

Life Sci.

JUNE 2001  
NO. 318



# The American Peony Society Bulletin

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Royal Carriage

**Royal Carriage Tree Peony**  
**167/2**

*(See page 7)*

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

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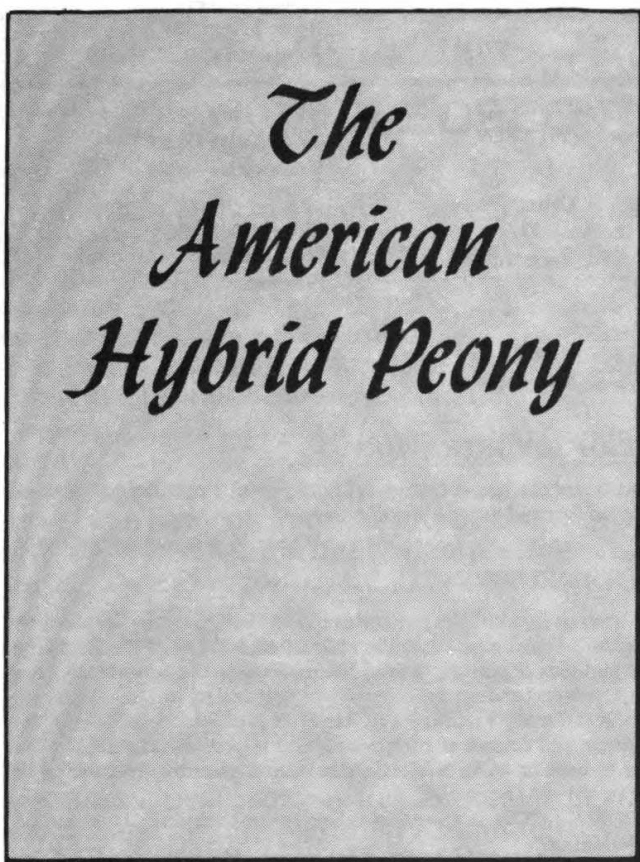
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**DEPT. OF REGISTRATION**

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 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 Family Triennial.....27.50  
Single Triennial.....20.00 Life Membership .....300.00  
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For those who wish to further support the Society, the following special memberships are available.

Contributing .....\$25.00 Supporting .....\$100.00  
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# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

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June 2001 — No. 318

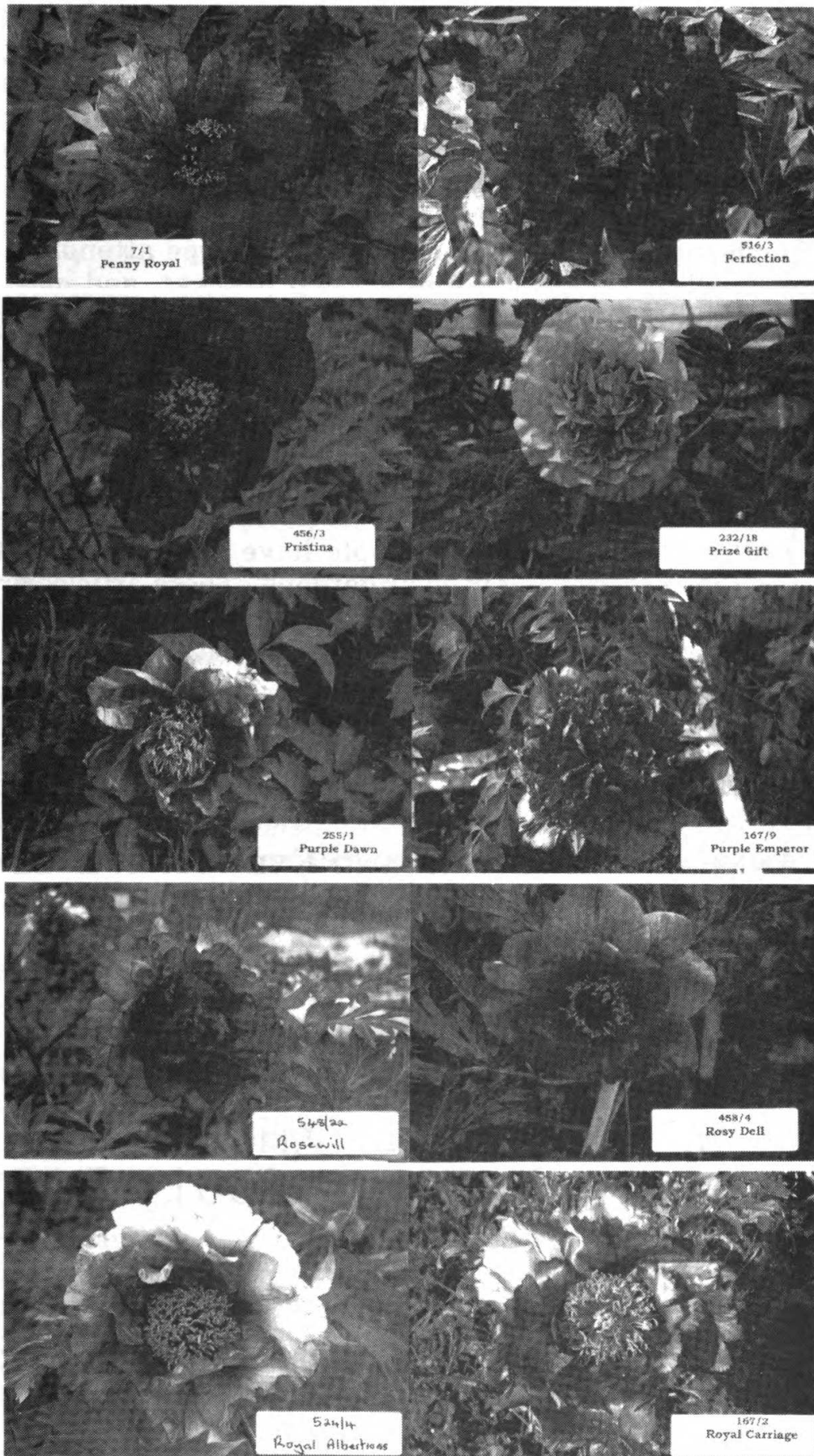
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

The American Hybrid Peony .....	1
Officers and Directors .....	2
Table of Contents .....	3
Tree peony seedlings registered .....	4
Tree peony seedlings registered .....	5
President's Message / Convention Dates .....	6
Auction and Announcements .....	7
Obituary .....	8
Letters.....	8-9
Peony Fragrance .....	10-15
Years of Herbaceous Peonies—Kent Crossley .....	16-17
Single Type Peonies / What is Composting.....	18
Growing Tree Peonies .....	18-19
Tree Peony Suggestions.....	19-20
Anemonie Type Peonies .....	20
Wanted: Special peonies—Hans Hansen, Waseca, MN .....	21
The Mystery of the Seed—Submitted by Myron Bigger .....	21-22
Tree Peony Registrations.....	22-28
and photos .....	28-29
Registration, tree peony—Rick Rogers .....	30
Peonies Yard to Yard—Harold Entsminger, Cutbank, MT .....	30-31
Preparation and Storage of Show Peonies—Harry F. Little, IN .....	32-35
Garden Gallery—Harold Entsminger, Cutbank, MT.....	35
Year 2001—Traveling West over the Old Peony Trail	
—Harold Entsminger, Cutbank, MT.....	36
Linwood Tree Peony Festival	
—Saunders, Gratwick and Daphnis Hybrids .....	37
Advertising .....	38-48

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





## Presidents Message

Spring is here...or is it? Writing this message at the end of March is not the time to be thinking of spring in Minnesota. Right now at our winter home in the Southwest, our temperatures have been hovering at the 80-degree mark, but my neighbor in Minnesota tells us our driveway is still covered with snow. With a late spring we may be faced with having only a few hybrids available for the show in Canada in June.

For many years my wife and I have enjoyed attending the American Peony Society exhibition and banquet, and meeting old friends that we get to see but once a year. It was only a few years ago that the Society had its show in Canada, and it proved to be a wonderful location. The Royal Botanical Gardens are beautiful, and we look forward to visiting them again this year.

The best thing to do during the winter months is to work on our garden charts and wish lists. Look through past issues of the Bulletin and read what people have written about the peonies they are growing in their gardens. These articles are a big help in learning characteristics and growing habits of varieties being shown in various parts of the country.

Good luck at the APS show.

Floyd E. Kimball



### **ANNUAL CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION 2002**

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, Wisconsin

June 8-9

—Roger Anderson and Roy Klehm



### **CONVENTION & EXHIBITION JUNE 8, 9, 10, 2001**

American Peony Society and the  
Canadian Peony Society (Ontario Region)

Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada



# The Auction

This year the auction could be a joint effort of the APS and the CPS. Proceeds from donations by APS members would go to the APS and from CPS members to the CPS. Joint members may note on the card who is to get the proceeds. Cross border sales have become costly to the donors as they have to pay for the phyto certificate inspection. This may be alleviated by having the shipments handled by a Canadian and a United States nursery who can ship them across the border in bulk on one Phyto each. This, I understand has been agreed to by the Board. Canadian roots for shipment to purchasers in the U.S. would be sent to Frankford nursery who would have them inspected and shipped in bulk to a designated address in the U.S. who would ship the individually addressed parcels to the buyer. The U.S. nursery would receive parcels from U.S. donors sold to Canadians, have them inspected and ship them in bulk to Frankford nurseries who will ship them to the buyers.

Ken Clare has offered to handle the Canadian side.

Dr. Kent Crossley, New Peony Farm Nursery will assist in the handling of the shipments of the American Peony Society.

*The auction will be a joint meeting after the banquet. The APS business meeting always held at this time will be deferred until Madison, Wisconsin in June 2002. The Board of Directors meeting will be held on Sunday morning following, at 8:00 am. Room designated by John Simkins.*



Over 200 varieties of tree peonies are registered in this Bulletin. All of the seed came from the work of Bill Seidl, Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Over a period of 15 years he has been sending seed to Derek Irvine in New Zealand. An album has been sent here showing every flower in addition to registration data. Mr. Irvine has just sold his collection to Jane and Trevor Sutherland because of labor problems. The flowers on the front and back of this Bulletin are from this collection. (Also pages 4-5, 28-29).



# Harris Olsen

## 1922—2001

Harris Olsen, a long time APS member from Birmingham, Michigan, had an insatiable appetite for gardening and for flowers of any and every kind. His “business card” and license plate both bore the moniker “Mr. Daylily;” and indeed, among plants, *Hemerocallis* was Harris’ favorite genus. *Pæonia*, however, ran a very close second; and the superb peony plantings he established and maintained for many years, first at the Congregational Church of Birmingham and later at the Detroit Zoological Park, have long been well known, appreciated and greatly enjoyed by the public. The peonies were only one of several specialty and mixed perennial beds he established on the church grounds, but for over two decades they have ushered in the new gardening season with a fanfare of color and fragrance unrivaled by any of the others. Unquestionably, the grandest sight yielded by these remarkable gardens appears fleetingly each May as the huge, exquisite tree peony **Harris Olsen** comes into full flower. This extraordinary plant emerged as an open pollinated seedling among the many named varieties which comprise the planting; but it almost certainly derives from the nearby **Rocks**, to which a striking resemblance is borne, save for the pink/lavender primary color in lieu of white. Intensely dark purple flares contribute significantly to its great beauty. **Harris Olsen** is pictured on the back cover of the September, 1998 APS Bulletin. Several years ago scions were sent to Reath’s Nursery, and it was later reported that several grafts had taken successfully. One can only hope that in the years to come this most splendid tree peony can be made available to grace the gardens of many people in many places in many lands.

