

LUOYANG PEONY

洛阳  
牡丹

河南美术出版社

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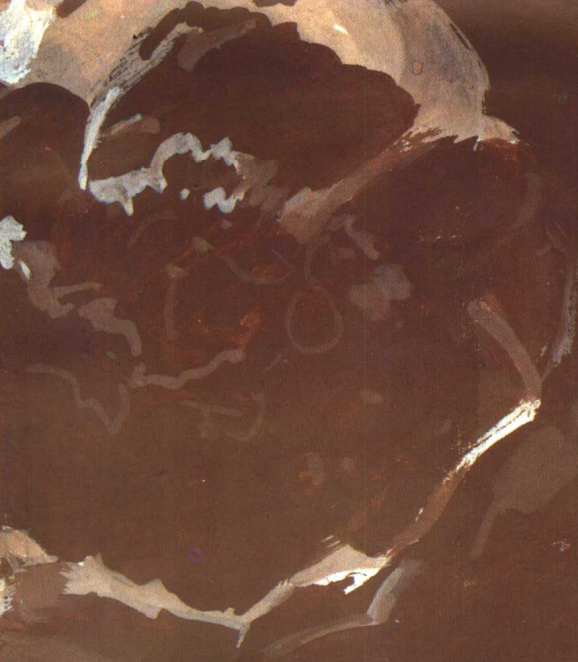
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LUO YANG PEONY  
“THE FIRST UNDER HEAVEN”.

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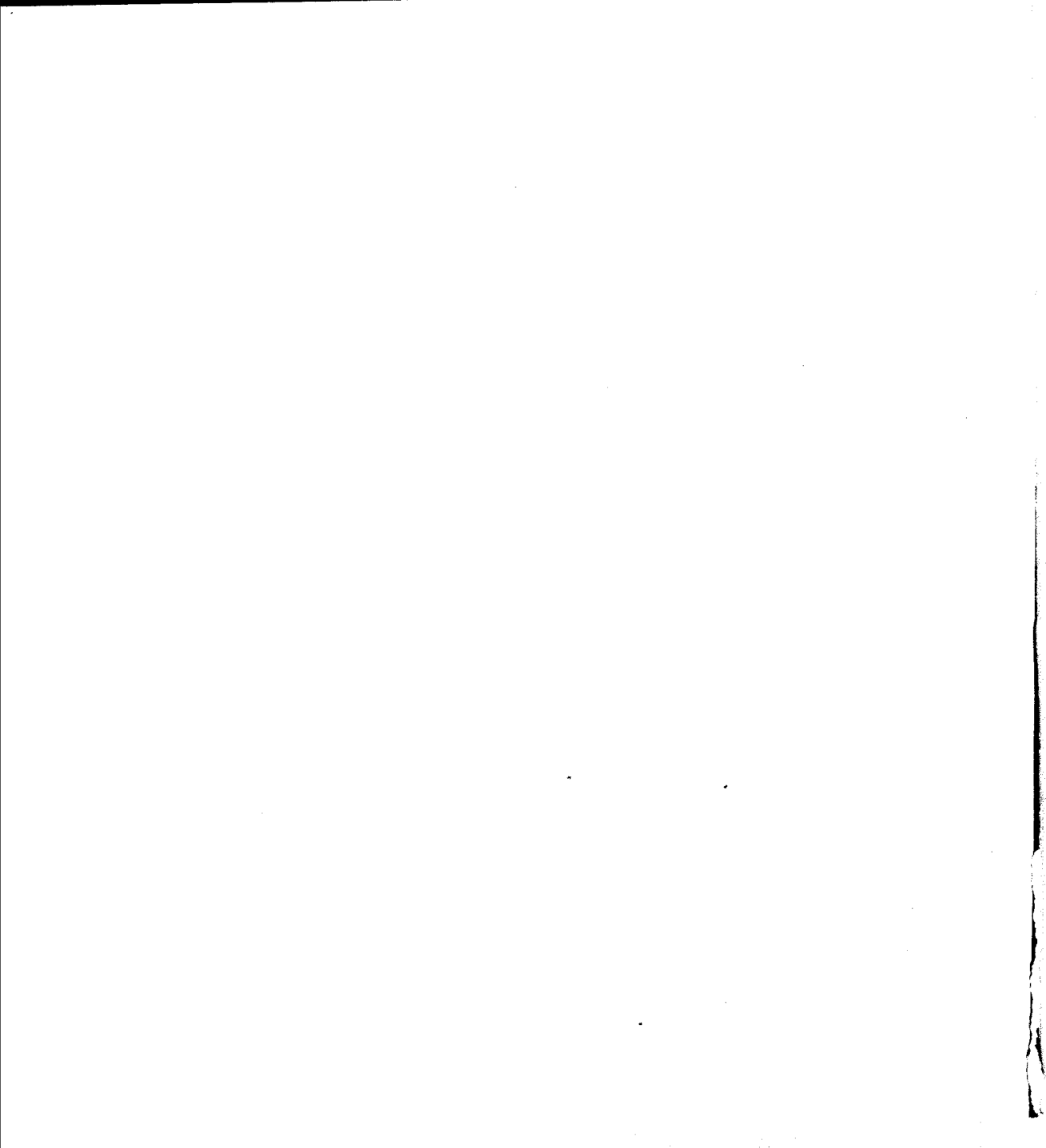
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# 洛 阳 牡 丹

