

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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VOL. 32 SEPTEMBER, 1932 No. 51

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Editor*
Northbrook, Ill.

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W. F. CHRISTMAN.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of April, 1932.

ALMA WAGGNER.

(My commission expires July 23, 1932.)

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Those who make application for membership at any time receive the current publications of the Society as they are issued.

The dues are \$3.00 a year, and all checks covering membership dues should be made to The American Peony Society and sent to the Secretary with application for membership. Dues in future are to run from January 1st to January 1st of the following year.

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AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



VOL. 32

OCTOBER, 1932

No. 51

A. P. Saunders—The Wizard of the Peony

By A. B. CADY, Waverly, N. Y.

PEONY species from the Alps, the Carpathians, the Caucasus, the Himalayas, the Pyrenees and the Ural mountains.

Peony species from Lapland, from Algeria, from Siberia, from Korea, from Kashmir, from Morocco and, like Napoleon, from an island in the Mediterranean whose mountain peaks are wrapped in never melting snows.

Peony species with leaves as narrow as the larch, as broad as the linden and as round as the poplar. Peony species that spread only a few inches above ground and others as tall as a man. Peony species with huge seed pods that look as though the seed must be as large as marbles.

Tree peonies that flower in May, tree peonies in full flower in July and buds on a hybrid tree that should open in August.

Scores of rooted tree peony cuttings that thrill with the flutter of their green leaves when the protective screen is raised by the master magician.

Uncounted thousands of seedlings from every feasible and conceivable cross, all marked with untiring patience.

Scores of flowering Chinese seedlings still unnamed, which he is "not quite sure are good enough," equal in beauty and fragrance to any named varieties that we know.

Even the Japanese type has fallen under that magic spell.

The *Challenger* and *Argosy*, adventurous leaders of a new quest that may come to the Golden Fleece of golden yellow in both tree and herbaceous peonies.

Hybrid Peonies

By EDWARD AUTEN, JR., Princeville, Ill.

IN THE report of the National Peony Show my winning entry in Class 27, officinalis red Jap, is listed as being one of my own originations. This is incorrect, as I bought this variety twenty years ago under the name *Anemoneflora*. It is a typical officinalis with typical red Japanese bloom. As I also have a single red officinalis bought under the same name, and as there is a Chinensis variety besides, I have always listed my two officinalis as red Jap and Single Red. The Chinensis *Anemoneflora* is now almost unobtainable under that name, but a plant of it furnished me by Mrs. W. L. McLaughlin, Chappaqua, N. Y., seems to be identical with *Sarcoxie*, introduced by Wild Bros., as an unidentified rogue saved from an importation of peonies from Europe. I believe the name *Sarcoxie* should be retained, as there are too many different *Anemonefloras* playing around.

Among my display of officinalis X Chinensis hybrids in the seedling class at the show, however, I did have a dark red Jap of my origination, No. H20, which received an honorable mention. This bloom did not fully open until the afternoon of the second day, and then was not as good as two blooms which opened in the field. All my exhibiting at national shows is done under the handicap of having no adequate local cold storage, so that buds must be cut and sent parcel post, this year 260 miles, before going into storage. This makes it doubly difficult to cut the buds so they will neither shatter nor fail to open, but be at their best on some certain day 5 to 24 days later.

No. H20 is extremely dark red, very brilliant, of good size and substance, and lasts a long time without fading. The center petaloids are very unique, being narrow, the ends long pointed, twisted and instead of swollen yellow edges, there is on some of the petaloids, a stamen attached to one edge. These scattered yellow stamens add to the brilliance of the flower. I believe H20 to be finer than any dark red Jap now in commerce, but since it blooms and is gone before *Edulis Superba* starts, it will not compete with the other Japs, and I do not believe the discovery of an all yellow peony in my seedling beds would give me any greater thrill than H20 has given me the two years that the original plant has bloomed.

This year a lot of some 36 officinalis X Chinensis hybrids came to blooming age, six years from planting the seed. A tabulation of results might be of interest, and it will show some results different from those reported by Prof. Saunders in the BULLETIN of June, 1928, No. 34. He reports on 43 plants. My total so far is 42, of which 13 have not bloomed. While dominant factors in the officinalis seem to limit the range of variation in these hybrids much more strictly than the range in the pure Chinensis hybrids, still I cannot but feel that the work so far done is only a small beginning, and by no means exhausts the possibilities, even of crosses on the red officinalis.

Prof. Saunders obtained all singles from 31 hybrids on Chinensis, using single officinalis pollen, and one single from a single officinalis using Chinensis pollen. From 17 seedlings of officinalis single red using Chinensis pollen, I obtained three singles, two semi-doubles and one Jap, two bloomed that I did not note, and nine did not bloom. You with small gardens might think it strange that I would not set down full information on these hybrids after waiting six years to see them. But when one has a new bed of 2,200 Chinensis seedlings blooming for the first time, over 1,700 advanced seedlings which must be appraised, three hundred named kinds to check, blooms to sell, blooms to cut for shows, visitors to wait upon, etc., it just sometimes happens that one doesn't get everything done that he wants to. Notice that nine out of seventeen did not bloom. It seems that among these hybrids there are often some runts that probably will never amount to anything. The same is true among Chinensis seedlings, but to a much less degree.

The Jap was an off-color red. One semi-double was a light red that did not make a perfect bloom. The other semi-double was a large, rich deep red, with an extra heavy, stiff stem.

One seedling of officinalis rubra X Chinensis was runty and did not bloom. From 18 seedlings of officinalis red Jap (*Anemoneflora*) using Chinensis pollen, came one Jap, No. H20, already described, one anemone, almost a bomb, too much purple in it; one bomb, No. H23, which received honorable mention at Des Moines, and which seemed to me to be the blackest red I have ever seen in a peony. There were nine singles, including No. H22, with three rows of petals, dark and rich, very trim and cup shaped for about two days, after which it fades. Three bloomed which I did not note, and three more did not bloom.

The hybrid singles are most of them of outstanding beauty, rich, velvety, brilliant, more than half of them do not fade to ugly purple.

Some cerise singles are of a dirty shade, others of a clear cast which offer a striking contrast with the clear reds, and might be used with other flowers for special effects.

Five earlier hybrids which have bloomed have all been double reds, color fine, of varying height. No. 1843, which received an award this year, is a very large, full bomb, brilliant and bold. The color does not fade. It and the stiff stemmed semi-double open slowly, like *Solange*, and should not be cut in bud. I started cutting hybrid buds for Des Moines on May 16, mailed them, and they went into storage there until June 9. Some buds were moldy, but opened well. Others did not show at their best.

When the results of work with *officinalis rosea plena*, *Mutabilis* and the pure white double are available, I believe we shall have a wonderful addition to our list of peonies desirable for the home garden. It yet remains to be proven that any of the hybrids will have the vigor to stand commercial cut flower production.

It is well known that *officinalis rubra* will not stand heavy cutting year after year, and that it takes it longer to get established after division than the *Chinensis* kinds. Since the hybrids are sterile, we can never reduce the proportion of *officinalis* blood below 50 per cent, and I believe that will be our greatest stumbling block in trying for a commercial variety. The fact that there are such a large proportion of runty plants, that the seedlings are very apt to die the first year, and that germination is poor also make me believe that way. The 35 plants coming to maturity this year were the net result from 360 seeds. This fall I have already planted a measured pint of *officinalis* hybrid seed, almost all of it hand-pollenized. While I was disinfecting it with weak permanganate solution, a full two-thirds of it floated. That probably means it is sterile.

I hope I am wrong, that some one will get a hybrid with enough vigor to withstand commercial cutting of blooms. One can never be sure what will crop up in a lot of new seedlings. This year, among some seedlings of *Adolphe Rousseau* raised from chance pollenized seed, there appeared an immaculate full double white, on a tall stiff stem. It was quite different from any other white bloom I have ever seen, and I have no reason to doubt its seed parentage, but I surely never expected to raise such a seedling from *Adolphe Rousseau*.



Notes of 1932 Blooming

By HARRY W. CLAYBAUGH, Franklin, Pa.

ALWAYS something happens at peony blooming season and this year dry weather, five weeks in our section, without a single rain to even wet the foliage, nor the usual experience of having a rain storm at the height of the blooming season. In spite of the dry weather we had our best blooming season but, of course, the blooms were not the usual size and substance but am not complaining, as some of the blooms were fine.

