

THE *Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Ming Temple'

*Courtesy Redwood Empire Camellias*

Vol. 35

October 1973

No. 1

*One Dollar twenty-five cents*

# *Southern California Camellia Society Inc.*

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

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00. Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues: \$7.50.

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## THE COVER FLOWER

### C. RETICULATA HYBRID 'MING TEMPLE'

David L. Feathers of Lafayette, California is the originator of several good camellias and according to reports from Northern California (we have not seen it in Southern California), 'Ming Temple' will add luster to an already good reputation. Al Parker of Redwood Empire Nurseries in Sebastopol, who is propagating and releasing it, says that the distinctive feature of the flower is the deep creping of the petals, "like a handful of paper that has been crushed and then released." It is a rich silvery pink, loose peony form flower that grows to 5½ and 6 inches in diameter. Plant growth is tall and upright with dark green foliage.

### 1973 CROP — CAMELLIA SEEDS

#### JAPONICA SEEDS

Mixed seeds, including a small percentage of seeds from seedling trees in the Huntington Botanical Gardens  
\$3.75 per 100 (minimum order)

#### SASANQUA SEEDS

Sasanquas are excellent for grafting understock. They grow faster and have good roots. \$1.50 per 100 (minimum order)

**No Reticulata and Hybrid Seeds**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

**8421 California Ave.**

**Whittier, Calif. 90605**



# THOUGHTS

*from the editor*

In the months ahead, many of us will be faced with decisions on what to do with seedlings that are good and pleasant to look at but not good enough to give a name and register. I have one that first bloomed in 1955. It is a reticulate with good red color but so far has not been large enough to compete with such as 'William Hertrich.' The plant is healthy and this year's bud set is excellent. I said this morning that this is the year of decision.

The question of what to do with seedlings that are "not good enough" was put to me recently by a friend who has several of them. It had been suggested to him that he donate them to a plant sale for the benefit of a worthy cause. This suggestion has merit at first blush, as has the suggestion that they be given to people with small gardens who are interested only in garden flowers. The flowers that I am writing about, including mine, would all add quality to most small gardens.

I believe that people who are deep in the camellia hobby should forget their innermost feelings in such cases and should base their decisions on the possibility that the pretty flowers will find their way into the camellia market, not necessarily through nurseries but through the gifts of slips that is so common among gardeners. The biggest problem in camellias among the hardcore amateurs is in flooding ourselves with more named varieties, most of which are almost undistinguishable from others in circulation. I believe that we who are most closely related to the situation should recognize and accept it, and that we should be particularly selective with regard to the seedlings that we develop, whether by chance or by planned hybridizing.

This sounds hard boiled and maybe it is. A few seedling growers have room in their own gardens for these flowers, particularly if the foliage is good and the color will add beauty to a spot in the garden. Most of us, however, do not have such space. In my own case, I shall cut it off if this year's flowers do not attain 5 inches. If they reach 5 inches, I shall study them carefully to see if they are sufficiently different from existing varieties that they will add something to what we now have. In this latter contingency I shall consult others who are at least as knowledgeable in camellias as I am. If it is the consensus that it adds nothing, off goes its head. If it adds something, we shall have a good new red variety of reticulate hybrid.

I believe that in this way I shall be making my contribution to the pleasure that others will derive from this hobby of camellias. To me, this is more important than adding to the pleasure that some person would receive if I should give him a "not good enough" seedling for his garden.

*Harold E. Dwyer*

## SOME CAMELLIA LIBRARIES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Carey and Amelia Bliss\*

The camellia hobbyist has many avenues open to him in pursuing his interests. One of the most pleasurable is the collecting of books, pamphlets, prints and drawings relating to camellias. There are many fine collections of camellia material in our Southern California area, but because of space limitations, we will sketch but three of them—a public institution and two outstanding private collections. Many of the titles listed are difficult to obtain today. This is particularly true of the superb color-plate books issued in the early and mid-nineteenth century as the beauty of their illustrations was a great temptation to their owners to remove the prints and have them framed. These books were also broken up by booksellers who could make far more profit by selling the plates individually—a not uncommon practice to this day. All of this, of course, makes complete or nearly complete volumes scarce. Also elusive to track down are many of the ephemeral items. Pamphlets, lists and catalogues are all too easily read then thrown away. For example, try to find a complete file of *Camellia Review*.

The Huntington Library because of its large collection of camellia plants has, for many years, had a good working library of reference books on the camellia. Between 20 and 25 years ago, a concerted effort was begun to acquire the more important historical and color-plate titles in the field of camellia literature. At that time, the Library acquired its copy of Lorenzo Berlese's *Iconographie du Genre Camellia*, Paris, 1841-43, three volumes, 300 beautiful color plates of camellias with full description in French. Complete sets of this work are very scarce today and would command a price tag in four or five figures depending upon con-

dition. About the same time, the collection was also enriched with the purchase of *Nouvelle Iconographie des Camellias*, Gand (Ghent), 1848-1860, thirteen volumes, edited and published by the Verschaffelt family, text again in French with color plates and complete descriptions of 623 camellias. The first volume published in the western world to illustrate and describe the camellia was Englebert Kaempfer's *Amoenitatum Exoticarum, Lemgoviae, 1712*. The Library acquired a copy in 1953. A copper plate illustration showing the flower, foliage and seed pods accompanies a 3½ page text describing *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua*.

Most of the general works on botany and the cultivation of flowers in the nineteenth century made some mention of the camellia and its propagation. Many of those titles are in the Huntington Library. Noted here are just a few in the collection that have early or important remarks. In England, the camellia was fairly well known in the latter part of the eighteenth century but was totally unknown in America until about 1797 when a few plants were brought to the United States. The first printed notice of the camellia in an American book so far as we know appeared in Bernard M'Mahon's *American Gardener's Calendar*, Philadelphia, 1806. It is only a short statement and does not mention any varieties. One of the rarest and most sought after items is *Illustrations of the plants which compose the natural order Camellieae, . . . cultivated in the gardens of Great Britain*, London, (1830-1837), text by William B. Booth with colored engravings after drawings by Alfred Chandler. A complete set consists of

\*Cary Bliss is curator of rare books at the Huntington Library.

(Continued on next page)

ten parts of four drawings each with text. Most sets are incomplete. The Huntington Library has only two parts, one with all four plates, the other with only one plate. Charles M'Intosh's *The greenhouse, hot house and stove*, London, 1840, describes many types of hot house flowers and it has a very good chapter on growing camellias in England with one color plate and several woodcut illustrations. The best and earliest lengthy description of camellia propagation and care in the United States occurs in *The American flower garden directory*, Philadelphia, 1832, second edition 1839, by Robert Buist. The first edition contains a frontispiece colored lithograph of C. 'Fimbriata,' the first colored illustration of a camellia in America. Both editions have good sections on camellias; however, the second edition of 1839 was rewritten with more information but without the color plate. The cornerstone of any collection of early American camellia books is, of course, Robert J. Halliday's *Practical Camellia Culture*, Baltimore, 1880, 140 pages, five color plates of camellias, the first American book devoted entirely to camellias. It is a clear, concise work covering all phases of propagating and growing camellias from the standpoint of greenhouse culture. A very unsatisfactory reprint lacking the color plates was published in 1945. The Huntington Library has one unusual nineteenth century camellia work issued by the Yokohama Nursery Company Limited in Yokohama, Japan about 1890. It is a hand-colored catalogue depicting 36 camellia varieties available in this nursery for sale. Among those illustrated are 'Are-jishi,' 'Otome Pink,' 'Daikagura,' 'Iwane,' and 'Monjisu.'

Of California camellia interest, the Library contains the first nursery catalogue to offer camellias for sale. It is the catalogue of Warren and Son's of Sacramento and was issued in

1853. In their newly opened nursery and garden on J Street near the levee in Sacramento, they are offering "a new and superb collection of rare kinds, (of camellias) from the most celebrated growers in Europe."

