


AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



Bulletin

SEPTEMBER - 1945

Number 99

Table of Contents

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor
Northbrook, Ill.

	Page
Some Notes on the Newer Peonies — <i>George W. Peyton</i>	3
Surprise Peonies — <i>M. Frederick Stuntz</i>	6
Natural vs. Artificial Nitrates — <i>Sir Albert Howard</i>	8
Experimenting With Humus — <i>Louis R. Potter</i>	9
A Communication — <i>E. F. Kelsey</i>	10
A Report from California — <i>Frank A. Leach</i>	11
Report of North Dakota Peony Show — <i>Mrs. A. S. Gowen</i>	12
Treasurer's Report — <i>W. W. Cook</i>	13
Annual Report of Secretary — <i>W. F. Christman</i>	14
Bulletin No. 100	18
The Peony "Rose Gumm"	18
From Commiseration to Ecstasy — <i>Neal R. van Loon</i>	18
Growing Peonies in California — <i>Frank A. Leach</i>	20
Department of Registration	21
List of New Members	21
Changes in Address	22
Comments on Comments — <i>Neal R. van Loon</i>	23
Secretary's Notes — <i>W. F. Christman</i>	25
Request for Articles, Bulletin No. 100 — <i>Secretary</i>	28

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Northbrook, Ill.,
July 3, 1928, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Annual Subscription, \$1.00 Per Year, Included with Yearly Dues

Published quarterly by the
AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
NORTHBROOK, ILL.

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President — George W. Peyton,
Rapidan, Va.

Vice-President—L. W. LINDGREN, St. Paul,
Minn.

Secretary and Editor—W. F. CHRISTMAN,
Northbrook, Ill.

Treasurer—W. W. COOK, Clinton, Iowa.

DIRECTORS

A. M. BRAND (1948), Faribault,
Minn.

W. W. COOK (1948), Clinton, Ia.

HARRY W. CLAYBAUGH (1948),
Franklin, Pa.

W. F. CHRISTMAN (1946), Northbrook,
Ill.

PROF. A. P. SAUNDERS (1946), Clinton,
N. Y.

CHARLES F. WASSENBERG (1946), Van
Wert, Ohio.

HARRY F. LITTLE (1947), Camillus,
N. Y.

W. H. THURLOW (1947), West Newbury,
Mass.

DR. EARLE B. WHITE (1947), Kensing-
ton, Md.

L. W. LINDGREN (1945), St. Paul, Minn.

GEORGE W. PEYTON (1945), Rapidan,
Va.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

District No. 1—

District No. 2—J. F. Styer, Concordville, Pa.

District No. 3—George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Va.

District No. 4—

District No. 5—Roy G. Gayle, West State Road, R.R. 3, Rock-
ford, Ill.

District No. 6—T. E. Carpenter, Arcade and County Road, St.
Paul, Minn.

District No. 7—L. E. Foster, York, Neb.

District No. 8—Later appointment.

District No. 9—E. J. Berneche, 3903 S. W. Beard, Portland, Ore.

District No. 10—J. D. Long, Boulder, Colo.

District No. 11—J. E. Carter, Guelph, Ont., Can.

District No. 12—C. F. Wood, Box 658, London, Ont., Can.

Province of Alberta. Andrew Murdoch, 2 Glenwood Manor, Blvd.
N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Saskatchewan—

Manitoba—J. R. Almey, Room 237, Canadian Pacific Ry. Co.,
Winnipeg, Man.

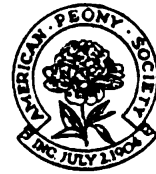
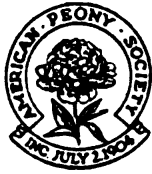
CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur growers. Nomination is not necessary for those desiring admission, but a list of applicants for membership is presented to the Society at its annual meeting and the names are there voted upon.

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, of which \$1.00 is toward a year's subscription to the American Peony Society BULLETIN. *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.

Back BULLETINS of the Society will be charged for at the rate of 25 cents per copy and 50 cents for the Symposium Number (No. 14). To non-members these prices are doubled. No BULLETINS available prior to No. 13.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

SEPTEMBER - 1945

Some Notes on the Newer Peonies

GEORGE W. PEYTON, *Rapidan, Va.*

In the last year or two a number of new peonies have been registered with the society, and more will be registered very soon. As most of these are comparatively unknown to our readers, it may not be amiss to mention those of which I have some personal knowledge. Of many others with which I am not familiar, I can say nothing as yet, I only wish I could.

Eleven years ago I received a letter from the late Arthur H. Fewkes, telling me about a seedling of his, No. 57-28, which he thought a very good flower and saying he would send me a root of it that fall. He also mentioned the fact that he had already given one to Winthrop Thurlow, who had expressed his great admiration of the flower. Mr. Fewkes died a few days after he wrote that letter and so my root did not come until some time later from his brother. It was shown at the Toronto International Show in 1936 by Mr. Thurlow, and attracted a great deal of favorable comment. It is being introduced this year by Cherry Hill Nurseries under the name *Arthur H. Fewkes*. It is a medium tall grower with strong stems and good foliage. It is very late. Its flowers are beautifully colored, large, with wide petals of excellent texture. It is a charming mingling of ivory white and a salmon tint, which gives a buff tone to the flower. In addition to the above the Cherry Hill Nurseries are introducing several others of their own origination. Possibly the most beautiful one of them is *Annisquam* (X6-17). Mr. Thurlow thinks it probably the best flower they have ever originated. It has been my pleasure to see it a number of times at its home and to grow it in my own garden. It is a well rounded flower of broad and rounded petals forming a cup of exquisite quite light pink that does not fade. It is midseason in blooming and has good height and stems. It won a First Class Certificate at the Boston National Show in 1935. Winning an Honorable Mention at the same show was a sister seedling, X6-15, which it has been hard to deny equal honors. Its flower is somewhat different in form with broad guard petals of very light pink and a creamy white center changing to pure white. Its name is *Summer Cloud*, a very appropriate name. In the next flower, No. 8-24, we have another grand example of refined beauty and delicacy of tone. Its exquisite flesh pink flower with salmon shadings makes it a strong contender as one of the most beautifully colored peonies we have. Its name is *Amberglow*.

This firm is also introducing two new Japs, *Magnolia*, rose pink, and *White Gull*. Though I have no notes on these two, yet I feel that they would never have been placed in commerce if they had not been of outstanding merit. Though it has been on the market somewhat longer, yet mention must be made here of this firm's *Rapture*, which in my garden has proved to be a flower of outstanding beauty and dependability of performance. Those who see its soft white flower lighted with cream acknowledge its appropriate name.

On my visit this last June to Mr. R. A. Napier's garden he kept taking me back time and again to a flower which he thought one of the most beautiful in his garden. It was an upstanding semi-double white of most attractive form and showed up well in comparison with any of the great flowers of which he has so many. It was Dr. H. C. Cooper's No. 1, which is being registered as *Fannie Heath*. I have seen this flower in several other gardens and it has always given a good account of itself. It may be stated that that beautiful peony, Cooper's No. 35, or No. 101, as it was formerly known, may soon be given a name. All who visited the shows in Minneapolis in 1942 and 1943 and the Milwaukee show in 1944 will remember this flower which won recognition at all of them and was the best flower in the show at Milwaukee. It opened too late to be seen at Minneapolis this year.

Mrs. Mary E. G. Freeborn of Proctor, Vermont, whose white single *Pico* has taken its place as probably the finest white single we have, is registering a new Jap under the name *William H. Park*. This has been known as Chugai No. 29 and was shown at Minneapolis in 1943. It was very favorably commented upon. It is a white with yellow stamens, yellow tipped carpels and white disc. It is not large, but shows exquisite finish and charm. She is also registering two hybrid peonies, *Copy Cat* and *Sun Fast*, whose acquaintance I have not yet made. It may be mentioned that in my garden her dark red late single *Red Harmony* and blush single *Champlain* have shown excellence of a high order which may give them equal rank with *Pico* in their respective colors.

Taking the Minneapolis show by storm and winning over all comers in every class in which it was entered, Mr. Lin's *Burma* is another example of his skill in producing outstanding flowers. Its deep red color is one which we do not find too often and its form is of the best. That deliciously tinted blush with a center of lacy petals, so aptly named *Old Lace*, possesses an allure we seldom feel. It is pre-eminently a garden flower. If you like a good medium deep pink of large size and good form you have it in *Ensign Mannix Moriarty*. It won as Champion Dark Pink and an Honorable Mention at Minneapolis this year. I have not yet seen *Tarawa* and *Tulagi* to my knowledge.

On a small one-year plant last year and on a much larger two-year plant this year, *Mattie Lafuze*, registered by John M. Johnson of Liberty, Indiana, in my garden showed much promise as a coming exhibition flower as well as one for the garden. It has very strong stems, large foliage and flowers of great size, which combine refinement and beauty. Its color is white overlaid with a distinct pink tone which makes it especially attractive. It is very deep as well as large. It won an Honorable Mention at Milwaukee last year.

