

# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY  
INC. JULY 2, 1904

## Bulletin

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

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# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



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MARCH, 1936

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## Seedlings Which Deteriorate

By EDWARD AUTEN, JR.

One often hears the question asked, "Why is it that some seedlings are never afterwards as beautiful as the first time they bloom?" I have given this matter considerable thought, and while I have not answered it to my complete satisfaction, I do feel that several factors entering into it can be explained.

B. W. Guppy, in BULLETIN 61, in the article entitled "Good Cheer for the Beginners," tells of getting 95% of his seedlings to bloom, but says he does not know when the remaining 5% will bloom. Now it is very seldom that we find perfection in Nature. In fact, I sometimes wonder whether the Standard of 100% perfection is not a creation of the human mathematician. We should be well content to get bloom on 95% of our seedlings. There is loss all along the line of the life cycle. Much pollen is wasted, some seed pods are not pollenized, some pollenizations do not "take," many seeds are empty shells, sterile. Some seeds will germinate, but are so weakly endowed by inheritance that the first leaves, instead of being a healthy green, are palest pink, or a creamy white, and the plant dies the first summer. Others are so weak they will be only the size of a match when most of their fellows are as large as an Icicle radish, and it is these weaklings which probably fall in Mr. Guppy's five per cent of non-bloomers.

What then of those that are beautiful in bloom their first year, and never so good afterwards? I believe that some have had the inheritance to carry them just that far and no farther. They probably have a very poor root system. One year I had two very beautiful new seedlings, a crepe textured black red single, and a monstrous double, the latter on

a stem only about 14 inches tall. Both of these pined away and died, for no apparent reason. The number of such seedlings in a large planting is very small.

It takes a certain amount of vitality to keep a variety going, to withstand the shock of division, to resist successfully the inroads of decay, natural from the decaying stems, or decay from disease or improper drainage. The root of a peony five years from seed, is a beautiful thing, often without a particle of decay in it, and with perfect health it may give a fine bloom and still not be strong enough to stand the natural buffetings of this cruel world. This, I believe, explains why many seedlings never live up to first promise.

And if a seedling becomes infected with real disease, its vigor must be exceptionally high to enable it to carry on. I have often marvelled at the vigor of *Solange*, which gave so many fine blooms from plants thoroughly infected with Lemoine's disease. And after getting *Solange* entirely free from disease 14 years ago, I have found its vigor still more marked. Yes, someone may say, but there is no disease apparent in my seedling, no nematodes, no bad decay, and still it has not done well. I believe thousands of peony roots are infected with Lemoine's disease or some virus disease from the knife used in dividing the roots. Some fifteen years ago, seeking some way to stop the Lemoine's disease, I started the habit of cleaning my knife frequently in a saturated solution of potassium permanganate, and ever since then Lemoine's disease has been no problem with me. Of course I never propagate a root I know to be diseased, but the disease is very slow to become visible, and unless the permanganate solution is used on the knife, infection may be spread unknowingly by dividing roots that are diseased. I believe any virus disease may also be spread by the knife used in cutting blooms and by juice-eating insects, but if one simply does not knowingly have infected plants in his garden, there is not much danger there. Some scientists have said Lemoine's disease was not a virus disease, but I do not see how it can be anything else. And I also believe it causes some seedlings to go bad and stay that way.

In my work I have found that many seedlings divided at five years from seed apparently are not mature enough to withstand the shock of division, while the sixth year seems to offer no trouble in this regard. I cannot tell why this is so, unless it is parallel to the well-known fact that a growing high school boy cannot stand the hard knocks that a college boy might take as a matter of course. Some seedlings can be

divided at five years without injury, but I do not do it any more. Also, unless a seedling is extra vigorous, or shapes into good divisions naturally, I do not try to make the first divisions small, but am content to have fewer large ones, with no butchering of the clump. From a clump six years from seed, one will get from two to ten divisions, with an average of about four and one-half. But unless I can get four or more good divisions from the original plant, I am skeptical as to the value of the variety.

More and more the fact is impressed upon me that the first point to consider in valuing a seedling is not the bloom, its color, nor the stem, but the ROOT. If a variety is to endure, it must have a root that is strongly resistant to decay, that increases rapidly, that throws up plenty of bloom stalks and is able to feed them so that they will bear fine blooms. After selecting on this point, then we may consider color, substance, type of bloom, season, and stem. The chances are that a variety thus chosen will in after years, give blooms on old mature clumps, excelling the first bloom from seed. Pink *Solange*, so exactly a duplicate of *Solange* in everything except color that I believe the parentage must be identical, gave me in 1935 bloom on a two-year plant finer than any I ever got from the original plant or the first divisions, even though the latter were grown four years before being divided again. This is the sort of performance that cheers the originator.

Another cause for disappointment after approving a seedling is the variation in form of bloom from year to year in some peonies. Form may be the deciding factor in selecting a seedling. Suppose first bloom is of the anemone type, only slightly different in effect from the Japanese. Such a bloom may be charming. But in later years, on mature plants, the blooms may be so much more fully developed that they are entirely past the Japanese effect, and the form of bloom may be unattractive. A fine late double may after some years develop petalage so tight that it will not open with certainty, and the variety be deserving only of discard. We need more extra late doubles that are sure to open, and loose petalage is a vital requirement. I used to think that any double, no matter how tight and uncertain here in central Illinois, would open well in a cool climate such as Duluth affords. But to make sure, I sent some tight seedlings up to Mrs. M. F. Bates at Duluth, and she and some friends very kindly tried them out for me. Results there were almost the same as here in Illinois.

Now someone may chime in and say that here is reason enough

why no peony should be introduced except after many years of trial. With this I do not fully agree. In the first place, the majority of seedlings are fixed in type of bloom and one can tell from first bloom what it will be in after years. Second, if one will leave his first seedling plant undivided until the sixth or seventh year, or his first divisions until they are four or five years old, he can find out what the variety will do, and lose little if any time. If a man kept a variety twenty years and divided his stock closely every two or three years, he could not even then accurately judge what the variety would do, if its type of bloom were variable like *Mons. Martin Cabuzac* or *Marie Jacquin*.



## Growing Seedling Peonies

### *Development of the Japanese Type*

By BENJAMIN WILDER GUPPY

Here is an interesting experiment to make, that is, if you are interested in making experiments and have the will to live to a ripe old age.

