

THE  
*Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Morgan Whitney'  
*Courtesy Tammy Nursery and  
American Camellia Society*

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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: \$6.50.

## OFFICERS

WILBER FOSS, Pres.  
1380 Winston Ave., San Marino 91108  
Tel. 792-0829

MELVIN L. GUM, Vice Pres.  
5641 N. Willard, San Gabriel 91776  
Tel. 287-6765

MRS. MILDRED PITKIN, Sec'y-Treas.  
2465 Sherwood Rd., San Marino 91108  
Tel. 287-5826

## DIRECTORS

MARK J. ANTHONY  
7147 Muscatel, San Gabriel 91775  
Tel. 286-7172

KARL M. ANDERSON  
424 16th St., Santa Monica 90402  
Tel. 395-1289

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Tel. 287-5977

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**THE CAMELLIA REVIEW:** HAROLD E. DRYDEN, Editor, 820 Winston Ave., San Marino, Tel. 793-4214

## EDITORIAL BOARD:

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### THE COVER FLOWER

#### *C. japonica* 'Morgan Whitney'

This month's cover flower is a 1970 introduction of Tammia Nursery of Slidell, Louisiana. It was also introduced this year by Alton Parker's Redwood Empire Camellias in Sebastopol, California. It is a peach pink, large rose form seedling of 'Ville de Nantes'. It has not yet bloomed in Southern California but reports from Louisiana where it originated are very good.

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### New 1970 Edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

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# THOUGHTS

*from the editor*

Alton Parker, once one of the Southern California camellia group but now a camellia nursery tycoon in Northern California, dropped by the other day for a chat and looksee. After looking awhile he said, "brother, you are in trouble". How right he was. My plants in tubs and in the ground were out of bounds. All the plants in the smaller containers, the ones, the twos and the threes, have added a year's growth since I arranged them so comfortably after last year's pruning. Last year's grafts were crowded into a corner. I am in the same trouble in which many camellia hobbyists find themselves — not enough room for the plants on hand.

So I am in the process of making room, one of the hardest things that a camellia grower has to do. I had good reason for having all the 200 plus varieties in my collection — I had seen them and liked them or they had been highly recommended. Obviously, something has to give, even though I should not add a plant in the years ahead. This is just as unlikely as a woman not needing a new pair of shoes to match a new color in a dress.

The first step is relatively easy — discard the varieties that have not come up to early expectations, or more properly, hopes. I have found that the best way to do this is to make it a part of my grafting program — cut them off on the spot and start again. I seldom discard a variety on the basis of its first blooms but must believe that two years is enough.

The next step should be just as easy but somehow it isn't. I am going all out in discarding plants that have not been producing flowers that are up to standard for the variety. We are inclined to hold on to names of varieties, hopeful that next year the flowers will be better. I am throwing a 'Tiffany' into the trash can for this reason. I made two grafts of it last year in anticipation of this step.

I have two and three plants of some varieties. Some of the excess will have to go. I gave an 'Elegans Supreme' to my wife for the plant sale at her garden club. Others will go the same route or to friends.

This ends the easy part. From here on it will be a matter of arbitrarily deciding that I like this one less than that one. The rain of February 10th brought out the blooms in my garden and my memory is fresh regarding which ones particularly appealed to me then.

So it goes. We must have a new variety because we have seen the flower or somebody tells us we must have it. It and our other plants grow in size and before we know it we are "in trouble" again. So we discard some of the varieties we had to have a few years ago, and start out again. Crazy, isn't it?

*Harold E. Gynther*

# AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE YEAR FOR CAMELLIA TOURISTS

Eric Craig

Warrawee, NSW, Australia

There may never be another year as fascinating as 1970 for international camellia enthusiasts to visit Australia. 1970 is the Bi-Centenary of Australia's discovery by Britain's Captain James Cook. An elaborate programme of celebrations has been planned between March and August, primarily along the east-coast of New South Wales and Queensland — the coastline which Cook's "Endeavour" explored and charted.

The importance of the Bi-Centenary is emphasised by the planned visit to Australia of Queen Elizabeth II, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess Anne. It is an exceptional circumstance for the Queen to leave England and travel to the opposite side of the world with the Duke and their two oldest children. The Royal party will arrive in Australia on 30th March, and leave on 3rd May. Naturally, the highlight of their visit will be the 29th April Bi-Centenary celebrations at Botany Bay, adjacent to Sydney, where Captain Cook hoisted the British "Jack" that day in 1770.

A most unique circumstance associated with 29th April 1970 is that it will be the 89th birthday of Australia's grand old gentleman of camellias, Professor E. Gowrie Waterhouse O.B.E.

## National Garden

So it is wonderfully appropriate — both as to date and place — that Australia's first National Camellia Garden may be visited just a few miles from Botany Bay that very same day. It has already been named "The E. G. Waterhouse Bi-Centenary Camellia Garden". Brain-child of Eric Utick, Chairman of the St. George and Southern Districts Branch of the Australian Camellia Research Society, the

7-acre Garden has been established in a delightful Australian "bush" setting overlooking Yowie Bay. By mid-year, however, about 1200 advanced camellia shrubs and trees will have been established.

## Myriorama of Blooms

Visitors who arrive in Sydney after the 29th April will find compensation in the fact that the E. G. Waterhouse Garden is expected to be a myriorama of blooms between June and September. What a thrill is in store for all of us to see this charmingly planned camellia setting in its first year of full flower!

The Prime Minister of Canada has already announced that he will visit Australia on his way to EXPO 70 in Japan, and we hope that all American camellia-lovers heading across the Pacific this year will do the same — either on their way to EXPO, or on their way home.

In the Sydney district, there will be a first-class Camellia Show in different localities every weekend from the end of June to early August.

## International Festival

However, to highlight the peak of the Australian Camellia season, the Australian Camellia Research Society will stage an International Camellia Festival in Sydney on August 3, 4 and 5. It will be planned and managed by Peter Duly, Len Bray and Eric Craig — the same team which so successfully staged Australia's first National Camellia Show at Canberra in 1966. As the Festival is one of the official Bi-Centenary "spectaculars", the organisers aim not only to display blooms in special settings suggested by their country of origin, but also to fly in a fine collection of flowers from New Zealand.

*(Continued on page 21)*

# ACCELERATED GROWTH RATES ON CAMELLIA SEEDLINGS AND GRAFTS

Howard E. Burnette  
Castro Valley, California

Many amateur camellia hobbyists have expended considerable effort to develop varying degrees of interest in the pursuit of their hobby. We cannot help but wonder how many have taken the time to determine whether or not they could vastly improve their final results, and this without too great of an investment. Whereas some may have built greenhouses or cold-frames, invested in soil cables, lights, humidistats and fans for ventilation, how many have tried or considered the use of plant growth, energy source lamps? Sylvania's Gro-Lux® fluorescent lamps are worth considering if you wish to really start things moving.

If your interest has followed this vein, you may have read some of the earlier articles authored by Dr. Walter Lammerts<sup>1,2</sup> and James Bonner<sup>3</sup> on the use of heat, light, moisture and high nutrient level to accelerate the growth rate of camellias. Another fine article is one written by Dr. John D. Lawson<sup>4</sup>. The outstanding research done by these men has certainly added to the depth of interest enjoyed by the writer in pursuit of his camellia hobby.

Our first attempt at a home experiment was fostered by a Hayward, Calif. nurseryman and horticulturist, Mr. Toichi Domoto, who provided us with Gro-Lux lamps for a 24" fluorescent fixture we had on hand. After observing the results obtained at Domoto's Nursery we became "hooked" and had to invest in a soil heating cable to use with the fluorescent lamp. Although we were not in the same league as the greenhouse owners, we did have a pretty fair basement propagating room with our radiant energy lamps. We noted with interest that many camellia grafts which were made at Domoto's Nursery in late November and through December

would set flower buds the same season, where Gro-Lux lighting was used. We have also seen grafts survive after dropping their leaves, the result of having been refrigerated too long. There is no doubt that these outstanding results were fostered by the increased red and blue radiation bands provided by the Gro-Lux lamps.

