

THE

Camellia Review



C. Japonica Marguerite Calusaut (Pink)
Courtesy Harvey F. Short, Coolidge Gardens, Pasadena, California

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$5.00.

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- Camellia Society of Kern CountyBakersfield, Calif.
 Meeting Place: City Hall Annex, Room 3, 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield
 Secretary: Mrs. Alvin Reimer, 119 Jeffry St., Bakersfield
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru May
- San Diego Camellia SocietySan Diego, Calif
 Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park
 Secretary: Mrs. Russell H. Parker, 3927 Loma Alta Dr., San Diego 15
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- Pomona Valley Camellia SocietyPomona, Calif
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- Temple City Camellia SocietyTemple City, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kauffman, Temple City
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- Camellia Society of Orange CountySanta Ana, Calif.
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- Huntington Camellia GardenSan Marino, Calif.
 Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Rd., San Marino
- Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley.....Arlington, Virginia
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 and Chevy Chase, Maryland
 Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Milton H. Brown, 2220 N. Trenton St.,
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 Date of Meetings: 1st Monday of month, October through April.
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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

Camellia Year

It starts right off here in Southern California with a fanfare of plans for the big ACS meeting here in February. Of that, much more both in other pages of this Review and in the February issue.

January, 1956, also will see the issuance of our newly revised Nomenclature Book—a small brochure which started so modestly in 1942 and has grown to this 104-page book, source of authentic information for camellia growers everywhere.

February with its combined camellia shows during the convention is but the starter for dozens of other camellia shows through the spring.

1956 will see the announcements of the first All-America Camellia Selections also, a project that will continue for years and years. We almost said “forever” but refrained prudently though camellias might well be as “forever” as the sun, moon and stars.

And with prospects of more wonderful and outstanding cultivars, and more and more interest in camellias and experiments with them, we feel that a “Happy New Year” is too mild a term. We’ll just get out all the printers’ marks and say

☆☆ HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! ☆☆

Camellian Justice

One of the blossoms that won an award at the SCCS December meeting came from a plant won at a meeting a couple of years ago. Nice—no? You see, it pays to attend.

What Do You Know?

Wonder if readers who know interesting circumstances about parent plants of fine varieties and their locations would write up their information and send it in to us. We think it would be interesting to have such a

record of the permanent sites of plants that are the source of so much pleasure.

Just a Little Info

It occurs to us that many of the prospective camellia people who are to come west for the ACS meeting may be visiting this area for the first time and may be confused by all the names of locations they are hearing about—Temple City, La Canada, Altadena, etc. These are only three of the many towns located so closely together down here that you may have to look fast to see a sign on a street corner announcing the boundary of one of them. The city of Los Angeles encompasses many square miles and the county covers a tremendous space within which there are both incorporated and unincorporated villages. All of these are within easy motoring distances (discounting traffic).

The main heart of Los Angeles lies on reasonably flat land with Hollywood but a mere acceleration of the pedal from the City Hall. In the opposite direction, still on the flat land you can reach Temple City with all its camellias very quickly, and with a slight turnoff to the northwest find yourself in San Marino and among the camellias of the Huntington Gardens. There of course you can mix your camellian pleasure with treats of viewing art treasures and rare manuscripts.

As the contour of the coast slopes upward toward the mountains, Pasadena creeps into the foothills along with other towns like Arcadia, Sierra Madre, Altadena and La Canada. For the ACS meeting, the spotlight focuses on the combined camellia shows which will be held in La Canada where the beautiful Descanso Gardens are located. (Be sure to pronounce it “Can-ya-da” before you get corrected.)

“Los Angeles” sounds singular but
(Continued on Page 28)

VISITING NURSERIES IN CALIFORNIA

By JERRY OLRICH

State Gardener

California is blessed with thousands of nurseries that either raise or sell just about any plant known to man. In this vast number of nurseries there are a few who specialize in growing camellias. The few I am going to mention doesn't mean that you can't purchase camellias at any of the others. I would say that you can purchase a camellia plant at any nursery in the state. They are even sold in some of our desert areas and seem to do very well with a little additional care.

In writing this article there is no intent to slight some while mentioning the ones that follow. I am only writing of those that I have visited and have come to know.

Sometimes I wonder just how many million camellias are grown and sold in California—I guess the only one who could answer this question is the

Good Lord Himself. As for any individual to find out would be next to impossible, or would at least take an enormous amount of time and work.

In mentioning these nurseries and also a little about them, I will try to write this as if I were on a tour and visit each in order of ease of getting there.

Starting at Sacramento. (I am sorry to say that Sacramento, where



Subtle propaganda for further use of camellias is this charming cherub who awaits feathered friends and human admirers as he reigns over a quiet pool in a corner of the McCaskill's gardens in Pasadena. Pink Tanya and other sasanqua varieties make a background of rare beauty.

the oldest "camellia show" is put on every year, does not have a camellia grower of any consequence since the Camellia City Nursery and the Camellia Hall closed out their business. But I feel some mention should be made about the old Camellia City Nursery which had grown camellias for many years in this locality. They had introduced many varieties and imported many from far off places, such as Japan. I see no need in saying much more about something that is passe.) I would get in my car and drive north on Highway 99E to eight miles north of Yuba City where the Vistica Nursery is located, where many fine old varieties are grown. Although this nursery has never introduced any new varieties, it does a good job of growing the older ones.

In leaving Vistica Nursery, I would continue on north where one of the pioneer nurseries of Northern California is located in the City of Chico. Lindo Nursery has grown camellias for many years and has introduced quite a number of new varieties. I will only mention one as its name always intrigues me: "Old Maid Taylor." Lindo was started by George Peterson's father and operated many years under the Petersons, but several years ago passed into other hands.

In the northwest corner of California in the City of Eureka is located the Cottage Gardens Nursery where many fine camellias were grown and got their start. Ville de Nantes was imported from Nantes, France, and was first introduced to us from there. Debutante also got its impetus and was grown by the thousands. Captain Rawes Reticulata really got a push here. Before it was known to the general public, the Kausen brothers who operate this nursery imported thousands of scions from France.

Leaving Eureka, we head south through the beautiful redwoods until we reach the small town of Ross.

Here we come to the Smyth Nursery which is quite small in comparison to many I am going to mention, but it makes up for it by the quality. Operated by just a man and wife, it's surprising how many plants have gotten their start here. A few of their introductions are: "Ernie Pyle," "Kreenna," "Strawberry Blonde Sport." It is the first nursery in this area to propagate "Lotus" to a large extent. The sport of Elegans, "C. M. Wilson," was found here at about the same time it was elsewhere.

After leaving Ross, we head south through the City of San Francisco and reach Palo Alto where John E. Edwards has a very nice location for a nursery under some beautiful oaks. This is the home of the "Governor Earl Warren" camellia. Edwards has only introduced this one, but grows the popular ones by the thousands.

On leaving Palo Alto we continue on south to a little town of Campbell on the outskirts of San Jose. Located here are the Burkart Camellia Gardens, where "C. M. Wilson" was first noted and admired. This nursery is very small and the only reason for mentioning it is because of such a lovely sport of Elegans.

A few blocks away is the James Rare Plant Gardens where some very good plants are grown. Mr. James has introduced "Lady Kay," "Ave Maria," "Breath of Spring," "Julia Stafford" and a few others. This is another Mr. and Mrs. operation and what a nice nursery and nice couple.