Select good peonies of the anemone type for seed parents and good singles for pollen parents, then do your hand pollinating, harvesting and planting of seed, and handling of seedlings in the approved manner. I am not giving you instructions in the technique of the work. You will find them very clearly set forth in the *MANUAL*.

Perhaps you have already guessed the result. Among the seedlings you raise will be found some that are intermediate between the single and anemone types in the process of doubling, namely, the Japanese. And right here let me impress upon you that the Japanese peony is not a separate species but is only one type of *sinensis*.

You will find many variations in the size, color, form, number and arrangement of both the guard petals and the staminoidal petals forming the center; also in the form and coloring of the pistils.

Unfortunately the fly in the ointment will be that only very rarely will the combination of all the characteristics necessary to produce the perfect blossom and plant occur in any one of these seedlings you raise; but now having some plants of the Japanese type to work with, you can, in the course of time (please note that I do not write it "in a few years") by judicious crossbreeding, combined with the application of a maximum

of patience, perseverance and imagination, develop a collection of worthwhile Japs. without having any in your garden at the beginning.

But how about using Japs. for seed parents at the start? The number of Japs. that will appear among the first generation seedlings will depend upon the class of blossom used as a pollen parent. If it is a single capable of producing only singles when self-fertilized (in genetics called a homozygote) the seedlings resulting from the cross will most likely all be singles and the Jap. type will reappear in the second generation seedlings. If the single is a cross between a single and a double and produces both singles and doubles when self-fertilized (a heterozygote) some Japs. will appear among the first generation seedlings, and even more will appear if the pollen parent is the result of a cross between a Jap. and some other type of *sinensis*.

Feathers are an indication of the tendency toward doubling and are more apt to occur in the center of the flower when the pollen parent is a double. In fact the feathers may become so numerous that the blossom develops as a double with a collar of stamemoidal petals, but at that it may be a very beautiful flower.

The characteristics of two varieties of Japs. may be recombined by means of an intermediary. This will require raising two and possibly three generations of seedlings, a matter of from eight to eighteen or twenty years only. So start young and remember about "the will to live."

In a previous article I have stated what you may expect from crossing various colors. Unfortunately the pink by pink cross was omitted. Theoretically, 25% of the plants resulting from this cross should bear white blossoms, 50% pink and 25% red. The greater the number of seedlings grown the nearer will the actual results approach the theoretical.

And now a word of caution. While the records of the results obtained by other growers make interesting reading they will be of no assistance to you unless both the seed and pollen parents are known. Some varieties have been reported as having been found to be unsatisfactory seed parents when the trouble may have been due to the, often unknown, pollen parent. And then again no cross can really be set down as unsatisfactory until enough second generation seedlings have been grown to determine whether the recombination of the characteristics of the two parents will yield anything of value.

And yet there is a great satisfaction in finding the results for which you are striving among the first generation seedlings. It sometimes happens.

## Dr. Brethour's Peonies

By J. A. BONGERS, Ottumwa, Iowa

Since the 1936 national peony show is to be held in Toronto, Canada, in June, I assumed that the members of the Society might be interested in learning something about Dr. Brethour's peonies, and that applies in particular to those who will attend the show. It is to be hoped, too, that it may serve as a means of causing others to attend the show in anticipation of seeing these flowers.

Since the primary purpose of the show is to exhibit new flowers and also, to see the older ones at their best, this show should be of particular interest in that Dr. Brethour has several superlative new flowers, a few of which are distinct and different. For the information of those who have never attended a national show I might add, that the meeting of old friends and making new ones, too, is not the least interesting part of the show and always makes it worth while. I failed to go to the Boston show last year, and my trip to Toronto was partly in recompense for having missed that show and also because I wanted to see some peonies Dr. Brethour had registered in former BULLETINS.

I shall say nothing about the interesting features of Toronto as a show city, nor of the promise of a fine show, with Canadians and Americans in friendly competition. The doctor may be depended upon to do that, as BULLETIN No. 61 (September), already indicates. Aside from wonderful flowers and an equally wonderful city the lure of the quintuplets has been given a place and I believe that is as it should be.

My wife and I visited with Dr. Brethour and his daughter in June and their kind hospitality remains a happy memory. The weather was hot at the time and the flowers were in full bloom, two conditions that were an aid in judging their substance. The peony field is located at Whitby, approximately thirty miles north of Toronto, and having arrived there it was a pleasant experience to see peonies in full bloom again, when mine at home had long since passed out. Every evidence pointed to well-grown flowers, for in addition to peonies, Dr. Brethour specializes in hybrid lilacs, phlox and many other perennials.

*Ecstasy* is a beautiful name for any flower and it was not given this peony without due consideration. Seeing this flower in bloom I could not but agree that it had been well named. A splendid white of heavy substance, it has a yellow glow throughout the flower that makes it distinct. This yellow glow is quite noticeable in that the inner

part of all petals, except the guards, are canary yellow. The flowers are large, the plant has good height and good stems, the foliage is dark green and abundant. This flower should be one of the attractions of the show. A likeness of it may be seen on the cover of BULLETIN No. 38 (June), which also contains remarks by Dr. Brethour concerning it.

*Blanche Elie* was registered in BULLETIN No. 56 (March), and it is a flower to conjure with. If that was a great day to peony fanciers the world over when *Mons. Jules Elie* first flashed its form, then the day that *Blanche Elie* first showed the same form, in a creamy white, should be equally great. To me it appealed as an outstanding production and one destined to outrank its pink double in attractiveness. One row of large white guard petals surround a large bomb of long incurved creamy white petals about three-eighths of an inch in width, the whole composing a flower of wondrous richness and beauty. There were no indications of red on any bloom and since the plant has good height and good stems I would class it as one of the best and the most distinctive peonies added to the list in many years. It blooms with *Jules Elie* and its substance seemed on a par with that flower.

Seeing it in a vase in the doctor's home it was not hard to visualize that it will be growing in every garden where fine peonies are grown, as stock becomes available and also, that it should take rank quickly as the most sought after variety for the cut flower trade. Truly a remarkable flower.

Those two were the outstanding whites and though the doctor has a few more, yet for one reason or another they failed to come up to his high standard and are to be discarded. A new white, listed in BULLETIN No. 61 (September), as *Chastity* I did not see. It blooms very early and it had passed out before I arrived. He is testing it out in storage and seems to have great hopes for it. Perhaps it will be shown at the show.