Perhaps we should take time here to dwell on a few excerpts from the lighting brochures<sup>5</sup> published by Sylvania Electric Products, Inc. which concern these special fluorescent lamps. The lamps are available in various combinations of output and wattages and use no more electricity than standard fluorescent fixtures of comparable wattage. These lamps do not require special fixtures and are available as Standard Gro-Lux to Wide-Spectrum Gro-Lux in combination with high-output and very-high output wattages to fit the individual needs of the grower. The many lamp combinations make it possible to properly engineer the best coverage of any growing area at the least expense to the user. Radiation values run to approx. 5500 hours of usage, making it necessary to replace the lamps approx. every 12 mos. Our home installation is now equipped with an 8 ft. fixture having 2 single-pin type lamps. The lamp is suspended by jack chain using S-hooks for height adjustment. An inexpensive timer is used to give an 18 hour setting. Mr. Domoto is using wide-spectrum lamps in his greenhouse, having them timed to lengthen the day's light-exposure cycle. Sylvania was able to develop these lamps after determination had been made of the particular wave lengths (within the radiant energy spectrum) which control each stage of optimum growth. From this determination they found it practical to

develop these special electric light sources which produce higher quality plants within a shorter growing period. This is the result of spectral energy distribution which provides energy for making carbohydrates and governs the photo-reaction of responses, thereby enhancing plant growth. Normal plant development is dependent upon light to supply the necessary energy for the production of starches and sugars, which in turn control the vital growth processes. To complete the picture, the hobbyist must provide heat, moisture and fertilizer and pay particular attention to temperature control and air circulation to take advantage of this accelerated growth response.

Our method of seedling germination is also different from that of most

growers. Some hobbyists prefer to plant their seed as soon as it is harvested, but we have found that if the seed is properly stored in the refrigerator for a few weeks, germination is more even. The seeds are then germinated by placing a couple inches of sand and humus in the bottom of plastic pots. This is followed by 3 inches of perlite or sponge rock, well-soaked and let to drain. We place the seeds in the pots on top of the perlite, cover with more of the same, again moisten and let it drain. These pots are then covered with saran wrap or plastic held in place by a large rubber band and then placed in our furnace room for warmth. As the seeds germinate we move the pots under the Gro-Lux lights where growth response

*(Continued on next page)*



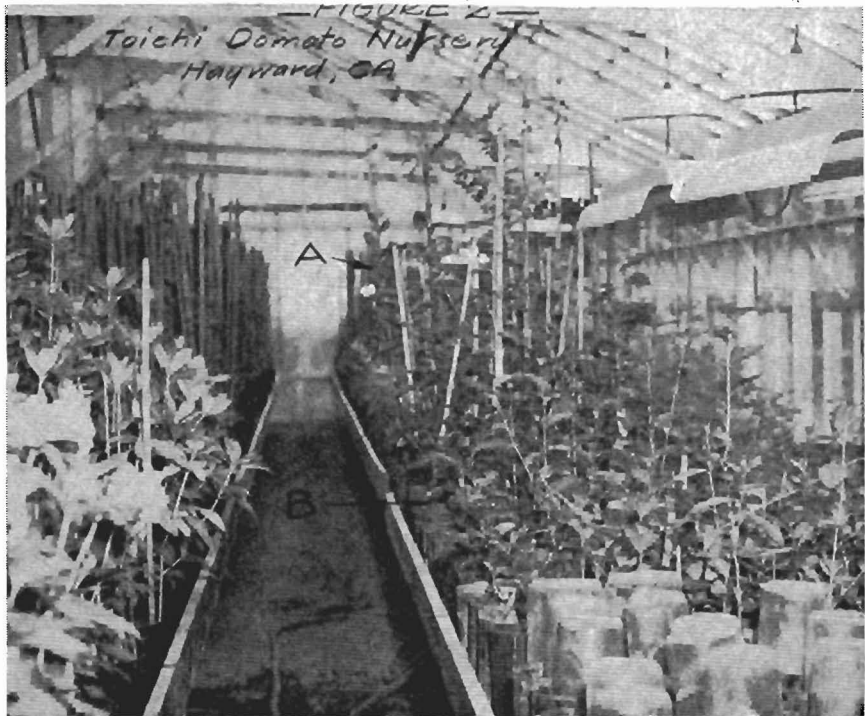
**FIGURE 1**

Reticulata seedlings from seed planted August 19, 1969 and transplanted into 4" pots in mid-December, 1969. Note the "push" of the second growth cycle. Photo taken Feb. 10, 1970. Seedlings are 6" to 10" tall.

is quite active. The seedlings develop a larger caliper and develop a good root system, which is important for transplanting success. In many cases the seedlings set up a second growth cycle before we get them transplanted. Our method of germination seems to foster longer radicles, huskier hypocotyl development and fast response to growth of the cotyledons.

Our Northern California Camellia Research Committee, through the efforts of Mr. David L. Feathers, received a supply of *reticulata* seed from New Zealand. These seeds were freshly packed and refrigerated as soon as received. We planted these as described above and experienced 97% germination within a week to 10 days. Although the planting date was August 19, 1969, we were slow in getting

them under the Gro-Lux lamps. The seedlings were moved to Domoto's Nursery in early October where they were transplanted about mid-December. We have experienced 100% success on the transplants. Figure I shows several of the transplanted seedlings on February 10, 1970. All are 6" - 8" tall with thick caliper and good root development. Most of them had started a second growth cycle before being transplanted. The Gro-Lux lights in Mr. Domoto's greenhouse are timed to supplemental normal daylight. No other controls are automatic; therefore, it is readily seen what could be accomplished by the amateur hybridist who really wanted to supply more automatic controls to get even greater accelerated growth. The seedlings shown could be cleft grafted



**FIGURE 2**

An area of propagation greenhouse at Domoto's Nursery, Hayward, Calif. showing incandescent and special fluorescent lighting arrangement. Grafts at area "A" were made in early Sept. 1968, while those at area "B" were made in Sept. 1969. Photo taken Feb. 10, 1970.



now, with bloom expected by February, 1971. Figure 2 shows an area of the Domoto greenhouse where incandescent and Gro-Lux lamps are used to advantage on grafted camellias. Some of these grafts were made in August, 1968, while another group was set up between August and October, 1969.

During the time that our Apollo XI expedition was leaving footprints on the surface of the moon, Mr. Jim Fisher, a nurseryman of Sydney, Australia had a reticulata seedling in bloom. Since he felt that this seedling was worthy of introduction, it was quite natural that he named it "Tranquility". We received scions of this seedling while recuperating from a serious illness, at which time Mr. Toichi Domoto grafted them for us.

Figure 3 shows two of these grafts which have set flower buds. This photo also shows a graft of 'Charlean' which was made a month later and it has also set a flower bud.

In closing, we feel it fair to state that it is quite possible to harvest seeds in September or October, plant them within two or three weeks, make grafts of the small seedlings in January or February and see the plants in bloom the following season — from seed to bloom within 14 or 18 months without risk of loss of the original seedling. Whether it be seedlings, grafts or rooted cuttings, the individual needs only to declare his depth of involvement to further his hobby interest.

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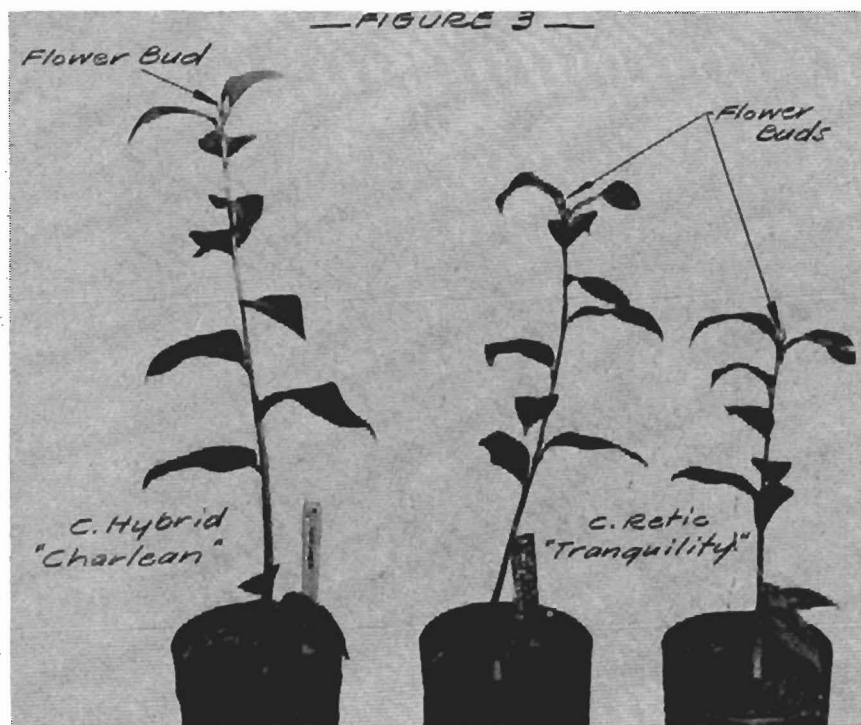


FIGURE 3

On the left — graft of C. Hybrid 'Charlean' made in Sept. 1969. On the right — grafts of Jim Fisher's Reticulata seedling 'Tranquility' made in August 1969. These grafts are 12" to 18" tall and have set flower buds. Photo taken Feb. 10, 1970.

# Show Results

## TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Los Angeles County Arboretum  
Arcadia, California -- February 7-8, 1970

- Best Large Japonica — 'Lady in Red', Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley Pace, Upland  
Best Large Japonica Runner-up — 'Tiffany', Dr. John Urabec, La Canada  
Best Medium Japonica — 'Ballet Dancer', Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley Pace, Upland  
Best Medium Japonica Runner-up — 'Sawada's Dream', Melvin Canfield, Bakersfield  
Best Boutonniere Japonica — 'Demi-Tasse', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland  
Best Boutonniere Japonica Runner-up — 'Reeves Sweetheart', A. L. Summerson, Glendale  
Best 3 Large Japonicas — 'Donckelarii', Mr. and Mrs. Roger Treishchel, Glendale  
Best 3 Medium Japonicas — 'Ballet Dancer', Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley Pace  
Best Reticulata — 'Buddha', Monique Peer, Los Angeles  
Best Reticulata Runner-up — 'Lila Naff', Mr. and Mrs. Pat Novak, Van Nuys  
Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Cornelian', Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria  
Best 3 Reticulatas Runner-up — 'Buddha', William Donnan, Pasadena  
Best Reticulata Hybrid — 'Francie L', Mr. and Mrs. R. C. McNeil, San Diego  
Best Non-Reticulata Hybrid — 'Elsie Jury', Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley Pace  
Best Treated Bloom — 'Fire Chief', Mr. and Mrs. Larry Shuey, Temple City  
Best Treated Bloom Runner-up — 'Tali Queen', Mr. and Mrs. Caryll Pitkin, San Marino  
Best Other Species Bloom — 'Star Above Star', A. L. Summerson, Glendale  
Best Japonica Seedling — Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gaeta, El Monte  
Best Reticulata Seedling — Monique Peer, Los Angeles  
Best Hybrid Seedling — Maitland's A-1, Entered by Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gunn, Lynwood  
Court of Honor Blooms —  
'Cornelian', A. L. Gunn; 'Guilio Nuccio Var', Caryll Pitkin; 'Kick Off', Paul McClelland; 'Splash O White', Ernest Pieri; 'Lovelight', A. L. Summerson; 'Grand Prix', W. F. Goertz; 'Elizabeth LeBey', Rulon Knight; 'Owen Henry', Gertrude Stump; 'Glen 40', John Movich; 'Silver Chalice', Avon Crawford; 'Alba Plena', A. L. Summerson; 'June McCaskill', Carey Bliss; 'Atomic Red', Fred Hamilton; 'Magnoliaeflora', A. L. Summerson; 'Midnight', John Movich; 'Strawberry Blond', Peter Folino; 'Erin Farmer', Caryll Pitkin; 'John Taylor Var', Pat Novak; 'Paris Pink', Roger Treischel

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## POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pomona, California -- February 14-15, 1970

- Best Large Japonica — 'Mrs. D. W. Davis Peony', A. L. Summerson, Glendale  
Best Large Japonica Runner-up — 'Tomorrow Park Hill', Harold Dryden, San Marino  
Best Medium Japonica — 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland  
Best Medium Japonica Runner-up — 'Sunset Oaks', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace  
Best Small Japonica — 'Alison Leigh Woodroof', Ernest Pieri, San Gabriel

- Best Small Japonica Runner-up — 'Maroon and Gold', Grady Perigan, Arcadia
- Best Miniature Japonica — 'Bright Sprite', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
- Best Miniature Japonica Runner-up — 'Fircone Var', Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey, Temple City
- Best 3 Japonicas — 'Adolphe Audusson Special', Dr. John H. Urabec, La Canada
- Best 3 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Grand Slam', Caryll Pitkin, San Marino
- Best 3 Boutonniere Japonicas — 'Hopkins Pink', John and Mary Movich, La Verne
- Best 3 Boutonniere Japonics Runner-up — 'Fircone', Mr. and Mrs. J. V. George, La Mesa
- Best Reticulata and Reticulata Hybrid — 'Howard Asper', Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria
- Best Reticulata and Reticulata Hybrid Runner-up — 'Purple Gown', Fred Hamilton
- Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Butterfly Wings', Fred Hamilton
- Best 3 Reticulatas Runner-up — 'Buddha', Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey
- Best Non-Reticulata Hybrid — 'Rose Parade', John and Mary Movich,
- Best Non-Reticulata Hybrid Runner-up — 'Elegant Beauty', W. F. Goertz, San Marino
- Best 3 Non-reticulata Hybrids — 'Charlean', Melvin L. Gum, San Gabriel
- Best 3 Non-reticulata Hybrids Runner-up — 'Holland's Orchid', F. E. Kahen, Garden Grove
- Best Other Species — 'Star Above Star', Dr. John H. Urabec, La Canada
- Best Other Species Runner-up — 'Dawn', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe, Upland
- Best Treated Bloom — 'Purple Gown', Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria
- Best Treated Bloom Runner-up — 'Grand Prix', A. L. Summerson, Glendale
- Best Seedling — 'Angel Wings' (No. 15) — Kramer Bros. Nursery, Upland
- Best Seedling Runner-up — Monique Peer, Los Angeles
- Best Sport — Sport of 'Pink Pagoda', Sam Foster, El Cajon
- Best Sport Runner-up — Sport of 'Tom Thumb', Lester H. Dehmel, Pasadena
- Court of Honor Blooms —  
 'Magnoliaeflora', Ken Mitchell; 'Silver Ruffles', Melvin Canfield; 'Tomorrow Tropic Dawn', Harry Novick; 'Tomorrow Var', Ellis Worming-
- (Continued on next page)*

## RELEASING

'Carnival Queen' (Japonica)

'Rose Parade' ('Donation' X Japonica)

'Silver Waves' (Japonica)

'Highlight' ('Purple Gown' X Saluenensis)

'Valentine Day' ('Crimson Robe' X 'Tiffany')

'Forty Niner' ('Butterfly Wings' X 'Indian Summer')

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ton; 'White Nun', Melvin Canfield; 'Spring Sonnet', W. F. Goertz; 'Reeves Sweetheart', Donald Braid; 'Demi-Tasse', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe; 'Margaret Davis', Melvin Gum; 'Lily Pons', Melvin Canfield; 'Lovelight', A. L. Summerson; 'Julia France', Pat Novak; 'Red Button', Ernest Pieri; 'Buddha', W. F. Harmsen; 'Mouchang', Caryll Pitkin; 'Francie L', Monique Peer

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### **PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

**Redwood City, California -- February 14-15, 1970**

- Sweepstakes — Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Morton, Lafayette  
Sweepstakes Runner-up — Mr. and Mrs. Sal Davi, Pittsburg  
Best Very Large Japonica — 'Tomorrow Var', Mr. and Mrs. George A. Stewart, Sacramento  
Best Large Japonica — 'Guilio Nuccio Var', Jack Lewis, Concord  
Best Medium Japonica — 'Sawada's Dream', Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Hansen, Sr., Sacramento  
Best Small Japonica — 'Kitty', Kenneth Rice, Chico  
Best Miniature Japonica — 'Angel's Blush', Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Addicott, Portola Valley  
Best 3 Japonicas — 'Tiffany', Richard Roggia, Santa Clara  
Best 5 Japonicas — 'Ville de Nantes', L. P. Brooks, Concord  
Best Reticulata — 'William Hertrich', Mrs. Anna Passinetti, Sebastopol  
Best 3 Reticulatas — 'William Hertrich', Mr. and Mrs. Chas. F. O'Malley, Woodside  
Best Large and Very Large Hybrid — 'Valentine Day', Mr. and Mrs. Chas. F. O'Malley  
Best Medium and Small Hybrid — 'Elsie Jury', Harold L. Paige, Lafayette  
Best Member's Bloom — 'Elegans Supreme', Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Valley  
Best Tray of 12 Blooms — Dr. and Mrs. Fred Heitman, Lafayette  
Best Seedling — WR-20, David L. Feathers, Lafayette  
Best Treated Bloom — 'R. L. Wheeler Var', Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ehrhart, Walnut Creek  
Honor Table Blooms —  
'Pearl's Pet', 'Bon-Bon', 'Fircone Var', 'Hishi Karaito', 'Hopkins Pink', 'Pink Pagoda', 'Peter Pan', 'Kona', 'Kathryn Marbury', 'Elegans Supreme', 'Fashionata', 'Berenice Beauty', 'Mabel Bryan', 'Easter Morn', 'Elsie Ruth Marshall', 'Crimson Robe', 'Mouchang', 'E. G. Waterhouse Var', 'Francie L', 'El Dorado',