Ever since I first saw it in 1942 in the hands of Mr. Christman at his home, the flower that has seemed to me to be one of the coming great ones, *Victory*, from the gardens of Mr. Robert Thompson of West McHenry,

Illinois, now appears to be well on its way to that goal. It was awarded the American Home Achievement Medal at Minneapolis this year. As it has now been released for sale, it will in the future prove me either to be a good prophet or a false one, but my bet is still that it will become one of the most sought after and loved of all peonies for its several excellent qualities as well as the great beauty of its enticing deep ivory flowers softly overlaid with baby pink.

Mr. Myron D. Bigger of Topeka, Kansas, is registering three new ones. They are his No. 6-36 *Prairie Belle*, No. 25-36 *Anne Bigger*, and No. 22-37 *Snow Mountain*. This last one, as its name indicates, is a new aspirant to the title of best white *Mons. Jules Elie*. As I have seen it in my garden and in that of Mr. Bongers, it will be a hard one to beat. *Anne Bigger* is a very large excellent light pink which has attracted a great deal of attention in my garden for its outstanding plant, size and beauty of flower and general excellence. When it gets to be well known I feel very sure it will have a very secure place among the elect. With *Prairie Belle*, a creamy-white double, I am not yet well acquainted.

This ends the recent and coming registrations with which I am familiar enough to express an opinion. But I hope I shall be pardoned if I say a few words about some recent ones I especially like. Two of these are Bigger's *Kansas* and *Lady Orchid*. Longer acquaintance with these only enhances their value in my eyes. They are outstanding in every garden in which they grow. Still tops in purity and beauty as a garden flower is Murawski's *Mildred May*, and growing in my estimation as a beautifully colored flower of fine form is his *Moonstone*. This reminds me he has a white Jap which as yet bears no name, but is still No. 37 which was the only white Jap to have a decent flower in my garden this year. Two very beautiful ones this year were Kelsey's *Ernest F. Kelsey* and *Mel Gedge*. Just grow these two until they make mature plants and you will marvel at their beauty. Mrs. Shrader's *White Rose* will also one day be considered one of our best. It has nice strong stems and good foliage. Its flower is large, a rather full semi-double white with delicate pink tones at first. Two of the greatest new reds I have seen are *Judy Becker* (Sass) and Franklin's *Sir John Franklin*. Both make very brilliant flowers and great plants. I was again struck with the resemblance of Brand's *Fireball* in color to some of the brilliant light red hybrids. It should make a good flower for further experimental purposes in new colors. It is a semi-double and very showy. *Red Goddess* is still my choice for a brilliant, deep, velvety red in a semi-double.

Not a very new one but one that came to the front as a most beautifully colored flower is Col. Nicholls' *Blush*. It is a seedling of *Walter Faxon* and rivals its parent in brilliancy. In Mrs. Gowen's exhibit at Minneapolis and in Mr. Napier's garden it was one of the most admired. His *Mary E. Nicholls* is one of the nicest pure whites we have. *Laura Treman* was also seen in outstanding beauty in pale pink and white. *Thura Hires* was shown for the first time in such beauty that it was one of the most outstanding of all at Minneapolis. *Dorothy J.* and *Marilla Beauty* did not open their best flowers in time to be seen in their prime at the show, but as seen in several gardens they still upheld their reputation.

I did not have the pleasure of seeing many of Mr. Auten's new ones this year. In fact, the only very new one of his that I did see was his *Prairie State*. This was on a plant just one year old in Mr. Napier's

garden. This plant had made exceptionally strong growth and bore a very large flower of beautiful medium pink with many stamens showing. It looks as if it might be one of the coming giants of refinement.

May we all have the pleasure of seeing all of these and many more at Rockford next year.



Surprise Peonies

M. FREDERICK STUNTZ

A visit to Ernest F. Kelsey, the poet peonist at Marilla, N. Y., is always a tonic for body, mind and spirit. Body, because of the exercise of tramping up and down the well-planned rows of peonies and exploring the three terraces, which gives Tri-Terrace Peony Gardens its name. Mind, because of the educational value of seeing a well-labeled planting, with new and old varieties side by side for comparison. Spirit, for the uplifting grandeur of a variety of big trees, framing a garden of many-colored peonies, surrounding the quaint little home of the Kelsey's, where there is a hearty welcome for all in this "house by the side of the road." The center of it all is the Kelsey's, Mrs. Kelsey with her "come-right-in-and-make-yourself-at-home" kind of hospitality, and E. F. K., the homespun philosopher, as evidenced in his published book of poems on commonplace things of farm and fireside. This year we found them having a picnic lunch under the Siebold Japanese walnut tree. Daughter Laura, one of Buffalo's foremost piano teachers, was enjoying the lunch with them at the table spread with some savory dishes that had just come from a kitchen filled with the breath of good things to eat. Of course, they insisted that we sit down and enjoy coffee and real homemade cake.

The writer has not been familiar with all of the Kelsey originations to call them by name, hence the title of this article. In checking with "the boss," I discovered that the blooms I admired most were Tri-Terrace originations. One of the things that impressed me was that, in spite of their heavy blooms, they are supported by stems that are tall and strong, a credit to the introducer.

Rare China was in full bloom, a large open-faced flower, that seemed to outshine the other whites classed as semi-double. It is well named, as it resembles a gold-decorated china plate. *White Water*, with its enormous double white blooms, is like a dash of spray on tumbling waters. Mr. Kelsey says he named it *White Water* after watching the puffs of spray on the rapids above Niagara Falls. *Shirley*, a large double pink, is especially attractive for its deep pink center. *Footlights*, a large double white, a wonderful bloom, was outstanding. It is plain to see how it obtained its name as the base of the petals shows a glow of deep cream. Among the pinks, *Olin* was a real surprise. It is an early very full dark pink, unusually clear-colored double. This one will certainly rate high.

Lights Out was just beginning to bloom. It is a large rose pink double. This year it must have come earlier than usual, because *Marilla Beauty*, which I was particularly anxious to see, had not begun to open — June 20, 1945. I was anxious to verify Mr. Peyton's glowing account of it.

Pride of Blasdell is a deep pink Jap with a thick ball of staminodes and guard petals artistically trimmed with a lighter shade. This should catch the artist's eye. Those, like the writer, who have seen and heard the famous Kagawa, will say that the peony *Kagawa* is well named, for it is really a surprise Jap. In the deep red class I believe it is equal to any. Other Kelsey varieties either had passed their prime or were not yet in bloom, but these were superior to such fine old-timers as *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Mons. Jules Elie* and *Richard Carvel* blooming nearby.

In my own and the Tri-Terrace gardens I had many surprises in the blooms on the commercial varieties. Let me mention a few of them. *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt* is a real beauty in pale pink, with petals incurved, it looks like a beautiful big pink rose. For a choice deep red double I picked *Priam*. I believe it is one of the best of its color.

I had several surprises in my garden. I have never seen a more beautiful peony than *President Wilson*. It resembles an enormous rose, its many petals cupped in a huge shell pink ball, exquisitely fragrant. *Sarah Carstensen*, although not as large, has excellent form and is also very fragrant. It is valuable as a very late blooming variety. *Solange* seems very much at home in our climate and invariably winds up the season with its distinguished cream white blooms. This year I noticed a glow of buff and salmon in the heart of its large flowers. *Souvenir de A. Millet* was a disappointing surprise. This large dark red is a scraggly looking flower and certainly would not rate higher than 8.3 with me. *Onondaga* was the prize red in my garden. It has everything — size, form, tall strong stems and even a delicate fragrance. It rates above any dark red peony I have ever seen. For the earliest red, following *officinalis rubra*, *Adolphe Rousseau* beat them all. The color is dark and lustrous, stems tall and strong, blooms large and attractive in color and form. It makes an attractive spot of color in the early days of the peony season. The early visitors admire it. *Mme. Gaudichau* is always an attractive dark red, not a large flower, but nicely formed, with fragrance that to me is delicate and pleasing.

Longfellow has an attractive cherry red color, but is spindle legged. Its slender stems are not strong enough to carry its blooms. *Lora Dexheimer*, while not a surprise, is worth mentioning because it is always floriferous, not too tall, not too dwarf. The color is bright crimson. Until *Onondaga* came, I considered it my best all-round red. It remains to be seen if *Onandaga* will be as generous with flowers.

Benjamin Franklin is a disappointment. It is a small dull dark red and has nothing to commend it except long strong stems. *Mary Brand* is indispensable because it is the latest dark red. I cannot help mentioning *Mme. Ducel*, which certainly deserves a chance in a new symposium which should give it a higher rating. It has a most unique form. If the last row of guard petals is removed, it looks exactly like a huge pink chrysanthemum. It is very generous with its large perfect balls of silvery pink. Last, but not least, I must mention *Ella Christiansen*. This was a favorite with everyone this year. Such an immense delicate, yet unfading pink, ought to rate 9+!

