Historic Reference Codes in the Peony Database

This list is courtesy of Reiner Jakubowski in 2012. Mr. Jakubowski serves as Registrar for the American Peony Society in its role as the International Cultivar Registration Authority, and is a member of our Peony Advisory Board. Included in many entries are his notes about the reference's context and thus significance.

“These are the documents which were consulted in developing the checklist of peony names. In many of them will be found useful descriptive information, while in others there may be no description at all.”

Example and how to break it down:

1923-018:27 — Taking the generalized form "YEAR-NNN:Pg", these are references to the original "Registrations" as published by the American Peony Society in the APS Bulletin under various headings including "Department of Registrations", "Nomenclature", "Registrations" and similar, all serving to indicate "official" registered status. YEAR is the year of introduction, NNN is the Bulletin number, and Pg is the page on which the information is found.

List begins here:


1918-B006-I: — Saunders, A.P. (1918) List for Symposium Two. (Insert) APS Bulletin No. 6, May 1918. The Symposia were the formalized procedures initiated by A. P. Saunders for rating peonies on a scale of 1 to 10. The results were much used by the APS in their attempts to cull the less desirable peonies from commerce. However, since the peony of the day was predominantly a cut flower crop, the process favoured exhibition qualities over garden and landscape effect. The last symposium was conducted in 1939 and any attempts at subsequent ones met with very little success.


1923-SPN: — Olmsted, F.L., F.V. Coville, and H.P. Kelsey. (1923) Standardized Plant Names. American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature, Salem, Massachusetts. SPN is included here for completeness, but little credence should be given when the names differ.

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from APS sources. A.P. Saunders provided the list for this publication, but protested the final result which changed some names to conform to a pattern desired by the publisher. Translated names are in some cases erroneously given as established, with the original ones appear as synonyms.

1924·CHC-FR027 — Canadian Horticultural Council, Plant Registration & Ornamental Plant Committee. Registration records. FR denotes File Record number. Dates as indicated. The Council's methods and procedures were somewhat onerous and thorough, but ultimately unworkable.

1925·CHC-FR062 — see 1924·CHC-FR027

1928·B: — Boyd, J. ed. (1928) PEONIES: The Manual of the American Peony Society. 1928·B refers to the basic list of peonies, some of which are fully described in a descriptive list (see 1928·B-d).
  • 1928·B-t: — Boyd, J. ed. (1928) PEONIES: The Manual of the American Peony Society. 1928·B-t refers to the list of woody peonies.


1929·Cat-Row: — Rowancroft Gardens, Meadowvale, Ontario, Canada. Dates are approximate since catalogues weren't dated, but Miss Castle, wrote the date in most of her own copies. No.5, 1929; No.6, 1932; No. 8, 1938; No.10, 1946; No. 12, 1952. Nursery established in 1913 by Miss Mary Eliza Blacklock (1860-1956). Joined in business in 1917 by Miss Minerva S.Castle (1890-1976). The nursery was in operation until about 1970.

1932·Cat-Row: — see 1929·Cat-Row:


1934·Cat-MHPN: — Manitoba Hardy Plant Nursery, Dropmore, Manitoba, Canada. (Catalogue). Proprietor · Frank L. Skinner.


1935·Cat-Row: — see 1929·Cat-Row:

1936·CHC-FR171 — see 1924·CHC-FR027

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1937-B070: — Brethour, F.G. (1937) A few Peonies that were especially attractive in my garden. APS Bulletin No. 70, pp. 23-25. A garden report covering the past season and some good seedling peonies.


1938-Cat-Row: — see 1929-Cat-Row:


1939-CHC-FR194 — see 1924-CHC-FR027

1939-RL: — Peyton, George W., The 1939 Rating List. (Distributed to all members in 1939 as an enclosure).

1943-B091: — Peyton, George W. 1943, List of Recent Peony Introductions. APS Bulletin No. 91, Sept. 1943, pp. 4-36. This is the backbone of part three, Introducers of Peonies and Their Introductions, found in 1976-K.

1943-CHC-FR213 — see 1924-CHC-FR027


1944-B095: — Wister, John C., 1944. Tree Peony Supplement. APS Bulletin No. 95, pp 3-54. This entire issue of the Bulletin, with the exception of about 5 pages, comprises a supplement to the tree peony list found in the 1928 Manual of the Peony.

1944-CHC-FR217 — see 1924-CHC-FR027


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1946-Cat-Row: — see 1929-Cat-Row:


1952-Cat-Row: — see 1929-Cat-Row:

1953-B129: — Peyton, George W. (1953) News Items. APS Bulletin No. 129, pp. 43. A quick overview of newsworthy items, each consisting of only a paragraph. One of the items was the report that Mrs. Xanda Jett was presented with a brand new peony seedling named 'Xanda', by its originator, George Peyton.


1953-Cat-GHW: — Gilbert H. Wild & Son, Sarcoxie Missouri, USA. (Catalogue). Nursery established 1885 and run as a family business until about 1991 at which time it was sold. It continues operation under the Gilbert H. Wild & Son name.


1961-Cat-GHW: — see 1953-Cat-GHW:

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**1963-B169:** — Buckley, A.R. (1963) Peonies at Ottawa. APS Bulletin No.169, June 1963, pp. 30-37. (Horticulturalist, Plant Research Institute, Ornamental Plant Section, C. E. F., Ottawa, Canada). This report is included for its first-hand independent descriptions of peony cultivars.


**1965-Cat-DSC:** — Dominion Seed Catalogue, Canada. A mail order establishment long in operation. At one time they had their own propagation fields but the land was sold a number of years ago. 1965 Catalogue.

**1967-Cat-Lins:** — Lins, E.H. (1967) Catalogue. Mr. Lins died in August 1967, which helps explain why several of his later originations were not registered, and also why they are now so little known.

**1968-Cat-Fern:** — Ferncliff Gardens, Mission, B. C., Canada. (Catalogues) Dates as given. (Nursery established 1920).


**1970-Cat-Fern:** — see 1968-Cat-Fern:


**1974-B212:** — Landis, Henry. (1974) Fiala and Bockstoce Hybrids, New Introductions. (Advertisement) APS Bulletin No. 212, pg. 47. (List includes some of, but is not identical to B211 reference.)

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1974-Cat-Fern: — see 1968-Cat-Fern:


1980-Cat-Fern: — see 1968-Cat-Fern:


1993-Cat-McC: — McConnell Nurseries, Port Burwell, Ontario, Canada. Established in 1912, it was sold in 2006, and no longer exists.

1996-Hashida: — Hashida, Ryoshi (1990) A Book of Tree and Herbaceous Peonies in Modern Japan. Japan Botan Society. (2nd printing (1996) was used for this work.)