Harris was a very generous person and one who never tired of...indeed who reveled in...proselytizing on behalf of his beloved horticultural treasures. He was gregarious...very much a “people person,” and was greatly loved. There are many fine gardeners who are indebted to him for invaluable inspiration, information and the material wealth of his labors. He will be sorely missed. —Charlie Kroell



## Letters

The most fragrant of peonies, in my garden last year, was the “unknown” one which was here on the property, which I think is probably **Jules Elie**. (I have ordered additional plants of **Jules Elie** for comparison, to make the identification sure, since photos in books vary.) Also, **Festiva Maxima** was very fragrant last year, a fragrance similar to some of the more old fashioned roses.

Fragrance on peonies, in my garden, seems to vary in intensity from year to year. I don’t know whether this has to do with the length of dormancy, temperature and humidity at time of bloom, or just what factors come into play, but it is variable between good years and bad, somehow.

I now have plants of **Edulis Superba** too, but they were not mature enough to flower last year. I have read descriptions of the fragrance as “rose scented” or “intense old rose scent,” etc.

—John M. Hart, Spokane, WA

### *Peony Magnetism*

This is the third year that my peony garden will be on the friends of the Farmington library garden tour. The tour consists of ten local gardens. It seems that the garden visitors cannot get enough of my 169 peonies, many of which cannot be found anywhere else. These are not your standard pink, red, and white.

Hopefully the weather man will accommodate. Last years visitor count was three hundred.

—Walter Kulas, Farmington, CT

---

I love peonies. And as an organic chemist of a former generation, I learned to sniff things. (They don't sniff anymore.) So fragrance is very important to me in flowers, especially peonies. **Edulis Superba** is all of the best for fragrance—I had one for many years in southern Indiana where we used to live. Loved it.

My **Miss America** (sent you a photo a couple of years ago) is also a very fragrant peony, though I don't know that it has that registration. Smells wonderful after dark when it's cool outside, then smells a little differently in the day's warmth.

Enjoy the coming blooming season. Regards,

—John Lawson, Wallingford, CT

---

#### To the American Peony Society Bulletin

As a first generation peony grower with nothing but a claim that the peony is my favorite flower, I ordered my first peony plants from Reath's Nursery in 1995. I ordered **Ella Christiansen**, **Florence Nichols** and **Mons Jules Elie** and they threw in **Mothers Choice**.

Living in Sutter Creek in California's Gold County I thought this climate would suit nature's little powder puffs. I began spotting the plants in other gardens, and was filled with confidence.

As with most plants that are new to me, I began extensive reading: Tasha Tudor (where I first learned of Reaths) says she never puts manure on her peonies. I sat with my cup of tea and her garden book, admiring her robust gallery of my favorite flower. The next book I read recommended using manure. I still have not put manure on them, but am going to try it this year.

In 1996 I joined The American Peony Society. It seemed out of my league, but I tore out a page and underlined a bit of wisdom and filed it in my peony file.

Year one no blooms, but the plants looked good. I didn't really expect any flowers.

I watched their leaves turn brown year after year in the fall and shrivel to the ground. Year three, this is it. Surely I will get a bloom. My husband said to me "if you don't get a bloom soon, they're going to take back your membership in The American Peony Society." I was not about to give up.

Friends sent me articles on peonies, and I continued to nurture these plants and try to talk to locals about peonies. Most people asked me for information and where to order peonies. I gave them both Reath's and Klehms.

One morning in year four I went into the garden after having been out of town, and there in all its glory, was one **Mon Jules Elie**. I had read that one shouldn't pick the first bloom. What a lesson in self-control. I sat on the earth next to it, inhaled its sweet distinctly peony fragrance, touched its fluffy face, and felt like a California Kook worshipping at the foot of the sacred peony altar. I did not pick the flower, but visited often.

Two peony bushes died, and the third had black spot, but my one blossom propelled me onward.

Year five, resulted in a bumper crop. One bush, a **Sarah Bernhardt** I had purchased at a local nursery, produced three blooms and my old reliable **Mon Jules Elie** produced three blooms.

I've been told peonies can last one hundred years, so I believe I have time and will continue to tend my pals.

—Elizabeth Fraccia, CA

We have continually been asked about fragrance and for a list of fragrant peonies available. The following is the result of our research, beginning with information in 1906. Over a period of time, we have asked for your list of fragrant peonies. Some lists were received and all were tabulated.

## PEONY FRAGRANCE

(From "A Manual" written by C. S. Harrison about 1906)

This is most remarkable, on account of its wide diversity. These flowers emit their delicate perfume just as the buds open; after that it is not as pronounced. Around one there floats the perfume of the violet. The genuine **Humei**, besides that glorious bloom of varnished pink, sends out a cinnamon odor. Many add the perfume of the rose to the effulgent bloom. One has the delicate aroma of the heliotrope. Another has the form and fragrance of the pond lily. Let all these emanations blend in one great wave of perfume, and billows of it seem to hang in the air and float around you.



### *Peony Fragrance*

*Prof. A. P. Saunders*

During the past season I made a careful study of my collection with a special view to the question of fragrance; and I offer as a result the following rather tentative remarks:

There are four distinguishable types of odor in peonies, for which I shall use the names Rose, Honey, Lemon and Bitter.

1. The rose fragrance is that which would commonly be recognized as the natural odor of the peony. It approaches the odor of a June rose, and in some cases closely resembles it. This type of fragrance exists very strongly in **Edulis Superba**, **Gigantea**, **Venus**, **Milton Hill** and in many whites, notably in **Baroness Schroeder**, **Mme. de Verneville**, **Le Cygne** and **Festiva Maxima**.

2. The honey odor characterizes those peonies with bright yellow central petals; most markedly in **Philomele** and **Candidissima**, two of the most highly scented of all peonies. I have always called this a honey odor, but was confirmed in the designation by overhearing a lady at the New York show this year exclaim as she sniffed a vase of **Philomele**, "Why, it smells just like honey!"

3. The lemon odor is a peculiar aromatic and fruity smell, disagreeable to some in freshly opened flowers, but becoming more acceptable as the flowers mature. It would seem to accompany those blooms that have a mixture of salmon and pink central petals; but perhaps not all of them.

4. The bitter odor of most stamen bearing flowers is generally considered disagreeable when the blooms are young and the odor is at its strongest. This odor is sometimes, and appropriately, called "soapy." Almost all singles possess it in an unmitigated form, espe-

cially the single reds, in many of which it is quite repulsive. In the more double varieties, as **James Kelway**, **Mme. A. Dessert**, **La Tulipe**, **M. Martin Cahuzac**, the odor is much less marked than in the singles, and it grows fainter as the blooms get older, so that it is not infrequently pronounced agreeable in flowers that have been open for some days. To me it is never better than indifferent.

The line of demarcation between these types of odor is not tightly drawn, but if characteristic examples of each be taken, the difference is manifest enough.

I hope this attempted classification may bring comment, amplification or protest from such of our members as lead a vivid olfactory existence.



Excerpts from an article:

## **"Rose Scented Fragrant Peonies"**

*by H. G. Reading, Franklin, Pennsylvania, Bulletin #24*

**(Peonies in this article can be purchased today, except Mlle. Rousseau)**

Probably the earliest peony to bloom having pronounced rose fragrance is **Edulis Superba**. This grand old deep pink variety meets every qualification demanded of a first-class peony and is not to be despised merely because it is cheap in price. I have bought many a high priced novelty that does not surpass it, and surely none is more reliable.

Blooming a little later, and with the rose odor even more strongly impregnated is **Madame de Verneville**, another old-time favorite; white, with occasional tips of crimson similar to **Festiva Maxima**. One or two blooms of this variety will fill a room with the delicious perfume like that of the priceless attar of roses. Unfortunately for the popularity of this peony, it is woefully weak in substance. Following **Madame de Verneville** we have **Mlle. Rousseau**, a splendid cut flower variety, sulphur-white with pinkish flesh-colored center; a free bloomer; rose fragrance strong and pleasing.

Another peony that surprised me very agreeably is **Archie Brand**. This massive peony not only has true rose fragrance very strong, but it has such wonderful substance that the fine pink blooms last nearly a week after being cut. **Frances Willard** is another of the Brand peonies that appeals very strongly on account of having every characteristic desired of a peony by the most critical connoisseur.

M. Crousse must have been delighted when he first beheld a bloom of **La Perle**. To have created such a gem as this one would be honor a-plenty for anyone. A number of years ago in the *Peony Bulletin* No. 1, I read Mr. Engle's interesting article on "*Growing Peonies for Cut Flowers*," and was impressed with this paragraph: "I am still on the lookout for an ideal peony, a plant of good growing habit, fine in bud and mature flower, a good keeper, odor good XXX, color good, and a bud that will open well after being cut. **La Perle** comes about

as near this ideal as any I have tested." I have always felt indebted to Mr. Engle for this introduction. I have been planting **La Perle** every year since, and I am pleased to note that its merits are becoming more and more appreciated as it becomes better known. **La Perle** is now usually found in the prize-winning groups at the annual shows.



## Peony Fragrance

*Edw. Auten, Jr., Princeville, IL, Bulletin #75*

There are many conflicting statements made in regard to fragrance of peonies. This, I believe, is because very few people have a sense of smell wholly unimpaired. Some cannot smell at all, others have an impaired sense, but do not know it is impaired. Obviously, no one is competent to judge unless his sense is perfect.

To a person with full sense of smell, the odor of the stamens of a peony bloom is strong and offensive. Some people say they like the odor of the singles, but I am almost certain their sense is impaired. I do not believe any single peony should be credited with *agreeable* fragrance, nor any semi-double that has many stamens. Some claim that a semi-double may have rose fragrance along with the strong odor of the stamens. I am not sure of that! If anyone says **Darkness** and **Marguerite Dessert** are fragrant, they probably have an impaired sense of smell. And I would say that *all* singles are *disagreeably* fragrant.

There are two types of bloom which we call "Jap;" "typical," like **Mikado**, with narrow center petaloids with swollen edges, the swollen parts yellow and containing enclosed pollen. This type, which includes **Nippon Beauty**, I believe is seldom, if ever, fragrant. The other, the "Anemone type" Jap, is a bit further away from the single form than the "typical" Jap. The narrow petaloids do not have the swollen edges, and usually are all one color, or nearly so. These are often fragrant.

It is not possible to draw a distinct classification between the Anemone type Japs and the regular Anemone type doubles—they merge so gradually. The regular Anemone type has probably the largest proportion of its varieties rose fragrant than any other type of bloom. Next would be the full doubles; and there are more whites fragrant than any other color.

Peony blooms may have the disagreeable odor from stamens, they may have no odor, they may have what I call the typical Peony fragrance. **Umbellata Rosea** is an example. Then a few have a slight odor somewhat akin to that from newly cured red clover hay. And then those that I call really fragrant, those with the fragrance of the old fashioned June blooming double roses, and others with true tea rose fragrance.



# FRAGRANT PEONIES

*James Mason, Chicago, IL, Sept. 1940*

A neighbor gave me all his **Mikado** because he couldn't stand the odor. His word for it was something else, and you know **Mikado** do not need three guesses. The American Peony Society's manual says "*disagreeable*."