牡丹为我国著名花卉。花朵硕大，花容端丽，品种繁多，雍容华贵，被称为“万花一品”、“冠绝群芳”的“花王”。

牡丹又名百两金、木芍药、富贵花、洛阳花等。唐代李正封有“国色朝酣酒，天香夜染衣”的诗句，又使“天香国色”成为牡丹的雅号。

牡丹原产于我国秦岭等地，为毛茛科、芍药属落叶性野生小灌木，在我国已有一千五百余年的栽培历史，最早以药物载于《神农本草经》。它的根皮，中药名为“丹皮”，具有清热、降压、活血、化瘀等功效。

“洛阳地脉花最宜，牡丹尤为天下奇”。由于洛阳气候温和，雨量适中，土地肥沃，加之园艺大师们巧植善种，培育出许多色、型皆佳的珍品，使牡丹变异千种，名品日增，誉满全国，遂有“洛阳牡丹甲天下”之称。

自古洛阳人爱花成俗。邵雍的“洛阳人惯见奇葩，桃李开花未当花，须是牡丹花盛发，满城方始乐无涯”的名诗，正是这种习俗的真实写照。

洛阳牡丹初植于隋，始盛于唐，而“甲天下”于宋，引起了历代诗人的极大兴趣，“往往观之咏歌”。唐代大诗人白居易，居洛十八年，他写的《牡丹芳》等诗，脍炙人口，至今还为人们所传咏。刘禹锡的《赏牡丹》诗“庭前芍药妖无格，池上芙蓉净少情，唯有牡丹真

国色，花开时节动京城”，第一次把牡丹推崇为“国花”的地位。宋代歌颂牡丹的诗作就更多了。还有许多趣闻、轶事、民间传说、神话故事，（从这里可以看出，它在人们心目中的位置和热爱之情。）

洛阳牡丹到宋代极盛一时，明、清以后至解放前夕，日趋衰败。解放后，在中国共产党和人民政府的大力扶持下才获新生，重放出青春的光彩。目前，品种已近二百个，数量达十余万株。每逢牡丹开放时节，竞奇斗艳，蔚为壮观。姚黄，金光灿灿，芳姿无比；魏紫，光彩照人，丽质无双；二乔，绰约俊俏，奇美绝世；还有那白玉似的雪塔，翡翠般的豆绿……，放眼望去，姹紫嫣红，五彩缤纷，绮丽绚烂，分外妖娆。

“今日牡丹花更好，五洲四海争相来”。在洛阳牡丹盛开的日子里，花开如海，人似潮涌。“九衢游人”慕名而来。还有许多外国朋友和侨胞，跋山涉水，远渡重洋，来观赏洛阳牡丹的独特风采，都为这“花中之王”所倾倒，所陶醉。真乃是“花开花落二十日，一城之人皆若狂”。

今日的洛阳牡丹，已成为中华民族“繁荣”、“昌盛”的象征，它比历史上的任何一个时期都开得更加灿烂夺目。

曹法舜 王世端



# LUO YANG PEONY

Peony is a kind of flower well known in our country. Its disc is comparatively larger and the flower looks magnificent. There are many varieties which are all elegant and splendid. Peony has been esteemed as "The First-rate" among thousands of species of flowers and plants, and "The Absolute Champion" of all beautiful and fragrant flowers- "The King of Flowers".

Peony has many interesting names, such as "one hundred liang of gold" \*, "Fu-gui-hua" (flower symbolizing wealth and dignity) and "Luoyang flower". A poet of the Tang Dynasty, Li Zhenfeng wrote in his poem:

"As celestial beauty are they estimated  
Drink to the full the admirers are made;  
Who love these flowers and often get intoxicated;  
And on their clothing the fragrance would long stay."

which has rendered the flower a distinction as "The celestial Beauty".

