meets all of these criteria, and I'm sure that if you don't already grow it, this peony would be a good addition to your collection.

NOTE: See arrangement on back cover—**White Cap**, three upright flowers.

## MINNESOTA PEONY EXHIBITION

June 14-15-16, 1991 — Signal Hills Shopping Center,  
St. Paul, Minnesota

### COURT OF HONOR

Grand Champion, Best of Show — **PORT ROYAL** — Carl H. Klehm  
Double White — **ELSA SASS** — Alvin Sevald  
Double Blush — **HANSINA BRAND** — Alvin Sevald  
Double Light Pink — **DINNER PLATE** — Floyd Kimball  
Double Dark Pink — **MYRTLE TISCHLER** — Floyd Kimball  
Double Red — **EDWARD F. FLYNN** — Floyd Kimball  
Best Bomb — **DIXIE** — Carl Klehm  
Semi-Double White — **MINNIE SHAYLOR** — Alvin Sevald  
Best Japanese — **PORT ROYAL** — Carl Klehm — Grand Champion  
Best Single — **MISS MARY** — Carl Klehm  
Best Hybrid — **JOHN HARVARD** — Floyd Kimball  
Best Tree Peony — **AGE OF GOLD** — Carl Klehm  
Best Itoh Hybrid — **YELLOW HEAVEN** — W. G. Sindt

The Minnesota show was large; all types of peonies were represented. The date being about right for the doubles, they were at the stage for cutting, with only a short time for refrigeration. The hybrids came early but due to weather conditions we had very few for the show.

Chuck Klehm of the Klehm Nursery, So. Barrington, Illinois, brought hundreds of peonies of every type and color. He brought them in a very large air conditioned van. They had been in cold storage for some time but every peony was as fresh and beautiful as if just cut from the field. His very energetic and efficient staff of people worked silently and with confidence in knowing their flowers and the class in which they belonged. As the classes for peonies began to fill, more and more tables were set up to accommodate the flowers.

This year the show was held at Signal Hills Shopping Center, arranged by Dr. Crossley. Signal Hills is in St. Paul, Minnesota. The exhibition was held in the main area of the Mall with full glass extending from the ceiling to the street level. The perfect outdoor lighting gave the peonies their natural color.

The show had many beautiful flowers, some newcomers on the tables. There were two on the Court of Honor: William Krekler's lovely **Miss Mary**, a single cranberry red, and also Krekler's **Port Royale**, an elegant deep wine red with a deep wine center puff—a Japanese type peony which was awarded the Grand Champion. Both of these peonies were exhibited by Chuck Klehm. The most perfect hybrid, **JOHN HARVARD**, was exhibited by Floyd Kimball. This peony is one of Mr. Auten's peonies, a very dark red single peony, almost black with short golden stamen forming a perfect ring in the center. The color does not fade. Gus Sindt exhibited one of the most perfect Itoh Hybrids, **Yellow Heaven**. It was placed on the Court of Honor displaying the most vivid red flare and with the golden yellow petals. No wonder it is so

popular. Alvin Sevald came with huge, gorgeous blooms of every description. He took honor having the best twenty-five in the show. His **Elsa Sass** was impressive—one of the great Sass peonies and a gold medal peony. It was a white and large, showing its perfect rose form, a full double, a classic. Arrangements were made by Ben Gowen to have the Ikebana Society of Minneapolis-St. Paul display their floral arrangements.

The ladies were artists in this work and their floral arrangements reflected the time and study that goes with this type of arranging. They made the arrangements on Friday night, so all were ready for viewing on Saturday.

The following is from their **FACT SHEET** which explains **IKEBANA**.

### **IKEBANA International — Mpls. - St. Paul, Chapter 121**

Ikebana International is a non-profit cultural organization dedicated to the promotion and appreciation of Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. When founded in 1956 by the late Ellen Gordon Allen, her dream was to create an organization uniting the peoples of the world through their mutual love of nature and enjoyment of Ikebana. That dream has now spread to 50 countries with 173 chapters and membership over 12,000.

Ikebana International is not a school of Ikebana, but is made up of members of all nationalities from many different schools. Some of the schools stress classic styles; others focus on creative, contemporary forms, and some blend the two—each school different, yet each sharing its inspirations, styles, philosophy, history, and techniques with other members.

We of Ikebana International share great pride in our organization and in our founder's dream, which remains as fresh as it was in 1956:

### **FRIENDSHIP THROUGH FLOWERS**

#### **Membership Eligibility**

Membership is open to all persons interested in the art of Japanese Flower Arrangement, regardless of previous experience (or no experience).

#### **Benefits of Membership**

The Ikebana International Magazine is richly illustrated with color plates of the Masters' arrangements and timely articles on Ikebana and its related arts. I. I. members receive several issues per year.

Regional and world conferences are held for educational and cultural purposes in the Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand, North and South America and Europe. A World Convention is held in Japan every five years.

#### **Local Meetings**

The Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter #121 holds meetings monthly, usually the second Tuesday of the month, March through November. The meetings are usually held in the evening at 7:00 p.m., unless special programs, exhibitions or field trips are planned. Location of the meetings varies, but interested non-members can contact the membership chairperson listed below for more information. Non-members are always welcome at the meetings.

For more information, contact Yoshie Babcock, at 27815 Islandview Road, Shorewood, Minnesota 55331, or call [612] 474/2578.

## THE PEONIES GO TO FRANCE

[or "all's well that ends well"]

*Mrs. J. Boyd-Carpenter, Le Le Queyrel, 24460 Eyvirat,*

*Agonac Dordogne, France*

Some twenty seven years ago, we bought a beautiful manor house in Heilfordshire. It had fifteen major holes in the roof. The ground floor was collapsing into the cellar and the Humphrey Reception gardens were a jungle of ground elder, bind weed, ivy, giant hog weeds and peonies. One parent said we were mad!

The peonies were the only survivors probably by fifty years of a mammoth herbaceous border, some quarter of a mile long and fifteen feet wide, up to sixteen feet in parts as the path curved. The border was backed by a high brick wall, and the whole garden in the middle of a water table flourished abundantly.

Most of the peonies were an exceptionally tall single red, which, as we previously found, had been very military—I guessed it being **FLAG OF WAR** (Kelway). There were also a number of **SARAH BERNHARDT**, an unidentified white planting of roses. Many of the whites, to my surprise, turned pale pink when fed. We narrowed the border back to a more manageable six foot or so. Then over the years and many expensive trips to the Chelsea flower show, it became a border with over a hundred different varieties. The bulbs of Spring were early covered with leaves and then died back. Roses and Clematis grew up the wall, and in the Autumn, dahlias took over.

Although many people discard Paeonias as having too short a season, the bush seldom looked asleep and for the winter it looked tidy. They also appear to be rabbit-proof though no one could tell me why. I never had any disease problems either. All in all, very easy gardening! We fixed the house up, the children left, and a month after the last one married, my husband dropped a bomb shell: he wanted to retire and buy a smaller place somewhere. Shell-shocked from that, the land revenue dropped a second bomb. Since we had to pay 1/3 of the sale price in Capital Gains tax, that would not have left us enough to buy a smaller house in the area. I was totally enraged by such a law! I decided to go the tax exile and avoid it. Having always liked France, it's still very rural and houses are reasonably priced; that was my choice.

Looking back, I suspect my peony uprooting and splitting of plants was a way of uprooting myself. In the end, the whole backyard was stacked high with assorted saleable boxes, sacks of bulbs, flower pots, and dust bins. I had expected the roses in April, then the sale of both houses fell through. We went into a rented accommodation. In 1990, the peonies bloomed in their sacks and boxes, flourishing through the hot summer. I began to worry about them.

We then decided to buy a small cottage rather than pay rent. It took me four months to find one. We moved in August; by October we'd cleared enough space for the plants to come over from England. English estimates are very high so we asked a local firm. They had never carted plants but at our own risk would do it. We paid the Ministry of Agriculture, Certificate of Health, and all proper paper work was done. The truck arrived and as much

as possible loaded; a 40-ft. truck is quite spacious, but problems came at the port.