Since joining the American Peony Society two years ago I have become decidedly peony minded; thus inspired I have purchased many new varieties. These will not be at their best until next year, when I hope I may have an opportunity to report on them.

Natural v. Artificial Nitrates

SIR ALBERT HOWARD, C.I.E., M.A.

From Organic Gardening, August 1945

It has often been claimed by the manufacturers of artificial fertilizers that their factory-made products are in every respect equal to the mineral elements that are found in natural manures and in the soil itself. That they should believe in their own products is to be expected. If this were not so, then they could be regarded only as profit-grabbing hypocrites carrying on criminal activities. And yet is it not reasonable to suppose that man, by his very nature, is incapable of producing with exactitude the natural elements of the earth? If he could in this true sense of the word 'create,' then he would cease to be man and be on an equality with the Creator of the universe.

Modern science has progressed so far in determining the composition of material things that man has almost imperceptibly drifted into the belief that he has only to combine certain chemicals in certain ways to reproduce exactly the natural materials needed in daily life. But, on the other hand, does not the man-in-the-street instinctively distrust the concoctions of science? It is doubtful whether the average man will ever believe that synthetic rubber, for instance, can be in every respect as good as real rubber from the forest. Such skepticism is inherent, and it is well that it should put us on our guard against the too easy acceptance of the results achieved by scientific skill.

The *New English Weekly* of March 29, 1945, supports this view, quoting the case of natural as compared with artificial nitrates:

"It is always good to see the difference between natural and laboratory products emphasized, in recognition of the imponderable elements with which Nature endows substances, which can by no scientific skill be added to the synthetic product. The case in point is that of nitrates, and the report emanates from one of the U. S. A. universities. It states: 'Natural nitrates have something that the artificial lacks, and there is no completely adequate substitute for it in the field of agricultural fertilizers. Chilean nitrate contains small amounts of vital impurities such as magnesium, iodine, boron, calcium, potassium, lithium, and strontium, which are to plants what the vitamins in fresh foods are to human beings. It has been found that natural nitrate does something that makes apples stay on trees; that it does something to corn that results in better live stock fattened on it; that chickens raised on nitrated feed lay better eggs of greater fertility. It is just as impossible to make artificial nitrates that duplicate natural nitrates as it is to make synthetic sea water that contains all the elements of natural sea water.'"

It is just here that the danger of scientific research lies. No scientist has ever produced, or is ever likely to produce, life, and the natural universe holds mysteries that will never be reduced to a formula or manufactured in the laboratory. The crucial test of real scientific achievement is whether it recognizes and respects the supremacy of Mother Earth, or ignorantly attempts to substitute the false for the true.

Experimenting With Humus

LOUIS R. POTTER, *Milwaukee, Wis.*

I am just personally writing you, as my office is busy, about a little experiment that I tried last year and which paid off tremendous dividends this year.

Last year I was building a truck farm out of a smaller semi-one of the year before. I ordered 100 tons of enriched humus, and when it came I used all but four tons. Not knowing what to use it for then, I decided to try out covering the peonies. This was in March. I covered all of them about four inches. Last year the weather was so bad that the peonies were not up to par. At any rate last year was no test.

This year I checked the plants carefully and found that they had grown much taller than in any previous year since planting. The stems also were stronger. I debudded as usual, and when the bloom finally came I was astounded. What I had there would have won every prize over what was exhibited in all the past National shows and I am underestimating and not bragging a bit. The blooms were so magnificent that I would look each one over time after time and say that it just can't be.

Mrs. J. V. Edlund, La Lorraine, Mrs. R. M. Bacheller, Alice Harding, Odile, Alesia, Le Cygne, Kelway's Glorious, W. L. Gumm, Elsa Sass, Mrs. Harriet Gentry, Rev. H. N. Tragitt, Rapture, Florence Bond, Margaret Lough, Mrs. Frank Beach and a number of others in the white and light class, all too numerous to mention, were so magnificent that I just cannot describe their beauty.

I attribute this astounding show I had this year to the four inches of humus, and you can be sure that I will add 2 inches this fall, as about that amount will be incorporated in the soil by that time.

The humus prevented thawing and freezing, it delayed growth only very slightly, it cut down weeds, except the most vigorous, it fertilized the roots just when they needed fertilization, and all in all it did so much I did not expect that even if the heavy rains this season helped some, I still will attribute the whole thing to humus such as I used. It was one-fourth of each of the following: soil (top), peat moss, Vigoro, and rotted horse manure thoroughly weeded. It was dry when I put it on and it has remained loose at all times. I can stick my finger through it to the soil whenever I desire without any effort at all.

Only two peonies marred the picture. *Tourangelle* was a very bright pink this year. It did not have the subtle colors of other years. *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* was light pink this year.

Digressing from the above, let me say that the tendency is too much to color and not enough to stems like those of Vories' originations. *Nancy Dolman* this year was as good as any peony created, and the bad storm which just left us and which completely devastated hundreds of blooms just did not affect that plant at all. All the moisture and wind did not disturb it. The other one next to it, *Frankie Curtis* was a light pink this season. Hybridizers should try for strong stems and use the colors they have for the time being if both cannot be achieved at the same time. If both can be had, then why not try for both?

Also the color classes set up are in a sense, nonsense as they mislead so many who do not understand that color at least in the pinks and creams is entirely a matter of soil and depends to a great extent on the moisture had during the spring growing season. Distinctions like Flesh, Light Pink, Medium Pink and Dark Pink go in the discard in a season like the present one was and is. We have had rain and more rain, and even in heavy clay the deep pinks are only medium pinks. This year *Martha Bulloch* was lighter than *Ella Christiansen*, and *Marietta Sisson* was darker than *Blanche King*. How is the amateur to know that weather and soil play havoc with such fine distinctions?

I have had for years a red which in form equaled the whites and several light pinks and a white which I have never shown because I did not feel they merited showing, but as I look at the Reds in the candidate and select classes I cannot find that they are superior to the several red seedlings I have, and if that is the case with me there must be many more. It might be a good idea to get these amateurs to show what they have, but how this could be done you are better able to figure out than I, as that is your particular line of business.

In closing, let me say that the flowers were perfect this year, not only in beauty of coloring, but in form, in size, in strength of stem and in keeping qualities. I saw one clump of *Elizabeth Huntington* with bloom as large as the largest *Martha Bulloch* I ever saw and it had perfection of form and petalage to the same extent as it normally has.

I hope I have not talked too much about something which may not be true, but what else could have brought about such a transformation? If you can explain it in any other way let me know. It could not have been the rain as we can and do supply water to our plants here every year to the extent of flooding them once a week and sometime twice a week before the blooms open and often again when they are opening. With all this watering we never had such bloom. What was the cause then, if the humus is not the answer?

Note: I feel that Mr. Potter is in error in stating the composition of the humus. With the amount of Vigoro indicated it would make the mixture prohibitive in price as well as destructive to use in the quantity indicated. Humus obtainable from mushroom establishments would be greatly reduced in potency. Mr. Potter advises the cost was \$12 per ton.

There is no question that the results obtained were due, to a large extent, to the application of humus, but too generous a feeding will surely result in damage to plants later on. Mr. Potter has promised to give us a report another year on this same subject. I hope it will be as optimistic. — Editor.



A Communication

E. F. KELSEY, *East Aurora, N. Y.*

Dear Mr. Christman:

Who clutters up your desk more than this insignificant person? Today it is raining; yesterday it rained, rain is promised for tomorrow. I went out to the office, which has been locked up all winter and started to clear the desk, looking over and destroying bushels of letters. I found some very interesting bits of peony history which I shall keep. I found

a letter from Dr. F. G. Brethour, deceased, dated March 22, 1936. I had some very pleasant correspondence with the doctor. I never had the pleasure of meeting him, but his letters breathed the very spirit of a man who loved and enjoyed the garden path and especially his peonies. In this letter he said some very nice things about the verse I had written in the BULLETIN. This I will not quote, but I would like to quote a portion of the letter.

"I wish I had the talent of writing poetry, and I expressed that wish to a young patient of mine some years ago when we were talking about lilacs which are frequently seen around old forsaken log houses and shacks in the back townships. . . I spoke of the sentiment attached and that some mother had planted them many years ago. . .

The next day she brought in these verses."

In a later letter Dr. Brethour wrote: "I was glad you liked Miss Orr's poem on lilacs. She has married a member of parliament. I have lost track of her and haven't seen any more of her poetry."

In an old-fashioned garden, where children once played,
There's a spot by the gate, where lilacs once strayed,
They glisten and rustle, in springtime — all green —
They surely are tended by fingers unseen.

