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REVIEW

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Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

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

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

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THE COVER FLOWER

'SILVER CLOUD' is a chance C. Japonica seedling discovered in the seedling patch at Nuccio's Nursery in 1976. It was given the seedling number of 7626 and placed under observation. When it bloomed again the second year Bill Woodroof saw the flower and he literally "flipped out!" In fact, every one who has seen the flower has become completely captivated. The cultivar was tested for grafting and cutting tendencies, propagated, and released this Fall. The bloom is a very large, white, loose peony form with bright yellow stamens. The plant has a vigorous, upright growth. The cultivar blooms from November through May in the Southern California area.

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THOUGHTS

from the editor

Whether one is a camellia hobbyist or just a plain, ordinary citizen of the United States of America, the thought foremost in one's mind is inflation. The funds to run a camellia society are eroded by inflation just like the salary one is paid for doing his job. The cost of everything seems to be escalating at a faster rate each day. A good example is the recent "hemorrhage" of our Society's funds used to publish the 1981 Edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. (See Dryden's article on page 16.) One wonders whether the Board of Directors won't be obliged to raise the dues again unless other ways are found to augment the bank balance!

One successful try at raising funds was the Society's first Annual Garage Sale which was held on May 24 and 25, 1980 in Whittier. The sale turned out to be a qualified success and would have been a huge success if there had been more items to sell. It turns out that only 17 hobbyists donated items to this sale! Had more people participated, it seems apparent that the effort would have been more handsomely rewarded. People were lined up for a block waiting to

get into the sale on opening day and most everything was sold in the first hours.

Be that as it may, the Board of Directors will press forward with a Second Annual Garage Sale, to be held in the Spring of 1981. By starting now it is felt that more members will donate items for the sale and there might be a corresponding increase in the total funds realized. Lee Gaeta has agreed to act as the Chairman of next year's sale. A Ways and Means Committee will be appointed to work with him. Items for donation can be stored at 4909 North Cedar Avenue, El Monte. Your donations can be brought to the Society Meetings or delivered to the El Monte address. Let's all start now to save things for next year's sale. Tools, motors, appliances, lamps, old silver plate, old trophies, objects-d'art, etc. (no clothing) are all hot items for a garage sale. Let's see if we can't get more than 17 hobbyists to participate. In fact, let us ALL get behind this endeavor and make it a huge success. The alternative will be the doubtful pleasure of a raise in the membership dues.

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CREATION OF THE BIONIC CAMELLIA

By Meyer Piet

ED NOTE: This talk was presented at the March 1980 meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society.

© 1980 by Meyer Piet

I don't pretend to be Superman, but for those of you that cannot see my sweatshirt, it says, "Meyer's Nursery, Home of the Yellow Camellia." Let me tell you right off that to date I have not seen a true yellow camellia. About the sweatshirt, it was hand colored and created by my younger son, Larry, for me as a Christmas present. I told Larry, the artist in our family, of our progress in developing the yellow camellia and he is so enthused and so confident of our success that he made this reminder of his enthusiasm for me.

Let me tell you some of the important things to consider if you are interested in creating a new camellia. First read as much literature as you can, then ignore most of it. Especially those old articles that have been written 20 or 30 years ago and are too often repeated, especially those that basically crossed Japonica X Japonica. You will continually read use "Camellia such and such because it's an easy seeder." I don't believe I have ever used an "easy seeder" as a mother plant. These easy seeders have been overworked. You will only be working with material that has already been overworked, with probably little to show for your effort.

Another thing that is important, who is the author? Has he been successful in new introductions? Does his suggested direction seem to make sense for a reasonable chance for success? If the material (scion or seedling) has been around for a long time, ask yourself, why hasn't the originator been successful using the material to advance his work? Most hybridizers or those planting seeds for fun, only see one or two outstanding new flowers in the entire 10-20 plus years they devote to this task. Perhaps one is better off starting off on his own, or

with a small group of friends who are interested in creating new camellias. This is what the group Lee Gaeta, Mel Gum and I try to achieve, that is, do the necessary work to continue to upgrade the various camellia group goals and create new, better flowers.

Hybridizing is easy. You can forget chromosome counts, compatibilities etc. Most plants you will be working with are compatible with each other or in various combination, crossing them with each other. These are usually called bridges, crossing one species with another in the hope of then being able to cross it into a third entity. Even though I still grow a few hundred chance seedlings, I would not recommend counting on this approach to bring forth new flowers. Why take care of plants and wait 5 or 10 years (to see them bloom) when you do not know the parents and therefore will have very little chance of success. One in 5 or 10 thousand, perhaps the odds are even worse. By carefully crossing good parents, most times with an objective in mind, "Our Group" is hitting about one excellent seedling in every 100 to 200 new plants. We try to be very selective and have given away or cut down seedlings that are much better than those other people continue to introduce.

Let's take the various group goals and discuss them, with some of our group observations of the last 8 years.

GROUP OBJECTIVES

1. Large Retic Hybrids
2. Sasanqua X Retic ("The Girls")
3. Salunensis X Retic (White Retic)
4. Miniatures
5. Fragrance
6. Irradiated Scions
7. Yellow (New Colors)

1. Large Retic Hybrids. Start on this one for instant success. It will

give you the enthusiasm to continue with longer, harder programs. Cross any large Retic Hybrids such as 'Crimson Robe' X 'Butterfly Wings,' or 'Pharaoh;' or 'Nuccio Ruby,' or 'Firechief' etc. cross dark red flowers for dark red off-springs. Use 'Mouchang' or 'Arcadia' ('Mouchang' X 'Sas-Bonanza') for medium or light pinks or salmon pink. If you would like to try for a white retic hybrid try crossing in some white. I tried for several seasons to back cross 'Howard Asper' ('Retic Cornelian' X 'Jap Coronation') into white japonica Coronation without success. No success in trying to back cross 'Coronation' into 'Howard Asper'. Lee Gaeta has been successful in setting seed on 'Howard Asper', 'Howard Asper' X 'Kohinor.' An excellent cross. We will hopefully see the flower next season. Lee tried for several seasons before getting one seed set. He is still trying for additional crosses. This last season (seeds picked in 1979) some of our better retic crosses went like this.

1. 'Mouchang'/'Bonanza' (Arcadia) X 'C. Robe'/'Kramer Sup.' (11 different seeds)
2. 'Nuccio Ruby'/'C. Robe' X 'C. Robe'/'Kramer Sup.'
3. 'C. Robe'/'Nuccio Ruby' X 'Mouchang'/'Nuccio Ruby'

4. 'Mouchang'/'Kohinor' X 'Nuccio Ruby'
5. 'Kohinor' X 'C. Robe'/'Butterfly Wings'
6. 'Firechief' X 'Nuccio Ruby'
7. 'Firechief' X 'Elsie Jury'
8. 'Royalty' X 'Mouchang'/'Bonanza' (Arcadia)

These are just a few of the many crosses Lee, Mel and I have made. If you study the groups you can visualize our objectives. Set up your own objectives. An objective is simply a goal. It does not mean any paper work and it can continually change. Go for dark red, go for white, just try for a super big flower. It's simple and you as an amateur don't have to explain why you are trying any particular combination. When I crossed Sasanqua 'Bonanza' into 'Mouchang' and got 'Arcadia' I was actually after a good full semi-double flower about 4" in size. I was pleasantly surprised when I fulfilled another objective of mine by obtaining an excellent 6 to 7 inch flower about 3 times the flower of its mother, 'Mouchang.' Those growers or exhibitors who Gib this one better watch out, it's going to be a huge, beautiful flower. