

LUOYANG PEONY

洛陽牡丹

梁祖宏 攝影



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《洛陽牡丹》畫冊編輯委員會編



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曹法舜

牡丹乃我國特有的著名花卉。洛陽牡丹，久負盛名，花朵碩大，花姿端麗，艷美殊絕，雍容華貴，被稱為“萬花一品”、“冠絕群芳”的“花中之王”。

牡丹，為毛茛科、芍藥屬植物，原為野生，分佈很廣，產於我國陝、甘、川、豫等地的山中。牡丹又名百兩金、木芍藥、富貴花、洛陽花等。唐代李正封有“國色朝酣酒，天香夜染衣”的詩句，故“國色天香”又成為人們稱頌牡丹的雅號。

“洛陽地脈花最宜，牡丹尤為天下奇。”洛陽牡丹的富麗盛美，使歷代文學家歌之咏之，讚不絕口。宋代司馬光在《看花》詩中寫道：“洛陽春日最繁華，紅綠蔭中十萬家；誰道群花如錦綉，人將錦綉學群花。”僅《全唐詩》中咏牡丹的就有 118 首。在歷代許多小說家的筆下，牡丹成為善良、淑慧的化身。蒲松齡在著名小說《葛巾》中塑造的葛巾、玉版兩位仙女，下嫁洛陽常家兄弟的動人故事，流傳至今。明代小說家馮夢龍的《灌園叟晚逢仙女》一文，傳頌百載，膾炙人口，文中寫道：“這牡丹乃花中之王，惟洛陽為天下第一。有‘姚黃’、‘魏紫’名色，一本價值五千。你道因何獨盛於洛陽？只為昔日唐朝有個武則天皇后，……於冬月之間，要游后苑，寫出四句詔來，道：‘來朝游上苑，火速報春知。百花連夜發，莫待曉風吹。’不想武則天原是應運之主，百花不敢違旨，一夜發蕊開花。次日駕幸后苑，只見千紅萬紫，芳菲滿目，單有牡丹花有些志氣，不肯奉承女主幸臣，要一根葉兒也沒有。則天大怒，遂貶於洛陽。故此洛陽牡丹冠於天下。”這個傳說，反映出廣大人民對洛陽牡丹的深切愛戴。牡丹確實與這座古城結下了不解之緣。千餘年來，像牡丹花這樣香染千古、百代感人的情況也是罕見的。

牡丹植根洛陽的歷史，始於隋，盛於唐，甲天下於宋。據王應麟的《海記》記載：“隋帝辟地二百里為西苑，詔天下進花卉，易州進20箱牡丹。有潁紅、鞞紅、飛來紅、袁家紅、醉顏紅、雲紅、天外紅、一拂黃、軟條黃、延安黃、先春紅、顰風嬌等。”歐陽修在《洛陽牡丹記》中寫道：“自唐武則天后，洛陽牡丹始盛”。明代文學家徐渭在《洛陽牡丹賦》中寫道：“何名花之盛美？稱洛陽為無雙，……茲上代之無聞，始絕盛乎皇唐。”由上可知，武則天是有功於洛陽牡丹的。唐代洛陽牡丹盛極一時，被譽為“國花”。著名詩人劉禹錫《賞牡丹》詩曰：“庭前芍藥妖無格，池上芙蓉淨少情，惟有牡丹真國色，花開時節動京城。”這就是對當時人們酷愛牡丹的寫照。到五代時的後唐年間，洛陽牡丹又得發展。《清異錄》記載：“後唐大內臨芳殿，乃庄宗所建，有牡丹千餘本。”至北宋年間，洛陽園林十分興盛，李格非在記述《天王院花園子》時寫道：“洛中花甚多種，而獨名牡丹曰花王。凡園皆植牡丹，而獨名此院曰花園子。蓋無他池亭，獨有牡丹數十萬本。凡城中賴花以生者，畢家於此。至花時，張幙幄，列市肆，管弦其中。城中士女，絕烟火游之。”歐陽修也對當時牡丹種植盛況做了全面記述：“牡丹出丹州、延州，東出青州，南亦出越州，而出洛陽者，今為天下第一。所謂丹州紅、延州紅、青州紅，皆彼土之尤杰者，然來洛陽才得備眾花之一種，列第不出三已下，不能獨立與洛花敵。……以與洛陽爭高下，是洛陽者為天下第一也。”於是“洛陽牡丹甲天下”之譽流傳於世，名滿華夏，譽揚四海。

