THE Camellia REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

'El Dorado'
Courtesy Redwood Empire Camellias

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One Dollar

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.

Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues: $6.00.

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THE COVER FLOWER

'El Dorado', this month's cover flower, is a Howard Asper seedling that is being introduced by Al and Vera Parker's Redwood Empire Camellias in Sebastopol, California. It is a hybrid, a cross of pitardii X Japonica 'Tiffany'. The flower is large, rose form to peony, clear medium pink in color. It blooms mid-season on a medium growing, compact plant. People who have been fortunate enough to see the Asper seedlings as they have developed at the Asper nursery in Escondido, California saw this one under the name 'Hazel Asper'. Mrs. Asper has apparently exercised woman's privilege in deciding she did not want her name used with a camellia.

THOUGHTS *from the editor*

A few days ago Caryll Pitkin raised the question "When is a seedling from reticulata female parentage a reticulata and when is it a hybrid"? He was not thinking, of course, of seedlings where pollination has been controlled. The answer there is obvious: it is one or the other according to the male pollen that has been used. The question has significance, however, because of the increasing number of reticulata seeds from chance pollinations and the certainty that these seeds will produce some seedlings of merit.

We have two new groups of such seedlings. Frank Maitland of San Fernando, California has been growing for several years under the watchful eyes of several Southern California camellia enthusiasts some beautiful seedlings from reticulata seed parentage. The seed-producing plants were among his other camellias and it would have taken a very perceiving bee to be selective in its search for pollen. Frank has now acceeded to the many requests that he market the seedlings, and he is doing so this year by selling scions through DeFrance's Nursery in Encinitas, California. He has entered some of the blooms in camellia shows in this area as reticulata seedlings. In registering them, however, he is calling them Hybrids, chiefly, I understand, because of the manner in which they have reacted in grafts and because they graft readily in December and January, which reticulatas do not.

Jack Clark of Auckland, New Zealand similarly has a group of beautiful seedlings from reticulata seed parentage. I saw these seedlings blooming in his garden less than two months ago. They are receiving a generous distribution this year in New Zealand under his plan of giving away scions with the suggestion that donations to his Auckland garden project Eden Garden would be appreciated. Some of the scions have found their way to America. The parent seeds were all open pollinated, in the same manner as were Frank Maitland's. Jack Clark has registered his new varieties as reticulata.

Which of the two men has been correct? Who is to know? Hybrid camellias are relatively new to us. The 1958 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE, only ten years ago, listed 36 names of hybrids. The 1966 edition lists 131. The 1968 edition will list 140 and all but seven of these will indicate their interspecific parentage or that they are seedlings, sports or variegations of hybrids. No rules have been laid down and perhaps satisfactory ones might be difficult to develop and administer. Many people think, for example, that the "reticulatas" 'Buddha' and 'Confucius' are hybrids. For the present, it would appear that the person who does the naming will also do the classifying. We would hope that the subject might be resolved before it ends in confusion.

Harold E. Dyckes

BIG YEAR AHEAD FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETINGS

W. F. Goertz, President

Those first exciting japonica blooms which are beginning to show up herald the beginning of another camellia season. Your Camellia Society Board of Directors has scheduled what we believe will prove to be a very interesting program. Society activities officially begin on the evening of November 14th and close with the Awards Dinner next June.

Our Program Chairman Ernie Pieri has lined up a fine array of talent for our meetings. The November meeting will be a great opener with Harold Dryden telling us all about his recent trip to Australia and New Zealand where he met those wonderful camellia people, attended their shows and took many pictures, some of which he will show us.

On the second Tuesday of December, the 12th, we look forward to hearing Mr. Jolly Batcheller of California Poly discuss "Ornamental Horticulture With Camellias". Mr. Batcheller has visited many parts of the world and is an expert on horticulture and landscaping. He has a most interesting set of slides to show us.

Our January meeting will feature a discourse on the very interesting subject of hybrids and species by two of our own well known local hobbyists, Larry Shuey and Basil Neptune. These gentlemen have spent a great deal of time in work and research on this subject. Larry wrote extensively on the subject for our Camellia Review last season.

The February meeting will see the return of the very popular one-night Camellia Show where selected judges pick what they believe to be the best blooms and the audience votes for their favorites. This has been done in years past and has always turned out to be one of the season's highlights. This program will also feature a condensed panel discussion on preparation of blooms for camellia shows.

Our popular member and professional grower Merle Gish will discuss "New Varieties" and show pictures for our March program. All camellia hobbyists will look forward to this interesting program as Merle is always on top of the New Ones and grows many "first in California" varieties.

April wil be our wind-up month. We shall learn from Doug Thompson just what should be done to keep our camellia plants in excellent shape for prize-winning blooms in the 1968-1969 season with his discussion on "Summer Care of Camellias."

All of our meeting nights will again feature at intermission time, special educational exhibitions of phases of camellia culture. These demonstrations will be put on by experts in their particular fields. Caryll Pitkin will be Chairman of this activity.

Competition will be held as usual in our displays of blooms. The same rules as last year will be in effect. Carey Bliss will be in charge of bloom placement. Al Gunn will appoint judges, announce the winners and keep the point tally for season-end trophies.

Ruby and Warren Johnson will take care of refreshments. Mel Gum is in charge of plant procurement for the plant raffle and Fred Sinclair will endeavor to break all records in ticket sales for the drawings. For this year's plants the Society purchased understock and a number of member volunteers (all experts at grafting) grafted the very latest varieties last winter. Our plant raffles now will net the Society a better return.

Our congenial hostess, Amelia Bliss,

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OBSERVATIONS ON CAMELLIA RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM THROUGH JULY 1967

Dr. Clifford R. Parks

Formerly Geneticist, L.A. State and County Arboretum
Now Assistant Professor of Botany, University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

In 1959 an organization under the name Camellia Research Advisory Committee was formed to promote and conduct research in camellias, working with and through the facilities of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, California. Of immediate interest were three broad objectives, as follows: (1) To add yellow and hopefully blue to the basic camellia colors; (2) To seek camellias which have greater resistance to cold weather; (3) To develop fragrance in camellias.[2] Private donations were sought to pay for the personnel which would perform the work involved.

The writer was employed by the administrators of this project to work with Dr. A. E. Longley during the spring breeding season of 1962 and 1963, and he remained with it until its termination in July of 1967. During the early period this project was one-half supported by the funds of the Camellia Research Advisory Committee, but after July of 1964 it was effectively supported entirely by the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. Even in the latter period a number of contributions from private individuals facilitated the activities of this program.

Discontinuance of this project does not mean that the work of five years has been lost, because the significant hybrids that were developed in the program have either been placed or will be moved to North Carolina for further development and study. It is appropriate to report observations and tentative conclusions at the time of leaving the project.

Development of Cold-Resistant Camellias

Despite all the fanfare about the possibility of developing yellow, blue and fragrant camellias, the fact remains that low temperature presents the greatest impediment to more and wider cultivation. If we can extend or improve the range in which camellia cultivation is practical, then this will be a very real contribution. Considering the available evidence it seems that we have more possibility of developing more cold-resistant camellias than we have chance of breeding a yellow-flowered variety. Unlike breeding for color or fragrance, we do not know for several years if our hybrids are capable of withstanding severe cold. This information can only come from field observation of plants exposed to cold winters.

The assumptions and procedures we are following in this endeavor have been outlined in our progress reports in the 1964 to 1967 Yearbooks of the American Camellia Society. Basically, our program has been based on two assumptions. The first is that the capacity to withstand cold is to some degree genetically inherited (consider the consistent success of certain varieties). Secondly, we feel that the genes controlling cold-tolerance can be reshuffled in hybrids

1. This is a summary of articles that appear in the 1968 Yearbook of the American Camellia Society.
2. See CAMELLIA REVIEW, Vol. 23, No. 4, pages 22-24.

—such that a certain percentage of the hybrids will be more resistant to cold than either parent.

Hybrids between the cultivars of *Camellia japonica* can only be made in the late winter and early spring, and combinations between cold-resistant cultivars have been made each breeding season beginning in 1962 and through 1966. Combinations in the breeding season of 1962 and 1963 were primarily between the cultivars known to have a high general survival in colder areas; however, in some cases only the performance of one parent is known. In the 1964-1966 breeding seasons the combinations were between cultivars surviving in the field plantings at Longwood Gardens at Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. For the 1965 and 1966 seasons, two small grants were provided by Longwood Gardens for the purpose of making extensive pollinations between the cultivars found to be cold-tolerant in the Longwood trials. Cultivars found to be superior by other expert observers such as Mr. Wendell Levi of Sumter, South Carolina have been added to our list of desirable parent varieties. Since all *C. japonica* cultivars are hardy in Southern California, we have had to depend entirely on the observations made in the east. The degree of agreement between the Levi bud-hardiness tests and the Longwood plant-hardiness test is very encouraging.

Our primary objective must be to expand the range of camellia cultivation and to increase the number of varieties which are satisfactory in the present marginal areas of camellia cultivation. Since a number of collectors are observing flower resistance to cold for most varieties in the areas of heavy camellia cultivation in the deep southeast, it is not our purpose to screen floral characteristics for warmer climate cultivation; however, newly selected resistant cultivars can make the best yard varieties for all but the warmest areas of camellia culture. The required field screening must be designed to locate significantly more cold resistant cultivars.

With the help from Longwood Gardens, we have been able to breed thousands of hybrids for the purpose of developing more cold-resistant camellias. However, we can learn nothing of the cold-tolerance of these plants without exposing them to the rigors of a cold winter. With this great need for field testing in mind we set out to interest arboreta and experimental stations over the cooler portions of the rim of the "camellia belt" in testing our materials. Since the same camellia cultivar will react differently to cold weather at different places in different years, it was considered most important to represent our material at many different sites simultaneously. The response to our initial letter of inquiry was most encouraging, with twenty-two institutions and one highly qualified individual interested in collaboration. It was decided that the best way to handle the test was to root cuttings at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum from the young hybrids and distribute the rooted cuttings in the spring and early summer of 1967. About 6000 young camellia plants were distributed under this plan. We are now able to obtain field test information only from the hybrids bred in the years 1962 and 1963. The plants bred in later seasons are yet too small to provide enough cuttings for significant field tests.

For the purpose of first step screening, we are interested in comparative information from any site. Because facilities and all other factors are greatly different at each experiment station, I feel it is best for each trial to provide a ranking of the material put out at that site only. This will allow each arboretum and experimental station cooperating to use their own facilities to their best advantage. The rankings resulting from these

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trials will be the basis for further testing of the best clones found from this screening program.

Because cold-resistance is not an important factor in California camellia cultivation, the part of the camellia studies aimed toward the development of more cold-resistant cultivars will not be continued at the Los Angeles County Arboretum but will be moved to the new arboretum being developed in Chapel Hill, North Carolina under the direction of Dr. C. Ritchie Bell. The camellias will be planted there and observed for both plant and flower hardiness.

New Colors

Despite the interest expressed in the synthesis of a yellow camellia, it now appears unlikely that one could be systematically bred from the materials available at the present time. New collections might change this picture. The same low probability exists for the chance of developing a blue-flowered camellia.

Fragrance

On the other hand, it now appears that floral scent can be introduced into garden type camellias. So far the first generation hybrids between *C. japonica* and *C. lutchuensis* are our best source of fragrance. I am of the opinion that the crossback from the primary hybrid (*C. japonica* X *C. lutchuensis)* to *C. japonica* offers the best possibility of an improved flower with the *C. lutchuensis* scent. It will soon become apparent if this is the correct approach.

The fragrance of *C. sasanqua* has been transferred to hybrids between it and *C. reticulata* (first synthesized by Mr. Howard Asper, Sr.) and more recently we have made the similar hybrid with *C. pitardii* which also carries the *C. sasanqua* floral odor. While the scent of these hybrids is much the same as the *C. sasanqua* parent, the early bloom of the rather intermediate flowers makes these hybrids of some considerable horticultural interest, the musky scent notwithstanding.

Most obsevers agree that the odor from the flowers of *C. tsaii* is as strong as, and rather similar to, the *C. lutchuensis* scent. The superficial general appearance of the flowers and texture of these two shrubs is also rather similar. Since we have attempted crosses between this shrub and other *Camellia* species only somewhat recently, none has flowered by this writing. *Camellia tsaii* does cross more readily with other species than does *C. lutchuensis*, and this makes it easier parent material to work with.

By now a large number of other workers have successfully made crosses with *C. lutchuensis*. Furthermore, with the large number of backcrosses that will be grown soon, it is my opinion that it is only a matter of time until we will have camellia varieties which combine superior flowers with significant fragrances.

From a project as large as our total camellia research efforts at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, both success and failures could be anticipated. So while it seems that we are moving closer to varieties that are more resistant to cold and others which will have more fragrant blooms, we are as far as ever from realizing either a good yellow or a good blue-purple camellia. These results should not be discouraging. The continual activities in the area of plant introduction may soon bring to us the genes we need for color breakthroughs. We must never forget that we already have in camellias a superior evergreen shrub with superior flowers in many colors!

It would be expected that in the accumulation of data for our studies and in the analyses of the thousands of hybrids that were bred, we would have other observations of interest and possible value to people who are interested in camellia hybridization. Such observations follow.

Preliminary Observations on the Inheritance of Flower Form in C. japonica

The form of the camellia flower is highly variable, and if the genetic control of this characteristic were known, breeding of this plant species would be greatly facilitated. Since there is indication that youthful blooms of seedlings may to some degree be correlated with flower form, it is important to bloom all the progeny from a given cross before making genetic statements or horticultural evaluations about that cross. The hybrids with peoniforme to formal flowers may well be the last to flower, and these are both of genetic interest and horticultural importance.

From crosses which produce very small progenies not all possible flower-form classes may be present and of those present the proportions may be atypical; thus it is desirable to grow a hybrid population large enough to obtain a range of variations in the offspring which reflects the genetic potential of the parents.

Some trends indicative of genetic make-up can be gleaned from the information presented here. Crosses between single-flowered and semi-double flowered parents appear to produce only these two categories in their offspring; while combinations between two semi-double flowered parents produce singles and semi-doubles primarily, but usually also produce a very few peoniforme and rose form flowers — rarely formal flowered seedlings are obtained. Only by actual systematic hybridization programs and observation of the resulting progeny can we determine exactly the hereditary potential of any semi-double cultivar since the proportion of single offspring varies greatly among the different crosses.

Combinations between parents one or both of which produce peoniforme flowers, produce in general a higher percentage of peony, rose and formal flowered types. Some peony-flowered parent cultivars will consistently throw a higher proportion of single-flowered offspring than will other similar appearing cultivars, but this again can only be determined from actual hybridizations. When both parents have peoniforme flowers, a far higher percentage of the offspring are made up of peony, rose and formal flowered flowers. In general, a wider array of flower forms are experienced from crosses in which one or both of the parents have flowers of the peoniforme type.

Some applications are availale for the camellia breeder. The importance of waiting for all seedlings to bloom has already been noted. A wider array of flower forms will be experienced from crosses between semi-double and peoniforme cultivars. Yet higher proportions of peoniforme-flowered offspring can be obtained if both parents are of the peoniforme type. This latter point can only be achieved if the breeder can locate cultivars which are significantly female fertile — most of them are not. However, often one will do better to use a fertile semi-double seed parent and collect a large seed crop from a goodly number of hand pollinations. More interesting types are often to be found in the array of variation from a large population than can be achieved from the three or four seeds collected from crosses on a mostly sterile peoniforme cultivar. It should be commented that normally pollen from peony, rose or formal types, when available, is quite fertile.

A few comments regarding camellia breeding may be made which go beyond the scope of this work. Although the genetic mechanism is unknown for both floral substance and size, these characteristics seem to be under some sort of genetic control. This being the case, it makes good sense to choose a large, heavy-textured and semi-double flower as the seed parent, and choose the cultivar with

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the largest and finest peony, rose or formal flower for the pollen parent. A number of varieties such as 'Adolphe Audusson', 'Coronation', 'Drama Girl', 'Guilio Nuccio' and others which have the "triploid look" should be avoided since they are mostly pollen sterile. This information, however, can be determined only by hybridization attempts, so if one is not certain if the pollen from a given variety is fertile, it is best to attempt a few crosses to determine fertility. In general, it is better to use an array of pollen parents in a new breeding program than stick to a single cultivar for a source of pollen. The tendency of any potential seed parent to produce superior seedlings can best be determined from the quality of the open-pollinated seedlings from the cultivar in question.

In considering the breeding program, considerations of available parent stock and breeding objectives are aided by an increasing knowledge of the genetic systems involved — such as the preliminary interpretation of the inheritance of floral form presented here. A similar, very preliminary, discussion of the inheritance of flower color in *C. japonica* will follow. Despite the difficulties confronted in obtaining and interpreting the data presented here, a difficulty usually encountered in any genetic study involving a relatively slow-growing woody plant, the results will be of both general genetic interest and a great aid in camellia breeding. This is part of a continuing study, and further discussion will appear as new information is available from our developing progenies.

The Inheritance of Flower Color in C. japonica — Some Preliminary Observations

A very wide array of flower colors are found in this species and understanding of the genetic control of this system would greatly facilitate plant breeding. We have analyzed an array of camellia hybrids for flower color and the following observations are made.

The flower color white seems to be the basic recessive, and combinations between two pure white-flowered varieties will produce only white-flowered offspring.

Crosses between very pale pink and white varieties result in about equal numbers of the parental colors. A white parent may carry the tendency for the deepest color to occur at the petal tips, and if this characteristic is so carried, it will show up in some of the offspring.

'Berenice Boddy' in combination with a white-flowered parent produces an array of shading and uniformly colored pink hybrids. These vary from a shading pink more or less identical to the color pattern found in the 'Berenice Boddy' parent to a uniformly very pale pink and possibly a pure white. The genetic system controlling the light and medium pink colors is very complex and apparently independent of the very deep pink colors which appear in their genetic relationship to be dilute red colors.

The majority of progeny from crosses between the various shades of red and white cultivars produce light red flowers. Parents with the bright red shades in combination with white produce mostly light red-flowered offspring but with a few seedlings having medium red flowers.

Pale pink types combined with red result in a higher proportion of deeper red offspring than was the case when similar red-flowered parents were combined with white-flowered varieties.

A wide array of red-colored offspring result from combinations between two red-flowered parents. In general as would be anticipated, the greatest proportion of medium deep, and bright red-flowered seedlings result from these crosses. Dominance in the simplest sense is not apparent. The very large number of color classes present leads one to believe that a

complex hereditary mechanism is involved in the genetic control of the red colors.

A number of backcrosses between our first generation hybrids and a white variety have been made in the past breeding season to provide further evidence on this question. A few other combinations to aid particularly in the study of floral form also were synthesized.