The plants should have cleared at port of entry, and we had expected them about 9:00 a.m. My husband got a phone call saying customs had impounded them. We went there in the car, taking the papers to prove that we had a house, etc. This was our first tangle with the world-famed bureaucracy! We argued for an hour that this was common market and our papers were valid. He said we had to go to the French Agriculture to clear. I kept saying it was not necessary but off we went for 60 miles in pouring rain to get the permit. It was lunchtime when we arrived, so it was closed. At 2:00 p.m. we tried again, and met the type of official that would have had his grandmother deported to get the family farm. After one hour and a half, I had to get my husband to leave because of his temper as it could lead to disaster. In the end I said that if you will not release my plants, it is not far to my place; we will unload them and you can burn them. He was horrified and said I'd better go and get a French Certificate. So way across town we went to the French Ministry. The clearing man looked at my papers and said, "Why have you come? It was not necessary." I tried to tell Customs that—he filled out a little paper, looked at the back of the truck, and it said: "For the Garden." So this solved that problem but it takes an age to get through the traffic and back to Customs, all the while thinking that they might have shut for the night. The rain is now coming down in torrents as we head for Eyvat—it is also pitch dark. The roads are narrow, too narrow for the truck to make the turn up the lane, so we should try the 'Chemin' rural (made up road). Half way down, about 1/4 mile from a cottage we sank in the mud. I was told that the French are not very good with strangers at night, but that is not true. I went to the farm to see if a tractor could get us out. Everyone came out: tractor, trailer, latch back cars, wives, daughters, grandchildren, and by car lights and lanterns the larry (truck) was unloaded in no time, and the contents carted down the land. Lightened of the load, the larry could back out, and some twelve hours after we started out, all was settled satisfactorily.

Out of about 90 peonies, I lost three in the Winter. The rest have started to flower in April. So we have the peonies, daffodils, hyacinths, joined by a 'Constance Spry' rose. Peonies don't like to be moved. Also, seems somewhat disapproved in this case. The worry now is that they will not burn too badly in the fierce sun, of which I do not know how to protect this year. Several French nurseries have been most friendly and helpful; also interesting, as they have many plants that have gone off the sadly-depleted English lists. In England, we were particularly worried by the news that Kelways had been sold; but good news—the new owner is a peony enthusiast.

When I am finally settled, I will again set about establishing another fine peony border, and having joined the American Peony Society, I have discovered a whole lot of American 'goodies' have now existed. My Doctor tells me I'd better apply for a life extension! I think gardening is about passing on one's enthusiasm. After all, if someone had not planted all those '**FLAGS OF WAR**' . . . by the way, does anyone have '**FLAG OF TRUCE**' (Kelways 1900) to spare?



## REGISTRATIONS

**GLADYS MCARTHUR** (Gladys McArthur, 1950, Alexandra, Otago, New Zealand).

Permission given for registration to The New Zealand Peony Growers Group, June 6, 1991. Seedling # McArthur 20. Craigmore purchased six of seeding in 1981. The plants have been divided and the bloom is consistent, reliable, double white ball. Average amount of bloom that is fragrant. There are small red stripes on the back of the bud. The side buds have moderately long stems. First open, the flower is pale pink and develops to creamy white. Outer petals have tiny flecks of red. The plant has tall straight stems, long pointed leaves, slightly waved. Midseason.

Registered by The New Zealand Peony Growers Group

**CLASS ACT** (Roy G. Klehm, May 30, 1991)

Seedling #K38-8, double, soft cream lactiflora. Parentage unknown. First bloomed 1980. Good substance, stamens and pollen, nicely fragrant, reliable. Well formed large and rounded guard petals, high crowned flower of soft cream. 36" in height, very good stem strength, dark green foliage. Midseason.

★ ★ ★ ★

## FILOLI

*Canada Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (415) 364/8300*

May 23, 1991

We have received the copy of the "*Handbook of the Peony*," for which we thank you.

We have placed all of the Peony books in our staff library, so that the staff has them at their disposal when needed.

Our Herbaceous Peonies are now in full bloom, all 200 of them. They make quite a showy display. They started blooming about 5/10/91, and all were pink, semi-double, and double. All appear to be of the same or similar variety.

Now, that they are fully opened, they are almost white; they are in full sun.

Our Tree Peonies, about 150, are all through blooming except for about 4 or 5 that are just finishing. Our Tree Peonies started blooming about 4/23/91, and put on a spectacular display.

The books you sent to us have been carefully read and have been a great help to us.

We repeat our offer to you—if you're ever in this area, we would be very happy to give you a tour of our gardens (and our peonies).

Thank you for your time, and sharing your knowledge with us.

Lucy Tolmach,  
Garden Superintendent

# IDENTIFYING AN OLD PEONY COLLECTION IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

*by John G. N. Davidson, Beaverlodge, Alberta*

There is a fine collection of old peonies at the main entrance to the Beaverlodge Research Station (BRS), Agriculture Canada, located in the Peace River region of Alberta and British Columbia. People come from all over the region to see what is considered to be the finest single floral display in the region.

Over the years the identity of the varieties and the history of the bed were lost. A search of the archives revealed no planting plan or list, but did show that it had been planted in 1947 as part of landscaping for the new office building, and that the plants had been donated by Cyril M. Clark, an Oxford-educated West Indian black who emigrated in 1920 and homesteaded in the Peace. He farmed, and raised and tested hardy perennials as a hobby until his death in 1952. He was a regular contributor of new or unusual varieties to BRS ornamentals trials, but his main love and largest collection was of peonies. A long-time member of the American Peony Society and occasional contributor to its journal, he went to great pains to verify and authenticate all his varieties. Consequently, his donation of the remainder of his collection, some 1500 plants of over 200 varieties, shortly before his death, was gratefully accepted by the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Several moves and years later, only 32 authenticated varieties remain, and are located off-campus at the University's Devonian Botanic Garden outside the city. The bed at BRS consists of 43 short rows of 3 plants each, 1 variety per row. Only 1 variety is now common to both collections, so over 70 of Clarke's collection have survived.

There is no longer an ornamentals program at BRS, so I began to study the 43 peony varieties in the collection as a personal project, at lunch time and after hours, taking photographs and notes on flower and bush characters, including those of carpels and stigmas, and eventually of scent, leaf and Fall colors as well.

I asked Irene Wallace, widow of John Wallace, the distinguished pioneer nurseryman of this region and former employee at BRS, to see if there was any information in his records. Indeed there was! It took over a year, but she found the original planting plan, and a year after that the original 1928 Manual of the APS. Later, I joined the APS as a private member and acquired all the remaining APS literature still available. With these sources, it was possible to verify much of the planting plan.

This, unfortunately, was not the end of identification problems. In the early years some plants failed and some of the gaps were filled in with extra plants, but no record of these changes has survived. From the outset it was reasonable to assume that, where all 3 plants in a row survived, they are of the variety designated in the planting plan, and likewise where only 2 plants survived but are the same. All such cases have proven to be compatible with descriptions in APS manuals, although the descriptions are mostly inadequate and do not include such obvious and useful criteria as presence, color and hairiness of carpels. For the remaining single or mixed plant rows, iden-

tification is more difficult. In a couple of cases the odd 1 of 3 plants clearly belonged to a variety elsewhere in the bed and the other 2 are compatible with the designated variety. In another case neither plant fits the original and are unlike each other and everything else in the bed. One of these is the only Japanese peony in the bed, 'Mikado' evidently, although the plan includes only Chinese types. This, unfortunately, widens the range of possible varieties considerably for identification of the remaining plants. BRS conducted its own trials from 1922 to 1965, on a smaller scale than Clarke's, but over 100 varieties were tested including Mikado. Harris\* recommended 56 varieties, of which only 21 are in the Clarke bed, based on BRS trials. In other words, the remaining unidentified plants could be any one of those in the trials.