After leaving Campbell, we head north toward the City of Oakland and on the southern edge just before we get into the City of Hayward is the Domoto Nursery, known as the home of Distinctive Plants. This nursery lives up to its name as it has done much with camellias. I would say that Toichi Domoto's father, Tom Domoto, started the importation of not only camellias but many rare plants from Japan and Europe. It was here that

the first sport of "C. M. Wilson," a white Elegans, named "Shiro Chan" was found. Some of the varieties that were introduced are "Flowerwood," "Mrs. Nellie Eastman," "Flame," "Akebono," "Oniji," "Pink Otome," "Pink Ball," "Kuro Tsubaki," and many others. Some of the above were introduced by Mr. Domoto's father, Tom, and are deserving of mention.

After bidding goodbye to Mr. Domoto, we head east to the city of Stockton where we reach the Port of Stockton Nursery wherein you will see many fine camellia plants. I don't know of any new varieties that originated here. One interesting note is that Mr. Raffles, owner of this place, was very successful in budding camellias, but would never tell anyone this secret.

Still heading east we come to Riverbank and the Riverbank Nursery, operated by another team of man and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Staley. Mr. Staley's mother, who passed away several years ago, introduced and grew many fine camellias. Some introductions of this nursery are "Lazetta," "Esther Moad," "Knight's Ferry," "Sonora," and quite a few others too numerous to mention.

After leaving Riverbank we head south through the San Joaquin Valley towards Los Angeles. The first city we reach after crossing the mountains is San Fernando where on the eastern edge of the city in the foothills are the California Camellia Gardens where many fine camellias are grown and sold. Hundreds of varieties were imported from the southern states and introduced from here to the trade. It was here where the first "Glen 40" variegated was first found. "Chastity" also was originated at this nursery.

Leaving California Camellia Gardens we take Highway 118 and head east until we get to the small town of La Canada where Rancho Descanso is located with its thousands of

camellia plants growing in the ground. This ranch which should rightfully be known as a park is really worth seeing, not only to see the camellias, but this is where Descanso Distributors got its start which is now located in Chino which I will describe later.

After leaving Rancho Descanso we still continue on east and go on to Altadena where Nuccio's Nursery is located in the foothills in the northern section of Altadena. Many fine plants got their start here. "Joshua E. Youtz," a white Daikagura, and "Katherine Nuccio," are a couple of their introductions. The Nuccios are quite modest, but I am told that they have introduced several others.

Heading farther east we come to Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens located in Pasadena. Many fine camellias came from here as this nursery has been in business a good many years. Mr. Harvey Short who has grown many new varieties from seed is introducing them to the public through this nursery. Some of their introductions are: "High Hat," "General George Patton," "Masterpiece," "Pink Clouds," "Bride's Bouquet," "Frosty Morn," and many others. A look through this nursery is a must.

Going a little farther east, close to Santa Anita race track, we come to McCaskill's Gardens, located in the eastern part of Pasadena. Vern McCaskill grows many camellias and has introduced many good varieties, many are quite popular. Some of his introductions are: "Betty McCaskill," "Gigantea," "Finlandia," "Pax," "Mattie O'Reilly," and many others which are good and are still being propagated and sold.

(Continued in the February Review)

Attending the ACS meeting in Southern California in February will give you a wonderful opportunity to see some of these wonderful gardens.

NEW VARIETIES SHOULD BE REGISTERED

By HAROLD DRYDEN
Chairman, Registration Committee SCCS

Now is the time when camellia fanciers who planted camellia seeds several years ago are watching their seedlings with buds to see what the first bloom will be, or if last year's potential prize winner repeats itself. Probably the first bloom will convince you that the plant will make good understock for grafting. Some people will be lucky enough, however, to get a bloom that is worth keeping, at least for another year's watching. And some people will decide that the plant they have been watching for a year or two has what it takes—form, color, substance, size maybe, and the kind of plant that people like. That's the time to think about registering the new variety. Maybe the new variety is a sport rather than a seedling. It makes no difference. It also should be registered.

Registration of a new camellia variety will do two things. First, the Registration Committee will check the nomenclature to be sure there is no conflict with names already being used. That may be important, particularly if the grower has plans to market the variety. Registration establishes the new variety and name in the public records.

Equally important, registration is an effective way to announce the new variety to the public. Following acceptance of registration, *Camellia Review* carries an announcement of the new variety, with description of the plant and bloom and the name of the grower. This is important for commercial growers. It is a means of personal satisfaction to the amateur. One can rightly feel a warmth of satisfaction when he grows a bloom that wins a "best flower" award in a show. But far greater is the feeling of satisfaction when one originates a new variety that is good enough to perpetuate. Registration and public announcement of the new variety enhance this satisfaction.

The Secretary of Southern California Camellia Society will send registration forms to those who request

them by telephone or letter. The forms are intended to be self-explaining. If there are questions, however, the Chairman of the Registration Committee will answer them. The committee will act promptly on all applications for registration so that the new varieties may be announced during the current camellia season.

January Meeting Promises Special Interest

Caryll Pitkin, Program Chairman announces that the speaker for January 10th, the first meeting of the new year will be Joe Littlefield. Mr. Littlefield will talk on "Complementary Plantings for Camellias."

Although for local persons Mr. Littlefield needs no introduction, it should be recorded that he is rated highly as a Garden Consultant, writes garden columns for fifteen newspapers of this southland area including the Pasadena Star-News and is heard regularly on the radio and both heard and seen in a weekly TV program. His talk to the SCCS promises to be of most constructive interest and he is expecting to bring along some illustrative material.

A banner crowd is a foregone conclusion.

DECEMBER SCCS MEETING PROVES TO BE A REAL FLOWER SHOW

Although the subject of Flower Arrangements might seem a bit on the feminine side, Edna Schoof creating one bright illustration after another had no trouble holding the masculine as well as feminine interest at the December meeting of the SCCS.

With japonicas and sasanquas, interesting foliage, a wide diversity of containers and a knowing hand, Mrs. Schoof proved her statement that arrangement is the art of bringing together parts into a harmonious whole. She suggested aiming at the "natural look" and the avoidance of crowding plants together, and asserted that the modern trend is toward fresher looking groupings than resulted from older methods.

A most constructive idea was her way of putting the container on a Lazy Susan base so that it was easy for her to develop arrangements that had appeal from all sides. This resulted in diffusing the interest rather than veering it toward one focal point. Her use of tall candles was most happy and she used beeswax candles exclusively as she claimed they would not drip, would not bend even in warm temperatures and would burn twice as long as ordinary tapers.

Her arrangements included those making use of artificial foils, bubbles, etc., which have a popular appeal.

Many guests as well as members were present — some coming from as far away as Riverside and Long Beach. Three affiliate society presidents attended, namely Floyd Bunelle of Pomona, Dr. Lynn Fawns of the Central California Camellia Society and Arthur Krumm of Temple City.

After President Metcalf had introduced the visitors he brought up ex-President Harold Dryden, who this year is chairman of the Registration Committee. Mr. Dryden spoke of the new certificates which are now being given out for new registrations and reasons why persons having distinc-



Mrs. Schoof used branches of pine, Bushman's Poison and incense cedar to create a graceful background for medium sized camellias nestled against tall candles.

tive new cultivars should register them.

SCCS meetings always have a high spot at their very ends with the awarding of ribbons for the best blooms exhibited and the December meeting was no exception. Judges were Dee Cothran and Floyd Bunelle of Pomona.