Preliminary evidence suggests that floral forms and colors are independently inherited, at least in the comparisons which have been made with our material to the present time. Some implications to camellia breeding can be drawn from the data presented. At least from the gross comparisons which have been made here, it appears that the system controlling the pink flower colors is separate from the system which controls the red colors and therefore the breeder should avoid red parents if pink or pale pink-flowered hybrids are desired in a given breeding program. Similarly, combinations between red and red will be the best source of seedlings with desirable red-flowered offspring. The use of the darkest available red (with good general floral quality and substance) and the best available red breeder (a variety that sets seed readily) should be a source of seedlings with desirable red or deep red flowers.

Large progeny sizes combined with a maximum number of different crosses between similar parents (toward a common horticultural objective) increases the chance of a good combination when information is not available about the genetic history of the parent cultivars which are available. Of course, when information is available that a particular variety "throws" seedlings that have a particularly desirable characteristic, it is wise to use such a parent extensively when that characteristic is the horticultural goal. The importance of good seed parents cannot be over-

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emphasized, but this information can only come from breeding experience.

An example will illustrate the importance of large progeny size. If previous experience has shown that a given cross will produce 10% formal flowers and 40% desirable deep red colors, and if the two characters are not linked, the chance of a deep red formal seedling is 10% of 40% or 4%. One seedling in twenty-five may be expected to carry the needed combination of floral form and color. Since not all seedlings will have good flower quality, for example let us imagine that one in four is adequately good in quality, we will need at least 100 offspring to obtain the proper combination of color, form and quality, and to be safe it would be best to grow twice as many. The amateur breeder throws away hundreds or even thousands to get one good open-pollinated seedling adequate for introduction, and the breeder using controlled crosses may expect also to have only a very small proportion (not as small a proportion as when dealing with open-pollinated seedlings) of horticulturally excellent hybrid seedlings. By controlling the crosses, rather than letting the bees do it, the breeder greatly increases his chances of obtaining the combination of characteristics he desires. The example presented here is very sketchy, and yet often all the information we may have to go on in an actual breeding program is a few such clues. Genetic knowledge will greatly simplify the breeder's task.

As more of our progenies bloom,[3] we will gain further insight into these fascinating genetic mechanisms which control the inheritance of flower color and forms and also we will give additional direction to our breeding projects. Data is being taken from our first generation and backcross progenies as the seedlings bloom, and further progress reports will follow as sufficient amounts of new information becomes available. Necessarily, this will be a slow process since the camellia has a relatively long life cycle.

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3. The core of the camellia research activities started at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum are to be continued at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Two grants to support this work are currently pending. Plants are to be moved to Chapel Hill as we have facilities to care for them. Certain groups of our materials are being studied by the members of the Northern California Camellia Research Group and by Mr. Reg Ragland. Here in North Carolina activities in the area of cold-resistance will be increased while studies in the area of biosystematics and genetics will continue as they have done; on the other hand, breeding for color and fragrance will not be continued at Chapel Hill. I would be very happy to see any old camellia friends here at the second stage of my work with camellias.

— Cliff Parks.

DO AS I SAY -- NOT AS I DO

I. John Movich

Ruth, who lives in Ontario, bought three camellia plants last February. She saw the varieties at the Pomona Show and just had to have them—couldn't live without them. They were planted in a mixture of peat moss, leaf mold and soil on the east side of her home. In August she fed lightly with cottonseed meal. Now she asks, "What care do I give them so I'll have good blooms?" My answer follows:

The most important thing to do now is to make sure that the plants get watered. Be sure that the roots are kept moist at all times. In all of Southern California and especially in the areas closer to the desert, during the late fall and winter months we get periods when we have hot, dry winds commonly called "Santa Ana winds". The humidity may drop very close to zero. This condition can be fatal to your camellia plants if they do not have water and to the buds unless you spray your plants. In the October issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW, I mentioned that when we lived way south of you in Ontario, right in the Santa Ana wind belt, we sprayed our plants a minimum of five times a day during the hot, dry spells and thereby were able to save our flower buds. You may think I'm over-stressing the watering and spraying of camellia plants, but let me assure you that as long as you have good drainage it is almost impossible to over-water. If you under-water and let your plants dry out, you will probably lose your plants entirely and at least you will very likely lose the leaves and buds, perhaps setting your plant back as much as two years.

If your camellia varieties set buds thickly, sometimes a lot of them will drop off; this is natural for some camellias. However, in order to have large flowers, I recommend that you break off the excess buds leaving the largest flower bud at the tip of the branch and if you want to prolong the blooming season, leave another bud on the branch about two to four inches below the tip. Some camellia growers have so many camellias that they find it next to impossible to go through the garden and disbud but most of our successful growers who win the prizes at the shows will do severe disbudding.

You no doubt have heard about treating buds with Gibberellic acid to make the buds bloom earlier, bloom larger and make them stay on the plant longer. This is a good time to apply the Gibberellic acid by putting a drop in the cup formed by pinching off the growth bud. The newest recommendation I have heard from the experts in this area is to use a solution of ten to eighteen-thousand parts per million (p.p.m.) Gibberellic acid mixed with distilled water in accordance with the articles by Col. Frank Reed and Mr. W. F. Goertz in previous issues of the CAMELLIA REVIEW. There is still time to "Gib" midseason and early blooming varieties for the early show at Descanso Gardens on Dec. 2 and 3; such as: 'Adolphe Audusson', 'Ballet Dancer', 'Debutante', 'Disneyland', 'Faith', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Mathotiana', 'Silver Anniversary', 'Tiffany'. For further information regarding "Gibbing", I am sure that any of our gibbers would be glad to help you. Among them are Col. Reed of Pasadena, Mr. Goertz of San Marino, Mr. Alvin Gunn of Lynwood, Mr. Caryll Pitkin of San Marino and Mr. Melvin Gum of Long Beach.

Payment of 1968 SCCS dues now will bring new Nomenclature Book in December.

OBSERVATIONS ON CAMELLIAS AND CAMELLIA PEOPLE IN NEW ZEALAND

Harold E. Dryden

I spent twenty-nine days in New Zealand. Tom and Bettie Durrant met me at the Auckland airport on my arrival from Sydney and Dr. Trevor Morris and his wice Joyce put me on the plane when I left Auckland for home on September 6th. I was with camellia people on all but six of the intervening days, when I went sight-seeing in the New Zealand Alps area of the South Island. I met and talked with New Zealand people and saw New Zealand as few tourists are privileged to do — not necessarily the tourist spots that are on the tours of the travel agencies but certainly the areas, the homes and gardens that cause one to feel that he truly has seen New Zealand and has become acquainted with New Zealand people.

I got acquainted in a hurry. After a night in Auckland, Tom and Bettie Durrant drove me to Waitangi on the Bay of Islands, near the northern tip of the North Island, where I attended and participated in the annual Convention of the New Zealand Camellia Society. This convention is similar to the annual meetings of the American Camellia Society, with sight-seeing trips, scheduled meetings and talks, and plenty of opportunities to get acquainted and to talk about camellias. Tom Durrant gave the main address of the Convention on the subject "Some Comments on Camellia Reticulata".* I talked on the subject "Camellias in America" and showed pictures of our popular American varieties. The approximately 150 in attendance represented a cross-section of New Zealand, from the North Land in which Waitangi is located to Dunedin on the South Island which is the point of departure for ships going to the Antarctic.

*This address will be reported in detail in the January issue of Camellia Review.

The distance between the North Land where the convention was held and Dunedin is close to 1000 miles and points to the extensive area in New Zealand in which camellias are grown. I make this statement because of the many times since my return that I have been asked "Was it cold down there?" In fact, some people have expressed surprise that camellias are grown in New Zealand, due, I think, to the prevalence in the New Zealand tourist advertising of pictures of the snow-covered mountains and the mountain lakes. As one reads this, he should remember that New Zealand is in the southern hemisphere and that temperatures are colder as one goes south. Camellias are grown freely outdoors and without cover in all parts of the North Island, and the preponderance of the 1300 members of the New Zealand Camellia Society are on this island. Frosts occasionally harm some of the flower buds but not to the extent that greenhouse culture is followed. The South Island, particularly in the Christchurch area, is more of a rhododendron area than of camellias, but the latter are gaining in popularity under the leadership of the Christchurch Branch of the New Zealand Society. Most of the camellias that I saw were out-of-doors and thriving, although weather is more of a problem than it is on the North Island.

While the New Zealand Camellia Society is relatively young, the growing of camellias is not a twentieth century occurrence. I was made aware of this on the drive from Auckland to Waitangi as Bettie Durrant kept pointing to old camellia trees. The early missionaries came mostly from Australia to convert the Maories and they brought with them camellia plants that were then growing in

Australia. Those camellias that became established and grew above the height where cattle could eat the foliage have survived the neglect that occurred in the years that followed, and large camellias trees are now growing in many parts of the North Island. We saw several of these old trees on the tours that were part of the Convention activities and Tom Durrant took me to other places south of Auckland where the trees are 100 years old.

I wrote in the report on my Australia visit "The *garden* is the important consideration of most of the camellias society members". I believe this is true to a greater extent in New Zealand than it is in Australia. Tom Durrant said to me: "The women are the gardners. This is still a pioneer country and the men are busy developing their land or their professions and business." My early impressions at the Waitangi Convention was the number of women present. While I did not make a count, I would guess that there were more women than men, and it seemed to me as I talked with people that some of the men were there "for the ride." This impression was strengthened as I met with and talked to groups as I traveled in New Zealand. I should state, however, that most of the members of the Council of the New Zealand Camellia Society are men.