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### **SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

**San Diego, California -- February 21-22, 1970**

- Sweepstakes — Slane and Gertrude Stump, Vista  
Best Flower of Show — 'Elsie Ruth Marshall', Wilber Foss, San Marino  
Best Large Japonica — 'Elsie Ruth Marshall', Wilber Foss  
Best Large Japonica Runner-up — 'Elegans Supreme', Grady Perigan, Arcadia  
Best Medium Japonica — 'Twilight', Mrs. Wm. Meyer, Glendora  
Best Medium Japonica Runner-up — 'Spring Sonnet', W. F. Goertz, San Marino  
Best Small Japonica — 'Wilamina', W. F. Harmsen, Claremont  
Best Small Japonica Runner-up — 'Alison Leigh Woodroof', Ernest Pieri, San Gabriel

- Best Miniature Japonica — 'Memento', Gertrude Stump, Vista  
 Best Miniature Japonica Runner-up — 'Angel's Blush', H. E. Humphrey, San Diego  
 Best 3 Japonicas — 'Guilio Nuccio', Caryll W. Pitkin, San Marino  
 Best 3 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Grand Slam', Caryll W. Pitkin  
 Best 5 Japonicas — 'Guilio Nuccio Var', W. F. Goertz, San Marino  
 Best 5 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Tomorrow', A. L. Summerson, Glendale  
 Best Reticulata — 'Pagoda', James Andrews, San Diego  
 Best Reticulata Runner-up — 'Tali Queen', C. W. Pitkin  
 Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Purple Gown', Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria  
 Best 3 Reticulatas Runner-up — 'Crimson Robe', S. W. Miller, El Cajon  
 Best Reticulata Hybrid — 'Francie L', R. C. McNeil, San Diego  
 Best Reticulata Hybrid Runner-up — 'Howard Asper', Slane and Gertrude Stump, Vista  
 Best Non-reticulata Hybrid — 'Waltz Time Var', Grady Perigan, Arcadia  
 Best Non-reticulata Hybrid Runner-up — 'Elsie Jury', B. M. Pace, Upland  
 Best Treated Bloom — 'Guilio Nuccio Var', Frank Reed, Pasadena  
 Best Treated Bloom Runner-up — 'Clark Hubbs', A. L. Summerson, Glendale  
 Best Other Species — 'Star Above Star', A. L. Summerson  
 Best Other Species Runner-up — 'Roseafloa', Al Krueger, Monterey Park  
 Best Seedling — Maitland's C-9, entered by A. L. Gunn, Lynwood  
 Court of Honor Blooms:  
 'Almorinda Carneiro', L. R. Shuey; 'Aaron's Ruby', Slane Stump; 'Prince Eugene Napoleon', A. L. Summerson; 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', B. M. Pace; 'Coronation', Dr. John H. Urabec; 'Mathotiana Supreme', C. W. Pitkin; 'Eleanor Martin Supreme', W. F. Goertz; 'Tiffany Var', B. M. Pace; 'Julia France', Pat Novak; 'Mark Alan', Slane Stump; 'Dr. John D. Bell', Dr. John H. Urabec; 'Onetia Holland', Slane Stump; 'Crimson Robe', Fred Hamilton; 'Fire Chief Var', Slane Stump; 'Anticipation', A. L. Summerson

## LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA COUNCIL

Descanso Gardens, La Canada, California

February 28, March 1, 1970

- Award of Excellence — Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson, Glendale  
 Best Large Japonica — 'Elegans Supreme', William Stewart, Sacramento  
 Best Large Japonica Runner-up — 'Tomorrow Park Hill', Harvey Morton, Lafayette

*(Continued on next page)*

**STRONG**

**VIGOROUS**

**SEEDLING**

**UNDERSTOCK**

**SASANQUA and JAPONICA**

**McCASKILL GARDENS**

25 SOUTH MICHILLINDA AVENUE

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Best Medium Japonica — 'Margaret Davis', Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson  
Best Medium Japonica Runner-up — 'Herme', Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Rankin,  
Modesto

Best Small Japonica — 'Maroon & Gold', Lester F. Dehmel, Pasadena

Best Small Japonica Runner-up — 'Demi Tasse', Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe,  
Upland

Best Miniature Japonica — 'Fircone Var', Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Rankin

Best Miniature Japonica Runner-up — 'Rosy Posy', Mr. and Mrs. Anthony  
Pinheiro, Modesto

Japonica Blooms on Court of Honor:

'Lady in Red', Gertrude and Slane Stump; 'Kramer's Supreme', Mr. and  
Mrs. George A. Stewart; 'Shiro Chan', Mr. and Mrs. George A. Stewart;  
'Adolphe Audusson Special', Dr. John Urabec; 'Snowman', Dr. Leland  
Chow; 'Clark Hubbs', William D. Stewart; 'Fashionata', Mr. and Mrs.  
R. P. Treischel; 'Pink Diddy', Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Stewart; 'O. C. Cotton',  
Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace; 'Ballet Dancer', Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Stewart;  
'Midnight', Mrs. Janet Meyer; 'Wilamina', Fred Hamilton; 'Tuffet', Mr.  
and Mrs. J. V. George; 'Purity', Dr. & Mrs. F. L. Rankin

Best 3 Large Japonicas — 'Tomorrow Park Hill', Harvey L. Morton

Best 3 Large Japonicas Runner-up — 'Vulcan', William Stewart

Best 5 Large Japonicas — 'Drama Girl', Kathi Kohl, La Canada

Best 3 Medium Japonicas — 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', William D. Stewart

Best 3 Medium Japonicas Runner-up — 'Purity', Mary Thomas, San Dimas

Best 5 Medium Japonicas — 'Midnight', Melvin Canfield, Bakersfield

Best 5 Medium Japonicas Runner-up — 'Betty Sheffield', Mr. and Mrs. Nelson  
Gatov, El Monte

Best Reticulata & Reticulata Hybrid — 'Valentine Day', Mr. and Mrs. B. M.  
Pace, Upland

Best Reticulata & Reticulata Hybrid Runner-up — 'Tali Queen', Harvey L.  
Morton

Reticulatas and Reticulata Hybrids on Court of Honor:

'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart; 'Howard Asper', Fred  
Hamilton; 'Mandalay Queen', Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pinheiro

Best Hybrid Other Than Reticulata Parentage — 'Julia Hamiter', Mr. and  
Mrs. A. L. Summerson

Best Hybrid Other Than Reticulata Parentage Runner-up — 'Waterlily',  
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz, San Marino

Hybrid With Other Than Reticulata Parentage on Court of Honor:

'Sylvia May Wells', Harvey R. Morton

Best 3 Reticulatas and Reticulata Hybrids — 'Purple Gown', Fred Hamilton,  
Santa Maria

Best 3 Reticulatas and Reticulata Hybrids Runner-up — 'Crimson Robe',  
Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart, Sacramento

Best 5 Reticulatas and Reticulata Hybrids — 'Purple Gown', Fred Hamilton

Best 5 Reticulatas and Reticulata Hybrids Runner-up — 'Francie L',  
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson

Best 3 Hybrids Other Than Reticulata Parentage — 'Fluted Orchid',  
Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Rankin

Best 3 Hybrids Other Than Reticulata Parentage Runner-up — 'Waltz Time  
Var', Frank Reed, Pasadena

Best Treated Japonica — 'Blood of China', Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Braid, La Verne

Best Treated Japonica Runner-up — 'Bienville', Frank Reed, Pasadena

*(Continued on page 18)*

## CALIFORNIANS GO SOUTH FOR THE WINTER

Mildred Pitkin  
San Marino, California

The first week in January twelve Californians flew into Orlando, Florida to attend the American Camellia Society's annual meeting. Some traveled by jet plane and some flew low in a Buick Electra. Judge and Mrs. Sherrill Halbert of Sacramento, the Haig Ashuckians of Lafayette and the Bill Johnstons of Fresno comprised the northern contingent and the John Urabecs, the Ab Summersons and Caryll Pitkins represented Southern California. Russ Gainer of Oregon made thirteen from the west coast. The Buick speedometer registered 6,671 miles. Had there been a mileage cup our total of approximately 65,150 miles would have won over all competition.