Probably the Huntington Library's greatest value to the student of camellia history and literature is its collection of botanical journals both early and late from England, France and America. A few of the more notable and unusual are listed here.

*Annales de la Société Royale d'Agriculture et de Botanique*. Gand (Ghent), 1843-1849, 5 volumes. Several good articles in French on Camellias with colored plates.

*Flore des Serres et des Jardins de l'Europe*. Gand (Ghent), 1845-1880. 23 volumes. Many colored plates including camellias. Articles on horticulture in Europe.

*L'Illustrations Horticole; Journal Special des Serres et des Jardins*. Gand (Ghent), 1854-1876. Library has volumes 1-8, 10-12, 14-23. Published by Ambroise Verschaffelt. Some colored plates including camellias. Articles on ornamental plants for the garden.

*Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. London, 1790-1972. Library has a complete run of this journal which is still being published. The first description and color plate of a camellia occurs in volume one for 1790. In the 1827 volume, the *reticulata*, 'Captain Rawes,' is illustrated and described.

Henry C. Andrews *Botanist's Repository*. London, 1797-1814. 10 volumes, complete set. There are six full-page colored engravings of camellias with good descriptions.

*The Botanical Cabinet*. London, 1818-1833. 20 volumes. Published by Conrad Loddiges and Sons. The Library has a complete set. It contains 34 colored engravings of camellias with good descriptions.

*The Gardeners Chronicle*. London, 1841-1969. The Library has a nearly  
(Continued on Page 6)

THE  
AMERICAN GARDENER'S  
*CALENDAR*;

ADAPTED  
TO THE CLIMATES AND SEASONS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES.

CONTAINING

A COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF ALL THE WORK NECESSARY TO BE  
DONE IN THE

KITCHEN-GARDEN, FRUIT-GARDEN, ORCHARD, VINEYARD, NURSERY,	§ § § § §	PLEASURE-GROUND, FLOWER-GARDEN, GREEN-HOUSE, HOT-HOUSE, and FORCING FRAMES,
---	-----------------------	---

FOR EVERY MONTH IN THE YEAR;  
*WITH AMPLE PRACTICAL DIRECTIONS*  
FOR PERFORMING THE SAME.

ALSO,

General as well as minute instructions, for laying out, or erecting, each and every of the above departments, according to modern taste and the most approved plans; the ORNAMENTAL PLANTING OF PLEASURE-GROUNDS, in the ancient and modern stile; the cultivation of THORN-QUICKS and other plants suitable for LIVE HEDGES, with the best methods of making them, &c.

TO WHICH ARE ANNEXED,

Extensive CATALOGUES of the different kinds of plants, which may be cultivated either for use or ornament in the several departments, or in rural economy; divided into eighteen separate alphabetical classes, according to their habits, duration, and modes of culture; with explanatory introductions, marginal marks, and their true *Linnean* or *Botanical*, as well as English names; together with a copious *Index* to the body of the work.

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BY BERNARD M'MAHON,  
NURSERY, SEEDSMAN, AND FLORIST.

---

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY B. GRAVES, NO. 40, NORTH FOURTH-STREET,  
FOR THE AUTHOR.

.....

1806.

First American work to mention camellias.

complete file of this vast compilation of horticultural facts. Camellia articles occur throughout the run from beginning to end.

*Magazine of horticulture, botany and all useful discoveries and improvements in rural affairs.* Boston 1855-1866. The Library has only volumes 21, 22, 25 through 36. Edited by Charles Mason Hovey. Many good articles on camellias, their propagation and care.

*California horticulturist and floral magazine.* San Francisco, 1873-1880. The Library has odd volumes between these dates. The issue for June, 1873, has an article on camellia culture. At least two other camellia articles were noted.

Thomas Meehan *Meehan's monthly. A Magazine of horticulture, botany and kindred subjects.* Germantown, Pa., 1891-1902. Volumes 1-12, lacking only volume 11. Listed here only to emphasize the decline of the camellia in the United States. Only three articles are noted and no pictures. The issue for July 1895 has the following note:

#### THE CAMELLIAS JAPONICA.

—It is surprising that these once popular flowers have so nearly disappeared from the collections of the florists. Almost all nurserymen had to keep them in the early part of the century. At the present time Parsons and Sons Company, at Flushing, N. Y., are possibly the only northern firm that grows them largely.

These then are only a few of the botanical journals available at the Huntington. Of course, complete files of the current camellia annuals and reviews are available plus nomenclature books and camellia year books.

In concluding this account of the Huntington's holdings, it should be noted that hanging in the Botanical office is a fine original painting by Paul Jones of the camellia hybrid 'Carl Tourje' developed at the Hunt-

ington Botanical Gardens. It is reproduced as the frontispiece plate in color in *Camellia Culture*, New York, 1958, edited by Carl Tourje.

The beauties of the gardens at Park Hill, the home of the late Ralph S. Peer and of Monique I. Peer, have often been described. Less well-known is the extent and variety of their library on camellias and camellia culture, which was begun in 1944 when they moved to Park Hill. It is a truly cosmopolitan collection containing works from many corners of the world where camellias are grown.

Two of the earliest volumes present are *Flora Japonica* by Charles Peter Thunberg, Lipsiae (Leipzig) 1784 and *The natural history of the tea-tree* by John Coakley Lettsom, London, 1799. The latter has a frontispiece of the tea plant, clearly showing the relationship to camellias, and a color plate of a sasanqua. There are two parts of the Chandler and Booth, London, 1830 and 1837. Each is complete in original wrappers in protective slip cases. Also present is a slightly earlier work by William B. Booth, *History and Description of the Species Camellia and Thea . . .* (London), 1829. There is a handsome set of the Abbe Berlese's *Iconographie . . .* bound in full leather, as well as one complete set and five additional volumes of the Verschaffelt *Nouvelle Iconographie . . .* Robert Fortune wrote many works on life in China and Japan, and there are beautiful copies of these volumes which have considerable discussion on horticulture, including various camellia species.

Italy is represented by several interesting titles: *Camelliogafia* by Luigi Colla, Torino, 1845, full leather, original wrappers bound in; *Catalogue de la Collection de Camellias presentee a sa majeste L'Imperatrice de toutes les Russes et Reine de Pologne*, Turin, 1846; and *Collezione di*

(Continued on page 8)



THE AMERICAN  
FLOWER GARDEN DIRECTORY,

CONTAINING

PRACTICAL DIRECTIONS FOR THE CULTURE OF PLANTS,

IN THE

**HOT-HOUSE, GARDEN-HOUSE, FLOWER GARDEN AND  
ROOMS OR PARLOURS,**

FOR EVERY MONTH IN THE YEAR.

With

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANTS MOST DESIRABLE IN EACH, THE NATURE OF THE SOIL AND  
SITUATION BEST ADAPTED TO THEIR GROWTH, THE PROPER SEASON FOR  
TRANSPLANTING, &c.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ERECTING A

**Hot-house, Green-house, and laying out a Flower Garden.**

ALSO

*Table of Soils most congenial to the Plants contained in the Work.*

THE WHOLE ADAPTED TO EITHER LARGE OR SMALL GARDENS,

WITH

LISTS OF ANNUALS, BIENNIALS, AND ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS,

CONTENTS, A GENERAL INDEX,

AND A FRONTISPIECE OF CAMELLIA FIMBRIATA.

—••••—

By HIBBERT AND BUIST,

EXOTIC NURSERYMEN AND FLORISTS.

—••••—

PHILADELPHIA:

E. L. CAREY & A. HART—CHESNUT STREET.

BALTIMORE:

CAREY, HART & CO.

1834.

First American book with color plate of camellia.

*Camelie di Cesare Franchetti*, Firenze, 1855.