But you may be most interested in the fragrant varieties to put in vases or to cut for friends. Here is a list of fragrant peonies which will cost up to 15 or 20 dollars each:

A.B.C. Nicholas	Mme. de Verneville
A. B. Franklin	Mrs. Frank Beach
Alice Harding	Mrs. J. V. Edlund
Anna Sass	Myrtle Gentry
Asa Gray	Nina Secor
Autens Pride	Oliver F. Brand
Ball O' Cotton	Philippe Rivoire
Blanche King	Queen of Hamburg
Dr. J. H. Neeley	President Coolidge
Duchesse de Nemours	Richard Carvel
Edulis Superba	Splendida
Grace Batson	Tourangelle
Hansina Brand	Venus
Katherine Havemeyer	Lillian Gumm
Martha Bulloch	

## A DIFFERENCE IN NOSES

There seems to be some disagreement among writers of catalogs as to the degree of fragrance for **Philippe Rivoire**. Yet, if you placed a bouquet of that flower in your home or office, the perfume would fill the room with a pleasant aroma.

The same is true for any of the varieties in the list above. There are but two full double red peonies in this list. The reason I omit others is because I have not sniffed them.

It is interesting that there are amateurs and professionals who pay little attention to fragrance, though it seems obvious that **Philippe Rivoire** is still at a premium after 27 years of propagation, because it is fragrant. **Kelway's Glorious** will bring a good price per root for a long time, no doubt, because it gives so much rose-like fragrance with its beautiful bloom. **Kelway's Glorious** has been on the market since 1909 and still is in about the same price bracket as **Philippe Rivoire**, which was introduced in 1911. Both of these came from across the Atlantic. What have our own originators offered to match them in fragrance? Plenty. The best flower (best bloom—**Mrs. A. M. Brand**, and best white—**Mrs. J. V. Edlund**) in the 1940 national show is a fragrant American one. That honor will always go to a peony with a pleasant odor if the judges are instructed to count 10% for fragrance. About two-thirds of the peonies on this list were produced by our American originators. It is not a complete list.

## FRAGRANCE AND VARIETY

There is ample opportunity for anyone to have a complete peony garden of fragrant double varieties with long season of bloom. You can have quality and variety, though you demand sweet aroma from the varieties you plant.

The first blossoms in this fragrant peony garden will open early, starting with the pink double **Edulis Superba**. The season will last approximately one month and end in a grand display of **Myrtle Gentry**, **Marie Lemoine**, **President Coolidge** and **Last Rose**.

Which is my favorite? I refuse to pick one. But I'll confess that I am looking for something which I hope to find some day. I'm looking for a larger and darker **Philippe Rivoire**, a peony similar in color to **Mons Martin Cahuzac** with a fragrance like the pleasant odor which I find in every pretty bloom of **Mrs. Frank Beach**, **Kelway's Glorious** or **Edulus Superba**.



### FRAGRANT PEONIES AS OBSERVED BY OUR MEMBERS 1996

*(All the peonies are available today)*

#### STRONG FRAGRANCE

Edulis Superba	Vivid Rose	Frances Willard
Red Charm	Longfellow	Missie's Blush
Mrs. J. V. Edlund	Chestine Gowdy	Ball O' Cotton
Doris Cooper	Ella Christiansen	Dr. J. H. Neeley
Festiva Maxima	Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt	Lillian Gumm
Ann Cousins	Doreen	Myrtle Gentry
Mons Jules Elie	Pink Lemonade	Mandeleen
Florence Nicholls	Karl Rosenfeld	Hargrove Hudson
Kelway's Glorious	Georgiana Shaylor	A. B. Franklin
Martha Bullock	Lois Kelsey	Primevere
White Cap	Moonstone	La Perle
Phillip Rivoire	Isani Gidui	Mrs. Livingston
Dr. J. H. Neeley	Cora Stubbs	Farrand
Richard Carvel	Miss America	Frankie Curtis
Blanche King	Hansina Brand	Krinkled White

#### LIGHT FRAGRANCE

Bowl of Cream	Princess Margaret	Dorothy J.
Raspberry Sundae	Sylver	Do Tell
Norma Volz	Gay Paree	Pillow Talk
Pico		

\*\*\* There are many more fragrant peonies not listed here. When the peonies bloom, check for fragrance—send us your observation regarding the fragrance, and names of the peonies.





## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIAL REGIONS

ALABAMA  
GEORGIA  
MISSISSIPPI  
LOUISIANA

Water must be supplied if not sufficient rain. Two-year plants may give better results than smaller ones. Eyes should be not more than one-inch below the surface. Success is doubtful south of the latitude of Montgomery, Alabama. Tree peonies may succeed much farther South even into Northern Florida. Try them.

NEW MEXICO  
ARIZONA

In sections with a similar climate, all kinds of peonies seem to do well. However, abundant water is necessary and should be supplied when rains are scarce. In the sections where frost is only occasional, peonies will grow at the higher altitudes quite well, even as far down as the Mexican border. High heat will hinder the opening of the full double, late varieties. To force dormancy in the warmer areas, water should be withheld from about September 1 to October 15, and the herbaceous varieties cut to the ground.



### FRAGRANT PEONIES

#### EXCERPTS FROM WRITINGS OF PAST BULLETINS

*James Mason, Chicago, Illinois*

Mr. Karrels of Milwaukee wrote me a letter saying many nice things about fine peonies, but one sentence sticks in my memory, "The most fragrant were **Mrs. John M. Kleitch** and **Martha Bulloch**." To my nose, these varieties seem pleasant, and so does **Philippe Riviere**. We have sweet peonies named for men, and many named for women.

One variety that seems to have fragrance and pollen is Walter Faxon. In this case the fragrance is probably strong enough to overpower the "disagreeable" odor of pollen.

The reds usually lack fragrance, although **Philippe Riviere** and **Richard Carvel** have it in excellent quality. Mr. Brand has **Prairie Afire**, anemone type.

No Japs and no singles are fragrant. The pollen odor is so strong that perfume cannot be detected.

Tree peonies have fragrance similar to that of lily-of-the-valley. There are other qualities of pleasing odor in peonies.

If you take peony specimens to ten different people, at least four of them will say that the singles and semi-doubles are fragrant. This means that to some noses the odor of pollen is pleasant.

# *Years of Herbaceous Peonies*

*Kent Crossley*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Almost all of the peonies now available to American gardeners have been introduced in the years since our Society was founded. The major improvements over the last eighty-five years have been development of stronger stems and larger flowers. Varieties such as **Madylone** and **Douglas Brand** are wonderful examples of what has been achieved. Both bear very large flowers (which may be ten inches or so in diameter) on stems which are able to hold these enormous blossoms erect.

Some advances in color have occurred but most new colors (notably the corals) have been in hybrid peonies and not in lactiflo-

ras. Shades of yellow and tan lactifloras have been seen in recent years at the annual meetings. Green and blue lactifloras are said to exist in China but the evidence is not well established.

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



## SINGLE type peonies

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



## What Is Composting?

It is a simple method of following nature's way of returning to the soil many organic wastes from your garden such as grass, leaves, vegetables and the Fall trimming of your garden as you put it to bed for the Winter.

In a small garden, space may not be available to build a compost heap—it is beneficial to spade the fallen leaves in the soil as you prepare the garden for early Spring planting.

Both clay and sandy soil require additions of organic material. This would give both good drainage and water storing space. Soil is the secret of a successful garden. You have all the material it takes to make good soil by composting. These humus-forming materials are the life of the soil—they contribute to its fertility.



## GROWING THE TREE PEONIES

*by Elizabeth Seymour Rawlinson, Staunton, VA*

Cultivation of the tree peony is a real test of a gardening skill, according to some persons, yet occasionally we hear of a home gardener who had divided an old established clump without any difficulty, even as the herbaceous kinds are increased. However, the great-

est peril lies in the propagation and occasionally a plant fails to become established in its new location, but when the roots have taken hold, the worst is over. Then follow the glorious flowers opening ten days or more earlier than the herbaceous kinds.

September and October are the best months for transplanting tree peonies as well as the herbaceous kinds, and in soil requirements these two types do not differ greatly. The best results are obtained from trenching and thoroughly preparing the soil to a depth of two feet. If the subsoil is heavy, drainage may be necessary and sand can be added to a heavy soil to make it porous. Fill the trench with fibrous loam and good garden soil.

It is important to choose carefully the location for planting tree peonies because their hardiness is somewhat dependent upon the degree of exposure to wind and sun in early Spring. The reason is that the buds start into growth early and are, therefore, likely to be injured by late frosts. Hence, protection to the north and west against cold March blasts is necessary. Furthermore, it is best to choose the site so that the early morning sun does not shine on the plants, for buds chilled by a late frost should be allowed to thaw gradually before the sun strikes them. In fact, some gardeners prefer to grow tree peonies in partial shade. No pruning is necessary except to remove dead tips.

Care should be taken when treading the soil around the plants so as to not injure the roots. Heavy watering may be necessary if the soil is unusually dry.

Ample Winter protection must be provided north of Boston, particularly for newly-set plants, and even in milder sections of the country the shrubby tops should be covered with cloth or paper, supported by stakes in the event of a late frost. No mulch should go on until the ground is frozen. Then, tie the branches together and either wrap the plant in straw as is done with roses, or surround it with wire netting and fill in with leaves. Uncover the plants late in Spring.



## Tree Peony Suggestions

*by Austin D. Kilham, Bulletin #192*

### 1. Where to plant

In not more than one-third to one-half shade, not because the plants need the shade but to protect the flowers which fade and droop in the sun. The soil must have good water and air drainage and should be a good garden soil—not acid. Never plant where either tree or herbaceous peonies have grown because the soil is likely to be infected with *Botrytis paeoniae*.

### 2. Planting mature plants

Plant a full four (4) feet apart for permanent plants. Dig a large deep hole (2 feet deep and 3 feet wide), remove clay, be sure there is drainage, place in hole a mixture of a garden soil, woods dirt and a bushel of wet peat moss, or a small amount of sawdust. Mix into soil six full trowels of bone-meal and trowel of lime-stone or ground lime. If a number of plants are to be grown in a group the whole area should be prepared as described above.

Plant very deep—top of graft at least six inches below ground level. Water and add additional soil as needed. After ground has settled mulch lightly with leaves, sawdust or other mulch. Remove and burn dead peony leaves.

Small amounts of potash phosphate and lime and two trowels bonemeal can be added each year.

### 3. Planting 1 or 2-year grafts

Can be planted in permanent location in which case plant a full six inches below ground level even if necessary to leave hollow in ground so top bud will show above ground (not sure that it is necessary for top bud to show above ground). Plant deep so roots will develop above graft and herbaceous or tree peony root stock below graft will not “sucker.” Protect the first Winter by covering the young plants with leaves or similar mulching material.

When replanting from nursery row, cut off root-stock if a good supply of roots have developed above the graft.

### 4. Pruning

Usually only necessary to remove dead or broken branches. Mature plants can be cut to the ground in the Fall in order to force out more stems the next year.

### 5. Spraying

Botrytis paeoniae is controlled by spraying both the plant and ground with standard-strength Bordeaux Mixture—once after leaves begin to come out, and as young shoots emerge from ground; second, use same spray in two weeks and again in four weeks. If Botrytis appears (grey fungus on stems) in Spring or Summer, pull off leaves. In late Fall infection has been very heavy, be sure to remove and burn dead leaves, old mulch and nearby trash. Follow with heavy spraying of Bordeaux and replace mulch.

### 6. Shading

It is well to give blossoms temporary shade to keep the flowers from wilting and fading if not naturally shaded from the midday sun. If weather is very dry, give plants a thorough soaking every few days while in bloom.



## ANEMONE type peonies

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

To name a few, **PRIMEVERE** is a creamy white with a center of sulphur yellow. **GOLDEN DAWN** has ivory white petals with a pale yellow center. **GAY PAREE** is a beautiful two-color novelty peony. **PRAIRIE AFIRE** is a pink with fiery red petaloids. **PINK LEMONADE** is a soft blend of pink with yellow centers. **POWDER PUFF** is a pink with cream anemone bomb center.