This garden approach means that the saluenensis hybrids are an important part of most camellia gardens, with 'Donation' being the one most found, because these hybrids are undoubtedly the most beautiful garden camellia imagined when in areas where they thrive. George Huthnance, a wholesale nurseryman in North Plymouth, is growing 10,000 plants of 'Donation' and will promote their use as hedges. Ben Rayner of Stratford has planted a hedge at least fifty yards long which will be a beautiful sight in a couple of years. Bryan Doak's seedlings ('Phyl Doak', 'Bar-

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100 year old camellia trees in old cemetery at Cambridge, New Zealand

bara Clark', 'Brian', 'Dr. Leslie') and those of Les Jury ('Anticipation', 'Elegant Beauty') are among the most popular that are used for garden effects. Incidentally, the only plant that I saw of 'Elsie Jury', which has become so popular in America, was one without blooms in Les Jury's garden. Mr. Jury is surprised at its popularity, although greatly pleased with the plaque that hangs in his home and tells that 'Elsie Jury' was awarded the title of Best Hybrid in 1967 by the American Camellia Society.

While the saluenensis hybrids are popular for their garden effects, the American varieties are becoming increasingly popular as they have become in Australia. I showed my slides to the groups with whom I met and the responses were always enthusiastic. New Zealand has not yet introduced a C. japonica seedling that is competitive with the many fine American introductions. As with Australian growers, the New Zealand growers are becoming increasingly sophisticated, which leads to a growing desire for American varieties. One finds in their gardens the same varieties that are popular here, because they have received them from America in the way of scions of varieties that are liked here. The Southern California Camellia Society has about forty members in New Zealand, including some nurserymen, who follow closely the show results and other reports which indicate varietal popularity. I met many of these people and visited their gardens.

Reticulatas grow very well and produce excellent flowers. Tom Durrant has the best "stand" of reticulatas that I saw. He lives in Tirau in the Rotorua area, where the soil contains volcanic ashes and the camellias grow rapidly and lush. He has some very fine seedlings with wild reticulata parentage that are combining good flowers with excellent and full foliage, a feat not yet accomplished in the American crosses with reticulata. Colin Spicer in Palmerston North is also using wild reticulata to advantage in his hybridizing and has some seedlings that have promise for popularity.

It seemed that every garden I visited had a propagating house and that everybody was interested in hybridizing, which of course points to the certainty that the future holds promise for good new hybrid varieties. New Zealand has already set a mark in hybrid introductions by Dr. Brian Doak (then living in Auckland but now a resident of Melbourne, Australia and not actively in camellias) and Les Jury of New Plymouth. The latter is now probably the most active camellias hybridizer in New Zealand, as he has been for some time, and is still working with the saluenensis species. He recognizes the weakness of the present saluenensis hybrids in both substance and color and is working toward correction of these defects. He now has some reds which he is using as parent stock and, incidently, he thinks just as highly of his parent stock because of future possibilities as New Zealand people think of some of his present seedlings that grace their gardens. He has an excellent saluenensis X 'Purple Gown' seedling named 'High Light' that will be released within a few years and should be popular. From our point of view, the hybrid seedlings of Colin Spicer of Palmerston North, Tom Durrant of Tirau, and Jack Clark of Auckland, all using reticulata crosses, presently offer the best promise of new seedlings to our American liking.

I saw only one camellia show because I did not happen to be in the right place at the right time. This show, at Whakatane, was competitive, with Classes by form rather than by variety. I helped to judge the show and my mind went back to the era when our classification was by form. I can understand and accept their reason for not having varietal com-

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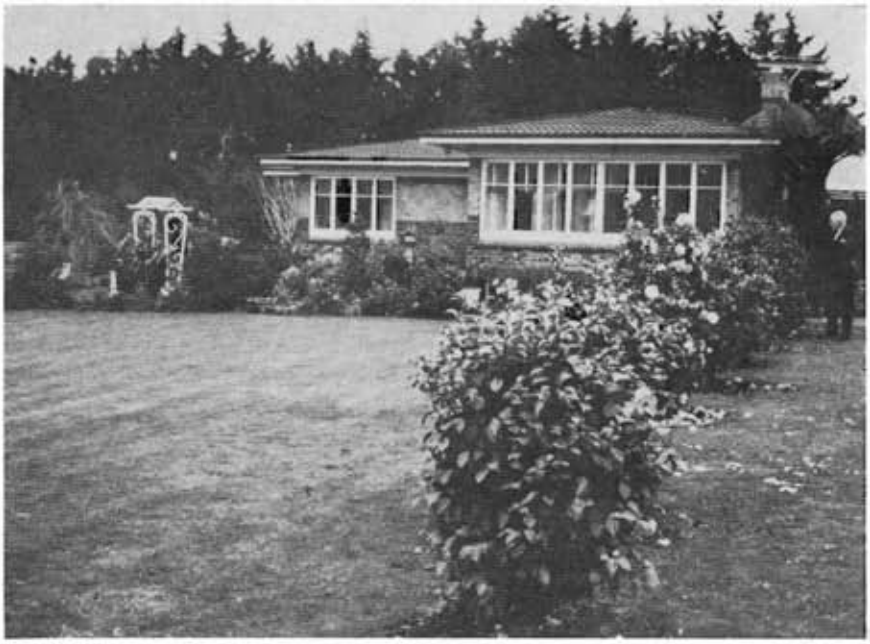

The Lomax garden at Kaikohe has a hedge of camellias along the driveway

Camellias in the Gamlin garden at Manaia are in full sun and prospering

petition; namely, the lack of competition for all but the old Australia and New Zealand varieties, which are not the outstanding varieties of the show. There seems to be a concensus that varietal competition will be in order when quantity of flowers entered will provide real varietal competition.

The important thing in the camellia hobby, after all, is people, not flowers. New Zealand people think of their camellia growing as pleasure rather than as a competitive enterprise, just as many people in the United States have gardens for our own individual pleasures. I was talking about our camellia culture methods to a group, mostly women, in Palmerston North. While talking about disbudding I said that in many cases I may remove as many as 75% of the buds, which brought a spontaneous female outcry "how terrible". Which, indicates, of course, that the approach to camellia growing in New Zealand is frequently strictly "amateur" in the sense that amateurism means "entirely for pleasure". This idea pervades the point of view of everybody I met, whether just starting to grow camellias or one of the newer generation of camellia growers. I met only a few "collectors" in the sense that we use the term; namely, seeking the newer varieties. Ben Rayner of Stratford is a dairy farmer who is not troubled by shortage of land for camellia growing. He recently enlarged his "garden" by taking some land out of his pasturage area. He has probably the largest collection in New Zealand. His closest competitor in this respect is probably Dr. David McIlroy of Christchurch, South Island. Dr. McIlroy has already made his mark as a rose grower and I have never seen a finer stand of roses coming into spring foliage. He lives in the city, and I shudder to think what must happen when his many young camellia plants grow into a need for more space. Art and Ella Gamlin of Manaia in the Hawera area are building a "Bill Johnston Garden" with the varieties they are growing from scions that Bill Johnston of Fresno, California has sent them. Euen Perrott of Pukeatua, a sheep farmer with plenty of land, will have a beautiful stand of camellias when his collection grows to blooming size. Lester Stephenson of Opotiki in the Whakatane area is pleased that he has all but one of the varieties that were listed in an article "If I Were Limited to 20 Varieties", with seven contributors, in a 1964 issue of Camellia Review. These are a few of the names that would not exceed a dozen who are avidly seeking new varieties. The urge for the American and the new local varieties is growing and new names will be added to the group that we in America call "collectors". Many of these people are fortunate because so many of them live in the rural areas

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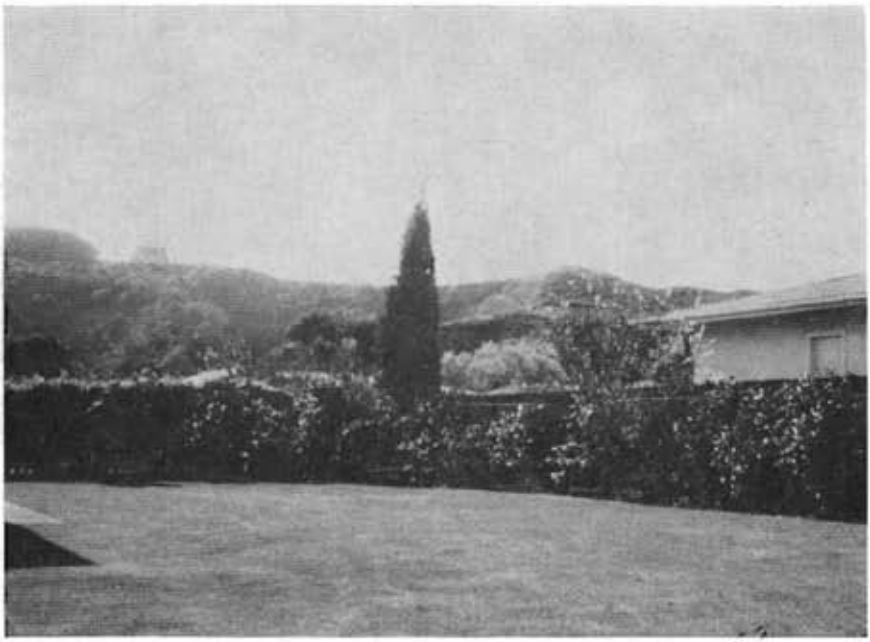
Lester Stephenson (right) of Opotiki, near Whakatane, has one of the better collection of American varieties



Roland Young of Wanganui uses camellias for a border that adjoins the lawn

where land for growing camellias is more available than it is to town people.