Of blooms under four inches, Cliff Argue won first with his Alba Plena, Carl and Ruby Lennig won second

(Continued on page 8)

A WESTERN BEAUTY IS ADDED TO THE NORFOLK GARDENS

One camellia not only leads to another it seems, but sometimes opens wide vistas. Such was the squib of news reaching this Editor that the parent plant of the *C. japonica*, 'Nan Crowell,' was to be sent to Norfolk, Virginia, birth-place and childhood home of Nan Crowell. This beautiful variety from the Councilman Camellia Gardens of El Monte was named by Elizabeth Councilman for her mother.

Learning of the above lead to correspondence with Frederick Heutte, Superintendent of the Parks of Norfolk. Mr. Heutte is a member of the SCCS and was most happy to receive the 'Nan Crowell' to be a permanent part of his camellia collection.

We were then interested to learn something more of the Norfolk Gardens and of Mr. Heutte's work. The Gardens were started in 1938 as a WPA project when a tract of land in Norfolk's watershed properties was turned over by the city at Mr. Heutte's insistence. The whole project was known as a "pipe dream" but Mr. Heutte had been a horticulturist since a boy and with several hundred on-relief workers to carry out his plans, the gardens were opened in 1940. Ten years later Frederic Heutte was named as Virginia's outstanding municipal servant for 1950 by the League of Virginia Municipalities.

Of course, Mr. Heutte is a tremendous camellia enthusiast. This part of the garden project he described in a letter as follows, quote:

"Our camellia collection was started in 1938 from two large plants that we have and were given to us around 1906. They are of the single red wild Japanese stock. 5,000 cuttings were rooted from these two plants in the winter of 1938-39. These in turn became the understock of 625 varieties (no duplications) which we have at this writing. While we have about 12,000 camellia plants throughout this one part (Norfolk Municipal Gardens) we have approximately 10 acres reserved for just collector's items. For instance, we are in the process of

erecting a 15x30 foot greenhouse to house our reticulata collection. This has been donated to us by the Virginia Camellia Society. We have been designated as a test garden for the All-America selections, although I have not been notified officially as yet."

Following Mr. Heutte's plans, the gardens are now beautiful at all times of the year. The sasanquas in the fall are followed by the gay holly and pyracantha berries and then come the masses of camellia blooms. March 15th has been designated as Camellia Day in Norfolk and the beauty of the camellias mixing with that of their companion plants and many other spring flowers must indeed make the gardens "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

How very satisfying for 'Nan Crowell' to come home here.

FLOWER SHOW *from page 7*

place with their Fimbriata and Eleanor Hayward, third with her Debutante.

Eleanor Hayward took first honors in blooms over four inches with her Lady Clare, Carl and Ruby Lennig's High Hat won second and Caryll Pitkin won third with his Red Daikagura.

Exhibitors' award was carried off by no less a person than our President, Edwards Metcalf.

CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE - 1956

By WILLIAM E. WOODROOF
Sherman, Oaks, California

What is the status of camellia nomenclature in this year 1955, after over 10 years of extensive research by the American Camellia Society and the Southern California Camellia Society, and the publication of various nomenclature books by the Southern California Camellia Society?

The great confusion that has existed in camellia nomenclature, which confusion still exists to some extent, is a deplorable condition, and every effort is being made to rectify this condition.

Some of the reasons for and the source of this confusion are the name now being applied to more than one variety, several names given to the same variety, renaming or translation from country to country or in parts of the same country, different names given identical sports of a known variety, renaming of lost label plants, sales of unbloomed seedlings which were given more than one name on blooming and lack of knowledge and ethics, carelessness and negligence.

It is my opinion that the best way to alleviate this confusion is the periodic publication of a nomenclature book based on continuous research with cooperation from all interested persons.

About 1940 I became vitally interested in camellia nomenclature. This interest arose from the discovery that I had purchased the same variety under different names, and from the further fact that the complexity of the problem created an intense interest to attempt to find a solution. Thereupon, I began an intensive and exhaustive research into the field of camellia nomenclature.

The first step was the gathering of all material available in this and foreign countries. As the material arrived I began to prepare an alphabetical file, listing all varieties with a full description and all information obtainable under their priority name as determined by the International Rules of Nomenclature where possible to ascertain, and where not possible,

under the name most widely used. All synonyms were also listed under the priority name and in alphabetical order with reference to the variety to which they were related. This work consumed many hours at night and on weekends for a period of several years, and involved checking, rechecking and comparison of old and modern literature, and correspondence and conferences with camellia enthusiasts all over the world. At the end of this time the confusion was so great that the task appeared hopeless, and I decided that sanity was the better part of valor. However, my stubbornness prevailed and I continued to attempt to sort out this unbelievable mass of confusion. Until about 1947, I checked and rechecked all available material, corresponded with growers throughout the world and observed all varieties possible. As new information was obtained, my files were corrected and rewritten many times. Therefore, after spending hundreds of hours in research, correspondence and practical observation over a period of some 7 years, the confusion was relieved to some extent.

In 1947, as Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society, I was requested to prepare and publish a nomenclature book of the varieties present on the Pacific coast. The purpose of this book was to start on the long and hazardous road toward the settlement of confusion in camellia nomenclature by presenting a brief

and concise book which disclosed the results of intensive research and which would be readily understandable to all interested persons and particularly the camellia layman, of which class I am a member. The policy of the Society was to publish such a book at 2-year intervals, with the book to be enlarged in the second edition and thereafter to include all varieties available in the United States. To date the Society has published editions of the book in 1947, 1949, 1951 and 1954, and the new 1956 edition.

In accord with the stated purpose of the society the nomenclature book was to present priority names with their synonyms in general use and a brief and concise description, including color, size, form, growth habits and blooming period. A form classification was worked out based in part on that of Abbe Berlese, and the forms were classified as single, semi-double, anemone, peony, rose form and formal. This system is believed superior to another system which has been advocated where the classification is simple, incomplete double and complete double. The reason for the claimed superiority seems obvious, in that a form description can be given in a very few words which is understandable to everyone, while under the latter system a detailed form description must be given after the classification if the exact form of the flower is to be determined. The history and the source of the varieties were omitted for the sake of brevity and expense, and also due to the further fact that history's only importance in nomenclature is the determination of priority of name. Foliage descriptions were also omitted as it would in many cases be repetitious unless botanical terms were used, which would not be understandable to the layman.

In all editions of the nomenclature book an attempt has been made to

follow as far as possible the International Rules of Nomenclature, which provide in part as follows:

1. A variety can bear but one valid name, and a name should apply only to one variety.
2. Latin names to be used only where they express some character of the plant, and Latin proper names not allowed.
3. Translation, change or modification not allowed.
4. Single word preferred, and no more than three words.
5. Avoid names likely to be confused: Mr., Mrs., Miss., etc.; articles "a" and "the" and long or difficult to pronounce words.
6. Name will usually be a "fancy" one beginning with a capital letter.
7. Name must be published by description in recognized publication to be valid, and the priority name is the one first so properly published.
8. Do not change names in common use to conform to rules.

The rule which has caused the most difficulty is Rule 8 above set forth, which provides "Do not change names in common use to conform to rules," which is due to the fact that one name will be in common use in one section of the United States and a different name in common use in another section, and that a name may be in common use in the United States while a different name will be in common use in a foreign country. This difficulty has been solved by following the general principle that the nomenclature book is published for the benefit of the camellia enthusiasts in the United States and the rules hereinafter set forth:

1. Where a name is in common use in one section of the United States and a different name is in common use in another section, the name which complies

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Edwards Metcalf, President of the Southern California Camellia Society, explains the use of camellias in arrangement to Miss Cynthia Eshelman, daughter of Dr. Cecil H. Eshelman of Sherman Oaks, California. Dr. Eshelman is First Vice President of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, co-sponsors of the Second Annual Camellia Festival in Descanso Gardens, La Canada, California, which will be staged from Feb. 25 - March 11, 1956.