Request for the following peony varieties, perhaps some of the readers may have some of them or know where I may purchase them.

**Waseca** (Brand, 1936) Single red.

**Eclipse** (Saunders, 1950) Maroon flowers.  
(Officinalis Rebra Plena x Coriacea)

**Green Ivory** (Saunders, 1939) Single white.  
(Lactiflora x Wittmanniana)

**Magnolia Flower** (Saunders) Mauve.  
(Lactiflora x Wittmanniana)

**Ballerina** (Saunders, 1941) Yellow-pink bomb.  
(Wittmanniana x Lady Alexandra Duff)

**Elizabeth Cahn** (Saunders, 1942) Cream single.  
(Lactiflora x Wittmanniana)

Write directly to: Hans Hansen  
15605 Snake Trail  
Waseca, MN 56093  
Phone: (507) 835-5743



## THE MYSTERY OF THE SEED

Submitted by

*Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas*

If there could have been eight wonders of the world, surely the first would have been a seed. With powers as strange as the human mind and a plan which embraces all living things, the seed concentrates in its small substance all the physical, moral and intellectual past and the future of millions of creatures.

Whether it be in the egg, the oat or the acorn, the germ of life lies concealed and dormant, hiding the history of its kind, holding the vitality of its race in store and embodying an amazing and unsolved mystery. To the chemist the seed shows starch and protein and fiber; to the farmer it foretells corn or cabbage or cocklebur; to the housewife it may mean food and to the dealer, a commodity, but to all thoughtful minds the seed is life's most miraculous manifestation.

No living thing but comes from a seed germ, no continuing species but produces seed germs and, whether the origin of all was direct from the hand of the Creator as perfect living things, or as the germs which produced them, is unknowable to human science, but is none the less a Divine masterpiece.

The clarion call of the morning rooster as he tip-toes on the fence to greet the coming day, had its origin in the egg. The rosy cheek of the apple, warmed by the sun and kissed by the dew; the moon tints of the rose, shimmering in the evening breeze or glowing in the noonday glare; the perfume of the violet, elysian in its delicate aroma and the ripening substance of the corn as it grows gold from the ground, all came from the seed which was their beginning and is their ultimate end.

Nature holds no such mystery as the seed, and creation produced no greater wonder. Down the ages man has used it as food, handled it as merchandise, planted it for his welfare, analyzed it for its substance and lived upon it and with it in intimate contact, and yet he knows nothing of

the vital principle which causes it to grow and produce its kind.

When Adam looked upon the wonders of the new-made world, his untrained eyes saw all that man now knows of the mystery of the seed. More of varieties, more of methods of harvesting, storing and planting and more of different uses for seeds have come to man down the long corridors of time, but of the mystery of life stored in a seed, he knows no more than Adam saw.

—I. D. Graham



## TREE PEONY REGISTRATIONS

*From Jane and Trevor Sutherland,  
Southern Charm Pæonies, Timaru, New Zealand*

Parentage in many cases is unknown, but all seed came from Bill Seidl, USA.

Seeds were planted over a period of 15 years. All are prolific bloomers on very strong plants that hold the bloom above the foliage.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Colour</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Seedling #</b>
<b>Adventurer</b>	Vibrant pink darkening towards centre	S	222/20
<b>Afterglow</b>	Soft pink, dark flares	S	467/6
<b>Amazing Beauty</b>	Cream base with pink edging	SD	04/2
<b>Amber Tips</b>	Light lemon with red centre and dark flares	S	188/4/2
<b>Amethyst</b>	Purple, dark flares	SD	252/1
<b>Aorangi</b>	Pale pink with prominent dark flares	S	012/7
<b>Aotearoa</b>	White with ruffled petals	D	250/7
<b>Asteroid</b>	Rose red with dark centre	SD	467/10
<b>Bellbird</b>	Lemon base with dark pink edging to petals	SD	07/3
<b>Benvenue</b>	Light yellow with red flares	S	03/2
<b>Black Shadows</b>	Reddish purple, black centre	S	455/7
<b>Blackbirds Song</b>	Dark purple	S	397/9
<b>Blaze of Glory</b>	Light lemon base with red tinges, dark centre	S	517/1
<b>Blushing Beauty</b>	Tan yellow with flushed pink edges, dark flares	S	184/3
<b>Blushing Bride</b>	Pink with dark flares	S	467/9
<b>Bonfire</b>	Pink overtones on cream, dark flares	S	524/15
<b>Bouquet</b>	Mid purple	SD	239/5
<b>Break of Day</b>	Creamy white darkening to black centre	S	07/4
<b>Bridal Elegance</b>	Pink overtones on cream	S	03/7
<b>Bridal Falls</b>	Powder pink with ruffled petals	SD	222/14
<b>Bridesmaid</b>	Mid pink	S	102/4
<b>Brigadier</b>	Cream with purple/black centre	S	238/1
<b>Bright "n"</b>			
<b>Gleaming</b>	Mid yellow, dark red centre	S	03/10/1
<b>Bright Eyes</b>	Mid yellow	S	108/1
<b>Buttercup</b>	Bright yellow	S	01/7/1
<b>Candy Floss</b>	Light pink over yellow	SD	01/4
<b>Cardinal</b>	Reddish Pink	SD	222/19



<b>Carnival</b>	Light red tinge over yellow	SD	416/2
<b>Caroline Bay</b>	Dark red	S	233/2
<b>Carousel</b>	Bright pink, dark flares	SD	416/5
<b>Cathedral Echo</b>	Light purple, black flares	SD	525/9
<b>Champagne</b>	White with pinkish tints and dark red centre	SD	534/11
<b>Charming Choice</b>	Light red tinges over yellow, dark red centre	D	523/7
<b>Cheerful Charlie</b>	Medium red tinges over light yellow, dark centre	S	516/6
<b>Cherry Rose</b>	Reddish pink with cream tint, dark flares	S	391/5
<b>Clarity</b>	Rose red, dark flares	S	182/2
<b>Classy Lady</b>	Apricot and cream	SD	524/6
<b>Cloth of Gold</b>	Bright yellow	D	227/3
<b>Comet's Path</b>	Rose red	D	222/25
<b>Comedian</b>	Reddish tinge over yellow, dark centre	S	245/1
<b>Composure</b>	Pink tint over yellow	SD	106/1
<b>Conical Hill</b>	Mid purple with dark centre	SD	548/52
<b>Constellation</b>	Variable pink	SD	548/11
<b>Coral Star</b>	Soft cream with pink tinges, ruffled petals	D	465/2
<b>Coronation</b>			
<b>Splendo</b>	Mauve with dark flares	SD	119/1
<b>Cottage Cheese</b>	Tan yellow with flushed pink edges	D	111/3
<b>Country Comfort</b>	Light mauve over cream	S	468/8
<b>Country Sunset</b>	Rose pink over cream	SD	515/5
<b>Criss Cross</b>	Pink with black flares	S	222/5
<b>Crystal Clear</b>	Very light pink, dark flares	SD	251/2
<b>Dainty</b>	Cream base with mauve tinges to petals, dark flares	S	420/2
<b>Dazzler</b>	Yellow	SD	111/4
<b>Decorator</b>	Light purple with dark flares	S	119/8
<b>Delightful</b>	Pink tinges over cream	SD	232/20
<b>Derry Dell</b>	Firey yellow with dark centre	SD	241/1
<b>Desert Gold</b>	Light cream, dark centre	S	416/9
<b>Destination</b>	Light purple, ruffled petals, dark flares	D	251/1
<b>Early Brilliance</b>	Mid yellow	SD	391/3
<b>Early Dawn</b>	Rose red	SD	103/2
<b>Esplanade</b>	Rose red, dark flares	S	233/1
<b>Evening Glow</b>	Reddish lemon yellow with dark flares	S	522/10
<b>Eventide</b>	Dark rose red	S	183/10
<b>Evered</b>	Light red, yellow tinges	SD	231/1
<b>Expectation</b>	Variable pinkish cream, reddish centre	SD	457/10
<b>Exquisite</b>	Rose red	SD	455/9
<b>Fairlie Flyer</b>	Lemon yellow, dark flares	SD	3/2/sdig
<b>Fairview</b>	Rose red	D	229/1
<b>Fancy Dress</b>	Variable pink over cream	SD	234/2
<b>Fanfare</b>	Orangy red	S	522/7
<b>Fascination</b>	Rose red over touch of cream	S	271/6
<b>Fireball</b>	Deep red	SD	457/8
<b>Firebrand</b>	Yellow with reddish base to petals	SD	182/4
<b>Firefly</b>	Bright rose red	SD	512/2
<b>Firegold</b>	Variable yellow, pink touches	SD	523/5
<b>Fireside</b>			
<b>Reflections</b>	Pink edging over cream, dark centre	S	272/1