The New Zealand Camellia Society is well-organized along the same lines of the Australia Camellia Research Society, with one Society for the entire country and Branch Societies in the local areas. The late Ralph Peer is credited with having initiated the thought of a camellia society in New Zealand, although his death prevented a visit to the country and New Zealand people did not have an opportunity to know him. His memory is perpetuated, however, by the Society having named the principal talk at their Annual Convention the Ralph Peer Memorial Lecture. The Annual Convention is held in different parts of the country every year and the Branch Societies have the responsibility of putting on the Convention when it is held in their respective areas. Mrs. Wallace Lomax of Kaikohe, President of the Branch Society in the North Area, was Chairman of the Waitangi convention.

Mr. and Mrs. Darcy O'Toole

Darcy O'Toole of Whakatane, a retired timber executive, is now the Society's President. He will visit the United States during the next camellia season and will attend the A. C. S. Annual Meeting. Col. Tom Durrant, a retired British army officer now a New Zealand dairy farmer, is Vice President and judged by all to be the moving force behind the Society. He was active in the Society's founding, was President for several years and now is Editor of the Society's publication NEW ZEALAND CAMELLIA BULLETIN. Mrs. Ivan Wood of Christchurch is President of the Branch on the South Island. S. J. (Steve) Shayle-George, a lawyer in Wellington, is President of the Wellington Branch, will be Chairman of the 1968 Annual Convention activities which will be held in his city.

I close my report on my visit to New Zealand with three recollections. First, I shall never encounter more sincere and courteous hospitality. I met, talked with and to over 300 people and never once did I feel that I was among strangers. Second, maybe it was because I was a visitor to the country but never in my life have I eaten so many times during the day. As I have stated, I visited gardens, in the morning and the afternoon. It seemed to be a ritual that with every such visit came tea — morning tea or afternoon tea with scons (our biscuits) and biscuits (our cookies). Both Australia and New Zealand have adopted with gusto the English tea tradition. I think it would be excellent if we Americans could have some such custom that would compete with our idea that every day should have a full eight hours of production. We seem to have accomplished this in business with the coffee break but it has not invaded all our homes. And

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CITRUS FRUIT IN SOIL CONDITIONING

George F. Priest
Bakersfield, California

When I was asked to pen this piece, I thought that the requester was surely joking. For several years now my use of citrus fruit has been an on and off joke and jibe. But be that as it may I have been asked and will share with you what little I have discovered in my small experiment.

My first interest was sparked by Mrs. Robert F. Dickson who spoke of placing her discarded lemon rinds around certain plants in planters that had shown less than desirable growth and blossoming characteristics. She noted a good deal of improvement in these plants, and presented the thought that others might try the same thing with their plants.

I did not go right out and bury the root zone of all my plants with citrus fruit. I chose certain plants that had shown little reaction to fertilizer and chelated iron products and applied chopped oranges to them. My 'Lady in Red' had shown a brown virusing or alkaline burn. The leaves showed a definite curl with a brown variegation rather than white. The growth of this plant was slow and unhealthy. Fred Hamilton, who had given me the scion, had told me that this was true of the parent plant. I found that there was a dramatic improvement in this plant and that it set buds and bloomed beautifully. There was definite improvement in all of the plants that first year.

The following December I began to approach orange packing sheds in my area and found that very few were interested in letting me have their culls. It seems that they had been plowing them under their trees for some years, and were well aware of their beneficial effect on plant health and vigor. Through the good offices of my sister, Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, I finally found a gentleman who was quite willing to have me pick up his culls at no expense to me. When presented with a deal like this I couldn't refuse, even though it meant long drives two or three times a week to pick up fruit and return empty boxes.

In the culls I found oranges, tangerines, tangelos, and grapefruit. The owner of the orchard said that I would probably get a lot of baby tangelos out of the experiment, and he was right. They were not hard to pull out or smother with mulch however.

Since I was treating my whole garden I did not take time to chop up the fruit. I merely dumped it without pattern and decided to let nature take its course.

If you are a city dweller, as I am not, you are probably imagining a dreadful oder growing from all these decaying citrus. I had learned with my first experiment that decaying citrus, unlike other fruit, gives off a pleasant sweet oder. It is, in fact, pleasant to repot such treated plants for the odor remains months after the oranges have disappeared. I noted no increase in flies. But then this may be due to our cooler winters. Further experimentation is needed on this point. At any rate my garden never approached the foul odor which emits from decaying cotton seed meal.

There is an added esthetic value to the use of oranges as a soil conditioner. From December to February we have very cold weather and little blossom color in our garden. The oranges spotted here and there have a very brightening effect. If the color orange or its shades offends you, you can always cover the whole bit with a layer of fir bark.

I want to make it very clear that this is not a fertilizer program. I do suspect that the citric acid does have

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CAMELLIA PERSONALITIES -- FRED HAMILTON

Ernest Pieri
San Gabriel, California

Authors note:

Our sympathy is extended to Fred over the sudden loss of his wonderful wife and helpmate. Dorothy and I had the privilege of spending the day and evening with Fred and Agnes, in Santa Maria, on their 45th wedding anniversary. It will always be a memorable evening for us. — E. P.

Have you driven through Santa Maria lately, using the old road that passes through the center of town? Of course if you drive on the new freeway, just east of the town, you will miss the beauty and serenity of the residential area which is just east of the main street in Santa Maria. It is across the street from the Santa Maria Union High School and extends from the old Santa Maria Inn south to the shopping mall. As you drive through this area you will see many beautifully landscaped homes with camellia plants used freely in the landscaping. Reticulatas are used as well as the japonica Camellia.

Our camellia personality has done a great deal to encourage the use of camellias around the homes, both as ornamentals for background plants and growing them for their beautiful blooms. He has not only given away many plants to new homeowners, hoping to stimulate their interest in camellias, but has also helped others learn the art of grafting. His garden is filled with large and small plants, most of them in containers, and he is also interested in securing scions of the newer varieties of camellias for grafting, to test their growing and blooming habits in the Santa Maria area.

Fred Hamilton

Not only has he done a great deal to encourage the interest of people in the growing of camellias, but he has also become noted for his growing of beautiful camellia blooms, which he exhibits in the many camellia shows that are held in California, from Sacramento in the north to San Diego in the south, and along the coast from Sebastopol down the Peninsula area south of San Francisco. He and his charming wife Agnes have been familiar figures at the camellia shows as they carefully placed their blooms on the exhibitors' tables. More times than not he has won the Sweepstakes competition trophy and other trophies for his blue ribbon winners in the other divisions of the show.

They were also sure to go to any meeting that had anything to do with camellias, including a good picnic organized by a camellia Society. Their friends are many, including other camellia exhiitors, nurserymen, and camellia enthusiasts from all parts of the United States.

By now you must have guessed that our camellia personality is none other than Fred Hamilton. He will talk about camellias and their culture to anyone who will show the slightest interest.

Fred was born and raised on a farm in Virginia, one of a family of nine boys and one girl. In 1902 his father came west to visit Oregon and

Washington, with the possibility of settling in the West. His father liked what he saw, and in 1903, when Fred was nine years old, he sold his farm in Virginia and moved his family to the west coast. They settled in Chehalis, in the Gray's Harbor area, which is about half-way between Portland and Seattle. He has four brothers still living in the area.

Fred went to the Union Grammar School four miles south of Chehalis, and upon graduation entered Chehalis High School. He enjoyed sports in high school, especially football. During the high school years, in addition to football he enjoyed hunting and fishing and working on the farm, and gave some thought about going to college to study agriculture. In the summer, after graduation from high school, he worked in the fields helping to harvest the crops.

While he was engaged in this summertime job, he was visited by the captain of the Washington State College football team and the athletic director of the same college. Both of them stressed the fact that he should come to Washington State College to take advantage of their fine agricultural program and also to play football. In the fall of 1916 he entered Washington State College.

He went out for football and was the only freshman in the history of Washington State College to earn a varsity letter in football. He played four years of varsity football and was elected captain of the team in his senior year. His college education was interrupted by the First World War. He was a member of the original Air Force.

Upon graduation from WSC in 1922 he married Agnes Otto, his college sweetheart. She had taken an educational program, majoring in music.

During his senior year at college he had considered entering some branch of the dairy business. After graduation, he investigated the program and found it would be too expensive to get started, and so ended up by becoming the assistant football coach for Clemson College, South Carolina. He decided that he liked to coach and would like to remain in the teaching field. At the end of his first year he was invited to return to Chehalis High School to teach and coach their athletic teams. He accepted the job and remained at Chehalis High School until the summer of 1929.

In 1929 he was invited by the Superintendent of Schools at Santa Maria to come to California and coach in the high school. It was interesting how this came about. While playing football at WSC, another young man from Seattle, Washington, Walter Herrid, was a tackle on the team with Fred. After graduation he coached at Aberdeen, Washington, and then came to California, in 1923, to coach at the Santa Maria High School. In 1929, he decided to change jobs and accepted a job at Huntington Park, California. Upon submitting his resignation to the superintendent, he was asked by the superintendent if he could recommend someone to take his place, and he recommended Fred. The superintendent wrote a letter to Fred, asking if he were interested in the job, and upon receipt of an affirmative answer wrote Fred that he was hired.

Fred's original assignment was to teach Physical Education and to coach the athletic teams. Eventually there were other coaches hired by the school and Fred retained the football and track coaching assignments. He did quite well as a coach, his football teams winning several league championships. Travel restrictions prevented his teams from competing in interscholastic sports during the war years. He retired from his coaching and teaching position in 1957.

