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**JUNE 1992
NO. 282**

The American Peony Society Bulletin

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Announcing

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

AMERICAN TREE PEONIES



Appended cultural notes cover:

- *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

The AMERICAN TREE PEONY

63 BRILLIANT FULL COLOR PHOTOS

True, tree peonies with their 1400 year history are not native to America. But a class of exceptional HYBRID tree peonies are. Efforts by seven world renowned American hybridizers* who successfully cross-pollinated *P. Lutea* with *P. Suffruticosa* are covered in this limited edition. Photos are razor sharp in detail and reflect all the brilliance and subtle hues of these native Americans, including the new generation of ITOH's.

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

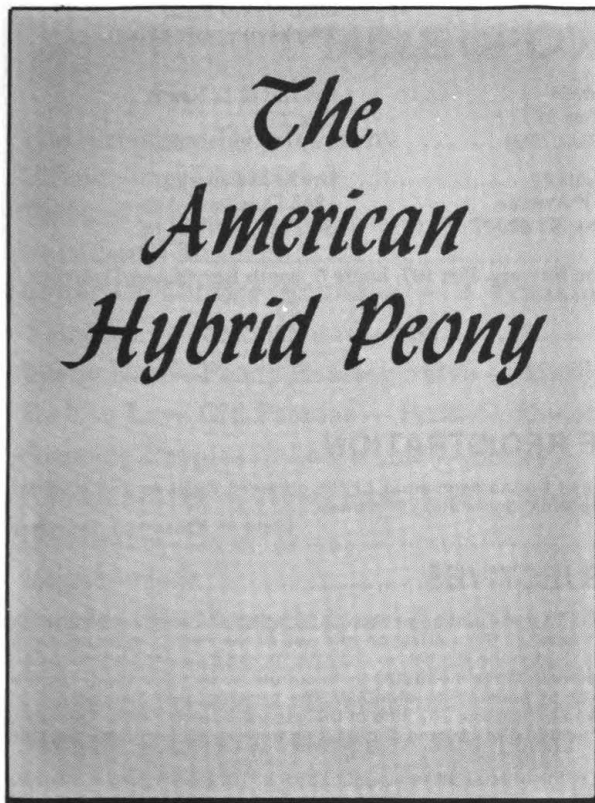
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Ever since contemporary hybridizers unraveled the mysteries of cross pollinating peony species, hybrid crosses have received spellbound attention. This long-awaited effort adds to the excitement of growing peonies. Photos permit comparing your hybrids with those authenticated by the hybrid committee plus scores of sideline notes and general information. Be one of the first **\$25.00** to own this premiere edition, just Postpaid

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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
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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



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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As I write my 4th message for the American Peony Society Bulletin, for the June 1992 issue, I find it hard to accept that when you read this, a whole year will have passed since becoming President of the APS. This is partially because I believe the passage of time seems much faster as one grows older, and also because we have just spent six months in Florida where it seems every night the weatherman regales us with scenes of blizzards and floods up North. It is difficult not to feel we are living in a different world, and very hard after 10 years here to remember how long and uncomfortable the winters usually were "up North."

This difference in climate brings me to call to the attention of those of you who regularly use Benlate or Benomyl to prevent Botrytis the article in the March Bulletin by Charlie Kroll, pgs. 23-24. I noticed articles in our *Sarasota Herald Tribune* reporting the damages caused to the foliage nurserymen in Florida, the withdrawal from the market of Benlate by Dupont, and their making some large cash settlements, which must mean it is a serious problem. In the articles I read in the paper, there was no mention of the concentrations used, or the frequency of application, but I suspect the use might have been considerably more than that used by a non-commercial peony grower. My own experience is almost exactly the same as Mr. Kroll's. The last two purchases were in the dry flowable form, and mixed with Captan or Maneb, and I have to hope that mixing with water for application will have avoided the troubles reported in the paper. Thus far I have not detected any difference in plant behavior or appearance. I think we should all be aware of the problem and be cautious in our use of the product if remaining supplies are not destroyed.

The second message I would like to convey regards my pet concern: attendance and above-all, exhibiting peonies at our annual exhibition. This is such an important activity in promoting the wider knowledge and use of the peony and the source of strength for the future of the Society that I do not think its importance can be underestimated. The Convention is early this year—May 29, 30 & 31, 1992, but I hope this issue of the Bulletin will reach you in time to remind you, and that those in the Chicago area and within a 120-150 mile radius will decide to come.

If it will be your first experience, I am sure you will be pleased with the warmth of your welcome, and the help available to you. See you all at the Friendship Park Conservatory, Mt. Prospect Park District, in Des Plaines, Illinois.

Robert F. Schmidt,
President

AN OPEN LETTER IN RESPONSE TO MR. HARROP OF TASMANIA

J. Franklin Styer, Bend, Oregon (Bulletin #281)

For over twenty-five years we have, in Styers Peonies, used glyphosate on up to one-hundred acres of herbaceous peonies.

In 1965, we were using other herbicides and beginning to observe injury. They were used in the Fall or early Spring after mowing the fields. The injury was increased in low spots, indicating that the harm was occurring underground.

Colleges tested the soil and peony roots, and denied that herbicides were the cause; yet I faced the prospect of losing the entire business. I knew of the famous Weed Research Laboratory at Oxford in England, so I jumped on the plane and discussed my problem with them. Their final suggestion was a chemical 'glyphosate'. When I asked how to get it, they said it was a product of Monsanto in the United States.

Monsanto denied any knowledge of such a substance. Aware of technical matters like that I went back to the Colleges and VPI admitted that they had some of it. They came to my Virginia farm and made a test, with success. With that I went to Washington to see my Pennsylvania Senator. In due time, Monsanto appointed me a research assistant. It was not long before I was using glyphosate (Roundup) on all our fields, the first professional use on nurseries or gardens.

It was a spectacular success and our stock responded; we have used Roundup ever since. The secret is its destruction in the ground as soon as applied, and the very small amount needed to kill live weeds.

As for tree peonies, smooth stems and winter buds are injured by Roundup. The plant must be protected completely, but a cloth being constantly wet with the solution may be drawn over the weeds. Any minor such contact with a weed is killing.

My nephew, who is a cranberry grower, kills the weeds after they become taller than the cranberries, quite successfully, in this manner.

★ ★ ★ ★

The nominating committee reports:

Board of Directors having served their term of office, expires in June 1992, namely:

Don Hollingswirth, Marvin C. Karrels.
Dr. Carl H. Klehm, Robert F. Schmidt,
Dr. David Reath, Dr. Kent Crossley.

Their names will be placed in nomination for another term of three years. Liela Bradfield has been selected as nominee to fill the unexpired term of George Allen.

PEONY BEADS

Marilyn Diller, 308 East Main St., Gilboa, Ohio 45875

(THE SPECTACULAR PEONIES—An Ingredient of Life)

Everyone has those secret family recipes handed down from generation to generation. Whether the secret is a complete food recipe, special instructions, or a cure-all, they were carefully taught to the following generations so that they could not only carry on a tradition, but also pass down a family heritage. Those recipes and instructions were a part of history for each family, or may I say, an important ingredient to each family's life.

For myself, this family ingredient is the Spectacular Peonies. The peonies in my heritage are divided into three specific areas: beauty, fragrance, and usefulness. All three areas combined provide, in my opinion, the potential of emotional and physical healing. This article not only represents the 57 years of my life researching and experimenting with peonies, but also that of my mother and hers and so on. Through these years, I have learned two things. First—the more I learn, I find how little I know about peonies. Second—it's great fun teaching my children and grandchildren life lessons through the Spectacular Peonies.

My first recollection of peonies comes from Memorial Day in my childhood. The smell and the warmth of the Spring air, and the sunshine are all special feelings of that time. I would walk hand-in-hand through the cemeteries with my Grandmother and Mother listening to the stories of our family and ancestors while admiring the striking beauty of the vibrant peonies against the weathered granite monuments. Who could ask for better memories? Peonies reflect the memories of my childhood. Feelings of warmth, family love, and family pride followed me throughout my life.

Many years later, I finally realized this lifetime presence of warmth and security was triggered by the colors and fragrance of the peonies. It happened when a very close friend, frustrated on choosing a gift, decided to give me a set of peony beads. My knowledge of peony beads was limited. I knew that peony beads had been discovered and documented in excavations as early as the 1800's. They were used in Catholic Rosaries. Many beads dating 2,000 years old still retained some fragrance. The true value of the peony beads gift was felt when I opened the box. Immediately the fragrance of the beads brought me to another time. A time of Memorial Day parades, sunshine, and a special time shared with my Grandmother and Mother. I treasured that gift as one values family heirlooms which no price may buy.

This gift presented a challenge to me of how I could pass on this heritage—how could I help my family to feel those special times and special memories? This desire led to the development of my peony

products. I am so glad to have my husband, children and grandchildren involved in this Enterprise.

Start your own special time with your young ones through peonies and peony beads. I will give you the complete recipe so you may do just that. If you have any questions, or would have some interesting stories from your efforts with peony beads, I will be at the Van Wert Peony Festival on June 6 and 7, 1992. I will be speaking on all of my peony arts—soaps, salves and beads. I would love to talk with you and answer any questions you might have. I am very excited about the festival returning and hope to see many of you that weekend.

Peony beads require a tremendous amount of peony blooms. When we started our collection last Spring, I had five bushels of blooms spread on sheets throughout our garage. The fragrance and colors were spectacular. To show you how many blooms are needed, we made 110 necklaces last year. There are 70 peony beads on each necklace. Each bead takes one cup of fresh petals. Can you imagine 7,700 cups of fresh petals?

TO START: *measure one gallon of fresh peony petals into a blender. You add just enough water to let the blender liquify the petals. Then put this solution into an iron skillet and simmer for one hour only each day for 5 consecutive days, or until the mixture is the consistency of play dough! Roll this peony dough into a ball twice the size of the desired result. Lay the peony dough balls on trays lined with wax paper to dry. It is very important to keep air moving over these balls while they dry; otherwise, they will mold.*

When partially dry to the touch, string beads on a 20-gauge wire to finish drying. This forms the hole to the string beads. When completely dry, take out the wire and string the beads on fishing line. To finish, put small silver, gold, or pearl colored beads between your peony beads to add character and color. Using an iron skillet will produce a jet black bead. Your beads will be a rich brown tone if you use a stainless steel skillet.

Another product I have perfected by using the peony plant is a **healing salve**. This recipe is a combination of old family recipes and several Old-Order Amish recipes. This healing salve recipe is great for nicks, cuts, burns, chapped lips, and other topical applications. My reward in the success of this product is the unique testimonies and the acceptance from doctors in Ohio and surrounding states.

The recipe starts from the peony roots (used for healing in China for thousands of years), olive oil, lavender, comfrey, platan chickwood, golden seal root and beeswax. My salve product was really a result of many years of research and experimenting on my soap lines. I wanted a line of soap that was completely natural with the fragrances of peonies and the usefulness of our surrounding natural herbs. I have been making soap for 30 years.