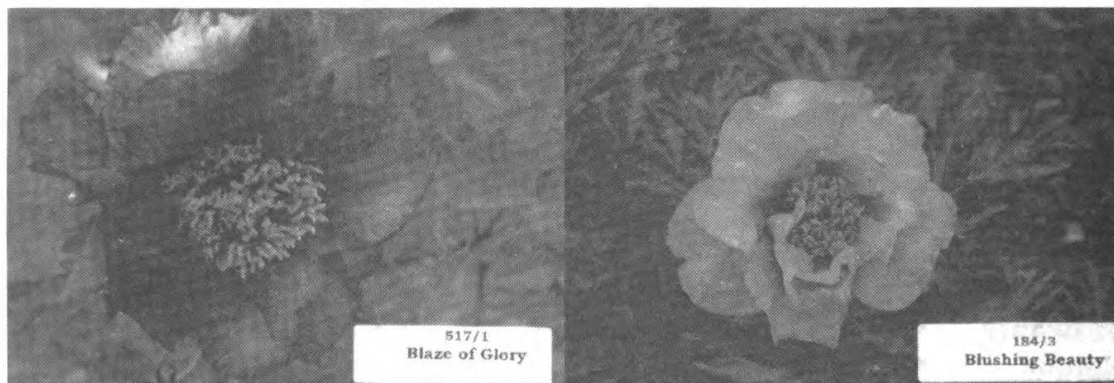
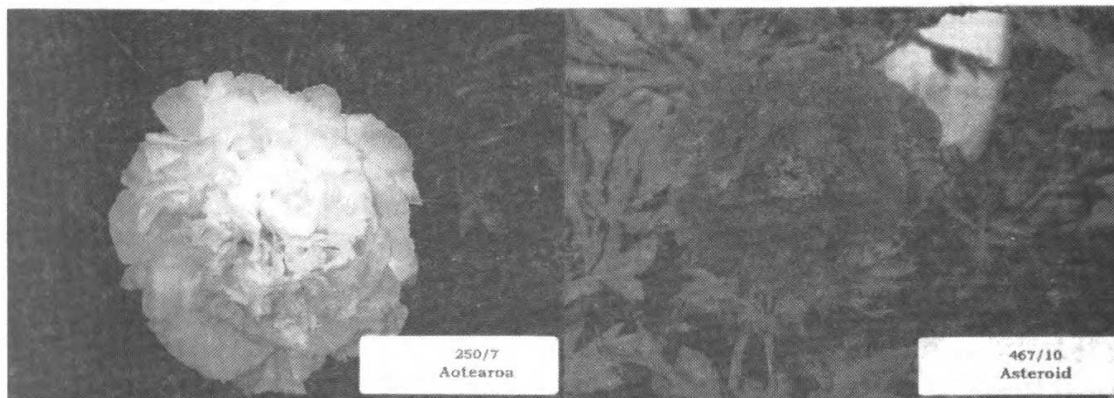
<b>Firstlight NZ</b>	Bright yellow	D	282/1
<b>Five Star</b>	Rose red over cream, dark flares	S	511/7
<b>Flaming Embers</b>	Purple touches over red and cream	S	454/6
<b>Flare</b>	Rose crimson	SD	523/4
<b>Flashlight</b>	Golden yellow with reddish centre	S	101/3
<b>Flower Chest</b>	Deep rose pink	D	274/1
<b>Focus Flare</b>	Golden yellow with dark flares tinged red	S	459/5
<b>Fortune's</b>			
<b>Triumph</b>	Dark crimson	D	548/62
<b>Frosty Jack</b>	White edging with purple centre	S	193/2
<b>Geraldine</b>	Cream base with rose red edging, dark centre	S	466/9
<b>Gleaming Gold</b>	Bright yellow	S	525/1
<b>Glowing Embers</b>	Orange over yellow	SD	465/3
<b>Gold Nugget</b>	Medium yellow with red flares darkening towards centre	D	282/2
<b>Gold Seal</b>	Light yellow red flares	SD	111/2
<b>Golden Days</b>	Light yellow, with dark centre tinged red	SD	110/1
<b>Golden Dew</b>			
<b>Drop</b>	Light yellow	S	118/2
<b>Golden Dream</b>	Bright yellow, red flares darkening towards centre	D	246/1
<b>Golden Fleece</b>	Bright yellow	D	191/1
<b>Golden Glow</b>	Dark golden yellow, red flares and slight tinge on edges	SD	239/4
<b>Golden</b>			
<b>Handshake</b>	Mid yellow with ruffled petals	D	232/19
<b>Golden Horn</b>	Mid yellow with red flares darkening to black in centre	S	184/2
<b>Golden Pleasure</b>	Mid yellow with small red flares	SD	515/6
<b>Golden Queen</b>	Light yellow with red flares	S	468/2
<b>Goldfish Sheen</b>	Rose edging over golden yellow	S	548/27
<b>Goodwill</b>	Rose pink with litish tones	SD	103/3
<b>Grand Beauty</b>	Dark rose red	D	233/4
<b>Grandma's Hat</b>	Dark red	S	520/3
<b>Gratitude</b>	Orangy creamy pink with red edges to petals	S	232/11
<b>Guest of Honour</b>	Pink and cream	D	110/8
<b>Happiness</b>	Orangy pink and cream	S	183/5
<b>Harbour Lights</b>	Rose red with dark flares	S	227/2
<b>Harmony</b>	Golden yellow with small light red flares	S	101/4
<b>Heidi Ho</b>	Cream and pink with red flares	S	03/6
<b>Helter Skelter</b>	Light purple dark flares	SD	525/5
<b>High Noon</b>	Bright yellow	S	227/5
<b>High Water</b>	Light purple dark flares	SD	456/11
<b>Highly</b>			
<b>Decorated</b>	Rose pink	D	222/23
<b>Honeycomb</b>	Tan yellow	SD	548/60
<b>Hopeful</b>	Light purple darkening towards centre	SD	119/4
<b>Illumination</b>	Bright yellow with reddish tones	S	110/12
<b>Indomitable</b>	Rose purple over cream	SD	222/15
<b>Jacks Point</b>	Light purple over cream	S	468/5
<b>Jasmine</b>	Light and dark rose	SD	182/1
<b>Jasper</b>	Light pink with dark red flares	SD	119/10
<b>Jingle Bells</b>	Tan yellow pink tinge to petals	SD	232/13
<b>Jolly Good</b>	Reddish pink	S	293/11

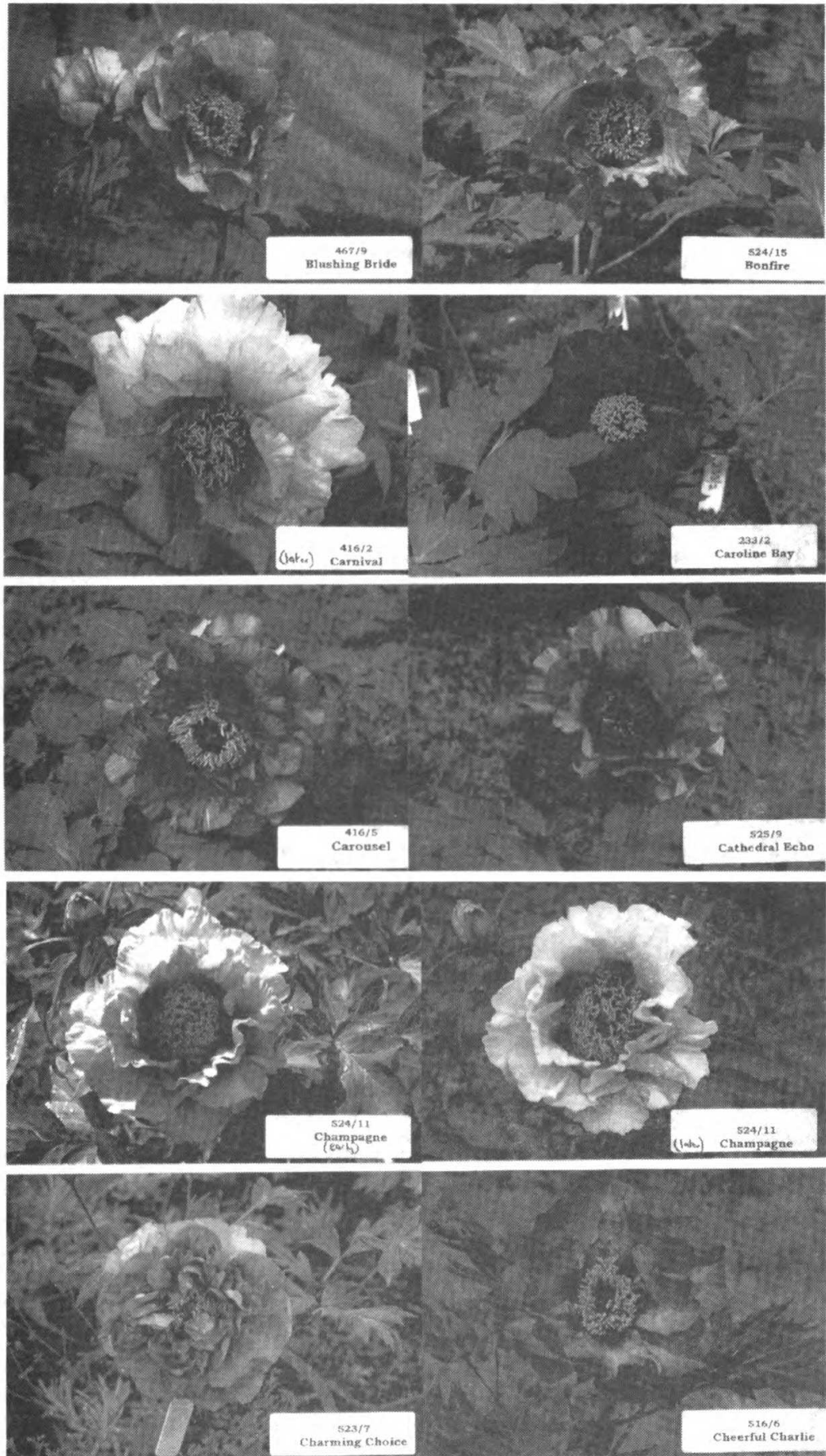
<b>Jubilant</b>	Pink over cream	D	456/2
<b>Jubilee</b>	Rose pink	S	232/16
<b>Kaiteri Gold</b>	Bright yellow	SD	LLD2
<b>Lace and Braid</b>	Orangy creamy pink	D	232/15
<b>Lady Kate</b>	Pink and cream	S	08/12
<b>Lava Flow</b>	Red/black	S	08/4
<b>Lemon Drops</b>	Lemon yellow, red flares	SD	231/3
<b>Lemon Honey</b>	Mid yellow	S	110/17
<b>Lemon Parfait</b>	Light yellow, small red flares	S	191/2
<b>Liquid Amber</b>	Pinkish tan	SD	247/1
<b>Lone Sentinel</b>	Cream with light red centre	S	194/1
<b>Magnet</b>	Light tan	S	234/2
<b>Magnificent</b>	Bright rose pink	SD	222/10
<b>Marine Parade</b>	Cream base with dark pink edging, dark flares	S	243/10
<b>Meadow Brook</b>	Cream with rose red edging darkening towards centre	SD	188/6
<b>Meridian</b>	Rose red with black flares	S	528/3
<b>Meteor</b>			
<b>Brilliance</b>	Golden yellow with redish centre	SD	101/1
<b>Midnight</b>			
<b>Magnolia</b>	Off white with black centre	S	523/1
<b>Midnight</b>			
<b>Serenade</b>	Creamish white with dark centre	S	236/2
<b>Midsummer Joy</b>	Medium yellow with reddish centre	S	231/8
<b>Milky Way</b>	Mid yellow with black and red tinged flares	SD	515/4
<b>Modesty</b>	Creamish pink with red tinges to outside of petals	S	231/6
<b>Monarchy</b>	Medium purple with black flares	D	396/7
<b>Moonbeam</b>	Light yellow with prominent black purple flares	S	458/5
<b>Natural Beauty</b>	Whitish rose pink with dark centre	S	467/8
<b>Nature's Bouquet</b>	Pinkish white	SD	467/15
<b>Original Flare</b>	Light yellow with touch of pink, flares black with red tinges	S	03/1
<b>Pacific Beauty</b>	Medium yellow with pink edgings	D	233/3
<b>Pacific</b>			
<b>Wonderlanz</b>	Bright red	D	08/11
<b>Painted Lady</b>	Pinkish cream	SD	275/2
<b>Painted Star</b>	Bright yellow, flares black with red tinges	S	239/3
<b>Partial Eclipse</b>	2/3red yellow and 1/3rd purple	SD	111/6
<b>Pastel Pink</b>	Pastel pink with black flares	SD	119/14
<b>Pastel Star</b>	Broad white edging with purple centre and black flares	S	465/12
<b>Penny Royal</b>	Purple with black flares	S	07/1
<b>Perfection</b>	Rose red with ruffled petals	SD	516/3
<b>Piazza View</b>	Light yellow with red flares	SD	230/1
<b>Picturesque</b>	Light lemon, pink edging, dark centre	SD	232/17
<b>Pink 'n' Gold</b>	Yellow with pink edges, red tinged black flares	S	183/4
<b>Pink 'n' White</b>			
<b>Terra</b>	White with purples edges and purple centre	S	281/2/2
<b>Pink Pearl</b>	Rose red	D	183/2
<b>Pirates Gold</b>	Golden yellow with dark red flares	SD	524/13
<b>Pistol Star</b>	White with dark purple flares	S	256/2
<b>Placid Charm</b>	Rose pink/red with dark centre	S	527/3
<b>Plain 'n' Pearl</b>	Rose pink over yellow with small dark flares	S	103/5

