

THE

Camellia Review

April

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No. 7

Fifty Cents



Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

An organization devoted to the advancement of the Camellia for the benefit of mankind—physically, mentally, and inspirationally.

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, San Marino. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

Introducing 'Emily Wilson'

How better can we start the column this month than by a few words about our charming Cover Flower?

This delightful new *japonica* has become an important member of the Wilson family of Batesburg, South Carolina. The seed was planted by Arthur Wilson in 1944 when he was a sixth grade student.

The seedling flowered for the first time in 1949 and since then has proved itself a prolific bloomer from January to March.

The flower ranges from an incomplete double with mixed petaloids, to a semi-double, and is from 4 to 5 inches in size. It is of a beautiful light pink color.

This 'Emily Wilson' is reported to be a hardy variety of rare beauty.

The Review is indebted to Mr. Arthur Wilson, Jr. for use of the color plates. Plants are propagated and sold by Wilson's Nursery, Box 94, Batesburg, South Carolina.

Word Lift

Sometimes when one is reading, a phrase leaps out at you which seems just exactly right. We found one such in the article "Greetings to our Visitors" written by Sherrill Halbert, President of the Sacramento Camellia Society. The article appeared in the fine booklet of Sacramento's 33rd annual Camellia Show. Mr. Halbert invites interested individuals to join the Society and says, quote: "We meet once each month during the camellia season and we will be happy to have you share in the *delight, the excitement and the satisfaction* that we enjoy through the activities of our Society." This most happy phrasing we should like to adopt, for it expresses beautifully what most camellia

society members experience. This goes for societies everywhere. We feel that it is specially relevant to our own SCCS which is growing monthly. Thank you, Judge Halbert, for a sudden lift as we read your article.

A Petal Falls

As camellias bloom, then softly drop their loveliness, so Mrs. Reuben Tellam of San Diego recently slipped away. Beloved by everyone, her spirit will ever remain in our most happy camellia thoughts.

Camellia Day

With two small moppets in tow we joined the (reported) ten thousand who watched the Children's Camellia Parade down at Temple City and laughed and applauded with the others. The four by six floats, all fashioned of camellias, portrayed most of the seven wonders of the world — more or less becoming an eighth wonder themselves. And sandwiched in somewhere along with the Arabian Nights scene, the Eiffel Tower and the Sphinx was, true to our forecast, the Taj Mahal. The threatening weather cleared miraculously along the flowery way and lifted spirits that had been well drenched in the early part of the morning. From the doll-like Queen and her Camellia King to the animated dancing figure on the Arabian Float everybody just knew that this Temple City Camellia Festival was the truly joyous affair it had set out to be.

These were camellias of fun and frolic. The serious camellias — the big fellows of serious growers — all the masses of specimen camellias humanized the bank building that they took over for a Saturday for the Camellia Show of the Temple City Society. In spite of our championship of the everyday camellias we have to bow before an unbelievable one such

(Continued on Page 28)

IT WAS BIG AND BEAUTIFUL

California's capricious weather kept camellia enthusiasts quite on the qui vive this year but rain, smog, fog or sudden veerings from unseasonal heat to unseasonal cold were almost ignored. The big 1957 Camellia Show was scheduled to go on "in rain or sunshine" so the announcement said — and this turned out to be a true prophecy. For it did go on, and the weather went on too with showers and pourings and clearings now and then.

TROPHY TENT



In a colorful oriental setting, trophies of gold and silver made an impressive show as background for the prize winning blooms.

Sullen skies did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of exhibitors whose camellias brightened the tented areas of the Descanso Gardens. The cut blooms were exceptionally free from the blight one might have expected in such inclement times, and the row of lovely blooms set apart by the big blue rosettes could almost have carried off top prizes as well as those singled out to win the high trophies.

Sweepstakes winners of the show were Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Ragland

while Dr. E. C. Hubbs was the runner-up.

'Onetia Holland' entered by J. A. Holland was judged best amateur *japonica* while Earl Hudson of Sun Valley was awarded first in the Best Seedling or Sport Classification.

Other winners were:

Best 3 *japonicas*, amateur: Cecil Eshelman with 'Reg Ragland.'

Best *reticulata*, amateur: Dr. E. C. Hubbs, 'Noble Pearl.'

Best *japonica*, runner up: Cecil Eshelman, 'Adolphe Audusson, Spec.'

Best *reticulata*, runner up: Dr. E. C. Hubbs, 'Confucius.'

Best Miniature: Earl S. Gorton with 'Hishi-Karaito.'

Best 3 *reticulatas*: Dr. E. C. Hubbs.

Best display of more than 3 *japonicas*: Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller.

Best *japonica*, professional: Kramer's Nursery of Ontario.

Best *reticulata*, professional: Cool-

idge Gardens, Pasadena.

Best Miniature, professional: McCaskill Gardens, Pasadena.

Best display: Nuccio's Nursery, Altadena.

Outside of the tents, displays of the commercial growers seemed gay under the gray skies. One was of especial interest to amateurs as the various blooms with names by them, were arranged in the foreground and could be matched to their plants set in the background. A graphic way in which one could choose varieties suitable to his desires.

The big Descanso Camellia Show went on during the week of course, as the gardens are masses of camellias and their complementary sisters, bright azaleas. Then, with more down pourings of rain, there arrived the flower arrangers on Saturday morning with baskets and boxes, wire and bowls and candles; blooms carefully placed on dampened paper, and containers ranging from tall bottles to shallow pans. As varied as the material they worked with were the arrangers themselves; women going to work seriously, following precepts laid down in arrangement classes they had attended, amateurs following their own ideas, men chuckling over their own creations resulting from hearsay information they had picked up from their wives.

The tent was cold and damp but who cared? Good fellowship prevailed and on Sunday the sun was out and crowds of people too.

The sweepstakes, a gorgeous silver bowl presented by the Southern California Floral Association was won by Mrs. Marjorie Senesac of Temple City whose candle arrangement is seen in the photograph on page 23. Runner up was Mrs. May Walters.



The stunning Reg Ragland Trophy went to J. A. Holland for his *C. japonica* 'Onetia' which was judged the best *japonica* in the amateur class.

HOW TO ENJOY QUALITY CAMELLIAS

By WILLIAM E. WYLAM

Before we can enjoy quality camellias we must first know what constitutes quality in a camellia and how to obtain it. I am well aware that there are as many ideas as to the reasons why a camellia may, or may not, have quality as there are people who love camellias. Nevertheless I will attempt to explain which I consider quality to be. By so doing I hope I will cause you to give some thought to the selection of your camellias.

Do not choose them from a display of cut blooms, but instead select them as growing plants. In this way you will be in a better position to evaluate their faults as well as their virtues. Too many people think of the camellia only as a cut flower and overlook its wonderful value as a shrub.

In selecting a camellia we either allow some one else to judge its fitness for our location and purpose, or else we consciously or unconsciously judge for ourselves according to our personal likes and dislikes. I hope to encourage you to cultivate the habit of judging for yourselves and, more important, know why you have made your decision.

First, in judging anything — camellias, cats or cows — most of us must overcome an instinctive feeling that anything NEW must, of necessity, be better than the old and familiar things to which we have become accustomed. It is well to remember that possibly the main reason they are old and familiar may well be because they have outstanding quality. Some of the old-timers, such as 'Alba Plena' and 'Elegans' are still tops in quality and consistently win prizes in competition with the newest introductions.

I would like to emphasize that your own opinion is what you should value most. Do not allow yourself to be swayed by the opinion of some one merely because they offer their opinions with an air of supreme infallibility. Perhaps you may have had an opportunity to observe a side of the picture with which they have not become acquainted.

The more you work with camellias (and people), the more you become impressed with their extreme variability and amazing diversity.

Above all, do not allow yourself to form a final judgment of a camellia from a single observation or you will certainly be in a position where sooner or later you will have to change your mind, as I can testify from personal experience. As an instance — on young plants, and early in the season, the blooms of 'Gigantea' are often small and off color and bear little resemblance to the magnificent flowers that are produced later on the same plant.