Certainly a unique item in the library is a copy of *Iconography of Camellias* by Ishi. These are a series of original paintings of camellias (in full color) by a Japanese artist, copied by photographic means by Ralph S. Peer in 1958. The varietal names of the blooms are in English and Japanese, and the various species are also illustrated and described. This is in two large folio volumes enclosed in a leather case. Mr. Peer, before his untimely death, had hoped to publish this work with suitable English text. The paintings are beautiful and the photographic process which was eventually worked out does full justice to the illustrations. It is a magnificent collection.

It is impossible in this space to list all of the books at Park Hill. E. G. Waterhouse's *Camellia Trail* and *Camellia Quest* are present, as well as *The Camellia*, edited by Beryl C. Leslie, Urquhart, London, 1956, 20 color reproductions of paintings by Raymond Booth and Paul Jones. Two of Mr. Jones's original paintings are on the walls—"Mrs. D. W. Davis" and "Barbara Woodruff"—each signed and dated April, 1958. There are complete runs of *Camellia Review*, *Camellia Nomenclature* and *American Camellia Society Year Books* as well as pamphlets and catalogues from the United States, Europe and the Orient, and many less important (bibliographically) but useful books on camellia culture.

The combination of a dedicated book collector and camellia fancier should produce an outstanding camellia library. And, in the case of Edwards H. Metcalf, this is certainly true. His camellia library (for he collects in other fields, too) is a joy and a delight. Very rare and scarce volumes are cheek by jowl with seemingly minor ephemeral material. Still, as he pointed out, some of these "lit-

tle" items are harder to come by than the better known bound works.

Included in his collection are the cornerstones of camellia literature. He has two complete sets of the Verschaftelt and his set of Berlese's *Iconographie . . .* is the special large-paper edition, measuring 17½ x 12½ in., 3 volumes, in beautiful condition. I (Amelia) have seen photographs of an early (ca. 1100 A.D.) Japanese scroll showing *reticulatas*, but the earliest illustrations of camellias we have seen in the Metcalf collection. This is in a set, *Pa Chung Hua P'u* (Collection of Eight Printed Ming Picture Albums) China, ca. 1621. Volume 6 contains a series of woodblock illustrations of flowers, trees and birds. One of the woodblock prints is of camellias, showing six varieties including *C. reticulata* and *C. sinesis*. The translation of the text mentions that "cornelian camellia has four colors, yellow, red, white, or pink." This is definitely dated 1621.

There is such a wealth of material in his collection that it is difficult to single out individual items, but a few should be mentioned. Several fairly recent publications are of interest, one of the loveliest being *CHINKA ZUGU; Japanese Camellias, the Imperial Collection*, Kodansha, 1969. This is in two large folio volumes of colored plates, bound in textured silk, text volume paper-bound, enclosed in a folding box. Also from Japan is *Camellias* by Andoh, preface by E. G. Waterhouse, Tokyo, (ca. 1971), a large folio volume with colored plates, and *Camellias of Japan* by Takasi Tuyama, Osaka, n. d., 2 volumes boxed, 1 volume of text, 1 volume of color plates.

An unusual pamphlet of local interest is from the (Japanese) Natural Science & Museum, Vol. 17, #1 and 2, 1950. This is entirely on camellias with special emphasis on *reticulatas*, and the frontispiece photograph is a view of the S.C.C.S. show held at

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## CAMELIAS LIKE BACH

Mrs. Charles (Marjorie) O'Malley\*

Woodside, California

(Illustrations by Helen Augis)

### Where to Start?

At the beginning, of course, our own Camellia Family Tree.

Grandfather grew his Camellias (old-timers from 1902) in the north end of the greenhouse back in the 1920's near Detroit, Michigan, which has two seasons; winter and the 4th of July. Father also grew Camellias in two greenhouses in this same lovely climate in the 1940's (more modern varieties à la 1930's).

Then, "Go West," not so young man to Pacific Palisades, California. Father's dreams had come true; beautiful climate, a huge square enclosed patio and room outside the house for many, many camellias. He had them in tubs next to doorways, around wooden posts supporting patio overhang, under lath, on tables, chairs, on the extra lot, and as background plants in the garden. It was very elegant clutter—BUT to children and grandchildren, DO NOT TOUCH!!!

"Crabby Conrad," his gardener, would disbud the plants every July and collect the buds by the bushel-basketful. I don't know what he did with his bushels of buds; he certainly wasn't the type to make tea! (Probably home-brew).

Enter Marjorie in California, now 1950, in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles, with camellias in the ground, in tubs, under lath, under overhang and in the garage area.

Right away, I joined three Camellia Societies, Pacific, Los Angeles and Southern California Camellia Societies. This was most confusing—trying to attend the right meeting on the right night; i.e., Pacific Camellia Society at the Tuesday Afternoon Clubhouse on the Thursday night.

That was a banner year, as we met the Nuccios and Al and Vera

\*Marjorie O'Malley is President of Peninsula Camellia Society

Parker! Later, Frank Williams called me on the phone one night for some information. This was a big thrill as he had some large, different looking Camellia flowers.

We must find out about these huge blooms —.

A stockbroker friend of mine made a bet with me on the performances of some stocks on the New York Stock Exchange. The wager was a new hat vs. those five certain one gallon plants (really twigs) with the huge flowers at Nuccio's Nurseries.

I won the bet, and I won my Retics! Brentwood was their first home under golf umbrellas during rain; they were fed my usual concoctions and REAL FERTILIZER, listened to me through the opened patio doors playing classical music (Bach) on the organ, and received many pats and "lovees."

They went with me, thanks to Bekins movers, to two other homes in San Fernando Valley.

One of the highlights of San Fer—  
(Continued on next page)



nando Valley hiatus was a friend with two great Danes visiting their brother and sister, "Rogue" and "Maggie," — OUR two Great Danes on a rainy Sunday. It was hilarious (?) when all four romped and stomped through the Camellia Garden, and then came in the house with muddy feet on a new white, deep pile, shaggy wool carpet.

'Nuff said - - -

Then, north to Atherton, where the Bekins men had to drag my plants in tubs, again through a white carpeted living room to the patio on a rainy January day.

Would we ever learn???

We all (people, plants, 1 Great Dane, 1 Cocker Spaniel and 2 cats) lived in Atherton for two years while building a new home in Woodside. This was the ideal location, under oak trees, with two greenhouses, huge patio and plenty of land for Camellias, Rhododendrons and Azaleas. I had visions of something like Bellingrath Gardens!

Nobody had told me how much it rained up here!

Hence, all pots had to be placed on the patio temporarily; more (this time third generation) elegant clutter.

We finished landscaping, finally, after removing old soil, and then planted Camellias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons with U.C. mix in raised beds. The rain had stopped for a week or so, and we could stand back and admire our handiwork!

Then, it turned HOT in April! *Every*, and I mean *every* single plant had to be watered by hand; six thousand square feet of Camellias, Azaleas and Rhodes, junipers and pines were cared for by my husband, Charles, and me in our twin "Camellia Suits"! !

Jack Stafford, our landscape architect received a rush call. We needed a completely automatic sprinkler sys-

tem with bubblers, sprays and soakers.

All our beautiful planting had to be dug up to allow for trenching for plastic pipes, electric underground wiring, control boxes and all the paraphernalia required for an automated system on time clocks to be hooked up to a master control for 20 settings and stations.

After one week of bedlam, chaos and confusion: plants lifted and burled temporarily, mounds of dirt, open trenches, etc., everything was replanted in their beds — BUT, in replanting, imported U.C. mix top soil was on bottom and hard-pan shoveled on top.

At that time we also had horses, sometimes two, and sometimes five. Did you ever see 2 or 5 horses in a Camellia Garden? I hope you don't; but some of the results weren't too bad after all. We were rather "avant-garde" in organic gardening.

We have had many joyful experiences up here in Woodside — the nicest of which is our annual Camellia Luncheon in conjunction with the Peninsula Camellia Society Show in February.

