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THE COVER FLOWER

'CURTAIN CALL' is a chance C. Reticulata seedling developed by Nuccio's Nurseries. The seedling first bloomed in 1976 from reticulata seeds planted in 1974. The bloom is a very large, deep coral rose, semi-double with irregular petals and a bright yellow burst of stamens. The plant has a vigorous open growth and it blooms from mid-season to late. The cultivar was released in the fall of 1979. The oil painting, by Ann Hackney, which is being raffled off by the Southern California Camellia Society, is a painting of this cultivar. I am no Italian (although I have been known to take a glass of Caluso Passito if my arm is twisted), yet when I see 'Curtain Call' in bloom, I say to myself — "At-Sa Nice-A Camellia."

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