We invited the Summersons to fly Buick with us and dark and early, 4:15 A.M., January 4 we pulled out of our driveway. It had been agreed that since we were all familiar with the western end of the road and there wasn't too much to see anyway, this was where we could click off the miles. So we set our sights for El Paso, Texas the first night. We reckoned without knowing some of Interstate 10 had been completed so got there at dinner time and in spite of our early rising nobody was ready to go to bed. We decided to have dinner and drive on a little while longer. The watering holes in west Texas are few and far between so that meant Van Horne, 120 miles away. The speedometer that night registered 919 miles.

The next morning we rode for many miles under a migration pattern for ducks. It began to get cooler and just west of Ft. Worth we ran into heavy rain. In Dallas we were told a Norther was on the way and 26° temperature was predicted for that night. Everyone's advice was to move on and we did, heading for Shreveport,

Louisiana. Still in pouring rain we pulled into the Shreveporter and registered for the night. The temperature was falling but with a little warm up from our survival kit and a good dinner we went to bed feeling fine with the idea in our minds that now we were in the South and our real fun was about to begin.

We were in the South all right but the fun was a little different than we expected. When we woke up the next morning our car was covered with snow, the snow was still falling and the thermometer stood at 17 degrees. We had planned to head straight east to Jackson, Miss. and Montgomery, Ala. before turning south toward Florida. We decided good advice is always worth listening to and called the state police. A trooper told us the roads in that direction were still open but driving was hazardous with all bridges and over passes iced over. Turn south was his advice so we did. Before too long the snow turned to rain and about noon we ran out of that. It was getting warmer. Not warm, just warmer.

We kept on the north side of Lake Ponchatrain and stopped at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Experimental Station at Hammond, La. to see our old friend Hody Wilson and his weed patch. His weed patch is an acre or so of beautifully tended camellia plants growing out under the pines. There are also several big heated plastic houses, ostensibly for experimental work on fruits and vegetables, particularly strawberries. One house was made of bright red plastic which he was testing for some Southern California manufacturer. We haven't seen it here. It seems this cuts out all the blue rays from the sun. These are not utilized by plants. It concentrates therefore the admission

*(Continued on next page)*

of red and yellow light which promotes stronger and faster growth. He said he could test it faster on turnip greens but camellias were more fun. Red blooms appeared a bright orange about like the fluorescent jackets road workers wear.

But in a white plastic house he had other camellia plants and he cut us some beautiful blooms. There was a 'Moonlight Sonata' like one dreams about. Among others was a beautiful 'Jerry Wilson' pink and a 'Helen Bower'. Helen has bloomed only a little here and we were not familiar with it but were mightily impressed with the way it grows there. It is a sport of 'Mathotiana'.

We bid Hody goodbye and set out for Mobile. The flowers he had given us were so good we decided to take them in that night and try to keep them to enter in the show in his name and surprise him. We traveled along what had once been the beautiful Gulf Coast until the hurricane Camille took its toll. Even newspaper and television pictures did not prepare us for the utter devastation. Great trees and beautiful homes, some of them ante bellum, were gone. Those left drunkenly standing on one wall were completely gutted. Even newer buildings were severely damaged and some not yet repaired. No amount of time nor money can ever bring it back. Some things can never be replaced. But courage was not one of the things lost. Planted on many a pile of rubble which was once a home was an American flag. We were sure it meant, "We may be down, but we are not out and we'll be back." We saw nothing at all of the once famous shrimp fleet but we did see a ship, apparently made of iron or steel washed several hundred feet and up a hill onto dry land. We couldn't help but think, "This is worse than an earthquake."

The next morning I guess I was the first one in the car. I thought, "Oh, my. We forgot the flowers last night." They were still lying on the

shelf in back, beautiful as ever. Then I picked one up. It was frozen stiff as a board! No wonder we forgot them. Our minds were still on one of the great tragedies wrought by nature, the same force that had created and then frozen our beautiful flowers.

Gainesville, Florida was our goal for that night since Caryll was to give the program at their camellia society. We sympathized with the society in its dilemma as to whether or not to try to have a show when all the outside blooms had been frozen. They don't have heated houses for their plants because it doesn't usually get that cold. We assured them we might not have to worry about cold but we had our famous drying Santa Ana winds when humidity can drop to practically nothing and the flowers wilt and drop like flies. Maybe things were more equal than they thought.

We got into Orlando about noon, found all the other Californians there and were busy for a while greeting old friends. As a colored bellhop at another convention once remarked, "Camellia people are the kissinest lot I've ever seen."

A nursery in Orlando, in an attempt to save its stock from the freeze, had left its rain birds agoing all night. The water froze as fast as it fell and they had a veritable ice forest. It stayed that way the whole time we were there.

There were home and garden tours and more parties. Saturday afternoon was the show. Of course, through no fault of anyone's the outside flowers were pretty sick. In fact, we couldn't understand where they got any at all. But protected flowers are something else. They are perfect. 'Valley Knudsen' won the best hybrid. It was 12 days old and still beautiful that day, but not on Sunday. Trophies far outshone the flowers. They are donated by local merchants and we understood there was a waiting list of available donors. It was rumored that the first place trophy, a beautiful silver punch



bowl, sixteen silver cups and the tray was worth \$1500.00. A tea set was reputed to be worth \$1250.00. We didn't find out if this was the usual procedure or if this was an all out effort for the convention. But I would not like to see this practice come to California. I would like to think camellia people are honest but with trophies like that at stake I wouldn't bet on it.

After a delightful breakfast at the Orlando Country Club on Sunday morning we regretfully left this beautiful city of lakes. In Tallahassee we saw Payne Midyette's beautiful estate then headed for the A. C. S. Headquarters in Ft. Valley, Georgia. All their outside flowers were frozen. The greenhouse, modern in every detail, will be ready for next winter. No one will ever leave there again without seeing camellias. But there were many other things to see. The building is beautiful and larger than we had pictured. It is handsomely furnished and is already a museum. The most valuable collection of camellia books in the world is there. The Rubel collection, recently acquired, contains two volumes once belonging to Marie Louise of France and containing her signature, whose value approaches \$50,000. At the Board meeting in Orlando it was announced that a collection of Boehn porcelain birds, valued at \$300,000.00 had been given to A. C. S. Seven of them had already arrived at Headquarters, one of them valued at \$12,500.

The beautiful camellia garden was lovely even in the drab winter dress. We saw the old mill stones embedded in brick used for stepping stones. We saw the beautiful entry gates and the lovely wall made with ancient bricks brought from Charleston. We saw the lovely fountain and heard the melodious chimes. The story of Mr. Dave Strother's gift of Masseur Lane to A. C. S. reads like a fairy tale and the place itself is a land of enchantment. We hope every camellia lover

in all the world may some day be privileged to see it. It won't be long until it will rank with the great gardens of America.

From there we went to Mobile. Flower wise we agreed the Mobile Show was the most beautiful show we had ever seen. Most of the blooms were protected. Most of them were gibbed. Gib is a way of life in the South and you couldn't take it away any easier than you could take away their mint juleps. I don't know why anyone would want to do either.

Mr. Smith, who owned Flowerwood Nursery before his sons took over, had the most beautiful display we had ever seen. His table must have been sixteen feet long and eight feet wide. In the center was a silver bowl (with a history of its own) filled with 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' with stems 12 to 18 inches long. There must have been a couple of dozen. On each end were matching silver epergnes, one filled with 'Tomorrow Park Hill' and the other with 'Snow Man'. Gorgeous blooms of other varieties were displayed in other ways on the table. I may be wrong but as I look back upon it I think all the flowers were white, pink or sweet pea type. It was beautiful. We asked Mr. Smith how many bushes of Park Hill he had, that he could pick them with such abandon. His eyes crinkled, he smiled and answered, "400."

We were glad to see 'Clark Hubbs Varigated' win best of show and other California flowers did well. We had to leave before the final judging because our schedule called for New Orleans that night. Then it was home. With us we brought the good news that Judge Halbert, he prefers to be called Sherrill, was the president-elect of the American Camellia Society.

We had found winter all right. In some places the temperatures were the lowest on record. There were no outside flowers worth mentioning but most Californians have never seen a

*(Continued on page 21)*

## "RETICULATA HYBRIDS"--RETICULATA OR HYBRID?

February 4, 1970

Mr. Harold Dryden, Editor  
*The Camellia Review*  
820 Winston Ave.  
San Marino, Calif. 91108

Dear Sir:

There is a question in my mind concerning the Frank L. Storment Award recently given to Mrs. Ferol Zerkowsky for 'Lila Naff'.