The doctor has several pink varieties and every one is attractive. The latest to be named is *Aileen Brethour*, an alluring pink that grows on you. It might be termed a jaunty flower in that the stems hold the blooms so erect. Even though the plants had not been disbudded and were a mass of bloom, no blooms were on the ground nor were the stems bending. It is a rather dark tone pink with some of the central petals very finely edged red. This is noticeable only upon close examination and really adds beauty and color to the flower. It is a flower that is sure to attract. The plant is of medium height and when grown for garden effect the plant should not be disbudded.

*Lady Eleanor* is a deep pink of which we shall hear more, once it becomes known. If it had no virtue, other than its fragrance, it would be worth growing in anyone's garden. Compared in the field to *Blanche King*, as near as the eye could determine, it was identical in color. In addition, it has the sweetest and the most pronounced fragrance of any peony I know. A few blooms of it in a vase will perfume a room. The plant has good height and the stems are strong. Just another superlative flower that will add interest to the show, and incidentally, it should be perfectly at home there.

*Etienne Brule* is a late, heavy-substanced bloom of *Solange* form. *Solange* is indicated in its parentage, though it seemed to have less yellow in its make-up. It is a many-petalled bloom and the buds are smooth. The coloring is an exquisite light pink of varying shades and it remains to be seen as to how it will perform, so far south of its native habitat. The stems are adequate and so is the foliage and if it proves a good performer it will add yet another charming pink to the list.

Those who admire *Auguste Dessert* must like *La Salle*—due to the fact that Mr. Auten has one named *La Salle*, this name is to be changed and *Don Quixote* has been suggested. It is a different toned pink or red, as you will, with a heavy sheen that is easily noticeable across the field. A splendid plant with splendid stems, it is different and should stand out in any peony planting. A dozen blooms of this variety under artificial light should rivet attention.

*Shirine* is a beautiful light-toned pink of heavy substance. The bloom is many-petalled, a full double, round and smooth and *Solange* is indicated in its form. The buds are smooth and open well. The stems are of medium height and support the bloom. The blooms of this variety were on new plants, lately divided. Class and distinction were clearly indicated and on established plants this variety should prove very choice.

Near *Shirine*, but in another row was *Lola Paul*, similar in form, but with deeper pink coloring. A splendid flower of heavy substance. I found it difficult to choose between the two, whether to choose the dainty light colored beauty of *Shirine* or the heavier toned coloring of *Lola Paul*. When two superb flowers are shown it is ever so, so to avoid any mistakes or regrets, I chose them both and time shall prove which is the better.

Stately in form and intriguing in color was *June Athalie*. Deeper in color than the average among these seedlings. Its fine pink tones should fit admirably on the show table. A plant of fine carriage, which

necessarily implies good stems, means that *June Athalie* would shine in the best company.

*Lalla Rookh*, being very early, had passed out before I arrived. The doctor assured me it was a beautiful pink, a profuse bloomer and that it came good every year. Appreciating the high standard he sets for his flowers I await its coming with interest.

In a Jap., *Betty Hires* is daintiness itself. A blush pink, which holds throughout the life of the bloom, was especially noticeable. The stamenoids are deep yellow and narrow with the carpels tipped rose. The blooms possess very good substance and hold their form. There is no clashing of colors, simply a dainty, chaste creation, extremely beautiful.

A white single, still under number, bore every evidence of merit. Particularly noticeable was its substance; petals stiff and waxy and of fine form. The stamens were adequate, with carpels tipped rose. This variety had been divided and was not in condition to show its true size, but all indications pointed to a beautiful flower. I await its performance on established plants and feel sure it will set a high standard.

Blooming in his garden were two pink varieties, the excellence of which could be appraised at a glance. They are the originations of Harry Rolph, of Markham, Ont. Ordinarily they would not be included under the head of this article, but due to their splendid quality and also to the fact that they will be very prominent in the show, I feel they should be included. They are named *Lady Rolph* and *Mrs. Lawrence*, respectively, and because of their class their future is assured.

Beholding a first class bloom of *Therese* one sees practical perfection in a peony. When one beholds *Lady Rolph* the similarity to *Therese* is not only noticeable but striking. The blooms are large, the coloring exquisite and the stems are strong. Having raised some superlative *Therese* in my own garden last year, I marveled at their beauty, and I would certainly hesitate to ascribe equality to any pink peony in comparison to *Therese*. Nevertheless, *Lady Rolph* is a superb flower and if it can be shown in good form at the show, I feel it is sure to attract attention.

Less cannot be said for *Mrs. Lawrence*. Very large, its deep rose tones are a delight and besides it has good fragrance. Seeing it in bloom in the doctor's garden I thought I was beholding choice blooms of *Martha Bulloch*, until corrected by Dr. Brethour. Such a comparison should be sufficient for *Mrs. Lawrence*, and should stamp it as a first-class show flower. The plant is tall, the stems are good and withal, it's a flower of merit.

Having seen these flowers in bloom in Dr. Brethour's field it will be interesting to watch their performance on the show table at the National Show, and also, to watch them develop in my own garden. Class and distinction are indicated in all of them and to increase the interest in the show it is hoped that American growers will bring their new things, to make competition keen in the seedling class, and that applies with equal force to the other classes, too.

Arrangements are now being completed for the show and some interesting innovations are promised. If all who can, will send flowers from this side and attend the show, too, it should prove one of the most interesting ever held by the society and worth going to Toronto to see.



## Some Notes on the Boston Show

By GEO. W. PEYTON, Rapidan, Va.

It is not the purpose of this article to go into details about the recent Boston Show. That has been very efficiently done by others, but there are some things that struck me as worthy of special mention.

From the comments heard on all sides, the show was probably the best one that has been staged in a long time. Every class had one or more entries. That is unusual. Every entry was meritorious. That is something more unusual. All entries were good the first day and many better the second day. A good proportion of the entries had spent some time in cold storage. To me the most interesting exhibit was that of Prof. A. P. Saunders. The marvelous colorings of the many hybrid peonies shown, especially the pinks and reds, were revelations as to what we may expect to have in our gardens in the future. The greatest regret was that most of these hybrids are singles. We look forward to the time when there shall be full double flowers of these brilliant colorings. They seemed to be conspicuous by their absence. The soft color of the new hybrid *Birthday* was especially beautiful.