Presently, I have five established lines, all developed for a specific use from moisturizing the skin to heavy-duty hand cleaning. My favorite is "Old Time Peony." All the ingredients are natural. The base is olive oil for the skin, coconut oil for the lather, and essential oils that will return you to the "Old Time Peony" gardens.

I encourage you to make some beautiful memories for yourself and your family by starting your own peony garden, or making peony beads. Don't miss an ingredient in your recipe of life. Get into the world of the "Spectacular and Versatile Peony."

Van Wert Peony Festival—June 6-7, 1992

★ ★ ★ ★

DO YOU LOVE OLD PEONIES?

by *Scott G. Kunst*

Do you have a special love for older peonies—maybe 'Festiva Maxima' (1851) 'Phillipe Rivoire' (1911), or a nameless pink from your grandmother's garden? Would you like to learn more about older peonies and correspond with APS members who share your interest?

If so, you are invited to join the APS "round robin" on pre-1940 peonies. Robins are fairly common within plant societies. Basically, four to eight members with a common interest agree to exchange letters focused on that interest. A "routing order" is established and the first person on the list writes a letter on the topic—*pre-1940 peonies*, in our case. He or she then sends the letter on to the second person on the list who reads it, writes one of his or her own, and sends both letters on to the third person. This continues until the packet of letters returns to the first person, at which point he or she reads all of the accumulated letters, removes his or her first one (that everyone else has read by now), writes a second, and then sends the whole packet on for its second round.

You do NOT need to be an expert on historic peonies or grow a great many of them to be a member of this robin. You only need to have a strong interest in pre-1940 cultivars and a willingness to share what you've learned. I belong to robins on historic cultivars in the American Iris Society and the American Daffodil Society, and we write on the older varieties we grow, those we've seen in other gardens, what we've read in books or old catalogs, collections to visit, sources (both commercial and otherwise), questions of identification, and so on. I write about four letters a year for each robin. It's fun—I've learned a lot—and I hope to do the same with this robin on pre-1940 peonies.

For more information or to join us, please write or call me: Scott G. Kunst, 536 Third St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103; (313) 995-1486.

GROWING PEONIES IN LOUISIANA

Henry J. Cangelos, 4332 S. Fairway Drive, Shreveport, LA 71109

Three years ago, I started with a very few plants, not knowing if peonies would tolerate our climate. Now 100 or more of these plants (one, two, and three-year-olds) are growing, and about half of them have buds—we have had a very mild Winter season.

There are many trees in my yard, so this planting averages a half a day of sunshine every day. There were six or eight days, the temperature went down to 28 and 30 degrees for about three hours in the early morning. With the trees, the temperature was 3 to 4 degrees warmer than the official reading.

With this experience, growing peonies on the fringe area of the South [which runs along the latitude of Dallas, Ft. Worth, and Longview, Texas to Shreveport, Louisiana, to Jackson, Mississippi on to the East Coast] gardeners can have success with peonies.

It is a fact that when we have colder winters, which would be normal, 20-25 degree days, all varieties bloom to satisfaction as was experienced two and three years ago.

Tree peonies averaged better with buds and they are only one season old.

Peonies that are most successful for me are:

Henry Bookstoe, Red Charm, Nick Shaylor, Red Red Rose, LeCygne, Carol and Big Ben, only two years old—they have 3-7 buds.

Dutchess deNemours, Miss America, Krinkled White, Mons Jules Elie, Raspberry Sundae—also many buds.

Members that are growing peonies on this fringe South, let me hear from you as to the varieties that are proving successful.

★ ★ ★ ★

REMEMBRANCE OF TIMES PAST

R. F. Schmidt

We had a period of time a few years ago when we had several deaths and anniversaries to memorialize, both as part of a group, and as individuals, and the thought came to me that it might be appropriate and desirable to give a living memorial in the form of a tree peony, and in one case a hybrid, including in the notice of the gift that I would plant it in a location to be chosen by the recipient. This was acceptable to the group and in due course, accomplished.

In one case we celebrated the remarriage of a friend after the tragic loss of a husband and son in a sailing mishap, by planting the Japanese tree peony, **SHUJAKUMON**, in their yard; on another occasion we selected the Japanese tree peony, **HANA KISOI**, in memory of the loss of my stepmother's mother. Again, after a friend's loss of her son, I was instructed to pick the spot to plant, and by pure

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chance selected a location visible from both the kitchen and dining room where the son had played as a child in his sandbox. Now every Spring, the Lutea hybrid, **AGE OF GOLD**, flowers and revives precious memories. In all of these cases, the impact was far out of proportion to the cost and effort involved, and was very rewarding.

Sometime later we were invited to a 40th Wedding Anniversary party in mid-summer, and, again, instead of taking a conventional gift, we presented an anniversary card promising to plant a peony, and since the wife is very petite, has blue eyes and beautiful silvery white hair, I thought the hybrid, **PAULA FAY**, would complement her coloring, and the plant has thrived and provided much comment and pleasure.

So, I urge you to consider this use of peonies. Their beauty and longevity will perpetuate memories both of the person, or occasion memorialized, and also the donor.



OBITUARIES

GEORGE P. ALLEN

Friend, active member, and director for the American Peony Society, **George P. Allen** died February 10, 1992. A long-time resident of North Canton, Ohio, George was well known for the extraordinary seasonal displays of flowering plants at the Allen home, said to have sometimes led to traffic jams along Pittsburg Avenue when the peonies were in flower. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Bowdil Company, from which he had retired in 1988.

He was known by APS members for his attendance with Mrs. Allen and other family members at the annual meetings of this Society. In addition to growing many herbaceous peonies, he was also a tree peony enthusiast, often purchasing those offered during the APS plant auctions. In 1990 he proposed to organize an APS group tour to Louyang, China, an ancient imperial capital which is known for its centuries-old tree peony festival. Failing to obtain sufficient response, George and Iona were able to locate a travel agency tour, with which they visited Louyang during the flowering season of 1991.

George Allen is survived by his wife, Iona, a daughter, Shirley (Mrs. David) Dretke of nearby Massilon, a son, J. P. Allen of Columbus, Ohio, two brothers and two sisters. His sister Imogene, and her husband, Robert Schaffer, attended the 1991 meeting in Hamilton, Ontario, with the Allens. He will be missed by these and many more.

—Don Hollingsworth



Peonies were always **George Allen's** favorite flower and he remembered first seeing them in his Grandmother's garden. He had grown and collected peonies for some-thirty years. He was also an

avid fan of iris. The bank in front of the Allen home was covered in peonies and iris, and was a spectacular sight every Spring. According to his wife, he had no favorite varieties but "loved them all." In recent years, Mr. Allen had sold many of his lactiflora peonies and was concentrating on collecting tree peonies.

In addition to his role in the American Peony Society, a member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Allen was active in the North Canton Mens' Garden Club. He was employed by the Bowdill Company, a manufacturer of mining equipment, as a salesman and trouble-shooter.

—Dr. Kent Crossley



HARLEY BRISCOE, OF WHITE HALL, ILLINOIS

WHITE HALL—Harley E. Briscoe, 89, of White Hall, died Sunday afternoon, Jan. 5, 1992, at his home.

He was born June 22, 1902, in White Hall, a son of John and Mary Skaggs Briscoe. He married Antoinette L. Glover July 14, 1951, in Jefferson City, MO.

He is survived by his wife; a stepson, Gary Craigmiles of Portland, OR; a stepdaughter, Shirley A. Sandifar of Washington, IL; five stepgrandchildren; five great-stepgrandchildren; and two sisters: Mary Shaw of Roodhouse and Alice Briscoe of Los Angeles, CA.

Mr. Briscoe was a World War II Army veteran, serving in Germany. He received two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star. He was a member of the Carlinville VFW and American Legion. He worked many years for the Macoupin Soil and Water Conservation Department, retiring in 1971. He was a horticulturist, hybridizing iris, day lilies and peonies. He won several international awards.

When he could no longer care for his flowers, he gave all his iris, daylilies and Siberians to four parks in Illinois and Missouri. All of the peonies were left at home. He was a member of the American Peony Society since 1971, always supporting all the programs over those years. He attended the National meetings when convenient. He was a big part of the organization in that he was so well known by so many.

Mrs. Briscoe sent a Tribute in memory of Harley to the American Peony Society. We express our thanks to her.



OUR SYMPATHY to the families of the following, and to others that have not sent in a card of notification:

George P. Allen, Ohio	Feb. 1992
Harley Briscoe, Illinois	Jan. 1992
Alice M. Lobbestael, Michigan	Feb. 1992
Mrs. Charles J. Betsch, Ohio	1991
Percy L. Rogers, Virginia	1992

REGISTRATIONS

FIREBOLT (David L. Reath, Vulcan, Michigan)—Jan. 28, 1992
Seedling #82-14; first year bloomed 1982.

Parentage Old Faithful x Royal Rose.

This red hybrid has excellent substance, very heavy stems 34 inches, upright habit of growth.

Plant is fertile as a pod and pollen parent. Inherits the good plant habit of its pod parent, Old Faithful. Bloom, late hybrid season.

THE MACHANIC GRAND (David L. Reath, Vulcan, Michigan)—Jan. 28, 1992.

Seedling #81-16; first year bloomed 1981.

Parentage, Reath F-3 (Burma Ruby x Moonrose) x Reath E-78.

Ruffled brilliant orange red hybrid with three or four rows of guard petals, all ruffled. Very fertile as a pod and pollen parent. Fragrant.

Pictured in the APS American Peony Hybrid book.

WHITE FROST (David L. Reath, Vulcan, Michigan)—Jan. 28, 1992.

Seedling #79-41-A; first year bloomed 1979.

Parentage White Charm x Reath semi-double white lactiflora.

White hybrid, bomb type, full double, heavy amount of bloom, good substance and fragrant.

Adequate stem strength, 30" height, blooms early lactiflora season, one to three side buds.

ARCTIC MOON (David L. Reath, Vulcan, Michigan)—Jan. 28, 1992.

Seedling #81-9; first year bloomed 1981.

Parentage Cream Delight x Reath F-3.

Creamy white hybrid, heavy amount of bloom on short 26" sturdy stems, shiny mid green leaves.

Blooms mid-hybrid season (early) stamens, pollen, seeds and fragrant.

Several side buds are held quite erect. Excellent landscaping.

SWEET MELODY (Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri)—April 15, 1992.

Seedling # Hollingsworth 385, semi-double lactiflora.

Parentage unknown; grown of seed supplied by E. L. Pehrson. First year bloomed, before 1980.

This baby ribbon medium pink, semi-double lactiflora has light yellow stamens, pollen and seeds. Medium tall, 34-36" with good

stem strength, medium green foliage. Reliable, blooming from mid season to mid late.

GARDEN LACE (Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri)—April 15, 1992.

Seedling #Hollingsworth 1853.

Parentage Nome x Cytherea. Bloomed before 1980.

This lactiflora type of hybrid origin is of Japanese form, clear broad light pink petals, lacy curved staminodes of soft yellow, forming a persistent center ball. Abundant amount of bloom and seeds. 30" height, excellent stem strength; foliage makes a broad bush, blooms midseason with the later midseason hybrids. Good landscape variety.

MY LOVE (Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri)—April 15, 1992

Seedling #Hollingsworth 1860.

Parentage Moon of Nippon x Cytherea. Bloomed before 1980.

Double hybrid, of lactiflora type, pearlescent white, has a conical form with no stamens or seeds. It is medium tall, 34" with good stem strength. Prolific flowering on dark green strong bush. Mid late bloom right after mid season hybrids.

★ ★ ★ ★

PEONIES: THE GOOD, BAD AND BEAUTIFUL

by Jerry Williams

(Times-Dispatch garden columnist, Richmond, Virginia)

According to legend, the peony is named for a physician of antiquity and it is credited with curing just about every malady known to man. It is also said to be very good at protecting you and your property from evil, so if you have personal enemies, wear a bit of the root around your neck.

There are herbaceous and tree peonies and while both grow well here, it is the herbaceous ones that are the most popular. For some reason, the tree peony has acquired the reputation for being easily miffed, but the presence of the many local plants denies this.

The herbaceous peony is divided into the following classifications: single, double, semi-double, Japanese and anemone. There are subdivisions but these are the main ones. There is great diversity in foliage, growth habit and colors that are breathtaking in their clarity.

Herbaceous peonies are excellent for landscape use as many kinds are attractive even when they have finished blooming. Some set spectacular seeds and others take on glowing Autumn colors. The secret, if there is one to growing them locally, is choosing the early to midseason bloomers. Most late varieties take most unkindly to the so-called "hot spell in May," which is notorious for cooking everything that has risen from the ground.

Now is the time to plant peonies; in fact, one of the many myths trailing this lovely plant is that it must be planted on the dark of the moon in October, otherwise you are in deep trouble—the least being is a woodpecker pecking out your eyes. Actually, if you are brave enough to take a chance on the woodpecker, you can plant up until really cold weather.

Locally, peonies go dormant very late in the Fall and start to grow rather early in Winter. It is not unusual to see the pink tips of new growth lurking just at soil level.

The saying goes that you plant a peony for posterity, and it is not rare to see plants 40 or 50 years old growing and blooming nicely. Therefore, it is worth the extra effort of proper planting. This means digging a hole much deeper than the roots will need. Into the bottom place decayed organic matter and, if the soil is heavy clay, some sand. Work this mixture around and cover with a layer of garden soil and plant the roots. This means the roots will have something nice to grow into as they reach downward.

Before planting, make sure you trim off any broken roots or any roots that are inordinately long. Plant the peony root just under the surface of the soil. This cannot be emphasized too much. Nine times out of 10 when peonies do not bloom it is because they have been planted too deeply. Peonies will grow and put out foliage and survive, but they will not bloom if planted too deeply.

Peonies need sun, good drainage and cleanliness. Keep weeds out of the plantings and although mulch can be used, it should never be placed in contact with the stems.

The main problem with peonies is botrytis blight, a fungus that cannot be cured, but it can be prevented. This fungus evinces itself by dramatic wilting of foliage or whole stems almost overnight. It will not kill the plant immediately, but botrytis will greatly weaken it.

The wilted part of the plant should immediately be removed, and remember to sterilize the clippers afterward as you can spread the fungus from plant to plant. Botrytis can be guarded against by making sure there is good drainage and the very best garden sanitation.

Insect problems are usually minor—thrips, rose chafers and ants. Spraying early in the Spring with carbaryl takes care of all three.

There is a ridiculous story that makes the rounds every so often that when peonies do not bloom it is because there are no ants on the buds "to open them." This couldn't be further from the truth. The ants come to feed on the sweet syrup the buds exude and they may well carry botrytis or aphids onto the plants. Furthermore, ants couldn't open the buds if they wanted to. If you see ants on your peonies, get rid of them.

Peonies growing in the garden should have the brown stems cut to the ground. Clean up any fallen leaves and stems and dispose of the cuttings in the trash—never in the compost pile.

FRAGRANT PEONIES AS OBSERVED BY OUR MEMBERS

(All the peonies are available today, 1992)

STRONG FRAGRANCE

Edulis Superba
Red Charm
Mrs. J. V. Edlund
Doris Cooper
Festiva Maxima
Ann Cousins
Mons Jules Elie
Florence Nicholls
Kelways Glorious
Mandaleen
Martha Bullock
White Cap
Phillip Revoire
Dr. J. H. Neeley
Richard Carvel
Frankie Curtis

Vivid Rose
Longfellow
Chestine Gowdy
Ella Christiansen
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Doreen
Pink Lemonade
Karl Rosenfeld
Georgiana Shaylor
Lois Kelsey
Moonstone
Isani Gidui
Cora Stubbs
Miss America
Pink Lemonade
Krinkled White

LIGHT FRAGRANCE

Bowl of Cream
Dorothy J.
Sylver
Norma Volz
Pillow Talk

Princess Margaret
Raspberry Sundae
Do Tell
Gay Paree
Pico



HEIRLOOM PEONIES

Jim Slocum, Northfield, Minnesota

Here is a peony detective story with a happy ending. Our daughter, Charlotte, is the detective—so are Greta Kessenich and Myron D. Bigger. The story begins in Excelsior, Minnesota, where my grandfather, A. M. Slocum, and his botanist friend, E. W. Becker, planted many trees and also hundreds of peonies. The peonies were planted in large parallel beds, stretching perhaps 200 yards up a small hill. Jake Young, the family caretaker and gardener, kept them in picture-perfect condition, and in the Spring visitors came to see the magnificent sight. We have pictures in color which are spectacular.

The place was sold about 50 years ago. Charlotte and I went back last year to see what was left of the plantings. No luck—the peony beds were gone. We especially wanted to find specimens of peonies named for my grandfather and his botanist friend. In 1920, A. B. Franklin had developed a peony in honor of A. M. Slocum

and another in honor of E. W. Becker, and both were registered in the American Peony Society Manual. In 1928, the Manual rated the **Slocum** as a 9.0 ("A double; large . . . at its best it is charming, giving a softly graduated harmony of pale pink tones of great beauty"), and the **Becker** as an 8.5 ("Semi-double; large . . . it opens a delicate pink shading to white"). But no trace of these or any peonies remained.

Charlotte began a search by contacting Greta at the American Peony Society. Greta's first inquiries turned up nothing (one small difficulty was not knowing that **A. M. Slocum** was listed in some places under "A" instead of "S"). In the meantime through our local arboretum, we learned of a number of peony growers and sent for their catalogs to see if **Slocum** or **Becker** might still be listed. Again, no luck. But after more searching, Greta heard from Myron D. Bigger in Topeka that both peonies could be found in Oregon. Mr. Bigger arranged the shipping and now our daughters, Charlotte and Carolyn, and their parents—each have a **Slocum** and a **Becker** peony plant in the family gardens; peonies that are heirlooms for our family.

★ ★ ★ ★

PEONIES IN CENTRAL GEORGIA

Mrs. Frankie G. Andel, Perry, Georgia

In the late 40's, Mr. Nich Pete of New Jersey was traveling to Florida. He stopped at our house and gave my father three peony roots and asked that he try them for growth in Georgia. We lived in Fort Valley, 12 miles from my home,, now, in Perry, Georgia, located in the center of the state.

Mr. Pete said he would return and check on the results, but we never heard from him.

My father gave me divisions of the three huge white clumps when I married in 1952. They are planted on the north side of our home and garage. The center of the plants are slightly exposed (for cold weather) and roots planted near the top of the soil. They need semi-shade here, mulch on the outer area of the plants. Pine straw is best, and in March a little 10-10-10.

I do not know the name of these beauties but with their bloom of 6'-8', they are most beautiful. People think they are large rose bushes. So peonies grow successfully, large and beautiful in the center of Georgia. They bloom in mid-May and June.

Someone gave me a large fuschia red peony. When this peony was within 40 feet of my white ones, a deep rose stripe appeared. Why??

★ ★ ★ ★

PEONY SHOW

MINNESOTA ANNUAL EXHIBITION

June 13-14, 1992

Signal Hills Shopping Mall, St. Paul, Minnesota

VARIETY IS KEY WORD IN PEONY CHOICES

by Jerry Williams

(*Times-Dispatch garden columnist, Richmond, Virginia*)

Since the early 1900s the name Klehm has been synonymous with excellent peonies. First Charles, then Carl, and now Roy Klehm have hybridized and introduced the cream of the crop of this elegant flower. All the varieties discussed today are available from the Klehm Nursery in Barrington, Ill.

The Catalog is a wish book if ever there was one. It lists tree peonies, hybrids, Estate peonies, and some which are called choice garden peonies. Estate peonies are those the Klehm family have introduced. The choice garden peonies are varieties hybridized by other good peony people and have been thoroughly tested at the Klehm production farm.

Moon Over Barrington, which is new this year, is an excellent example of the Estate group. The bloom is a light cream, double bomb that blooms in midseason. The plant has a short growth habit, only 26 inches tall, and dark green, glossy foliage. The fragrance is moderately spicy.

Dinner Plate is a well-named, midseason, pink double with enormous blooms that contrast nicely against extremely dark, green foliage. It has a soft, mild scent. This was a National Grand Champion of the American Peony Society in 1973. Plants are 33 inches tall.

Ala Mode is a glistening white, early blooming single. Klehm rates it tops in white singles. Blooms have a neat pompom of golden stamens. **Ala Mode** is delightfully sweet with a musky fragrance. It is about 33 inches tall.

Charlie's White is a towering 42 to 48 inches tall. It is an elegant white with a full center tuft and enlarged guard petals resting on strong, sturdy stems. This early bloomer is an excellent cut flower with a mild fragrance.

Fairy's Petticoat with its ruffled crinolines of dainty pink has a profusion of flounced petals. This early bloomer has blooms 30 inches tall and a rather delicate form befitting its name. There is a delicate scent.

Even shorter is **Festiva Pixie**, a white, double, midseason bloomer reaching 26 to 28 inches. The well-formed, double blooms are dappled with red candy striping reminiscent of the old familiar **Festiva Maxima**.

Another with the red is **Festiva Supreme**, a white bomb, mid-season bloomer with pearly white petals tipped in red at the center of the large flowers. Growing 34 inches tall, it has a pleasant fragrance.

This next one has to be located in the garden with great care as it

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will outshine all its neighbors. **Hoosierland**, a semi-double red, growing about 28 inches tall is an early bloomer. The large, vibrant, scarlet blooms are magnificently set off by rich, mahogany-colored foliage—most unusual. The plant has a low, compact habit with rigid stems and a mild fragrance.