古時，洛陽人愛花成癖，花事很盛。“花開時，士庶竟為遨遊。往往於古寺廢宅有池台處為市井，張幄轡，笙歌之聲相聞。”那真是“花開花落二十日，一城之人皆若狂。”無論男女老幼，簪花踏青，觀賞奇葩，處處傳笙歌，九衢動遊人。”且暮走營營，盡日繞繞行”，白天看不夠，還要“夜惜衰紅把火看”。雨天也要“勸君披取漁蓑去，走走姚黃拼濕衣”。有的人竟“萬事全忘自不知，一心留在暮春初”。這種傾城賞花的風俗，持續千年之久。

牡丹，性宜寒畏熱，喜燥惡濕，得新土則根旺，栽朝陽則性舒，最忌烈日酷炎。栽植要擇土質肥鬆，排水良好的土壤，並要不失節令，俗諺有：“秋分後，重陽前，七芍藥，八牡丹”。古時，愛花者將栽植牡丹的農曆八月十五，定為牡丹“生日”，每歲中秋，大肆慶祝，可謂盛事。還對牡丹的培植按移植、分花、種花、接花、澆花、養花、衛花、變花等序立書詳載。對牡丹的色、型分類和品種命名都有記述。牡丹以顏色論，分為紅、黃、藍、白、紫、粉、綠、黑各色。僅按其色分類還不夠，因各色間還有深、淺、濃、淡的不同。以紅色為例，就有水紅、粉紅、銀紅、桃紅、脂紅、火紅和石榴紅等，故以花型分類。古時人們習慣把牡丹的花瓣稱為“葉”，單瓣花稱為單葉；半重瓣花，稱為多葉或百葉；重瓣花，則稱為千葉。半重瓣花開時，不露花心或稍露花心，花面較為平展的，稱為百葉平頭；重瓣花，外層大瓣平展，內層瓣小而疊重，高聳於花心的稱為起樓或樓子。現代分類，則稱作荷花型、皇冠型、樓子台閣型等。

牡丹品種的命名，或以姓氏，或以產地，或以花色，或以花型。以姓氏得名的如：姚黃、魏紫；以產地得名的如：洛陽紅、洛陽綿；以顏色取名者，如胭脂紅、鶴翎紅。別具一格的牡丹花，則冠以俊美的名字，如醉楊妃、二喬等。還有寓意深妙而又典雅的稱呼，如瓔珞寶珠、瑤池貴月等。每個品種，差異分明，各有特色，如姚黃和夜光白，不但花色有別，而花姿株本也不同。姚黃為乳黃色，夜光白則呈青白色，前者為千葉樓子，貌似皇冠，後者為千葉平頭，或微微起樓，形如薔薇。在姿態上，姚黃金光燦燦，夜光白則晶瑩似玉。

洛陽自夏商王都。1948年獲得解放，古城復蘇，牡丹也獲新生。到目前，其品種已近 400 個，栽培遍及城鄉，不論公園、花園、機關、工廠、學校以及街道、庭院都植有牡丹。洛陽市人大常委會於1982年9月21日通過議案，命名牡丹為洛陽市“市花”，並決定每年4月15日至25日在牡丹盛開之時，舉辦“牡丹花會”，以花為“媒”，廣交朋友，加強橫向聯繫，振興洛陽經濟。1983年首屆牡丹花會，賞花者達 250 萬人次。近幾年每當“穀雨”時節，全城牡丹怒放，花開粉白、黛綠，姹紫嫣紅，綺麗絢爛，妖嬈可愛，蔚為壯觀。王城公園、牡丹公園、西苑公園等處遊人如流，四海賓朋，絡繹不絕。花會期間，人文薈萃，各種經濟、技術洽談和文化、藝術交流尤為活躍，促進了洛陽的繁榮和興盛。

春色歲歲好，花事年年盛。願洛陽牡丹為美化生活，傳播友誼，振興洛陽，倍呈祥榮。

LUOYANG PEONY

Peony is a kind of famous flowers grown in China. With a long standing reputation, the peony is esteemed as "the flower of flowers" and "the king of flowers" for her large brightly colored blossoms and diverse varieties.

Also called Fugui (wealthy and dignified flowers), Bailiangjin (costing one hundred liangs of gold) and Luoyang flower, the peony bush is native to Northwestern China in the mountains of Shanxi, Gansu, Sichuan and Henan provinces and belongs to the Shaoyao (herbaceous peony) genus of the buttercup family. Li Zhengfeng, a poet from the Tang Dynasty wrote in his poem, "As celestial beauty are they estimated; Drink to their full the admirers get intoxicated; Fragrance from the heaven spreads in the evening; Soaks the air and men's clothing." It has rendered the flower a distinction as "the Celestial Beauty".