At present, but subject to more detailed descriptions being made available if they exist, I regard the following varieties in the Clarke bed as confirmed: **Festiva Maxima**, **Reine Hortense**, **Chestine Gowdy**, **Rose Shaylor**, **Cherry Hill**, **Victoire de la Marne**, **Marietta Sisson**, **Madame Emile Debatene**, **Rosa Bonheur**, **Laura Dessert**, **Golden Dawn**, **Madame de Verneville**, **Le Cygne**, **Rev. H. N. Traggitt**, **Lady Alexandra Duff**, **Therese**, **Inspecteur Lavergne**, **Longfellow**, **Philippe Rivoire**, **Hiawatha**, **Monsieur Jules Elie**, **Sarah Bernhardt**, **Madame Claude Tain**, **Madame Jules Dessert**, **Richard Carvel**, **Marian Pfeiffer**, **Red Bird**, **La Perle**, **Phoebe Carey**, **Clemenceau**, **William F. Turner**, and **Mikado**. We probably also have **Mary Brand**, **Baroness Schroeder**, **La Lorraine**, **Cornelia Shaylor**, and **Primevere**; and may have **Marie Lemoine**, **Luetta Pfeiffer**, **Elise Renault**, **Matilda Lewis**, **Victory Chateau Thierry**, **Thomas C. Thurlow** and up to 4 others. Only **Kelway's Glorious** has definitely been lost.

The collection ranges from **Festiva Maxima** (Mieliez 1851) to **Marietta Sisson** (Sass 1933). It includes the full range of colors, flower forms, petaloid shape and notching, degrees of transmutation of stamens and carpels into petaloids, carpel characteristics, bush form and Fall colors available in Chinese-type peonies from the classic period of western peony breeding. Cyril Clarke gave us not just his favorites, but a brilliantly chosen range of floriferous and hardy varieties.

Beaverlodge is at Lat. 55 degrees N, elevation 2,400 ft., and lies in USDA Hardiness zone 2 and Agriculture Canada zone 2a, close to the transition to zones 1 and 1b respectively. It is in the outer foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and because of that is subject to chinook winds which constitute a factor, included in neither country's hardiness zone system, which makes winter survival significantly tougher than the official zone indicates. For example, districts of the Peace River region lying in the same zone, up to 200 miles to the north but more than 150 miles east of the Rockies and therefore out of range of chinooks, have a much larger list of hardy perennials from which to choose. Chinooks are relatively warm (i.e. usually above freezing), strong, dry winter winds resulting from certain mountain formations, that cause desiccation of exposed plant parts that cannot draw water from the frozen roots. They may persist long enough to remove the snow cover or cause icing, and are followed by an abrupt return to Winter conditions with temperature

drops of as much as 40 degrees C in 24 h. The climate averages 101 frost-free days, 132 killing (-2.2 degrees C) frost-free days, and has insufficient heat units to grow sweet corn without plastic, except in deep valley heat traps. Day length is up to 19.4 hours. Rainfall is very erratic but averages about 2 inches per month for the growing season.

The soil is a Black and Dark Grey type with a fairly heavy clay-loam texture. The bed was initially worked and filled with topsoil to a depth of 3 ft., because naturally it is only 1 ft., and overlays impermeable clay. The peonies have received only minimal care since establishment, have never been watered, and have only occasionally been fertilized. The bed was initially rather exposed to prevailing winds, but is now quite well protected as the landscape planted in the same period has matured along with it. In the last 15 years there have been no insect problems, and only a few plants have a chronic but apparently undamaging virus. *Botrytis* bud blight is always present in its early form at low frequencies, but the later and more virulent form attacking stems near the ground line or flower buds just about to open is seen only in seasons that are both unusually wet and hot for the region. The period of bloom is typically from the last week in June until mid-July at this latitude with side blooms and stragglers continuing till early August. **Marietta Sisson** is usually the first and **Clemenceau** the last to bloom.

These varieties can be recommended not only for zone 2 but also for the non-chinook areas of zone 1 provided there is a windbreak, and even for well protected sites (e.g. against a heated building) in zone 0, such as at Yellowknife, NWT. The value of the C. M. Clarke Heritage Peony Collection at BRS lies in its proven longevity despite minimal care, the classic assemblage of varieties and their demonstrated hardiness in a very tough climate.

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\* Harris, R. E. 1967. Peonies. Alberta Dep. Agric. Publ. No. 282/20-2. 4pp.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON

A letter has been received from the Curator, Rex W. Scouten of the White House, Washington, asking if a peony has been named after a President or a First Lady, or whose name has a Presidential association.

The following list has been sent to him:

**GROVER CLEVELAND** (Terry, 1904) — Double type, large, late mid-season. Bright crimson, mildly fragrant, medium height, fairly floriferous, stiff stems. Excellent foliage.

**PRESIDENT COOLIDGE** (Brand, 1928) — Double, lavender pink, late. Beautiful lavender-pink, with large guard petals always opening well. Bulletin 33. Lists in Bulletins 91 & 130.

**PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** (Franklin, 1933) — Double, dark pink, late. Tall. Large very full rose type. Color dark pink. Vigorous stiff stems. Bulletin 53.

**PRESIDENT GARFIELD** (Origin unknown) — Double, Red, Midseason.

**PRESIDENT LINCOLN** (Brand, 1928) — Single, Red, Late Midseason. Tall. Deep red cup of very large petals. Substance of the best, making it

a show flower unbeatable. Bulletin 33. Lists in Bulletins 91 and 130.

**PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT** (Warnaar, 1905) — Double, Red, Midseason. Old Wild catalog: A brilliant and striking variety, coming into bloom early midseason. Flowers very large, semi-rose type and richly fragrant. Desirable as a cut flower and a show flower. M.

**PRESIDENT TAFT** (Blaauw, 1909) — Syn. **Reine Hortense**. Double, Pink, Late. Klehm's 1955 catalog says late. M.

**PRESIDENT WILSON** (Thurlow, 1918) — Double, Pink, Late. Medium height. Rich spicy fragrance. Very large. Bright rose-pink, paling with age, and a trifle darker in the deep cupped center; floriferous, strong stems. Good foliage. M.

**FIRST LADY**

**MARTHA WASHINGTON**

**MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** (Franklin, 1932) — Double, Pink, Early to late midseason. Double, with extra long, loose petals of soft rose color. Its size, form and color combine to make it most attractive. A good flower and free bloomer. Bulletin 53.

**MARTHA BULLOCK**, mother of President Theodore Roosevelt (1907, Brand) — Double, late midseason. Large bright old rose-pink.



## HER PEONIES END UP ON PRESIDENT'S TABLE

*Submitted by George Allen, Ohio*

One day, Sandy Raker's peonies are blooming in obscurity in her colorful fields near Geneva, New York. The next day, those same peonies are blushing in the White House.

"It's amazing to think of the places these peonies go and the kinds of parties they attend," says Sandy, obviously wishing she could sometimes go with them.

Sandy is the owner of Styer's Peonies, an operation that harvests over 250,000 buds yearly. All summer long, about 1,000 of those peonies are sent each week to the White House, adding color and fragrance to dinner tables and meeting rooms.

The peonies preferred by George and Barbara Bush are always a pale, pale pink. "Blush is what they want," Sandy notes. "They can't be pink and they can't be white." Some of Sandy's peonies have shown up in other impressive places, too. In May 1988, for example, a shipment of freshly cut flowers was flown to the Soviet Union to grace the state dinner that the then-President, Ronald Reagan, hosted during the Moscow Summit.

Sandy's 40-acre farm at Geneva features an amazing 98 different peony varieties. The palm-sized flowers, shaped like giant buttercups, come in white, pink and crimson. White is by far the most popular color, especially for the New York City brokers she sells to.

People in the state of New York obviously love flowers—the cut-flower business there totals \$16.6 million per year.