NATION'S CAMELLIA GROWERS TO PARTICIPATE IN 1956 DESCANSO GARDENS SHOW

Camellia growers from throughout the United States are expected to fly or bring their blooms for showing in the Second Annual Descanso Gardens Camellia Festival, which will be staged at La Canada, California, from February 25 through March 11, 1956.

The opening days of the Festival on Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26 will be marked by the competitive Camellia Cut Flower Show, which is to be sponsored by the Los Angeles Camellia Council.

This two-day judging of Camellias will be held outdoors under canopies on the same principle as the Boston Festival of Arts and the Laguna Festival of Arts, according to Alton B. Parker, of Temple City, California, the show chairman.

Adding to the national significance of the opening week-end of Descanso

Gardens Camellia Festival will be the presence of delegates to the Pacific Coast Convention of the American Camellia Society. The delegates will attend the annual Temple City Camellia Parade on the morning of February 25.

At 1 o'clock that afternoon they will open their first of two days of

(Continued on Page 25)

NEW SEEDLINGS DEVELOPED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

*By JULIUS NUCCIO

A general rule, it has been no problem for a commercial grower to select the outstanding new camellia seedlings developed each season. However, the past two years have brought forth such fine seedlings that the task of selecting the outstanding varieties has become most difficult.

The following new seedlings, in my estimation, are varieties which will become and remain favorites for many years. There are a number of new varieties not listed below which are also destined to become great favorites which I have not had the pleasure of seeing.

Onetia Holland — A lovely white seedling developed by Mr. James A. Holland of Upland. Large, 5 to 7 inch hemispherical semi-double with tiers of outer petals surrounding 3 inch high petaloids, interspersed with golden stamens. Blooms early to midseason. Vigorous growth on compact plant with large glossy foliage. To date no arrangements for propagation have been announced.

Coral Pink Lotus — This beautiful coral pink seedling of Lotus was introduced and is being grown by Don and Blanche Miller of San Gabriel. The plant and foliage look like the parent with the exception of the growth which is more upright and less willowy. Bloom is same as Lotus in size and formation. Petals seem to have more substance. Blooming period same.

Coronation — A very large, 6 to 7 inch, semi-double white seedling of Lotus. Large outer petals with beautiful crown of stamens and petaloids. Vigorous, upright growth. Mid-season to late blooming period. Originated and introduced by McCaskill Camellia Gardens of Pasadena.

Drama Girl — A very large, 5½ to 6½ inch, semi-double, deep salmon rose pink with prominent stamens. Petals are extremely large. Vigorous, upright open growth, with very large, dark green foliage. Blooming season from December through April. This outstanding camellia was developed by "Doc" Miller of San Diego, and distributed by Nuccio's Nurseries of Altadena.

Frosty Morn — Another beautiful Lotus seedling developed by Harvey Short and introduced jointly by Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens of Pasadena. Its pure white blossoms are a very large anemone to peony form, with long, narrow, slightly twisted foliage. Medium, open, upright growth. Blooms from January until April.

Jack McCaskill — Unusual sport of Te Deum with the same growth habit and flower form as its parent. Base color is antique rose with a silver tinge on the edge of the petals. Developed and introduced by McCaskill Camellia Gardens.

Pink Clouds — This is a seedling of Elegans originated by Mr. Harvey Short and introduced jointly by Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens. A very large creamy white with rose markings, changing to lavender pink as flower ages. A very large anemone form with vigorous, bushy growth. Blooms mid-season.

Conrad Hilton — This eggshell white sport of High Hat has all the fine qualities of the Daikagura — the same blooming period, growth habit and

* Of Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, Calif.

flower form. Developed by Mr. Floyd Honn of Arcadia and introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries.

Indian Summer — This fine seedling of Daikagura was developed and introduced by McCaskill Camellia Gardens. The blossoms are very large, full double peony with color bright carmine rose, blotched with white. Blooming time and growth habit identical to Daikagura except more vigorous.

Marguerite Tourje — Fuchsia pink sport of Masquerade with petals margined white. Very large semi-double to loose anemone form. Very compact, with long, dark green foliage. Developed and introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries.

Reg Ragland — A very large semi-double, red to red and white variegated. This outstanding flower was developed by Mr. William Woodroof. Plant is upright and bushy with handsome foliage. Blooming season mid-season to late.

Royal Trumpeter — A Magnoliaeflora seedling developed and introduced by Marshall's Camellia Nursery, San Gabriel. A faint blush overcast in bud form but pure white when fully open. A large semi-double with center petals not opening fully, giving a trumpet appearance. Blooming season from January through April.

Seventh Heaven — An Elegans seedling developed by Harvey Short and introduced jointly by Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens. Large semi-double to anemone form with wide guard petals. Clear lavender pink with rich dark green foliage on bushy upright plant. Blooms from December to April.

Billie McCaskill — This fine seedling was developed by McCaskill Camellia Gardens and will be introduced by them in Fall 1956. The flower is a semi-double, soft pink with delicate pink shading. The petals stand erect and the margins are fimbriated. Profuse bloomer from mid-season to late. Excellent shrub with medium sized, dark green foliage.

Guest of Honor — Another outstanding seedling of Lotus developed by Mr. Harvey Short to be released in the Fall of 1956. It is a very large semi-double to semi-peony form with a cluster of stamens and petaloids intermixed. Color is salmon pink and blooms from mid-season to late. Vigorous bushy shrub with excellent foliage.

Guilio Nuccio — A very large, irregular semi-double, consisting of 12 to 15 wavy petals and 3 to 5 rabbit ears. Color is coral rose which lightens toward the edge of the petals. Excellent growth habit, with heavy, dark green foliage. Developed by Nuccio's Nurseries.

COUNCILMAN CAMELLIA ACRES

Introducing Nan Crowell — large chrome pink Elegans seedling

Dragon Lady — Undaunted — Miss Betty

Sasanquas & Yunnan Reticulatas

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ARE YOU JOINING THE CAMELLIA CARAVAN ON ITS WESTWARD TREK?

Here are a few things that will be of interest to those who anticipate attending the annual convention of the American Camellia Society in Los Angeles on February 23, 1956.

All meetings will be held at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. The meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors will start at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, February 23, continue until lunch time and reconvene after lunch. The annual meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. Thursday.

It is advisable for you to write immediately to the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel for room reservations, and also to Mr. Fred W. Holder, District Passenger Agent, L&N Railroad Company, 11 Government Street, Mobile, Alabama, for train and sleeper accommodations. The schedule of special cars is as follows:

- Lv. Atlanta, A&WP No. 37, "The Crescent," 8:35 a.m. Sun. 2/19/56
- Lv. Mobile, L&N No. 37, "The Crescent," 3:20 p.m. Sunday 2/19/56.
- Lv. New Orleans, SP No. 1, "Sunset Ltd.," 11:45 p.m. Sunday 2/19/56.
- Arr. Los Angeles 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, 2/21/56.