When the lights in the village are twinkling, gold,
And the peace of the twilight seems earth to enfold,
They tap on the roof of the tumbledown shack,
Just wondering when will the children come back?

At dawning, when colors peep over the hill,
They stand there like sentinels — silent and still:
They've wistfully whispered through night-watches deep,
Love's lullaby love to the children asleep.

In May-day, when the world is all flooded with light,
They hang there in clusters of purple and white,
They stoop — fragrant branches — down to the pane
To see if the children are coming again.

MISS S. M. ORR

To me this is a beautiful poem and I thought readers of the BULLETIN would enjoy it too.



A Report from California

FRANK A. LEACK, *Diablo, California*

I have been raising peonies in Contra Costa County for the last seventeen years. My continued success has encouraged me to continue planting, not the new varieties, but the old ones rating 9. or over. I now have over twenty such varieties, all doing excellently.

Have shown my blooms at many garden clubs and have discussed the growing of peonies in our territory at the California Horticultural Society on various occasions.

There is no difficulty in their cultivation that cannot be overcome. Should the member near San Francisco report poor success, let me know and send his name and address as I may be acquainted with him, as I am quite well acquainted with the flower lovers of central California.

Cut flower growers have poor ideas of making their products popular. I believe ninety percent or more of the cut peonies sold in San Francisco are grown in the Northwest.

Our soil temperatures are low enough during winter. I am sure we have no spring conditions such as you have. No rains to put real moisture in the ground after March 15. The plants stop growing before new material has been elaborated for the following season. It is such conditions that must be studied -- exposure, moisture, soil fertility, etc.

Editor's note: We are glad to hear from our California growers, as more than ordinary interest has been shown in that section the past few years in growing of peonies. Mr. Leach is one of the successful growers and his experience should prove valuable to other California flower lovers of the peony, in particular.



Report of North Dakota Show

MRS. A. S. GOWEN, *Excelsior, Minn.*

The North Dakota Peony Society held its 24th annual show in the lobby of the Ryan Hotel in Grand Forks on July 6 and 7. It was one of the largest ever held by this society. The quality of bloom was excellent and the number of varieties exhibited was larger than other years.

Mrs. A. S. Gowen of Excelsior, Minn., was the judge and on a number of occasions found herself up against some hair-splitting decisions. An interesting feature of the show was that the families of service men were asked to register their service men's names. These cards were attached to each entry and the winner of Grand Champion gave its service man a \$25 war bond. The variety *Le Cygne* got the Grand Champion award. It was shown by Mrs. Cana of Grand Forks, a novice amateur.

The best flesh was *Solange* shown by Mr. Loyde C. Thompson. The best dark pink was a *Blanche King* shown by Mr. R. J. Darling, and the best red was a *Mary Brand* shown by Mr. Franklin Page of Hamilton, North Dakota.

Mr. Loyde Thompson got the silver cup for sweepstakes prize. The cup, and also the war bond was offered by Mr. E. J. Lander of Grand Forks, N. D.

The lobby of the hotel was beautifully decorated for the occasion with large medallions of peonies and lace paper placed on the lobby side of the mezzanine rail. The tables had flounces of plaited wall paper in a color that harmonized with the peonies, — a charming effect.

Enthusiasm ran high, for the North Dakota Peony Society had taken pains to have the show when the amateur could cut his or her flowers and bring them to the show without need of cold storage. Entries were very numerous, running as high as 25 to a class. It really was a show that did what all shows are supposed to do, viz: encourage more home gardeners to grow more and better peonies. Congratulations North Dakota Peony Society.

Treasurer's Report

Board of Directors,
American Peony Society

Gentlemen:

As requested, I have examined the records of Mr. W. W. Cook, Treasurer of the American Peony Society, from June 19, 1944, to June 20, 1945, and submit the following statements:

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT JUNE 20, 1945; STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FROM JUNE 19, 1944, TO JUNE 20, 1945.

The receipts of record were promptly deposited in the bank and the disbursements supported by orders and invoices.

The cash balance was reconciled with statement furnished by the Clinton National Bank, Clinton, Iowa.

Respectfully,
FRED A. PERKINS
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT (Iowa)
Certificate No. 51

Clinton, Iowa
July 23, 1945

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY W. W. COOK, TREASURER, CLINTON, IOWA SUBMITTED BY TREASURER AS OF JUNE 20, 1945

ASSETS

Cash:

Treasurer — W. W. Cook		
Clinton National Bank, Clinton, Iowa		
Checking Account	\$	568.63

Other Assets:

Inventory of Peony Manuals			
369 @ \$1.65	\$	608.85	
Trustees' Certificate No. 39			
Peoples Trust & Savings Bank, Clinton, Ia.	83.12	691.97	
		691.97	
		\$1,260.60	

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

Surplus:

Balance June 20, 1945	\$1,260.60
	\$1,260.60

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY W. W. COOK, TREASURER, CLINTON, IOWA STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS JUNE 19, 1944, TO JUNE 20, 1945

Cash Balance June 19, 1944	\$ 292.18
----------------------------	-----------

RECEIPTS

1944	
July 28 From Secretary	\$ 180.85
Aug. 26 From Secretary	221.35
29 Dividend Peoples Trust and Savings Bank	16.88
Oct. 6 From Secretary	380.43
Nov. 30 From Secretary	171.45
Dec. 30 From Secretary	102.60
1945	
Jan. 30 From Secretary	315.16
Feb. 28 From Secretary	172.15
Mar. 28 From Secretary	136.30
May 10 From Secretary	104.20
June 16 From Secretary	830.00
16 Dividend People's Trust and Savings Bank	29.42
Total Receipts	2660.79
Total	\$2,952.97

DISBURSEMENTS

By Treasurer on Orders	\$2,384.09
Exchange paid by Treasurer	.25
Total Disbursements	2,384.34
Cash Balance June 20, 1945	\$ 568.63

Annual Report of Secretary, June 20th, 1945

To the Directors, Officers and Members
of the American Peony Society:

Due to travel restrictions imposed by the government, we were compelled to cancel our regular annual meeting and exhibition for the year 1945, the first time in our history. These are momentous times and many radical departures from our care free method of living have been found expedient. We are hoping that when the year 1946 arrives, we will be faced with less restrictions and may be empowered to do the things we are accustomed to do without being hampered or curtailed in their accomplishment. If the war can be ended a day sooner by these restrictions, it will be well worth the effort, as we are all desirous of peace and the return to normal living again.

We have been cut in our paper requirements and the printing of our bulletins have to be trimmed in proportion. In spite of this fact, four bulletins have been issued as promised our members

MEMBERSHIP STANDING

We present with considerable pride a comparative statement of the past four years.

New members for 1942	34
New members for 1943	60
New members for 1944	85
New members for 1945	154

The statement speaks for itself. In addition we have added one life member, Mr. L. W. Lindgren of St. Paul, Minn., our Vice President.

This healthy increase in membership was not brought about by chance, but by the persistent efforts of a few of our members who have worked faithfully toward this end. I cannot pass this matter without making special mention of the Brand Peony Farms, to whose credit is due a very large percentage of our increase. Miss Gentry has worked very hard on this matter and the results have been most encouraging to say the least. A thousand members on our mailing list is not an impossibility for the coming year ahead. Since this report was made out, several are already enrolled for the year 1946. I trust all members will bear this fact in mind and help us boost our membership list to the 1000 mark or more. It can be done as we have only about 200 more to go and we only have to better last years mark a little to do it. Your secretary has worked pretty hard on lining up new members and has been very successful in his efforts. Other members have sent in one or more new members and some have sent in names of prospects that have been enrolled upon solicitation by this office. Keep up this good work and we will be able to give you a still better report another year.

The following remittances have been made to the Treasurer during the past year.

July 24, 1944	\$180.85
August 24, 1944	221.35
October 2, 1944	380.43
November 27, 1944	171.45
December 23, 1944	102.60
January 24, 1945	315.16
February 21, 1945	172.15
March 24, 1945	136.30
May 7, 1945	104.20
June 9, 1945	830.00

Total remitted	\$2614.49
----------------	-----------

Recapitulation of remittances as follows:

Renewal of dues	\$1236.15
New members	463.85
Manual account	449.54
Back bulletins	84.95
Registering	12.00
Rating list	1.00
Life membership	36.00
Advertising	326.00
Donation for expense	5.00

Total	\$2614.49
-------	-----------

In explanation of the Manual account item of \$449.54. Had we realized \$1.65 for the 303 copies this total would have been \$499.95 but this was not the case. A very few were given as premiums at local peony shows for which we realized nothing. New members were given the Manual for \$1.50 and book agencies were given the Manual at \$1.25 net. A large percentage of the manuals were disposed of at \$1.50 each. This item represents a loss as the manuals were figured as an asset.