Sandy says she can sell all the peonies she can grow. But it's obvious the ones she's proudest of are those pale, pale pink ones that beautify the President's house all summer long.

From *Country People Magazine*

## MY FATHER'S DAY GIFT

*R. W. Tischler, Tischler Peony Gardens, Faribault, Minnesota*

One of my Father's Day gifts was an October 1926, *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine. The price of the copy at that time was 10 cents; 60 cents for a one-year subscription; two years for one dollar. It contained 102 pages. Sticking out of this magazine was a note saying: "See page 95." Here was an ad showing a picture of a peony field of the Brand Peony Farm of Faribault, Minnesota. It stated "growers of peonies for 59 years; 40 acres of peonies; a free catalog of rare and beautiful peonies which of late years have been almost impossible to find." Also, upon request, a new 66-page peony manual, "the most complete book ever written on peonies," would be sent free. I know of this book, as I have one.

Also in this magazine were ads of:

Mohican Peony Gardens of Reading, Pennsylvania

Babcock peony garden listed three peonies, all different, strong three to five-eyed divisions for \$2.00 postpaid, Jamestown, New York.

The Good and Reese Co. of Springfield, Ohio, listed the following peonies at \$1.00 each, or all six for \$5.00 postpaid; **Albert Crousse, Roule de Niede, Venus, Meissonier, Livingstone and Marie Dhour.**

The Welch Nursery of Shenandoah, Iowa, listed one **Felix Crousse**, one **Festiva Maxima** and two best pinks, all three to five eyes, for \$1.25 postpaid.

Champion Nurseries of Perry, Ohio, listed **Therese, Mons Martin Cahuzac, Marie Crousse, Karl Rosenfield and Baroness Schroeder**, all for \$12.00 postpaid.

Northbrook Gardens of Glencoe, Ill.; also listed peonies.

Schmidt & Botley, Springfield, Ohio, listed a special offer of two wonderful whites, two grand pinks, one glorious red, for \$1.00. No mention was made as to the size of the root.

Blue Ridge Peony Gardens of Kansas City, MO, listed three good roots, valued at 75 cents each, for \$1.00 postpaid.

W. L. Gumm of Remington, Ind., listed eight fine peony roots for \$2.50 or fifteen for \$5.00 postpaid. One **Sarah Bernhardt** root free with each \$5.00 order. Peony seed 50 cents and \$1.00 per hundred postpaid.

Now, those must have been the "good old days." Some of these nurseries I had heard of. Today, I doubt if any of them are still in business. Makes one wonder how they could stay in business with such prices. Postage rates must have been almost nil.

Now, for the ending of my story. My wife gave me this magazine, but she bartered two peony roots as payment. This is where I come in—I will be paying for my own Father's Day present!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**IF YOU CUT A TREE, PLANT A TREE.  
IT IS NATURE'S REPLACEABLE ENERGY.**

# SEED DISTRIBUTION

*Chris Laning, 553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007*

1. lactiflora—select clones—indicate color wanted, e.g. red, white, pink, mixed
2. early tetraploid hybrids of mixed parentage, all advanced generation selections
3. Serenade F<sub>3</sub>
4. lacti x Silver Dawn F<sub>3</sub>
5. Sable x Super D—tall, red flowers and fairly fertile (similar to Dad and Burma Midnight)
6. Pehrson's Best Yellow F<sub>2</sub>
7. Quad F<sub>3</sub> x Moonrise F<sub>2</sub>

If seed is sent for the seed pool, please include the name of the peony plant that produced it.

Additions to this peony seed list will be listed in the December Bulletin. (Tree peony and maybe species will be included.)

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## WHY SEEDS?

*Irene Tolomeo, California*

At a time when "just say no" echoes everywhere, it's refreshing to hear an unqualified "Yes," this time in the matter of planting peony seed. I won't try to tell you how to handle the germination process or how to care for your seedlings since the experts have thoroughly covered those aspects of seed-growing in the Bulletin and "*Paeonia*." I can cite several positive answers to the question, "Why seeds?"

Seeds readily available through APS offer remarkable inexpensive opportunity. Advanced generation hybrids from APS seed grow to flower in subtle color and type variation. Foliage is appealingly healthy. Considering lacti's? My own efforts with APS seed yielded singles, semi-doubles, Japanese, and one full ball-shaped pink. Several of those same seedlings are now mothering Itoh seeds (pollen from purchased tree hybrids).

Tree peony seed germinates to produce lovely little plants. Granted, it takes time to produce blooms (I still have not bloomed a t.p. seedling), but early efforts are repaid by foliage alone. An immature bed of tree peony seedlings shows surprising variation with leaves in shades of green, some with bluish cast, and even a hint of pink. Stems may favor pink, red, or green—some long, some short, leaves ranging from small to large.

If you think you'll have a hard time waiting for the plant to reach a respectable size (and if your climate permits) ask for ludlowii seed—but don't ask for many unless you are a real enthusiast with ample room. My first ludlowii seed, from England, planted alone in excellent soil, topped out at 27" its first season before frost browned it down. Now, in July of its third year, it is multi-stemmed and 5' tall. (I affectionately call it **Goliath**.) Ten more seed from New Zealand through APS were planted a year later, six inches apart. At

the end of their first growing season they averaged about 11" to leaf-top. *Lutea* also rewards with a sizeable plant but mine are not as vigorous as *ludlowii*.

Another reason for planting seeds: new-found acquaintances in other states and even other nations, by sharing seed with you, lend a more intimate, friendly aspect to the world. And, if you are a traveling person or even a dedicated letter-writer, the opportunity is there for acquiring species seed, either from the wild, or from various botanical institutions.

When you find yourself hand-pollinating your favorite flowers and then hovering over burgeoning carpelheads, your imagination will have a field day (pun intended)! All these rewards for such a small investment.



## ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

The annual meeting was held in the banquet room of the Holiday Inn, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, June 9, 1991.

The banquet was served promptly at 7:30 p.m. with your own selection from the menu.

John Simkins was called to deliver the invocation. At 9:00 p.m. the business meeting was called to order by President Crossley. A welcome was extended to the members of the American Peony Society by John Simkins, a member of the Board of Directors of the Royal Botanical Gardens of which this event was a part of their fifty-year celebration of the gardens.

President Crossley then asked every member to introduce themselves, also the State they represented. We were honored to have Dr. Leonhard Zeitner and Charlotte Zeitner of Germany, Dr. Horst Prawdzik of Michigan, and Mrs. Kathie Henderson of New Zealand attending this meeting and convention.

The financial report and the state of the Society had been passed to all the members, for the following three years. Greta M. Kessenich, Joseph Gloccka, Myron D. Bigger and Lois E. Klehm were placed in nomination for another three-year term, and C. F. Spangler, the nominee to fill the vacancy on the Board for a full term of three years. President Crossley asked for any further nominations from the floor, and there being none, a motion was made and seconded that all nominees be elected. The vote was unanimous.

The financial report was noted and accepted. The Court of Honor flowers and their exhibitors were read by Greta; almost immediately a surprise ovation of some length was given her for twenty years of service to the Society.

The meeting came to a close—it was now time for the annual auction of peony roots. An event that is one of the highlights of the Convention. Chuck Klehm was the auctioneer. His experience and knowledge as showman, of all varieties of peonies, made this auction most interesting and a delightful affair. Thank you, Chuck!