Luoyang's fertile soil and mild climate suits the peony very much and makes her a wonder under heaven. As a symbol of beauty, the peony has often caught scholars' imaginations. There are 118 poems in the book of "Full Poems from the Tang Dynasty". In his poem "Viewing Peony" Sima Guang of Song Dynasty wrote, "Luoyang is splendid during spring, countless houses are in red and green; Don't say the flowers look as pretty as brocade, with the very flowers the brocade is made." And still, writers often give a description of the embodiment of a kindhearted fairy maiden. The famous novel "Gejin" written by Pu Songling tells a charming story of two fairies named Gejin and Yuban who married the brothers of a Chang family. Another story, "Guanyuan Grandpa Meets Fairies at Night" has won universal praise by Feng Menglong from the Ming Dynasty. It reads, "The peony is the king of flowers, its best species being grown in Luoyang. The people has strains named Yaohuang (Yao yellow) and Weizi (Wei purple) which cost five thousand liangs of gold each. You might wonder why the peony got so luxuriant only in Luoyang. In the early days there was an empress in the Tang Dynasty named Wu Zetian. One day in winter the empress wanted to go to the Upper Garden. She improvised an edict, "I am going to the Upper Garden tomorrow morning. The plants there must bloom this very night, before the wind comes up at a dawn." As Empress Wu Zetian was the fortune's favourite, no one dared to go against her. So every plant bursted into full bloom overnight except the peony who did not want to flatter the empress as well as her favourite officials even with a piece of leaf. When she got to the garden the following morning, the empress became very angry and relegated the peony to Luoyang. From then on, Luoyang peony became the best under heaven." This tale shows the people's deep love for the peony, while the peony also has an indissoluble bond with Luoyang people for thousands of years.

According to historical records, the peony was first planted in Luoyang in the Sui Dynasty. It became all the rage in the Tang Dynasty and best known during the Song Dynasty. Wang Yinglin wrote in his "Sea Notes" which reads, "The Sui emperor ordered 200 li for the cultivation of peony in the West Garden. Among the flowers got from the whole country, there were 20 boxes peony from Yizhou county with the species of Chenghong (Cheng red), Tinghong (Ting red), Feilaihong (red from other places), Yuanjiahong (red from a Yuan family), Zuiyanhong (red of drunken color), Yunhong (rosy clouds), Tianwaihong (red from outer space), Yifuhuang (a touch of yellow), Ruantiaohuang (soft yellow), Among the flowers got from the whole country, there were 20 boxes peony from Yizhou county with the species of Chenghong (Cheng red), Tinghong (Ting red), Feilaihong (red from other places), Yuanjiahong (red from a Yuan family), Zuiyanhong (red of drunken color), Yunhong (rosy clouds), Tianwaihong (red from outer space), Yifuhuang (a touch of yellow), Ruantiaohuang (soft yellow), Yananhuang (Yanan yellow), Xianchunhong (blooming ahead of spring), Chanfengjiao (quivering in breeze) and so on. In his "Notes of Luoyang Peony", Ouyang Xiu wrote, "Luoyang peony got flourishing since Wu Zetian's domination in the Tang Dynasty." Another writer, Xu Wei from Ming Dynasty wrote in "Prose of Luoyang Peony", "Which kind of flowers is the prettest? Matchless is the Luoyang peony. She became best known during the Tang Dynasty." We should owe this to Empress Wu Zetian. It was in her ruling period the peony got booming and won the title "country flower". In this poem "Enjoying Luoyang Peony", the famous poet Liu Yuxi wrote, "The Shaoyao in the yard is not rich in color. The lotus in the pond is not nice in flavour. Beautiful and charming is the peony. When she blooms, the capital people run a hurry" This poem gives a vivid scene of Luoyang people's deep love for peony. Luoyang peony was developed greatly in late Tang Dynasty of the Five Dynasties. "Notes on Clearness" reads, "There are more than one thousand peony plants in Danellinfang Hall in late Tang Dynasty established by Emperor Zhuangzong". During the period of North Song Dynasty, gardens were flourishing in Luoyang. Li Gefei wrote in his "Heaven King's flower garden" which reads, "There are numerous kinds of flowers with the peony as their king. Peony is planted in every garden. "There is neither pond nor pavilion in Heaven King's flower garden, only a hundred thousands of peony plants in it yet named 'flower garden'. People who make a living on planting peony work and live there with their folks." Ouyang Xiu had a detailed description about the grand occasion of planting, "Peony is grown in Danzhou, Yanzhou, Qingzhou in

the east, Yuezhou in the south. But the peony grown in Luoyang is the best. The strains so called as Danzhou Red, Yanzhou Red, Qingzhou Red, are the best in their hometowns, whereas they became one of the species in Luoyang and can not match Luoyang peony individually. In competition, the champion is Luoyang peony." In this way, the beautiful title of "King of flowers" makes the peony well known both at home and abroad.