It is the desire of the officers of the Society to dispose of this edition of the manual as soon as possible and assume the loss necessary in order to do so. The book actually cost the Society double what we are realizing for it.

Disbursements. Vouchers drawn on Treasurer

VCHR. NO.	DATE	ISSUED FOR	AMOUNT
638	7-26-44	Printing schedule for Milwaukee show, 2M envelopes and 80 Class Cards	\$ 95.25
639	7-26-44	Binding 100 Manuals, McFarland Co.	41.00
640	7-26-44	Auditing Treasurers account for year	10.00
641	7-26-44	Secretary's expense a/c Milwaukee show	33.82
642	8-27-44	Printing bulletin No. 94	225.00
643	8-27-44	Mailing bulletin No. 94	4.75
644	8- 3-44	Paid corrected balance Manual account	128.30
645	11-3-44	Postage, freight on manuals and express	56.30
646	11-3-44	Expense connection with funeral spray for A. B. Franklin	11.15
647	11-3-44	Telegrams and sprays, J. A. Bongers	33.81
648	11-3-44	J. Horace McFarland binding 200 manuals	82.00
649	11-4-44	Reliance Typesetting Co., setting type for bulletin No. 95	237.50
650	12-9-44	Printing bulletin No. 95	269.75
651	12-9-44	Secretary's salary, June, July, August, 1944	150.00
Numbers 652 to 655 inclusive used as duplicates for damaged vouchers or changes found necessary.			
1	3-13-45	Printing bulletin No. 96 1 M letterheads, 2M membership cards and 1M vouchers	153.50
2	3-13-45	Postage, freight and express	37.50
3	3-13-45	Secretary's salary Sept, Oct., & Nov.	40.50
4	5- 4-45	Secretary's salary	150.00
5	5- 4-45	5M envelopes 6½x9½ for bulletins	36.50
6	5- 4-45	Postage and freight	19.36
7	5- 4-45	Secretary's salary Dec, Jan, & Feb.	150.00
8	6-14-45	Secretary's salary March, April, & May	150.00
9	6-14-45	Postage	20.32
		Printing and mailing Bulletin 97	241.78
			\$2,378.09

There was considerable expense connected with the preparation and printing of bulletin No. 95 but it is a valuable number as it brings the information on tree peonies up to date and gives much valuable information on tree peonies. With bulletin No. 91 the matter of Chinensis peonies as well as specie peonies was brought up to date. The Society owes a deep debt of gratitude to Messrs. Wister and Peyton for their work in preparing the manuscript and collecting official data that can be used with much profit.

Manual Account

I have the pleasure to report that we have moved 303 manuals during the past year, as compared with 225 manuals disposed of in 1944, an increase of 78 books.

Balance on hand at Harrisburg last report	662	copies
Disposed of during year	303	copies
	<hr/>	
Balance on hand	359	copies

As a matter of record, there are 369 books (ten more than my record showed) on hand at Harrisburg, or was on June 21, 1945, and of this amount 42 copies have been sent this office, by freight. We have several unfilled orders on hand, waiting for the shipment. Please bear in mind that when these 369 manuals are disposed of, the edition will be out of stock as well as out of print. While the book was published a number of years ago, the information on many subjects is still up to date and as stated, with the issuance of bulletins No. 91 and 95 the information on varieties has been brought right up to date. No plans, as yet, have been made for a new Manual and the prospects are that one will be prepared for some time in the future.

Again we are indebted to Brand Peony Farms, A. T. De la Mare Garden Books and this office, with additional help of several members, for the success we have had in moving the manual during the past year. This valuable book should be in the hands of every lover of the peony as a text book of reference.

A Glimpse Into the Future

I can see no reason for our splendid growth the past year to be retarded and have every hope of being able to give an equally favorable report in 1946. We plan on getting out four splendid bulletins and ask your continued cooperation in sending in articles so that the quality of reading material may be kept up to the present standard. It is no easy task to prepare these bulletins with no funds to pay for articles. Personally, I believe that our articles are as good as any we might receive if we paid for them, in fact I believe they are more authentic. Professional writers would, in some cases, make them perhaps a little more flowery, but the real value might be lacking if the articles were written by inexperienced writers with little or no knowledge of the peony but possessing the ability to cover up their lack of knowledge in this respect. So don't hesitate to send along your impressions, experiences, comments, experiments, etc. We will be glad to get them and our readers will receive the information they contain.

It is sincerely hoped that next years show can be held as scheduled and that we will have no interference to prevent the completion of our plans. The show will be at Rockford, Ill., as we had planned it this year and later on a full schedule of classes will appear in the bulletin, doubtless March, 1946 number.

I am very optimistic over the progress we have made the past year under existing conditions and sincerely hope the coming year will prove profitable and successful.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Sec'y.

Bulletin Number 100

If you will notice you will see that our September BULLETIN will be numbered 99, and so the following issue will be the one-hundredth the Society has gotten out. To celebrate this event our good secretary is making plans to have it an outstanding issue.

He is telling you about them elsewhere in this issue. Let me urge you to give him every consideration and help him in his task. He has gotten out something like seventy-five percent of all the issues and no one can say he has not done an outstanding job. This has been done very often in the face of difficulties that would have overcome a less determined man. So will all to whom he appeals give him their whole-hearted support in this effort to make No. 100 the best BULLETIN we have ever issued.

GEORGE W. PEYTON, *President*



Rose Gumm

Recently received a copy of a letter from Mr. W. L. Gumm of Remington, Ind., written to Mr. Louis R. Potter of Milwaukee. The late Mr. Gumm originated many good peonies and he writes as follows:

"Yes, Rose Gumm was one of my seedlings that I originated a number of years ago. I consider it a very beautiful bloom. Mr. Cooper, while visiting me, admired it very much and I sold him one or two plants. I also sold one to Mr. Harry Little of Indian Springs Gardens, Baldwinsville, N. Y. He was very much taken with it and watched its growth and performance and pronounced it a winner. (Mr. Little is one of the best judges of peonies in America.)

"I suppose you wonder why I never put it on the market. Here is the reason — it developed nematodes, at least most of the increase from the original plant did. I have made it a rule never to ship a plant that was diseased. Possibly you know all about nematodes (not found in law books). If your plant is affected, it will have enlargements on the roots similar to those on an ancient ram's horn. I would be pleased to hear how your plant behaved. One of the very fine peonies that I originated is Lillian Gumm, a fine grower and a prolific bloomer."

Editor's note: Mr. Gumm's letter was dated January 16, 1928, and since that time both he and Mr. Cooper have passed on. Mr. Harry Little is now located at Camillus, N. Y.



From Commiseration to Ecstasy

NEAL R. VAN LOON, *Madylone, Newton, N. J.*

This present year of 1945, will, no doubt, always remain to plague the memory as being the grand-daddy of all bad peony years, at least with peony growers in this state.

Starting right out with March first after an extremely severe winter, we were ushered right into late Spring and Summer with bright sunshine nearly every day and 75 to 85 degree temperatures. Everything started to burst into life head over heels. Peony shoots were a foot high and full

green with big buds before you could think of it. One man urgently asked me to get him three dozen roots at once so as to gain him a years lead in growth. Imagine what a nice kettle of fish we would have had transporting and planting under such conditions.

April and May, and the first six days of June, were cold and dark with showers and fogs following and overlapping one another. Everywhere you looked it was a sea of mud.

"Two prisoners looked out
From behind the bars:
One saw the mud,
The other saw the stars."

I was behind the bars all right and all there was to see was mud and plenty of it.

Botrytis became very, very bad and it was impossible to carry out a thorough spraying program. Heavy plants like *Cherry Hill* and *Festiva Maxima* were sprawled all over the place. Many of the varieties had nothing to show except a hard mass of unnatural green petalage.

To top things off, along came two hail storms, driving sharp stones at hurricane velocity. Hundreds of buds were cut off entirely, many others cut and bruised and there was not a whole leaf to be found. Most of the sound buds left looked as though they were rotting. Even the lilacs hung their wretched heads clear to the ground for days.

We had a few tree peonies that we managed to protect and these gave us, in early May, a small number of really choice blooms.

All in all it is one of these gardening years that are just impossible, only more so.

June 9th, nature begins to smile just a little, the sun peaking through the clouds and the fog.

June 12th, and here come the peonies after all. There are no lates and on earlies for they all arrive in a heap. The size of the average flower is below par, but for intensity of color and for clear immaculate finish, we have never beheld such flowers. There is not a chafer or bug to be seen anywhere and only the torn leaves and stem wounds bear evidence of a nightmarish season.

First I will blow a few sour notes on certain varieties to make the article sound honest? *Mark Twain* had so much blue in it, there was nothing to call for a second look. *Angelus* was poor compared to last year, and *Phyllis Kelway* was also looking down. None of the following had a good thing about them this year: *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Blanche King*, *Claire Dubois*, *Phoebe Cary*, *Nina Secor*, *Georgiana Shaylor*, *President Wilson*, *Loveliness* and *Mrs. C. S. Minot*.