I do a little dabbling with reticulatas and I have experienced much difficulty when attempting to propagate by means of reticulata cuttings. Sometimes it takes two years or longer to get a couple of roots to grow. Most of the reticulata varieties have acted in this way. When I take cuttings of 'Lila Naff' most all of them have rooted and grown rapidly.

I don't want to be a spoiler as I think 'Lila Naff' is a nice flower; but I believe it to be a reticulata hybrid. Please make a few tests on this variety and try to prove me wrong.

Just a camellia nut,

Yours truly,  
George Stewart

4616 Sunset Drive  
Sacramento, Calif. 95822

February 10, 1970

Mr. George Stewart  
4616 Sunset Drive  
Sacramento, Calif. 95822  
Dear Mr. Stewart:

Your letter of February 4, 1970 regarding the proper classification of 'Lila Naff' as reticulata or hybrid raises a question that is broader than for this variety alone; namely, how should we classify these new seedlings with reticulata parentage that are attracting so much attention? Thousands of reticulata seeds have been planted in recent years in the important camellia growing parts of the world — Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Experience to date has indicated that we obtain a higher percentage of "good flowers" from reticulata seedlings than we have obtained from japonica seedlings. Commercial growers will be very critical of these "good flower" seedlings because they know that it takes more than a "good flower" to make a commercial success. The run of the mill growers, however, the Stewarts and the Drydens, will not be so critical and will rush to name their seedlings after their "Aunt Minnie" or their wives or their grandchildren and have them registered. I think the subject is so important that I am answering your letter with the thought that I shall publish it, with your letter, in *Camellia Review*.

To start out, I went through the 1970 *Camellia Nomenclature* to ascertain how varieties with reticulata parentage have been classified. Under Species Reticulata, excluding the so-called Kunming varieties (those that were imported from China in the late 1940's) there are 27 listings. Three of these were controlled crosses and 2 do not indicate parentage. Twenty-two indicate the seed parent only, in other words are chance seedlings such as 'Lila Naff' where we have no knowledge of where the bees went to obtain their pollen.

Thirty-seven varieties with reticulata parentage are listed in the Hybrids section. Twelve of these show the varietal names of both parents. Seventeen show that the cross is between a named variety of reticulata and either species saluenensis or pitardii. These 29 are obviously controlled crosses. Seven indicate crosses between named reticulata varieties and "japonica". I know about four of the seven and they are no different from the 22 where we have knowledge only of the seed parent and are classified as reticulata. The originators of the 4 decided to call them hybrid rather than reticulata.

Three factors have caused people to classify such seedlings as hybrid rather than reticulata. First, the seed parent is a hybrid. My seedling 'Elsie Dryden' had 'Confucius' for seed parent. The view is generally held that although 'Confucius' is listed among the reticulatas because it was one of the importations from China, it and 'Buddha' are actually hybrids. I first called it reticulata and so entered it in a show, then changed my mind. Second, the seed parent plant is located among both japonica and reticulata plants and there is no way to know the source of the pollen that the bees used in their work. The Frank Maitland seedlings fall in this group. Because of the seed parentage, he first called them reticulata. Here the third factor entered, the one that you raised in your letter. A number of people had determined that Maitland's seedlings grafted easily, more so than the Chinese reticulatas did, and suggested that they were probably hybrids. After some discussion and because of the location of the seed parent plants among japonicas as well as reticulatas, it was the concensus that they should be registered as hybrids. Additional Maitland seedlings will be similarly registered as hybrids. Mrs. Monique Peer is registering her "Park Hill" seedlings as hybrids under the same reasoning.

There are now coming into bloom in Southern California a number of reticulata seedlings that were originated by Jack Clark of New Zealand. They are among the 22 in the Species Reticulata section of *Camellia Nomenclature* that indicate the seed parent only. I visited Clark's garden in 1967 and saw these seedlings in bloom on the five feet tall parent plants. They are located indiscriminately in the Clark garden as are Frank Maitland's and Monique Peer's seed parent plants. I told Jack what had been done here in classifying the Maitland seedlings and he responded, "I hadn't thought of that".

No one knows for sure that the group that was imported from China and which we call reticulata is pure. In fact, people who have studied the subject and know much more about it than I do believe that the strains are all mixed up, that there is no such thing as a pure reticulata<sup>1</sup>. Considering the many years in which these flowers have grown and developed in China, this hypothesis seems reasonable. I understand that chromatographic studies (chemical analysis of the leaves) can determine in general the heredity of camellias, but such studies are made in few locations and are not available to the public. Even if they were available, I question whether they would be used.

As I suggested at the beginning, we are just getting into this problem. I can see hundreds of good new reticulata seedlings appearing in the 1970's. I saw probably a dozen such at the Temple City Camellia Society show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum on February 7-8, many of which were

<sup>1</sup> See the article by Clifford R. Parks and Austin Griffiths, Jr. that starts on page 12 of the November 1963 issue of *Camellia Review*, "The Saluenensis - Pitardii - Reticulata Complex."

(Continued on next page)

## DESCANSO SHOW LUCK RUNS OUT

After 14 years of continuous outdoor camellia shows in Descanso Gardens, in none of which did rain seriously interfere with the show, luck ran out for the February 28-March 1, 1970 show. Southern California went practically without rain in February, that is, until the last day of the month. Then the rains came, with some thunder and lightning thrown in. Because of the covered tables that were designed for rainy days, there was no problem in the placement of blooms. All the camellia exhibitors were there with their blooms. It was a good show, particularly in the reticulata and reticulata hybrid classes. The judging was completed and the winning flowers were placed on the Court of Honor, beside the trophies that their exhibitors won. Unfortunately, while the exhibitors would not be held back by the rain, the public was not so enthusiastic. It rained all day Sunday as well as Saturday and the 1970 Descanso Gardens show will go down in history as one with a very small public attendance.

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### RETICULATA HYBRIDS (Continued)

entered by Monique Peer of "Park Hill". All of the "Park Hill" seedlings, at least, were chance seedlings with only the seed parent known, the seeds having come from plants located indiscriminately in the "Park Hill" garden.

Some of our shows have a Class for "Reticulatas and Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage", replacing the 2 Classes for "Reticulatas" and "Hybrids With Reticulata Parentage". I have suggested to Bill Woodroof, Editor of *Camellia Nomenclature*, that some thought be given to such a section in the nomenclature book. One thing is for sure: You and I and the hundreds of other people who are planting reticulata seeds are not going to have chromatographic studies made to determine what we should call our pretty new seedling flowers. Nor will we determine if they graft or root easily before we classify them. Maybe somebody will come up with an answer. As for 'Lila Naff', I suggest we let her rest in peace until Ferol Zerkowsky decides she wants to do something about it.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLE E. DRYDEN

Editor *Camellia Review*

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### SHOW RESULTS (Continued)

- Best Treated Reticulata and Reticulata Hybrid — 'Howard Asper',  
Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey, Temple City
- Best Treated Reticulata and Reticulata Hybrid Runner-up — 'Mouchang',  
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz
- Best Treated Hybrid Other Than Reticulata Parentage — 'Elsie Jury',  
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Summerson
- Best Treated Hybrid Other Than Reticulata Parentage Runner-up — E. G.  
Waterhouse Var<sup>2</sup>, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey, Temple City
- Best Other Species — 'Star Above Star', Mr. and Mrs. Pat Novak, Van Nuys
- Best New Japonica Seedling — Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gaeta, El Monte
- Best New Reticulata and Reticulata Hybrid Seedling — Monique Peer, Los  
Angeles
- Best New Hybrid Seedling Other Than Reticulata Parentage — 'Angel Wings'  
(No. 15), Kramer Bros. Nursery, Upland
- Best New Sport — 'Sport of 'Francie L', Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gunn, Lynwood

## CALIFORNIA MAN IS NEW A. C. S. PRESIDENT

Judge Sherill Halbert of Sacramento was elected President of the American Camellia Society at the Society's Annual Meeting that was held last January in Orlando, Florida. He is the second Californian to hold this position, the other one having been the late Ralph Peer who was President in the two terms 1957-1958 and 1958-1959.

Judge Halbert, who likes to be called Sherill by his camellia friends, is well known in California as a member of the Camellia Society of Sacramento. He has been President of that Society as well as of the Sacramento Camellia Festival Association which is the force behind the city's annual Camellia Festival. He is a Native Son, both of his parents having been California pioneers. He married Verna Irene Dyer in 1927, and they are the parents of two children: a daughter, Shirley Ellen (Mrs. Herbert M. Hanson, Jr.) and a son, Douglas James.