Before we are in a position to properly discuss ways of obtaining quality in a camellia, we must first have a working idea of what we mean by QUALITY.

As a measure of evaluating this, the following scale of points was used by the judges at the Camellia Show staged by the Los Angeles Camellia Council in beautiful Descanso Gardens, and is the present scoring system in use for the famous Hertrich awards:

a. Color	25	points
b. Form	25	"
c. Substance and Texture	25	"
d. Condition at time of judging	10	"
e. Size (according to variety)	10	"
f. Distinctive Characteristics	5	"

The following supplemental scale of points is also used for the Hertrich

awards:

a. Habit of Growth	25	points
b. Production of Good Flowers	25	"
c. Foliage (richness of color, gloss, substance, etc.)	20	"
d. Length of blooming season	15	"
e. Self-cleaning Propensity (natural release of spent blooms)	15	"

Possibly it might be helpful to touch lightly on each of these items.

Color

Color is a subject which in itself is highly controversial. Our sense of color varies greatly between individuals, and what I consider "dark pink" might be "light red" to you. As a consequence there is a great deal of confusion regarding color and an even greater confusion regarding the terms used in discussing color.

For our present discussion it will possibly be enough to remember that HUE means the true color itself. This is, Red, Blue, Green, etc., are hues.

Tone

Tone is a term used to designate the position of a color in a light-to-dark scale. "Color Value" and "Luminosity" are terms that are sometimes used instead.

Intensity

Intensity is the term used to designate the strength of the color as to whether it is pure or greyed. The terms "Chroma" and "Purity of Color" are sometimes used in the same sense as the term Intensity.

I realize that I, along with most people, use the term SHADE very loosely as though it simply indicated a color — whether light or dark — pure or dull. Actually the term SHADE means a darker tone of any color, and TINT should be used to designate a lighter tone.

A discussion of color in which we dealt at length with the various attributes of HUE, TONE, INTENSITY and the variations of TINTS and SHADES would require a book.

What is more to the point, the color of some camellias varies greatly, depending upon weather conditions and the season of the year. I have often seen 'Arajishi' bloom a sickly, off-colored pink at the beginning and end of the season, only to produce flowers of a startlingly clear red in cooler weather. Again, some reds, such as 'Adolphe Audusson', 'C. M. Hovey', and 'Mathotiana' often have a tinge of purple at certain times, and at other times are clear and bright.

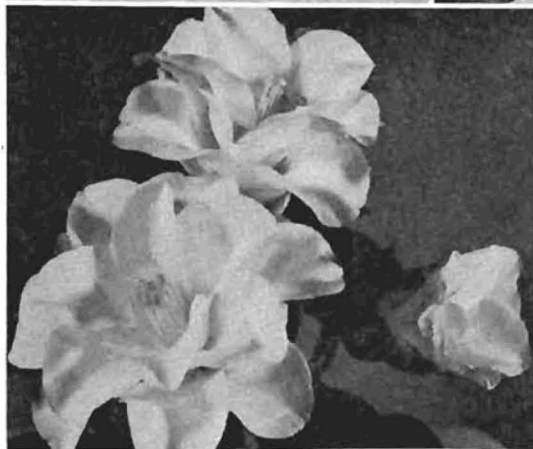
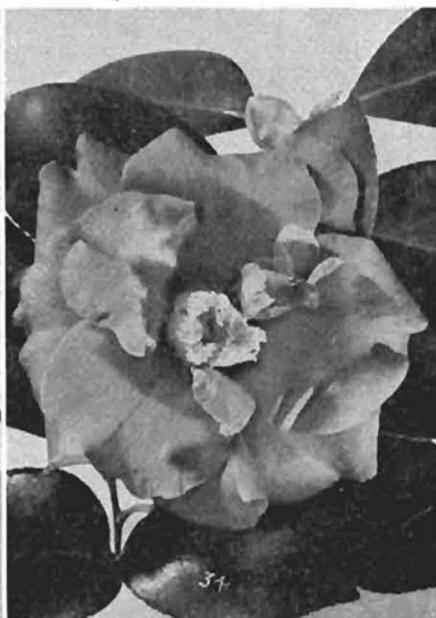
So — beyond advising you to select a camellia with a color that you find pleasing, I am going to avoid further discussion of this issue and proceed to Form.

Form

Form is a subject which is equally complex, as is evidenced by the failure of authorities to agree on any single system of classification. We have as an example the experts who prefer a comparatively simple classification, such as given in the Nomenclature Book of the Southern California Camellia Society, with its six classes, as opposed to the school of thought which insists on using a more complex system, such as given by Dr. H. H. Hume in his "Camellias in America," or even more complex systems as offered by other authorities.

Within recent years more and more camellia shows are discarding schedules

TYPES OF CAMELLIA QUALITY



Above left: The *C. japonica* 'Ville de Nantes' is outstanding because of its fimbriation and the graceful form of its flower.

Above right: The heavy substance and texture of the *C. japonica* 'Adolphe Audusson' are apparent in this picture.

Left: *C. japonica* 'Magnoliaeflora' is noted for its waxy texture and distinctive form and color.

Courtesy Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery

which call for group classification according to form and are judging specimens within the variety rather than judging various varieties within a group. This is generally accepted as being a fair approach to a confusing problem, and avoids the difficulty of attempting to compare a flower such as 'Colletti' with 'Gigantea,' or a bloom of 'Puritan Lass' with an 'Alba Plena' or 'Mathotian Alba.' Again, I have seen specimens of such variable camellias as 'Gigantea' or 'Te Deum' entered in two separate classes. It is sometimes difficult to say which is the true form of some camellias as they are extremely variable and often have flowers of several types on a plant at the same time. We are tempted to shrug and say, "Oh well — so what?" and talk about something else. However we must remember that the classification of camellias according

to flower form is important and needs to be considered by the individual because the form of the flower has a great deal to do with the selection and use of plants for particular situations. It also has a great deal to do with the ability of the plant to open its blooms under varying conditions. Finally, form has a great deal to do with the likes and dislikes of the individual. Many camellia collectors start with a preference for the formal type and end up with a yard full of singles and semi-doubles because they have found that constant perfection (even in a camellia) can become very boring. Possibly some of you are already becoming bored so we will quickly proceed to the very important item of Substance and Texture.

Substance and Texture

Substance and Texture are naturally related and are subjects which should always be stressed as most important as they are the factors which determine not only the keeping qualities of the flower, but materially affect the appearance of the bloom. Lack of Substance causes the flower to be short-lived, and poor Texture gives a soft droopy character to the petals.

The importance of selecting camellia varieties with good Substance and Texture cannot (in my opinion) be overstressed. The value of a camellia is measured in terms of enjoyment, and the longer it stays fresh and beautiful, the more enjoyment we derive from it. This is taken into account in almost all judging schedules by apportioning a part of the total points for CONDITION at time of judging.

Size (According to Variety)

Please notice the phrase "According to variety." Size (according to variety) is of value in judging any camellia, but to give undue emphasis to size alone is, I believe, a serious mistake. I consider SIZE (in itself) to be of secondary importance, and although it is given first consideration by many, it is actually outweighed in value by the attributes of COLOR and FORM, and above all, by SUBSTANCE and TEXTURE. Some of the most beautiful camellias, such as 'Magnoliaeflora,' are medium size to small.

Because of my continued stress of the subject Substance rather than Size, some may believe I dislike any camellia that is over two inches across. On the contrary, I number among my favorite camellias such magnificent soup plates as 'Adolphe Audusson', 'Drama Girl', 'Guilio Nuccio', and 'Reg Ragland.' However, you will please note that *all* of these have good Form and Color, as well as excellent Substance and Texture to go with their size.