Very fine were all of these: *Lora Dexheimer*, *Cornelia Shaylor*, *La Lorraine*, *Frances Willard*, *Reine Hortense*, *Marie Crousse*, *Ella Christiansen*, *Mrs. Deane Funk*, *Alesia*, *Jeannot* and *Baroness Schroeder*.

For lack of a better expression I will say that all of the following were just super-super, that is, they left simply nothing for the imagination to long for: *Mary Auten*, *Yukon*, *Alice Harding*, *Minuet*, *A. G. Perry*, *Plymouth*, *Victory Chateau Thierry*, *Nick Shaylor*, *Isani Gidui* (here is a good tough performer for all of its delicate grace), *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*, *Venus*, *Grace Loomis* and two I had previously considered a little coarse, namely *Martha Bulloch* and *Festiva Maxima*. These latter two were the very epitome of delicacy and grace this year.

To stand out in memory, surely for years to come, there were three: *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, this flower, produced on a one year plant was absolutely first class from any and every standpoint. The other two kinds seemed to race to a draw for most beautiful flower for 1945. There was *Lady Alexandra Duff* that just stole the whole show while at her peak. One woman said, "I want to eat it." All I can say is "I could not take my eyes away." *Dancing Nymph* was nothing more nor less than a six inch simple cupped chalice, the color of a new apple blossom with the few exquisite petals heavily crinkled. It was an eye-filling, soul-uplifting, beauty.

Once I said the peony was behind the delphinium and the tuberous begonia. I cannot now repeat that. All garden flowers must stand aside for the peony. It is in a class by itself in its majestic nobility when it really gets down to business.

When I beheld the great begonia display at Sutton's place in Reading, England, I thought to myself, "Now you may die if you wish, you have surely seen everything." This year the peonies made answer — hundreds of 'em. — "You aint seen nuthin yet."



Growing Peonies in California

FRANK A. LEACH, *Diablo, California*

The general belief that peonies cannot be successfully grown in our state has been proved false by my experience these last eighteen years.

There are many reasons why peonies are not grown in California gardens. I will mention only a few.

California gardens are mostly evergreen gardens consisting of plants that give many months of continuous bloom — roses, begonias, geraniums, chrysanthemums, flowering shrubs and trees. Herbaceous plants are not given much consideration.

Local nurseries find it difficult to provide freshly dug plants: consequently they furnish potted or canned plants, some of which may have been carried over from former seasons in the containers. The demand for peonies is practically nil; consequently the varieties carried are very limited.

The condition in which the plant is received by the purchaser usually starts with an unsurmountable handicap. Three to five eye divisions as received from reliable Eastern growers in early September, will give some bloom the first year if planted in fat garden soil, watered thoroughly and kept moist until the growth shows in early spring.

As the California climate does not provide moisture comparable to thawed ground or spring and summer rains of the central and eastern states, copious watering is necessary until the plants show signs of ripening in July. The lack of such moisture I believe to be the cause of most failures with peonies here. The plants can make foliage growth under our average garden conditions but cannot produce strong flowering buds.

A planting of twenty varieties, all rating over 9, was made in September, 1942, in brown, alluvial soil, fortified with barnyard fertilizer and bonemeal in the bottom of the holes, and gave some bloom in 1943, fine bloom in 1944, and this year all varieties produced show flowers.

Of my original plantings in 1928, some were in loam and some in black clay (adobe). All have given magnificent blooms through the years. Large clumps have been divided, and sickly plants have been taken up, roots pruned and replanted. All have, in due time, come into satisfactory bloom under the above described procedure.

The old adage, "Where there is a will, there is a way," applies to successful peony culture in California.



Department of Registration

Mrs. Mary E. G. Freeborn of Proctor, Vermont, has sent in the following descriptions of her seedlings for registration:

Copy Cat (Freeborn, 1945). Hybrid *officinalis rubra plena* X Madame Jules Dessert. Single. Brilliant blood red, good center, long keeper and upright growth. Early.

Sun Fast (Freeborn, 1945). Hybrid *officinalis rubra plena* X *chinensis* hybrid. Double. Similar to *officinalis rubra plena*, but brighter color, fuller flower and of more upright growth. Early.

Corrected Registration

Several typographical errors crept in the published description of Mrs. Freeborn's seedling in the June, 1945, BULLETIN (No. 98) page 32. The following is the correct name and description:

William H. Park (Freeborn, 1945). Seedling Chugai No. 29. Japanese type. Plant thrifty, shapely and very free producer of medium sized, perfectly cupped, pure white flowers with unusually rich yellow centers. Carpels tipped yellow. Disc white. Lasts well and suitable for table decoration.

Mr. W. E. Lanigan of 137 Tenth St., Lincoln, Ill., has sent the following description of his seedling peony for registration.

Vaughn DeLeath (Lanigan, 1945). Double type; very large; midseason. Dark rose pink with few red petals near the center. Rose pink petalage becomes lighter in color with age. Tall, floriferous; not notably fragrant. Strong stems and good foliage.

Note: *Vaughn DeLeath* (1896-1943) was a native of Mount Pulaski, a small city a few miles south of Lincoln, Ill. Miss DeLeath is said to have been the first woman to sing over the radio.



New Members

Adams, Mrs. J. A., Madison, Conn.
 App. Orpha L., R.F.D. 6, Lafayette, Ind.
 Belvedere Farm. H. H. Greve, Mgr., Howison, Va.
 Barclay, F. H., 3401 Oakfield Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland
 Bard, Mrs. Philip, Garden Apts., Stony Run Lane, Baltimore 10, Md.
 Brandt, Jewel, Sherburn, Minn.
 Bush, Miss Elizabeth, Magnolia Farm, Freeland, Md.
 Campbell, Miss Stella, Hampshire Pike, Columbia, Tenn.

Carkner, Mrs. G. S., 1618 W. 59th St., Kansas City, Mo.
 Clark, Marvel, R.F.D. 1, Altoona, Iowa
 Cole, Roy G., 189 St. Clair Blvd., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
 Corcoran, Miss Cecelia, 1913 Hughitt Ave., Superior, Wis.
 Cross, Frank E., Savage, Minn.
 Dulany, Mrs. Ralph O., Three Pines, Fruitland, Md.
 Falk, George, 125 10th Ave. S., South St. Paul, Minn.
 Forsythe, Wm. J., Box 115, Alderwood Manor, Wash.
 Haig, Mrs. Thos. R., 3344 H Street, Sacramento 16, Cal.
 Herbruck, Mrs. Geo. P., 1395 Merriman Road, Akron 3, Ohio
 Holdaway, Milton L., R.F.D. 1, Box 417, Provo, Utah
 Kaywood, Orrin A., R.F.D. 6, Box 335, Pontiac, Mich.
 King, Charlotte G., Bartlett, New Hampshire
 Lathers, Austin, Suite 418 Providence Bldg., Duluth 2, Minn.
 McLaury, Irma, Drumright, Okla.
 Masters, Tod, 433 S. 4th St. E., Fort Atkinson, Wis.
 Morrison, Eldon J., 908 E. Capitol Ave., Ellensburg, Wash.
 Mojonnier, Mrs. F. E., Walla Walla, Wash.
 Mull, Harry J., 452 Taylor Ave., Glen Ellyn, Wash.
 Norby, Mrs. James E., 1044 Summit Ave., Detroit Lakes, Minn.
 Oliver, Miss Ruby B., R.R. 1, Victoria, Va.
 Oregon Bulb Farms, Sandy, Oregon
 Pendergast, Mrs. C. E., 1412 Cottonwood St., Grand Forks, N. D.
 Perkins, Milo, 723 15th St. N.W., Washington 5, D. C.
 Peterson, Walter A., 629 Winthrop Road, West Englewood, N. J.
 Pyle, Gilbert, R.F.D. 2, Wenatchee, Wash.
 Row, W. W., Cando Seed House, Cando, N. D.
 Simmonds, Mrs. W. H., Box 390, Signal Mountain, Tenn.
 Smith, Owen H., 28 Maplewood Ave., Maplewood, N. J.
 Snader, Helen Marie, R.F.D. 2, Box 301, Port Orchard, Wash.
 Stanley, H. M., Ironton, Ohio
 Taylor, George E., P.O. Box 51, Decatur, Ill.
 Uzzell, William C., 215-11 111th Ave., Queens Village 9, N. Y.
 Van Steen, Julius J., Crystal Lake, Ill.
 Wild, Gilbert H. & Son, Sarcoxie, Mo.
 Willoughby, Mrs. H., Harrisburg, Oregon
 Woolery Maryanna, 756 Glendean Ave., Dayton 3, Ohio
 Zeskey, Charles R. Jr., 625 W. 69th Street, Kansas City, Mo.