One year, the day before the Show, the electricity went off; as a result, the refrigerator motor burned out and we had to transfer flowers to the bar refrigerator. The flowers loved the alcoholic humidity; so much so that after I had forgotten to take them to Show, they made a beautiful display for Judges during "happy hour" before luncheon. Unfortunately for me, (I was told officially) one of them would have been Best Flower!

Another year, at the Camellia Luncheon, we were treated to a dog fight—1 canapé was given to two dogs, our Great Dane, "Aunt Gussie," and "Princess" a feisty Dachshund. You know who ate the canape; and "Princess'" owner had to be rushed

*(Continued on next page)*

to the hospital for stitches in his right hand, and as Pat Ehrhart remarked casually, "What do you expect with two dogs and one cocktail frankfurter?"

Still another year we had a "phantom" in the bushes: an employee who, on the day before the Show, took to drink suddenly and curled up under the Rhododendrons off the patio — good thing it wasn't under

the Camellias.

This year, 1973, somebody forgot to order the bar (HORRORS!) and 90 chairs for guests. I guess we all were supposed to stand during luncheon; this would be all right for Helen Augis, Hazel Grosso, Newt Pratt and Marian Stewart. But how about Jack Mandarich, Milo Rowell, Ken Hallstone and Richard Roggia?

*(Continued on next page)*



Hi! Which are you?  
Camellias or Rhodies?

The flowers enjoy this annual visit from the judges and put forth their best effort to please the visitors.

We preen, groom, talk to them and play classical music months ahead in anticipation of this occasion.

During the football season they listened to Notre Dame football games on two portable radios; 1 radio was tuned to a San Jose station and the other to San Francisco, just in case one station's signal faded.

According to Author Jerry Baker, "Plants are like People," plants need their exercise, so what is more arousing than Notre Dame Victory March? Our "Family Camellia Tree" plants have been exercising to it in California since the forties. (Remember Father was a Camellia lover and a Notre Dame fan).

It was a "Black Day at Woodside" during the Notre Dame-U.S.C. game. Notre Dame lost, and plants wept . . . (note sketch). They drowned their sorrows by my application of wine, later coffee grounds, and somehow pulled through the 7 day "Big Freeze" in December.

January 1st, 1973 was most traumatic for Camellias. . . .

**ORANGE BOWL!! DISASTER!!**

Since it was New Year's Day,

champagne was in order. BUT, since we could only drown our sorrows so much, the Camellias received an extra ration of Korbel Brut!

They revived beautifully and were at their best during the Camellia Show Luncheon.

But Camellias do pout, wither and cringe ("Oh, dear, here comes her husband, Charley"), especially when Charles appears carrying a 24" electric hedge clipper! "I'm going to take care of your plants, I'll cut right here, I'll whack 18 inches off the top, we can't see out of the window — etc., etc." Whack, whack, whack — chomp, chomp, chomp! — Later we had piles and bundles of leaves, branches, twigs and flowers which carpeted our patio. We had a nice view but very naked, blushing Camellias.

Charles does keep our "16 foot Camellia Jump" (which consists of two pillar 'Setsugekkas' at both ends, and 10 'Yuletides' in the center) at 3 to 3½ feet, as this is the height that horses for old ladies and children are supposed to jump over when riding cross-country.

Camellias here in Woodside have other troubles, i.e., gophers, moles and squirrels.

The gophers are so clever they climb *over* our wire mesh baskets and frolic among the roots inside the baskets. Other than what our cats catch on our other 9 acres, the only gopher we can really account for is the one I spotted barely underground, circling around 'Grand Prix's' mesh basket. In hostess gown, carrying a before dinner cocktail in my right hand, I bent over, lifting skirt carefully, grabbed whole live gopher with left hand and hurled him on the driveway . . . I didn't soil the dress and did not spill a drop!

Squirrels are still another big problem. They have picnics on Camellia

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# THE CAMELLIA and I

Ernie Pieri

Each of us at some time has wondered how and why we ever became involved in camellias. Sometimes, our interest has been whetted through an enthusiastic friend, sometimes through a show and sometimes after a visit to a nursery. My indoctrination into camellias really left me guessing. My wife, Anita, who has since passed away, had been troubled for years with violent migraine headaches. We were told by a friend to see a chiropractor named Dr. Cecil Eshelman, who had his office in Hollywood. Our friend also told us that this doctor had been doing some wonderful work with patients who suffered from migraine headaches and felt that he could help us. Welcoming any information that might ease our problems, we called this chiropractor and asked for an appointment and, hopefully, a treatment. He was very courteous and suggested a later day in the week for the appointment.

As we walked into the reception room in his office, we noticed a huge tray filled with roses, real beauties, that would make anyone proud to have grown them. This we learned was the usual adornment of his office, and after asking the receptionist who grew them, we were told that the doctor had a hobby of growing his own roses and camellias, and when the roses were through blooming, the camellias he brought in would take the roses' place as the center of attraction in the office. Well, we started her treatments in September. We loved the roses, but were actually waiting to see the camellias and what they looked like. We didn't know a camellia from a primrose. At last, at one of our later appointments we saw this tray completely covered with wax-like flowers of mixed and solid colored blooms. The secretary informed us that they were Daikaguras,

the solid and variegated forms. We could do nothing but stare in wonder at this magnificent array. Upon seeing the Doctor, we asked about these flowers and he said that they were some of his earlier blooms, but that later on we could see whites, pinks and variegated red and whites and pink and whites. After this first exposure to these flowers, we became very interested in them and could hardly wait until we returned for our next appointment to see what the good doctor had assembled for us in his waiting room. We were not disappointed in what we saw when we returned two weeks later. He had covered the reception table with three huge trays of the many colored forms of camellia blooms. The Doctor came to meet us at the door of his office as we wanted to know more about the blooms. He very carefully explained the various forms that were exhibited on the table and the name for each flower. Our heads were in a whirl! How could we ever arrive at the place where we too, could grow such magnificent blooms? He told us that it was really not too difficult, all we had to take care of was the watering, cutting off blooms and fertilizing. Well, being somewhat of a backyard gardener I could understand most of his jargon, but he still left me hanging when he talked about soil mixtures and preparation, tub or container culture and how to go about taking care of the plants. Of course this wasn't given to me in one lecture, but over a period of time as we visited his office for Anita's treatments. Finally, I got up enough courage to ask him if we could visit his garden some time to see his collection of roses and camellias. He was very kind, and said that on the next Saturday he would be free in the

afternoon and would be delighted to show us his garden if that time would fit into our schedule. We were given directions on how to find his home. Of course, we would not let anything interfere with any plans as long as we could see the garden that grew such magnificent flowers.

Saturday, at the appointed time, we drove to the front of his house in Woodland Hills, walked down the lane and rang the doorbell. He met us at the door and apologized for his appearance as he said he had been working in the lath house area and time had slipped away. (Well, since I have become more involved in camellias, I could see how easy that could happen.) We walked around the house to the rear of the building and into his garden and work area. His roses were very carefully manicured and some late rose buds were beginning to appear, which he said was unusual at that time of year. The plants were in rows about three feet apart with some 20 rose bushes in a row. After Oh-ing and Ah-ing! and drooling! at the rose garden he escorted us to the area that he called his pride and joy, his camellia garden.

We were first shown some large camellia plants that were planted in the ground, covered with buds of varying sizes. He told us that it was a good thing to keep buds that were in different sizes as then we could have flowers over a longer period of time. (Today we disbud the plants in about the same fashion, leave fewer buds of graduated sizes.) We didn't know at that time that most growers disbudded in much the same fashion, but primarily to get show flowers. As the fewer number of buds left on each terminal, all the greater the potential for quality flowers. We were then escorted through that part of the lath house in which the container grown plants were kept. We could understand the reason for the

container planting because they did not take up as much room as those that were planted in the ground. Another piece of information given us was that, when the container plants got too big, they could be given away and a new grafted plant substituted for the original. (I heartily agree with with this program.)