Finally we come to Distinctive Characteristics. This is something which is still largely minimized, and until recently was absent from practically all judging schedules, but which, in my opinion, is of primary importance. One of the reasons camellias suffered an eclipse of popularity in the middle of the nineteenth century was the fact that the camellias available were in most instances uniformly "Perfections" and monotonously similar. Today there are far too many similar camellias in commerce, not only among the "Perfections" but among the semi-double and peoniform groups. Even the most expert judges have difficulty at times identifying many camellias in these groups, but even the beginner can identify such distinctive camellias as 'Black Prince', 'Fred Sander', 'Fimbriata', 'Hishi-Karaito', 'My Darling', 'Tinsie' or 'Ville de Nantes'. One of the really exciting features of many of the new hybrids that are beginning to appear is that they offer NEW and DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS to add to our enjoyment.

So far I have confined my discussion almost entirely to the camellia blooms.

However, in evaluating QUALITY, I firmly believe that HABIT OF GROWTH, PRODUCTION OF GOOD FLOWERS, and LENGTH OF BLOOMING SEASON are all points that we must consider at far greater length in choosing our camellias. The beautiful foliage is, in itself, one of the predominant features of the camellia, and richness of color, gloss, form, substance, etc. of the leaves aids greatly in determining the quality of a camellia. I would like to discuss the value of the camellia plant at length in relation to its proper place in the landscape, but I believe we would do well to use the allotted space discussing means of obtaining Quality.

The first thing to remember in achieving Quality is the selection of a camellia which possesses the elements of Quality. It is basically impractical to attempt to produce a quality bloom on a variety which in itself is essentially inferior or unsuited to the climatic conditions of an area. Care should also be taken to select a healthy plant. One of the best ways to achieve these aims is to patronize reputable nurserymen who not only know which camellias are adapted to the area, but are also careful to sell only those plants which are strong and healthy.

Having selected a desirable camellia, the next step is to choose a suitable location. The plant should receive enough light to insure an adequate bud set, but at the same time have enough shade to prevent damage to the foliage and flowers. Protection from drying winds is also desirable. Care should be taken to locate the plant where it will not receive damage from reflected heat from walls or paving. Sufficient space should be provided to allow the roots to spread properly. Roots of invasive plants and trees must not be allowed to rob the camellia of needed moisture and nutrients. It is important to provide a proper soil mix so that the roots will have a plentiful supply of humus and will not suffer from lack of drainage or from too rapid drying. The correct planting depth is one of the most important points to remember, as camellias will not tolerate deep planting.

Some growers are proponents of ground planting and some of container culture. Both methods have points in their favor. Whichever method you select you will need to remember that regular, light feedings at the proper time of a plant food with an acid reaction, and careful watering are very important cultural items.

Judicious disbudding is practiced by all who make a serious effort to improve the quality of their blooms, as is careful pruning to remove weak and crowded branches so as to allow light and air to reach the center of the plant.

Having achieved a beautifully grown plant with gorgeous blooms, too many ruin the flowers by careless handling. Remember they should still appear as perfect and fresh on the display table as they were in the garden. When possible, cut the blooms early in the morning when it is cool and they contain the maximum amount of moisture. Don't be afraid to cut plenty of stems from a mature plant when you cut the flowers, as that is a good time to shape the plant. Carry a box or basket with you with a pad of some soft material on which to lay the flowers as they are cut. Handle one bloom at a time and allow plenty of space so they will not rub against the foliage or the sides of the box. If the blooms are to be kept for some time, or are to be carried for a distance, the material on which the flowers are placed should have been moistened slightly beforehand. Care should be taken that drops of water do not spot the petals. Always use a covered box to carry the flowers to a meeting or show so the blooms will not become dry or damaged in transit. Always

be careful to carry the container level. In handling the flowers always lift the bloom by the stem, or if the stem is too short, slide the hand, palm up, under the bloom and lift carefully. Remember that bruises will not show at the time but will show later. Avoid placing the blooms in a draft.

Precooling the flowers by placing them in a cool, humid place for several hours before they are to be shipped or used for display, will help harden the tissues of the bloom and prolong the period of use. Do not place the bloom so that it is actually in water as it will soak up the water and the softened tissues may cause the flower to shatter when lifted.

Having achieved quality camellias, many feel, and rightly, that we cannot derive full enjoyment from them unless we share the pleasure with others. To do so we need to place them where they will make the best display, not only in the garden but in the home, office, or store, and especially in the camellia meeting or show.

Out of sight out of mind is as true of camellias as it is of anything else. To enjoy them we must see them. Some years ago I gave a lady a box of choice camellia blooms and about a month later she told me they were still beautiful as she had carried them right home and placed them, box and all, in the refrigerator where they had been kept ever since.

As an experiment Lucien Atherton of San Diego once kept a bloom of 'Fimbriata' sealed in a fruit jar for an entire season.

However, that is not the way I would advise you to use and enjoy your camellias. Grow quality camellias and then wear or display them to the best advantage. The blooms may not last as long, but the pleasure they give will last a long, long time. As I suggested earlier — the best way to enjoy the beauties of your camellias is to share them with others.

THE STORY OF 'CRUSSELLE'

Anyone who is at all interested in camellia seeds and has seen the picture of the spectacular seedling propagated by T. A. Crusselle of Atlanta, Georgia, should feel a new surge of encouragement. This new camellia which resembles the old 'Blood of China' represents the one-in-a-thousand chance that every seed planter hopes for.

'Crusselle' is eleven years old now and is blooming for its third year. It is a double, bright red, with flowers five inches across and with rabbit ears making the bloom from 2½ to three inches deep. Mr. Crusselle says "The plant grows upright with all the blooms looking at you." An added feature is its fragrancy, Mrs. Crusselle stating that the scent is like that of a

hyacinth. The parent plant is now six feet tall and Mr. Crusselle has made many grafts from it.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Crusselle's former hobby was African violets for which he had built a small greenhouse in his backyard. Later on he gave all of the violets away although they numbered more than 2,000, and turned exclusively to camellias. And built a larger greenhouse. He now has 70 or 80 varieties of camellias and about 2,000 plants. He considers it more satisfactory to grow camellias in glasshouses than outdoors. "Outdoor camellias are all right if you just want a pretty bush," he says. "But if you want blooms, you'd better grow them inside."

A WESTERNER VIEWS SOUTHERN CAMELLIAS

By ROSE MARIE DEKKER

It was our privilege, along with several other California couples, to attend the annual convention of the American Camellia Society in Macon, Georgia. However, our introduction to the gracious hospitality of the South came at Atlanta, Georgia where we were to attend our first southern Camellia Show.

Everyone welcomed us warmly and saw to it that we were entertained and driven about the city, to see the lovely homes and gardens. One of the first things we noticed was the glass houses where the *reticulatas* and other choice varieties of the collections were grown. Our hosts guided us through many beautifully landscaped gardens both large and small. We were especially impressed with the beauty of the estates set in gently rolling hills covered with pines, magnolias, and dogwood which provided shade for the random plantings of Camellias and Azaleas.

The Show was a beautiful display of gorgeous blooms, including 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' and many other fine varieties, grown under glass. We were amazed to see 'Woodville Reds' looking like big red balls.

A highlight of the Annual ACS Meeting was the dinner at which we saw our own Ralph Peer installed as President, and also witnessed the surprised delight of Mrs. Ross Hayes as she received the Illges Medal for her *C. japonica* 'Tomorrow.' This is truly an outstanding, rosy-red beauty.

Driving through the Georgia countryside was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. There was no traffic congestion and the fields were green and lovely with the slash pine. At Magnolia and Middleton Gardens near Charleston, South Carolina, it thrilled us to see many of the parent plants of varieties which we have known so long. The huge old trees and the landscaping were superb here. Our host showed us many private estates in this area where most of the Camellias were set out in the open, either under trees or in the sun. Their flowers were a wonderful picture.

I believe the most breathtaking

sight in one garden was the sheer beauty of the white Camellia 'Yuki Botan' which we know as 'Pride of Descanso.' We did not recognize it in its loveliness and had to take picture after picture of it. Every where were huge white and red flowers of 'Ville de Nantes' and 'Mathotiana.' The beautiful 'Lawrence Walker' variety and the lovely 'Duchess of Sutherland' and its sports were popular here too.