The hybrid tree peony, *Black Pirate*, was also a very notable flower. The loosely built triple hybrid of a very pleasing light creamy pink was very remarkable. This one had no name. The hybrids of coriacea were again noteworthy, especially so, as there seems to be only one plant of coriacea on this side the Atlantic and that is in Ottawa. Pollen has to be transported from this plant yearly for hybridizing. We were also glad

to see in this collection of Prof. Saunders, several of the *Bockstoe* and *Glasscock* hybrids.

For many years, those of us who know Harry F. Little have also known that he, in addition to being the greatest living authority on the varieties of the *sinensis* peony, is also the greatest showman in America today. No one can doubt that who sees the truly marvelous exhibits he always put on at every show he attends. When we look at the perfection of his flowers, all of us are bound to recognize our superior in this line. But then we have also to give credit to the Thurlows and Stranger for a skill almost equal. And the flowers of Bancroft Winsor left little to be desired in the perfection of their growth and finish. Again when we saw the beautiful blooms of Mrs. Gowen that came all the way from St. Paul by air mail, we must also recognize the fact that if she had been able to exhibit as the growers who did not have such distances to overcome, she would have been a formidable competitor to anyone. And there were others with flowers of splendid form and beauty.

When we saw the immense exhibits put on by Cherry Hill Nursery all in perfect condition we were all amazed at the untiring industry that only could accomplish such results. Other fine exhibits were those of W. C. Otis, who probably had more of the newer varieties in his than anyone else. William J. Doherty also had some fine blooms, many of which were of the very new varieties. The writer was personally very sorry that he did not get a good look at the very extensive exhibit of Mr. Donahue. This was not placed in a position where it could be very well seen to advantage.

Another very evident fact about this exhibit was that the old tried and true varieties have not yet been excelled by any newcomers. A perfect *Avalanche*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Le Cygne* still remain in the unbeaten class. And there are others. There were two of the older varieties that certainly call for more than passing notice. *Mrs. Sbaylor Force*, as it was shown in many exhibits and seen in several gardens, was a peony that few others could equal in perfection. Lemoine's *Lamertine*, shown in Mr. Little's exhibit, was a variety anyone would be glad to have. Of the new ones *Sarah M. Napier* easily was the most spectacular with its dark pink guard petals shading to the center lighter until quite white. Mr. Little thinks it the finest landscape variety he knows. However, the new one that will probably be the most eagerly sought by all is Mr. Little's new *Onondaga*. It certainly gives promise of being a great red.

It is needed. When we are called on to name the great reds, the fingers of one hand, almost, will suffice to tally them off. All of us who knew and loved our grand old friend, Arthur Fewkes, whose face and kindly smile was so genuinely missed, looked with especial interest for a peony that he thought a great deal of and which he was instrumental in placing in commerce, *Priscilla Alden*. This was shown in many exhibits in good form and in large numbers in the special 400 square feet exhibit of Mr. Otis. It is certainly a very beautiful flower of fine form and delicacy of tint. Being very early, the flowers were probably not quite as fine as they would have been otherwise. One of the great disappointments of the show to the writer was the fact that *Nick Shaylor* was not far enough along in any garden to be shown in its true form. If it could have been, I am sure that not many flowers would have surpassed it in beauty. Those who visited Mr. Allison at home after the show saw many of them that at least showed what could be looked for from it. It was also a disappointment not to see Mr. Arthur Fewkes' own seedling in bloom. This will have to be a treat to look forward to in future shows. We had also hoped that our Western friends would have been able to send in such fine new ones as *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* but we will still have to take their word for its excellence for while a very small bloom of it was shown by Mr. Little we shall have to depend on the future to see it in its glory. And this is likewise true of *Harry F. Little*, which seems to have been very fine this year in those gardens that are privileged to have it and they are few.

While Mr. Otis has a very complete collection of the new Franklin varieties, the late ones had not come into bloom. However, among those seen, while all of them possessed merit to great degree, the especially beautiful ones were *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt* in its exquisite tints of pink; *Mary Ellen*, a semi-double of great excellence; *Charm*, one of the finest red Japs. in existence; *Jean Ann*, a close follower, and *Gopher Beauty*, a fine red single. In a year or two we may look for a very large red single of grand color to be put out by Mr. Brand. This flower was shown in splendid form by Mr. Little and is known as *Man o' War*. It will certainly be on the warpath for any other red single that may come its way. We look for Mr. Auten to furnish a worthy competitor and maybe he has it already in *Arcturus* or some other one of his good new ones that we all look forward to seeing some day. There was a white Japanese peony shown in several exhibits and seen in a number of gardens, *Margaret Atwood*. I understand that this flower was picked out of an

importation of *Toro-no-maki*, by the late B. H. Farr as being distinctly different. Mr. Little thinks it is the same as *Isani Gidui*. While I hesitate to differ with him as generally he is found to be uncannily correct in his judgments, yet in the gardens of both Mr. Otis and Mr. Allison it seemed to be quite distinct in its habit of growth and time of flowering, coming about a week or more after *Isani Gidui*, having a very much better stem and being much taller and of better habit. However that may be, it is a flower of great beauty.

There was one class that was new in the present show. It is the one for a collection of blooms one of each variety shown, and not more than twenty-five, open only to exhibitors from outside the state in which the exhibit is held. This class had four entries, two from New York, one from Minnesota and one from Virginia. This is a good beginning. Let's keep it up and make it better. The writer has wondered if a smaller number of blooms might not be more of an attraction as it takes about a hundred flowers to get twenty-five good ones of top quality, especially from storage, and this is a considerable number to ship far. A class for ten or even five would entail much less trouble and expense. But it might not draw any more than the twenty-five class.

It was my privilege to visit a number of the growers around Boston. Among the most interesting places visited was the home of Mr. Herbert F. Chase. Mr. Chase is not as young as he once was, but he keeps a great measure of his youth by his constant companionship with his flowers. He takes great pride in growing the things that are commonly said to be impossible to grow, proof of which was shown in his triumphant production of a perfect stem of the Mt. Hood lily in full bloom. He has quite extensive grounds full of natural beauty in the shape of forest, stream and wild flowers and his vegetable garden as well as his flower garden shows the touch of a master hand. He grows peonies in such perfection as few can attain. We know him for his peony *Miriam*. He has several new seedlings that show very fine promise. There are several fine pink Japs., but chief is a very large white flower that had three or four rows of guard petals and a center of yellow stamens. It is a beautiful *Le Jour* with double the number of guard petals. Mr. Chase will probably put this one and several of his others into commerce in the near future.