Susie Q is only 24 inches tall, but she is a winner. Short and sassy, the blooms are bright pink and double rose-shaped lush, bottle green foliage. This is a midseason bloomer that is ideal for small gardens.

Under the choice label is **Cora Stubbs** by Krekler and looks good enough to take a spoon to. The raspberry pink Japanese form has a large, vanilla-ice cream-scoop center. With vigorous plant habit and lots of foliage, this is a delight. It blooms midseason at about 32 inches.

Break O'Day by Murawska is a red Japanese growing 34 inches tall and blooming midseason. Blooms are dark rose-pink with large, rounded guard petals and a large, dark red cushion of staminodes that are long and golden tipped. This is true elegance.

Doreen by Sass is an unusual Japanese peony that blooms midseason at 32 inches. It has fuchsia-pink blooms with a yellow fringed center tuft. The foliage is a light green, which makes an attractive contrast to the vibrant blooms.

Do Tell by Auten is a Japanese with soft, shell pink blooms and smooth guard petals that complement the rose-colored center. There are golden tints in the center that seem to sparkle. This is a midseason bloomer 32 inches tall.

To end with a glorious finale is to go back to the very early peonies. The double fern-leaf is seldom offered commercially, and it is one that is treasured by connoisseurs not only for its beauty but for its history.

The finely cut foliage is very different from most peonies and the blooms are red double appearing on 16-inch stems.

The fern-leaf was carried in covered wagons by garden-loving pioneers across the prairies. It is a piece of living history.

(Klehm Nursery is located at Route 5, Box 197, Penny Road, Barrington, ILL 60010-9555, The Catalog costs \$4.)

★ ★ ★ ★

**STUDY ON THE CHINESE WILD WOODY
PEONIES (I) — following four pages
NEW TAXA OF PAEONIA L.
SECT. MOUTAN DC.**

Hong Tao, Zhang Jia-Xun, Li Jia--Jue, Zhao Wen-Zhong, Li Ming-Rui

Plate I



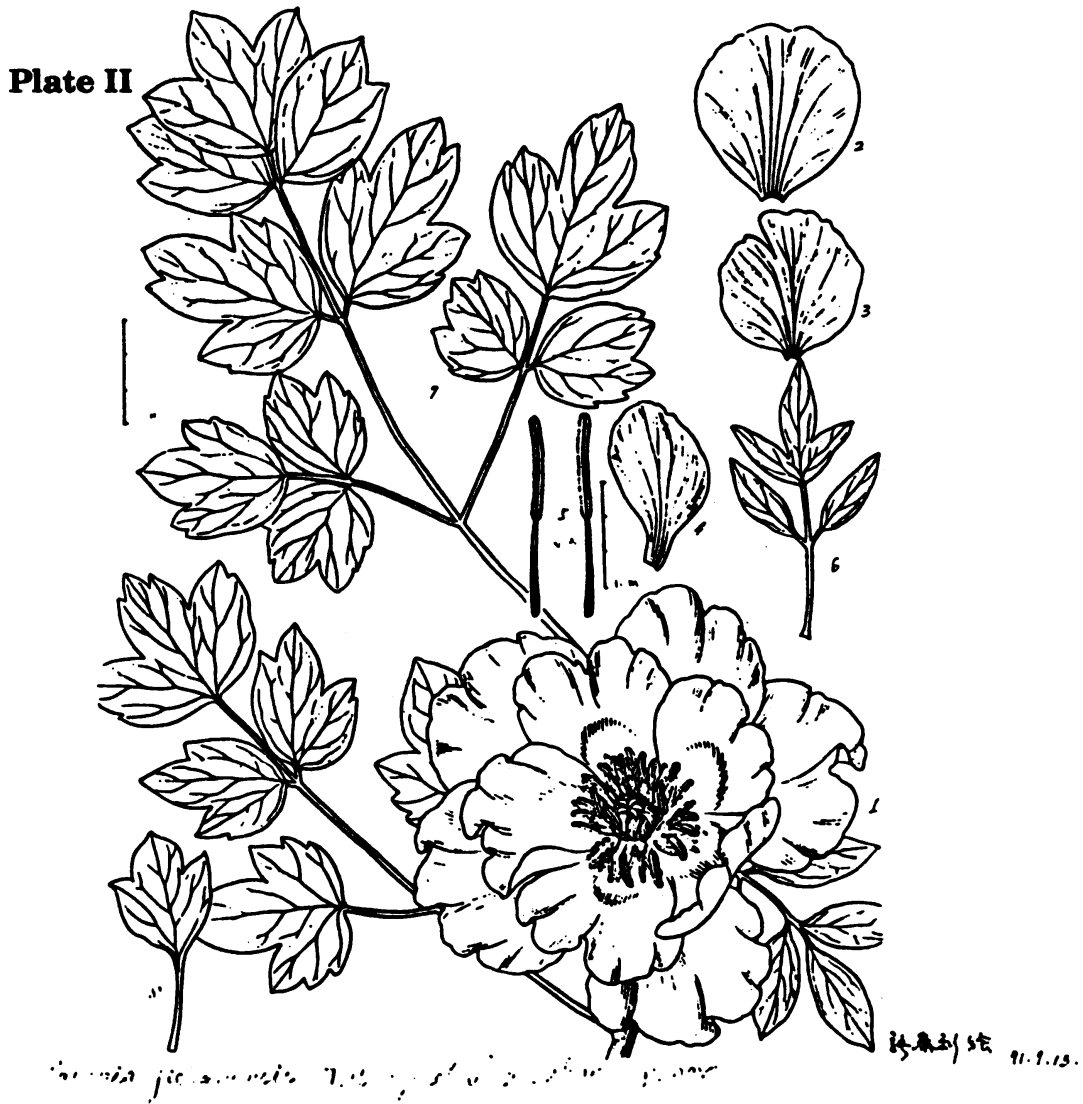
图版 I 沂州牡丹 *Paeonia ostii* T. Hong et J. X. Zhang: 1. 花; 2. 花瓣; 3. 叶片; 4. 叶片; 5. 龙须状复叶; 6. 2 回羽状复叶 (张素利绘) 11.1.20

Osti's Peony (*Paeonia ostii* T. Hong et J. X. Zhang sp. nov.)

The species name *ostii* is dedicated to Dr. Gian Lupo Osti, the Italian Vice President of International Dendrology Society. We do appreciate his friendly, valuable and precious help to promote the scientific research of Chinese wild woody peonies!

Osti's Peony differs from **Rock's Peony** and its congeners are in more or less lanceolate leaflets with entire margin, glabrous beneath and 4-7 pairs of veins, the terminal leaflets 1-3 lobed; petals white or slightly tinged with dilutely reddish color, but without purple basal blotch; filaments, disks and styles dark purplish red all together.

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图版 II 牡丹 *Paeonia jishanensis* T. Hong et W. Z. Zhao: 1. 花; 2-3. 花瓣, 4. 雄蕊;
 5. 雌蕊; 6. 花枝 3 小叶; 7. 2 回羽状复叶; 8. 片小叶亦变异 (洪泰利绘)。

Jishan Peony (*Paeonia jishanensis* T. Hong et M. R. Li sp. nov.)

It differs from *P. suffruticosa* Andr. subsp. *spontanea* (Rehd.) Haw & Lauener in its white flowers and without petaloid stamens.

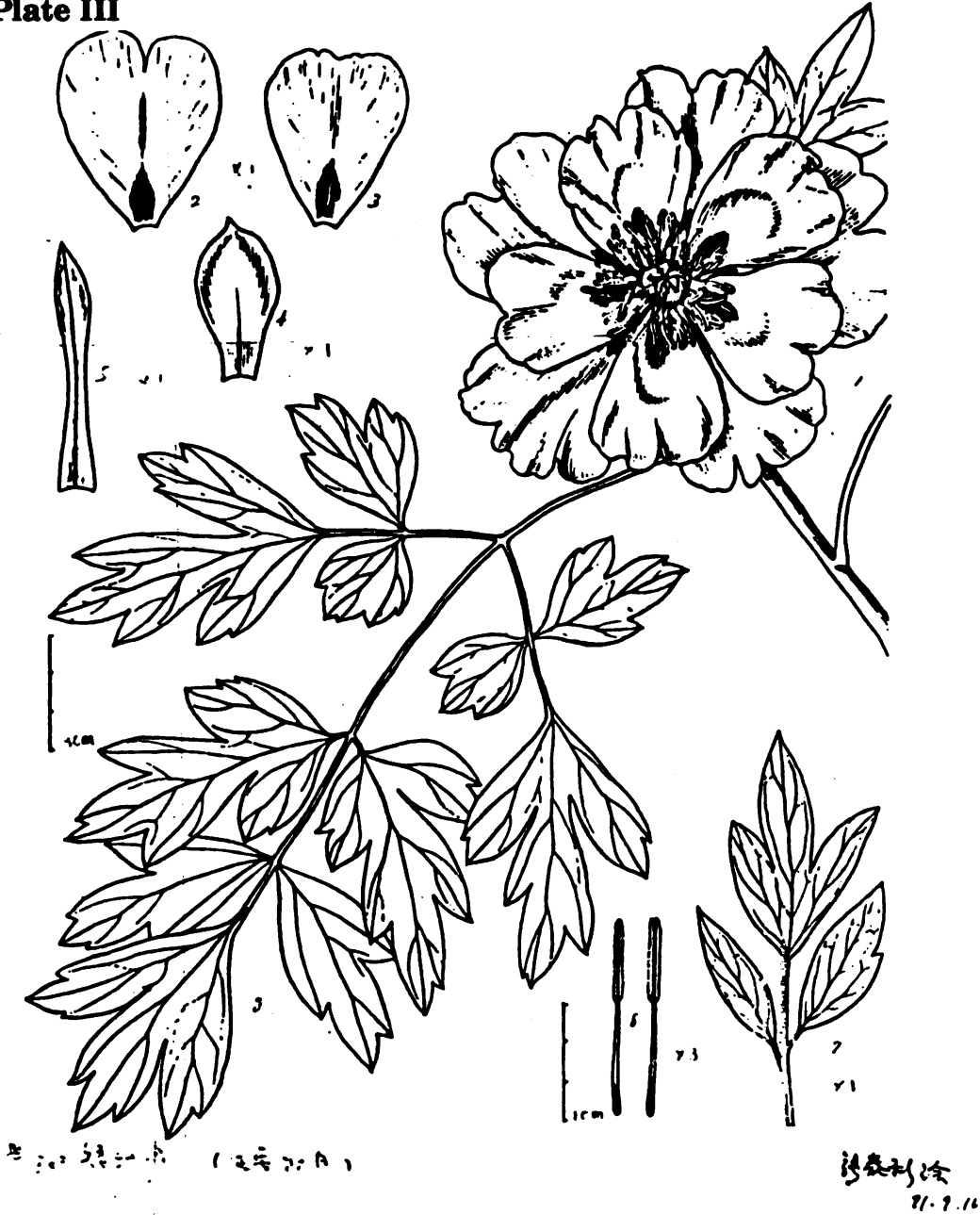
A. Rehder, an American dendrologist, identified and nominated it as a new variety (*P. suffruticosa* Andr. var. *spontanea* Rehd.) in 1920, based on the specimen No. 338 collected by A. Purdom in 1910 at a place located at 25 kilometers away from the west of Yanan. The original Latin description of its main characteristics is: "floribus roseis, interdum staminibus petaloideis praeditis" (flowers roseate, sometimes presence of petaloid stamens).