Our first peony blooms were at their best about June 4, these being the hybrids from Prof. Saunders. He has, as you know, some very fine things. His tree hybrid, *Argosy*, is now three years old and had several good blooms of this yellow. At the same date had the first of the *Chinensis* species to open. Two seedlings from my friend, H. P. Sass, one, his No. 45, is always the first *Chinensis*, a bomb type but Mr. Sass does not think so much of the color. The other, No. 75, is really a fine peony and very valuable because of the early season. During the following week the singles and Japanese were opening, also some fine blooms of *Judge Berry* and extra fine *Therese*, *Rose Shaylor*, *Luetta Pfeiffer* and the Wettengel seedling, *Martha A. Twyman*. My friend, Mr. Sass, also had several very fine seedlings blooming at this time, especially notable were his No. A60, No. F1 and No. F2. The following week-end, June 19th, was our big blooming date and lots of visitors at our garden.

As usual certain peonies are always good, such as *Glorious*, *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Longfellow*, *Souv. de Louis Bigot*, *Cornelia Shaylor*, *June Day*, *Phyllis Kelway*, *James Boyd*, *Miss Salway*, *Primevere* and several others. Brand's *Myrtle Gentry* and *Mrs. Frank Beach* were both fine, also *Hazel Kinney* was very well liked by the visitors, as was *Hansina Brand*. Both the fine pinks, *President Wilson* and *Katharine Havemeyer* from the Thurlows were up to the usual standard and their *Betty Blossom* which I purchased from them a few years ago under No. 23 was very good. At the time I secured No. 23, also purchased another seedling, No. 19, a late dark pink and greatly admired the past two years.

The peony, *Jennie E. Richardson*, which I mentioned as being fine last season, was again a fine show. Believe a couple of peonies are on the market under this name but the one I am growing is the Havemeyer variety. While I do not grow many of the Japanese varieties the white *Isani Gidui* is always a big attraction to the garden visitors.

Of course the big attraction for the writer is the new seedlings blooming for the first time on three-year plants and Dr. J. H. Neeley's new named seedlings were extra fine, especially his *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*, *Ward Welsh*, *Matchless Beauty* and *Harry L. Burden*, these will all be top raters. Know several others that were good but I did not get a chance to note them during blooming season. His *Liberty Belle* is a very distinctive red and fine blooms on two-year plants. As usual I had extra fine blooms on his *Gloriana*.

Mr. Rosefield's *Harry L. Richardson* and *Gene Stratton Porter* were both good this year as were a couple of his numbered seedlings but do not have notes on these unnamed seedlings. Had some fine blooms of your namesake, *W. F. Christman* and as usual *Ball o' Cotton* is always a fine white and for the first time in several years good blooms of *Le Cygne*.

While I have most of the newer European varieties in my garden my plants are only two years the coming fall and by reason of the very dry weather did not get much in representative blooms, although I noted *Denise* and *Madelon* as making a good showing, while *Alice Harding* looks like an extra fine peony.

In the two-year planting the Wettengel seedling, *Lucy Dunn*, was a good variety. While my favorite peony, *Silvia Saunders*, is always good every year and Prof. Saunders' *Matilda Lewis* is the real dark red, I have never been able to open his *Grace Loomis* until this year and now I know it is an extra fine white.

Most of the late varieties do not open well for me. No good blooms of *Mrs. A. M. Brand* for the past two seasons, generally too hot weather about the first of July in our section for these late varieties to open. Many of the Sass' seedlings were fine this year, and while most of the new-named varieties are but two years the coming fall they made a fine showing. *Adonis*, a fine one, *Elizabeth Huntington* as I mentioned last year is a really fine peony and will be desired by all peony lovers. Another one is his wonderful white *Elsa Sass* of which you wrote me a couple of years ago. This may be the finest of all whites for it has wonderful substance and form, very heavy petalage and a cream white, will look forward to another blooming season. Two of the Sass' late varieties *Minerva*, a white, and *Last Rose*, a loose built light pink, produced fine blooms and his *Grace Batson* produced the usual fine blooms. Of course, as usual, we always have fine blooms of *Solange*, but really I do not care so much about this peony, it always seems so stiff to the writer, blooms entirely too perfect.

While we have a lot of reds, a new one from my friend Mr. Sass last fall looks good. I am still of the opinion the real red is *Philippe Rivoire*, it has everything but size and this season lots of blooms five inches in diameter and it surely does hold up in the garden. Even now I have some blooms of this peony at home, after at least two weeks of blooming.

Must mention a couple of late bloomers from Mr. Sass, his No. 98, a cream white, and another white, his No. 120, the latter was awarded the prize for the largest bloom at Omaha in 1926, both these varieties were extra large, with tall vigorous plants. There are many other fine peonies to come from the Sass gardens, including a really wonderful single dark pink.

After three weeks of peony blooms one is ready to close the season until another year as the peony lover is really tired after such a strenuous season. I now look forward to getting some new ones the coming fall as it is so wonderful to have the new peonies in one's collection and I hear of many new ones I would like to secure. I have looked forward to getting some of Mr. Franklin's new seedlings as I know he must have some fine things.

Really did not get much of a chance to be in the peony garden. Would go out early in the morning and then early in the evening, but plenty of visitors at that time and not much chance to study the blooms. While we had a long dry spell have now four days of rains and plenty of moisture. You have a number of new varieties in your gardens and when you get the chance hope you will pass along the news as I always get a lot of interesting information from your letters.



A Report from Vermont

MRS. MARY E. C. FREEBORN, Proctor, Vt.

Our peony blooms in this district were very poor, due to a temperature of 22 degrees F. in May.

There were two interesting conditions probably due to the frost. First—the high class peonies, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Solange*, *Mrs. Edward Harding*, *Le Cygne*, etc., opened their blooms while the buds on the poorer class peonies blasted.

Second—the carpels persisted in some of my double peonies so they could be pollenized, and they gave seed.

At the time of the Peony Society's Annual Show at Fort Wayne, Ind., even *officinalis* was not in bloom here.

Peony Blight

By L. W. KEPHART, Washington, D. C.

YOU will be interested in the following excerpt from the New Jersey Nursery Disease Notes, Vol. 5, No. 2, August 1932, which has just come to my attention:

"Peony Blight. In 1931 and again this year, many peony plantations suffered from a disease which is called blight, but which should be distinguished from the common Botrytis bud blast and blight which is often common early in the season. This blight disease of peonies does not appear on plants until after the blooming period is over and is characterized by a wilting and browning of the leaves. As the disease progresses the leaves become completely dried out and brittle and the stems eventually die to the ground. Certain varieties are much more susceptible to this trouble than others. In varietal notes taken last year on September 28, the following varieties were noted as severely infected: *Mons. Martin Cabuzac*, *Eugene Verdier*, *Emilie*, *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Marie Jacquin*, *Charlemagne*, *Duc de Wellington*, *James Kelway*, *Boule de Neige*, *Jacqueline*, *Gen. Bertrand*, *Karl Rosefield*, *Couronne d'Or*, *Asa Gray*.

"On the other hand the following varieties suffered very little: *Felix Crousse*, *Adolphe Rousseau*, *Eugene Bigot*, *Modeste Guerin*, *Delicatissima*, *Mlle.*, *Leonie Calot*, *Cornelia*, *Fontanelle*, *Duchesse de Nemours*, and *Avalanche*.

"Like all leaf diseases of the peony that show up only after the blooming period, this disease should be controlled by frequent sprayings with Bordeaux mixture during July and August. A spraying program combined with the removal and destruction by burning of all the old tops during the early fall has given excellent results in the control of Botrytis blight and leaf blotch, and should prove efficacious for this disease also."

This disease is one of the most destructive I have ever seen appearing on peonies. A plant that is apparently perfectly normal on the first of July is likely to be dead from this disease by the middle of August. I have lost several plants myself, and there have been some rather bad outbreaks in northern Virginia. In some cases the plants are not entirely killed but they are so badly weakened that they likely will never amount to much again.

I can add to the list of varieties quoted as being severely infected,

the following: *Mary Brand*, *Judge Berry*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *La Lorraine*, and *Venus*.

The New Jersey article suggests that some varieties may be resistant to the disease, but I would be a little hesitant about this until we have had more experience. It is quite likely a great many varieties have not been diseased merely because they have not been attacked.



Peonies Outcharm Even the Lilacs

By JOHN GUMTZ, Merrill, Wisconsin

A SEVERE frost in May following an open winter and prolonged drouth failed to dim the peony season in June, 1931—an indication that peonies along with lilacs are ever dependable. The month of May had finished with a rich feast of French lilacs and I had a keenly felt misgiving that peonies could scarcely be as ethereal. A late May frost, however, injured some of the late lilacs and many of the peonies including the time-honored *Festiva Maxima*, but other varieties were wonderously beautiful—hence the wisdom of having many varieties of peonies in even a small garden.