Sample fares, including 10% Federal Tax:

Round trip, 1st class rail fare—Atlanta to Los Angeles or San Francisco	\$160.60
Round trip, 1st class rail fare—Mobile to Los Angeles or San Francisco	142.73
Round trip, 1st class rail fare—New Orleans to Los Angeles or San Francisco	142.73
Lower berth—Atlanta to Los Angeles.....	23.87
Double bedroom—Atlanta to Los Angeles	52.42
Lower berth—New Orleans to Los Angeles.....	21.85
Double bedroom—New Orleans to Los Angeles.....	48.01
Extra fare on the "Sunset Ltd."—New Orleans to Los Angeles....	11.00

The above fares do not include any diverse routes, which can be included for a very little more. Be sure to decide by which route you wish to return home and make your return reservations in advance. This is very important because we will be in California at the height of their tourist season. Any information regarding routes and schedules may be obtained from Mr. Holder, whose address is given above.

Camellias — Camellias

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**NEW AND STANDARD VARIETIES
NEW RETICULATAS AND SASANQUAS**

ALL REASONABLY PRICED

NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

Valley of the Potomac

Thirteen new members have been added this past fall.

Visitor — Mrs. C. H. Sample, a member from Long Island, New York was a Washington visitor in November. During her stay Mrs. Sample described how she grew some of the less hardy camellia varieties outdoors. This method was to plant the camellias in a ditch which was deep enough so that when winter set in all that was required for their protection was to lay glass over the ditch.

New Plans — At the November meeting, Mr. Edward P. Carter of Hyattsville, Maryland, Chairman of the Special Committee, reported that it was prepared to establish a small test garden in order to undertake experiments with the various fungicides recommended for use on camellias.

Newsletter — The second issue of the society's bulletin was published.

Pomona

With William Wylam highlighting the first fall program with an illustrated talk on sasanquas, and Harvey Short giving the society the benefit of his long experience with seeds, seedlings and camellia culture at the second meeting, the society has launched an enthusiastic season of activities.

Regarding seedlings, Al Holland is planning to register his "Holland Orchid," a single orchid color J. C. Williams type flower with long, slender lanceolate leaves and weepy foliage. Mr. Holland, it will be remembered, is also responsible for the dramatic "Onetia Holland," a sensation of last year.

Temple City Camellia Society

On January 23, camellia grower Clarence Rose will demonstrate how to tailor camellias for use in corsages. Join us at the Women's Club, Woodruff and Kauffman, Temple City at 8 p.m., bring your own blooms and learn a simple method of making a corsage.

Drawing prizes will be nine outstanding Japonicas from Rose's Camellia Gardens, one Reticulate, one Sasanqua, redwood tub and a pair of shears.

Refreshments will be served.

SCHEDULE OF CAMELLIA SHOWS

Readers are asked to note the following dates already scheduled for camellia shows to be given by various California camellia societies:

- San Diego Camellia Society at San Diego, February 11-12.
- Camellia Society of Kern County at Bakersfield, March 3-4.
- Northern California Camellia Society at Oakland, March 3-4.
- Camellia Society of Santa Clara County at San Jose, March 4.
- Orange County Camellia Society at Santa Ana, March 4.
- Central California Camellia Society at Fresno, March 4.
- Camellia Society of Sacramento at Sacramento, March 10-11.
- Pomona Valley Camellia Society at Pomona, March 3-4.

Any or all of these shows will be of interest to not only the local people but to visitors of our State. There will be varieties which may not be as popular in the Eastern States and some of the varieties may be found to bloom better out here than they do in the East and vice versa. All of which makes it of interest for any visitor to a show who is from another section of the country.

HISTORY AND PERFORMANCE OF CAMELLIA RETICULATA

By J. HOWARD ASPER

Interest in the *Camellia Reticulata* is increasing each year. While in number of varieties, it is far behind the well known *Japonica* and *Sasanqua* species, its outstanding size, form and beauty bids fair to win first place in our hearts. Indigenous to the mountains of Western China, the facts of its early cultivation as a garden shrub and tree are lost in the haze of antiquity. Reportedly grown as early as 900 AD, certain varieties were chosen to adorn both Temple Gardens and Gardens of the rich landowners. How these varieties were originated and what species were crossed to produce such glorious flowers must forever remain in the realm of conjecture.

The first known *reticulata* plant to reach the western world arrived in England in 1820. It was carried there by a voyage in a sailing vessel whose destinies were determined by its master, Captain Richard Rawes. It seems that a nice custom of those unhurried days was for sea captains to bring home from distant shores rare plants to be used as gifts to friends. In this case one Thomas Carey Palmer was the lucky recipient and he planted his gift in his greenhouse at Bromley, Kent. Six years later it was in bloom and the beauty of its flowers created something of a sensation among contemporary horticulturists. In fact a colored illustration of the flower was prepared by one Miss Curtis and published in Edwards Botanical Register in July of 1827. The explanatory printed matter described it as a "splendid new species of camellia," and further noted that the flowers had a different aspect than those of the *C. japonica*. It was listed as "Captain Rawes's *Camellia*" and now is known simply as Captain Rawes.

The second chapter in the *reticulata* story began in 1837 when Robert Fortune sent a *reticulata* plant to England from China, where he had been sent, to William Byam Martin, Esq., Bank Grove, Kingston, Surrey. It evidently grew well for we

have record that in 1848-49 it had attained a height of thirteen feet, with a spread diameter of sixteen feet, and before blooming season 2600 buds had to be removed to allow proper opening of those buds left on the plant. When in full bloom the large flowers borne upright on rigid stems were so profuse that leaves of the plant could scarcely be seen. This plant was described in Curtis Botanical magazine in 1857 and named *C. reticulata* "Flore-pleno." For many years this variety was generally referred to as the "lost *reticulata*" since no one seemed to know of any plants. Recently it has been decided that plants growing in both England and Portugal are of this variety. Within the last year or two it was established here in California by Ralph Peer but so far no plants have grown large enough to bear flowers. It has now been given the name "Robert Fortune" by the Royal Horticultural Society.

The third chapter of *reticulata* history begins in 1912 when George Forrest, another plant explorer, sent to England some *reticulata* seeds collected in Tengyueh in Western Yunnan, China. Plants grown from these seed first flowered in 1932 and are referred to as the "garden form" of *reticulata*. The medium pink flowers are of medium size and are single. The plant grows very vigorously and sets seed easily.

(Continued in February Issue)

THE DESCANSO SPECIES GARDENS

By JUNE G. SMITH

Descanso Gardens in La Canada, California, is a wonderland to be enjoyed by all garden lovers — and Camellia fanciers in particular. This year it is especially in the spotlight because during the February convention of the American Camellia Society it will be the setting for a Camellia Festival sponsored by Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles Camellia Council. John L. Threlkeld, Superintendent of the gardens, tells us that during this time special events are planned in which delegates from all parts of the country will participate. Here will be concentrated everything that the Camellia grower — professional and amateur — could desire.

And just what makes Descanso Gardens so outstanding?

To begin with, this 165-acre garden, which is only a few miles from the center of downtown Los Angeles and on the outskirts of Pasadena, is steeped in the tradition of old California. The land itself is the last remaining acreage of an old Spanish land grant given to Jose Maria Verdugo in 1784. While the rest of the grant has been converted to towns and subdivisions, Descanso Gardens gives the visitor a graphic idea of what all Southern California was like before it became the population center that it is today.

Surrounded on three sides by the San Rafael Hills, in a natural bowl, is a garden whose plantings have been arranged to fit into and blend with the setting provided by nature. This is not a man-made garden, but rather a creation of nature which has been improved and benefited by the co-operation of man.