After showing us the container plants we were then shown some of his recently grafted plants, and explained about the method used in grafting. We were shown the progress of the grafted plants, from new grafts to those where the graft had had been completely callused. More walking, but this time to seedling box. He lifted the top cover and we saw what seemed to be hundreds of seedlings, some of which he pulled from the box to show us about taking them from the seedling box and repotting them in four inch pots. Also, Dr. Eshelman told us about repotting the plants when they became root-bound in their present container and gave us the formula for the new repotting mixture of one part sand, one part loamy soil and one part peat moss. Oh boy, now I knew all about the growing of camellias! I had seen them from the seed to the flowering plant and had been instructed in all of the intervening steps. (It wasn't too long that I had my first set-back, but more about that later.) As we left he gave us a small plant of 'Francine' which we now know as 'Elegans Pink.' We were in seventh heaven! After leaving the doctor's home we felt that we could grow our camellias right away. (What a let down.) He also suggested that we visit some of the nurseries in our area, namely Carter's Camellia Garden, Marshall's Camellia Garden and the McGaskill's Camellia Gardens as they all grew very fine plants.

Both Anita and I had become very enthusiastic about camellias and felt

*(Continued on page 21)*



## CALIFORNIA INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1973

People who aspire to have new camellia introductions in their collections will choose from twelve varieties that are being introduced by California nurseries in 1973. Nuccio's Nurseries has five, Vern McCaskill has five and Al and Vera Parker's Redwood Empire Nursery has two.

Leading the list in popularity among Nuccio's introductions will probably be *'Bob Hope'*, not because of its name but because it is a luscious, brilliant dark red large to very large japonica. The form may be either regular or irregular semi-double. It blooms mid-season to late. The plant is also attractive with bushy upright growth and very dark, medium size green foliage.

*'Dolores Hope'* is a reticulata hybrid chance seedling that has come from Monique Peer's "Park Hill" garden, joining predecessors such as *'Kohinoor'*, *'Three Dreams'* and *'Chittagong'*. The flower is very large, rose form to semi-double. The color is medium rose pink veined orchid with some center petals shaded white. The plant growth is very vigorous, upright, slightly open. It blooms mid-season.

*'Silver Triumph'* is a very large, semi-double white japonica with prominent yellow stamens. It blooms profusely, starting in November and extending through March. Plant growth is vigorous, upright, slightly open, with medium, dark green foliage. There is a heavy seed production.

*'Midnight Serenade'* is a medium to large, single, brilliant darkest red japonica with heavy texture and high sheen. It blooms mid-season to late with extremely heavy bud set similar to hybrid type camellias. It buds up and down the stem. Plant growth is bushy and upright, an excellent landscape type.

*'Chow's Han-Ling'* is a sport of

*'Carter's Sunburst'* that came from the garden of and was developed by Dr. Leland Chow of Bakersfield, California. The form of the flower is that of its parent. The color is white with a blush pink center, similar to the pink shading of *'Shiro Chan'*, the white sport of *'Elegans'*. Dr. Chow has exhibited this sport in camellia shows of the last two seasons.

Vern McCaskill is adding to the pleasures of miniature enthusiasts by introducing four new miniatures along with one hybrid.

*'Trinket'*, a miniature, is a soft pink with a shaded pink center, anemone in form. Growth is upright, vigorous and bushy. It blooms mid-season.

*'Fawn'*, a miniature, is a creamy pink shaded deeper pink. It is a semi-double with twisted petals in the center. Growth is vigorous, upright and bushy. It blooms mid-season.

*'Little Poppy'*, a miniature, is a soft pink anemone flower with a center of creamy petaloids. Growth is vigorous, upright, bushy. It blooms mid-season.

*'Zing'*, a miniature, is a rose red, formal double. It is a hybrid, a cross of *'Williams Lavender'* times japonica. Growth is vigorous, upright, bushy.

The only non-miniature coming from McCaskill's is a large semi-double with large fluted petals. The color is a raspberry and Vern has named it *'Raspberry Delight'*. Growth is vigorous, upright and open.

Redwood Empire Nursery's introductions are a reticulate hybrid and a japonica. The reticulate hybrid is *'Ming Temple'*, a *'Cornelian'* seedling that was originated by David L. Feathers of Lafayette, California. The flower is loose peony form that, according to Al Parker of Redwood Empire, grows to a size of 5½ to 6

(Continued on page 21)

# CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## 25th ANNIVERSARY YEAR IN REVIEW

Mary Anne Ray, Secretary  
Fresno, California

In September 1972 — a pre-season first — a fund raising salad luncheon was given in the garden of one of the member's homes. A delicious array of home-made salads of endless variety and a large "Congratulations on 25th anniversary" decorated cake were the main dishes. Some 80 donated prizes, including a huge hand-made afghan (made by Mrs. Ken Thompson, a CCCS member) and 50 camellia plants were raffled or given as door prizes. Some 100 persons attended with non-members outnumbering members three to one.

The October Kickoff Breakfast was followed by regular monthly meetings through February. Plants are always raffled at the monthly meetings and guests are always invited to attend. It is not unusual to find a member who has won a plant turn and give it to a guest. Format for the meetings included Julius Nuccio; a round-table culture discussion by local members for both home enjoyment and show competition; show slides; and a CCS history with Milo Rowell reminiscing through the years. We ended the season with our annual barbeque with more plants and other prizes.

The special push began after our opening meeting. In November local newspapers began a "camellia build-up" featuring special articles in their garden sections. Throughout the season we continually appealed to the average home gardener — not the "Award seeker," hoping we already had the latter "hooked." In December we donated blossoms to volunteer organizations and rest homes. In February we gave more flowers for a huge heart and table decorations for the local debutant ball.

In February some sixty local valley newspapers gave us excellent write-ups for our "new" Open House and our "Silver Anniversary Show." Ten radio stations each gave us from twenty to eighty spot announcements during the two weeks preceeding both events and our five valley television stations gave us at least three a day for a week before each event — all calling special attention to our Open House, the Show, and pointing out that the camellia is an excellent evergreen to grow here.

Now for something a little extra. One of our local radio stations has a program called "Direct Answer." All kinds of people with varied interests are guests for an hour each evening, during which time listeners may telephone questions to the guests. Four members of our Society were guests one evening just before our Open House and Show. This venture was truly a success — as we went off the air all five phones were lit up with more incoming questions. We have been invited back.

We held our Open House one week before our Show in the Homer C. Wilson Camellia Garden in Roeding Park in Fresno. Homer Wilson, now 95 years old and still an enthusiastic grower of camellias, was chosen to be honored as the namesake for the Society's municipal camellia garden that was established in 1965. The 170 plants of japonica, reticulata, sasanqua and hybrid varieties were all donated to the garden. Tours of the garden were conducted between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday by members of the Society. We offered to visitors who preferred

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## OAK ROOT FUNGAS AND CAMELIAS

*The following letter was written to Mrs. Marilyn A. Batt in response to her article "Camellia Headaches" in the January, 1973 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW. The letter is published with the author's permission.*

Dear Mrs. Marilyn A. Batt:

I read with interest your article, concerning camellia diseases, in the January 1973 issue of *The Camellia Review*. Dr. Harold Hume correctly states that the most dangerous camellia disease—especially here in California—is the oak root fungus, which kills more plants than all the other diseases combined. Unfortunately it is almost unavoidable to plant these bushes, as well as rhododendrons and azaleas, in soil that is free of oak roots, or rather, of the fungus and its rhizomorphs which thrive on them. On the other hand in California's dry and hot climate large oak trees provide excellent scattered shade for these plants. Their leaves provide good mulch, and as they decompose they increase the organic content of the soil. Therefore the soil under these trees must be used for planting. One has to find a method, however, to prevent the roots of planted bushes from coming in contact with the disease-causing fungus or its rhizomorphs. Such a planting method has been in successful use at the Filoli Gardens for number of years.