One of the rare sights to unexpectedly entrance me on a June evening was a row of *Mrs. Edward Harding* peonies, four feet high, with gorgeous white blooms held erect! *Mrs. Edouard Doriat* presented a similarly tall and immaculate picture later in the season. One hundred flowering plants of *La Lorraine* in rich amber left nothing to be desired. *Alice Harding* also repeatedly drew attention with its rare combination of lovely color, form and quality—and its splendid plant form.

Nannette was again ideal in three-year-old plants, and even one-year-old plants of this and *Denise* held up handsome blooms of fair size. Two seasons ago, *Denise* was without any red markings and showed wonderful quality. Lemoine's *Genevieve* flowers late, but in 1931, it did not equal two *Genevieves* which four years ago flowered in the writer's garden and which were superbly beautiful—equaling *Le Cygne*. The heat at its season of bloom has prevented its developing as perfectly every season but if the buds are covered with bags and the plant does not suffer from drouth, the variety may come through better. *Elizabeth Barrett Browning* responds well when the blooms are covered, but this season, *Browning* came through with a large number of blooms without

any protection or support. It has pure translucent quality and color, but occasionally the stem twists if the heavy bloom is not supported. Rarely has it red markings in my experience.

LOVELY NINA FROSTBITTEN

Le Cygne and *Kelway's Glorious* were not up to their usual standard, nor did *Nina Secor* give us bloom due to frost injury although a few laterals left on the plant while disbudding and uninjured by frost were perfect miniatures. *Madame Claude Tain* was a thrilling sight with thirty or more large flowers on a plant which had not been disbudded. Whether the blooms will last well for commercial purposes will probably determine whether or not this variety will become a fine commercial. *Mainz*, a new Goos and Koenemann introduction, gave one appealing bloom on a young plant and deserves watching. *Alesia* of *Nancy* origin has some splendid points. *Grace Loomis* showed promising bloom.

In pinks, *Walter Faxon*, *Souvenir de Louis Bigot*, *LaFrance*, and others were fine, whereas *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Therese*, *Jeannot*, *Madame Emile Galle*, *Henry Avery*, *Judge Berry*, *Tourangelle*, *LaPerle*, *Grandiflora*, *Standard Bearer*, *Souvenir du General Gallieni*, *Nancy Dolman*, *Cornelia Shaylor*, *Nell Shaylor* and many others were impaired by frost or heat. *Martha Bulloch* showed some effective blooms but not as large as in 1930. *Martha* in other seasons has been a remarkable peony, every plant supporting huge blooms during diverse weather conditions. *President Wilson* excelled *Therese* in 1931. *Rachel* (Lemoine) produced gorgeous bouquets of flowers of even color and perfect form—it appeals to me as a far choicer variety than *Sarah Bernhardt* because of its landscape qualities and pure color. Its roots are clean and healthy. It should be a florists' favorite. Contrary to its description in most catalogues, it is early, not late.

THOMAS C. THURLOW A TREASURE

Koenigswinter (Goos and Koenemann) is a splendid deep pink. *Kelway's Queen* again showed rare form and color. *Phoebe Cary* was of splendid height. *Thomas C. Thurlow* continues one of the most reliable and appealing peonies in my collection. The large heavy blooms are held adequately by the strong stems. Its rich cream color has a pink sheen blending perfectly with the cream. Next to *President Wilson* I would place it as *Thurlow's* best. *Rose Shaylor*, which I class as *Shaylor's* premier pink, was damaged by rains alternating with intense heat.

Georgiana and *Mary W. Shaylor* bloomed prolifically and are other excellent Shaylor creations.

Prolific blooming is an important quality, and *June Day* has this desired factor. Another pink peony that fairly outdoes itself in blooming is *Maman Millet*—a peony with a delightfully significant name and a great favorite of mine. *Myrtle Gentry* also blooms abundantly and a bloom developed slowly indoors was exquisitely charming. *Madame Emil Debatene* and the new *Jacques Dessert* are likewise prolific. *Blanche King* is a magnificent deep pink. *Victory Chateau Thierry* and *Pallas*, of looser form with wide petals, are two light pinks of good landscape value. *Madame Denis Debatene* with its wide saucer-like guard petals of perfect form and its lovely color combination always wins admiration. *Directeur Ursat* is early and attractive in color and form. *Mrs. C. S. Minot* was again very beautiful and of medium height, although some seasons it has been tall. Among older varieties, is there a lovelier color than *Elwood Pleas*?

PHILIPPE DOES NOT BURN

Reds! A large group of *Philippe Rivoire* in bloom was a sight to behold near the close of the peony season. A burning sun was unable to wilt his substance for nearly a week. What rose can compete? *Felix Crousse*, long revered, is a big improvement when grown in the shade over *Felix* grown in the open. *Souvenir d'A Millet* has much of the brown shade sought in reds, and on established plants produces much fuller blooms, nor do its stamens lose their "gold." It should be in great demand. *W. F. Turner* is a distinctive variety of darker color, fine for landscape. *Longfellow* is an ideal landscape red of lighter color with very little purple in its make-up. It is medium tall, as is *Turner*. *Heimburg* of Goos and Koenemann's introduction, advertised as a cherry red, is however, a large, deep pink of cherry tone. *Karl Rosefield* and *Lora Dexheimer* were adversely affected by weather conditions in 1931.

In singles, my favorites are still *Pride of Langport* and *Mrs. Helen F. Rooker*, both pinks. *Katori Nabiko* blooms abundantly, and while it occasionally feathers, it seems superior to Dessert's *L'Etincelante*. Its laterals give it a long season of bloom. *Mlle. Louise de Lattre* is superior to older pink singles with laced petals. It has landscape value and is robust. The newer *Millet* singles I do not have and from their descriptions I fear some of them have too much purple. In semi-doubles, *Elisa* and *Libellule* are fine for landscape. Saunders' *Sylvia* and *Minnie Shaylor* bloom freely and are delightfully pleasing.

In Japs, I prefer *Mikado* and *King of England* to *Some Ganoko*; *Ama-no-Sode* to *Tokio*. However, a Jap of *Some Ganoko* color would be most welcome if combined with landscape merits. A new red, *Instituteur Doriat*, is different as is also *Fuyajo*. *Knight of The Thistle* (Kelway) is a profuse bloomer, and is thrifty. *Fuyoko*, a new deep pink, is unusual, and in whites, *Jeanne Lapandry* is distinctive, with clear coloring. *Isami Jishi* is still the best white Jap, with *Snow Wheel* and the new free-flowering *Jitsu Gusecki* both worth while. *Snow Wheel* bloomed without discoloration of stamenodes in very unfavorable weather, but its white is not as clear as *Isami Jishi* or *Margaret Atwood*. The latter is distinctly different from *Isami Jishi*. A number of other Japs feather or are not of the best color, some need further testing, and others, very fine, lack verification of names.

Many other varieties of peonies not included in the above comments undoubtedly have value. Some are too well known for mention in this article, as their merits have been stated repeatedly. Some of the novelties have been divided too often for proper judgment.

PEONIES BRILLIANT IN AUTUMN

In conclusion, I wish to second the suggestion recently made in the BULLETIN that peonies should be selected for foliage value as well as for bloom. Peonies with rusty, spotted or unattractive foliage should not be selected for landscape plantings. For the same reason, why invest in those shrubs of no particular value or faulty habits when peonies can be purchased with foliage that rivals the maples in autumn effect and that in May is equally inviting? Behold *Therese* with her bronzy foliage, *Madame Gaudichau* with her rich deep metallic luster, *La Lorraine* with its fascinating light green leaves on red stems, *Rachel* (Lemoine) with her distinctively reddish foliage, many of the Japs of characteristic structure, the early Lemoine hybrids and tenuifolia and anamola Smouthi, all of different growth and type of leaf. Why complain that peonies bloom so short a time, when if properly selected they will provide weeks of bloom and in addition prove truly attractive throughout the year?

THE 1932 SEASON

One more season of splendid lilacs and a mid-May frost that could not cope with 260 varieties of peonies. Early midseason varieties were in many instances damaged. *Directeur Ursat*, *Edwin C. Shaw*, *Gretchen*, *Inspecteur Lavergne*, *June Day*, *La Lorraine*, *Le Cygne*, *Longfellow*, *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*, *Mrs. Edward Harding*, *Mrs. C. S. Minot*, *Nan-*

ette, *Pallas*, *Phyllis Kelway*, *Raoul Dessert*, *Reine Baronet*, *Raenthal*, *Richard Carvel*, *Rita*, *Rose Shaylor*, *Secretary Fewkes*, *Therese*, *Thomas C. Thurlow*, *Victory C. Thierry*, *Walter Faxon* and *Wilton Lockwood* were all very fine. *Martha Bulloch*, *Biebrich*, *Denise Debatene*, *Henry Avery*, *Lorch*, *Galathee*, *Madelon*, *Mary Brand*, *Mme. Edouard Doriat* and *President Wilson* produced some excellent blooms.