<b>Playtime</b>	Pink touches over medium yellow	SD	274/3
<b>Pleasant Point</b>	Reddish pink over white	S	511/9
<b>Princess Charm</b>	Medium purple with white edging, dark centre	SD	523/8
<b>Pristina</b>	Deep red petals, black centre	S	456/3
<b>Prize Gift</b>	Bright yellow, red touches in centre, ruffled petals	D	232/18
<b>Purple Dawn</b>	Medium purple	S	255/1
<b>Purple Emperor</b>	Bright purple, ruffled petals	D	167/9
<b>Purple Gem</b>	Reddish purple, dark centre	S	522/3
<b>Purple Lilac</b>	Purple, lightening towards edge of petals, dark centre	SD	396/12
<b>Purple Prince</b>	Dark purple	SD	467/13
<b>Purple Robe</b>	Light purple edge with dark purple centre	S	524/10
<b>Ragged Doll</b>	Light pink, ruffled petals	SD	119/13
<b>Rainbow Tint</b>	Light yellow base with red tinges to outside of petals	SD	517/8
<b>Red Admiral</b>	Medium dark red, slightly ruffling petals, yellow stamens	S	548/16
<b>Red Black 'n'</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	Rose red with petals darkening to black in centre	S	458/7
<b>Red Brocade</b>	Medium red with yellow tinges to petals giving an orange appearance	D	239/1
<b>Red Carpet</b>	Medium red, lightening as flower matures	S	522/1
<b>Red Globe</b>	Dark pinkish red, slight ruffling to petals	D	254/4
<b>Red Glow</b>	Medium red with black flares	S	01/5
<b>Red Riding Hood</b>	Medium red with slight yellow tinges	SD	229/2
<b>Red Seal</b>	Rose red with petals darkening to black towards centre	S	548/44
<b>Red Sunrise</b>	Medium red with slight yellow tinge to petals	S	524/2
<b>Redcliffs</b>	Bright rose red	SD	08/8
<b>Redtruth</b>	Light red with hint of white on petals	SD	463/2
<b>Rising Sun</b>	Bright yellow with petals ruffled towards centre of flower	D	460/4
<b>Rolling Ridges</b>	Light pink whitening towards outside ruffled petals	D	467/3
<b>Rosewill</b>	Cream base with light purple tinges to petals, black flares	SD	548/22
<b>Rosy Dell</b>	Light pink with black flares	S	458/4
<b>Royal Albertross</b>	Cream base with light purple tinges to petals, black flares	SD	524/4
<b>Royal Carriage</b>	Bright light purple with ruffled petals	S	167/2
<b>Royal Road</b>	Light purple with petals darkening towards centre	S	467/12
<b>Royal Souvenir</b>	Medium yellow with very light red tinges to petals	SD	468/4
<b>Royalty</b>	Light purple with black flares	S	467/5
<b>Ruby Bay</b>	Dark red with petals darkening to black towards base	S	202/1
<b>Ruby Port</b>	Rose red with slightly ruffled petals	D	417/1
<b>Satin Sheen</b>	Light yellow with ruffled petals	D	465/13
<b>Scarlet Wonder</b>	Yellow base with red tinges through petals giving an orange look	SD	110/18
<b>Scenic Reserve</b>	Cream with red tinges to petals, dark flares	S	457/5
<b>Scintillation</b>	Cream base with red tinges to petals	SD	290/1
<b>Seaside Sunrise</b>	Medium yellow with ruffled look to petals	SD	465/4
<b>Show Day</b>	Rose red with ruffled petals near centre	SD	280/1
<b>Signal Beauty</b>	Dark red with ruffled petals	D	516/1
<b>Silent Appeal</b>	Medium yellow darkening towards base	S	286/1
<b>Silent Hope</b>	Medium red with very slight yellow touches	SD	526/1
<b>Silver Trumpet</b>	White with dark purple/black flares	S	010/3

<b>Silver Waves</b>	White with dark purple/black flares	S	255/2
<b>Silver Wings</b>	Light cream base with red tinges getting darker towards centre	S	519/3
<b>Simplicity</b>	Medium yellow	S	468/6
<b>Smiling Twins</b>	Light yellow with reddish orange flares	S	464/2
<b>Softley Spoken</b>	Cream base with dark pink tinges to petals	SD	203/1
<b>Solemnity</b>	Medium crimson darkening towards centre	S	186/1
<b>Solitude</b>	Medium red with slight yellow tinge to petals	S	274/2
<b>Songster</b>	Bright red with ruffled appearance to petals	SD	228/1
<b>Southern Beauty</b>	Yellow base with orange/red tinge to petals	D	111/1
<b>Southern Cross</b>	White with dark burgundy prominent flares	S	12/22/5
<b>Southern Lights</b>	Cream base with reddish pink tinges to edge of petals	SD	548/37
<b>Sparkling</b>			
<b>Dewdrops</b>	Dark pinkish red slight cream tinges	SD	232/9/1
<b>Sparkling</b>			
<b>Diamond</b>	Cream base with pink tinges to petals	S	8/2
<b>Spellbound</b>	Light yellow with reddish tinge to petals to give an orange appearance	D	548/61
<b>Spotlight</b>	Bright yellow	S	462/3
<b>Spring Dance</b>	Cream base with light reddish purple tinge to outside of petals	SD	465/9
<b>Spring Time</b>			
<b>Glory</b>	Mauve with ruffled petals	D	119/12
<b>Starlight Gaze</b>	Mid yellow	S	246/2
<b>Sunburst Wonder</b>	Light yellow with red tinges to outside and centres of petals, dark flares	S	548/58
<b>Sundown</b>			
<b>Shadows</b>	Dark red, blackening towards centre	S	247/3
<b>Sunglow</b>	Light yellow with light red flares	S	468/11
<b>Sunny Smile</b>	Mid yellow with black red tinged flares	S	186/4
<b>Sunset Glory</b>	Cream base with prominent red tinges to petals	SD	03/9
<b>Surprise Packet</b>	Light pink with dark purple flares, ruffled petals	SD	251/4
<b>Sweet Arrival</b>	Mid yellow with red tinges to petals and red flares	S	275/3
<b>Tengawai Blush</b>	Mid purple with ruffled petals	S	119/3
<b>Timaru Superb</b>	Cream base with dark pink tinges, dark centre	S	04/1
<b>Tinkerbelle</b>	Light cream base with dark pink tinges	SD	524/8
<b>Tomorrow's</b>			
<b>Choice</b>	Light purple with black flares	SD	12/15
<b>Touchdown</b>	Dark red rose	S	293/7
<b>Trail Blaze</b>	Light red ruffled petals	D	222/27
<b>Trailways</b>	Cream base with dark pink tinges to edge of petals and base	S	458/2
<b>Treasure Trove</b>	Mid yellow with black flares tinged with red	S	01/5 sdlg
<b>Trendy</b>	Rose red with cream tinges, ruffled petals	SD	548/33
<b>Triumph</b>	Mid red, dark centre	S	235/1
<b>Twilight</b>	Mid purple darkening towards centre	SD	548/31
<b>Twinkles</b>	Dark pink , whitish veins, dark centre	SD	466/3
<b>Twizel</b>	Mid yellow with slight red tinge to outside of petals and towards centre	S	279/2
<b>Unassuming</b>			
<b>Beauty</b>	Vivid white with black flares purple tinged	S	465/1
<b>Unique</b>	Cream with whitish edges to petals	S	224/1

<b>Vivid Memories</b>	Mid yellow base with purple tinges, dark centre	S	232/14
<b>Welldone</b>	Mid red	S	526/5
<b>Wellwisher</b>	Pinkish purple over cream, ruffled	SD	111/7
<b>White Caps</b>	White with pinkish tinge, black flares tinged with red	SD	548/9
<b>White Empress</b>	Vivid white, purple flares and ruffled petals	SD	250/1
<b>White Heron</b>	Creamish white with purple centre	S	465/5
<b>White Star</b>	White with light purple flares	SD	250/2
<b>Whitehorse</b>	White with purple centre and open stamens	S	521/1
<b>White-out</b>	White with dark purple flares	S	250/6
<b>Whitestone City</b>	White with very light purple centre	S	12/22/6
<b>Wildfire</b>	Light yellow base, purple tinged petals	SD	416/8
<b>Yellow Admiral</b>	Mid yellow with dark red flares	S	01/4/1
<b>Yours Truly</b>	Cream base with pink tinges, lightening as flower matures, dark flares	S	467/4





## REGISTRATION

**ELIZABETH BLAIR HIRSCH** (Max Reeher—RO-MA-RU GARDENS) Seedling number Lavrel Hill Garnet Dragon. Single suffruticosa, parent—unknown. First time I saw it bloom—1989. Deep garnet red. One bud per stem, reliable. Has pollen, seeds, stamens. Flat form excellent substance, profus amount of bloom. Stems very large, excellent stem strength 3'. Early to mid season bloom. Vigorous, red stems, deep emerald green, with very red overtones.

Registered and all information by Rick Rogers, Brothers Herbs and Peonies, P.O. box 1370, Sherwood, Oregon 97140.

This plant was in a seedling patch of unknown Japanese Tree Peony seed collected by Mr. Max Reeher in the 1930's. No records were kept. There are many good plants that are in this group and I have more of them to introduce.

A real stand out in the garden. 3' globe of dark green foliage with very different long dark red glossy petals, longer than they are wide, that lay out very flat, like an outstretched hand.

### *Named in memory of ...*

Mrs. Elizabeth Hirsch, the late mother of Bob Conklin, who is the President of Timer Press. She was a Portland socialite, who was involved with countless philanthropic projects.

One of the many things that she was responsible for here in Portland was the placement of the red light on the nose of our very famous White Stag landmark, which is a 50' tall logo of a deer located on the side of the old White Stag building as you come across Portland's main bridge from east to west. White Stag was bought out by and now called Columbia Sports Wear.



## PEONIES YARD TO YARD

*by Harold Entsminger, Cut Bank, Montana*

Great Balls of Fire, and Earsplitten-Louden Bloomers are the way some peonies have been described across some parts of the World. HOWEVER you describe them, however you find them, getting them into your yard can become an art form. Focus on what you ultimately come to know as your favorite peony, can happen after long pursuit, or just a walk around the corner to your favorite garden of peonies.

Some shoppers want only double varieties, or fragrant, or herbaceous, or Tree peonies, or intersectionals. Presently with so many forms of peony nurseries available, focusing on a best varietal form becomes the art form itself. What is available here in the U.S.A. today, 2001, that comes from here or Canada, Bogata, Colombia, China, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, France, England,...and how much longer do you see them to remain available? Where can I get them? If I live in Anchorage, Alaska, or Dallas, Texas, and I want only Chinese Tree Peonies, how do I choose? Perhaps in your minds-eye you have a vision of the peony grandma, or grandpa used to grow in front of her house when you were a child. How do you find only it, since grandpa had no varietal name to give it? So strong is this love for growing



peonies that these searches are continuously taking place. But, best of all is visiting peony yards and gardens. This most enjoyable venture helps you to expand your knowledge and focus.

Since travel times and blooming times vary greatly, you can take-in several yards and gardens each season. Would you believe there is actually a Grand National Peony Show and Convention held each June, where gardener-exhibitors actually bring their flowers to one place from all over, for you to view? They do this at the American Peony Societies Annual Meet. This love for flowers is often very strong within us.

A local Montana lady, whose house recently burned to the ground, expressed to me her desire that her plants survive the heat of the fire, the tromping of the firemen, the flood of waters from the fire hoses, and the shattered glass, that now surrounds her new modular home at the same site. She loves her peonies! Sailors at sea, from shipman to Admiral of the fleet, bring on board their favorite potted plants. Some in barrels and some in small pots, some for on-board hybridizing projects. Thus choosing plants with good sea-legs has long been known as important, though as yet I know of no nursery moving into this area of specialization. Just everything else! So, for your out-of-doors floating bathtub, or yard, specialize your focus on special plants whatever they may be. If you plant them where they can be viewed by others, you will make friends. Peonies have that power.