FILOLI, owned by Mrs. William P. Roth, is a typical English estate located about 22 miles south of San Francisco. In the early 19th Century the area which now constitutes the estate was part of the 12,540 acre Rancho Canada de Raymundo. Later most of the ranch, including Crystal Spring Lake which is the city's water reservoir, became property of the San Francisco Water Company. Most of this land today is covered by trees—coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), madrona (*Arbutus Menziesii*), redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)—mixed with mesquite and other wild-growing bushes. FILOLI is located neighbouring just south of the lake and covers an area of about 714 acres of which about 17 acres are garden, orchard and lawn, while the rest are pasture and woods. When in 1916 the garden was started, based on plans developed by the garden architect Bruce Porter, the huge live oaks, madronas and redwoods covering the area had to be cut down mostly. The trunks and roots of these trees were left in the soil. Only the giant, 100-300 year old oaks around the main building and those oaks which shade the camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas were left standing. Amazingly, despite of the dead roots in the soil, we still have plenty of the original camellias and rhododendrons planted 56 years ago. Among them some are 15-17 feet tall. Each year, however, a few of the originally and subsequently planted trees and bushes die, especially after particularly rainy winters. Each spring 5-10 plants that died because of root fungus must be replaced. And since the new plants have to be put into infected soil, we had to develop a relatively inexpensive method preventing the spreading of infection. We couldn't sterilize the soil with Chloropicrin and Carbon bisulfide because that also would have killed the other plants in the garden. After lengthy trial we found the following method to be the best:

First we dig a hole 3-5 feet wide and 2-3 feet deep, with *perpendicular walls*. The soil from the hole is taken away. Next the wall of the pit is lined with the *thickest* tarpaper (roofing paper). This can be obtained in 50 x 3 feet rolls, with one side smooth and the other covered with fine gravel. The bottom of the pit is not covered because it needs drainage. We then fill  $\frac{3}{4}$ -th of the

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# LET'S GET OUT OF CONTAINERS??

Gertrude Thurman Stump

Vista, California

We Stumps (Slane and I) never tell anyone how to raise camellias because we don't think we know enough about the culture. We just know what works for us. We think of our camellia hobby as punctuated by "ups" and "downs" — some years more "downs", some years more "ups". With too many "ups" the hobby would soon lose the challenge and we'd retire with ennui!

I do advise friends that the camellia is the stubbornest, most baffling and contrariest of all flowers. But it is also the most exciting, rewarding and we think the most beautiful. I tell people that the camellia is going to do what it pleases and not what pleases you. If it doesn't care to open, it won't open; and you can scold it or pray over it or you can go into convulsions and it won't make the slightest difference. It still won't open! It is impossible not to admire the camellia's one track flower mind!

I have heard many times that plants have intelligence and feeling and I believe it. And I have always thought of camellias or any plant being very like human beings. After all, camellias eat, rest, grow, are sick sometimes, like a nice cold bath on a hot day, give back their best when the best is given to them. That these are all human traits, no one can deny.

I had a feeling (notice past tense) that the camellia would be a lot happier planted in the ground rather than in containers. How would I like to be confined within 4 walls with no chance to move out and explore the world? In the ground the plant must feel more independent, more on its own and happier.

Because our large lathhouse was so crowded, we felt like jungle ex-

plorers just trying to walk between the rows. Something had to give and something drastic. Cutting back didn't seem to be the answer since the more we clipped the faster the plants grew. I might interpose here that our climate in Vista is perfect for camellias and they grow like weeds.

Using the theory that a camellia in the ground would be happier and remembering the fine flowers at Descanso under the oaks, we decided to move 40 of the largest and most vigorous plants to a promising location under a huge oak tree. That tree is located on a very steep hill back of our house. We call the hill "the Stump Matterhorn" because it is so inaccessible. How to transfer 40 large containers to the area under that tree—that was the problem. We told ourselves that the soil there was virgin, rich and deep. What if the move would be a major feat of engineering? Visions danced in our heads, not of sugar plums, but of camellias as large as salad plates with colors rivaling the rainbow!

Well, the moving was an Herculean task and took many hours. The containers had to be loaded on to the jeep. Then since the driver couldn't navigate the Matterhorn, he had to take a circuitous route on the neighbors' land to finally arrive at the tree. His first arrival brought forth wild cheers of glee from the anxious watchers down below. It took several trips before the 40 arrived at their destination. The camellias were tenderly planted with high hopes and beating hearts!

The installation of a watering system wasn't too easy either. There were many backaches and groans but when finished it rated 100%.

Victor, our young energetic helper,

made fine steps up the hill with a sturdy hand rail so we could climb up and take proper care of those healthy transplants. I'll confess though, that I don't envy mountain climbers! Even with steps it was climb, puff, climb, puff!

The first year the plants looked healthy but the blossoms were smaller than normal. "Oh, well," said we, "they have not become acclimated. We won't expect miracles the first year". Our enthusiasm did not wane! Our hopes were still high!

The second year the flowers were not quite half as large as their normal size and the third year Drama Girl would have passed anywhere for a miniature! It was one inch in diameter!!

What happened? As a family we don't care to rehearse calamities but facts had to be faced. We felt we had done our part with—faithful watering and fertilizing. But the plants were the unhappiest and shrinking camellias we'd ever seen—like a human who had experienced a long sojourn in the hospital. It wasn't sudden, of course. The decline was gradual. But we kept hoping for a miracle.

We talked the situation over with the experts, several of whom disagreed with each other. But these were the ultimate conclusions: that huge tree had roots extending 100 feet or more in every direction. After every feeding those hungry tree roots would barrel over and consume all the goodies before the poor camellias were aware that an omnivorous enemy was near. The same with the water. Also the gophers were more savage than any we have ever known them to be and simply refused to be captured by any method. Once we found a lovely Davis cut off and lying prone on the ground. Sad indeed! A tear or two fell, tho I am not a crying person. I've always faced problems when I had to.

So we decided if we were to save

any of those plants they'd have to be dug up and replanted in containers in the lathhouse. *But* by this time in the three years the wonderful vacancies left by their departure had long since been filled with new varieties. There wasn't a space left. So there was just one thing to do: build a new lathhouse, so the returnees could come home and "die in peace". We felt we owed them that.

I shall skip the somber task describing the move back. I felt a little like the ancient Egyptians must have felt when they had to relocate a mummy. It was like the returning P.O.W.'s, only sadder. But my spirits never stay down very long and I liked the new lathhouse.

I have been accused of having a very green thumb and maybe I have because with loving care and much strong talking I brought back all those skeletons except one 'Debutante.' It pouted and pouted and refused to resume normal life. However recently, I noticed it is showing some growth leaves and losing its yellow pallor. I highly recommend love, tenderness and a green thumb.

It is interesting to consider how fast an enthusiasm can wane! Our interest in camellia ground planting has died an understandable death. We feel that with all our vicissitudes, we've grown up camellia wise and are completely happy with container culture. Why beat your brains out against a majority that is more knowledgeable? We look around and notice that if a camellia census were taken 90% of all camellias in California would be in containers. So now I do not lie awake at night picturing those extra luscious, out-sized camellias growing in the ground. Let them be crowded and suffer in containers. Who cares? As far as I am concerned, the Stump camellias will remain so long as they live in containers and hopefully fulfill their destiny, without benefit of freedom and independence.

## BEST FLOWERS IN 1973 CALIFORNIA SHOWS

As in former years, CAMELLIA REVIEW lists herewith the varietal winners of Best Flowers of the japonica, reticulata and hybrid Divisions in the 13 California camellia shows of the past camellia season. Winners in the December Early Show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and the January show at Huntington Botanical Gardens are not included because gibbed flowers were an important part of these shows and the purpose of this tabulation is to give winners among the outdoor-grown flowers.