Now you might ask, "How in the world did this get Fred into the camellia business?" Well, that is really very simple. Fred and Agnes were

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building their home in Santa Maria in 1941. A friend, who was a retired school teacher and who was interested in camellias, gave Fred and Agnes half-a-dozen camellia plants for their home. This was the real start of Fred's hobby in camellias. In fact, his hobby has grown into a back yard full of camellias. Anyone who visits the Hamilton home in Santa Maria is amazed at the number of camellia plants that Fred has accumulated throughout the years.

His first serious camellias show competition was in 1957 when he exhibited his camellias in the Kern County Camellia Show. He had heard of, and decided to enter his blooms in, the show. He not only entered his blooms but surprised himself by winning the Sweepstakes Award Trophy, as well as winning several other awards for his blue ribbon winners. In 1958 he again won the Sweepstakes Award for the Kern County Camellia Show and in 1959 he won the Super-Sweepstakes Award at the San Diego Camellia Show. His winning of Sweepstakes Awards has become a habit with him. He has won the Sweepstakes Award at the Descanso, Hillsdale and Redwood City Camellia Shows.

He competed in the Sacramento Camellia Show that was held in 1965 in conjunction with the annual American Camellia Society Convention, and won the runner-up Sweepstakes Award. He has exhibited his blooms and won awards at the Northern California Camellia Show held at Walnut Creek, at Fresno, Pomona, Temple City and at Contra Costa. He also exhibited at the 1966 and 1967 Sebastopol Camellia Show, held on the last week-end of March.

Fred claims that he now has lost the desire to win the Sweepstakes Trophy, but likes to compete in the various divisions of competition in each show. He has won quite consistently at that too. He says that his most consistent and satisfactory japonica blooms are 'R. L. Wheeler' and 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', and 'Purple Gown' and 'Moutancha' in the reticulatas division.

Fred has other interests in hunting and fishing, so that if by chance you should be sitting next to Fred and bring up the subjects of hunting and fishing, you may be sure that you are in for an interesting evening.

Camellia Seeds

We have a limited supply of japonica seeds ("Select" and "Common").

Plenty of sasanqua seeds. Plant them for grafting understock. The cans will be full of roots in 4 years.

See October CAMELLIA REVIEW for prices.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

CAMELLIA SHOW COMMENTS

Howard E. Burnette
Castro Valley, Calif.

Our great American economy is fostered by highly complex mechanisms; artifacts designed by marketing management to lure the consumer into putting some of his hard-earned cash into circulation. For example, take the commodity, "Pork and Beans" which is now usually marketed as "Beans, ... with Pork." Although the container and label are most attractive, one must engage in a diligent search to find the pork which is usually a small blob of fat. This fact doesn't stop Mrs. American Housewife from buying the product. But rest assured that if she did not buy, the marketing machinery would dream up something to improve the product's image for better consumer acceptance. The automobile industry uses planned obsolescence to advantage. When likened to our several annual camellia shows, perhaps we should look to changes or improvements to help our product's image. Aren't we always on the lookout for better consumer acceptance? Why shouldn't we express a little individuality instead of our rubber stamp existence of repeating the same show schedules year after year? What follows is intended to be constructive criticism founded on several years' experience as grower, exhibitor, show management staff member and judge.

The first area of discussion is that of sweepstakes. Show management in southern California should be commended for their decision to eliminate the sweepstakes classification. What does it signify except that someone besides the average exhibitor entered a whale of a lot of flowers. In most cases, more flowers than anyone else. We do not mean to detract from the dedication, hard work, sound cultural practices and execellent showing techniques displayed by the comparatively few number of collectors who enter the sweepstakes competition. Abolishment of sweepstakes should not detract from anyone's desire to enter flowers or lower their desire to compete; conversely, it is more likely to increase their depth of competition in the several classes which would be created to fill the void. At one time, it was quite common for sweepstakes winners to win without a single "best of show" winner. However, revisions to the show rules and methods of tally reversed this trend. Our point is this: anyone equipped or even qualified to compete for sweepstakes would still be a fierce competitor in the revised show, while there would be more incentive for the average collector, grower or exhibitor to enter his flowers, feeling that he would have a much better chance to win.

Secondly, let's discuss the C. Japonica classes. Why not set up five separate classe which follow the sizes outlined in S. C. C. S.'s Camellia Nomenclature? This would give us trophy classes for miniature (or boutonnierre), small, medium, large and very large. Granted that there are many flowers that have been wrongly listed as to size, but this is caused by the person who registers the flower, not the editors of our nomenclature book. Perhaps this would force corrections to the size listings of such flowers as MARY WHEELER and KITTY BERRY, which in their own right, are beautiful flowers but would have a fight to compete in the "large" class. Tables would have to be set up according to the listed groups. Proper policing by the show classification and entry committees would be necessary on the morning of the show. Your A.C.S. kit includes only "Best Japonica in Show" certificate for one grown in the open class and one chemically treated class. Since no distinc-

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tion is made for bloom size, it will be necessary for the chairman of judges to conduct a vote to see which of the class winners receives the A.C.S. certificate. Compounding the C. Japonica classes may create a few problems to begin with, but we feel that many exhibitors will find their flowers on the honor table for the first time. Isn't this a progressive step towards perpetuation of our competitive shows?

Now for the C. Hybrid classification. This section merits a high priority on the list of suggested changes. With HOWARD ASPER and FRANCIE L. primed to make a runaway of the show honors and the advent of several more flowers of like description, there won't be much room for the smaller blooms, no matter how typically perfect and beautiful they may be. Some of the show management teams have tried to separate the hybrids with retic. lineage from those without retic. blood. We can't see where this solves anything since INAMORATA and FLUTED ORCHID would still be destined to compete with FRANCIE L. and HOWARD ASPER, et al. Just a moment now, perhaps it would be best if we left the rules alone and tried to change human nature or behaviour. Nothing short of a drastic move such as this will ever change the results on the honor table; unless of course we set up one class to cover the large and extra large blooms and another class to carry everything which is smaller in size. Here again, a check of the nomenclature book shows FLUTED ORCHID as a large flower so it would have to compete with the "dinner winners". Several times we have noted that C. Hybrid TINY PRINCESS has been permitted in the C. Japonica Miniature Class. I offer no argument that it stands a much better chance for recognition here than on the C. hybrid table.

From time to time we have expressed concern over the "Special Culture" classes as displayed in several of our shows. Much is left to be desired. Since the term 'special culture' is so argumentative, let us suffice it to say we mean chemically treated or gibbed blooms. Previous articles in this and several other camellia publications have covered the pros and cons on the use of gibberellic acids and frankly, we cannot tell the good guys from the bad guys; in fact, if the truth were known, some of the pros were probably cons. The A.C.S. rules clearly state that gibbed or chemically treated blooms should be kept in classes separate from natural blooms. Our climate on the Pacific Coast is such that where the exhibitor uses proper cultural practices and expends the effort needed to disbud and pin for bloom protection, his blooms should stand on their own merit; that is, if the show judges follow the judging scale closely enough to keep grossly over sized, off form and off color blooms from stealing the spotlight. Our shows held in February and March could drop this classification. As it is, too many gibbed flowers appear on the regular tables, while the special culture tables cry for blooms. This statement is based on several impartial observations by the show committee of one of our February shows. Where there is evidence that over fertilization has affected the color of a bloom, points are assessed from the judging scale. In the same vein, points should be deducted where gib has affected any of the major judging points. Trophy flowers suspected of being gibbed could be checked by the chairman of judges and where so stated, issue the appropriate A.C.S. certificate for chemically treated blooms. Let's have an open show and give it a try!

Judging a camellia show is a mean task and requires the best of skills to render many of the decisions required to be made. Some show placement and arrangement committees

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SOME REFERENCES TO THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CAMELLIA IN AMERICA

Carey S. Bliss
San Gabriel, California

This article is an attempt to further amplify the very excellent work already published by H. Harold Hume in his *Camellias in America*, Harrisburg, Pa., 1946, second edition 1955. The reader is referred especially to his chapter three entitled *Camellias Come to America.* With some trepidation, these remarks are offered to round out the somewhat sketchy story of the early history of the camellia in this country.

As Hume states, one John Stevens of Hoboken, New Jersey is credited with importing the first camellia to American shores in 1797 or 1798. It was a single red camellia, origin unknown. Its fate and the fate of Mr. Stevens are unrecorded at least as far as subsequent researchers have revealed.

Considerably more information is known about the second camellia importer to these shores. His name was Michael Floy and in July, 1800, he brought from Devonshire, England the white camellia, 'Alba Plena'. Settling down in New York City, he opened a nursery and seed store. He first appears in the New York directories in 1808 at the corner of Broadway and Sandy Hill, downtown. Twenty-seven years later in 1835 he is still in downtown New York located at 813 Broadway. In 1837, this thriving busy area apparently proved unsuitable for a nursery and we find the Michael Floy Nursery moving uptown to Harlem. The nursery disappears from the scene in 1838 at least as far as the New York directories are concerned. A Michael Floy Nursery appears once more in New York in 1853, but this is probably the son who had gone into partnership with his father in earlier years. Thus the two men, father and son, apparently were active nurserymen in New York for nearly half a century.

The *Magazine of Horticulture* for April, 1838, listed forty-two seedlings raised and named by Michael Floy and his son Michael Jr. A number of them have very American names. Those named after famous Americans include Clintonia, Franklinii, Jacksoni, Jeffersoni and Washingtoni. Famous Indian chiefs are recognized with Black Hawk, Osceola and Powhattani. Bostonia, Ohio and Philadelphia were also names used for three of the Floy seedlings.