Judge Sherill Halbert

He received his education in the public schools of California, receiving the degree of Juris Doctor at the University of California in 1927. He also holds a LL.D. degree from McGeorge College of Law. He is presently a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the Pacific.

Judge Halbert practiced law for over twenty-years before he was elevated to the Bench. He has recently retired from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. He will serve periodically in his retirement in other courts in the United States. He is now assigned to a Federal Court in Florida.

He has been active in public affairs and has held office in a number of organizations. He became a member of Rotary International in 1932 and was President of the Rotary club of Porterville, California in 1936. He has been a member of the Sacramento Rotary Club since 1955.

Judge Halbert's chief interests, aside from his work, are Lincolniana, the Pony Express, and camellias. He is co-author of two books on President Lincoln. He is a Director at Large of the National Pony Express Centennial Association. He will be able in his retirement to devote more time to his interest in camellias and to his new position as top man in the American Camellia Society.

### I. C. S. Conference

The International Camellia Society will hold its 1970 Conference on May 3, 4 and 5 at Llandudno, Wales, near Bodnant Gardens. There will be a full day visit to Bodnant and visits to other gardens in the area. Full particulars of the three day meeting can be obtained by writing to Charles Puddle, Bodnant Gardens, Tal-y-cafn, Colwyn Bay, Denbighshire, United Kingdom.

# CAMELLIA PESTS

Mark Anthony

Superintendent, Descanso Gardens

*Outline of talk at January 1970 meeting of Los Angeles Camellia Society*

In Descanso Gardens we find that camellias are a group of plants that grow well with a minimum of insect or disease damage. Our biggest problem has been in keeping the oak leaf roller from eating the young leaf buds of our *reticulatas*. The leaf rollers slide down their fine thread-like webs from the oaks above and work their way into the center of the *reticulata* growth buds just as they are starting to elongate. After they are inside the bud no amount of spraying seems to do any good. The best control is had by spraying all the oak trees in the vicinity with Dieldrin, Sevin, or Cygon spray as soon as the first leaf roller appears in the oaks. If this does not kill all the leaf rollers a second spraying may be necessary.

For years scale insects gave camellia growers a lot of trouble but since Colorado river water came to Southern California, most of the scale disappeared as they could not stand the thin coating of salt on their outer coat every time the camellia plant was washed off. For those who do find a few scale on their plants, a 2% oil spray in the spring when the young scale are in a migratory stage will kill them. Never spray with oil when the temperature is over 85° and always have the soil around the plants wet before spraying.

Sometimes the margins of camellia leaves look as if they had been pinked with shears. This is most likely the work of the Fuller's Rose Beetle, or the *Brachyrhinus* Beetle. They are easily killed by dusting the soil underneath the plant and in the surrounding areas with Dieldrin or Sevin dust, or granules. This will also kill other beetles that sometimes eat holes in the ends of camellia buds.

The grubs of this *Brachyrhinus* beetle will sometimes eat the root

cambium of camellia plants causing them to die. Scratching a hand full of Sevin dust into the soil under a camellia plant will kill these grubs.

In May and June when camellias are in active growth, aphids will sometimes attack the new shoots. The damage they do is not great but they are liable to disfigure some of the leaves by taking the sap from the leaves. Wash them off with water, or better still spray them with Malathion or Nicotine Sulfate. Ants will bring aphids to your camellias so keep the ants away with a little Chlordane dusted around the plants.

Keep D.D.T. sprays away from your camellias. In spraying our oak trees a few years ago D.D.T. was used with damaging results. Many single varieties were killed outright. 'Pink Perfection' lost about two-thirds of their leaves and buds but most of them survived. Camellia 'Betty McCaskill' was also killed outright. The camellias themselves were not sprayed but were damaged by the drip from the oak trees.

Sometimes slugs will crawl up camellia plants and eat holes in the flower itself. Slug bait under the plant will kill them; or better still try Dr. Floyd F. Smith's latest control. Hold on to the stale beer from last night's party. It can be used as a safe and cheap insecticide, reports the Chicago Daily News. According to an agricultural scientist, stale beer is a good bait for slugs, the troublesome pests that infest gardens, farms and greenhouses. Placed in shallow pans, the beer attracts 30 times as many slugs as metaldehyde, a standard bait for decades. The slugs crawl into the pans and drown, apparently finding it a wonderful way to go. In his report to the Entomological Society of America last month, Dr. Floyd F. Smith of

Beltsville, Md., said stale beer attracted more than 300 slugs while metaldehyde attracted only 28 in a series of four-day greenhouse tests. He said fresh beer was equally effective, a recommendation not likely to gain wide-spread approval.

Sometimes red spider mites will be found in the axil of a leaf or flower bud. These mites will cause the yellowing of leaves as well as cause some flower buds to drop off. A light spraying with malathion will control this insect.

Oak root fungus will attack and kill camellias just as it attacks hundreds of other plants. As there is no fungicide effective against it the only help we have in fighting it is good cultural practices. See that camellias are planted high with their roots almost exposed, do not over water and the plant has a good chance of not contacting the fungus. By the same token a plant that is cared for properly will have little or no twig die back.

Often a corky growth will appear on the back of camellia leaves which will look like scale insects. This growth is not an insect or disease but rather a sign that all is not well with the plant. Poor drainage, too much water or planted too deep is usually the cause of this condition.

As we all know the yellow variegation in camellia leaves is caused by a virus. What to do about it we are not too sure. From experience we have found that these variegated leaves sun burn very easily. We have also found that after a year or two in a fair amount of sun the variegation seems to leave the plant and not come back.

Petal blight is a subject all its own and we will not discuss it at this time.

As was stated before, camellias have very few insect problems and if you keep your plants washed off and clean at all times, they will have even less trouble.

## AUSTRALIA'S (Cont.)

The International Festival will be held in mid-city Sydney at the Blaxland Gallery of Farmer's Department Store — a unit of the Myer retail organisation recently honoured at a U.S.A. ceremony as one of the world's six greatest department-store organisations. Farmer's deem it a great privilege to be chosen as the Festival locale, and their Directors have promised full support with its organisation. They believe it can be developed into the greatest attraction ever presented in their Blaxland Gallery<sup>1</sup>.

Overseas camellia folk who would like to arrange hotel or motel reservations are invited to write to Eric Craig c/o G.P.O. Box 4068, Sydney, N.S.W. 2001, Australia. Committees of the New South Wales and St. George—Southern Districts branches are looking forward to welcoming you, and escorting you on individually-planned or group tours. However, wherever you choose to explore this surprising continent of the South Pacific, you'll find an A.C.R.S. member who is determined to make 1970 the unforgettable year for visitors to Australia.

<sup>1</sup> I saw the Australian Society's camellia show at the Blaxland Gallery in 1967 and can vouch that the 1970 show will be enjoyed by American camellia people both because of the artistic displays of camellias and the presentation under one roof of the camellias of both Australia and New Zealand — Ed.

## CALIFORNIANS (Cont.)

camellia as beautiful as those grown under protection. We admire the perseverance of these people who work under such difficult conditions to produce such beautiful blooms. But there is nothing cold about southern hospitality. It warms the coldest day. Camellias are lovely and they are responsible for bringing us all together, but it is the people and the good friends one makes that must make this the most wonderful hobby in the world.

## GIBBING CAMELLIAS HAS NOT HURT PLANTS

The statement was heard in the early days of gibbing camellias that gibbing might or would hurt the camellia plants. The statement is still heard occasionally. San Leandro Nursery has been growing camellias for many years in a canyon in the foothills north of Monrovia, California, selling the flowers and camellia foliage in the flower market. This is the seventh year in which they have been gibbing and the plants were full size when they started to gib. The accompanying picture shows the size and healthy appearance of the 'Debutante' plants in January 1970, a pictorial refutation of any idea that gib has harmed them.

They grow, in the thousands of plants, 'Debutante', 'Alba Plena', 'Professor Sergeant' and 'Glen 40', with over 4000 of 'Debutante' alone. They do not disbud 'Debutante' but do dis-

bud the other three. The 'Debutante' plants set well over 150 buds per plant, of which 40 or 50 are gibbed. While their regular output goes to the flower market, they have a special outlet every year in the Pasadena New Year's Day Rose Parade. They supplied 10,000 blooms of 'Debutante' for the 1970 float that was decorated with camellias.

The most profitable part of their camellia output is the camellia foliage that they sell to the flower market. They will sell this year about 15,000 bunches of foliage. Their cutting of foliage is the only pruning that most of the plants receive.