Because there is usually such a fine difference between the Best and the Runner-up, both are included in the compilation of the list. The 1973 show season started in San Diego in early February and ended in Santa Rosa, some 500 miles to the north, in late March. Schedules were not uniform with regard to Divisions of entry or to the awarding of Runner-up trophies. Some varieties do better in Northern California than they do in Southern California, and visa versa. The list is interesting for what it is—a tabulation of the varieties that were the winners of Best and Best Runner-up under the schedules of the different shows.

### JAPONICA

#### VERY LARGE TO MEDIUM

Tomorrow Park Hill ..... 4

Elegans Splendor .....	4
Elegans Supreme .....	3
Easter Morn .....	3
Silver Chalice .....	2
Julia France .....	2
Spring Sonnet .....	2
Glen 40 Var .....	2

The following won once: Fashionata, Fashionata Var., Satallite, Betty Foy Sanders, Midnight, Sweetheart, Sunset Oaks, Erin Farmer, Carter's Sunburst, Ballet Dancer, Nuccio's Gem, Reg Ragland, Ville de Nantes, Wildfire, Betty Sheffield Blush Supreme, Guilio Nuccio Var., Flame Var., Commander Mulroy, Gunsmoke Var., In the Pink, Ella Ward Parsons, Betty Sheffield Supreme, Premier Var., Winifred Womack, Midnight Var., Mrs. D. W. Davis, Monjisu, Granada, Dixie Knight, Lady Kay Var., Grand Prix, China Doll, Sawada's Dream.

Total varieties chosen one or more times — 41.

### JAPONICA,

#### SMALL AND MINIATURE

Kitty .....	5
Pink Smoke .....	3
Sugar Babe .....	3
Maroon and Gold .....	2
Ave Maria .....	2
Little Slam .....	2

## INTRODUCING IN 1973

BOB HOPE  
SILVER TRIUMPH

DOLORES HOPE  
MIDNIGHT SERENADE

CHOW'S HAN-LING

**NUCCIO'S**  
**NURSERIES**

3555 CHANEY TRAIL  
ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA 91002  
Phone - - - - 794-3383

(Closed Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Tinsie .....	2
Fircone Var .....	2

The following won once: Thumb-lina, Baby Blush, Little Bit, Bon Bon Blush, Domoto's Pride, Kuro Tsubai, Mini Pink, Little 'Un, Alison Leigh Woodroof, Sweeti Pie, Black Tie.

**RETICULTA and HYBRID WITH RETICULTA PARENTAGE**

Aztec .....	3
Crimson Robe .....	3
Howard Asper .....	3
Valley Knudsen .....	3
William Hertrich .....	2
Valentine Day .....	2
Francie L .....	2
Moutancha .....	2
Cornelian .....	2
Dr. Louis Pollizzi .....	2
Lila Naff .....	2

The following won once: Craig Clark, Buddha, Mandalay Queen, Fire Chief Var., Leonard Messel.

**HYBRID WITH OTHER THAN RETICULATA PARENTAGE**

Angel Wings .....	5
Elsie Jury .....	5
El Dorado .....	3
Brigadoon .....	2
E. G. Waterhouse Var .....	2
Anticipation .....	2
Charlean Var .....	2

The following won once: Julia Hamiter, Charlean, E. G. Waterhouse.

**CENTRAL CALIF. (Cont.)**

to go it alone to answer questions, and there were many asked.

One very memorable event to me was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife, coming to the garden with many blossoms in hand and seeking identification of their names. His wife had known each by name but had not labeled them. Now he wanted to learn the names to tell his friends who asked when they came to call. We were able to help him with all of them. I felt a very

warm glow when he smilingly greeted me at our show the following week.

Our Annual show came the following week. We held a pre-show display of blooms on the preceding Thursday and Friday in a bank on Fresno's downtown mall. The theme of the show was "Silver Anniversary — The Beautiful World of Camellias." Visitors signed papers and dropped them in a container, giving us more names to invite to meetings. We gave eight 'Silver Anniversary' camellia plants as door prizes.

Individual home garden tours were held a week after the show. In addition to members and their guests, we invited people who had signed our guest book at meetings and our Open House in the Homer Wilson Garden.

On March 1st, preceding the Open House, Mayor Ted C. Wills of Fresno issued a proclamation that proclaimed the period March 2 through March 11, 1973 as Camellia Festival Time.

All of our events were well-attended and, best of all, our membership has nearly doubled.

**INTRODUCTIONS (Cont.)**

inches in diameter. The color is a rich silvery pink. Al says that the outstanding feature of the flower is the deep creping of the petals "like a handful of paper that has been crushed and then released." Plant growth is tall and compact.

The japonica is a white semi-double seedling named *Sandy Sue* that was originated by Caryll Pitkin of San Marino, California. Caryll has been showing this seedling in Southern California shows and the flower has won good acceptance.

**CAMELLIA & I (Cont.)**

sure we would be able to grow camellias such as had been grown by the doctor and camellia booster. Then came the shock.

This all started while we were living in Garvey, now known as Rosemead, in the fall of 1946.

## LIBRARIES (Cont.)

Brookside Park, ca. 1946! Another interesting paper-bound volume is *Pas de Jardin sans Camellia* by Jean de Bihan (Paris, n.d., ca. 1969) in which the author bemoans the fact that French gardeners have forgotten or overlooked the loveliest of flowers.

As with most collectors, Mr. Metcalf has carefully saved his copies of *Camellia Review*, *Camellia Nomenclature* and *American Camellia Society Yearbooks* and has complete runs of these publications. An interesting item he managed to acquire is a photo-copy of *Collection de Cent Espèces ou Varieties du Genre Camellia* by Mlle. G. Fontaine, Brussels, 1845. This is a fairly early color-plate book on camellias, but evidently scarce and hard to come by. In the spring of 1972, a London auction house listed this in one of its forthcoming sales. In checking previous auction prices, it was found that it last appeared on the auction block in 1921 when it sold for the munificent sum of £1 (approximately \$5.00). Various bids were sent in, trying to figure what inflation, devaluation, etc., might do to the price. No one in Southern California was even vaguely close to the eventual

selling figure—it went for £2,600 (\$4,500.)!

Mr. Metcalf has among other volumes *A Revision of the Genus Camellia* by J. Robert Sealy, Royal Horticultural Society, 1958, which not only contains beautiful color plates but has a wealth of information on raising camellias. Another interesting and unusual item is *Camellias* by Van Geert, a portfolio of 12 colored plates published by the Paris Etching Society, (n.d.)

The above is an admittedly incomplete listing of only a portion of the works on camellias in these three libraries. We hope it may inspire others to search for interesting and out of the ordinary books and ephemeral material on our favorite flower. This sort of collecting has at least one advantage over raising camellias—it may be done almost anywhere in the world and is not subject to the vagaries of weather. Anywhere there is a book store, there is a potential bonanza. Admittedly, 99 times out of 100, nothing of interest or value will be uncovered, but there is always the hope of finding something really worthwhile. Who knows, maybe *you* can find Mlle. Fontaine's book. If, so, let us know—we'd love to see a copy.

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## OAK ROOT FUNGUS (Cont.)

hole with the usual planting mixture. For camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas we use leaf mold, pea moss and clean garden soil mixture, with a little cow manure and bone meal. The mixture in the pit should be well compacted. The next step is to fill the pit with water and let the planting mixture settle for 24 hours. Next day we plant the plants making sure that the bushes sit higher than the edge of the pit, since they will sink later as the organic planting matter decomposes. Our results with this method for the last 20 years have been excellent. The roots of bushes and trees so planted can't penetrate the tarpaper and therefore will not come in contact with the rhizomorphs of the oak root fungus. The tarpaper is relatively inexpensive and will not rot in the soil. The Filoli Gardens has about 1,000 camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas, most of them were planted by this method.