My visits to other gardens were of equal interest to me. At Mr. Allison's all of the *Sbaylor* varieties are seen grown as he only can grow them. Mr. Doherty grows all the finest of the new ones as well as anyone

could wish. I doubt if there are many gardens of the size of his that contain as many fine varieties. If his flowers had been placed in storage they would have probably been in better shape, but as it was he was a winner of place in a number of classes. One of the big sights of his garden was a plant of Babcock's *Hari-ai-nin* (Japanese for The Rival) bearing about twenty of these glorious red flowers in full bloom, a sight that will be long remembered. My visit to Cherry Hill Nursery was in a flood of rain, but several hours were passed in that marvelous show room where not only peonies but all flowers and shrubs in season were shown in great profusion as well as perfection. It was a show equal to any that could have been staged in most of our cities.

A visit to the home of Ernest Fewkes, the brother of Arthur Fewkes, was memorable for many reasons. Mr. Fewkes besides being one of the first men to do the camera work necessary in X-ray research, is a cabinet-maker of the first rank. His house is filled with priceless specimens of his own handiwork and he and his good wife are the soul of hospitality.

It was my privilege and unalloyed pleasure to be the guest of Mr. Otis for a full week for the show. No one who has never been Mr. Otis' guest can know what it really means. No trouble is spared to make your stay one of continued interest and pleasure. Besides having one of the finest collections of fine peonies to be found anywhere, Mr. Otis is a very busy man. He is the one who has charge of the entire construction work in the Boston Navy Yard and through his capable hands go the many millions spent there by our government. He is loved, respected and honored by officers and men. His wife, in addition to being the capable housewife and gracious hostess, is the guardian angel of her neighborhood and to her come the sick and distressed for aid and comfort and they go not away empty-handed.

The writer's thanks are also due for the great kindness and consideration with which he was treated by all the members of the staff of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. They are all splendid fellows and know how to make you feel at home.



## How Tall is a Peony?

By ERNEST FLINT KELSEY, Porterville, N. Y.

In my 1933 garden notes I find this entry, "K6—Large pink Jap., bloomed June 8." In 1934 I noted "K6—Dark pink Jap., badly blighted. Would be a fine bloom but the tips of the petals are discolored." In 1935, K6 lived up to my prediction of the previous year as it had very large pink blooms. I noted that June 2 it was forty-eight inches tall. I measured it as it seemed so much taller than any other in the garden. A few days later my notes read: "K6 is now fifty inches tall and still shooting up." I am sorry I failed to measure it later but at fifty inches, isn't that an unusually tall peony? I would like to hear from others as to how tall is a peony? Who has had one taller?



## The Tree Peony *Banksi*

By BENJAMIN WILDER GUPPY, Melrose, Mass.

This peony is listed as a discarded variety on page 276 of the **MANUAL**, yet it has many good qualities. Hardiness, early blooming, beauty of plant and blossom and good keeping. The blossom is a light pink double with crimson tints at base of petals and with many golden stamens interspersed among the petals. Pistils buried deep in heart of flower. Very rarely sets seed. My original plant was obtained from a garden in Jamaica Plain, Mass., and planted in Melrose in 1893. In the fall of 1912 it was moved to a new location in Melrose and cut up into four divisions in the same way that a herbaceous peony is divided except that it was necessary to use a keyhole saw instead of a knife.

In 1925 one of these divisions was again cut into four parts and planted in my garden at West Newbury, Mass., the home of the Cherry Hill Nurseries. In all the years that I have possessed these plants they have never received any winter protection and yet they have bloomed regularly every year. The plants do not grow very large in this locality. About two to two and one-half feet height and spread. A certain amount of dead wood has to be cut out each season but this is offset by new shoots from the base. Pruning is done in the spring when the buds begin to swell. All dead wood is trimmed out and stems cut back to large plump buds. A record of blooming dates of plants in the Melrose garden kept over a period of six years shows that *Banksi* blooms from six to

ten days earlier than *officinalis rubra*, with an average of eight days.

The blossoms and plants are much admired by all visitors to my garden. The winter of 1933-1934 was, I think, the severest I ever experienced yet the plants came through in good shape although I lost over a thousand herbaceous seedlings. One fall my helper at West Newbury cut down the plants close to the ground while clearing out the herbaceous peony tops. Only one season of bloom was lost. The second spring after this vigorous pruning the plants bloomed as profusely as ever.



## Peonies for the South

By JOHN E. KLEIN, Louisville, Ky.

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

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

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

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

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

Among our fifty later varieties are ten of the world's finest, namely, *Hansina Brand*, *Rev. H. Tragitt*, *Blanche King*, *Ella Christiansen*, *Hazel Kinney*, *Mrs. Frank Beach*, *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch*, *Mrs. Romaine B. Ware*, *Myrtle Gentry*, and *Victory Chateau Tbierry*—and *Victory Chateau Tbierry*, to our opinion, is perhaps, the very finest peony in the world today.

Plant *Victory* if you could own but one peony, but all the others are surpassing flowers for the South. *Hansina Brand*, *Ella Christiansen*, *Myrtle Gentry*, and *Hazel Kinney* are lovely beyond words and are especially prolific bloomers.

To those who like the pure white or creamy white peonies, we recommend *Alsace-Lorraine*, *Avalanche*, *Couronne D'Or*, *Francis Willard*, *La Rosiere*, *General Gorgas*, *Ball o' Cotton*, *Mont Blanc*, *Madam De Verneville*, *Mme. Emile Lemoine*, *Mrs. Edward Harding*—and above all those three wonderful whites, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Lady Alexandra Duff*, and *Le Cygne*.

Of the delicate pinks that fade to white we like especially *Mlle. Leonie Calot*, *James Kelway*, *Candeur*, *Galathee*, *Baroness Schroeder*, and *Octavie Demay*. All do well in Kentucky and yield heavy bloom.

We had to have the three good yellow peonies—*Primevere*, *Laura Dessert*, and *Fanny Crosby*, and while we like *Primevere* the best, all have bloomed well with us.

A word may be written here for *Solange*, Lemoine's startling flower, which is said to be erratic; but three years out of every four we get large, rich, creamy-salmon-brown tinted flowers, and *Solange* deserves a place in every southern garden.