Lemoine's *Rachel* again impressed me with its worth as it is early and approximates *Walter Faxon* color. Why it is compared with *Sarah Bernhardt*, I do not understand, as the two varieties are very different except in size and form. *Rachel* (pronounced Ra-shel) holds its blooms very satisfactorily, its color well and is deliciously fragrant.

Alesia, *Mme. Claude Tain*, *Madame Emile Debatene* and *Jacques Desert* are new varieties of which we will undoubtedly hear more. *Gilberte* impressed me as a very fine pink. *Sylviane* (Lemoine) is a new, creamy white. *Isolene* in my fields is a very prolific, creamy yellow variety of pleasing fragrance and seldom has red markings. I like its clusters of bloom very much.

Heimburg from Niederwalluf is a deep pink of considerable promise. *Waldaffa* has excellent habit and *Mainz* has extra large white blooms. All of these are too new to accurately estimate their values.

Maman Millet has proved itself an outstanding variety, very prolific in bloom, charming in color and ideal for either landscape or cut flowers. *Philippe Rivoire* is still the best red but *Souvenir d'A Millet*, I believe, has the finest color.

Kelway's new Jap, *His Majesty*, is much on the order of *Fuyajo* but its petaloids are round instead of flat and serrated. His *British Empire*, is one of the clearest pinks I know in peonies and is below medium height, nor does it grow rapidly. *Prince of Monaco* is an American Beauty shade of pink and has a very long season of bloom.

From Japan, I have several Japs of great promise. One is of an American Beauty shade with fine petaloids. A rosy red Jap is one of the choicest varieties I own and I hope to propagate it as I am certain it will be in great demand when known. *Jitsu-Getsu-Ko* is very free blooming and of good size. The new Japs from the Doriat nursery are also free blooming and of apparently excellent merit.



Annual Spring Show of the Barre Flower Growers' Association

THE Barre armory was a floral vista of enchantment at the annual spring show of the Barre Flower Growers' Association, attended June 24th and 25th by hundreds of local persons interested in the cultural growth of flowers and their arrangement for presentation.

Though, because of a late spring, there were fewer flowers on exhibition this year, opinions given the association members by the most interested visitors characterized it as the most artistic flower show ever held at the armory. Music by the Junior Symphony orchestra, led by Dr. D. C. Jarvis, added an enjoyable tone.

The largest exhibit was that of the Gardenside Nurseries, which used the entire space fronting the armory stage. Arthur Perry arranged the exhibit, in a neat and thoroughly attractive way. On the left side everything was fixed to represent a natural appearance, or a wild garden, with a dozen different wild ferns mingling in evergreen foliage, and in the center a cleverly planted pool held sportive gold fish which seemed happy in the cool running water provided in the forest scheme. At the right the rock garden plan was carried out, a patch of thymus dominating the lower portion, and set off above by a small group of alsina. Dwarf lilies and an assortment of sedums and sempervivums surrounded them, they in turn surrounded by more evergreens.

Valuable ideas as to the proper balance and harmony of the flowers and containers in the competition for artistic arrangement were offered in the written notes and comments of Rev. L. Griswold Williams, who judged that competition. His criticism was constructive and should prove useful for subsequent competition in similar displays.

Basket displays occupied the length of one entire table, presenting a tasteful arrangement of several varieties of flowers, peonies predominating. There is a number of splendid entries in the rose classes, including some very creditable baskets and individual rose blooms. Sweet-smelling irises were plentiful, too, due to the late spring season.

Four breakfast tables, all well arranged with floral center pieces, were prepared for the show by Mrs. Ward Carver, Mrs. Harold Mayforth, the Misses Sylvia Jarvis and Loraine Parker and Mrs. Wendell Smith. These tables were set near the entrance of the hall, and just beyond them was Mrs. Ethel Smith's exhibit. This was in the form of a circular plot, almost in the center of the hall, and the flowers comprising the exhibit

were sweet williams, peonies and a border of sprays of Hungarian lilacs.

The Robinson gardens of Williamstown showed a group of seedling peonies, in the left-hand corner beneath the stairway to the balcony. In the opposite corner Mrs. John Pressley exhibited some marvelous peony blooms, not entered in competition.



Winter Flowering or Everblooming Peonies

By MR. MAITANI, Yamamoto, Japan

WINTER flowering peonies came into existence some fifty years ago, but at that time and until about twenty years ago, the flowers contained very few petals and could hardly be called semi-double. They were also of small size. They were, however, welcomed by a few lovers due to their rare flowering time.

Some keen-visioned nurserymen, including ourselves, labored to produce new varieties of better quality, and after more than fifteen years of effort, succeeded in securing large, fully double, beautiful flowers.

There were only two colors at the beginning, namely, pink and scarlet, but we now can see various kinds of colors. They become as large, beautiful and worthy as spring flowering peonies. There are still many varieties not yet offered to the public, even in Japan. We believe this kind of peony will gain vast popularity among peony lovers of all countries when it becomes better known.

Winter flowering peonies have their beautiful flowers from the beginning of November until January or February (few of them bloom very early in October). Of course, they flower in the field, not under glass or cold frame. In a very cold location we take precaution to avoid frost. As a matter of fact they have a weaker nature than spring flowering peonies. They will flower again in May as spring flowering peonies, so they are seen in flower twice a year, hence the name everblooming peonies. We must say that it is a very rare exception when they do not flower in winter, but in case they fail, they will flower the following winter.

The demand for this kind of peony is increasing year by year and we are greatly encouraged by this fact and have studied methods of sending these varieties abroad. Until last year we did not have a sufficient quantity and variety to offer them abroad, nor did we possess the experience of sending them far distances.

A Japanese firm in America requested us to send these winter flowering varieties last season and though the shipment was made rather too late, the results were very satisfactory. We now have experience in packing and shipping these varieties and feel confident that we can ship them safely abroad this season and are offering them in our 1932-33 catalogue.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The writer of the above article is the manager of *The Cbugai Shokubutsu Yen*, whose advertisement appeared in the June issue of the BULLETIN.

It would certainly be quite an innovation to have winter blooming peonies. Sections in the vicinity of Yokohama, Japan, and south have the benefit of the Japanese current to modify the temperature to a point where freezing weather is not experienced during the winter season. In sections of the country where mild winters are experienced, it would be possible to grow winter flowering peonies out of doors, protecting them from any light frost that might occur. Where they could be planted in tubs or other containers, permitting them to be moved under glass, it would prove very interesting to try a few. The fall blooming iris is with us and those who can handle winter flowering peonies will doubtless experience a new thrill in bringing them to bloom. It is to be noted that these particular varieties also bloom in June. We note seed is being offered by various Japanese merchants of winter flowering peonies.



New Peonies Needed

By B. B. WRIGHT, Oskaloosa, Iowa

IN ALL the northern states peony blooms are in universal demand for Memorial Day decoration. The earliest blooming Albiflora varieties we have, double or semi-double, suitable for cutting is *Umbellata Rosea*, light pink, and *Edulis Superba*, bright pink, the first blooming one to two days ahead of the latter under identical conditions.

In latitude forty-one (41) in Iowa these two varieties are generally in bloom before Decoration Day, but *Edulis Superba* sometimes fails to open in time as it did last spring, leaving *Umbellata Rosea* as the only peony available for blooms for decoration.

Fully half or more of the people of the United States live north of latitude forty, and last spring in this territory millions of people were disappointed because the Albiflora peonies were not in bloom and available for Memorial Day, and the big peony growers for the cut flower trade lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in the north.

A satisfactory red, a good white, and a bright pink, double or semi-double, of good substance suitable for cut flowers and with satisfactory plant habit of wide adaptability, as early or earlier than *Umbellata Rosea* in season of bloom, would be worth millions of dollars to the people of the northern sections of the United States.

If any of the originators of new peonies anywhere are lucky enough to have produced new peonies with the desirable characteristics mentioned, even if no earlier to bloom than *Edulis Superba*, they will be rendering the peony lovers of the United States a great service if they will take special care to increase their stock and report the fact for publication in the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN.



My List of Best Dozen Peonies

By D. H. CARTER, Armada, Michigan

I WANT to offer a few ideas on varieties. My list of twelve best varieties would be something like this:

Red—*Officinalis Rubra*, *Richard Carvel*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *Karl Rosefield*.

Pink—*Edulis Superba*, *Souvenir de Louis Bigot*, *Therese*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Pierre Duchartre*.

