Contents

Preface / vii

THE PEONY GARDEN AT NICHOLS ARBORETUM

A Century of Blooms: A History of the Peony Garden at Nichols Arboretum *Robert Grese* / 3

SISTER GARDENS AND PEONY BREEDERS ACROSS THE MIDWEST

Brook Lodge Gardens—Peonies

W. E. Upjohn

Commentary by David Michener / 17

Silvia Saunders: Positioning Hybrid Peonies for Public Acceptance

David Michener / 27

Edward Auten Jr.: Peonies That Are Different

David Michener / 31

Mrs. Sarah A. Pleas: Hidden in Plain Sight

David Michener / 39

Amateur Breeders and Peony Enthusiasts

Robert Grese / 43

The Peony Garden at Fair Lane

Karen Marzonie / 47

Chicago Botanic Garden

Nina Koziol / 51

The Royal Botanical Gardens Peony Collection

Alex Henderson / 53

The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site's Peony Garden

Bethany Gosewehr / 55

The Peony Collection of the Montreal Botanical Garden

Stéphane Bailleul / 57

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Peony Collection

David Stevenson / 59

Sisson's Peony Gardens and Whistling Gardens

Emajean Westphal and Darren Heimbecker / 61

APPRECIATING HISTORIC HERBACEOUS PEONIES AND OTHER HISTORIC GARDEN VARIETIES

History of the Peony
Brand Peony Farms / 65

Historic Peonies in Early America
Peggy Cornett / 75

Conserving Beauty as Science
David Michener and Nastassia Vlasava / 83

Fragrant Peonies
Harvey Buchite / 95

The Art of Peony Hybridization
Don Hollingswoth / 101

The Enduring Value of Historic Peonies
Scott Kunst / 105

PEONIES IN CLASSIC GARDEN WRITING

From The Book of the Peony Alice Harding / 117

The Fascination of Peonies: Intimate Portraits of the Aristocrats of This Family by One Who Knows Them Well and Loves Them

Louisa Yeomans King / 125

PEONIES IN ARTS AND CULTURE

The Peony in Painting and Verse in China from the Eighth to the Thirteenth Centuries *Roslyn L. Hammers* / 133

The Peony Emboldened: Inspired Visions of Floral Fortitude at the University of Michigan Museum of Art

*Roslyn L. Hammers / 143

Notes / 147 Contributors / 155 Acknowledgments / 157