Judge Solomon welcomed us to Savannah. After driving us to several beautifully landscaped private estates he led us on a tour of his own extensive garden of nineteen acres, where we all had to run to keep up with him.

In Macon we were back among the glass houses but many more Camellias were grown outside here than in Atlanta. We were guided through some lovely old antebellum homes, one of which had a hanging circular staircase which wound up fifty feet from the hall to the cupola. The gardens continued to charm us with their landscaping and beautiful flowers. One garden had a running stream which turned the wheel in a mill house and ground corn meal while we watched. The flowers were Villes, Doncklariis, Mathotianas, R. L. Wheelers, Mrs. D. W. Davises and other less spectacular varieties like Dr. Tinsley. In the South they seem to prefer flowers with many stamens. It is a queer thing though, we never saw a real 'Lady Kay' anywhere. When 'Lady Kay' is grafted in the South it comes out a flat flower with heavy-textured petals. Even the foliage is different. In fact,

many varieties seem to have a different form in the South. Our own Camellia, 'California,' astounded us with its size and beauty everywhere we saw it.

In Alabama, we visited a nursery which, ten years ago, was just a flat bare piece of land. Now, due to the efforts of its owners, it is covered with tall pines between which are planted Camellias. When in bloom, a veritable Fairyland is created.

While in Mobile, we were again extended the hospitality which had been shown us all through our travels. As we were taken over the 35 mile Azalea Trail, its beauty was breathtaking. The flowers were at their height and made a crimson blaze along the parkways and in the gardens where they formed a beautiful setting for the lovely Southern homes.

We had not intended to go to Shreveport, but we had heard for so many years about the wonderful shows they put on that, having received a most cordial invitation, we decided to go and see for ourselves. We were allowed to be "observers" from early morning until lunch time and found their routine very efficient. It was indeed a well presented show with many beautiful flowers. It was here we were made acquainted with 'Simeon the 3rd' which won best flower of the show. The Men's Camellia Club, which sponsored the show, was lucky in having the beautiful State Exhibit Museum in which to present it. This circular building is doughnut-shaped and can have in it a continuous circle of tables with continuous aisles on both sides of the tables. It also houses, as a permanent exhibit behind glass, a cyclorama of all the industries and products of Louisiana.

As a special treat, we were welcomed into a very interesting and artistic modern home. This was a lovely

airy place on three levels. The living room and several other rooms could be thrown into one huge room. This had a running stream with trout in it. The glass wall and terrace overlooked a large garden planted in a semi-circle to Camellias and Azaleas.

After having seen many, many Camellias with which we were familiar, in countless gardens and in five shows, we came to the conclusion, that about 75% of the varieties performed better in the South than in Southern California. Perhaps this is due, in part to the ever present humidity.

In conclusion, we want to say that the gracious hospitality of the South is unsurpassed in our opinion. It gave us many opportunities to become acquainted with other Camellia enthusiasts and to renew friendships we had made in recent years. It was such a pleasure to get to know, and to talk to, other people who were interested in Camellias. We do hope we can go back some time and feast our eyes again on the lovely homes and gardens and flowers, and meet again the "Camellia Folk."

**From John T. Coolidge
1355 Brush Hill Rd.
Milton 86, Massachusetts**

I remember a few years ago the Camellia Review offered to publish the name of camellias being sought by its readers. If this practice is still to be continued, I would like to put out a dragnet for *C. Japonica* 'My Darling'. I saw one of these at the Macon Show a month back, but was unable to learn the name of the exhibitor. This is a small single, not at all in accord with the present fashion, but exquisitely shaped and colored.

We had practically forgotten this practice too but would be glad to resuscitate it if a demand exists. How about someone helping out Mr. Coolidge?

AND CAMELLIAS GO ON AND ON

There is apparently no end to the enthusiasm of camellia growers — and of course no end at all to the fascinating vagaries of camellias themselves. In spite of the intensive work with the camellia shows — the traveling to shows here and there and the cutting of blooms, the March meeting of the S C C S was as fresh and spontaneous as if the season were just beginning.

There were masses of specimen camellias for the monthly show — including a beautiful group of the lacy 'Cinderella.' Society members were obviously out in full force, all who lived within a hundred miles of the clubhouse — and visitors from as far away as Boulder, Colorado.

In his usual charming way, President Edwards Metcalf welcomed all and caused a burst of applause as he called Ralph Peer to the microphone, Mr. Peer being the newly elected President of the American Camellia Society. Mr. Peer, the first western head of the society, remarked that the world was beginning to recognize the fact that the west is the camellia center, responsible for the introduction of the *reticulata* and of different fine varieties which have made their way around the world.

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee Mr. Peer read off the following nominated directors who were presently unanimously elected: These were Eleanor Hayward, Paul Dennison, Caryll Pitkin, Mrs. Vern McCaskill, Edwards Metcalf and Merle Gish. Those remaining on the Board for another year are Ralph Peer, Edgar L. Sinnott and William Wylam.

William Cuzner, Program Chairman, turned over the evening's duties to Mr. Peer who said there was not much need of his making a formal introduction for David Feathers. He did note that Mr. Feathers is State Representative of the ACS, is an active member of the Northern California Camellia Society, Editor of the Northern California Camellia Bulletin and a serious hybridist.

Mr. Feathers prefaced his informal talk by giving some background information, describing himself as a sort of "hybrid" between the amateur

and professional in view of the fact he is devoting about half his time to camellias, in all phases. Having started some 15 years ago growing seedlings, he was first struck by the fact there was almost no recorded experience as a starting point for a plant breeding program. In fact, it was necessary to go back almost 100 years, to the days of C. M. Hovey, in order to find any sort of "key" to what might be expected from a deliberate attempt to create a certain type of camellia by systematic crossing. Hovey had been able to produce, after two attempts and fifteen years' effort, more or less what he sought — a good formal red camellia — in fact, he got two formals, a solid red which he named for himself and a variegated formal, named 'Mrs. Annie Marie Hovey' in honor of his wife.

With this to go on and the idea of creating a formal blush pink, about 1946 Mr. Feathers crossed the semi-double white *japonica* 'Waterloo', with pollen of 'Debutante' from which, in due course, he obtained four seedlings: (1) a small single white, having excellent growth habits and the ability to set seed readily; (2) a semi-double white, wavy petaled but with sprawling growth; (3) a large, flat, semi-double white with good possibilities which, having first bloomed on the day his grandson was born naturally had to have the same christening, 'David Stuart'; and (4) an unusual 86-petaled white, whose early blooms showed a bud center, while late, warm-season flowers opened with a few stamens, assuming height in 6

tiers of petals and slightly larger size. This latter seedling was named 'Julia Stafford' in memory of Mr. Feathers' mother and is now in commercial distribution. Having failed to get any pinks in the first generation, Mr. Feathers has since crossed back some of the seed-bearing types, and confidently expects his blush pinks in this new series (second generation).

In principle, Mr. Feathers expressed the view that greater opportunity lay in improvement of existing varieties than in creating new forms and colors, which would seem to depend more on the crossing of species, in his judgment. The principle of line-breeding, or the pedigree idea, was suggested as being as applicable to camellias as in other areas, where it has long since been accepted, and the thought was advanced that haphazard or promiscuous production of seedlings might more often than not result in "downgrading" through the introduction of undesirable characteristics into good types.

In his hybridizing work, Mr. Feathers has been greatly impressed with the good qualities contributed by the species *C. saluenensis*, which evidently imparts much vigor and new color shades, if one may judge from those examples depicted in the color slides shown and commented upon. The very excellent results already achieved, as represented by the hybrids 'Donation' and 'Margaret Waterhouse', for example, were cited as justification for hopeful expectation for the future, although it was pointed out that the result of crossing species (hybrids) is more unpredictable than crossing varieties within a single species, because of less compatibility and wider variation in characteristics.

Also pictured and discussed was a *japonica* bloom, of unknown parentage, which was very definitely yellow in pigmentation — not from stamen reflection, which this particular flow-

er lacked, the center being composed entirely of tubular petals. While not offered as an end result, Mr. Feathers did express the hope this might be a starting point in the creation of entirely new camellia colors. In addition, though not pictured, a definitely fragrant camellia seedling (from 'Arabella') was described as offering considerable hope in that direction.