White—*Festiva Maxima*, *Tourangelle*, *Kelway's Glorious*.

I am ready to doubt the correctness of this list in my own mind but it will help show my idea of a best dozen. *Officinalis Rubra* and we can add the *Rosea*, have a place all their own. Who would want to have only *Philippe Rivoire* which I love the more I look at it, when *Richard Carvel* will supply much earlier blooms of excellent quality? *Richard Carvel* is much more valuable to us because it has no real competition in its season. We like *Augustin D'Hour*, and *Karl Rosefield* and *Marechal Vaillant* gives us late red bloom.

In whites *Festiva Maxima* is a wonderful all-around peony. There is a confusing long list of good whites, some have beautiful form but would they be as good for the average planter? We have a good white much earlier but I got it without a name. I love *Tourangelle*. It is a late sweet smelling peony with a wonderful delicate color. It has its faults.

In pinks I do not know what can take the place of *Edulis Superba* for its season.

Souvenir de Louis Bigot and *Therese* are too dwarf on our young plants to be cut flower varieties but they are beautiful. *Sarah Bernhardt* looks like the best cut flower pink. *Pierre Ducharte* is a fine late.

At Ann Arbor in the peony collection in the Nichols Arboretum, *Grover Cleveland* was the outstanding late midseason red as a garden show. *Philippe Rivoire* would be overlooked as a landscape variety. Our *Grover*

Cleveland is not blooming. *Frankie Curtis* looked like a distinct new variety. One young plant was blooming. The whole garden of peonies was wonderful with its grass walks and peat covered beds. Visitors are given a chart and each bed has 30 plants of 15 varieties and each corner of the bed has a cement block with the bed number.

At the Fort Wayne peony show the only new variety that impressed me was a new red officinalis of Mr. Glasscock.

Japanese and singles impressed me at the show. I had never seen a good collection before.

Now as to my list of 12 varieties. A showroom is not the place to give a variety its rating. Poultry men did that 20 years ago but found their mistake.

I want the best peony of its season and color for cut flowers or as a landscape variety and I certainly want more than one variety of reds.



Peony Observations in California

By J. NEILSON, Saskatoon, Sask.

THE flower lover who goes to California from regions farther north or east must be immediately impressed by the wonderful diversity of vegetation. Annuals, biennials and perennials, as well as flowering shrubs and trees, grow in great variety and profusion. The climate while adapted for many of the so-called tropical or semi-tropical plants is not too far south for most of the plants which flourish in the more northern part of the temperate zone.

Among the perennial flowers, however, the writer at once observed a scarcity of herbaceous peonies, and it was disappointing to find his favorite flower relegated to obscurity, growing sometimes in out-of-the-way corners, and in some fine gardens not to be found at all.

Upon mentioning my disappointment to persons interested in horticulture various replies were received. I was told that the peony does not do well in California as compared with the rose, the daffodil, the iris, or the rhododendron, and that in some cases it dies out altogether. I was also told that where so many other flowers—more particularly the rose—can be grown in such perfection, and with so little apparent effort on the part of the grower, the need for the peony is not felt so much as in the harsher climates of the north and east where the rose does not find itself in so congenial an environment.

In an effort to get the facts as far as possible relating to peony culture in the state, visits were made in peony time to a number of gardens in the Bay District around San Francisco. The cities visited included Burlingame, San Jose, Los Gatos, Haywards, San Leandro, Oakland, Berkeley and Petaluma. Ample opportunity was afforded me to discuss peony culture with both commercial and private growers including a number of members of the American Peony Society.

I cannot say that any case of failure was found where an intelligent effort was made to grow peonies, and where the special attention required by climatic conditions was given. On the other hand I saw a number of collections of peonies which satisfied me that this flower can be grown quite successfully in California, and that it deserves a more prominent place in the floriculture of the state than it at present occupies.

It was interesting to note the uniformity of opinion prevailing among those who had been successful with peonies. It was generally agreed that they do not do as well in California as in the colder sections of the country, and some growers attributed this to the shorter rest period in winter. The peony being a native of a cold climate it is reasonable to suppose that a long rest in winter will tend to preserve the vitality of the plant, and will be conducive to more vigorous growth of stem and bud. In the gardens visited the average height of the plants was not so great as observed in more northern latitudes.

The majority of growers, however, were of the opinion that the chief cause of failure with peonies has been the neglect to give them sufficient water during the long dry summer season. In California the winter is the rainy season and summer the dry season. During the four or five months of summer rain rarely falls, and the whole land surface becomes dry to a considerable depth. The peony blooms in the latter part of April and the early part of May, and so its bloom is over before the driest of the season has come. But the buds for next year's blooming are formed during the summer, and moisture is required to develop these buds. No amount of water applied during the blooming season can compensate for the lack of moisture during the bud-forming period of the previous summer.

In one of the finest collections observed in California, and where there was a profusion and a quality of bloom that would bear comparison with the best I have seen in colder latitudes, I was informed that the garden received a soaking of water every two weeks during the entire summer. Sprinkling or surface watering is of little value. The peony

is a deep-rooting plant, and only a deluging which will go down to the roots can have any effect. One grower told me that if he neglected applying water in abundance in June, July and August the bloom in the following spring was inferior both in quality and quantity. A commercial grower gave as his reason for the higher prices charged for roots that the necessity for watering made the cost of growing plants higher than in the east.

Growers in other states may have observed, like the writer, that where we depend entirely on rainfall our peonies do not produce such fine blooms or in such large quantity if the previous summer has been unusually dry.

A peculiarity of peony culture in California is the statement heard repeatedly that certain varieties which succeed elsewhere do not make a satisfactory showing here. In the gardens visited I saw very few good reds, and was more than once informed that they are not as satisfactory as the pinks and whites. *Le Cygne* was seen in two different gardens, but in neither case did this highly-rated variety appear to be doing well. How far this poor showing can be attributed to inferior stock I am unable to say.

Among the varieties which I saw in fine form may be mentioned: *Festiva Maxima*, *M. Jules Elie*, *Madame Calot*, *Reine Hortense*, *Ruth Brand*, *Archie Brand*, *Marie Crousse*, *Umbellata Rosea*, *Madame Galle*, *Loveliness*, *Minnie Shaylor*, *Jubilee* and *Sulphurea*.



Handling Peonies in the South

By MRS. OSCAR G. THURLOW, Birmingham, Ala.

Both Mr. Thurlow and myself have found the Peony Manual to be of great value to us.

We started with peonies seven years ago and now have six or seven hundred growing in red clay.

At the flower show last spring we had about a thousand blooms of 108 varieties.

April 21 we started putting them in tight bud, or just a little open, in cold storage at a temperature between 34 and 36 degrees.

May 2 we took them out early in the morning and by noon they were wide open, as the temperature was 90 and they kept well for three days.

Peonies in 1932 at Windy Hill

By GEORGE W. PEYTON, Rapidan, Virginia

THE peony season of 1932 opened last summer with much heat and an abundance of rain until the first of September. As a consequence the roots and eyes were developed rather better than usual. From September until March we had little rain and only a few days of frost. Peonies began to come up very soon, some venturing to show above ground in January. By March many were from six to ten inches high, though the great majority had not yet appeared above ground. On March 5 Winter arrived with a vengeance. For six weeks we had snow, wind, ice very frequently, and hard freezing nearly all the time. The peonies that had come up suffered considerable damage. Many stems died to the ground, but new shoots came from the roots and so there seems to have been little permanent injury to them. Those that had not come up were set back several weeks and they straggled along until about the twentieth of May when the last managed to break through.

The season which bid fair to be the earliest known, became the latest. In low places many buds were so seriously damaged that they did not bloom. The season of many varieties was changed. Notably some, that are usually very early bloomers, did not open until late. I noted *Cherry Hill* especially which usually is among the first to open, but this year came along at the end of the season. While it might seem that with such conditions to contend with the season would have been very poor, quite the opposite was the case.

There has never been better bloom on the early and midseason varieties. The lates had magnificent prospects, but an almost entire lack of rain in May caused the soil to dry out so much by the end of the month that they, as a general thing, failed to open, but some proved their worth in spite of these drawbacks and showed good bloom. The blooming season started with *anomala* on April 24 and ended with a few scattering blooms as late as July 4. These last were from plants that were delayed in coming up and strange to say, they were quite perfect blooms.

Owing to some very hot days the reds suffered very much, that is the doubles did, the singles and Japs were not affected at all and showed beautiful color when the doubles faded to a sickly pink. Another notable thing was the prevalence of red in the whites and pinks that normally show a little. This year they had it in great streaks and splotches. It was noted especially on *Kelway's Glorious* and *Therese* which had red in

nearly every petal. Normally the former has only showed red on the outside of the buds. Also many of the whites came veiled quite heavily in pink. Even *Festiva Maxima* showed a pink veil on some flowers. Another fact that was impressed very strongly on one was the great excellence of many of our old friends.