Look at **Red Grace**, in full bloom, or **Red Charm**, **Bartzella**, **Lotus Bloom**, **Nancy**, or **Coral Charm**! Much of the year they but roots underground. But once a year their power of attraction is so strong, they will pull people close to them from any line of view. These are POWER PLANTS! Children love them, and butterflies, and ladybugs. The Winter garden having been quiet for so long, bursts into life. Animals, insects, and people can't help but be attracted. Sigh's n' Whispers, screams of delight, are now to be heard in the Summer Garden. Some people will timidly ask to see the garden, while tour buses loaded with flower lovers will pull-up and the occupants spread throughout the garden. They look at all the flowers, but are mostly focused to find one or two special beauties, ones they can purchase and take home to their yard garden. Something with special beauty and power for them. It may appeal visually or be especially fragrant, or both. Something with charm and class, or the nurses may find one that they think needs their help. But all have power over these people, and they love and enjoy their garden experience. They are made a little happier in their life. They so love the peonies, and they had no idea they came in so many varieties! They will come again.... Some power will remind them.



## **Preparation and Storage of Show Peonies**

*by Harry F. Little, Goodland, Indiana*

So much has been written about the preparation and holding of peonies in cold storage for show purposes that possibly many otherwise experienced gardeners have been led to believe that the showing of peony blooms in competition is a deep and mysterious art only to be acquired by wide experience, and only to be attempted by the most skilled horticulturists.

As a matter of fact, the successful showing of peonies is very simple, and may be undertaken by any amateur gardener, of even limited experience, without fear of disastrous results. Probably no other flower can be as easily grown, as successfully held in cold storage, or as easily transported as the peony. No special laborious preparation or treatment of the plants is required to grow fine show flowers, and no extensive experience is required to handle the blooms in storage. Neither is any special skill required to develop the flowers into form for the show table after they are taken from the cold storage room.

Experience has shown that peonies can be successfully held in storage for days, or even weeks, and then developed for exhibition purposes as successfully as though freshly cut from the plants. In fact, peony blooms, cut in the bud and opened indoors away from the sun, show far more delicate and beautiful colorings than the flowers which open on the plants; and many of the finest varieties only show their real quality when handled in this way. Some growers, of wide experience in handling show flowers, go so far as to contend that peonies, placed in cold storage and then developed for the show table, will hold up longer and better than freshly cut blooms. While the question may yet be held as debatable, it has been clearly demonstrated that it is possible to place the different varieties of peonies in storage as they come into bloom throughout the season, beginning with the earliest **Officialis** varieties and ending with the very latest varieties, such as **Loveliness** and **Galathee**, and then develop them for show all at the same time a week or more after the close of the blooming season. Some varieties hold up in storage better than others, and can be held with proper care for a much longer time. In the cut flower trade, certain good storage kinds are kept for eight to ten weeks.

The first thing to be remembered in the staging of fine show flowers is that only well-established plants of any variety will produce the best blooms. It is not possible to say how old a peony plant must be to be its best, for that depends on the variety itself, the size and vigor of the root from which it is grown, and the soil conditions and cultivation with which it is favored. Certain varieties, under most favorable conditions, are slow to establish, and do not reach their best short of four, or sometimes five years, while other kinds, happily situated, will put forth as fine blooms on two-year plants as they will ever produce. It is safe to say, however, that flowers must be cut from at least three-year old plants, if a typical exhibit is to be staged, covering any great number of varieties. Even then, the exhibitor must have very well grown plants, if he can successfully show fifty or one hundred varieties in competition with the man who can select his blooms from five or six-year old plants.

At the National Peony Shows, where one expects to find all the new and rare peonies shown in perfect form, it is not an uncommon thing to hear the remark, "Why, I have grown finer flowers than these myself." No doubt but that is true with all of us. It is not very difficult, even with but a few plants, to grow one, or even a number of varieties, to perfection. But it is quite a different thing to stage an exhibit of one hundred, or even fifty varieties, and have all of them near perfection. It requires an extensive planting, indeed, to be able to show such a number of varieties, all from well established plants. The desire to show the new and rare things, of which there are but a few old and established plants in existence, often leads to the cutting of blooms from young plants, and so cuts down the average quality of the exhibits.

Having good, healthy, well-established peony plants to begin with, cultivation and moisture are the principle requisites in growing fine show flowers. As soon as the new growth is above ground in the spring, and the soil in workable condition, the earth about the plants should be forked over several inches deep for at least two feet from the crown. Throughout the growing season this soil should be frequently stirred to maintain a perfect earth mulch to draw and hold moisture to the plant. If the season is dry, water should be supplied in sufficient quantity to thoroughly soak the ground to a depth of at least eighteen inches each ten days until the blooms begin to open. Water is best supplied by letting it run slowly from the open end of the hose into a small trench dug about the plant. Before the top soil has time to dry out, the trench should be filled in, and the earth mulch again stirred to retain the moisture.

With good, ordinary garden soil, no special fertilization is necessary, although a light top dressing of bone meal or wood ashes early in the spring in sufficient quantity to maintain the normal state of fertility in the soil may be beneficial. Thoroughly rotted stable manure may be used to advantage if properly handled. This is best applied as a top dressing in the fall, and forked under at the first working of the soil in the spring. Fresh stable manure should never be used on peonies under any conditions, as the free ammonia therefrom is absolutely harmful to the plants.

Much has been said about force feeding and special fertilization to obtain extra fine blooms, but it is doubtful if any such treatment of plants is beneficial or desirable. Peony plants clearly resent over-fertilization, and far more plants have been injured by forcing than have ever been helped. By the usage of liquid manures, commercial fertilizers, nitrate of soda, and other things, strong plant growth can be stimulated, and undoubtedly abnormal flowers produced; but experience has shown that such treatment of a plant one year almost invariably results in a sick plant the following season. It often requires several years for the plant to recover, if indeed it ever comes back, from the seeming indigestion caused by the over-feeding. As well-established peony plants represent no small investment in time and money, it is hardly worth the risk of sacrifice for the results to be obtained. Then, the abnormal blooms, which are developed by the feeding beyond their typical form and size, are not the most desirable show blooms. The fine texture of the petals, and the delicate color tints in the flowers are sacrificed to a great extent for the size alone, such blooms are not typical flowers, and to the true judge of peonies they are not the finest. Good, normal blooms, typical in form, size, and coloring of the variety, are the ideal show peonies; and these are only obtained from healthy, well-established plants grown in a normal soil under normal conditions.

As soon as the growth is sufficiently advanced, all laterals, or side buds, should be pinched off close to the stems, and any weak or defective terminal buds removed. Some growers advocate pinching off all but three or four of the strongest terminal buds on each plant. As nature takes care of the relationship, or balance, between the root system and the top growth of the plant, is it not reasonable to suppose that, to a strong and thrifty plant, the natural foliage produced is as necessary to the welfare of the plant system as is the root growth, and that by cutting away stems we are throwing this natural relationship out of balance rather than strengthening the growth?

A few days before the early varieties are ready to bloom, the plants should be carefully gone over, and the strongest and most promising

buds of the varieties wanted for show selected. A small paper bag—the grocer's common half-pound size is best—should be slipped over each bud, and secured in place by a small rubber band, twisted about the mouth of the bag below the bud, just tight enough to prevent the bag from being blown away by the wind. After the rubber band is in place, care should be taken to pull the bag well up against the under side of the bud, otherwise the subsequent growth of the stem, especially of the later varieties, will force the bud up against the bottom of the bag and results in a warped or crooked stem. The purpose of sacking the buds is two-fold. First, the bags protect the maturing buds from damage from rain or sun; and second, they furnish an ideal wrapping for the flowers later on when, in a partly developed state, they must be packed for shipping.

After all the bags are in place, a wired wooden tree label, with the name of the variety plainly written thereon, should be attached to the stem under each bud well above the foliage. By thus permanently labeling each bud before it is cut from the plant, much labor and confusion later on, when time becomes valuable, will be saved. The wooden tree labels are the most satisfactory labels to use because they are substantial enough to withstand possible damage in shipping, and are not affected by water.

As the first flowers begin to open, close attention must be given to the sacked buds, for the whole secret of the successful storage of the blooms is in cutting the blooms at just the right stage. Both the length of time the blooms are to be held, and the type of flower or the variety, must be taken into consideration. Assuming that flowers are wanted for showing, say two or three days after the close of the blooming season, it would be necessary to hold the earlier varieties in the cold storage about three weeks, and the mid-season kinds for a week or ten days. By watching the exposed buds on the plants and by feeling the buds under the bags, one will quickly learn the feel of the buds ready to cut. Early varieties, such as **Umbrella Rosea**, **Glandiflora Nivea Plena**, and **Edulis Superba**, should be cut just as the buds show marked color and begin to feel the first indication of softening. Mid-season varieties, such as **Frances Willard** and **Lady Alexandra Duff**, and in fact most of the varieties except the very latest, should be cut at the stage just when the petals in the buds begin to grow and loosen and before the first petals begin to unfold. Late varieties, such as **Marine Lemoine**, **Milton Hill**, and **Enchantresse**, must be left on the plants until almost at the half-open stage. Single, Japanese, and semi-double varieties of scant petalage should be cut in tighter bud than the full rose types, such as **Therese** or **Jubilee**. Very compact, full petaled varieties, as **L'Indispensable** and **Marie Lemoine**, must be allowed to develop proportionately longer on the plants.

As the buds reach the proper stage, they should be cut with stems fifteen or eighteen inches long, and all foliage stripped off. Longer stems on show flowers, unless they are to be shown in large bunches or in bouquets, are superfluous; and the extra foliage can well be left on the plants. All buds of a variety, even on the same plant, do not develop evenly so it may be necessary to make cuttings of the same variety in two or three different times. As fast as cut the buds should be placed in jars of water evening the day's cutting should be taken to the cold storage room, and placed, with stems well submerged, in jars of water to remain undisturbed until time for shipment.

Probably the best storage temperature is an average of forty degrees, although lower temperature has seemed to give equally good results. At

forty degrees, most varieties, and especially those cut in tight bud, will remain almost dormant, while other kinds will slowly develop until the intense blooms fill the half-pound bags almost to the bursting point.

If the flowers in storage are to be packed for shipment, the trunks or whatever containers are to be used, should be taken into the storage room, if possible, and heavily lined with paper. After the blooms have been removed from water long enough to allow their stems to dry off, they should be packed in layers tight enough to prevent any shaking about in transit. If thus packed cold in the storage room, and properly insulated with the paper linings, the containers will withstand a journey of 24 to 36 hours, even in hot weather, without becoming heated through to injure the flowers.

At least 24 hours will be required for the storage blooms to develop to their best after being opened up, so plans should be made to have exhibits set up well before the judging of the flowers begins. On reaching the show room sufficient jars or bottles of water should be set up to receive all the blooms. As the shipping containers are opened, the ends of all stems should be clipped, and the flowers placed in water.