After the intermission for refreshments, the audience had still another treat in store — the talk and slides of Sir Giles Loder. Sir Giles and Lady Loder had been guests of Mr. and Mrs. Peer on this first visit to America and had been shown many parts of the west. Sir Giles is a member of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society of England and has grown up in horticultural circles — his grandfather having been a noted hybridist of rhododendrons.

Sir Giles began his informal talk by averring that what they had seen of the west had been a wonderful revelation. In comparing the situation with that of England he said that with their rainfall of from 28 to 30 inches a year, over all the seasons, they did not have to do much watering and they did not have nearly as much trouble growing plants there because of the naturally acid soil. Even the quite cold weather did not deter their camellias, he said, as during that time the camellias simply seemed to remain dormant only to burst forth when mild spring weather appeared. Their big camellia show is usually staged about the middle of April.

He noted that many camellias were grown especially on the south and west coasts of England, mostly from cuttings, very little seedling propagation being done.

The pictures which had been shown of Mr. Feathers' work with camellias had been outstanding. In an entirely different way, the pictures of Sir Giles' home and grounds and plant-

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NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

Pomona Valley

Next Year

The Board of Directors of the Pomona Valley Camellia Society have voted to have their 1958 Camellia Show on February 22nd and 23rd.

Spring Meeting

Speaker of the evening at the last meeting of the Society was Edwards Metcalf who talked on the south and its camellias. His talk was illustrated with slides and as one member reported — “made us feel that we wanted to start right out for the South.”

The Show

The annual show of the society was a gala event and attracted a large crowd. Chairman was Mack Dinwiddie. Merle Gish took sweepstakes while his ‘C. M. Wilson’ was judged the best in show.

Potomac Valley

The Show

The underglass show was a considerable success and the ‘Yuki-Botan’ of Mr. Allison J. Parsons of Norfolk, Virginia was judged best in show. Other top winners were Charles Holden with his *reticulata* ‘Crimson Robe,’ and the collection of five *japonicas* by Mr. Lewis Knock. Sweepstakes were won by Lewis Knock while Mr. Parsons was runner-up.

New Officers

Taking office April 13, the following are the new officers elected by unanimous vote: President, Mr. Edward P. Carter; 1st Vice President, Dr. Allan Walker; 2nd Vice President, Mr. William Domer; Treasurer, Mr. Leon Habecker; Recording Secretary, Mr. T. Jack Sanders; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Edward P. Carter; Directors at large, Mr. Lewis Knock and Mr. Milton H. Brown.

Temple City

The Show

With 256 varieties of *japonicas*, 8 varieties of miniatures and 12 varieties of *reticulatas*, Temple City had its own individual camellia Show which was attended by over 1500 camellia enthusiasts. Merle Gish carried off sweepstakes while well merited prize winners ranged from the ‘Crimson Robe’ that could fill a fruit bowl to the McCaskill’s tiny ‘Fircone’ which was concentrated loveliness.

Dinner Meeting

The society will hold a dinner meeting on Monday, April 22nd at the San Gabriel Masonic Temple, 264 S. Mission Drive in San Gabriel. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. For reservations call Mae Franklin, ATlantic 7-3326 or Mrs. A. L. Krueger, ATlantic 2-1873. Speaker for the evening will be Dr. E. C. Hubbs who will talk on his recent trip through the south and show slides.

Orange County

Sweepstakes for the Orange County Show were won by Dr. E. C. Hubbs with Dr. Reuben Tellam as Runner-up and Merle Gish placing third.

(Continued on Page 23)

CAMELLIA 'DAWN'

By RONNIE CARR

Camellia 'Dawn' is without a doubt one of the truly regal "Queens" of the camellia gardens. Indubitably different enough in flower to be placed among the top novelty camellias of today. But 'Dawn' is not only a novelty and distinctively different, it is a flower of rare simplicity and originality. Blush pink in bud it opens into a medium size semi-double white with golden stamens. Each flower petal is long and narrow with often times center petals having a "radiant ripple" appearance. A fast and strong grower 'Dawn' offers decorative foliage and is a choice type plant to espalier. It flowers in early November and continues through the season until February. This long range of blooming is only one of the many fine features 'Dawn' has to offer. As a rule 'Dawn' will have a heavy bud set and the flowers are rarely damaged by frost or heat. A vigorous and upright grower, 'Dawn' can be grown in any location of the yard. Even areas of severe sun show little strain on 'Dawn'. Although enjoyed primarily for mass of blossoms on the plant, 'Dawn' can be cut for floral arrangements. However, this method is not always successful as the flowers will often times shatter if not freshly picked.

'Dawn' in the past has been sold as 'Gin-Ryu' or 'Gin-Ryo' and considered to be a variety of *sasanqua*, which it does resemble slightly in foliage. Then years ago Dr. Maurice Amsler of England reported that 'Dawn' was a *japonica* x *sasanqua* hybrid, but this theory did not last long. According to the latest nomenclature report, 'Dawn' has been placed with 'Hiryu'; a semi-double, medium size red, and listed as species *vernalis*. 'Dawn' has a chromosome count of $2N = 30$ which should prove that it is not a *sasanqua* as the chromosome count of a *sasanqua* is $2N = 90$. 'Dawn', now listed as species *vernalis*, is a native of Japan. Some people are of the opinion that 'Dawn' is closely related to a group now known as *C. hiemalis*, the winter flowering *sasanquas*, which in-

clude 'Shishi-Gashira', 'Showa-no-Sakae' and several others. However, it should be said that the chromosome count of the *C. hiemalis* is $2N = 60$ and *C. vernalis* 'Dawn' is $2N = 30$. So there you are. I have often wondered just how accurate the method used to determine the chromosome count of a camellia is. On occasion there have been times where various crosses occurred by controlled hybridizing, that according to the chromosome count, the parents were not compatible. 'Dawn' rarely will set seed and to my knowledge only one person has been blessed in obtaining a living seedling. Although this seedling is small it shows typical 'Dawn' foliage and habit of growth. I have been extremely fortunate in being able to obtain fertile pollen of 'Dawn' and crossing it successfully with *C. Oleifera*. The results, 'Semi-Ramis', a small flower, blush pink in bud opening into a single white with golden stamens. This season resulted in several blossoms with only one being of any size or quality. The foliage is identical to 'Dawn' even to the point of showing slight variegation. 'Semi-Ramis' is a strong upright grower with a hairy bark similar to *C. Oleifera*. I am hoping this hybrid will set seed. By back crossing to 'Hiryu', also a member of the *vernalis* family, the second generation results could possibly produce something of desirable quality. It is a shame 'Dawn' will not set seed in abundance because if it would I'm sure hybridists would use it more in their work.

It is understandable that 'Dawn' was at one time thought to be a *sasanqua* when sold under the name of 'Gin-Ryu' or 'Gin-Ryo'. For in those days anything with a Japanese name, small narrow foliage and early flowers was thought to be so different from the *japonica* varieties that it could only be a *sasanqua*. Actually 'Dawn' is far superior to most *sasanqua* varieties. It has a more attractive foliage and will tolerate an equal amount of sun exposure. Also it has the same virtues as the *sasanqua* in early blossoms and producing them in great quantity. 'Dawn' flowers are more striking on the plant than *sasanquas* and offer a longer blooming period. While most *sasanqua* varieties are susceptible to frost damage to buds, 'Dawn' shines above this undesirable trait and comes through without a blemish. But to be perfectly honest I must admit that these two supposedly different species have a great deal in common. Similar foliage; both early; each offering profusion of bloom and both have flowers that will shatter easily with age. I would say that they have more in relationship to each other than any two different species I know of today. Every camellia collection should consist of some *sasanqua* varieties and a large plant of 'Dawn'. They both go well together.