Few of the new can even approach them in beauty. It seems to me that the most beautiful peonies were produced from about 1900 to 1915 and since that time we have few that can contend very seriously with them for high honors, though there are a few.

While it may seem a waste of time and space to comment on these old friends yet I cannot refrain from a few remarks and so I shall say that for unvaried excellence of performance and matchless beauty, *Kelway's Glorious* must still retain its place at the top of the list, *Therese* still holds the crown as queen of the pinks and *Philippe Rivoire* reigns as king of the reds. A close second to *Kelway's Glorious* is another Kelway production. Splendid in form, color, size and bearing, *Baroness Schroeder* is truly almost a perfect peony. Spectacular in size, *Gigantea* and *Mons. Jules Elie* were never more perfect in flower. Dainty in dress, upright in bearing, though lowly in stature, *Octavie Demay* led the procession of doubles with a bloom on May 11. *Festiva Maxima* was splendid in her garb of pure white, very heavily spotted with red which lends an added charm to her beauty. For true charm of flower few can equal our old friend, *Duchesse de Nemours*, which this year was of just the right size to bring out to the utmost her beauty and all commented on it who visited the gardens.

Though relegated to the discard, *Jeanne d'Arc* and *Golden Harvest*, as alike as two peas, bore flowers of great beauty, the central buds developing the large pink petals all through the yellow collar. It is more beautiful and desirable than many of the favored class above 8. Of a size almost unbelievable, but far too modest to show it, *Jubilee*, blushing a satiny pink, hid her great flat blooms under masses of foliage and had to be lifted to show an admiring public what a wonder flower of ruffles and lace she truly is. *Marie Jacquin*, almost full double, wore her lovely dress of pink and white with that charm she alone can show so captivatingly.

Judge Berry was as near being a fairy flower of soft pink as a stern occupant of the bench could be. It is a certainty that Adonis could never have resisted the charms of Venus if she had been so alluringly arrayed as she was this year. And this is speaking for all of the six or seven different peonies, singles, Japs and doubles, that bear the name. They all have

that come hither look that brings us to their feet, though the true double is the real queen of Love and Beauty.

Never was *Reine Hortense* more queenly nor *President Taft* more presidential in bearing. The *Divine Sarah* was well worthy of worship at her shrine. *Queen Victoria* (Whitleyii) even though she may be thought unworthy of a rating or even mention in the list in the Manual, why I wish someone would tell us, bore flowers of a size and beauty that would place her as high in the ranks of Peonydom as the flesh and blood queen stood in the hearts of her subjects, if she just would do it always. *Felix Crousse* always dependable, *Adolphe Rousseau* one of the best and *Karl Rosefield* of splendid color, gave good accounts of themselves. *Avalanche* and *Albatre* were in fine fettle and *Eugenie Verdier* and *Claire Dubois* came at the end with bloom long to be remembered.

Dessert's peonies, including those that have been put out recently by Doriat, were as usual among the best performers. Notable were *Nanette*, early and lovely in her pale pink garb, *Charlot* in her robes of shaded rose pink, upstanding and attractive, *Madelon* of a pink almost as good as *Walter Faxon*, opening well this year, *Madame Edouard Doriat*, loosely built and fine in form and bearing. *Elisa* was as charming as usual in her loose flowing robes of pink, *Ninon* unusually fine in her own especial shade of pink. For the first time in many long years, *Rosa Bonheur* showed us what a true artist she really is. *Directeur Ursat* and *Henri Core*, early and late respectively, had attractive flowers of pale pink. *Denis Debatene* and *Libellule* this year, at least, belonged to the dainty peonies that are so ethereally beautiful when they first open. *Odile* on a rather large plant set last fall made high built blooms with a small cup in the center which glowed with those tints of pink of such exquisite loveliness as this peony and *Tourangelle* know so well how to show. Splendid in carriage, dainty in dress, lovely in form, modest in fragrance, this peony is knocking hard for admission to the company of the elect.

This was not a year that showed many of Lemoine's latest peonies to perfection. As a rule they are late bloomers and so they fell by the way-side. However, all did not, *Alice Harding* is always worth while with its beauty of form and coloring and foliage and carriage that make it desirable even without its flowers. *Le Cygne* grudgingly gave us a few of its blooms of perfect symmetry. *La Lorraine* was exceptional in its beauty. *La France* even condescended to open one or two buds to show what she could do if she only would.

Van Leeuwen's *General Gorgas* was never so desirable before. Tall

and upright as befits a general, he wore his dress uniform of white with red markings with true military bearing. The blooms were immense. Of his new *Nobility* nothing can yet be said beyond the fact that it is of a pleasing color. Next year, maybe a report can be made. The plants were divided last fall and not allowed to bloom. The same is true of Van der Meer's *Miss Eckhart* and *Zus Braun*, a good pink and a nice white respectively.

Millet's pride, *Maman Millet*, paraded her Parisian dress of pink and white as only a Frenchwoman can and *Reine Baronet* was a treasure for those who like its color.

A very fine lavender pink is Kelway's *Mrs. Richards*, which we seldom see in any list.

Nearly all of Goos and Koenemann's peonies are worth growing. Especially lovely are *Gretchen* and *Lorch* which seem to me to be very similar. *Wiesbaden* shows a combination of colors that is hard to beat. *Biebrich* is fine and *Strassbourg* very spectacular.

Crossing the Atlantic back home where we find many fine things, we may mention that Thurlow's *Katharine Havemeyer* made excellent blooms, *James R. Mann* was never better and *Sarah K. Thurlow* was a flower of refinement and beauty. *Betty Blossom* was a little irregular. Some of its flowers were very fine with their own especial glow of yellow. *E. C. Shaw* as always stood out above most of the others. Many of Shaylor's were finer than I have ever seen them before. Especially would I speak of the charm of *Luella Shaylor*. I do not believe many people know this peony. With some blooms Japanese and others full double, it was easily one of the outstanding beauties of the garden. It has a yellow glow that is very striking. The more I see of *Mrs. Edward Harding* the more I like it for its color which is purity itself. Don't let anyone tell you this peony is not worthwhile. They are mistaken. It is one of the few pure whites and for performance stands at the top. *Georgiana Shaylor* is always dependable and this year she was as good as ever. *Mary Woodbury* gave us many of its peaches and cream blooms in fine shape. *Cornelia Shaylor* is to my mind one of the very best to be found. Tall, late and beautiful it almost never fails to do its duty. *Mrs. Shaylor Force* is a peony that is almost the equal of *Mrs. Edward Harding*. All these were at their best this year. Last of the Shaylor's let me pay a tribute even at this early date to the latest addition to his list, *Nick Shaylor*. Roots set last fall made eight-inch flowers of beautiful form, exquisitely tinted, but lacking in fragrance. The plant has splendid carriage and is a very

vigorous grower. It blooms very late and opened its blooms perfectly in spite of the weather conditions. I was also privileged to receive a number of blooms of this variety from Mr. Allison taken from plants of varying ages and I must truly say that I have seen few flowers that have seemed so promising to me. It is somewhat pinker in color than *Solange*, but just as large and of just as beautiful form and was entirely free of the grievous faults of *Solange*. Let us all watch this flower, for if I mistake not, *Solange* will have to look to its laurels or *Nick* will be the one to win the Farr medal.

Of the Vories peonies that bloomed for me this year, I may say that *Robert Lee Davis* was especially appealing as a semi-double pink. *Laura Vories* seemed a coming flower and *Nancy Dolman*, though late, opened well its enormous blooms of an excellent pink.

Dr. Neeley's *Gloriana* first attracted me by its name and I may say it has never disappointed me. This year it was exceptional in size and beauty. *Mrs. J. H. Neeley* is another peony that we shall all watch with a great deal of pleasant expectation for we are sure that this name would never have been given except to the best. This year for the first time I saw something of what we may expect for though very late it opened very well one of its exquisite white flowers daintily tinted pink, that may prove another rival of *Solange*.

Of the newer Good and Welsh peonies that I have I am sorry that I cannot say anything this year for I divided them all last fall and pinched every bud this year except one on *Frank E. Good* which I only allowed to partially open to see its color. Another rival to *Solange* maybe.

I failed to see most of Wettengel's new ones, but *Lucy Dunn* seemed to me to be a peony distinctly worthy of growing.