Over 25 acres of the ground are covered with a dense California Live Oak forest such as was once common to this area but is now becoming extinct. The original forest was almost completely destroyed nearly a hundred years ago when swept by tremendous fire. Only a few of the great monarchs survived. However, acorns deposited before the fire germinated the following spring and the present

forest sprang up thicker than ever before. During the past hundred years the trees have been covering the soil with a blanket of leaf mold so perfect for the culture of shade plants.

Over 50,000 specimen camellia bushes are planted in this area. Trails have been cut and a rushing stream with a series of small waterfalls and reflection pools winds its way through the woods. Thousands of azaleas and fuchsias bank the edges of the stream. Each turn of the trail offers a new vista of floral beauty.

In the center of the forest the Oak trees are more widely spaced, and this has been converted to a huge, sun-dappled lawn area. To one side of the lawn is a picturesque, glass-fronted lounge building where visitors may rest and enjoy the constant change of light and shadow before them.

Circling the lawn are planted as many different *C. japonica* varieties as is possible — for the benefit of visitors who may not be able to walk through the entire garden. Radiating from this lawn area are massed plantings of the approximately 300 varieties of *C. japonica* that are represented.

In addition to the *C. Japonicas* and azaleas are planting of *C. reticulatas*, *C. sasanquas*, a camellia species garden, rhododendrons, ferns, and shade plants and shrubs of all kinds — both native and exotic.

During the Camellia Festival, canopy-covered exhibitors' tables will circle the lawn, and pit fires at vari-

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CAMELLIAS AT TEXARKANA

By W. C. DUDNEY

A Men's Camellia Club was organized at Texarkana in two states (Texas and Arkansas). The club was organized largely through the efforts of Dr. C. E. Kitchens, who had been an active member of the Shreveport Men's Camellia Club for some time. He was the first President of the Texarkana Club.

Their first show was held on March 6, 1955. James R. Bryant was general chairman. About 1000 blossoms were entered in competition and many others with potted plants were used for background. The theme of the show — "A Camellia Garden." Of course the garden was highlighted with a bevy of pretty teen-agers in formals. About 4000 visitors attended. It was a great success, judging from the remarks of visitors from far-away places, including California, Michigan, and Ohio. Mr. Bryant is the current President.

Needless to say, the show increased interest in Camellias many fold. The group membership now approximates 60 and by the time of the 1956 show, which will be March 4, no doubt will attain 100. Dr. Richard Brunazzi is now show chairman and extensive preparations are under way.

Programs to date this year have included "Sasanquas," "Camellia Varieties," and an illustrated lecture by Mr. Howard Asper of the Huntington Gardens, with emphasis on *Camellia Reticulata*.

From professional sources, plantings in or near Texarkana now approximate 8000. Many homes have plantings from twelve to fifty. Some of the older plants here include a Carnation Red Erney, bought and planted in March, 1935, and owned by Dr. C. E. Kitchens. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shea have a Professor Sargent nearly thirty years old that has reached a height of 16' and is 10' across. Of the most interesting old plants in Texarkana are those of Mrs. M. B. Perry. Mrs. Perry was a native of Cass County, Texas, and when she married she moved to Alexandria, Louisiana. She learned to love Camellias while in Alexandria. About twen-

Our Cover Flower

Camellia japonica "Marguerite Calusaut" is not altogether a newcomer, but probably is little known as yet in many plantings. The flower, a delicate light pink with occasional white blotchings is most artistic in its styling of irregular, high built petals. The plant appears to be of rather compact, upright growth, and a mid season bloomer.

This originated in Magnolia Gardens, eight to ten years ago in the white flowered form and later this beautiful pink mutation.

ty years ago she moved back to Texarkana, bringing Azaleas and Camellias with her. In her garden a Tricolor (Siebold) and a Covina have seeded themselves in profusion. Mrs. Perry takes great delight in potting these seedlings and giving them to friends. All the older plants have withstood subzero weather.

Of course the older varieties predominate here, but the newer varieties are catching on in a hurry. For instance Charlotte Bradford was the outstanding flower of the 1955 show. Other relatively new ones grown here are: Frank Gibson, Joseph Pfingstl, Joshua Youtz, Masterpiece, Mathotiana Supreme, Dr. Tinsley, Thelma Dale, Marjorie Magnificent, and others.

RETICULATA BLOOMS TO BE OBSERVED AT THE SHOW

By ROBERT M. BODDY

General Manager Descanso Distributors, Inc.

Dr. W. E. Lammerts of the nursery firm of Descanso Distributors, Inc., completed in 1948 his famous and successful horticultural mission when he brought to the Descanso Gardens in La Canada the first collection of the rare Chinese Reticulatas imported to America.

The story of the search for these rare plants is fascinating and should be understood to appreciate how fortunate we are to be able to so generously display plants and flowers of these noble camellias.

Eight years of growing, propagating and study of these plants have taught us a humble respect for the venerable Chinese priests who so successfully cultivated and guarded these plants in their Temple Gardens. We have also learned patience and the folly of hasty judgment in evaluating the different varieties. All of the Reticulatas have noteworthy features. Some, like Noble Pearl, feature exotic blooms, others such as Professor Tsai, an extreme floriferousness. Some of the most interesting and favorites of many are the slow growers like Moutancha which develops attractive branchworks in addition to fine blooms. We believe that other varieties similar to Shot Silk, for example should be judged as a small tree. The Reticulatas are plants that improve with age. At eight years some are only now attaining exhibition quality. We plan to display representative container grown stock and flower blooms of the below listed varieties. Camellia fanciers may judge for themselves the most attractive plants.

Wild or "Garden Form"
Crimson Robe — Container
grown plant and blooms
(if available)
Shot Silk
Moutancha
Chrysanthemum Petal
Lion Head
Willow Wand
Professor Tsai
Queen of Tali

Confucius
Butterfly Wings Reticulate
Pagoda
Butterfly Wings
Large Cornelian
Chang's Temple
Purple Gown
Noble Pearl
Buddha
Shot Silk Reticulate

We would like to remark, in conclusion, that in the introduction of these plants we believe only two phases have been accomplished: The first phase was the successful importation; the second, propagation and distribution. We are now embarking on the third phase. This is the "culture" phase wherein we intend to learn more of growing techniques and the development of landscape specimens. We hope that camellia lovers everywhere will join us in this fascinating study.

CAMELLIA GARDEN — UNIT OF THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

By E. C. TOURJE*

There are a number of magnificent botanical gardens in the Los Angeles area. All of them are shrines to those persons who are particularly interested in their respective specialties, and are visited, admired and studied by many thousands each year. Outstanding among these gardens are the Huntington Botanical Gardens located on an eminence in the city of San Marino commanding a view of the broad expanse of the beautiful San Gabriel Valley.

Here with its two hundred acres of priceless botanical specimens, lies one of the truly great gardens of the world, surrounding the internationally famed Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Galley.

One of the most important units of this fabulous institution is the Camellia Garden. Here in a setting of great natural beauty, the main portion of the garden located along the sloping sides of a rustic canyon canopied by giant Live Oak, are found plainly and attractively labeled a thousand and more of the finest Camellia Japonica varieties ever assembled in one public garden. Supplementing these Japonicas are practically all the named varieties of Camellia Sasanqua and many of the known species of the Genera together with numerous hybrids, and, of course, a complete collection of specimen Reticulata. Here come scholars, collectors and connoisseurs to study and compare. Of equal, perhaps grater, importance come the public — you and I, and our neighbors and friends to rejoice in the beauty of the camellia. Thousands upon thousands who come to see the Camellia at its best and to be delighted by its exquisite loveliness haloed by its enchanting surroundings.