In 1990, S. G. Haw & L. S. Lauener changed Rehder's variety into subspecies (*P. suffruticosa* subsp. *spontanea*) and identified the white-flowered wild peony which is distributed over Majiagou Jishan County in Shanxi Province at the alt. 1450 m to the same subspecies. [in *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* 47 (3): 278-279 (1990)]

The author thinks that the petaloid stamens is one of the most

important characteristics of Peony Cultivars originating from wild species after cultivation. It shouldn't be confused with wild peony. Therefore, Haw's subspecies should be lowered and changed to cultivar. The Jishan Peony is an undoubted wild woody peony species.

Plate III



图版3 延安市种 *Paeonia yananensis* T. Hong et M. R. Li: 1. 花, 2-3. 花瓣, 4. 萼片, 5. 药片, 6. 雌蕊, 7. 花枝3小叶, 8. 2回羽状复叶 (洪泰利绘).

Yanan Peony (*Paeonia yananensis* T. Hong et M.R. Li sp. nov.)

It's a rare and endangered wild woody peony species which has a superficial resemblance to Rock's Peony being dark purplish blotched at the base of petals, but is easily distinguished by few leaflets (up to 11), smaller and dilutely purplish roseate petals, reddish purple stigma and disk, etc.

Plate IV



Paeonia rockii (Suffruticosa) T. Hong et J. J. Li
 图版4 甘肃牡丹 *Paeonia rockii* (Haw & Lauener) T. Hong et J. J. Li:
 1. 花, 2. 花剖; 3. 萼片, 4. 花瓣, 5. 2回羽状复叶 (洪泰利绘)

Rock's Peony (*Paeonia rockii* [Haw & Lauener] T. Hong et J. J. Li stat. nov.)

It's identified and nominated by S. G. Haw & L. A. Lauener as a new subspecies (*P. suffruticosa* Andr. subsp. *rockii*) based on **Rock's Variety** which was bred from seeds collected by an American Geographer, Joseph Rock in 1925-1926 from a peony with big white flower and dark purple basal blotch in a lamasery of Choni County in the south of Gansu Province. [*in Edinb. J. Bot.* 47 (3) 279-280 (1990)]

The author of Genus *Paeonia* of Fl. Reip. Pop. Sin. was mistaken to identify the peony with white flower and dark purple basal blotch which is distributed over the south of Gansu and Mt. Taibai of Shaanxi Provines, etc. as *Paeonia suffruticosa* Andr. papaveracea (Andr.) Kerner.

H. C. Andrews, a British plant taxonomist, studied a peony plant with white flower and dark purple basal blotch, which was intro-

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duced to England from Guangzhou, China, and cultivated in the garden of Sir Abraham Hume, and identified and nominated it as a new species, *Paeonia papaveracea* Andr. in 1806. After that, Kerner changed it as a variety, *P. suffruticosa* Andr. var. *papaveracea* (Andr.) Kerner in 1816.

Bean, a British scientist, studied the peony planted in the Sir Abraham Hume Garden. He thought it was neither a species nor a variety and reduced it as a cultivar, *P. suffruticosa* Andr. cv. 'Papaveracea.'

The author thinks that *Paeonia suffruticosa* Andr. is a name for a big group of various cultivars while **Rock's Peony** is a wild woody peony species, from which originated a series of cultivars. So the author raised Haw's subspecies to species grade, *Paeonia rockii* (Haw & Lauener) T. Hong et J. J. Li stat. nov.

★ ★ ★ ★

EDITOR'S NOTE:

A TRIBUTE TO OUR PEONY GREATS OF THE PAST

They left a legacy in their writing about the Peony. In this issue of the Bulletin, and with Memorial Day at hand, we do not forget their wisdom and knowledge that is ours to use.

To answer the many questions that have been received, we have turned back the pages and selected the following articles which have been written, all so accurate and in depth.

★ ★ ★ ★

TREE PAEONIES

F. C. Stern, O.B.E., M.C., F.L.S., V.M.H.

(Lecture given on June 14, 1960, Sir Eric Savill, KC.V.O., C.B.E., M.C., M.A., V.M.H., in the Chair)

Tree peonies are all indigenous in a wild state to South-East Asia; the most important species from the point of view of their flowers are *Paeonia suffruticosa* and *P. lutea* var. *ludlowii*, and possibly *P. lutea* itself, for its value for crossing with other tree peonies. All the tree species are useful and attractive plants, but cannot compare for beauty with those mentioned above. *P. delavayi* has dark red open flowers about 3 to 4 inches across, and grows into a large bush about 6 feet high; there are a number of forms of this species, all varying in the size and the shade of color of their dark red flowers. This plant is useful in the garden as it will do well under deciduous trees.

A smaller tree species, *P. potanini* and its varieties, are low growing, about 2 feet high with smaller flowers about 2 to 2-1/2 inch-

es across; there are several forms, some with yellow flowers, some with red and some white. These plants sucker freely, growing in sun or shade, and are suitable as undershrubs in the woodland garden.

The most beautiful of all the tree paeony species is *P. suffruticosa*, and its different forms, often known as the "Moutan" paeonies. "Moutan" is said to be derived from the Chinese "Mowtan," translated "Male Scarlet Flower." It is the national flower of China; the red form was considered by the Chinese to be the finest. The Chinese grew these paeonies in their gardens for literally hundreds of years. Johann Hoffman (1) quotes from the Chinese literature that "Moutans" were well known and loved by the Chinese already in the eighth century. Although these plants were well known in China and Japan since the earliest times, they were unknown in Europe or America till about 1787. E. H. Wilson in his *Monograph of Azaleas* of 1921 (7) says that Chinese Buddhist monks introduced many plants from China and Korea to Japan as early as the eighth century and among them plants of tree paeonies.

In 1656 an Embassy of the Dutch East India Company was received by the emperor at Peking. On their return Nievhof, in 1656 (2), described this journey and the plants they had seen, including the paeonies to which he gave great praise. But nothing seems to have been done about introducing these plants till a hundred years later. Sir Joseph Banks is said to have read Nievhof's report and also seen drawings of these plants by Chinese artists. He engaged a Dr. Duncan, attached to the British East India Company, to procure a plant. It came back to England about 1787 when it was planted at Kew and another in 1787 was planted in Sir Joseph's garden, later to be named *P. moutan* var. *banksia*, with double pink flowers; in 1825 it was said to be about 8 feet high and 10 feet in diameter. In 1802 (or perhaps in 1794?) Sir Abraham Hume imported a plant to his garden at Wormley Bury in Hertfordshire, which in 1826 was recorded as being 7 feet high and 14 feet in circumference. This garden in recent years belonged to the late Major Pam. This plant was named *P. moutan* var. *papaveracea* and illustrated in the *Botanical Magazine*, t. 2175 of 1820; it had white flowers with deep red markings at the base of the petals. I saw the remains of this plant still growing at Wormley Bury, with one flower, a few years ago.

Although tree paeonies were grown in gardens throughout China, Korea and Japan for a great number of years, the location of the wild plants was not known till about 1890 when Scallon and Giraldi (3) discovered the true wild plants in the province of Shensi in China; they did not collect any living plants or seeds. In 1910 Purdom found wild tree paeonies also in the province of Shensi. He sent a dried specimen to the Arnold Arboretum at Boston, U.S.A., and seed to

Professor Sargent and to Messrs. James Veitch in England. The young plants at Boston were eaten by rats; only one was raised by Messrs. Veitch which was sent to Professor Sargent. In April 1914 Reginald Farrer (4) found the tree paeonies in the province of Kansu in China, and he gives a glorious description of the plants in his book *On the Eaves of the World*, but he collected no seed or dried specimens.

The wild plant was not in cultivation till Dr. J. F. Rock sent seed back to the Arnold Arboretum in 1926. The Arboretum distributed the seed and one plant was sent to us in 1936. When it flowered, it seemed to tally exactly with the wild plants described by Farrer (R.H.S. Journal, 84, Fig. 104, 1959). Dr. Rock wrote from China that the seed sent back by him was collected from plants in the garden of a Lamasery at Choni, in South-West Kansu, and the Lamas told him that the plants came from the mountains of that district. This plant is now about 8 feet high and 12 feet in diameter.

Sr. Joseph Banks' plant mentioned above was described in his *Botanist's Repository* of 1804 (5), under the name of *P. suffruticosa*, which is now considered the correct name of the wild tree paeony of China.

A few garden "Moutan" paeonies were imported from China at the beginning of the nineteenth century, but few survived the journey. About this time seed seems to have been brought from China and Japan, for seedlings began to appear in French and American gardens. Siebold (6) in 1844 brought back some especially fine plants to Germany from Japan. In February 1843 Robert Fortune was sent out to China by the Horticultural Society (as the R.H.S. was then known) at a salary of £100 a year plus expenses. He was able in 1846 to bring back living plants of some of the best tree paeonies; these gradually came into cultivation in Europe and America. Some of the nurserymen in England later on began to catalogue these paeonies. Messrs. Kelway are reported to have offered them in their catalogue of 1889. All these plants are reported as having single or double flowers, pink, white or purple.

It was not until about 1902 that a new phase in hybridizing the paeonies took place. Before this there was no hybridizing, as far as is known, between the species of tree paeonies. In 1882 Abbe Delavay, one of the French missionaries, discovered *P. lutea*, the yellow-flowered tree paeony species, in Yunnan and sent seed to France. This species flowered for the first time in England in the Temperate House at Kew in 1900. Soon after 1902 Messrs. Lemoine of Nancy, father and son, who were already famous for their hybridizing of philadelphus and lilacs, began to use *P. lutea* to cross with the "Moutan" garden tree paeonies. They produced some striking new hybrids with yellow flowers, such as 'L'Esperance' and 'Alice Hard-

ing' with double flowers of deep yellow; these double flowers are not too heavy and are held well above the foliage. In some of the double-flowered forms, the flowers are so heavy that the stems cannot hold them up, especially after rain. An old hybrid '**Comtesse de Tudor**,' bred in France by Charles Gombault in 1889, has large very double flowers, rose-du-Barri pink, about 9 inches across; it is not a good garden plant as these fine flowers fall over, but in a vase they are magnificent. It is still in cultivation in English gardens.