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## June 1, 1990 - June 1, 1991

Balance on Hand June 1, 1990.....\$ 78,673.33

**Receipts:**

Membership Dues.....	\$ 7,902.15
Advertising.....	635.50
A. P. S. Auction.....	1,032.00
Contributions.....	<u>25.00</u>
	<b>\$ 9,594.65</b>

**Publications:**

Handbooks.....	2,586.64
Bulletins.....	143.00
"The Peonies" .....	314.00
History of Peonies and Their Originations.....	455.00
Book, A.P.S. "75 Years" .....	645.00
Book, Peonies 1976-1986.....	220.00
American Tree Peony Book.....	3,102.50
American Hybrid Peony Book.....	<u>4,340.50</u>
	<b>\$11,806.64</b>

Interest on Savings.....4,614.56

**Total Receipts.....\$ 26,015.85**  
**\$104,689.18**

**Disbursements:**

Publications — Four Bulletins (June, September, December, March).....	\$ 6,063.00
American Peony Society Postage.....	2,507.21
Office Supplies.....	614.52
Exhibitions.....	2,049.63
Printing.....	28,071.50
Miscellaneous.....	10.50
Refund.....	89.00
Bank Charges.....	15.58

**Total Disbursements.....\$ 39,420.94**

Balance on Hand June 1, 1991.....\$ 65,268.24

Greta M. Kessenich  
Secretary/Treasurer

## REPORT

This is the close of our year 1990-1991. It has been a good year with an increase in membership, all commitments have been met, and our financial status is most satisfactory.

Four Bulletins have been mailed to you. Some were not received because of incorrect addresses, and the post office will not forward the Bulletins. Please keep us informed of any change in your mailing. This includes box numbers, route numbers and five-digit zip codes.

The *American Hybrid Peony Book* was published and is available. To publish this book, it took the cooperation of members. Pictures were taken of the hybrids and species growing in their gardens. There is a full section on hybridizing which includes the sowing of seed, selecting crosses for color and color patterns, pollination, and general information.

We need the same cooperation for the Bulletins. To have a good publication, we must have material about peonies, what you are doing in the cultivation, old gardens being restored—and there are many articles on beautification, landscaping, and varieties named and described, that are of special interest to you.

Statements were mailed the last week in November for payment of dues for the following year. Your response was appreciated.

All bills are paid in full, with no outstanding accounts. This includes paying for the publication of the hybrid book and, in addition, the correct size bottles were purchased for the display of the tree peony at exhibitions.

We continue to have a colored cover on the Bulletins, which is an added expense. Little needs to be said about the postage increase; that is reflected on the Financial Statement.

We are grateful to you and express our thanks for your continued support, and for your interest in the publications and all activities or programs offered.

Sincerely,

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary/Treasurer



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 9, 1991 — Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Crossley at 8:00 a.m. The Directors present: John Simkins—Canada, Chuck Klehm—Illinois, W. G. Sindt—Minnesota, George Allen—Ohio, Joe Glocka—Wisconsin, Lois Klehm—Illinois, Chris Laning—Michigan, Robert Schmidt—Ohio, Don Hollingsworth—Missouri, Scott Reath—Michigan, C. F. Spangler—Wisconsin, Dr. Crossley—Minnesota, and Greta Kessenich—Minnesota.

The Directors were welcomed by President Crossley with special recognition of the new director, Mr. C. Spangler. The minutes of the last Board

meeting in Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, were read and approved.

The first order of business was to elect officers for the following year. Mr. Robert Schmidt was elected to take over the duties of President. Mr. Scott Reath was unanimously elected Vice President, and Greta Kessenich elected to continue serving as Secretary and Treasurer.

A discussion followed regarding the Convention site and dates for 1992.

The 1992 Peony Convention and Exhibition will be held May 29, 30 and 31 at the Friendship Park Conservatory, Mount Prospect, Illinois District. Friendship Park is located on Arlington Road, about four miles east of the intersection of Algonquin and Arlington Heights Roads, where the Klehm Nursery sales yard used to be located. Friendship Park was built in 1970 on the site of a former 20-acre truck farm and a ten-acre greenhouse. Full description and map in the December Bulletin.

The educational program for the seminar will be conducted by Roy Klehm.

The Gold Medal peony was selected. Presently under consideration are: **Roselette, Moon River, Hana Kisoi, Black Pirate, Shentenchi, America, Douglas Brand, Old Faithful and Princess Margaret.** The decision was the 'always dependable' **WHITE CAP.**

A long debate followed regarding a list to be made of all peonies currently being displayed at our exhibitions. They must be uniform in the placement on the show table. We will add to the existing list, alphabetically, and have the blooms in their correct classes. If incorrect, the exhibitors should make notations and give to the Secretary for correction. Photo copies are to be made for the present.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary



## MY MOST MEMORABLE PEONY YEAR

*Robert F. Schmidt, Brecksville, Ohio*

For many years one of my main motivations in raising peonies has been more than just producing beautiful flowers for my own pleasure. As I became more and more aware of the ineffable beauty of the flower—so far beyond that of any other flower—I also became more and more aware of the lack of knowledge of the flower, not just among gardeners in general, but also florists. So few people seemed to know how dependable the plant is, how long its life span, how easy and carefree to grow, how long-lasting as a cut flower, how useful in arrangements in the church or home, or the number of new varieties.

So I started my personal crusade to spread this good word, first by taking blossoms downtown to my office, frequently eliciting comments in the elevator, later by the employees and visitors. Then I grew bolder and took them to other businessmen-friends' offices, one, the Chairman of one of the large Cleveland banks, always with favorable comments, which triggered my little speech about the peony's ease of growth, minimal care, spectacular bloom, etc., plus a few words about the APS and the annual Show, ending with "If I can do it, so can you!" As a result of this missionary work, a number of cata-

logs were ordered, and peonies were planted for the first time.

Next to come was using the blossoms exclusively for our daughter's wedding. Ten years later friends are still commenting on the flowers. Then, our confidence level higher, we began supplying blooms for several other weddings, a 50th wedding anniversary party, and giving them to the church for use on the altar; and in one case, for the retirement and final service of the Dean of Trinity Cathedral. I told him I was bringing him "the fruit of the field, food for the soul."

Then began the crusade to interest local florists in buying peonies from me for use in their arrangements. It was a slow process to convince them of the merits of fresh cut, same-day delivered peonies. They all admitted they were unusual and beautiful, but they were afraid to try them. Eventually, after 10 years, I have located and educated enough florists that I now have trouble supplying all they want. But how wonderful: I can widen the circle of peony lovers, arouse curiosity and interest, and at the same time earn enough to defray some of the costs of raising my favorite flower.

This year was the culmination. Not only did I celebrate my 70th birthday and become President of the American Peony Society a month later, but I found two messages waiting for me on our return from Florida in May. The first was from one of the most prominent floral arrangers in Cleveland who "does" all the important social occasions here in Cleveland, and, surprisingly, also many in New York and Washington. He needed all the peonies I could deliver by May 15th. He had been commissioned to decorate the British Ambassador's home and the other party occasions for the State visit of Queen Elizabeth on May 16, 17 and 18. There was no way I could supply the number of peonies he needed so early in the season since peonies were to be used exclusively, so he had to order the bulk of his needs from a California source suggested by the Klehm organization, but thanks to the earliest season in my memory, I was able to supply 8 dozen of the early hybrids and he was able to use them in the floral arrangements. He was told that Queen Elizabeth's favorite flower is the Peony, which surprised me—I would have guessed the rose—and it was used almost exclusively in the home and the pavilion that was erected, and at the banquet. The affair and his presentation to the Queen was written up in our gossip column in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, but unfortunately, the use of locally grown peonies was not mentioned.

This was also the year of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the second call was from the leading Ikebana instructor in Cleveland, who was named head of the flower arranging committee for the various parties given by the Museum to celebrate the occasion. She had bought peonies from me before in small quantities to use in her teaching, and also for a demonstration she gave at our unique Garden Center, and she knew what she wanted: PEONIES! There were many phone calls back and forth and gradually it came out that she needed 30 dozen peonies on Monday, June 3rd, for a private party to be given by the Museum that evening to be attended by Art Museum Directors from all over the world. It was difficult to convince her that peonies can be stored in a cooler (the Museum had one donated by her husband) at 34-38 degrees for several weeks and that this was the only practical way I could accumulate such a

large number of blooms for use on a specific day. Finally she agreed to "trust me" and I made 3 deliveries: 14 dozen 9 days before, 20 dozen 5 days before, and 6 dozen on the morning of June 3rd when the committee, having taken the earlier deliveries from the cooler for the flowers to come up to room temperature, were busily making their centerpieces, which used 10-12 per table with white cymbidium orchids from California for filler. They were ecstatic to be working with such beautiful flowers (many had never seen any like them before, so I did some more missionary work) and I am sure they never had more pleasure in creating arrangements.