It is always a mystery to me why a camellia like 'Dawn' is not more popular. Certainly this splendid camellia is not rare and yet I doubt very much if you could find a specimen plant of it for sale in any nursery in the State. You would be indeed lucky if you could find a 5-gallon plant. Yet 'Dawn' has been available in most nurseries for many years but never properly promoted by any one. Those of you that own a plant of 'Dawn' know the constant pleasure you have derived from it.

THE SEASON ENDS

The last meeting of the 1956-57 season of the S C C S promises to be of utmost interest and importance, a fitting finale to a succession of wonderful programs.

"The Soil Management Aspects of Camellia Culture" is the subject chosen by Dr. O. R. Lunt who will be the speaker of the evening. Dr. Lunt is of the Department of Irrigation and Soils at the University of California in Los Angeles and while he will give the Society the benefit of his considerable research in this field, the talk will be angled to practical ideas amateur camellia growers can apply in order to grow better camellias.

Slides will be used to further clarify the scientist's talk.

At this last meeting too, winners of points for best camellias brought to the monthly show during the year will be announced, and trophies and ribbons awarded.

This will certainly be a meeting you can't afford to miss. Remember the date, April 9th. And the place, San Marino Women's Club House on Huntington Drive in San Marino. See you there?

Camellias Lose A Friend

The Review sadly records the sudden passing of Charles F. Holden of Alexandria, Virginia. Mr. Holden was one of the founders of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley and it was through his efforts, after some correspondence with the Review's Editor, that the new society became an affiliate of S C C S. His loss is, and will continue to be, felt keenly in his wide circle of camellia associates.

Camellia MAIL BAG

**From Sir Giles Loder, Bt.,
Leonardslee, Horsham
Sussex, England**

Before leaving California my wife and I would like to thank all those people who have so kindly entertained us out here on our short visit to see camellias; particularly our wonderful hosts and guides, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Peer.

The shows, gardens, and nurseries we have been able to visit have been most instructive to us and a revelation of the spirit and hard work of the camellia enthusiasts who have overcome the hard climate and soil conditions in an almost marvelous way.

In return, the camellia plants give all you fortunates in Southern California a much longer flowering season than in colder climates like England. I only hope some of you will be able to visit Europe and see the camellias there. Their blooming season is conveniently arranged so you can enjoy your plants at their best and still be in time to come over and see our shorter season in April and May when incidentally, the English countryside is at its best.

We ourselves live only forty miles south of London and would be only too pleased to welcome and show around any camellia enthusiasts.

From Pensacola, Florida

Dear Liz:

It takes a little explaining to clear up why your ex-kindergartener is writing from this remote point so I will have to go back quite a bit. As you know, I took your advice and procured six very fine camellias, among them were the b, m and s which have reasonable sized blooms and J, P and Y which are in the 5-inch bloom class.

After carrying out everybody's instructions about how to raise better camellias I thought I was successful

enough to enter the Shows. Being an eager beaver I decided to do this the hard way, i.e., try to win ribbons with small camellias. In looking around for the best place to start, it was easy to find the ideal conditions.

In Temple City they insist on small floats in their Festival and these must be made only by children and everything is on a reasonable scale. When it came to the show I noted that the Prexy of the Camellia Society was Al Krueger, the well-known miniature fan, and their program gave the front cover to the dainty Billie McCaskill while those big bullies Guilio and Frosty were consigned to the classified ad section. Also, there was the rumor that Chief Justice Wylam would appear in his usual role wearing a Tinsie (D.S.) on his judicial robe and that this would assure dispensing of simple justice to the little people.

I read everything available, even your recently translated Latin writings on "How to Make Camellias Grow and Influence Judges" and was ready to act accordingly.

One treatment that I could have given to my flowers was ruled out because I could find no frankincense and myrrh at the local drug store. If possible, it seemed best to put the new All-County Sinder-L with my entry in the Best of Three Varieties. In retrospect, it appears that it was a grave technical blunder not to have entered a cardboard bloom which are so profuse on these bushes. After discovering that the SCCS Head Man had entered what seemed to be a Herme in the Sinder-L space, I conceived the obvious idea of fringing a Herme. I dashed home but couldn't find any pinking shears. This may be a good scheme for the future because judges will have quit looking at PICTURES of Sinder-L and wouldn't recognize a clever counterfeit.

Last Saturday morning we got up at the crack of dawn and gave our blooms the very careful handling to

which they are accustomed and had them placed on the tables in good time. Since all factors were so favorable we gaily left the First Western Bank for breakfast. We obtained a table where we could watch the parade. Everything to date seemed rosy (or rather camellia).

The first jolt came when we looked at the head of the parade where, instead of the usual Boy Scout as Grand Marshal in an open car waving to his loyal subjects, this parade was headed by Coolidge Gardens' big truck covered with Masterpiece, Guest of Honor, Sunset Glory and a few other camellias which looked like over-fed dahlias. You guessed it! Harvey Short was at the wheel and next to him was Onetia Holland, the well-known lover of the terrificos in camellias.

I had hardly recovered from spilling hot coffee on my trousers when I noticed some of our fellow breakfasters just leaving. Who were they? Captain Woodroof, the High Priest of Colossal Camellias and his consecrated commandos marching resolutely on the First Western Building. I knew that in spite of the fight talks, our disciples of the Krueger-Wylam school would wilt before what appeared to be the defensive line of the L.A. Rams. This, of course, was the final blow and I took off for the International Airport and hooked a ride on the first plane out. Here I am.

I had hoped to find the answers down here but everything has been against me. I would have known better had I read that chapter on Pensacola in the 1956 Yearbook. They believe here that Elizabeth LeBey is a miniature.

When I started West in the direction of Bellingrath even the lowly azaleas were practically in the 4 inch bloom class before I could get halfway to Mobile. The man at the filling station told me that the camellias really grew big over thataway. I gave up.

I had heard great things about Thomasville and the Macon vicinity and started in that general direction. This trip was scrubbed due to an impassable road block in Montezuma Street, Dothan where traffic was jammed with the Mark Cannons' 7½ inch 'Tomorrow.'

The hope of finding something worthwhile in the D. W. Davis part of Florida was out because no one here has ever heard of Seffner.

Now comes the purpose of this letter. I need advice badly. This week of a steady diet on grits has not cleared up my mind and you must help me. What do you think? Which alternative should I take:

- a. Join 'em
- b. Go miniature

Now if (a) is best I will corral scions locally from the Beau Harp, Wheeler, "Supreme," Davis, etc., and especially Mrs. Hayes' Manana flower which has intrigued judges all over the South during the current season. If we take this rather cowardly course will you please phone the Glendale Mountaineer to see if I could get a few tubs of Hubbs' cuttings.

If we stick to our guns and our principles as in (b) the first obvious action is to make friends with the McCaskills and Kruegers and to open negotiations with a well-known horticulturist at Huntington Gardens to let me help him as he scientifically prunes his miniatures. One other angle that you may not know about has to do with the secret passion of a well-known Foothill grower who commercially specializes in Retics and large Japonicas but the place of honor in his yard is held by two, not just one, Hishi's.

Recent returnees from Lower Slobovia tell us that they use X13 hormones for obtaining quintessence of color, substance, texture, harmony, etc., of their camellias and they guarantee decreasing bloom size. We can investigate this.

In addition to giving your best advice, let me know the results at Descanso tomorrow, especially if the Woodroof Wolves have frightened the dainties out of the Gardens. Let us hope that Rose Gish can keep their evil influence out of the Floral Arrangements next weekend. Descanso may have to be another Alamo.

Sincerely yours,
s/s Frank Reed

P.S. Just received a card from Kathleen stating that we got a third on Best Three Different Varieties (J, P and Y) and a Special Award in the Best Three of a Variety with our J's in the Temple City Show. (Maybe there is a little merit in the Woodroof dictum that a "Good Big . . . etc.").

We got second on "s" but the grand news was the blue ribbon on "b". These factors confuse the issue but I believe the decision still has to be made.

F.R.

Editor's Note: The key to the author's code is as follows:

- b. Billie McCaskill
- m. Magnoliaeflora
- s. Spring Sonnet
- J. Julia's Favorite
- P. Pink Clouds
- Y. Joshua Youtz

E.B.