Note: In many cases we believe there should be zone numbers shown in the addresses, but they were not given to us. We cannot check from this office. Will appreciate any information covering possible misspelled names or incorrect numbers in these addresses. We want our records correct. Any change in address should be promptly reported so that you will be sure to receive the BULLETINS. We have some trouble in this respect with nearly every issue sent out. — Editor.



Changes in address reported to this office

Berkshire, Mrs. Ruth, Fifield, Wis., change to Orfordville, Wis.
 Clodfelter, Howard T., 2134 W. 100th St., Chicago, Ill., change to
 R.F.D. 2, Iola, Wis.
 Crockett, J. U., U.S.S. Andrew Doria, c/ P.O., San Francisco, Cal., to
 2915 Payson Ave., Houston 4, Texas

- Gustin, Fred E., Mosinee, Wis., change to Bancroft, Wis.
 Howe, Mrs. Francis W. Bentwood, Brompton Road, Williamsville, N. Y.,
 removed to P.O. Box 242, Williamsville 21, N. Y.
 Johnson, Mrs. F. Arthur, 308 W. Michigan St., Duluth, Minn., change
 to Route 3, Box 372, Duluth 3, Minn.
 Mills, Richard W., 1030 9th St., Lorain, Ohio, change to R.F.D. 3,
 Norwalk, Ohio
 Puffer, W. J., 463 Pasadena, Webster Grove, Mo., change to Weslaco,
 Texas
 Wister, John C., Wister Street and Clarkson Ave., Germantown, Phila-
 delphia 44, Pa., change to Scott Foundation, Swarthmore College,
 Swarthmore, Pa. (As of Oct 1st.)
 Wood, C. F., 54 Duke Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Comments on Comments

NEAL R. VAN LOON, *Madylone, Newton, N. J.*

Suffer a few suggestions please on Mr. B. C. Auten's comments in the March 1945 Bulletin, pages 26 to 29.

I think it is a good thing to thresh out certain points in this way to get some good solid ground to stand on. I got considerable profit out of his paragraphs, even though my viewpoint differs from his on several details.

I think his suggestion referring to page 9 of Bulletin No. 89 is extra well taken, although I do not suppose anybody can be really "cock-sure" of all of these points as yet.

Bulletin No. 95 — Tree Peonies. In Pennsylvania, in Mr. Oberlin's gardens, I saw many of the *Lutea* hybrids that had amazingly beautiful blooms. The few he gave me were mighty tough too, because they rode in a hot car for several hours without water and stood up yet after that for several days, stiff and full. *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu* looks almost exactly like a tuberous begonia bloom, soft colors and all. I can see great possibilities in these flowers for use in high class corsages.

One of our own five *Gessikai* blooms were, for all the world like *Kelway's Glorious*, enlarged and glorified. Of course they showed open center and were shallower in depth. This one flower measured nine inches. It gave us a tremendous thrill. *Kokko-shi* too was really grand and so was *Hana-Kisoi*.

Baroness Schroeder does indeed have an aristocratic looking plant. Its flowers are perishable, — it is one of the worst varieties for this, but right here let me suggest that beauty can be a very expensive and fleeting proposition. In my honest opinion, the buds of *Baroness Schroeder* for a short space of time, are excelled by no variety extant for warmth, purity, delicacy and form. Color, substance and texture are all that one could wish, and Mr. Auten in the next paragraph suggests that he does not go for size particularly.

A lot has been said and written about this business of large size, and I'd like to throw in my nickels worth. I readily agree that there are other considerations more important than size in a peony. I can look at the ones of moderate dimensions with as much pleasure as the next fellow.

However, as much as a six and one half inch *Solange* thrills me, a ten incher, other things being kept in proportion, would thrill me very much more. Size to me is very important, but it must be attained by sound breeding and balanced culture and not by unnatural forcing.

Incidentally, I do use peonies in my church more than in any other way, but just to look at, give me a large flower ahead of a smaller one every time, if the other qualities are not sacrificed. As an extreme illustration of this principle, take the color and substance of *Solange*, a six inch bloom, and compress it into a two inch *Solange*. I would not be able to see much for the simple reason my eyes cannot be orientated to take in small things. It is like looking at a collection of photographs of beautiful scenes and subjects. One enlargement 16x20 inches is worth a score of 35 millimeter contact prints, even though the latter be of much finer grain and richer in minute details.

The great Professor Bailey in his masterful analysis of beauty says, "Other things equal, the greater the number of elements organized into unity, the greater the beauty. If the elements are in themselves attractive (they would be lost or at least missed, if too small — parenthesis mine), then the resultant beauty of their organization will be deeper and more enjoyable." This principle would surely apply somewhat to the matter of size of the flower and of its parts. I will bet that Mr. Moots (see page 14 of Bulletin 97), could take a fine 12 inch peony and make something magnificent if given a huge bowl and several lesser peony lights of his choice.

The singles will hold their place for arrangements, no doubt, because they are so much easier to handle, but when it comes to something to look at or in the shows, the doubles and semi-doubles, the larger the better, will always stand supreme. They must be bred up though and not forced up.

If I can get hold of a *Solange* root that will come through every five years, with everything in symmetry and proportion, boosted to about 18 inches, I will give a thousand dollars for it gladly. (Preachers are no heavyweights in money matters but I think I know where I can borrow it!) The only trouble, the other fellow with dough would get there first with two thousand. A few seventy two inch flowers would not be spurned by me. I would find some way to handle them. "Our reach must exceed our grasp, or what is heaven for?"

Somewhere I read (it must have been Mr. Fewkes or Mr. Peyton), "If I were judging a class of, say, five poor peonies, and I were obliged to award a prize, I'd give it to the smallest flower, because the less of a poor thing the better." — or words to that effect. I think this is sound logic and I think it also sound to reason, the more of a good thing the better.

A discussion of peonies, favorites from the standpoint of beauty, can be of greatest profit I think. The iris people get out a symposium that is extremely interesting and helpful. By all means, we peony growers should do the same thing. How nice it would be to watch the changes, the promotions, the demotions of position from year to year.

Let me repeat once more, beauty can be a very fleeting and expensive proposition. I doubt if many peony blooms stay at their peak of perfection for as long as one hour. It may be a matter of only minutes. He who would drink to the full must be alert and ready.

Page 7, — about names. A lovely descriptive name goes a long way with me. The descriptions are always good and they always were. All honor to the grower who tells the faults of his proteges. Just compare these two batches of names and I think we should all agree that great care should be exercised when a fine peony is named. *Sowadabscook*, *Mattawamkeag*, *Gigantea Pie Plate*, *Zip Coon*, vs. *Flanders Fields*, *Elfin Pink*, *Therese*, *Shirene*, *Marilla Beauty*, *Moonstone*, *Largo* and *Mellow Moon*. I say a beautiful peony calls for a beautiful name.



Secretary's Notes



To make others happy with our flowers gives one a lasting satisfaction that speaks louder than words and conveys to the recipient a source of satisfied pleasure that cannot be excelled in any other manner of giving. Money may be most welcome, but it does not bring the satisfaction, beauty or lasting enjoyment that flowers can.

I am just in receipt of a communication written by one of our members, Martin A. Eliason of Appleton, Wis., to R. W. Jones, of St. Paul, Minn., President of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society. It reads as follows:

"Just a few lines to attempt to share with you a little of the pleasure that came to me as the bearer of your beautiful peony blossoms to Mrs. Ben Bergstrom, of 4018 Colfax Ave. North, Minneapolis, the famous tulip fancier. She told me how she had wished to get down to the show, but her condition of health would not permit her doing so.

"After getting blossoms from you and other exhibitors and cutting some representative blooms from Franklin's fields, the bouquet brought to her was really of show caliber. She usually sits practically rigid in her wheel chair, due to the effects of a malignant, deforming type of rheumatism, and when those peony blossoms came into her field of vision she first appeared to be speechless with enjoyment, and then she exclaimed: 'oh! OH! OH, CAN there be PEONIES like that?'

"It was easy to see that her pleasure was not feigned but very genuine. I shall never forget her expression of intense enjoyment.

"She ordered them placed where she could feed her eyes and feast her soul on their beauty and then called up friends and relatives to come quick and see. When she asked me to convey her most sincere thanks to all donors, I know that she really meant it, and I want to add my own personal and very sincere THANK YOU."

When we can make others happy, particularly those that are handicapped by physical ailments, we will find a real source of satisfaction in giving our surplus bloom that otherwise bring no particular satisfaction to anyone.

Mr. James J. Metcalf in his Portraits, sums this matter up very beautifully in the poem I present herewith, entitled "The Kindly Deed."

I never knew how beautiful this life can really be,
 Until one day I met a friend who showed me sympathy.
 Who taught me more than words can say what friendship really means
 And how it paints the pretty side of all the passing scenes.