My wife and I were invited to return to the Museum at 5:30 p.m. while the tables were being set up to see the results, which we did, and which I photographed, and they were spectacular. Each centerpiece arrangement [and there were 21 circular tables], was highlighted with 3 overhead spotlights which magnified the effect of the beauty. There were also 3 other large [what I term "monumental"] arrangements at the entrance and desk in which some of the larger, longer stemmed peonies were featured. I was pleased, and the Chairman was amazed because the peonies looked as though they had been picked within the hour. She called me the next day to tell me that the Art Museum Director's wife had called to tell her that the flowers were magnificent, that the Museum had never had such beautiful, spectacular flowers, and that the European guests had spent much time wandering from table to table admiring the arrangements. So it was a great success. I returned to the Museum Wednesday morning, June 5th, to deliver 8 more flowers which had been in cold storage destined for the APS Show: **Lovely Rose, Cytherea, Eventide** and **Gillian**. The Chairman needed these for a Japanese arrangement, and the centerpieces from Monday night were now lined up on two counters in the main lobby where the general public could see them, and they were still very beautiful, and at least 95% of the peonies were still in good condition. I was told later by one of the arrangers that they were still beautiful as late as Saturday, 5 days later, and this was after having originally been picked up to 10 days before June 3rd, and stored in a cooler. All in all, the flowers made quite an impression on all involved with them.

I am not trying to impose myself on you in telling you of these experiences. The peonies could have been grown by anyone. The peonies are the story. I am trying to make the point that anyone who grows even a few peonies can find opportunities to have them displayed in all their glory as cut flowers. You can aggressively promote the peony with great confidence as long as it is cut at the proper stage, and handled and stored correctly.

As for me, what is there left to do? What worlds left to conquer?

Something remains for us to do or dare;  
Even the oldest tree some fruit may bear;  
For age is opportunity no less than  
youth itself, though in another dress;  
And as evening twilight fades away,  
The sky is filled with stars,  
Invisible by day!  
(H. W. Longfellow)

## LETTERS

"My wife and I surely did enjoy the Convention. It was our first one we were able to attend. We cut about 28,000 bunches of peonies this past May. It was a very fast season as it lasted for about 12 days. Usually we have about 18 days to get our work done. I usually hire around 20 people; on peak days, up to 50 people work for us. We try to cut over the field twice a day in order to keep quality where it should be. I am sending you pictures and negatives of the Show."

—*Bernard and Carol Van Essendelft, Pantego, North Carolina*

\* \* \* \* \*

"It has been a great year for the peony bloom here this Spring, with no disease problems. Perhaps this is due to the mild Winter and dry Spring. Hope to have a good crop of seed from my crosses."

—*Roger F. Luce, Hampden, Maine*

\* \* \* \* \*

"Our peony bloom was very early this year. The heavy rainfall coupled with strong winds raised havoc with the flowers. Nonetheless, we enjoyed remarkable bloom during the days in-between the rains. Many of the bloom stalks were taller than normal. We were nearly bloomed out by the tenth of June. The rainfall in this area is 225% above normal to date, and does not appear to have hurt our field production. We will find out what the roots look like when we begin to dig this Fall. It has been impossible to get any equipment into the field. We were able to cultivate once with a "feather-weight" cultivator in early June . . . but only on high ground. It is now the first of July and the fields are yet too wet to plant. Our soil is clay loam. We have not had a problem with botrytis although the humidity has been inordinately high. Many of the farmers in Wright County will not have a corn or soybean crop this season."

—*Ainie Busse, Busse Gardens, Cokato, Minnesota*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## THE PEONY—A CURE FOR HEADACHES

*Mrs. Virginia P. Conklin, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania*

*(Report from an Old Bulletin)*

Peonies are good medicine.

Instead of smiling tolerantly—and rejecting the suggestion in the old herbals that they be applied to the curing of a variety of the ills of mankind—the time is come when we must accord them recognition of their virtues as members of the pharmacopoeia. Whether any distillation can be made of their special properties, to be wrapped up and sold in a bottle, is still a question, so far as I know. But their therapeutic effect on those who cultivate them has been proven by centuries of practice and is just as effective today as it ever was.

Long, long ago, authority acclaimed them as a cure for headaches and here is the story of a man who found them just that.

Back in the far-off days of World War I, Allied General Staffs were fuming and shouting treason. Shells from their own big guns were exploding short of the enemy lines and killing Allied soldiers. Something was awfully wrong somewhere and indignation spread through all ranks of the armed forces back to government offices, cabinet rooms, munitions factories, workshops, college laboratories—and finally came to rest in a tiny, private laboratory in an old house on a side street of a small industrial town. There a young chemist had been working on platinum analysis and had found the answer to the problems of the big shots. A tiny bore of platinum alloy would hold the explosive in the shell until it reached enemy lines. To a degree, the winning of the War was assured by that device. The situation was that of the old jingle:

"For want of a nail the shoe was lost.  
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.  
For want of the horse the rider was lost.  
For want of the rider the battle was lost.  
For want of the battle the kingdom was lost,  
And all for the want of a two-penny nail."

But this time the nail was found, the day was saved, the war was won.

The platinum was worth at least a million—if properly handled—and the young chemist was dimly aware of the fact. He had denied himself and his family many a luxury in order to buy the precious metal with which he had carried out his experiments. He had even gone so far as to approach a patent lawyer to protect his rights in his discovery. But events moved too fast for him. One wintry morning, five men with credentials from the War Department walked into his laboratory and made him demonstrate his process while they took notes and asked questions. Their manner was bland but their eyes were steely and when they walked out, the chemist's dream of fortune went with them. He went home with a sick headache.

He would have liked time to pull himself together after that experience but there was no time. For three and one-half years, samples for chemical analysis poured into his laboratory in a "Special Delivery—Rush Report by Telegram" pattern. For a time, he fought the pressure and the headaches became almost chronic. He had no time off. At noon, on Saturdays, samples were delivered with the last mail of the week—enough work to keep him busy for the rest of the day and most, if not all, of Sunday. Telegrams nagged him for results if he delayed for so much as an hour. Every professional man knows the price he paid for being good. After six months, his doctor warned him that, at the rate he was spending his strength, he had a life expectancy of, at best, ten years.

"Relax!" the doctor told him. "Get your mind off your work. Play golf. Go fishing. Fly a kite."

Golf was not his dish. Chase a silly ball over a silly course? Not he! Fishing? He couldn't get far enough away from his laboratory to do the kind of fishing that meant anything to him. Kite flying? Well, it had its points—and then he glanced over his wife's shoulder as she turned the pages of a Bertrand Farr Catalogue, saw some peonies, and said, "Let's have some of those!"

Together, they made out an order and he wrote a check and sent it off. The next morning, he made a hasty survey of his house lot and wondered where he would put the plants when they arrived. Peonies—just the thought of them—took him miles away—to memories of his mother's and his grandmother's gardens, of his grandfather's place out on the Cape. By the time he reached the laboratory, he was humming an old tune to himself. Through a long, hard day, he carried the thought of the great, lush flowers in the back of his mind and, somehow, didn't feel as exhausted as he usually did when the day was over. He went home and marked off a space in the backyard, even got out a coal shovel and tried to turn over some very tough sod. When he went in to his dinner, his food agreed with him for the first time in months. He went to bed and slept.

In the course of the following week, he discovered that his soil was heavy, red clay, full of stones. He didn't have much time, so he called in an old Italian to help him move the stones into the driveway and dig a cartful of horse manure into the near hardpan that was left. It's a wonder, perhaps, that the manure didn't kill the peonies when they were planted soon after, but it didn't. But the neighbor's dogs did their best to dig them up, and the neighbor's children picked the lovely red shoots when they came up in the Spring. He put up a six-foot, woven wire fence. At first it made him feel as if he was in jail but he and his plants needed peace.