## Garden Gallery

*by Harold Entsminger, Cut Bank, MT*

Great art and great gardens take time and patience to cultivate. A Vincent VanGogh could be shown next to Vinnie Sleasmore, but the effect might be frightening to the viewing patrons. The garden of Claude Monet is recognized world wide to be the work of a master. Monet painted his garden, but mostly painted from it. Odilon Redon's etchings and paintings come alive when seen in the garden. **Redon** is a living, growing piece of art when seen in the garden, especially when **Isadora Duncan** comes dancing through. The yellow-gold spinning pirouettes of **Isadora** are breath-taking. Then **Gauguin**, first caught out of the corner of your eye, now fully commands your attention. Yellow and reds astonish and tantalize your mind. Such beauty! Looking deeply now into the garden, one can see the old Chinese and Japanese Masters. **Shintenchi, Palace Dress, and Purple on a White Flower**, then at your feet, you notice **Precious Jewel, Princess Saho, and Kokamon**, dwarfed by **Hui He, and Spring Carnival**. Taking time you bend down for the sweet scent you intuited from these beauteous cupped, calyxed-shown, little **Bukharas**. They just make you want to pet them. Until recently, many of these rare masterpieces were unavailable, to be found only in the fine Oriental Galleries, but are now shown in the U.S. The French and Dutch Masters grace our gardens as well. They mix well with the American colors and forms. After all the Americans are a unique blend of all these. Tulips can be the garden treasures prior to the peony bloom, but then, **LOOK OUT!** The daylilies can then take the field.

Peony art is mostly living art in the gardens of today. Still **Nassos Daphnis** and **Howard Pepion** paint peonies as moderns. Placing these art forms where they can readily be seen by the viewing public, will greatly increase their popularity. They can spring into a million little corner garden galleries in the U.S. alone. They will draw attention like outdoor

corner cafe's in Paris on a summers day. If they weren't outdoors in full view, where would their patrons be? Liken the Champs Elysees to a grand garden with it's tables and chairs ABLAZE WITH COLOR. Envision **Creme de Glace** being sold from canopied carts, ink potted pomeranins, and little foo foos wandering about LE Grand Promenade. Such a fine sight attracts many, and its buzz and bustle make it World Renown. Even in far away places like the Alps, or Glacier National Park, where clientele are international in stature, these people do come to see peonies and the park. In the tulip fields of the Netherlands, and near Mt. Vernon, in Washington state people are drawn to this beauty of living art. Some will take pictures, others make paintings, others compose music from such moments of inspiration. Still others are putting grand words to music, while others still have visions of Heaven on Earth. Hybridizers and bees find wild inspiration in visions appearing in new and vibrant colors in their gardens. Local farmers and visitors alike are awed. Commerce blooms. Children of all ages, love these warm and wonderful days with nature in their Garden Gallery. Imagine that.



## Year 2001 Traveling West Over the Old Peony Trail

*by Harold Entsminger, Cut Bank, MT*

Traveling west of the Mississippi River and off into the Old West is where the old peony trail really picks up. Now south of Dallas is not much for peony growing country, but anywhere north of there can be fine. Growing areas are especially fine in Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas, and Missouri. A great starting point for this trail of peonies. Iowa and Minnesota are wonderful peony states. Just ask Greta Kessenich in Hopkins, MN what she thinks of the Wild West Peony states. Then on to Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico, the Lonesome Tadpole states as far as peony growth is concerned. They need lots more peony gardeners. So mail a few peony plants to friends there! Arizona, Utah, Nevada and Idaho are holding their own, especially Boise with a growing population of easterners. Washington, Oregon and California need a bigger peony popularity. They have the ideal growing conditions, but not an ideal per capita group of peony gardeners. So let's all give them a boost in this area from San Diego to Bellingham and B.C. too. Buy a peony from A&D and send it to a friend in this area. Gift certificates are available from Brothers, A&D Nursery, Caprice, and Tomorrow's Treasures. We will be happy to mail to anyone along the old west peony trail. Let's start a map and mark a place on it for each person's peony garden who writes an article for the Bulletin about their place of peonies along the old west peony trail. Tell us about what varieties you have, how long you have been a peony garden, what your favorites are, how many neighbors and friends you have started into peonies, even if it is only with one peony. Tell us if you inherited your love of peonies from your parents or grandparents or just how you did get started in peonies. We all have unique stories to tell and they are of interest to all of us. Greta is a hard worker and will see to it that your stories get told. She might like to start a section in the Bulletin and call it "Meanderings Along the Old West Peony Trail." Well, I guess the East could do the same. Are there peonies East of the Old West?





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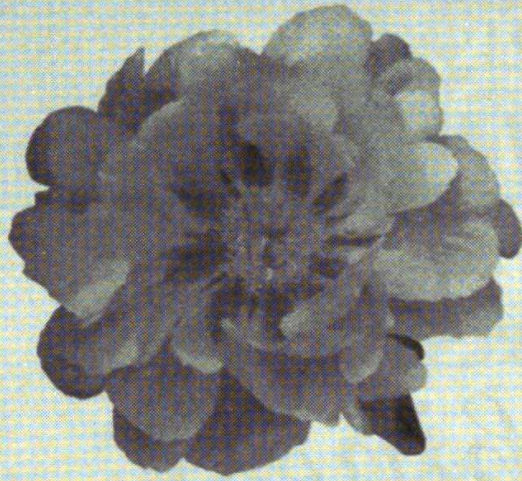
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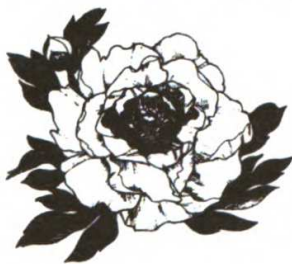
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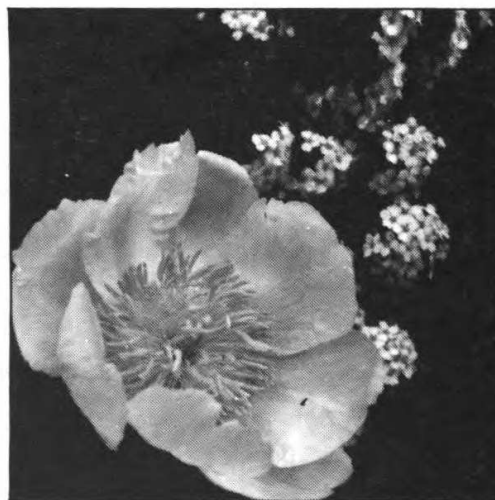
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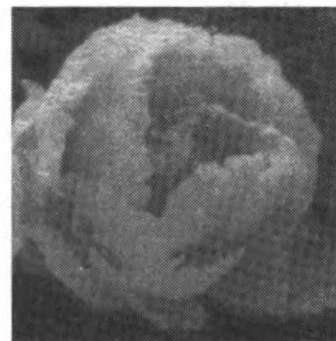
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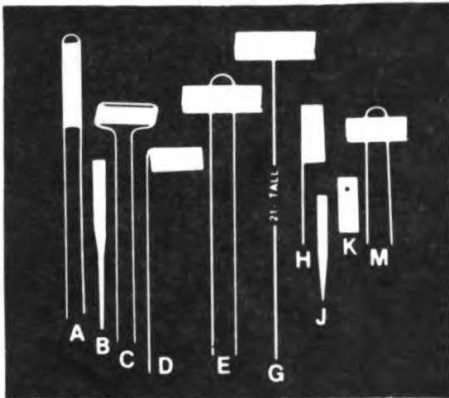
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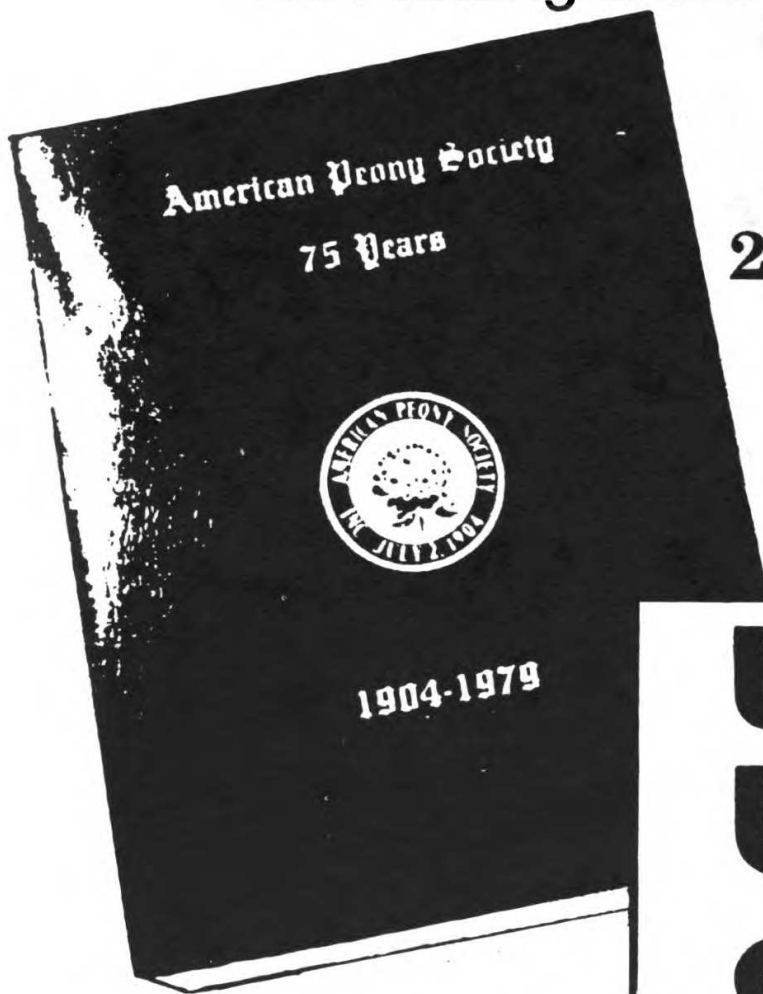
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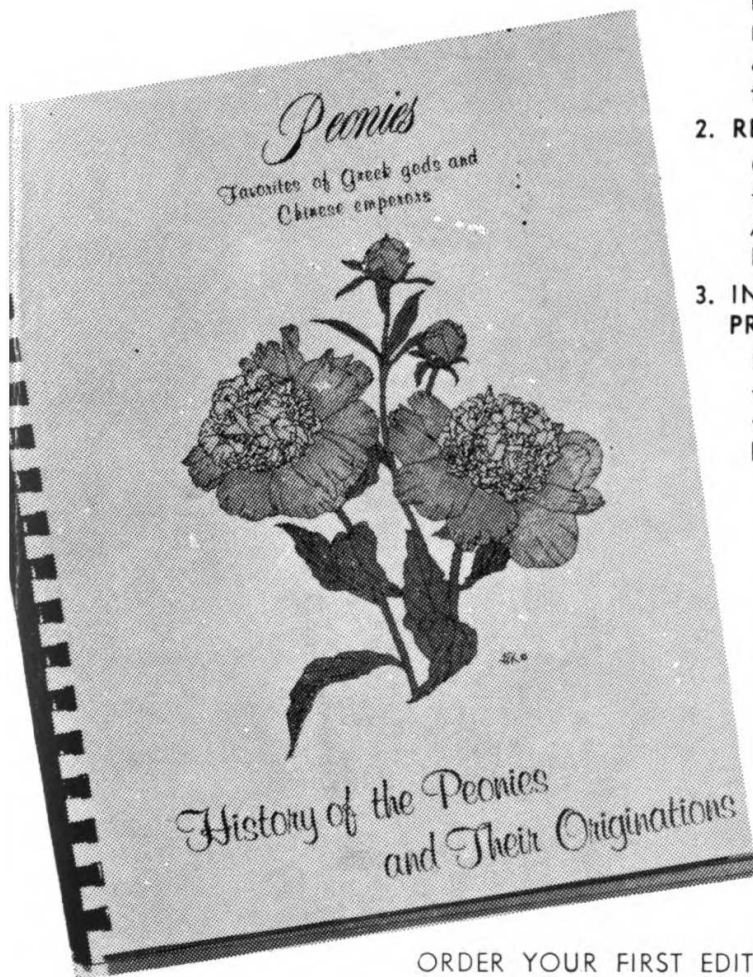
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