Of Mr. Brand's famous thirteen, I saw only a few this year, but I may say that every year they seem better to me than they did before. *Victory Chateau Thierry* was truly one of the grandest flowers I had. *Mrs. Harriet Gentry*, which I had never seen before, was very attractive. It is delicately tinted and of excellent size. *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch* was another very fine one. To my amazement I saw this peony and Thurlow's *Edwin C. Shaw* listed in the red peonies in an article on red peonies in a recent issue of the Flower Grower. I guess I must be color blind, but I certainly fail to see any reason for that. *Commander*, though off color a little on account of the weather, opened its enormous blooms well at the end of the season.

Of Mr. Franklin's peonies I have only the older ones. Of these *A. M. Slocum*, *Ball o' Cotton* and *Red Bird* were literally covered with their beautiful flowers. *June Day* was very tall and imposing and *W. F. Christman* was a long season bearer of perfect flowers. Our secretary has every reason to be proud of his namesake.

Earnshaw's *Daphne*, a glorious big white tinted pink, and *Pompilia*, a dainty pink, again proved their worth and made good their place among the first rank peonies.

Betscher's *Modella* seems to me to be a peony that should rank at the top. It is certainly a beautiful flower.

Saunders' *Silvia Saunders* was as always very lovely. His *Matilda Lewis* was exceptionally double this year and a very fine color.

I saw some of Mr. Andrews' for the first time and was very favorably impressed with *Manitou* and *Nimbus*. They will be additions to our list of the delicately tinted peonies.

Are *Vera Terry* and *Miss Henninger* the same? They were very much alike in my garden, but of course it is possible that one of mine is wrong. I have never seen them anywhere else. *Vera Terry* did seem to have a faint shade more pink, but the sun could easily have been responsible for that. At any rate they were beautiful flowers this year. Rather tall, good stems, white blushed pink and with slight red edges, or markings.

I have only two of Mr. Sass's peonies. One *Grace Batson* was only on roots set last fall and did not open well being late, but *Florence Macbeth* made several very beautiful blooms. It is another of the delicately colored peonies that are so well worth while.

The Japanese and single peonies were certainly in their glory this year. They all bloomed and bloomed as only they can bloom. They never fail to bloom, whether early or late and they pay no attention to the weather. While probably the great majority of them are early, yet we have quite a number that are late and a few are among the very latest to flower.

Probably the nearest Japs to being a pure white are *Crystal Queen* and *Fuji-mine*. These approach the anemone type, the staminoids having become almost entirely transformed into petals. They are very similar and both very beautiful. To me the loveliest thing in the shape of a peony is *Isami-Jisbi*. I refuse to use the hideous name *Isani-Gidui* which is an abortion only, having neither meaning nor pleasing sound. Year by year my admiration for this peony increases. Identical except in the

color of its carpels and in its carriage is Kelway's *White Lady*. *Hakodate* bloomed almost, if not quite their equal. There are two other rivals for honors with *Isami-Jishi* which I do not have in my garden. Other whites that showed superior quality are *Shiro-sangai*, *Exquisite First*, and *Venus* (one of the many of that name).

In the pinks *Tamate-boku* made good bloom on one year roots, all having been divided last Fall. As is always so, *Ama-no-sode* stood at the top with its great glowing suns. *Kukeni-jishi* is very large and fine in pale pink.

Some years ago, my friend, Mrs. William Crawford, sent me a root of a Jap she called *Yellow King*. This peony I have watched with a great deal of interest. It is a very tall plant and with me blooms among the first. It has very large blooms with pale pink guards and a large center of petaloids that are a good yellow. It approaches the anemone form. This flower has a very distinct place among the better Japs. Another Jap that has been of a great deal of interest to me is *Goddess*. Mr. Bonnewitz sent this one to me. He thinks it the best rose pink Jap in existence and I am inclined to agree with him, if it blooms as well always as it did this year. It is similar in coloring to *Topaz* or *Gypsy Queen*, but a very much finer flower and borne on a much better plant. It is quite tall.

There are three Japanese peonies growing in my garden that seem to me to be identical. They come up at the same time, the plants are alike in growth and foliage and they flower at the same time. The flowers are exactly alike. These are *Fuji-zome-gorono*, one sold under the name *Ama-no-sode No. 2* and the third put out by a prominent grower as *Tamatbako* (old spelling). I showed them together at the Des Moines show this year. I am told by my friend, Mr. Bongers, who so kindly staged my exhibit, that those who noted them pronounced them identical. Some said they thought they were *Tokio*. With this opinion I cannot agree. They have a different blooming time from *Tokio* as it grows in my garden. *Tokio* is much taller and far better stem and when placed side by side, there are marked differences in the flower. Inasmuch as the peony world has settled on certain varieties to bear the names *Ama-no-sode* and *Tamate-boku* (new spelling and correct), I should say that the name these three peonies should bear is *Fuji-zome-gorono*. It would certainly clear the atmosphere of some indefiniteness.

Of the very new pink Japs, I think *Antwerpen* seemed the most worth while to me this year. Mr. G. F. Hemerik is another that is quite

distinctive in flower and foliage, making a very bushy plant of full leafage and bearing quantities of large flowers of a fine pink. Another Jap that is quite worth while is *Seioba*, a fine light pink. *Francois* is tall and imposing of a pink all its own and a bold spot of color in the garden.

In the red Japs, *Some-ganoko* seemed to me to stand as it always does at or near the top in size and brilliancy of coloring. There are others that are better in stem. *Instituteur Doriat* is a near anemone flower that is imposing in appearance and brilliant in coloring. Lewis's *Prince Ito* is a dark red that is tall and fine. Babcock's new one *Hari-ai-nin* (The Rival) will be a flower that all newcomers among the reds will have to reckon very seriously with as it bids fair this year to be as good as the best. I have yet to have the pleasure of seeing the numerous new red Japs that Mr. Auten has so recently put on the market, but if he had only produced *Nippon Beauty* he would have already won a place among peony men of note. This flower has always bloomed well for me and this year was no exception. It is very late which is a great asset, bears flowers of splendid color, large in size on stems of the best and bears great quantities of its flowers. I should like to rate it 9.5 at least. There were a great many other Japs worthy of mention. Notable were: *Henri Potin*, *Jacques Doriat*, *Joseph Plagnes*, *Akalu* and *Esther* if we call the latter a Jap.

Every year impresses me more with the fact that so many of our white single peonies are practically indistinguishable to anyone unless he indeed be an expert. There may be slight differences in foliage, stem and flower, but no one would ordinarily notice them, so it is always pleasing to find one or two that do have very decided superiority to the others. *Le Jour* stood at the top in my garden as it has always done. Few flowers can equal its great round petals of splendid quality and matchless beauty. But all white singles that I have seen are beautiful and whatever we buy we always get something that we need not be ashamed to grow.

Mr. Brand has a new single that is a candidate for the high honors in *Krinkled White*. This made an imposing plant, tall good foliage and stems and covered with large flowers that open pale pink and fade white. It is very late with me, an asset that is invaluable. Its early counterpart in value is *Shirley Walker*, a pale pink on first opening but fading so soon to white that it may really be classed with the whites. This year and every year it never fails to be covered with its very large blooms that are a joy to all who see them. *Catherine Parry*, slightly pinker, is just as good, though not so tall. It has splendid stems. *Albiflora Carnea* this year was perfection itself. This is supposed to be one of the wild forms of *sinensis*.

Pride of Langport still held its own among the newcomers and *Nellie* with a smaller center and lighter in color was its right-hand mate. Van Leeuwen's new pink, *Mr. Thim*, was very large and strong in color. *Pink Delight* was more delicate while *English Elegance* was everything implied in its name and more. It is one of the very fine things peony fans have to look forward to having. *Jeanne Ernould* is a darker pink that fades much lighter in a few days. It has the characteristics that make for a flower of the first rank. *Rabelais*, *Sagaromo* and *Katori-nabiko* are singles of French origin that have come on the market in the last ten years that are distinctly valuable. So they have seemed every year I have had them. Two other Millet creations, *Mademoiselle Louise Delattre*, quite light pink and sometimes listed as a double in error, and *Mrs. Helen Rooker* slightly darker are flowers of distinction. Auten's *Mischief*, distinct and of first rank ended the season.