In 1917 Professor A. P. Saunders, Professor of Chemistry at Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, began crossing paeony species in his garden. Saunders is responsible for some of the finest crosses of both herbaceous and tree paeonies. His '**Argosy**' is the best of the single yellows and his '**Black Pirate**' has magnificent deep mahogany-red flowers (R. H. S. Journal, 84, Fig. 118, 1959); he has produced many other excellent hybrids.

In 1936 Ludlow and Sherriff collected seed of a variety of *P. lutea* in South-West Tibet at about 10,000 feet. Seed was sent to us under the name of *P. lutea*. Several plants were raised and because we did not think much of *P. lutea* as the flowers are usually held under the leaves, we thought we would try a tree paeony on the chalk rubble on the side of the chalk cliff. To our astonishment, these plants became taller and taller and eventually large deep butter-yellow flowers appeared well up above the foliage, about 5 inches in diameter. This first-class paeony species was named after one of the collectors, *P. lutea* var. *ludlowii* (10) (Fig. 85). It is the earliest of the larger tree paeonies to flower in May, is perfectly hardy and seems happy in any soil. I have not heard of any hybrids made between this paeony and garden tree paeonies. We have tried and have not yet been successful.

Some young plants without names were brought to us many years ago from Japan. They grew well on the chalk soil; some had white flowers and some good pink ones. One with an extra fine pink flower with a sheen on the petals was named '**Silver Pink**.' From seed of this plant in open pollination we raised some lovely plants; one named '**Mrs. George Warre**' had rose-pink flowers about 10 inches across, and another with large light-pink semi-double flowers was named '**Cassandra**.' It is fascinating to raise seed of the tree paeonies, but alas the seedlings take five or six years to flower! A friend sent us seed from some of the best plants growing in the gardens in the south of France; they came all colors of white, purple, and pink, but one turned out to have real rich scarlet flowers, an unusual color and is now named '**Sybil Stern**' (R.H.S. Journal, 83, Fig. 142, 1958).

The cultivation of tree peonies is not difficult as long as they have

well-drained soil. They require a good loam with or without lime. They dislike animal manure. When we started to grow these plants we thought they ought to be well fed. They did not like the old cow manure and some died. It was interesting to read lately in Paxton's **Magazine of Botany**, XVI (1) of 1849, in a translation of Hoffman's articles on tree paeonies from old Chinese and Japanese writings, that "the use of animal matter as manure has proved to be injurious." We have never given the plants any animal manure nor any old mushroom manure for the last twenty years or so, but just very old leaves in Autumn.

All tree paeonies are perfectly hardy plants and will stand any amount of frost as long as the young growths have not started. The real danger with tree paeonies is that they are apt to get the young growth injured in a mild Winter and Spring. This new growth, which holds the flowers, comes very early in the year and may get injured by a late frost or even a cold east wind. In order to circumvent this, we have tried to make the plants delay their early growth by planting them in half shade among deciduous shrubs and small trees, and also on the north side of evergreen shrubs away from the morning sun and protected from the east wind.

The crossing of tree paeonies is not easy. The flowers have a mass of anthers which have to be removed before the flower opens. It is a tiresome job and one is apt to get lumbago doing it in an east wind. The pollen of the male parent has to be dry and fresh, and in May the pollen on the anthers is very often damp. We find the best plan is to cut the flowers of the male parent just before they open and put them in water in a warm room so as to get the pollen as fresh and dry as possible. In raising seed, it is most successful to sow the seed as soon as the capsule begins to open. In this way the germination of the seed is much quicker and more even. This is true of all paeony seed. It is very interesting to read in the translations of Hoffman from the original Chinese works of 1596 that "Seeds should be sown immediately after they are ripe as soon as the seed vessel commences to open and shows its seed within."

The best time to move tree paeonies in the south of England is the first week in October. They dislike moving and often die back after moving but soon recover.

NOTE: The above article was published in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, July, 1960, and is reprinted here by permission of its author and publishers.—Editor

★ ★ ★ ★

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

PEONIES FOR THE SOUTH

By John E. Klein, Louisville, KY, Bulletin #63, 1936

Below the Mason and Dixon line there is a peculiar fetish regarding that grand hardy perennial, the peony, to the effect that the peony thrives only in the colder latitudes of the North. Without hesitation we assert that this notion is not true.

For a number of years we have grown peonies in Kentucky with splendid success. At first we feared to plant anything but early varieties. These did so well, however, that we set out over fifty of the mid-season varieties. In two years these also bloomed gorgeously, so in the Fall we ordered about twenty-five late mid-season peonies and a half dozen late ones for further trial. This last test settled forever in our mind the question of what the peony will do down South. During the past five years we have cast aside all discretion to plant just all the varieties on the lists.

In our final test there were ten of the new Brand creations, which sold at that time for \$50.00 per root. We wanted them because they bloomed later, were new, and considered very fine. When these plants bloomed the second Spring, bearing from six to eleven wonderful flowers, we knew that we could plant any good peony, early or late, and get the results that the peony lover desires.

These new Brand peonies were the largest and most wonderful we had ever seen—growing in our own garden!—worth every penny of the price, and you, my peony friends, can buy them now for about \$5.00 per root!

The warm weather of May does not affect our peonies. If given plenty of water, the heat only serves to break them out more quickly into bloom.

No peony garden could be complete without a selection of good single peonies and Japanese types. It is our judgment that many of these are prettier than the doubles, and for both house decoration and garden effects they are invaluable, and have excellent artistic possibilities.

The single peony consists of either one or two rows of guard petals, enclosing a tuft of yellow stamens. The Japanese peony consists of one or two rows of guard petals enclosing a tufted center of narrow petaloids of various colors, or narrow petals edged with remnants of anthers.

Both singles and Japs. we cannot too ardently recommend for southern gardens. They come into bloom before the earliest doubles. This lengthens the blooming season, and they survive winds and rains far better than do the doubles. These types need not be disbudded, so that when the lateral buds open, the entire plant becomes a mass of bloom.

To those in the South who love the peony, we say earnestly: Go

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right ahead and plant those varieties of which you have heard and which appeal to you. With the fewest of exceptions all the peonies we have mentioned will repay those who give them reasonable care. We have no expert formula for the growing of these flowers—they are the easiest of all flowers to grow. Properly planted, according to careful directions given by the large growers—nature will go far. We cultivate frequently. We give plenty of water during the growing season (flooding the plants twice a week) from mid-April until blooming is over. We feed a few handfuls of bonemeal, or wood ash, or a generous forkful of well-rotted cow manure in November to each three-year-old plant, keeping about eight inches away from the stalks or crown—and we love them lots! We believe the peony really responds to genuine affection, and this affection expresses itself best at the time of planting. Always plant peonies in good, rich garden soil and in a hole large enough to accommodate them after they become established. This we ourselves have done, and each Maytime in Kentucky, intoxicating blooms tell us that the peony of the North has learned to sing the song of "Dixie."



PEONY VARIETIES FOR THE SOUTH

by Pope M. Long, Cordova, Ala., June 1928

Peonies certainly grow nicely as far south as Atlanta, Georgia, and Birmingham, Alabama, and possibly as far south as Montgomery, Ala., but I have never seen any grown there. My home is the same in latitude as Birmingham. I have successfully grown peonies for 25 years. I never plant the late full rose type as they rarely do well over a period of years. The buds often refuse to open. The semi-rose type, also the bomb and crown type, in the early and mid-season bloomers are more reliable. I plant so that the buds are barely covered with earth. I know of no better fertilizer than a 50-50 mixture of bonemeal and wood ashes. The best soil is a clay or a loam with a clay foundation either red or yellow.

I have tested out hundreds of varieties and while it is hard to limit myself, I know that the following are good for the South:

KELWAYS GLORIOUS. All Kelway varieties seem to just suit the South.

FESTIVA MAXIMA. Old but nothing better for general planting.

PRIMEVERE. The best yellow and white. A most lovely peony.

WALTER FAXON. A wonderful pink. I rate it as the best peony of American originations. Fine bloomer, too.

FELIX CROUSSE is equally as good but not as strong in growth.

MIKADO. All southern gardens should include several Japanese as they are the best bloomers of all. **MIKADO** is a fine red. I have counted 100 perfect blooms upon one extra large clump. **KING OF**

ENGLAND is just as good but no better, as they are almost identical.

FUYAJO. A man's peony of deep crimson. Most spectacular peony I have in my garden. It simply will not be ignored.

ISANI GIDUI. Nothing superior in a white Japanese.

The best blossom in my garden in 1927 was from **MARTHA BULLOCH.**

Peonies recommended for the south - early varieties:

Pico, Sea Shell, Sparkling Star, Bu-te, Westerner, Gay Paree, White Cap, Miss America, Mons Jules Elie, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Edulis Supreme.

Hybrids—**Red Charm, Lovely Rose, Cytherea, Firelight.**

Tree Peonies—all varieties.



GROWING SEEDLING PEONIES

For the beginner who is thinking seriously of taking up the work.

By **BENJAMIN WILDER GUPPY**

Many of the beautiful peonies in the world have been originated by growing seedlings by what may be called the hit-or-miss method.

The approved method of procedure is to set out a collection of the high-rated varieties, leave the pollinating to the wind and insects, harvest and plant all seeds produced and wait for results.

Beautifully simple, but a certain amount of care is necessary in forming your collection of plants if you wish to obtain a maximum of seed production without resorting to hand pollination.

From the breeder's point of view there are three types of blossoms: the sterile, the pistillate and the fertile.

The sterile have neither stamens nor pistils, hence are incapable of producing seed or pollen and are of no use for breeding.

The pistillate, furnished with pistils only, require pollen to be brought from an outside source in order to produce seed so that for every pistillate variety in your collection there should be a fertile variety ripening its pollen at the time the pistillate bloom is ready to receive it. Even then some pistillate varieties have the pistils set so deeply in the flower that hand pollination is necessary to obtain seed.

The fertile, furnished with stamens and pistils, produce both pollen and seeds. Some of the fertile varieties are so constructed that the pistils are fully exposed when the blossoms are open and fertilization from outside sources is as probable as self-fertilization. Others have the pistils buried so deeply that pollination from outside sources is all but impossible and seeds are only occasionally produced by self-fertilization. Here again a judicious use of the fingers will increase seed production.

The single varieties produce the most pollen and the most seed. Some of the singles when self-fertilized will produce nothing but singles and when crossed with doubles the resultant seedlings will, with a few

exceptions, all be singles. Other singles will produce both single and double flowers either when self-fertilized or when crossed with double varieties.

Unfortunately the printed descriptions of the various varieties do not furnish this information so necessary to the plant breeder. It must be obtained by studying the blooms and questioning experienced growers.

Having read this far you should realize that your field of endeavor can be greatly broadened by using hand pollination. You will be able to fertilize varieties that otherwise might not produce seed; late blooming varieties can be crossed with pollen saved from earlier blooming sorts and early blooming varieties can be crossed with pollen from those blooming later if you work in collaboration with someone whose garden is situated where the blooming season is earlier than in your locality. And there will also be open to you the exciting adventure of crossing various species, or hybridizing as it is called, with its attendant surprises.