Sincerely yours,  
LESLIE THIRINGER  
former head gardener of Filoli  
P.O. Box 531, San Mateo, Calif. 94401



# CAMELLIA VARIETIES THAT WILL SURVIVE

William E. Woodroof

*Resume' of talk at February 1973 meeting of  
Southern California Camellia Society.*

I have been requested to comment on new Camellia varieties and restriction of registration of new hybrid Camellia varieties in an attempt to limit introduction to varieties which are considered worthwhile and which are different from or an improvement over existing varieties.

I would like to enlarge on these subjects and comment on the possibility of survival *in this area* of varieties introduced *since 1965*, and the restriction of registration of all Camellia varieties.

As most of you are aware, many new varieties are introduced with great ballyhoo or with high recommendation. Some of these varieties show early promise but then fade out, others are too similar to existing varieties and others are never of any value. This has been proven by the fact that many varieties that have been given major awards and varieties with early high recommendation are no longer desired or being grown. I have grown several hundred of such varieties. This, of course, may be due to growing in areas away from the areas of introduction, particularly growing conditions including culture and insufficient testing before introduction.

The limitation of registration of varieties in an attempt to limit introduction has been considered by top amateur and professional Camellia growers for many years, and has been turned down for the reasons hereinafter set forth.

It is my opinion that the principal purpose of registration is to protect nomenclature. The originator of a variety is similar to the parents of a newborn baby, the issue is unexcelled and beautiful and no criticism is tolerated. Also, it may be that it is the

originator's first seedling or mutation and he has been waiting a long time to honor a member of his family or "Aunt Minnie". Therefore, if registration is refused by some individual or committee, regardless of expertise in Camellias, the originator will usually name and disseminate the variety, and control and protection of nomenclature will be lost.

It is my opinion that the only practical means of controlling introduction of new Camellia varieties are as follows.

1. Tactful and diplomatic suggestions by members of the Registration Committee that the variety for which registration is requested is too similar to or not as desirable as existing varieties.
2. Attempt to influence Camellia growers to attend camellia society meetings and visit Camellia growers so that they may observe as many varieties as possible.
3. Education by camellia societies through exhibitions of varieties and programs relating thereto.

I believe that the varieties which I shall name, all of which were introduced into Southern California *since 1965*, will have a good chance of survival in this area. (Mr. Woodroof discussed special characteristics of the varieties as he named them, together with reasons for believing that the varieties will survive. —Ed.)

Arch of Triumph (Retic Hybrid)  
Allie Habel  
Angel Wings (Non-retic Hybrid)  
Blaze of Glory  
Barbara Colbert  
Craig Clark (Retic. Hybrid)  
Descanso Mist (Retic. Hybrid)

*(Continued on next page)*

Elegans Splendor  
 Easter Morn  
 Evelyn Poe Blush  
 Evelyn Poe Pink  
 Fire Chief Var. (Retic Hybrid)  
 Grand Prix  
 Granada  
 Ivory Tower  
 John Taylor (Retic Hybrid)  
 Jean Clere  
 K. O. Hester (Retic Hybrid)  
 Lila Naff (Retic Hybrid)  
 Leonora Novich  
 Lulu Belle  
 Mouchang (Retic Hybrid)  
 Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso  
 Nuccio's Gem  
 Otto Hopfer (Retic Hybrid)  
 Premier  
 Pink Sparkle (Retic Hybrid)  
 Royalty (Retic Hybrid)  
 Swan Lake  
 San Dimas  
 Sandy Sue  
 Three Dreams

You have of course noticed that most of the varieties I have named are of California origin. This is due to the fact that I have had a chance to observe these varieties for a longer period of time. Another reason is that varieties from the South are frequently grown under protection or with special treatment, or both, and they are not of the same size and sometimes of the same form and color when grown out of doors in this area.

## BACH (Cont.)

seeds and fat buds under 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' and 'Buddha' outside bedroom patio.

I was given a BB gun just to frighten them but Charles hid it after I had used it just to scare them. "For you," he announced, "this is a dangerous weapon!" because I missed the squirrels but put three holes in the greenhouse glass panes!

After all this, "The Perils of Marjorie, (not Pauline)," Camellias are really fun, and we have had many amusing laughs and experiences with some of our professional friends.

Did you ever see Julius Nuccio or Al Parker deliver plants, slam on the brakes of the deliver truck, jump out to gaze startingly at a "real winner"; a 7 inch plastic flower on a plant tucked 'way back in the lathhouse?

One of the nicer things about growing Camellias is that we can interest our grandchildren in the beauty of Camellias; they are very interested in our lath house and garden. We now are in 5th generation "green-thumbers" with Patrick (age 6) starting seeds under lights in his *very own* small greenhouse.

Instead of "shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves in three generations" the maxim should state "greenhouse to greenhouse in five generations" . . .

In conclusion, after all the joking and troubles, laughter and fretting, the most pleasant part of Camellia Culture is the nice people one meets: the Nicest People in this World!

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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 Fortenberry; Secretary: Mrs. Marcia Krause, 1160 Weyard Way, Shafter 93263  
Meetings: 2nd Monday Oct. through Apr. at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield

## \*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

President: Paul Nielsen; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705  
Meetings: 3rd Thursday Nov. through April at Great Western S/L cor. 15th St. and N. Main, Santa Ana

## CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

President: Herbert Martin; Secretary: Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G. St., Sacramento 95816  
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, Oct. through April in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento

## \*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Arthur Gonos; Secretary: Mrs. Wilbur V. Ray, Fresno 93727  
Meetings: Nov. 14, Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20 at Mayfair School, Mar. 20 at Fresno State College

## DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Donald R. Bergamini; Secretary: Mary A. Bergamini, 451 Dale Rd., Martinez 94553  
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, Nov. through March at Sumitomo Bank, 620 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill

## JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Charles Boynton; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 N. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240  
Meetings: 1st Tuesday October through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

## LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Thomas Hughes; Secretary, Mrs. Haidee Steward, 130 S. Citrus, L.A. 90036  
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

## MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Harlan Smith; Secretary: Helen Caputi, 1605 Victoria Dr., Modesto 95351  
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Edward A. Hays; Secretary: Wm. Lockwood, 3226 Primrose Ln., Walnut Creek 94598  
Meetings: 1st Mon. Nov. through May in Claremont Jr. High School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

## PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Melvin Gum; Secretary: Mrs. A. L. Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale  
Meetings: 1st Thursday November through April in Tuesday Afternoon Club House, 400 N. Central Ave., Glendale

## PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Mrs. Charles F. O'Malley; Secretary: Mrs. Rex W. Peterson, 27 Walnut Ave., Atherton 94025  
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: Frank Burris; Secretary: Walter Harmsen, 3016 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont 91711  
Meetings: 2nd Thursday November through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

## \*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Harry Humphrey; Secretary: Mrs. Mabel Higgins, 2152 Clematis St., San Diego 92105  
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday November through April Rm. 101, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, 7:30 P.M.

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President :John M. Augis; Secretary: Mrs. Helen Augis, 2254 Fairvalley Court, San Jose 95215  
Meetings: 2nd Thursday Sept. through April.

## SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Mrs. Nadine Greene; Secretary: Mrs. Marylin Batt, 10047 Old Redwood Hwy., Windsor 95492  
Meetings: 4th Thurs. Nov. through April, except Nov. and Dec. in Multipurpose room, Steel Lane School, Santa Rosa

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

## \*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Sergio Bracci; Secretary: Mrs. Elsie Bracci, 5567 N. Burton, San Gabriel 91776  
Meetings: Nov. 16 (Fri.), Dec. 21 (Fri.), Jan. 25 (Thurs.), Feb. 22 (Fri.), Mar. 28 (Thurs.), Apr. 25 (Thurs.)

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