The first *tenuifolia* bloomed the last day of April, lustrous and red—redder than anything he could think of. He cut it and took it to work with him, carefully wrapped in waxed paper and a paper bag. He wouldn't be caught dead carrying a flower openly on the streets. At his office, he found a spare flask, filled it with water, unwrapped the bloom and set it up where he could feast his eyes on it through the long day. The poor thing didn't thrive on chemical fumes but it shone bravely until late in the afternoon. The next day, another was out, and then, through May and half of June, they kept coming. When the last one faded he felt a twing of the old migraine but shook it off. He sat down and wrote an order for more plants and his head cleared without more ado.

There weren't enough peonies in those days to keep him occupied so he went on to growing vegetables, which were very scarce, and to set out fruit trees and grapes, and build an arbor. There was no letup in the pressure on him, but he had learned to accept and live with it.

At last, came the Armistice, and later still, recognition for the service he had rendered. He was already a member of the American Chemical Society, now he was invited to join *Chimie et Industrie* of France, and to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of England. His picture was printed in the rotogravure section of the Sunday paper, and a reporter interviewed him, but failed to make head or tail of what, precisely, he had done. But what he relished most was the freedom that came with the end of hostilities. He could shut up shop on Saturdays, go away for all of two weeks in July and forget analyses and calorimeters. He could buy a country place and grow peonies to his heart's content—and he did.

Best of all, he, who at thirty-two had been told that he had but ten years to live, lived to be 87!