This year my garden seemed to me to be full of red singles. Everywhere one looked there was a glowing red single to arrest the eye. I never knew there were so many. Again we are confronted with the great similarity of many. Of the older ones, *The Moor* was of good size and gorgeous color, *Black Prince*, late and outstanding while *Toreador* wound up the procession with its flowers of great beauty. While it is very hard to say what is the very best, yet it has seemed to me that Brand's *President Lincoln* is due that honor for the present. It is tall as befits a flower named for Lincoln, two to three rows of very large petals of gorgeous color and splendid substance it stands out among its fellows as Lincoln did among men. A close rival from France is *Verdun*, lower in growth, but very sturdy and a different shade of red, but of equal value in our gardens; it is a worthy memorial of that bloody battle. And Iowa sends us another in Miss Secor's *Winnebago Chief* that will possibly be a third contender for high honors. It was certainly so with me. It is very tall and floriferous and its color is grand. Probably the purest red is Brand's *Flanders Field*. Of not so pure a red, but equally spectacular is Auten's *Presto*. With names that would kill almost anything, Millet's so-called Japanese, but really single reds *Kojiki*, *Jappensha-ikku* and *Nibonji* were most desirable, while Kelway's *Santorb* and *Bloodstone* were equally so.

As we look back over the season we shall carry away the pleasant memory of the glorious beauty of the early, midseason and some of the late bloomers, typified by the great pale discs of *Judge Berry*, the unequalled bloom of *Baroness Schroeder* and the never-to-be-forgotten first sight of that coming peony, *Nick Sbaylor* and its close rival, *Mrs. J. H.*

Neeley, the loveliness and delicate coloring of the dainty peonies, the outstanding excellence of the Japs and singles and forgetting the few disappointments already look forward with great expectation to the splendors of 1933.



Ten Years With Peonies

By A. B. CADY, Waverly, New York

AFTER spending half a lifetime living in hotels and rooms over the store, we decided one day to buy a home with trees, grass, and a garden.

The trees were too numerous. We took out, with much hard labor, fully half of them and have left four big elms, two hard maples and one too large horse chestnut, not to mention the pear and cherry trees. Too many roots and too much shade to be healthy for peonies.

The grass was naturally sparse but the garden was, and still is, good. There were no peonies. My wife thought we should have a few pink peonies so in the Fall I went to the nursery where we had bought shrubs and evergreens and asked for six dark pink peonies. They generously gave me the entire plant including the stems and all the dirt that would cling to the roots. The names, as I remember them, were *Anemone*, *Odorato*, *Delachei*, and *Humei*. The two I have forgotten were not more valuable. *Humei*, the only dark pink of the lot, after blossoming once, died. All of the others have been discarded except *Delachei* which has become naturalized and makes a rather ordinary dark red.

The next season we were invited by a neighbor to see her peonies in flower. She had eight or ten kinds that were well cared for. These were the first good peonies that were brought to our attention. She very kindly gave us a list of the varieties and the address of the New Jersey grower who furnished the roots. We sent for a catalogue and ordered a collection. I marvelled when these roots arrived as they were the first divisions I had seen.

Before these roots came in I went back to the nursery where I bought the first roots and told them I would take one root of all the peonies they had. This must have been quite early in the Fall as I recall the nursery force were drawing hay. They dug for me about twenty plants. I set the entire root with the stems attached, like planting a tree. Hardy flowers, only one died. From this assortment we had one really good

peony, received under the name of *Cream Late*, after identified as *Marie Lemoine*, three or four fairly good *Festiva Maxima*, *Mme. Calot*, *Mme. de Verneville* and the unexcelled late *Grandiflora*.

The next June we took a trip to the Cornell University Gardens at Ithaca to see their roses and peonies. After this we got some interesting peony catalogues and began to buy peonies with some little discrimination. From a justly celebrated northwestern grower we received many good varieties, learned much about the plants and their care and received cheerful replacement of the one or two not true to name. From James Pillow, an excellent lot of roots at a very low price for those days. Henry S. Cooper, "Peony Fan," who expressed his admiration for peonies in vigorous language sent me, free with the order, a root of *Mons. Charles Leveque* (Mlle. Leonie Calot). This flower is weak in the stem, suffers a depression with every storm, is planted in a poor location (under the shade of my neighbor's pear tree); but every season manages to produce a flower or two that, when I smell its delicious fragrance and look into its exquisite coloring I sometimes think there never blooms a flower so perfect.

I have Bertrand H. Farr's catalogue for 1921. We bought our tulips from him; but this was before we acquired the habit of buying peonies. His beautiful catalogue may have helped inoculate a ready victim with the peony fever. Every one of the many good men in the peony business with whom I have had any dealing has given me a full money's worth. Fortunately with the exception of the three last named they are still with us. Several have gone to much trouble to help a green beginner.

In 1926, I subscribed to a membership in THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY. This opened up a new world to me. On receipt of the first bulletin I at once set about acquiring available back numbers. I read them all; some articles again and again.

Then came the Peony Manual, the last word in peonies. Instead of cutting the price it should have been doubled. The value is there. While I cannot agree with some of the descriptions in the Manual, this may be due to my plants not being sufficiently established, not true to name or not suited to the conditions in my garden.

To correct the last defect, we bought, a few years ago, a little land out on the state road. Here we plant those kinds that do not do well in our home garden. Then the seed. Can anyone watch seed mature on the regal beauty *Phyllis Kelway* or on *Lady Alexandra Duff* with her charming infinite variety without a desire to see what they will produce? In our state road garden grow the seed, the seedlings and the varieties

taken from our home garden to make room for newer sorts. We throw away an average of three plants a year but save some that have a feature of beauty or fragrance that makes me wish to give them another chance. The first good flower on *Milton Hill*, which we have grown since 1924, came last season in this garden, also the first worth-while blossom on *Festiva Maxima*.

Permit me to recommend to peony growers this plan of an extra garden. A 50x150 foot lot will take care of six to eight hundred plants. The work will only require a few hours a week during the growing and planting seasons. Now is the time to buy real estate, select a good location and sell at a profit in a few years.

I intended to tell of my adventure with tree peonies. To make it short, they thrive, they flower, they are hardy.



Department of Registration

Lyman D. Glasscock, Elwood, Ill., registers the following described peony:

MRS. EVA BARRON, 1932. *Chinensis* variety, midseason, rose type. Color, shell pink. Form of bud, conical, stem long and stiff, foliage broad, dark green. Strong, pleasant rose fragrance. Seed parents, Mons. Jules Elie and Georgiana Shaylor.

A. L. Murawska, River Drive Peony Garden, River Grove, Ill., registers the following:

AMERICAN LEGION, 1932. Medium sized, double, dark green foliage, medium height. Very early, comes in bloom several days before Richard Carvel. Main color rose pink, with petals splashed with red and white.

E. J. Berneche, Route 6, Portland, Ore., registers the following:

SAMUEL HILL, 1932. Color, apple blossom pink, single, very large flower, extra good cutting variety.



CHANGES IN ADDRESS

Coit, J. Elliot, Prescott St., Pasadena, Calif., to P. O. Box 197, Vista, Calif.

Fewkes, A. H., 1585 Center St., Newton Highlands, Mass., to 120 Hyde St., same city.

Nolder, A. E., 39 N. Eighth St., to 1012 Main St., Richmond, Ind.

Thornton, Lewis H., 10 Center Court to 421 N. Main St., Wellsville, N. Y.





Secretary's Notes



FALL planting is now in full sway. Owing to the condition of the times, many people have stayed at home the past season and given more attention to their gardens than they have ever done. As a result we will have many more garden enthusiasts.

There are some good things about the depression in spite of the trying conditions. I am quoting a little depression philosophy that I think worth while:

"The man who has never passed through depression has missed some high-grade discipline."

"We coast into depression, we climb out of it."

"Depression helps us to differentiate between our wants and our needs."

"A depression is what you have left after you have overchecked your account."

"The longer the depression lasts, the quicker will be the recovery."

We are very optimistic of the future and feel sure that with the coming of another year, there will be felt no uncertain evidence of a general return to normalcy. Readjustments are obviously necessary and are taking place rapidly. A saner basis of conducting business in many lines will result. The lesson, while a bitter one, will bring us to a better understanding of the real fundamentals of life.

We had hoped to present a definite report on plans for next year's exhibition, which it is hoped will be held in conjunction with the Century of Progress Exhibition in Chicago. P. L. Battey and the writer have had several conferences with the Horticultural Committee having charge of this feature, and quite elaborate plans have been formulated and worked out for the various societies that are expected to co-operate. A continual exhibition is planned throughout the summer that will feature the iris, rose, peony, dahlia, chrysanthemum and other flowers. Mrs. Walter Brewster, chairman of the Horticultural Committee, is an ardent supporter of the peony and in her beautiful gardens in Lake Forest, Ill., has

a fine display of peonies in June. Many new seedlings are grown and it is hoped we may see some of them on display next June. The exhibition next year should surpass anything the Society has ever attempted, both in size and from an artistic standpoint. We hope to have a very complete report to make in the December BULLETIN, but in the meantime, plan for a wonderful exhibition.

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