ON KEEPING RECORDS

Of a certainty your objective is a beautiful bloom on a vigorous plant and naturally you should wish to know its pedigree. A very simple record will enable you to keep track of the offspring resulting from each cross from the time the pollen is applied to the pistil until the plants are ready for distribution or consignment to the rubbish heap, but by a little elaboration these records can be made to yield much valuable information. It is surprising how quickly data will accumulate and how much information they will yield to the student.

The first record is that of the cross: seed parent and pollen parent and date. By also noting weather conditions, number of blossoms fertilized and number setting seed and also the number of seed obtained, you will learn the affinity of one variety or species for another and the effect of weather conditions on the fruitfulness of the cross. Do not be discouraged by the number of zeros this record will probably contain but keep on repeating the experiment if you think there are worth while possibilities in the results of the cross.

The second record is the seed-bed record to keep track of the seed resulting from each cross. Information concerning germination can also be obtained by recording number of seeds planted and the number of seedlings transplanted to the first trial bed.

The third record is a record to keep track of the seedlings resulting from each cross transplanted to the first trial bed. If you also make brief notes of the various characteristics of the plants and blossoms and compare these with the same characteristics of the parent plants you will learn which of the characteristics are dominant and which are recessive and which are linked together so that if one appears the other is sure to keep it company, and if you keep similar notes of such second generation seedlings as you raise you will learn which characteristics follow Mendel's law and which do not. Of course all this detail is not necessary if you do not care to make a study of heredity, but I hope you will.

The fourth record will be a record of seedlings dug, divided and transplanted to the second trial bed. In addition to a record of parents it should contain a detailed description of the plant and blossom, relative time of blooming and notes concerning the keeping qualities of the blossoms when on the plant and as cut flowers and in cold storage. From this bed the selection is made of the plants for dissemination.

This work is not as formidable as it sounds. You can make it comparatively easy by being systematic and you have no idea how much pleasure and profit you will obtain from studying these notes on long winter evenings and how much help they will be when planning your work for the following season.

WHY SECOND GENERATION SEEDLINGS?

You have worked out a combination of characteristics to produce a plant and blossom to your liking, carefully selected seed and pollen parents, made the cross and waited five or six years for the seedlings to bloom only to find that the results are not at all what you had hoped for and you wonder what has gone wrong. Absolutely nothing, you have only just got started. The next move in the game is to self-pollinate or intercross the best of these seedlings and raise all the plants that your space will permit. If you raise enough of these second generation seedlings the combination of characteristics you are seeking will eventually appear. And the reason why?

The characteristics of organic growths can generally be paired as opposites. Taking the peony for example, there are:

Early blooming—late blooming.

Large flower—small flower.

Single flower—double flower.

Fragrance—no scent.

Tall plant—dwarf plant.

Strong stems—weak stems.

And so on, until you have dissected the plant and blossom into their smallest component parts. In some of these pairs of opposites, but not all, one characteristic has more influence on the cross than the other so that when two plants of opposite characteristics are crossed the stronger or dominant characteristics appear in the seedlings of the first generation. The weaker or recessive characteristics will not appear in the first generation seedlings but will lie dormant and reappear in a certain number of the second generation seedlings. As the first generation seedlings contain the tendencies of all the dominant and recessive characteristics of both parent plants, their offspring will show the recombination of these characteristics in various ways and as I have already stated, the particular combination you are seeking is bound to occur if you raise seedlings enough.

When dealing with colors you will find that crossing red with white will generally produce pinks; red with pink, reds and pinks; red with red, reds; white with pink, whites and pinks, and white with white

everything from paper white to darkest reds and yellow will appear most unexpectedly, especially in the crosses of white with white. And with respect to all characteristics, some that have lain dormant for generations are liable to reappear at any time, giving an additional zest to your work.

These brief notes have been written to explain the necessity for raising second generation seedlings. If you have become interested in the subject study some good book on heredity or genetics. Among other things you will add a number of strange new words to your vocabulary.

A HINT IN CLOSING

Every time that you grow some seedlings from a single that is in itself a cross between a single and a double you are in fact growing second generation seedlings of the original cross producing the single you are using as a parent. The tendencies for reproducing both the dominant and recessive characteristics of both parents are contained in this single flower and their combinations are almost infinite in number. Hence, if you know the parents of the single you are using, you will be able to obtain almost any combination of their characteristics by growing a sufficiently large number of seedlings exactly in the same manner as if you had made the original cross and you save a wait of from four to six years.

What is the answer? Well, it all depends upon whether you are going to make a serious study of peony breeding or just want to raise a few beautiful flowers. ★ ★ ★ ★

GROWING PEONY SEEDLINGS IN EASTERN KANSAS

Mrs. Percy W. Smith, Kansas City, Kansas, Bulletin #37

We grow peonies from seed. We gather the seeds while they are brown. If they are not gathered until they are black, they probably will not germinate for 18 months or longer. We had one seed remain in the ground for five years and then grew as lustily as though it had a long rest. After gathering the brown seed, we plant them in rows, just as we would peas, quite thick, and tramp the earth hard. They are forgotten until Spring and we will have nearly 100% germination. The first year the plants reach a height of one to two inches. We keep weeds out of the bed, just as we would with any other small plants. Next Winter we forget them again and the next Autumn take the plants from the seedbed and set them where they are to remain.

They 'grow and grow' like Mr. Finney's famous turnip, until they are four or five years from seed, when they begin to bloom and show whether they are good or bad. We have had the fun of growing the seedlings. It is very little trouble to raise peonies from seed. They require no spraying, no watering, no mulching. They are given no care except to keep the weeds out of the bed and transplant, when large enough.

POINTERS ON PLANTING AND VARIETIES TO INSURE YOUR SUCCESS THIS FALL

Henry S. Copper was born at Attica, Ind., June 10, 1858, died in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Oct. 25, 1924.

Peonies are so different from all other flowers in their method of growth that people who are used to raising annual flowers from seeds, or who are used to raising ordinary perennials, even rose garden or an old-fashioned hardy garden, are usually at a loss just how to select and plant peonies. These remarks will be intended largely for beginners, because those who have been raising peonies usually are more or less informed on the best practice.

The most remarkable fact in connection with peonies is the astounding and astonishing ignorance prevailing among flower growers as to the wonderful qualities and wonderful possibilities with peonies.

The peony is so different in almost every respect from other flowers that it is difficult to illustrate the wonderful hardiness and wonderful persistence in growth and more than all to convey an adequate idea of the wonderful beauty of the best and new varieties. This condition arises largely from the fact that so many are acquainted with the old-fashioned "Piney" of our grandmothers, and they have not yet learned that the modern peony is in almost no respect the same as or similar to the old-fashioned red "Piney."

Perhaps it is best to start off by saying that the herbaceous peony, which is what we are now discussing, originated in northern China and Siberia. It therefore is absolutely hardy and it seems to be more and more hardy as you go north into Canada clear up to the place where flowers are no longer grown. Peonies are raised in Alaska where the summer season is extremely short and where it is by some supposed that the ground never thaws out excepting on the surface. The reader, therefore, will readily recognize why it is so difficult to compare the peony with other flowers, because with the peony the question of hardiness against frost is absolutely not worth consideration and with every other flower this is one of the very first considerations. It follows, therefore, that for the north there is no flower that can compare in adaptability to the climate. Then again the peony will stand all kinds of abuse. I have dug peony roots and left them on top of the ground more than sixty days in September and October, which are the most trying months, without damage to the roots which grew readily when planted. Peony roots, of course, dry out in the hot sun, and in the hot wind, but when they are dry they can be put into a tub of water over night which will swell out the roots to their original shape and upon being planted they seem to be not harmed in the least.

Then to go to the opposite extreme, I have known peony roots

to lie on top of the ground all through the winter and also in places where they are protected by drifts of snow, and the eyes would swell out in the spring, and if the root was planted it would successfully grow. It seems, therefore, that within reason abuse from heat or from cold, does not seem adverse or to affect the growth of peony roots if properly planted. It is seen, therefore, that there is absolutely no other flower that can be compared with peonies in these respects, absolute hardiness to frost and the rugged determination to withstand and overcome abuse. It would be easy for us to imagine what would happen to roses, to dahlias, or almost any other flower one can think of if the roots were treated as I have described. If, since the peony is absolutely hardy, if it is almost impossible to kill it and if, in addition to these wonderful qualities, it possesses the quality of the most beautiful flower possible to raise in the northern climate, does it not seem that it deserves the reputation it is rapidly earning, namely "The King of Flowers," where the rose has so long claimed to be "The Queen"?

Those who have never seen the improved peonies, which includes peonies introduced within the last twenty years, have no conception of the wonderful beauty and wonderful fragrance of this beautiful flower. In fact, they range from the purest waxy or milky white to the various shades of cream, flesh, shell pink to the many shades of red even to the variety Mons. Cahuzac which has been called the black peony. In size it is not unusual for them to be six, seven or eight inches in diameter while unusual blooms even exceed this in size. Many of them also have a depth of bloom of four to six inches. We find them self colored in the various shades as well as in combinations and graduations of the most exquisite tints. In addition to size and color of bloom, many peonies have a most delightful fragrance bearing the odor of the rose, of the water lily, there seems to be a peony with every delightful fragrance.

Having started with what is known as a division of roots having two to five eyes or sprouts, one should plant it so that the eyes will be not less than two inches and not more than three inches under the grade line of the soil. Now as to the soil, clay soil is the best soil for peonies as in clay soil they will be more healthy and the flowers will have a better or stronger color.

But any soil should be made quite rich to start with because peonies live so many years without moving. The soil should be made as rich as what you could call a rich garden soil. There is a possibility of overdoing the enriching of the soil. Well rotted barnyard compost is the ideal fertilizer. No fresh barnyard manure should be used. Bone meal is an excellent fertilizer. Peonies need lime and potash in moderate supplies. The deeper and more thoroughly the ground is stirred and prepared in advance, the better results in the way of large flowers. You can plant peonies almost any time and they will grow, but what you want is to get the most flowers and the

best flowers possible to which end you should plant between the first of September and the time when the ground freezes up in the fall. The earlier you plant after the first of September the more successful you are sure to be. This is the reason: When peonies have finished blooming in June, they start at once to make new eyes or buds or sprouts on the top of the roots which will be new stems for the following year. As soon as they have made these new sprouts, they rest. The old leaves begin to look as though they had done their duty and were ready to discontinue their work as soon as frost comes. The roots also seem to ripen and take a rest in August. When, however, the fall rains begin, they put out a lot of new fibrous roots which is the way the plant gets ready to start as early as possible in the spring after the frost has gone out of the ground. Now if you buy your new roots and plant them soon after the first of September, they will have time to make these new roots in the fall, and you will gain almost a year in results; because, if planted very late in the fall, the roots will lie idle and will have to wait to make the new roots the following spring. And while they are waiting to start the new roots, you are losing the opportunity for the early spring growth. I always advise ordering early and planting as early as possible after September first.