In the old days, one of Luoyang people's favourite hobbies was peony planting while one of their great events was peony viewing. "During the blooming season, people from all levels invited each other to visit the flowers, ladies layed aside their housework. Tents and booths were set up nearby the ponds or pools in old temples and mansions, amusing sound could be heard everywhere." "Men and women, old and young, all got mad" because "It takes twenty days for peony to bloom and fall, people of Luoyang city are in carnival." "With grass under feet, flowers in hair, visitors are on street, viewing rare flower. The melody sounds spread everywhere." "Around the peonies, men walking, talking; they know not the sun's rising or setting." The day time was not enough for them to enjoy, they "Pitying the fading flowers, see them with a torch". In rainy days they "Do go to see the Yaohuang in a straw rain cape, never mind to be soaked through." Somebody even "Cares nothing but the early days of late spring." This habit lasts hundreds of years for Luoyang people to turn out to see the flowers.

Preferring cool and dry climate, the peony should be planted timely in rich, porous soil with good drainage and a southern exposure. There is an old saying, "After Autumnal Equinox and before the Double Ninth Festival, it's time to plant Shaoyao in seventh month and peony in eighth of Chinese calendar. And the 15th in eighth month was regarded as peony's birthday and was celebrated in a large scale. Detailed notes were taken for peony's transplanting, stem-division, planting, grafting, watering, managing, protecting and strain-changing. Also, there were minute descriptions of peony's color, style and strain names. The blossoms' basic colors are red, pink, purple, yellow, white, blue, green, and black while subtle differentiations are within the same color such as light, dark, heavy and pale. Take red color for example. There are Shuihong (watery red), Fenhong (pink), Yinhong (silvery red), Taohong (peach-like red), Zhihong (carmine), Huohong (flaming red) and Shiliuhong (garnet). The flowers are sorted according to their shapes. In ancient times, people used to call the peony's petals "leaves — simple petals, simple leaves; half compound petals, hundred-leaves; compound petals, thousand-leaves. The flower with a flat surface made up by half compound petals is called hundred-leaf-crew cut style. Qilou or Louzi is named for the flower made of compound petals with its petals large and flat outside while small and overlapped inside rising high in the centre. In modern classification, they are regarded as lotus, crown or skyscraper styles. The strains of peony are named as follows: 1. By people's name, such as Yaohuang and Weizi; 2. By place name, such as Luoyanghong and Luoyangjin; 3. By its color, such as Yanzhihong and Helinghong; 4. By their meanings, such as Yinggebaozhu and Yaochiguanyue; 5. beautiful names given to special strains, such as Zuiyangfei and Erqiao.

All species have identified by distinct blossom colors, characteristics and shapes, like Yaohuang and Yeguangbai. The former is milky yellow in crown shape with a disc of overlapped petals glittering; while the latter is blueish white in rose shape with a disc of crew cut style or a bit overlapped sparkling and crystal-clear.

The liberation in the year of 1948 gave the ancient capital a new lease on life together with the peony. Peony species are now almost 400 varieties and planted widely on streets and in parks, garden as well as courtyards. In order to beautify the city and enrich people's life, members of the standing committee of the Luoyang municipal People's Congress met on September 21, 1982. They agreed that the peony would be the city flower and decided that peony fair should be held every year between April 15 and 25 to make friends all over the world and vitalize the economy. The first peony fair held in 1983 got as many as 2.5 million visitors. These years, during "Grain Rain" season, Luoyang peony is in vigorous bloom, making the whole city a riot of color. Streams of viewers flow to Wangcheng Park, Peony Park and Xiyuan Park. Foreign friends and overseas Chinese have kept making a special trip. People from all circles come to Luoyang to have exchanges of business, technology and culture which give a special touch to the flaming colors.

Spring is nicer and the peony fair is more splendid than ever before. May Luoyang peony do a better job to beautify people's lives and make friendships. May Luoyang city be even more pretty and charming.



姚黄 Yao huan



嫵媚仙子 Wu mei xian zi



1. 賽荷蓮 Sai he lian
2. 掌花案 Zhang hua an
3. 胡紅 Hu hong



海雲紫 Hai yun zi





白雪塔 Bai xu



赤龍換彩 Chi long huan





1. 醉楊妃 Zui yang fei
2. 合歡嬌 He huan jiao
3. 大葉黃 Da ye huang
4. 國紅 Guo hong







玉版白 Yu ban bai