*Milton Hill*, all-over delicate salmon-pink, large and beautiful in form, is one of the finest things one can grow. Don't be without it—we had three-year-old plants which bore eighteen to twenty-five blossoms. The same praise may be given to *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Kelway's Queen*, *Rose Shaylor*, and *La Fee*. These five, together with *Henry Avery*, *June Day*, *La Perle*, *Mme. Jules Dessert*, *Tourangelle*, and *Walter Faxon* are really not to be excelled in the light pink shades. Peony lovers may well plant them all; one can't go wrong. At the same time include those two grand old varieties, *Edulis Superba* and *Mons. Jules Elie*. The Almighty created these especially for the South. *Edulis Superba*, the loveliest of deep pinks, is one of the earliest to bloom, and comes good every year. We started with three; now we have nine, and on a ten-year-old plant we had sixty-three flowers this spring.

Other good pinks are *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Eugenie Verdier*, and *La Lorraine*, the last a grand creamy pink fit to rank with *Kelway's Glorious* and *Therese*.

No more charming flowers can be grown in the South than *Phyllis Kelway*, *Edwin C. Shaw*, and *Reine Hortense*. The former is a large, lavender-flesh loosely built flower, strikingly beautiful, illuminated by conspicuous yellow stamens. *Edwin C. Shaw*, a clear shell pink, is one of Thurlow's finest, and *Reine Hortense*, large and handsome, is always loaded with bloom.

We find *Raoul Dessert* and *Souvenir de Louis Bigot* a bit shy on quantity of bloom, but they come good each season, and the quality and brilliant coloring of the flowers make them outstanding in any garden. *Auguste Dessert* and *Lake o' Silver* are also brilliant, more rose-red in fact than *Louis Bigot*, and both are prolific in bloom.

There are two beautiful pinks which for altogether different reasons we do not find very satisfactory. *La France* is strong and robust, and a good grower, and when in prime is indeed a marvelous flower. But it is one of those compact, many petalled peonies, and with us the enormous buds gum and stick most seasons. When this flower does not ball it is hard to beat. *Judge Berry* is a huge blossom of light pink, and when it escapes our late frosts, there is no finer early variety. But the *Judge* is an early riser in our climate, and by February 10 is already one inch out of the ground. By March 1 this plant will be eight inches high, turning green, with large buds showing, and in this tender condition the plant cannot withstand the sudden freezing snaps which frequently come to us before St. Patrick's day. All other peonies do not start before March 20, and are reasonably safe from severe frost.

Every peony lover should give undivided attention as we come to those good, deep, glowing pinks. At the head of the class stands a Brand peony—*Blanche King*. There is nothing finer in deep pink. It is the *Edulis Superba* of the late varieties. We like *Peter Pan*, *Kelway's Exquisite*, *Clemenceau*, *E. J. Saylor*, and *Claire Dubois*. *James R. Mann* is equally striking and ranks with those other good ones—*Livingstone*, *Mme. Auguste Dessert*, *Lillian Gumm* and *Wm. Penn*.

In bright old-rose-pink we have two of the greatest of all peonies, *Martha Bullock* and *Phoebe Cary*. We have never been able to make a choice. They are surpassing in fragrance, size, coloring and beauty. No garden should be without the immense blooms of these two—and a

place should be found for *Silvia Saunders*, rose-colored and delicately beautiful.

We must not overlook *Minnie Shaylor*, *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*, *Eliza*, *Coronation*, *Mme. de Treyeran*, *Miss Solway*, and *Paradise*—all are classics in light pink. *Mrs. Henry Kalle* is also top-notch, and like *Mabel L. Franklin*, deliciously fragrant, refined and beautiful.

*Marie Jacquin* and *Nymphaea* are good white peonies for the South, of the water-lily type.

If you like a bit of red in the garden, the wide range of red peonies will surely provide it. *Commander*, self solferino-red is a good late one, and better than the old stand-by, *Rubra Superba*. *Bishop Burke* is a vigorous rose-red, as is *Fannie Lee*, *Mr. L. Van Leeuwen*, and *David Harum*. We like *Felix Crousse* and *Charles McKellip*. For a large-size early crimson, there is none finer than *Richard Carvel*—with pleasant odor. *Phillipe Rivoire*, a fine bright crimson, is the most fragrant of the reds and finely formed. *Lora Dexheimer* is a brilliant flaming crimson, and stands right up with *Winifred Domme*, *Mary Brand* and *Longfellow*. These last four Brand peonies are especially fine.

To us, *Longfellow* outranks them all in its brilliant, fadeless, crimson color. Start with *Longfellow* and *Mary Brand*, and add all the other Brand red peonies—*Benjamin Franklin*, *Midnight*, *Commander*, *Prince of Darkness*, *Chas. McKellip*, *Brand's Magnificent*, *David Harum*, *Richard Carvel*—and then include three dark crimsons, *Adolphe Rousseau*, *Cherry Hill*, and *Eugene Bigot*, with that intense red, *Francois Rousseau* and officinalis rubra, the vivid red "piny" of grandmother's garden—and you have the choicest red peonies in cultivation. The darkest red peony grown is *Mons. Martin Cabuzac*, a sort of deep maroon-red. *Madam Gaudichau* resembles this one very much and is a much prettier plant. *Midnight* and *Prince of Darkness* are both deep crimsons, a shade lighter than *M. Martin Cabuzac*. We do not urge *Karl Rosefield*, because, with us, it burns black in the sun and the flowers do not always open well.

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

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

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

*Watteau* and *Edith West* are exceptionally fine white singles. They resemble the old variety *Albiflora*, but the petals have more substance.

*L'Etincelante*, a shimmering, satiny pink, is one of Dessert's outstanding singles, and a fine landscape variety. *Schwindt*, *Nympe*, *Marguerite Dessert*, *Madeleine Gauthier*, *Harriet Olney*, and *Holbein* are all varying shades of pink and excellent for landscaping. We find *Hogarth* a tall, vigorous plant, and very profuse with its large, rosy, splendidly formed flowers. *Le Jour*, another pure white, comes extra large and has fine substance.

*Mellen Knight* is a bright, rich crimson, tall-growing, and fine, but not nearly as brilliant as that wonderful red single, *Flanders Fields*. This one has two rows of brilliant velvety red petals with a center of golden stamens.