I saw the glory of defeat, the purpose of a pain,
 The sense in every struggle and the reason for the rain.
 I understood the healthiness of hoping for the best
 When there appears to be no chance of finishing the quest.

And in my heart I came to know how kindness can awake
The joy of doing one good deed for someone else's sake.

✕

✕

✕

As I was engaged in writing these notes the evening of Sunday, August 18, a flash came over the radio that Japan had surrendered. This report was later modified and retracted, but there is the feeling in most hearts that this titantic struggle is about at an end, and here is hoping that universal peace may reign for centuries to come. With the destruction that can be inflicted with the atomic bomb, we shudder to think what another war would be like. Let us all earnestly desire and hope that the elements that go to make up this destructive bomb may be harnessed to create new energy and unheard and unthought of mediums that may be diverted to the use of man that will be helpful and really worth while. Advancement in science is far reaching and after this conflict, many things that have been learned can be used to our good.

✕

✕

✕

Weeks have passed since the above notes were written and peace is actually with us so far as war is concerned, but the call of strikes and the tieup of machinery for readjustment to peaceful living again is very serious as well as dangerous. It is hoped that a satisfactory solution to this trouble may be speedily achieved. It is going to be hard for many to readjust themselves to new salary levels and get back to sane and sound reasoning again, but it must come about in some manner.

✕

✕

✕

After spending all day in the office and working well into the night, I have wondered why I was tired. After reading the following article I can better understand this fatigue.

Does Your Stenographer Need a Vacation?

Well in order to rest your conscience we reprint a clever article that we clipped from a house magazine called "The Prism," issued by a firm in Seattle, Washington.

"When Susie, the stenographer, comes home in the evening from her daily grind at the office, and declares that she feels as tired as a ditch-digger, don't laugh at her, you big, husky he-members of the family. You'll only be showing your ignorance.

"Inquisitive, mechanical engineers, with dynameters and slide-rules, have been checking up on Susie's work, and, boys, their findings are positively startling! They say she does more work than a ditch-digger!

"Here's the way it's figured. A pressure of twelve ounces is exerted with each stroke on a typewriter key. A speedy typist will hit the keys 30,000 to 40,000 times per hour, resulting in an expenditure of energy equivalent to that required to lift about fifteen tons of dirt. If she types steadily eight hours a day at that speed she will use as much energy as would be required to shovel more than a hundred tons of dirt!

"No wonder she's too tired to help with the supper dishes when she gets home. And on top of the exhaustion of physical energy, there's the mental fatigue incident, perhaps to having a cantankerous cuss for a boss who talks from his stomach with his tongue wrapped around a cigar and starts dictating a stack of rush letters at 4 p.m.

Request For Articles

With the next issue of the BULLETIN we will have issued and mailed to our members one hundred BULLETINS since the organization of the society.

We want to make this a special number, larger than the usual issue, and in order to do so must have more material.

I am sure many of our members have had something to write about for some time, but just haven't gotten around to put their thoughts on paper for presentation to our readers.

Your experiences with peonies, methods of culture, successful experiments, your favorite varieties, why you grow peonies, comments on the BULLETINS of the past, suggestions for improvement, what would be of most interest to you in the way of articles, etc., these are just a few things that have occurred to me as I hurriedly write these notes.

Your President has urged you to help us out and we add our appeal to his request. We know you will not let us down.

After this hectic year we will promise you that the BULLETINS will be nearer on time each quarter. Conditions beyond our control have contributed to the delay of the past few issues.

We will be looking for your articles, so don't disappoint us.

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary*

Brand Peony Farms

Are Offering
For the Year 1945

Their usual fine assortment of first class Peonies, Irises, and French Lilacs on their own roots.

FRENCH LILACS

Are now one of our main specialties. We propagate these so that they come to our customers 100% on their own roots. There is no finer stock in the entire world.

FLOWERING CRABS

We are also working up an entirely new, absolutely hardy line of flowering crabs.

During the last 13 years the following Brand Peonies have been awarded Best flower in the National Show.

1933 Chicago	Hansina Brand
1934 Minneapolis	Hansina Brand
1940 Rochester	Martha Bulloch
1941 Syracuse	Blanche King
1943 Minneapolis	Mrs. A. M. Brand

Our Latest Catalog, the most beautiful we have ever sent out in color, is free.

BRAND PEONY FARMS
Faribault, Minn.

TRI-TERRACE PEONY GARDENS

E. F. Kelsey
East Aurora, N. Y., R.D. 3

"You can't eat your cake and have it too." 1944 peony growers were voracious "cake eaters." The old peony pantry has empty shelves. Some of us are "in the hole," with a garden of holes. What shall we do, raise prices, or hang up a "sold out" sign? Here is our answer.

Marilla Beauty, very limited stock	\$15.00
To Kalon, a few divisions	15.00
Frontier, withdrawn from sale	10.00
Grace Gedge, fair stock	10.00
Irving Flint, limited stock	10.00
Laura Kelsey, fair stock	12.00
Party Gown, some left	12.00
Mothers Day, priced too low, some left	5.00
Rare China, Originally priced too low	10.00

Limited stocks of other Tri-Terrace seedlings. Fair stocks of commercial varieties. Write for prices; they are not yet rationed.

GOOD, BETTER and BEST PEONIES

Write for list

J. W. BERNSTEIN
1439 S. 28th St., Lincoln 2, Neb.

TREE PEONIES

FINEST NAMED VARIETIES

—ALSO—

HERBACEOUS PEONIES

OBERLIN PEONY GARDENS

P. O. Box 115 Sinking Springs, Pa.

VICTORY

Sales for this lovely peony have far exceeded our expectations and the available supply for this year's distribution will soon be exhausted. Join the Victory Club of purchasers of this variety. See Bulletin 95 and 96 for full description. Priced at \$20 each, and well worth it.

Later we will prepare a list describing this and many of the finest peonies obtainable. Send request for it and it will be sent when ready. Victory will be featured at the Rockford, Ill., A.P.S. show in 1946.

NORTHBROOK GARDENS

W. F. Christman, Propr.

Northbrook, Ill.

JOIN THE AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY

All Dahlia "fans" are cordially invited to join this great organization which is devoted solely to spreading information about and the improvement of the Dahlia.

Read the quarterly Bulletin, a sample copy of which will be sent on request, giving all the latest information and cultural hints on Dahlias. Membership includes the Bulletin, a season ticket to our National exhibitions and all other privileges of the society.

Dues \$2.00 per year.
461 Court Street

C. Louis Alling, Sec'y
West Haven, Conn.

THE BEST OF THE
WORLD'S BEST PEONIES
can always be supplied at
reasonable prices by

GEORGE W. PEYTON
Windy Hill Gardens
Rapidan, Virginia

The Cottage Gardens Lansina, Michiaan TREE PEONIES

Pot-grown. We can ship almost
any time. Also large collections
all other types of peonies.

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

The American Iris Society, since its organization in 1920, has published 83 Bulletins which cover every phase of iris growing. These bulletins go four times each year to all members, who may also purchase any back numbers in stock for 50c a copy. Because the bulletins are not for sale except to members a

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER of SIX for ONE DOLLAR is made to non-members. The six are our selection from surplus stock.

THE ALPHABETICAL IRIS CHECK LIST, edited by Ethel Anson S. Peckham and published in 1940, is an invaluable reference book for all who grow irises or wish to know about irises. The book lists about nineteen thousand names of irises (including synonyms and mis-spellings) and contains as nearly as is humanly possible all the old species and varieties as well as the new ones, with added information about obsolete varieties, species, section, season, color and fragrance. There is a long list of names of breeders, introducers, dealers and authors, with brief biographical details. The binding is durable, water-proof cloth, and in spite of its 582 pages the book is of a size comfortable for holding and carrying. The price to A.I.S. members is \$3.00, to non-members \$4.00.

Orders should be addressed to the office of the Secretary, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Building, Washington, D. C., and checks made payable to the American Iris Society.

Cherry Hill Strain

of PEONIES embraces the FINEST VARIETIES in PEONYDOM and their consistent winnings of GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS prove beyond doubt that they have intrinsic value.

Please ask for catalog showing varieties and list of awards.

CHERRY HILL NURSERIES
(Thurlows and Stranger, Inc.)
WEST NEWBURY, MASS.

NEW FRANKLIN ORIGINATIONS

Descriptive price list of forty-five Franklin Peony Originations sent on request. Includes those of 1941.

Franklin Nursery
Minneapolis, Minn.



1600 VARIETIES OF
PEONIES, IRISES,
POPPIES and
HEMEROCALLIS
Catalog Free
G. F. WASSENBURG
Van Wert, Ohio

River Drive Peony Garden

RIVER GROVE, ILL.

Prices Reasonable

Send for price list

Growers and originators of the world's finest Peonies and Irises.