For those who find difficult the walk to the main Camellia Garden in the canyon, there is the North Vista — a jewel in the horticultural diadem. North Vista is a quadrangle of lush green grass surrounded by beautiful statuary and flanked by hundreds of the finest Camellias grown. One may

walk at will over the grass or along the trails through the Camellias under the trees.

It is not by accident that the Camellias of the Huntington Gardens attract both the connoisseur and the dilettante. It was the dream of the founder, Henry E. Huntington, and the trustees of the institution he created and endowed with a vast fortune to provide both educational stimulus for the scholar and pleasure for the general public without cost or expense to either. The task was placed in the hands of Mr. William Hertrich, internationally famed botanist, floriculturist and horticulturist, now Curator Emeritus of Huntington Botanical Gardens, who has devoted the past half century to the creation of these gardens so well known to multitudes.

Despite all his knowledge and training Mr. Hertrich never lost sight of the fact that the Gardens were to be shared by all and in surroundings made entertaining, pleasant and comfortable for the many as well as the few. The Camellia Garden has always been close to the heart of William Hertrich, and his fine personality is stamped indelibly upon it. When his efforts turned to the publication of "Camellias in the Huntington Gardens" and it was time to turn the active management of the botanical gardens over to a younger man, he chose as his successor Mr. J. Howard Asper, former Curator of Descanso Gardens, under whose supervision the

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TO THE LADIES

By CHARLOTTE HOAK

Traveling north this summer as far as Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, I had a fine chance to visit the gardens from San Francisco north. Both inland and on the coast they are growing camellias.

The campus at Berkeley, California, boasts of having the oldest reticulata, the Captain Rawes Camellia. Scrawny with age, and somewhat stubbed down by many transplantings, it still retains its rangy growth. On the grounds there are many fine, beautiful conifers and several excellent companion plants which have come from the rain forests of Chile; *Berberis Darwinii* and *Myrtus Ugni*, Chilean Guava. Both have clean, lustrous evergreen foliage and are handsome either in bloom or in berry. I remember two old veterans from my undergraduate days. There is also another fine evergreen, *Peumus Boldus*. To quote Harry Butterfield, "It is clean and pleasing, slow growing and should be more widely planted." Years ago I used to pass it by and wonder what it was, for it had no number and in the records a brief notation that it was a native of the Chilean rain forest. In its native habitat it is called the Boldo tree. It has panicles of white bloom and bears edible drupes. Somebody has told me it is grown in Southern California. Where? Is it in the Huntington Botanical Garden? Why a tree, some sticklers ask. Our camellias are trees in their native habitat and in many old gardens in the north. This year and many years I have seen them growing with simple trunks. Planted under overhanging roofs here and a few feet apart you often wonder what is going to happen when they really get their growth.

Of course they have many shrubs and trees which come from New Zealand, in northern California, which do better north with them than with us in our semi-arid climate.

Rhododendrons and azaleas, real companion plants for camellias, are out of this world in Golden Gate Park. To see them in their full glory you should go there in early spring

when they are beginning to bloom. Many of the deciduous shrubs and trees, natives of China and Japan are fine. The famous Campbell Magnolia is now blooming every spring. The other deciduous trees and shrubs are grown more generally than they are here. The idle boast that we should grow few deciduous things in our gardens should be forgotten.

How dreary Lincoln Park was until they dropped in a few flowering peaches to announce that spring really does come here. You all know the old Milliken Iris Gardens, now occupied by Wilford Hagen who has more trees and shrubs than you have heard of, displayed. Ask him to show you some of the material coming from China and Japan. He has the finest set of Chinese Magnolias shown anywhere. We could have had fine specimen plants of these now if we had not been obsessed by Golden privet, coprosma and *Genista fragrans*, three of the pet aversions of anyone whose garden tastes have matured. The return of the camellias has cured us of these gaudy juvenile favorites, but still we could be more conversant with their companion plants. Instead of two or three you should know dozens both evergreen and deciduous. Out of a wider list you can select these suited to small home gardens (sadly overlooked) and those for parks and large estates.

To go back to the companion plants used in Northern California: North of Punta Arena you are in the rhododendron land again. Our pink na-

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THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

By ELIZABETH COUNCILMAN

Recently a lady came to our Camellia Gardens and asked, "Will you please show me some of your newer camellias, 'collectors' items' I believe you call them."

"I'd be pleased to," I assured her and we started out around the pools to the front lath house where the retail plants are kept.

"It is pretty here," she said, "You know this is my first experience in buying camellias."

"Thank you," I answered, perhaps with a little surprise because people do not usually ask for collectors' items when they are first buying camellias.

The lady seemed to sense this and smiled as she walked over and admired a large graft in the ground of the *Yunnan reticulata* 'Chang's Temple.'

"Are you wondering why I asked to see the newest varieties of camellias when I have never bought one before?" she asked.

"Well, frankly, I am," I replied.

"I can tell you a rather unusual story about camellias if you have time to listen," she said.

This was her story.

I am a widow and I have a grove a few miles east of here. Since I have been alone my family and friends have tried to persuade me to give it up and get an apartment but I love my trees and garden and felt that I wouldn't be happy anywhere else.

I have one brother to whom I am devoted and some years ago he became interested in camellias. That was back about fifteen years when there weren't so many varieties to choose from. I believe his first camellia plant was given to him not too long after they built their home and were landscaping the yard. When the first plant bloomed Bob was so fascinated with

the flower that his wife gave him another one for Christmas. These first two plants were 'Pink Perfection' and 'Pope Pius.' After this Bob began to frequent nurseries and every week or so he would come home with another plant.

His camellias thrived and so did his enthusiasm. He was fortunate in having large oak trees and a well drained, sandy loam type soil. Within a few years every available space was planted with camellias and his garden was beautiful but at this time a grave problem arose. New and beautiful varieties had been originated and Bob was completely out of space. So to solve his problem, as Bob would see a new variety that he just couldn't live without he would dig up one of the old varieties that didn't hold his interest any more and give it to me. This is how my camellia garden began; today I have over eighty-six varieties.

In the meantime camellia societies had formed and Bob had joined. He took an active part and showed his blooms and won blue ribbons on them in the Camellia Shows.

Bob tried to get me to join also but I lived so far out that it would have been hard for me to attend the meetings so I contented myself with my hand-me-down camellia plants which I loved just as much as he did his new and rare varieties.

Last year sometime before the show Bob asked my why I didn't show some of my flowers too for I do have beautiful ones. I thought it over and decided that I would, and when show time came I was there bright and early with my flowers. Bob, of course, was there also.

Well, to my surprise and dismay can you guess what happened?

I won more ribbons than Bob did.

NOMENCLATURE *from 10*

with or is in closest compliance with the International Rules of Nomenclature is given priority.

2. Where a variety has been first distributed in the United States under its foreign priority name, regardless of the difficulty of the pronunciation of that name and the fact that another name is in common use in the United States, the foreign name is given priority.
3. Where the variety has been first distributed in the United States under a name which is not its priority name but that name is in common use, the name used in the United States is given priority.

It must be recognized that no set of rules can be written which will cover all situations and that for any set of rules to work they must be given a practical application. An at-

tempt has been made to follow such recognized principles in all editions of the nomenclature book.

When this nomenclature work was commenced it was hoped that eventually one name and one name only, could be established for each variety and that all synonyms could eventually be dropped. However, in this year 1956, this hope appears to have been only wishful thinking, as it has been impossible to obtain universal agreement on the priority name of all varieties and to drop the great majority of the synonyms as they remain in common use. Also, each year we find that a variety which has been known under one name for many years is determined to be an old variety which has been presumed lost.