To *Pride of Langport* we give the honor of being the finest light single. It thrives with us, an immense, soft peach-pink. It is wonderfully beautiful and holds its color well.

We are very fond of the Japanese peonies and in the white Japanese we rank *Isani Gidui* first. This is a large, beautiful thing with a conspicuous center of buff-yellow stamenoides. The high rating of *Amano-sode* is well deserved by this extra-large rose-pink beauty. *Antwerpen* is also of enormous size, a fine carmine pink. *Henri Potin*, a china pink, *Taiho*, *Alma*, *Iroka*, *Aureolin*, and *Tokio*—each a differing shade of soft pink—are very fine things to have.

We are deeply grateful to A. B. Franklin, of Minneapolis, for introducing *Mrs. Mac*. To us this splendid, delicate pink peony is the most beautiful of all the pink-toned Japanese. It grows strongly and you will like it.

*Akashigata* is an exceptionally fine, bright rose, and *Akula*, a dazzling carmine, is also good. *King of England* is a splendid, free-blooming red Japanese of good substance, and we like it better than *Mikado*. We have a fine rose-red flower in *Torpilleur*, with center petals of the same deep color tipped with cream. This one is unique. *Fuyajo*, rating highest of all the dark Japs., displays dark mahogany red petals, surrounding a center of broad petaloids of the same dark rich color.

One of the newest Japanese is *Prairie Afire* and it represents an entirely new break in color in Japanese peonies. This sensational Brand peony has broad guards of creamy rose with a great ball of brilliant fiery red stamenoides, and as we see it, the flower is most aptly named. The new *Nippon Beauty*, introduced by Auten, has great merit, and was a prize winner at the National Show in Peoria, Illinois.

To those in the South who love the peony, we say earnestly: Go right ahead and plant those varieties of which you have heard and which appeal to you. With the fewest of exceptions all the peonies we have mentioned will repay those who give them reasonable care. We have no expert formula for the growing of these flowers—they are the easiest of all flowers to grow. Properly planted, according to careful directions given by the large growers—Nature will go far. We cultivate frequently. We give plenty of water during the growing season (flooding the plants twice a week) from mid-April until blooming is over. We feed a few handfuls of bonemeal, or wood ash, or a generous forkful of well-rotted cow manure in November to each three-year-old plant, keeping about eight inches away from the stalks or crown—and we love them lots! We believe the peony really responds to genuine affection, and this affection expresses itself best at the time of planting. Always plant peonies in good, rich garden soil and in a hole large enough to accommodate them after they become established. This we ourselves have done, and each Maytime in Kentucky, in a lovely garden, surrounding a suburban home, more than 5,000 gorgeous, intoxicating blooms tell us that the peony of the North has learned to sing the song of "Dixie."

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## Notice

All members or prospective exhibitors intending to exhibit peonies at the June National Peony Show in quantity lots, please write immediately to Dr. F. G. Brethour, 60 Woodlawn Avenue W., Toronto, Canada, so that the committee in charge may select a suitable building, also those wishing advertising space should send, at once, their requirements. Tentative dates for the exhibition are June 24 and 25.

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## A Report from Ohio

By WALTER MAINS, Belle Center, O.

We noted several interesting seedlings the past season, one a chinensis seedling of *Primevere*. This was one of fifteen produced from base of pod seed. A full double, color better than parent plant; stems a bit too weak. Should this plant hold same color each season, it may be better than its parents. I am planting seed of this in hope of a still better one.

Officinalis hybrids compare favorably to the general run. I have one a perfect sphere. I believe this cross produces plants superior to officinalis, but inferior to chinensis in keeping qualities of bloom. Many have good color and fine strong stems.

One in particular seems a worth while plant if it opens well every season; a velvety red with a suggestion of yellow subtone. The buds are slow to open, so slow as to suggest blasting. Later every bloom opened perfectly. The heavy leathery foliage stood the intense heat of midseason and lasted a week.



## The Toronto Peony Show

Tentative Dates, June 24 and 25, 1936

The mayor of Toronto, the president of the Board of Trade, and the horticultural societies of the Province of Ontario, extend to the members of the American Peony Society, their friends and all flower lovers, a most cordial invitation to visit Toronto to attend the Thirty-third National Peony Show which is to be held in the Horticultural Building in the National Exhibition Grounds, Toronto, Canada.

The exhibition grounds are just five minutes by bus or car from the Royal York Hotel, which is the official headquarters of the Society during the show. The highway from Buffalo, or from Detroit, coming by way of Hamilton, goes through the exhibition grounds direct to the Royal York. All trains come to the Union Station and the Royal York Hotel is across the street from the station, being connected by subway.

The Horticultural Building is situated in the most beautiful part of the grounds and quite near Lake Ontario. It is surrounded by beautiful lawns, shade trees and fine flower beds. There is also plenty of parking space adjacent.

Ample provision is being made for a very large exhibit and all

containers will be supplied excepting baskets and special vases, which will have to be furnished by exhibitors in the various classes calling for same.

A comprehensive schedule is being prepared and all classes will carry valuable prizes. A complete list will be mailed to all intending exhibitors in May. Any requests in the meantime should be sent to Dr. F. G. Brethour, 60 Woodlawn Avenue W., Toronto, Canada.

Definite instructions to whom entries should be sent and shipping directions for cold storage and otherwise will be included in the completed schedule in May.

Provision is being made for an uninterrupted entry of bloom through the Customs for the show and complete information about this matter will appear on the completed schedule.

We want every grower in the United States to feel free to send exhibits to this great exhibition and if it is impossible to stage the blooms personally, committees will see that they are properly and carefully staged and awards will be made on the merit of the displays.

Arrangements will be made to have the express company make immediate delivery of any flowers to the Terminal Warehouse Cold Storage Plant so there will be no delay in handling. It is planned to have tags prepared to attach to boxes of peonies sent to the exhibition and Customs officials at ports of entry will be notified, obviating any delay in entry.

With these points cleared up there should be no hesitancy on the part of anyone in the States to send exhibits.

A magnificent building has been secured, a wonderful setting of horticultural beauty entirely surrounds the building grounds and let us make the interior of this Horticultural Building a floral display that will be the envy of every flower society of the land. Let the gorgeous peonies reign king for the 24th and 25th of June and let us show the world why we are so devoted to their culture and beauty.