Peony first grew in the Chinling Mountains in Central China. It belongs to Chinese herbaceous peony of the buttercup family, primarily a sort of wild deciduous bush domesticated in our country for more than 1,500 years. It was recorded as medicament in the *Shen nong's Book on Chinese Herbal medicine*. The bark of its root is known as dan-pi (red bark) in Chinese medicine. It has the effects of anti-pyretic, hypertension relieving, blood invigorating and phlegm reducing.

"Suit flowers does the Luoyang soil fertility,

The rarest under Heaven is peony with speciality."

The weather in Luoyang is warm, the rainfall moderate and the soil fertile. Moreover, there are gardening craftsmen who could grow flowers with extraordinary skill. Year after year, hundreds of precious varieties, rich in colour and variegated in shape, have been cultivated, displaying a wider range of diversity from time to time. It has thus been of nationwide renown and enjoys the honor of being "The First under Heaven".

People in Luoyang have had fascinations with peony since ancient times. Some Shao Yong wrote:

"Experienced admirers are the Luoyang people.

Peach, plum blossoms they wouldn't regard as valuable.

When peonies bloom fully, they would excite the city whole,

Every one is overjoyed in celebrating the flower festival."

with this poem the native custom is vividly portrayed.

Luoyang peony was planted for the first time as early as the Sui Dynasty (581—618 A.D.), became in fashion primarily in the Tang (618—907 A.D.) and got the title of "Being the Finest under Heaven" in the Song (907—1279 A.D.). Poets of all dynasties were fond of this flower. Bai Ju yi, a great poet of the Tang dynasty, dwelt in Luoyang for eighteen years, and had written many poems celebrating the very peonies, which have been intoned up to the present. Another famous poet, Liu Yushi, described with such lines as:

"Coquettish is the herbaceous peony in courtyard but graceless;

Indifferent and aloof would remain the lotus though stainless.

What in florescence stirs the capital city?

None but Luoyang peony, the celestial beauty."

Henceforth, it has been held in esteem as national flower.

There had been a great deal of interesting hearsays, stories, folklores and fairy tales, which showed how this flower had been beloved of its admirers and planted deep in their hearts.

Luoyang peony got into fashion for a time during the Song Dynasty,

but from Ming (1368—1644 A.D.) through Chin Dynasty (1616—1912) till the eve of liberation it had been in decline. After liberation, with the deep concern of the Party and the People's Government, the old Luoyang peony has had a new life and regains its youthful brilliance. So far some two hundred varieties have been developed, and over one hundred thousand stalks cultivated. When blooming, peonies contest for fascination and colourfulness, which afford a magnificent view. "Yao—huang" gleams brilliant golden tones having a grace uncomparable. The lustre of "Wei—zhi" with its unrivalled grace dazzles the seers. "Qiao—sisters", in two colours, pretty, charming and graceful, has been so far the utmost marvel. There are other characteristic varieties, such as the white—jade—like "snowy pagoda" and the jadeite—coloured "Dou—lu" (as green as beans). At a glance, one would always have a magnificent picture in view, blazing with brilliant purples and reds, bright and colourful, particularly chanting.

"Peonies are getting more beautiful  
in Luoyang region in present days.

Visitors from all nations are coming  
as if they were running a race."

When peonies bloom, the rush of admirers from all over the country come and linger on the sea of flowers reluctant to leave. Making light of travelling long distances, foreign visitors and overseas Chinese would come to this city of flowers to see with their own eyes the special elegance of the Luoyang peony.

"It takes twenty days for peonies to bloom and fall.

People of Luoyang city are all in carnival."

Now Luoyang peony has become the emblem which stands for thriving and prosperity of the Chinese nation. It blooms more and more splendidly than ever before.

\* one liang is equivalent to 31.25g.







洛阳牡丹开放时节。

LUOYANG PEONY IN ITS FLORESCENCE









姚 黄 初开鹅黄色，  
盛开乳黄色。原产于宋代洛  
阳白司马坡姚姓家，故名。花  
色鲜洁，精彩照人，并有香  
气。被誉为“花王”。



YAO-HUANG was first grown in the Song Dynasty at Baisimapo by a Yao family. When the yellow flower first blooms, its colour is light, turning milky in full blossom. It looks fresh and chaste, dazzling with brilliance, and sends out a delicate fragrance. Luoyang people value it for its extreme nicety and respect it as "The King of Flowers".



魏 紫 花紫色。原  
出宋代洛阳魏氏花园中，  
故名。花色端丽莹洁，花大  
如盘。“姚黄”未出以前，魏  
紫号称第一。现被誉为“花  
后”。