However, it is believed that during the last 10 years much of the confusion existing in camellia nomenclature has been alleviated, but it is

(Continued on Page 27)

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ous rest spots along the trails will provide warmth should the weather be cool.

The sun areas on the outer perimeter of the forest are planted to roses, iris, chrysanthemums and field flowers, in season.

The Rose History Garden is unique in the world. Its beauty appeals to the layman, and to the rosarian and it is an interesting study of the development of the rose through the ages. Specimen plants of roses—from before the time of Christ up to the present—are arranged in their proper historical order. Research work was done by Dr. Walter E. Lammerts, one of America's foremost rose hybridizers.

Facing the Rose History Garden is the Modern Rose Garden containing the All-America Rose Selections winners together with other outstanding roses of the past few decades. The roses reach their peak of beauty in May and June.

All in all, Descanso Gardens offers a horticultural show garden that is delightful every month of the year. Moreover, it is a constantly growing project.

This garden, which was started and developed by Manchester Boddy, former Los Angeles newspaper publisher, has now been taken over by the County of Los Angeles. Under the county, additions and improvements for the convenience and comfort of the visitor are being made.

Extensive picnic areas and scenic rest spots have been added. The Boddy home has been converted into the Descanso Hospitality House and is being used by local garden and civic organizations for meetings and luncheons. This beautiful mansion fills a long-felt need of club groups. Garden tours, lectures, special events

(Continued on Page 27)

FOR SALE

The Secretary of the Society has the following books for sale:

Our own book, "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature," a 1956 revision \$1.50 or \$.90 each in lots of not less than 12, will be ready in January.

"Camellias in the Huntington Gardens," by William Hertrich. Vol. I and II, \$10.00 each.

"The Yunnan Reticulatas," 50¢.

"Old Camellia Varieties," a list with brief descriptions compiled at the request of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society of the R.H.S. and the British Museum, by A. I. Ellis. A 374 page, 9x11 book, reprinted by permission by Mr. Ralph Peer. \$5.00.

"Two Cats and Forty Camellias," a 136 page story form about the growing of Camellias mixed up with cats and cooking by our own member Elizabeth Councilman of Councilman Acres. \$3.00.

"Flower Arrangements of the Ohara School" the 1952 edition. Printed in English in Japan in folder form this book has six pages of descriptive matter and twenty-four colored prints in the Japanese manner. \$4.60, from \$10.00 to \$12.00 in bookstores.

"Camellias in America, 1955," by H. Harold Hume. \$25.50.

"The Camellia, What to Do," published by the Oregon Camellia Society. 35¢ postpaid.

Sasanqua issue of the Camellia Review, 75c postpaid. 57c in orders of 25 or more.

All prices mail and tax prepaid when payment is received with order, otherwise these charges will be added.

HUNTINGTON *from 20*

fabulous Yunnan Reticulatas were introduced into America, a man whose name is almost synonymous with Camellias. Immediately, Mr. William E. (Bill) Wylam was engaged and placed in charge of the Camellia Garden. These men have done much to add to the beauty and attractiveness of that garden. In many respects they have made this the most beautiful and important Camellia Garden in the world, and one in which Southern California is very justly proud.

**Chairman, Camellia Garden Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society, co-sponsor with Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, of the Camellia Garden unit of Huntington Botanical Gardens.*

1956 DESCANSO GARDEN

SHOW *from 11*

sessions at Descanso Gardens, located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

Ralph S. Peer, President of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, announced that his Council is made up of the following: The Los Angeles Camellia Society; Temple City Camellia Society; Pacific Camellia Society of Glendale; and the Southern California Camellia Society of Pasadena.

Assisting President Peer of the Los Angeles Camellia Council in the Descanso Gardens February 25-26 camellia show will be Dr. Cecil Eschelman, first vice president, from the Los Angeles Camellia Society; Lawrence W. Bryant, second vice president, from Temple City Camellia Society; and John R. Robinson, secretary-treasurer from the Pacific Camellia Society.

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NOMENCLATURE *from page 23*

realized that much still exists and that intensive research must be continued. Frankly, I do not believe that the problem will ever be completely solved and that our goal can only be to minimize such confusion to the greatest extent possible. It would now seem to be obvious that errors and differences of opinion will continue to exist but principally to lack of cooperation, information and authentic records.

Ed. note: With this extensive background, it is self evident that the new 1956 Nomenclature Book commands a definite place in the library of every camellia grower. Copies are now available.

DESCANSO *from page 24*

and festivals provide interest for everyone.

And over and above everything else remains a serenity and natural beauty difficult to find in this fast-paced world of ours.

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TO THE LADIES *from 21*

tive rhododendron, *Rhododendron Californicum*, grows in abundance, perhaps nowhere more spectacularly than on the Mendocino Barrens where its rose-pink glory is worth going all this way to see. On the outskirts of Fort Bragg, John S. Drucker has his unusual rhododendron nursery where he is experimenting with new root stocks. He is working towards the introduction of better types to grow in our western gardens.

Two other groups of plants are grown to perfection: fuchsias and lilies. These both thrive under the same growing conditions as camellias.

CAMELLIA REVIEWER *from 2*

it's very plural and we assure you that you'll never be disappointed in your trip out here whether everything will be brand new to you or whether you have visited here before. Just one thing—do let us know who you are for it will be wonderful to fit faces to the individuals we know only by hearsay or correspondence. We'll be around.

Presenting Phoebe

The new year also includes a welcome to Mrs. Robert L. (Phoebe) Dohrmann who joins the Camellia Review Committee. Little does she know what she is in for. With her talent, wit and enthusiasm, the next time you find something of new appeal in these pages you might very well suspect that Phoebe.

Everything Big in Texas

An interesting clipping from the Houston, Texas, Post of Saturday, November 19th, showed a big advertisement of a camellia sale at Sears Roebuck. This is certainly an indication of widespread camellia interest from the way down Mississippi country. Of course the good old varieties were set up in the heaviest type, i.e., Prof. C. S. Sargent, Pink Perfection, Chandler Elegans. Sarah Frost and

Lily White and Purple Dawn were also listed. Perhaps in other southern papers such ads are run but we don't remember seeing any such big newspaper splurge of camellias here in Southern California.

Introducing Mr. Dudney

We are always interested in publishing "firsts" from here or there so we have a special camellia welcome to the story of camellias in Texarkana. Seems the state line runs down the main street of that town but Mr. Dudney, our author claims Arkansas for his residence. We had rather raised our editorial eyebrows at the term "Men's" Camellia Club and, just as we suspected, Mr. Dudney confirmed in a letter that women were mightily a part of the club. He commented that the use of "Men's" was like the old story of the negro's hot pies. When reminded that they were not so hot, he replied, "Boss, dats jest their name." Perhaps it just goes without saying that there are generally some feminine powers lurking around in the background somewhere.

It's Universal!

The Dallas Camellia Society Bulletin comments that, quote—"The average camellia nut, both male and female, speaks about 11,000,000 words during the camellia season and 5,500,000 are "I," "Me," and "Mine." We don't believe this practice is confined just to Texas, either.

Looking Forward

We are always thinking of what a better world this would be if people would stick to their camellias instead of to their guns—if they would concentrate on developing new constructive uses of the camellia both practical and inspirational instead of destruction by hydrogen. Perhaps we can gather even the Review readers together in a camellia cult for honest peace. Anyhow, we'll try.

Says your dreamer.

Liz.

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