Office Boy's (from *Temple City*) comment: The March SCCS meeting program was wonderful, but the great thrill came when Sir Giles Loder of the Royal Horticultural Society selected a Billie McCaskill and personally placed it in the winner's circle before either of his American judging colleagues could lift one giant from the Noble Pearl — R. L. Wheeler — Onetia Holland galaxy. Who said that the British were slow? Billie was charming among those types which had petal acreage varying from twice to ten times as great.

We hope that this award stands against the opposition's protest that

Spring Flower Festival at Descanso Gardens

Another floral treat is in prospect for garden lovers from Saturday, April 6 to Sunday, April 14, when Los Angeles County's Descanso Gardens in La Canada will stage its Azalea and Spring Flower Festival.

The Festival will feature such Spring flowers as 10,000 Azaleas, Rhododendron, Dogwood, late Camellias, Anemones, Ranunculus, Tulips and Roses.

Horticultural societies from throughout Southern California will maintain special exhibits during the Festival. Their displays will feature the particular flowers around which their organizations are formed.

Garden tours will be conducted hourly throughout the Festival. Cut flowers of the season will appear in artistic flower arrangements in the hospitality house and the lounge building.

At 2:30 P.M. daily during the Festival, special talks will be given by such garden experts as: Norvell Gillispie, Joe Littlefield, David Gilfillan, Dr. R. E. Atkinson, Glenn Hyatt, Les Marshall, Mark Anthony and John Threlkeld.

In the hospitality house, three of the Southland's leading artists will continue their exhibits. They are: Ralph Holmes, E. Roscoe Shrader, and Frederick Monhoff.

Descanso Gardens hours are 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. daily. The location is 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

the exhibitor is not an amateur and accuse him of being a paid press agent for the "Cover Girl" camellia.

Since we have learned the tactics of the Camellia Cossacks, we'll be prepared at the T.C. Show next year right down to the last Cub Scout and Blue Bird.

B.S.A.

To The Ladies!

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

Again I make the statement, "Climate makes the difference." It is getting to sound like a floral cliché but I have watched the weather with a thermometer and a rain gauge and noted its effect on my camellias.

After two disastrous seasons for the *camellia japonicas*, I have come to the conclusion that Southern California is not an ideal place to grow this fascinating and popular flower.

First we had ten terrible scorching 127° in the shade for nearly a month in September. After that we had a protracted dry spell throughout November, December and January and no rain to speak of. Severely burned leaves dropped buds by the hundreds. We are in a semi-arid country. You can always change the soil, you can turn on the water, but it is exceedingly hard to change the atmosphere.

To be honest, we must say our camellia *japonicas* have really suffered. Secondly, they are very temperamental as compared with several of the other camellia species being grown here in our area. *C. sasanqua* came through with the most satisfactory flying colors. *C. sasanqua* 'September Song' took 127° on a Southwest corner. 'J. C. Williams' stood up valiantly; no leaves burned, no buds dropped, and 'Donation,' the one I left a hole for last spring, justified my faith for it, has grown like a weed. I am leaving another hole for an A-1 camellia.

If you have observed carefully you know your temperamental ones pretty thoroughly by now. I checked with Julius Nuccio as I always do to be sure I do not make mistakes. Some of my temperamental plants I got rid of; didn't give them away but burned them up. One of these was 'Fred

Sander.' I bought it because it was of the fringed type so much desired. First it ran a rank growth which bore plain-edged petaled flowers. The fringed-petal section sulked and refused to respond to my most sollicitare. In its place I put old 'Ville de Nantes' and it had more beautiful blossoms than any other one I had. I have no desire to own the coveted 'Cinderella' for I suspect she may prove temperamental. 'Joshua Youtz' is temperamental, 'Prima Vera' is not, so I am changing their locations in the garden. Some of the prize-winning new hybrids with large blossoms suffered severely and will have to be moved to the best positions I can find for them until I can give them a fair trial.

Fine misty foggers are going to be a great help to the *camellia japonica* and I am ready with them for next season, although too late for this. There is only one hitch here. Water is getting to be the most precious and expensive item in caring for our camellias and if we do not have an oak grove to grow them in, as they have at the Descanso Gardens, we are not

lucky.

We have been very touchy about cutting our camellias but, on good advice, I am throwing aside old traditions and top-pruning my container-grown camellias now severely to get strong, new growth. I plan from now on to use all wooden containers, preferably redwood. They keep the roots cooler and moreover are easily moved about from sun to shade when necessary.

I have decided to make my own mulches, using a half and half mixture of pine needles and oak leaves and I am going to be more careful about my feeding. Recently I received a letter from Dr. D'Han, a famous soil specialist of Allahabad, India, who writes me this after experiments in his area for over twenty-one years: "I think that you would be more successful in your semi-arid Southwest with high pHs if you went completely organic, manufacturing your own nitrogen by the use of calcium phosphate in your sheet compostings, and composting. This calcium phosphate is the finely ground phosphate rock or the fine powdered type which has not been treated with any chemicals whatever. You will find that this practice will precipitate nitrogen from the air after the process we call photosynthesis. It increases and makes the humic contents of the composts more effective in supplying the necessary

trace minerals much needed in our soils everywhere, and encourages the bacterial growth."

I have already tried this method of fertilizing my roses, and my fruit trees, and think it would not do any harm to give camellias the same treatment. I am keeping my fingers crossed to see what our soil experts say at our next meeting. I feel sure we could profit by more than a 2% nitrate nitrogen. Nitrogen you know is our most expensive fertilizer.

Any Old March Reviews Around?

Owing to an unfortunate chain of circumstances, the S C C S Secretary finds himself without a single copy of the March 1957 Review. If any reader has a duplicate of this issue or has finished with his copy, the Secretary would appreciate receiving it. Mail to him at 40 North San Rafael, Pasadena, California. It will be much appreciated.

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There is more fun in gardening—better results, too, when you can control the soil, shade and water conditions. Doubling in duty and decoration.

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Camelliana

New Handbook

What John L. Koehne, Jr. (Editor of the Newsletter) calls the "latest edition of the Handbook for Camellias in the Potomac Valley" is a very worthwhile brochure brought out by the Potomac Society. Its 25 mimeographed pages are filled with information, all of much interest to camellia growers, and include recommendations on buying camellias, planting camellias outdoors, also growing camellias indoors. Other articles take up the subject of fertilization, the care of container-grown camellias, cold resistance and a recommended list of *japonicas* for outdoor culture.

A bibliography of camellia literature will prove of service to many and black and white photographs picture the different camellia forms.

Although most all of the information is slanted to the Potomac Valley Area the brochure will be found to contain valuable data for camellia-philis everywhere.

Copies of this fine effort of the Society were given free to visitors to the society shows. Now it may be obtained for the sum of 35 cents by sending to John L. Koehne, Jr., RR #3, Box 277, McLean, Va.

NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES from Page 5

The best *japonica* was an 'R. L. Wheeler' exhibited by Dr. Tellam. Mr. and Mrs. Reg Ragland's 'Crimson Robe' was judged the best *reticulata*, 'Onetia Holland' took top honors in the seedling class and Mrs. Perry Grout's flower arrangement was judged best in show.

Harvey Short carried off first for best professional *japonica* ('Nagasaki Special') and *reticulata* ('Capt. Rawes') while Les Marshall had the best professional display. The best amateur courtesy display was won by Mr. and Mrs. Ragland.



The line and candle arrangement winning sweepstakes for the Camellia Arrangements Show is shown with the silver trophy it won and the radiant Marjorie Senesac of Temple City who entered the arrangement.

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.

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

"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.

"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, Kinds and Culture," by H. Harold Hume. \$6.00.

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

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

Rare Species and Hybrids issue of the Camellia Review. 75¢ postpaid.

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

"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.

"Camellia Varieties in Japan," edited by Eikichi Satomi, 40¢.