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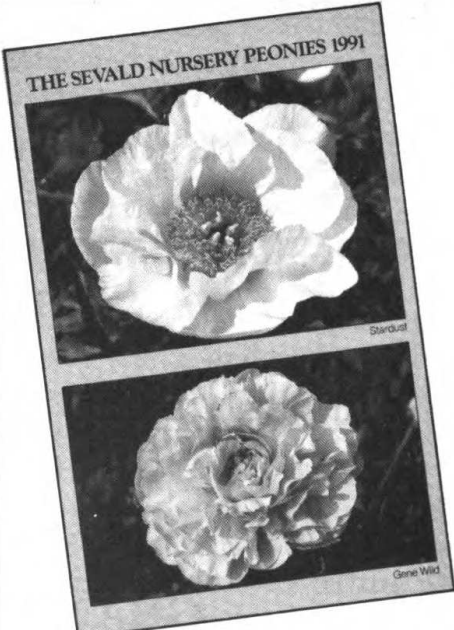
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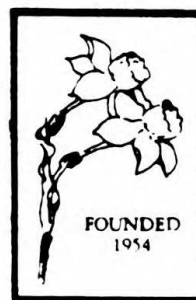
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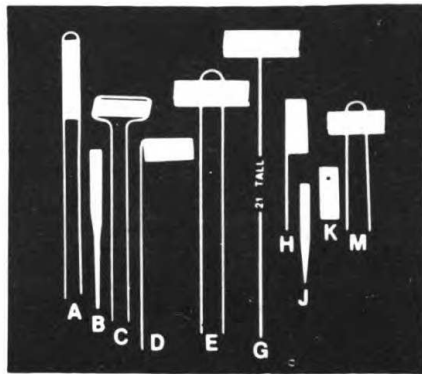
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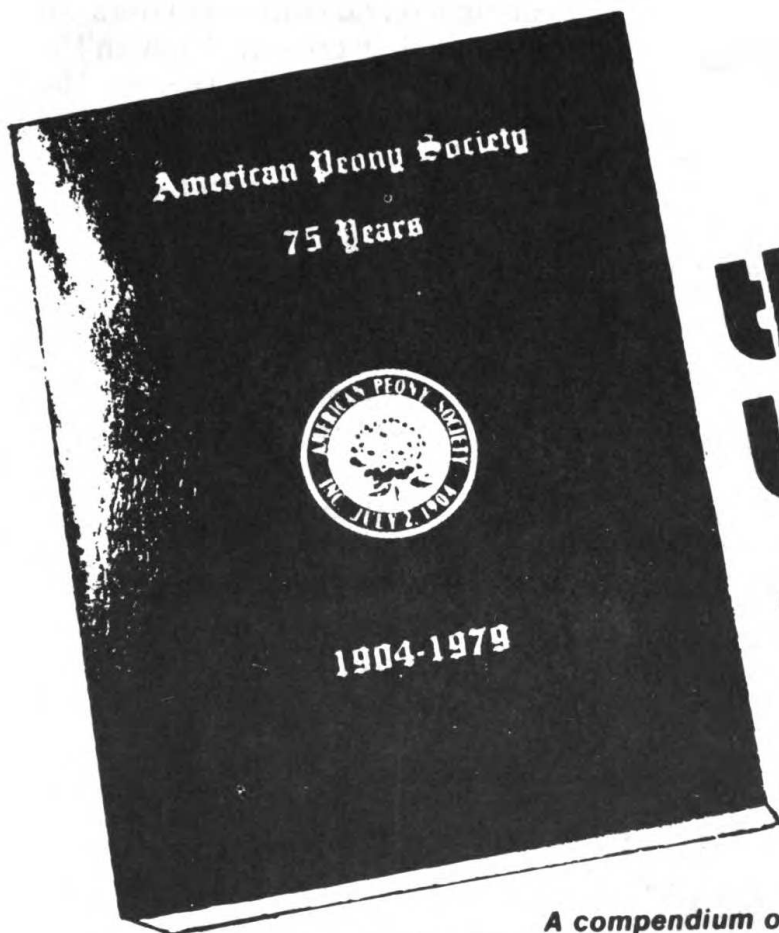
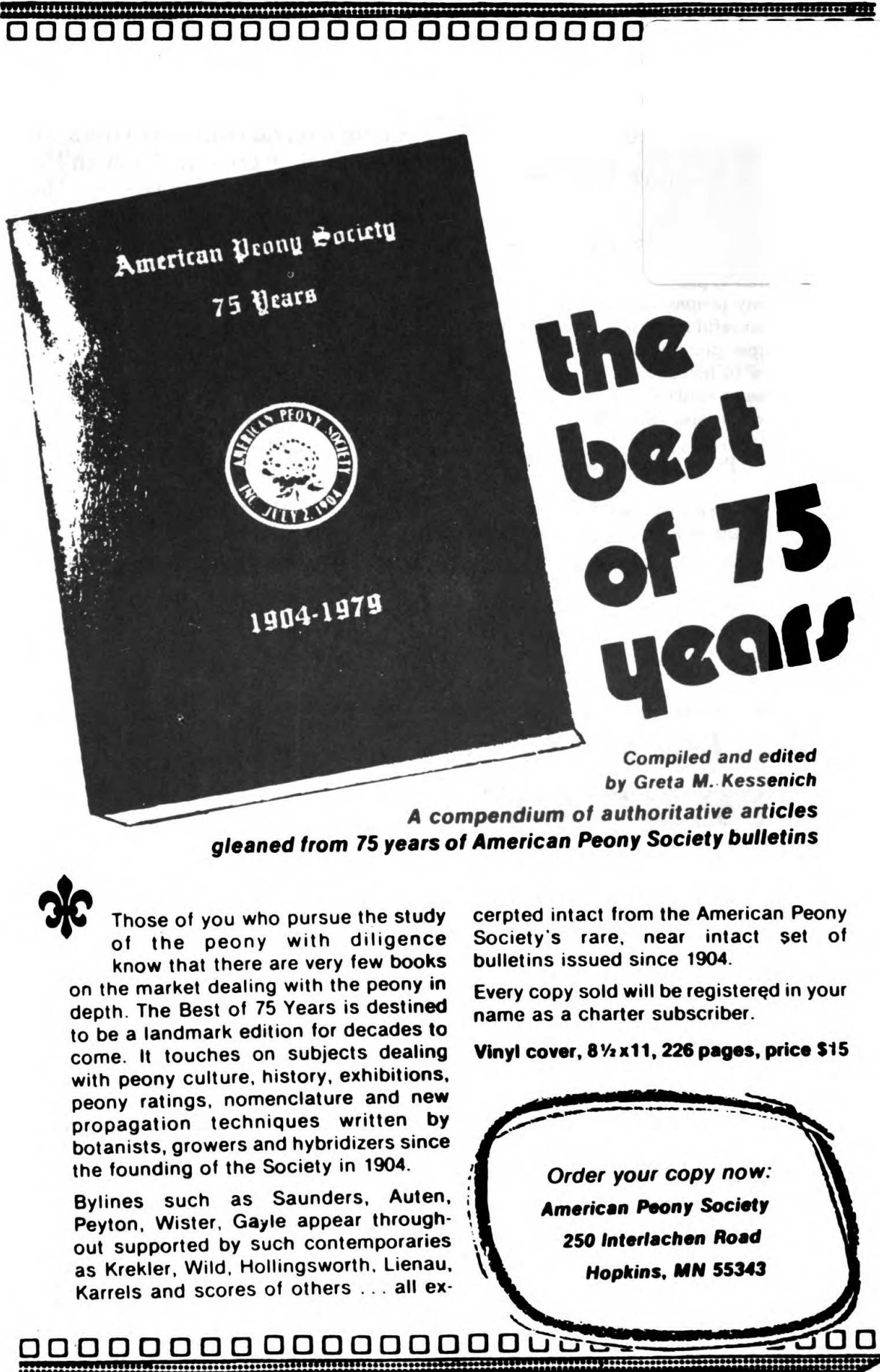
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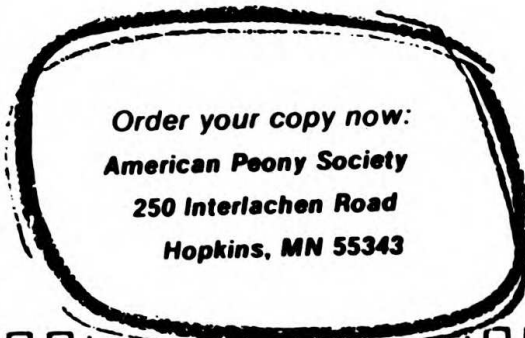
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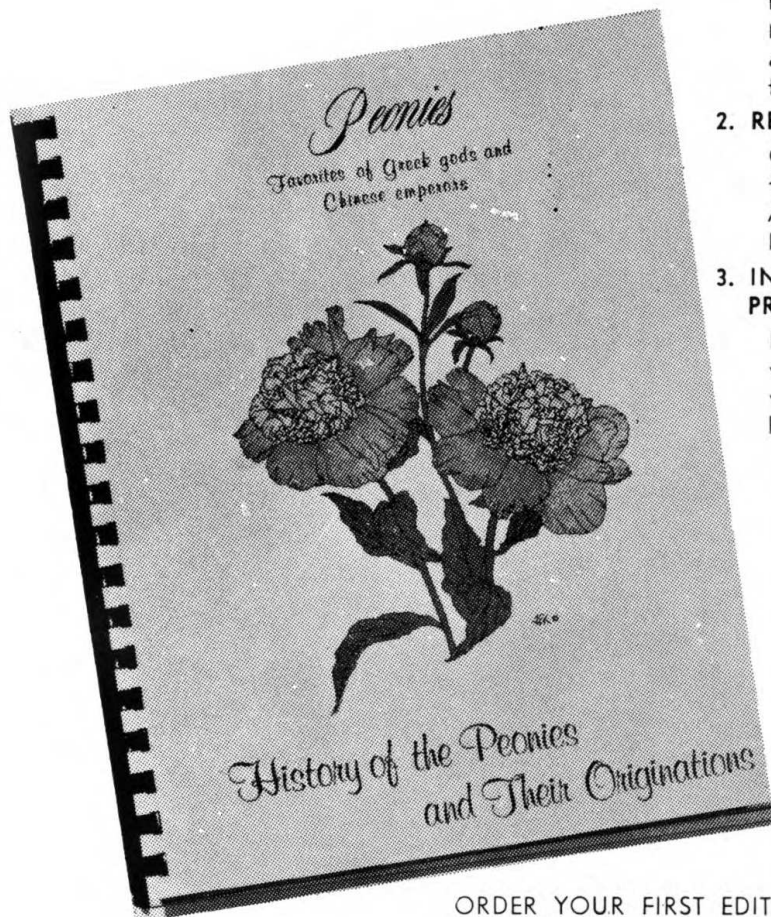
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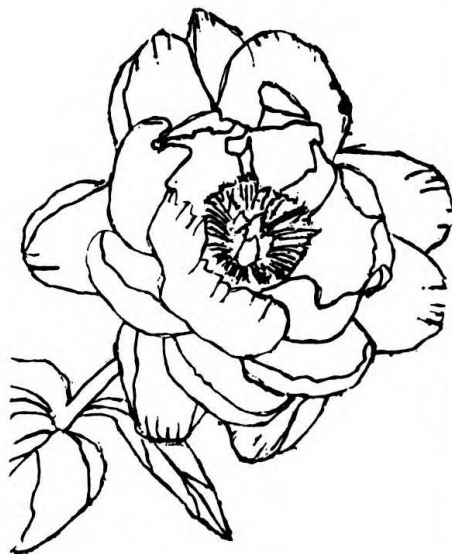
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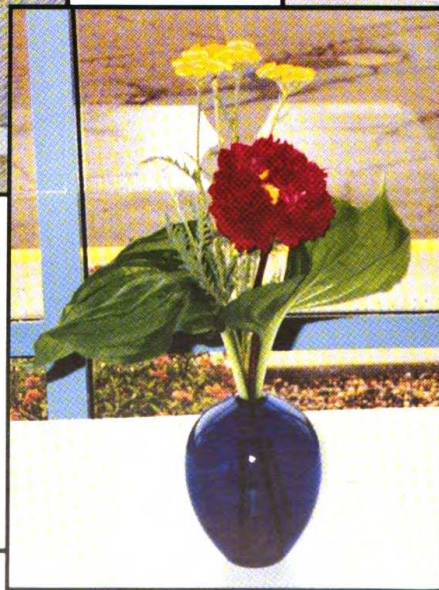
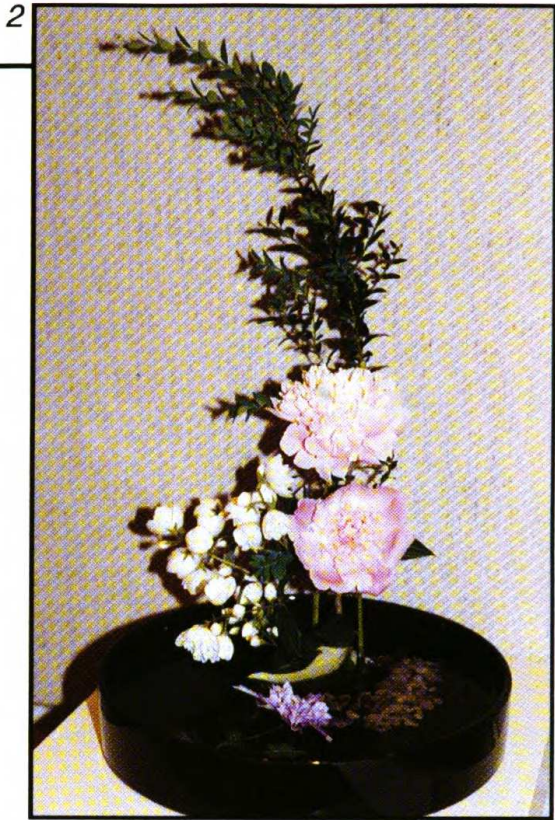


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