Right here I might say that it is a great mistake ordinarily to take up large clumps of peony roots and replant them. It is very seldom indeed that they ever give satisfaction. A large clump of roots when it must be moved should be taken up September first, the roots divided and then planted to make several new plants out of one. The method of dividing I cannot explain here for lack of space.

Now while on this subject of planting, let me say that it is absolutely fatal to peonies to be planted where the roots will stand in wet soil. They will not stand for wet feet. Then again putting fresh barnyard manure against the roots of peonies is also fatal.

Now a word on the subject of varieties:

There are many peonies that have been in cultivation for many, many years for which reason they have been multiplied and have become so plentiful that they can be had for very reasonable prices. These peonies that have been under cultivation for so many years are usually very dependable and many of them delightfully beautiful. Take Festiva Maxima for instance. It was introduced in 1851, some seventy years ago [article written in 1922] and it is acknowledged to this day to be one of the finest peonies ever introduced. It is plentiful and can be bought at a very reasonable price. There are a number in this class which are known as the commercial cut flower varieties, because they are used by growers who produce them for the cosmopolitan cut flower markets. This is a business by itself, some firms devoting hundreds or more acres to the production

of cut flowers. It stands to reason that they will tolerate no varieties but such as are very dependable, healthy and strong, that produce large crops of bloom every year, and that are not too high in price because it would take an almost fabulous amount of wealth to plant hundreds of acres of the highest priced varieties.

After one has become accustomed to growing peonies, it is certain that they will not be satisfied with anything but the very finest. There is something about growing of peonies that leads one quickly to become enthusiastic about them and you would be surprised to know how many people belong to the American Peony Society who travel hundreds of miles every year to attend the annual peony show that is staged by the society in different cities.

When you are at one of these shows, you will wonder how so many people can talk so much about peonies. But when you come to get acquainted with peonies and get to realize the difference between them as well as the wonderful grace and beauty of the flower, the exquisite odors together with the hardiness of this flower, you will be ready with the "fans" to concede that the peony excels all other flowers in the north in yield of bloom and dependability, grace, beauty and fragrance.

One of the first questions usually asked me is: "What are those bags for?" I usually select the very best and strongest stems with the best buds. These I disbud by taking off the lateral buds, leaving only the terminal ones. Then I take paper bags and put them over the bud fastening them on with a rubber band. This I leave over the buds to protect them from the sun and the weather, and that is the way that the flowers are protected if they are intended to be shown at the peony shows, because ordinarily one wants to take his nicest flowers as far as possible for exhibition. It looks odd to see paper bags on the peonies, but this is the only way we have of caring for those that we wish to cut later on for show.

The next: "Do you cut the peonies off when they are through blooming?" The answer is do not cut them off until the ground is frozen up in the fall. Then cut them off and burn them up. This is to prevent any possible spread of disease.

Another question: "Why don't my peonies blossom?" If your plants are three years or older, they should blossom unless there is something radically wrong with the plant. The roots may be diseased, or the soil not rich enough to support the growth and blossom of a large plant. Sometimes the plants need water if the season is dry before blooming time. If the plants are five years old, without having blossom, it is better to dig them up and try again with good healthy plants divided to the proper size and planted in the fall. I am often asked: "Why do not my peonies have such large flowers as yours?" The answer to this is undoubtedly the question of soil and soil preparation. My recommendation is that all fer-

tilizer, preferably good rotted manure, should be put in the sub-soil about two feet below the surface. To prepare in this way, the top soil of one foot deep should be thrown out of the trench. The manure should then be thrown into the trench and mixed thoroughly in the sub-soil so as to loosen it and fill it full of humus. The one foot of the soil can then be thrown back and fertilized with bone meal and the thorough cultivation and water should be relied upon for results.

Then there is another interesting thing that I have noted which is that those who come while the early peonies are in bloom select and buy early varieties, as they cannot believe that mid-season or late varieties can be nearly as beautiful as those they have seen. Then those who visit the grounds later when the late varieties are in blossom, order all late varieties, because they in turn cannot believe that the early varieties are more beautiful than the ones they see in blossom at the time they visit the grounds.

—Henry S. Cooper

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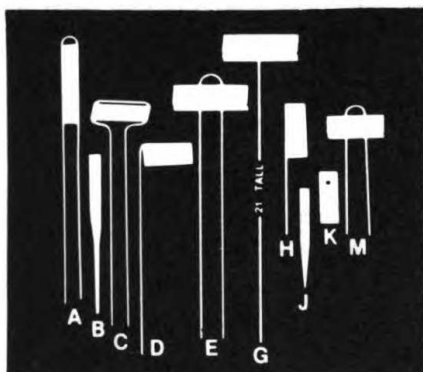
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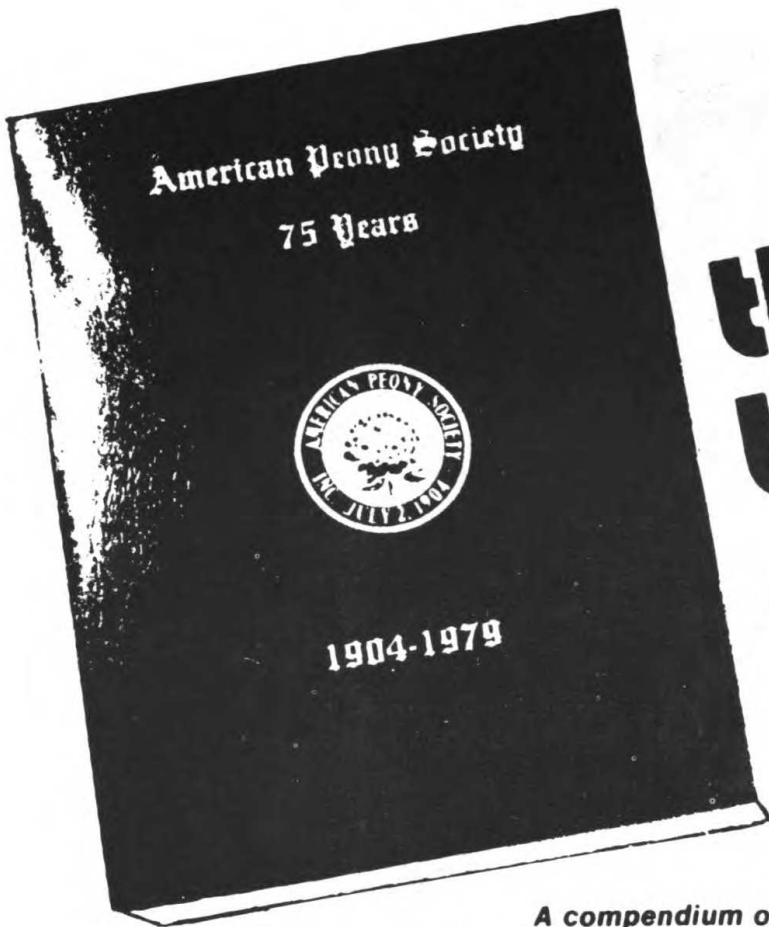
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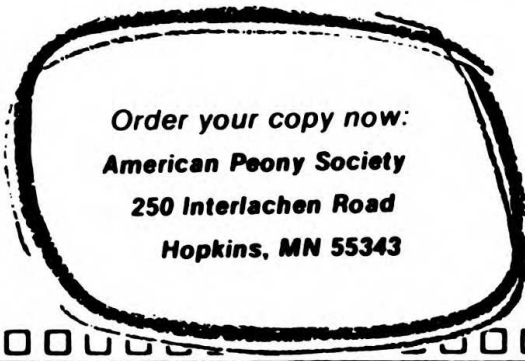
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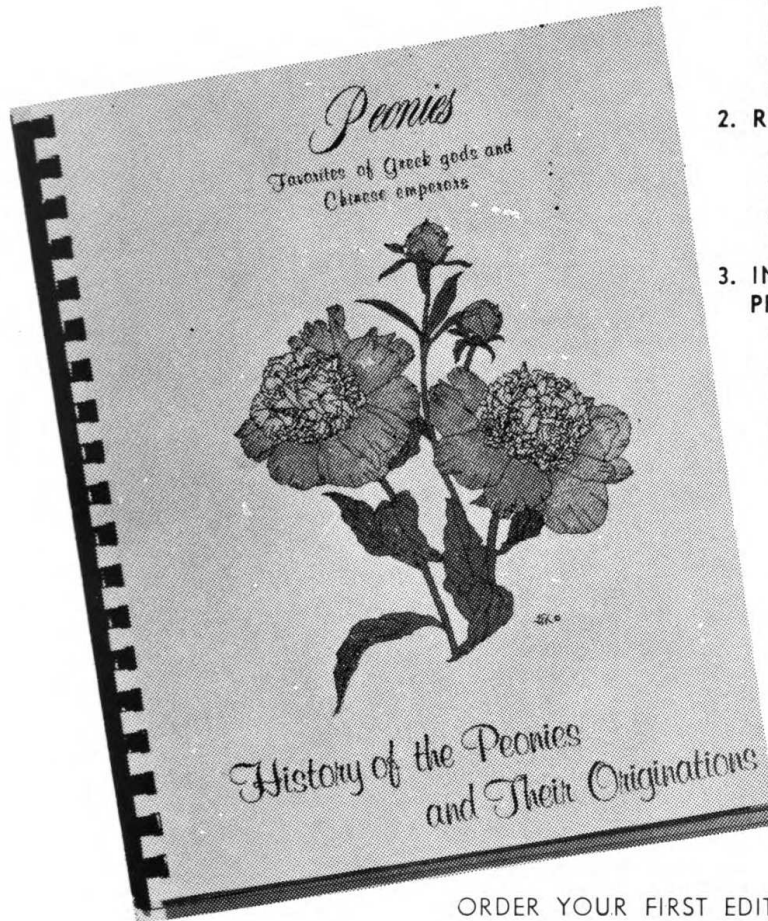
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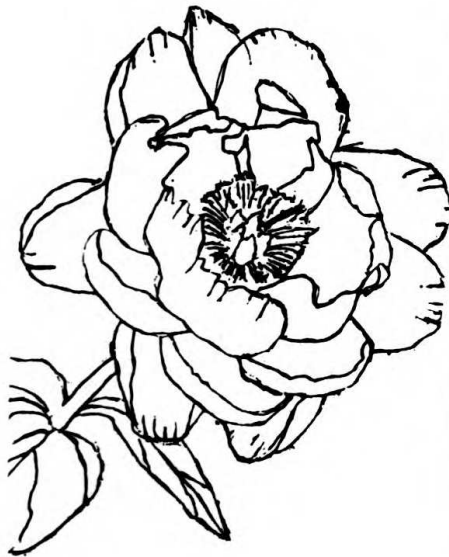
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