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

The Experts Make Out A List

At the American Camellia Society meeting, a panel consisting of Mr. T. A. Bowdoin, Columbia, South Carolina; Mr. D. W. Davis, Seffner, Florida; Mr. Dave Feathers, Lafayette, California; Mr. D. L. Gill, Tifton, Georgia; Mr. Carl Good, Atlanta, Georgia; Dr. J. M. Habel, Jr., Suffolk, Virginia; Mr. Fred Heutte, Norfolk, Virginia; Mr. Robert Holmes, Mount Olive, North Carolina; Mr. J. S. Howard, Salemburg, North Carolina; Mrs. Sigmund Katz; Mr. Ralph S. Peer, Los Angeles, California; and Mr. Dave Strothers, Fort Valley, Georgia, with Mr. S. L. Marbury as moderator, selected a list of the ten best varieties for a beginner to buy, in the order of the number of votes received, as follows:

1. *Donckelarii*
2. *Ville de Nantes*
3. *Daikagura*
4. *Lady Clare*
5. *C. M. Wilson*
6. *Elegans*
7. *Donation*
8. *Magnoliaeflora*
9. *White Empress*
10. *Debutante*

The same panel also selected a list of five of the best new varieties in the past three years as follows:

1. Mrs. D. W. Davis
2. Reg Ragland
3. Billie McCaskill
4. Guest of Honor
5. Tomorrow.

Reprinted from the Oregon Camellia Society Bulletin for March, 1957.

Errata

Page 3, February 1957 issue, fourth line from bottom: "C. japonica 'Carter's Cardinal'," should read, "C. japonica 'Carter's Carnival'."

NEW PRODUCT ANNOUNCED FOR CONTROL OF CAMELLIA BLIGHT

A new chemical has recently appeared on the market which is attaining success in the control of Camellia blight. This chemical called Terraclor whose official name is *pentachloronitrobenzene*, is manufactured by the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation, 10 Light St., Baltimore 3, Maryland.

This chemical functions as a fungicide, a herbicide and an insecticide. As to its use for camellia blight, the following is quoted from a letter received from Mr. F. R. Johnson of the Industrial Chemicals Division of the Mathieson Corporation, located at San Mateo, California. Mr. Johnson states, in part, quote:

“Experimental testing with the use of Terraclor as a control of Camellia blight was carried out in North Carolina. In these experiments, Terraclor was most effective in controlling camellia blight when used as a soil treatment. As you know, this disease is caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia camelliae* and is soilborne. By timely applications made to the soil surface or leaf litter beneath the bushes, camellia blight may be greatly reduced if not entirely eliminated. Our recommendation would be to use 2½ pounds of 20% Terraclor Dust per 100 square feet of area. Normally, this application should be made during the early winter as determined in our Wilmington, North Carolina test.

“I am sorry to report that we have not tested Terraclor in California for the use of camellia blight. Although our weather conditions are somewhat different than those in North Carolina, we believe that Terraclor would be equally effective here when used properly. We have been able to control the *Sclerotinia* diseases of lettuce, beans and several other vegetable crops grown in California by using Terraclor in soil surface applications.”

Mr. Johnson gives such an excellent description of the exact nature of Camellia blight that it seems worth-

while to print it for the benefit of many Review readers. Quote:

“Flower blight—

Sclerotinia camelliae

“Flower infection by this organism may occur soon after the tips of the petals are visible in the opening bud or at any time following. Small, irregular brownish specks appear on the petals of the flowers and may be few to many in number. Under conditions favorable for the development of this disease, the small specks enlarge rapidly and unite to form large spots which soon involve the entire petal. The entire flower eventually becomes completely dull brown and drops from the plant. If infection begins near the base of the petals, the center of the flower may be killed while the tips of the petals maintain normal form and color. Disintegration of tissues may occur slowly after the flowers have dropped to the ground. If flowers rest on wet earth, shiny black streaks or spore masses are produced on the petals, thus giving the flowers the appearance of being infected with a wet rot. The disease eventually forms hard dark-brown to black sclerotia.

“Control Recommendations

“Apply ½ pound active Terraclor per 100 square feet to the surface of the soil or leaf litter beneath the bushes. Application should be made during early winter. Any of the dry Terraclor formulations can be used.”
End quote.

AND CAMELIAS from Page 14

ings seemed of a different world. Beginning with a view of his ancestral home, a stately mansion situated on a height overlooking broad sweeps of lawn and flowers, the pictures narrowed to views of masses of fine varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas in mouth-watering colors. Camellias were definitely a part of the landscape, in fact in such size and quantity that the members of the audience could not help but gasp at times. For instance, for those who were proudly growing one or two 'Capt. Rawes', the sight of what amounted to a wall of 'Capt. Rawes' simply could not be looked at without some outward sign of amazement. One beautiful mass of camellia blooms measuring twenty or thirty feet across and as much in height was a 'Tri Color' and a closeup of a small area showed blooms of all three colors flowering on the plant at the same time. This was a very old

bush, or rather collection of bushes. In fact, Sir Giles said that a picture of this had appeared in the Gardeners' Chronicle in 1890.

The wonderful views ended with a spectacular one showing part of the gardens under a blanket of deep snow.

With it all, the profusion of blooms brought by members had been judged and the following awards announced: Over 4 inches: 1st, Merle Gish with 'Adolphe Audusson, var.'; 2nd, Harry Novick for his 'Melody Lane'; and 3rd, an 'R. L. Wheeler' whose grower's name is unknown at this time. In the Under 4 inches Class, Caryll Pitkin carried off 1st with his 'Rose Queen', Col. Reed's 'Billie McCaskill' was 2nd and the 'J. J. Pringle Smith, Var.' of Harold Dryden took 3rd. In the Novice Class, 1st was the 'Onetia Holland' of J. A. Holland, and Martin Johnson carried off 2nd and 3rd respectively with his 'Mrs. Howard Asper' and a 'Meredith Lake.'

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OUR CAMELLIA AUTHORS

Rose Marie Dekker is really Mrs. Al Dekker and she and her husband took the southern trip primarily because they were accredited judges at various southern shows. Their own camellia garden in Glendale, California is highly rated.

William Wylam oversees the Southern California Camellia Garden which is a part of the Huntington Botanical Gardens at San Marino. Camellias have been his steady interest for many years.

TAKE NOTE!

The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia is now open to the public seven days a week. There is no admission charge.

On week days the grounds are open from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

The gatehouse and information center is located at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue.

REVIEWER *from Page 2*

as the 'Crimson Robe' of Louis Strohmer that was the sun, moon and stars all rolled into one — or Ernie Pieri's 'Noble Pearl' than which no one could have been nobler. Beautiful trophies of silver and gold (dirilite) were given for the top winners at the Temple City Society meeting a few days later.

The Color Question

It is our opinion (though nobody asked it) that we take the color of camellias too much for granted. This subject of color intrigues us greatly but as yet we have not been successful in persuading any camelliophile to

write about it for the Review. This is your opportunity — if you have any ideas on the subject we'll gladly accept them.

It seems to us that camellia growers care less about what color their seedlings develop than any other horticulturist (with the exception perhaps of Bill Woodroof who always demands a big red flower). The wholesale florists aver that people buy color rather than the type of flower itself. And they also say that the quiet, pastel shades are most popular in settled areas like Chicago and New York. In the southwestern barren areas, people want vivid colors regardless of the variety of flower, while inhabitants of Washington, D.C. lean to the patriotic colors of red, white and blue so flowers of these colors are always in demand. But if there is a snowstorm in the east, they say "you can't give a white flower away."

As for camellias, it seems that form, size and suitability for a chosen location are more demanded than color. And then again, most camellia people are just such downright lovers of camellias they admire them regardless of their color.

The Time Has Come Again

When camellia blooms are slowly fading away till another season and when we, too, disappear from the printed page until the July issue of the Review. However, like the camellias we shall undergo some pruning (of errors), some fertilizing (of ideas), and some reshaping here and there. We hope then to bring forth a new, thrilling bloom to the little magazine. We're really going to think and think about it. In fact, we are going to "double-think" and in the meanwhile we'll hope all our friends will be waiting

says

Liz

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