## Peonies

By JOSEPH B. HENNINGER, *Assistant Adjutant General*  
Department of Indiana, Grand Army of the Republic

The works of God are wonderful,  
In earth and sky and sea;  
Beauty for the flowers  
And honey for the bee.

From tiniest bud and petal  
That Nature holds in store,  
To the beautiful PEONY  
The gods have given more.

Our office now is smiling  
With beauty since they've come  
With the fragrant air of heaven  
And the atmosphere of home.



### Department of Registration

Mr. Lyman D. Glasscock of Elwood, Ill., sends in the descriptions of the two hybrid peonies for registration:

**DAINTY LASS** (Glasscock, 1935). Officialis hybrid O. F. 5. Very early, Japanese type. Large, color, coral pink. Two rows of petals. Center typical Jap. stamenoides. Total effect warm coral pink. Bud round, stem long, foliage narrow, light green. No odor. Photograph appears in BULLETIN No. 59, March, 1935. Shown as O. F. 5 at Chicago in 1933.

**GOLDEN GLOW** (Glasscock, 1935). Officialis hybrid, chinensis X officialis Otto Froebel. Very early single. Color, scarlet red with orange tint. Bud round, stem long and stiff. Foliage narrow and light green. No odor. Result of chinensis seed crossed by pollen from officialis Otto Froebel.



# Secretary's Notes



March 8th and the birds have returned. The ever-welcome robin redbreast made his appearance this morning, in fact three pair of them. Shortly after their coming the beautiful, clear, vibrant tones of the meadow lark were heard in the field. Not to be outdone by these two welcome harbingers of spring the kildeer chirped his saucy introduction and the big black gackle birds strutted around the yard wanting to impress us with their importance. The song sparrows had preceded them by three or four days.

What a welcome sight to our eyes to see the birds again after the severe cold we experienced earlier in the year. The huge piles of snow have disappeared and while we harbor forebodings that we may still have to shovel snow, with the ending of this month we will feel as though we were out of the woods.

\* \* \*

The beautiful pen sketch heading these notes was sent me early this year with Christmas Greetings from an old friend and schoolmate, M. A. Albin of Portland, Oregon. It may not be apparent at first that

this flourish has any connection with flowers but I think there is a definite relationship.

There is balance, proportion, harmony, light and shade and a pleasing ensemble that is so necessary in any fine flower arrangement.

Mr. Albin is one of the world's finest penmen and engraving artists and the charm of the flourish has lost some of its beauty by reduction necessary to accommodate our page.

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Earl S. Miller, 504 Conklin Ave., Binghamton, N. Y., is anxious to obtain PEONY BULLETIN No. 1 of the American Peony Society. Anyone having a copy to spare or dispose of, kindly communicate with Mr. Miller direct.

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Mr. Auten has given us an interesting discussion on "Seedlings Which Deteriorate." Anyone who has grown seedlings over a period of years has doubtless experienced this difficulty. Mr. Auten has given us some valuable information on this subject.

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Again we have another very interesting and instructive article from Mr. Guppy on "Growing Seedling Peonies." Mr. Guppy's work along this line has covered a period of years and the information contained in his article is of much value.

\* \* \*

Mr. Bongers wrote me of his trip to Canada and his visits to several peony plantings. This contained so much interesting information I published a greater part of it in a recent BULLETIN, not knowing that Mr. Bongers had not prepared it for publication and was intending to give us an article on Dr. Brethour's Seedlings. His article appears in this issue and I am also pleased to say that many of these fine new seedlings will be awarded as prizes at the Toronto show of the Society, June 24 and 25 of this year. I am anxious to compare *Frankie Curtis* with *Blanche Elie*, as there must be considerable resemblance between the two. A splendid white, the quality and worth of *Mons. Jules Elie*, would be a very worthy accomplishment of any originator. If the variety *Mrs. Lawrence* can be mistaken for *Martha Bulloch* by one who knows peonies as well as Mr. Bongers, it must be a beautiful variety, as *Martha Bulloch* has been one of my favorites from the time I first beheld her

beauty, Not only its beauty and size commend it but the fragrance can never be forgotten.

\* \* \*

The Boston Show: It is always pleasing to get different viewpoints from interested spectators, and while somewhat belated it is nevertheless interesting. These notes were written January 4 of this year. Mr. Peyton is one of our most enthusiastic peony lovers and always an ardent admirer and conscientious worker, always ready to give a helping hand to any exhibitor who is having difficulty in getting his exhibit set up on time or to the stranger who is unfamiliar with the schedule and is struggling aimlessly about trying to get his exhibit set up in the proper manner. He has aided me materially on more than one occasion in getting the names of varieties in the various winning classes.

\* \* \*

Mr. Guppy has given us a most interesting report on the tree peony *Banski*. I hope our readers who have tree peonies will give us a report on them this spring after the tree-blooming season.

\* \* \*

An appreciation of Mr. Lutz's peonies is beautifully expressed in the poem of Mr. Henninger.

\* \* \*

Many of us are prone to believe that peonies will not do well in the South, and while Louisville, Ky., cannot be considered far south, we do have reports from the real South where peonies have given much satisfaction.

\* \* \*

"How Tall Is a Peony?" by Mr. Kelsey, should bring out some discussion and that is exactly what Mr. Kelsey wants. Can anyone give us a report of a peony any taller?

\* \* \*

Many have sent in their dues but there are still a large number who have overlooked doing so. You will assist us greatly by remitting promptly.

\* \* \*

Be sure to make notes of your peonies this spring and let us have a list of your best dozen or more. We want to make up a symposium of results.

Your comments are always appreciated and suggestions for betterment of the Manual will be gladly received.

\* \* \*

Try and make your plans so that you will be able to attend the show at Toronto, June 24 and 25. I can assure you from advance preparations that nothing will be left undone to make this an outstanding event. A full schedule will be sent out in May and it will be noted that classes have been provided for all, from the novice to the professional grower and in addition to the other prizes being offered, note the grand peonies being offered by some of the outstanding growers of peonies in the country. Cups, medals, plaques and cash prizes will complete the schedule making it one of the most interesting and valuable that has been offered for some years.

\* \* \*

At the Royal York Hotel, where headquarters have been established, will be found accommodations at very reasonable rates.

\* \* \*

With the natural moisture supplied by heavy snows throughout the country and the spring rains, this should be a very good peony year. At this early date we have information prospective exhibitors will display some startling new originations.



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