A search of the twelve volumes of Verschaffelt's *Iconographie Des Camellias* published in France, 1848-1860, does not reveal, however, that many of these seedlings were honored by inclusion in that standard work — at least under their given names. Washingtoni, a pink double, is illustrated and described in Verschaffelt. Philadelphia, described by Floy as a "glittering, scarlet, regular and double" turns up in Verschaffelt as a pink and white variegated anemone bloom. Jacksoni and Jeffersoni also appear in the French work but again quite differently from the Floy description.

The Philadelphia area was also important in the early history of the camellia. Bernard M'Mahon, an emigrant from Ireland, apparently came to America very late in the eighteenth century. At least we find him residing temporarily in the village of Dilworthtown, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Early in the nineteenth century he opened a seed store on Second Street below Market in Philadelphia, supplied it with stock from his garden and greenhouses outside the city on the Germantown turnpike. His store was a meeting place for many of the fam-

(Continued on next page)

ous botanists of the time including William Darlington and Thomas Nuttall. In 1806 he published *The American Gardener's Calendar*, a vast work of over 650 pages which went through eleven editions by 1857 and was a standard cyclopedia for American horticulture for over fifty years. Camellias are mentioned briefly in this volume, but with enough knowledge that M'Mahon must have had some varieties in his greenhouses. However, I have not had access to any of his catalogues of plants to verify this. As far as I can ascertain, *The American Gardener's Calendar* is the first American work to mention, however, briefly, the cultivation of camellias.

William Cobbett, an English essayist, politician and agriculturist who traveled extensively in America, brought out his *American Gardener* in 1821. The first edition was printed in London but several subsequent editions were published in this country, testifying to its popularity. Cobbett was a volatile, argumentative writer who was often the cause of controversy as a result of his publications. The quotation from the *American Gardener* is rather amusing for its language and misstatements:

CAMELLIA. (sic) — This shrub, which is of the *laurel-tribe*, has lately been introduced in England from Japan. It bears a flower, which, when open, resembles a good deal a large full-blown rose; and these flowers, on different plants, are of different colours. It is raised, doubtless, from seed; but it may be *grafted* on the *Hawthorn;* and, I dare say, on the *Crab*. Some of the plants have been sold at 20 or 30 pounds each. By this time they are probably sold at a dollar. The plant as well as the flower are handsome; and certainly *cuttings for grafting* may easily be brought from England. They will stand the winter as well as any of the American laurels.

Peter Henderson, a Scottish transplant, born in 1822, came to the United States in 1843. He opened his own market-garden in New Jersey in 1847 after gaining experience working for others. His *Practical Floriculture,* New York, 1868, has a very interesting section on the camellias which I quote here in part:

CAMELLIAS

Camellias are the most important of all flowers used in the construction of baskets or bouquets, and hence are placed first on the list. They are now grown to an extent truly surprising for that purpose in all our large cities and their surrounding neighborhoods. Philadelphia, until recently, was the great Camellia mart, but of late years two or three establishments in the vicinity of New York are making such rapid strides that the Philadelphia florists cannot long compete with those of New York.

(Continued on page 28)

JUST A REMINDER

Harry Novick
Woodland Hills, California

It has become increasingly apparent in the last few years that quite a few varieties of camellias which are registered have been overlooked in the collector's and exhibitor's garden. The purpose of this short monologue of thoughts is not to recommend but merely to remind you of a few outstanding blooms that have caught my eye during the past few seasons at the various shows. All camellia flowers have a beauty of their own which has placed them in a very unique position in the world of flowers. Of course, the eye of the beholder chooses only those that appeal to him or her the most because of many things which will cause that flower above all others to be THE BEST. It may be size, color, shape, or one of several other reasons. Have you ever been standing admiring flowers at the exhibitor's table and accidentally eavesdropped on a conversation where a couple may be admiring a flower that you did not think particularly outstanding and yet that couple 'ohed' and 'ahed' and 'must have that one for our garden'. To quote a short phrase from George Eliot "I always think the flowers can see us and know what we are thinking about."

Oh well, lets ramble on and see about a few.

JUANITA SMITH

A large to very large white semi double shading to a distinct pink border. Has the Don't Touch me look of pure fragile China. Petals are curled and fluffed with eye catching appeal. Distinctly in the sweet pea class.

COMMANDER MULROY

A medium to large white full formal with pink edging. A haughty look of beauty because of its perfect symmetry of form. Ideal for milady's corsage.

MISS CHARLESTON

Deep Red. A high styled flower in the semi double to loose peony class. Gets up to size if you like large flowers. The varigated is outstanding. Distinct markings between red and white. Both have the appearance of rugged strength because of the color.

HALLMARK

A large to very large white semi double with crinkled petals. Has the delicate look of carved ivory yet with a touch of the strength of marble columns.

Temple City Camellia Society

The Society's initial meeting of the 1967-1968 season will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 30th in the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

Blooms will be placed on the display tables at 7:30 p.m. Members and friends are urged to bring whatever blooms are available.

Mr. Douglas C. Thompson will be the guest speaker. He has for many years been an enthusiastic camellia grower and exhibitor. He also has written many articles for camellia publications and his knowledge of the history and introduction of the camellia into the United States is recognized by all Southern California Camellia Societies.

In order to avoid the conflict with Thanksgiving, the meeting will be held on the fifth Thursday in November instead of the usual fourth Thursday.

A special invitation is extended to the membership of all Southern California Camellia Societies and their friends to attend this meeting.

California Camellia Show Schedule

Dec. 2-3, 1967
L. A. Camellia Council Early Show at Descanso Gardens Hospitality House

Feb. 10-11, 1968
San Diego Camellia Society at San Diego

Feb. 17-18, 1968
Peninsula Camellia Society at Redwood City
Pomona Valley Camellia Society at Pomona

Feb. 24-25, 1968
Delta Camellia Society at Pittsburgh
Temple City Camellia Society at L. A. County Arboretum, Arcadia

March 2-3, 1968
L. A. Camellia Council at Descanso Gardens
Camellia Society of Sacramento at Sacramento

March 9-10, 1968
Camellia Society of Kern Couny at Bakersfield
Northern California Camellia Society at Pleasant Hill

March 10, 1968
Central California Camellia Society at Fresno

March 16-17, 1968
Camellia Society of Modesto at Modesto

Winners in 1966-1967 SCCS Meeting Competition

Twenty-six exhibitors earned ribbons in the flower competition at S.C.C.S. meetings during the 1966-1967 season. Points and ribbons are awarded in the competition according to the number of blooms exhibited in a classification, as follows:

Number of blooms	Number of ribbons
2-5	1
6-10	2
11-15	3
16-20	4
over 20	5

If only three reticulatas are displayed, for example, only one ribbon is given. The rules for the 1966-1967 competition, which will also be applicable for the 1967-1968 season, are given in the November 1966 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW, page 9, "Rules for SCCS Meeting Flower Competition".

The top five winners in the 1966-1967 competition and number of points scored were as follows:

Frank Reed, Pasadena 136 points
Melvin Gum, Long Beach 56 points
W. F. (Bill) Goertz, San Marino 49 points
Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria 45 points
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland 43 points

Trophies will be awarded at the November 14, 1967 meeting of the Society to the winner and runner-up.

SOME REFERENCES *(Cont.)*

The advance of the New York establishments is due, without doubt, to their more rapid manner of propagation. While the Philadelphia florist contents himself with the slow but sure practice of inarching, the New York Camellia-grower is making nearly a dozen plants to his one, by the method, equally safe to him, of grafting.

Henderson lived a long and full life, dying in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1890. His writings and horticultural experience made him a well-known figure here and abroad.

In a future issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW, a further discussion of other American camellia men and books will be presented.

ONE MAN'S "BEST" VARIETIES

One person's views on what is "best" in the way of camellia varieties may not fit the views of his neighbor. Since the beginning of the camellia hobby, however, "Best" selections of leading camellia hobbyists have been on the good reading lists and their talks at camellia society meetings have been listened to with interest. Bill Woodroof's talk at the March 1967 meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society followed the pattern, with note pads in evidence for writing down some of his selections. Following are his "best" varieties, arranged first by color and within the color by form.

White

Semi-double (regular) 'White Nun'
Semi-double (irregular)
'Frizzle White', 'Silver Ruffles'
Anemone 'Snow Chan'
Peony (loose) 'Onetia Holland'
Peony (full) 'Silver Chalice'
Formal 'Fimbriata', Nuccio's 6505

Pink — Blush to Light

Semi-double (regular)
'Mrs. D. W. Davis'
Semi-double (irregular) 'Cara Mia'
Anemone 'Barbara Woodroof'
Peony (loose) 'Tiffany'
Peony (full) 'Tomorrow Park Hill'
Formal 'Twilight'

Pink — Medium to Deep

Semi-double (regular) 'Drama Girl', 'Grandeur'
Semi-double (irregular) 'Faith'
Anemone 'Elegans Supreme', 'Disneyland'
Peony (loose) 'Marie Bracey'
Peony (full) 'Debutante'
Formal 'Pink Pagoda'

Pink — Veined

'Tomorrow's Dawn'

Sweet Pea

Semi-double (regular)
'Spring Sonnet'
Semi-double (irregular)
'Erin Farmer'
Anemone 'Annette Gehry'
Peony (loose) 'China Doll'
Formal 'Dorothy James' (hybrid)

Red — Light to Bright

Semi-double (regular) 'Mercury', 'Clarise Carleton'
Semi-double (irregular)
'Guilio Nuccio', 'Laura Walker', 'Mathotiana Supreme', 'Reg Ragland'
Anemone 'R. L. Wheeler'
Peony (loose) 'Tomorrow'
Peony (full) 'Kramer's Supreme'
Formal 'Glen 40'