They fertilize in their watering system, using a formula that is set on the basis of leaf tests. The fertilizing period coincides with their watering period.



The healthy appearance of the 'Debutante' plants and the many blooms produced every year are compelling evidence that the application of gibberellic acid has not hurt the plants in any way.



## "DOWN-UNDER" VARIETIES IN CALIFORNIA

Willard F. ("Bill") Goertz  
San Marino, California

Before discussing Australian and New Zealand camellia varieties and how they perform in Southern California, it is well to again point out two observations: (1) The seasons here and Down-Under are exactly opposite and often it takes several years before imported varieties adjust and bloom normally, and (2) Camellia growers Down-Under in the main prefer those which make a colorful showing in the garden, whereas Southern California hobbyists, usually with limited garden space, concentrate more on larger "show quality" blooms. Therefore we often do not agree with what our foreign friends call super camellias — nor do they always agree with our selection of what we consider best. The comments following are based on results of what I have recently grown, have seen blooming, or on comments of other California growers.

The finest Australian camellia to date is 'E. G. Waterhouse', a beautiful light pink formal double hybrid originated by the grand Professor Waterhouse. This is the first winner of the Southern California Camellia Society Edwards Metcalf Award and is very popular in the United States. Others from Australia include:

'Tip Toe', a Williamsii hybrid from Jim Fisher's Camellia Grove Nursery near Sydney. It is an excellent garden variety, small to medium semi-double with a silvery pink color.

'Can Can', also from Jim Fisher, is a sport of 'Lady Loch' — a very interesting japonica with light pink petals and darker veining and petal edges.

'Daintrie Sievers' is a clear pink medium size loose peony form japonica by Keith Brushfield. It responds well to gib.

'Ellie Rubensohn' is a vivid crimson reticulata which will be very

popular here from all indications.

'Crinkles' — another Waterhouse hybrid, which looked interesting but failed to open for me in three years.

'Edith Linton' is an old popular japonica in Australia. The plant has lush symmetrical growth but the bloom is very ordinary for me.

'Margaret Davis' is a sport of 'Aspasia MacArthur', a very nice creamy white peony with each petal edged in red — but it has failed to grow to the reported size. So far three inches is maximum. It sports easily with variable forms and may prove to be a 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' junior. It won the S.C.C.S. William Hertrich Award in 1969 and this is one we will definitely keep and hope for future improvement.

The finest camellia to come out of New Zealand is Les Jury's 'Elsie Jury' — a large orchid pink peony which gets to most of our show trophy tables. It is probably more popular in the United States than it is in its native country and in 1968 won the S.C.C.S. Edwards Metcalf Award for the outstanding hybrid. I recently saw a bed of these plants at Nuccio's in full bloom and it was a sight to behold. Others of Les Jury's many fine hybrids:

'Grand Jury', a salmon pink saluenensis x 'Salutation' cross, is more highly considered in New Zealand than 'Elsie Jury'. I believe however that it has too delicate and fragile a bloom to be popular in our area.

'Highlight' is a new release, reticulata-saluenensis cross. The bloom is a vivid red color and has ruffled petals. It has been somewhat disappointing in Southern California so far but may be showing up on the trophy tables in a few years.

Two other Les Jury seedlings have bloomed well and have made a good

*(Continued on next page)*

showing at the shows. 'Elegant Beauty' is a deep rose loose anemone hybrid that is described in *Camellia Nomenclature* as large but has not generally been that big. It does not have to be large to be worthwhile. It is excellent for landscaping, particularly for espalier. 'Anticipation' is also a deep rose hybrid, large and full peony in form. Both of these hybrids are worth a place in a camellia collection.

'Waterlily', a Felix Jury hybrid, is a beautiful lavender pink formal double. The bloom so far has been below reported normal size, but this is surely one to keep.

Col. Tom Durrant and his wife Bettie have originated a number of *reticulata* seedlings, three of which we have grown: 'Tom Durrant' has a peony form with a crimson color which has silver misty overtones. It is large and spectacular in New Zealand but so far has not gone over 3½" here. Will keep this one till it gets to six inches (we hope!). 'Wild Silk' and 'Brilliant Butterfly' are also too small so far to be popular here. Will have to wait and see.

Jack Clark of Auckland has had a number of excellent *reticulata* seedlings, the best of which, in our area, is 'Craig Clark' — somewhat like 'Crimson Robe' but a darker red and a higher bloom. Very striking and will be popular in the U.S.

'Tui Song' is a seedling of 'Cornelian' with very fine blooms here, similar to 'Francie L' in form but considerably darker red color.

'Lisa Gael' is a large rosey pink rose form double seedling of 'Purple Gown'. Jack says it is the most desired in his country of all his fine seedlings.

'Janet Clark' — a light crimson of good texture and having wavy petals should be good since it was named after Mrs. Clark.

'Ross Clark', a *saluenensis-reticulata* hybrid, has a pretty color but is very soft and fragile here and will

probably not be a so-called show flower.

'Sunning Hills' is a very rank growing plant. The bloom is stylish with lots of high "rabbit ears". The color is a salmon pink. Our blooms have been around five inches.

Others of Jack Clark's new ones include: 'Rhonda Kerri', 'Sandy' and 'Kiwi Triumph' which can be reported on after more blooming experience here.

'Wynne Rayner' is a beautiful lavender pink semi-double hybrid of good size and texture, and the plant is an extremely fast grower. A few blooms come anemone form. This seedling was originated by Ben Rayner and should be released in this country in the near future by Al Parker in Sebastopol.

For the California camellia hobbyist it would be advisable not to be too hasty to cut off and regraft or otherwise dispose of his Australian and New Zealand varieties. Some of these are bound to be spectacular show winners or garden flowers in a few years.

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## ACCELERATED (Cont.)

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# Directory of California Camellia Societies

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

## \*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY

President: John J. Fortenberry; Secretary: Lemuel Freeman, 209 S. Garnsey Ave., Bakersfield 93309  
Meetings: 2nd Monday Oct. through Apr. at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield

## \*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

President: Ronald Cowan; Secretary, Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane,  
Santa Ana 97205

Meetings: 1st Thursday October through April at Altadena Savings and Loan Assn., 2400 E.  
17th St., Santa Ana.

## CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

President: Fred E. Carnie, Jr.; Secretary, Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G. St., Sacramento 95816  
Meetings: 4th Wednesday October through May in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park,  
Sacramento

## \*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Richard Pozdol; Secretary: Mrs. Glenn S. Wise, 5493 E. Liberty Ave., Fresno 93702  
Meetings: Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18

## DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Wm. H. Hayes; Secretary: Mrs. Anita Abernethy, 2962 Boies Dr., Pleasant Hill 94523  
Meetings: 4th Tuesday October through April in School Adm. Bldg., 510 G St., Antioch

## JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Joseph H. Baker; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 W. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240  
Meetings: 1st Tuesday November through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

## LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: George K. Bulik; Secretary: Mrs. Robert Jackson, 415 N. Plymouth Blvd.,  
Los Angeles 90004.

Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

## MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Anthony F. Pinheiro; 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: Harvey L. Morton; Secretary: Robert E. Ehrhart, 2108 Hadden Rd., Walnut Creek 94596  
Meetings: 1st Mon. Nov. through May in Claremont Jr. 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: Cullen Coates; Secretary: Mrs. Charles F. O'Malley, 65 Robles Drive, Woodside 94062  
Meetings: 4th Tuesday September through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg.,  
700 El Camino Real, Redwood City, Calif. 94061

## \*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Walter Harmsen; Secretary: Mrs. Janet Meyers, 744 E. Dover, Glendora  
Meetings: 2nd Thursday October through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg.,  
399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

## \*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Charles B. Persing; Secretary: Mrs. William Schmitt, 101 Minot St., Chula Vista  
Meetings: 2nd Friday (except February which is 1st Friday) November through May in Floral  
Assn. Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Abe D'Innocenti; Secretary: Miss Pat McIntyre, 1810 Olive Ave., Apt. 4, San Jose 95128  
Meetings: 2nd Thursday at Willow Glen Branch, American S/L, San Jose

## SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: C. O. McCorkle; Secretary: Miss Joy Monteleone, 505 Olive St., Santa Rosa 95401  
Meetings: 4th Thursday, except Nov. (3rd Thursday) and Dec. (to be decided) in Redwood  
Empire S/L Assn., 1201 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

## \*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Grady L. Perigan; Secretary: Mrs. Marie Perigan, 1147 Daines Dr., Arcadia 91006  
Meetings: 3rd Friday Nov. and Dec. and 4th Thursday Jan. through April in Lecture Hall of  
Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

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