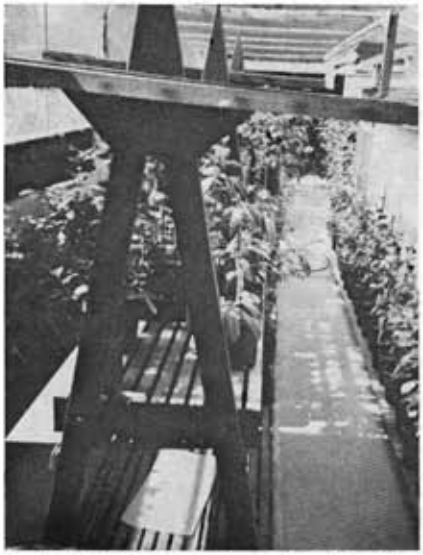
Red — Dark

Semi-double (regular) 'Lady in Red'
Semi-double (irregular)
'Judge W. T. Ragland'
Anemone 'Grand Slam'
Peony (loose) 'Tom Knudsen', 'Blaze of Glory'
Peony (full) 'Clark Hubbs'

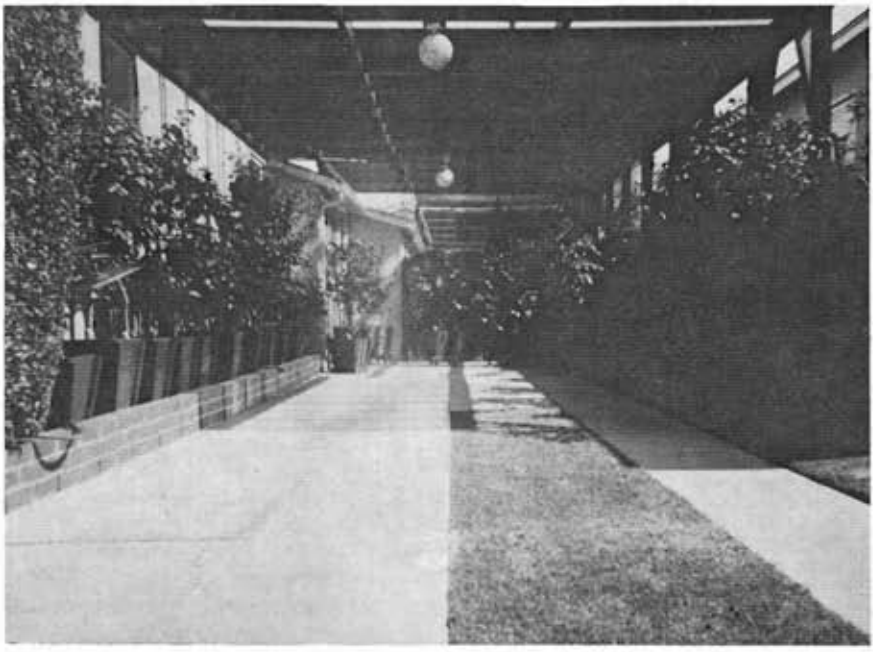
(Continued on page 32)

AN ACRE ISN'T NECESSARY FOR GROWING CAMELLIAS

Melvin Gum of Long Beach, California has demonstrated that an acre isn't necessary for growing camellias. He became seriously interested in camellias in 1960. His home is on a moderate sized lot and he started out with container culture except adjacent to the house. The bug bit him hard and fast. He has done three things that make it possible for him to now grow 700 plants of about 400 varieties of all species, have good blooms that win awards in camellia shows and meeting competition, and have a camellia garden that is neat as a pin. First, he prunes heavily so that he can place the plants close together; second, he has utilized all his space including his driveway; third, he has built various sized square containers that permit an orderly arrangement of his plants.



He has built tables for the center of his driveway leading into the garage.



He keep his automobile in the driveway beside the house

Solid with containers but organized for ease in getting around

Note that the plants around the house are pruned for close planting

BIG YEAR *(Cont.)*
will again be at the door to greet members and guests. Our Camellia Review Editor Harold Dryden will continue to put out this fine publication and will be in his usual corner at the San Marino Woman's Club to handle the various secretarial chores that are necessary on meeting nights. Bill Woodroof has his big job of putting out the new 1968 nomenclature book and we shall all be happy to get our copies in December. Wilber Foss has his committee already working to look for candidates for Award winners to be announced next June at our summer get-together.

OBSERVATIONS *(Cont.)*
finally, the sheep! Ten sheep to every person in New Zealand. They are everywhere, from the north of the North Island to the south of the South Island. I was told that in some of the fertile areas of the North Island they graze ten sheep to the acre. They graze only one sheep to the acre in some parts of the South Island. All the people agree that there are too many sheep and that the present New Zealand economy is hurt by the low price of wool. The tourist, however, particularly one who has driven over as many miles of New Zealand as I did, does not think of the economy but rather remembers the thousands and thousands of sheep grazing land that he saw, some luscious green, some brown as in our Southwestern United States, but all a beautiful landscape in a beautiful country.

CAMELLIA SHOW *(Cont.)*
are lax in some of the minor classes (hybrids, miniatures, etc.) prior to judging. This causes not only headaches for the judging team, but renders a dis-service to some serious minded exhibitors.

It has been our intention to offer the above comments as constructive criticism and we hope that some show chairmen will use a more imaginative approach to show delineation after they read and digest this article. It would be a pleasure to debate or discuss further any of the items we have mentioned either by mail or in person. One pretext, however . . . please leave all brick-bats at home!

CITRUS FRUIT *(Cont.)*
some effect upon the available iron in the soil making it possible for the plant to use more than would be normally the case. I found that the use of citrus was very helpful to all trees and shrubs that I have in my garden.

I know that by now you all have loads of questions which I can't answer, or would like to offer me the address of a very fine doctor. To all I would say that you should experiment. Most everyone has a lemon tree in Southern California that produces more fruit than you can use. Take some of those pesky droppers off the ground and dabble a bit. You will enjoy it and so will your plants.

ONE MAN'S *(Cont.)*
Variegated — Pink and White
Semi-double (regular) 'Drama Girl'
Semi-double (irregular)
'Marguerite Cannon'
Anemone 'Elegans'
Peony (loose) 'Marie Bracey'
Peony (full) 'Elizabeth Le Bey'
Formal 'Carter's Sunburst'
Variegated — Red and White
Semi-double (regular)
'Adolphe Audusson Special',
'Donckelarii', 'Mercury'
Semi-double (irregular)
'Guilio Nuccio', 'Reg Ragland'
Anemone 'R. L. Wheeler'
Peony (loose)
'Betty Sheffield Supreme'
Peony (full) 'Tomorrow'
Formal 'Glen 40'

Three of the 53 varieties in the above list were introduced prior to 1900, 7 between 1900 and 1949, 20 in the 1950's and 23 in the 1960's.

Directory of California Camellia Societies

Societies with asterisk (*) are Affiliates of Southern California Camellia Society

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY
President: Dr. Leland Chow; Secretary, Melvin Canfield, 2709 Scott Pl., Bakersfield 93306
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through April in Police Bldg., 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY
President: Douglas Nowlin; Secretary, Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 97205
Meetings: 1st Thursday October through April in Orange County Farm Bldg., 1916 W. Chapman, Orange

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO
President: Dr. Roy O'Neal; Secretary: Mrs. Martha Derr, 6454 Oakridge Way, Sacramento 95831
Meetings: 4th Wednesday October through April in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Robert Kellas; Secretary, Mrs. Glenn S. Wise, 5493 E. Liberty Ave., Fresno 93702
Meetings: Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 24, Feb. 21, Mar. 20 in Mayfair School, Fresno

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: A. M. Patterson; Secretary: Mrs. Dorothy Blackard, 2707 Prospect St., Concord 94520
Meetings: 4th Tuesday October through April in School Services Bldg., 6th & G Sts., Antioch

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Karn Heortling; Secretary: Mrs. Eugene Chesi, 801 S. Pleasant St., Lodi 95240
Meetings: 1st Tuesday November through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Karl M. Anderson; Secretary: Mrs. Joe L. Vendracek, 13176 Fenton, Sylmar
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Dr. Jake Holtzman; Secretary: Mrs. Hazel Grosso, 1424 Encina Ave., Modesto 95351
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Robert E. Ehrhart; Secretary: Carl W. Schroeder, 41 Van Ripper Lane, Orinda 94563
Meetings: 1st Monday November through May in Claremont Junior High School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Albert H. Dekker; Secretary: Mrs. A. L. Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 91208
Meetings 1st Thursday November through April in Tuesday Afternoon Club House, 400 N. Central Ave., Glendale

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Louis J. Giomi; Secretary: Mrs. Pauline Moore, 80 Wheeler Ave., Redwood City 94061
Meetings: 4th Tuesday September through April in Hospitality Room, First Federal Savings Bldg., 700 El Camino Real, Redwood City

*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Nelson R. Gatov; Secretary: Nancy McCormick, 568 E. Francis, Ontario 91728
Meetings: 2nd Thursday October through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Samuel E. Foster; Secretary: Mrs. Peg White, 5951 Germaine Lane, La Jolla 92037
Meetings: 2nd Friday (except February which is 1st Friday) November through May in Floral Assn. Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Alton B. Parker; Secretary: Mrs. Inez Tryon, Sebastopol
Meetings: 4th Thursday, November through April

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Laurence R. Shuey; Secretary: Mrs. Violet Shuey, 5813 N. Golden West Ave., Temple City 91780
Meetings: 5th Thursday of November and 4th Thursday of December through March in Lecture Hall of Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

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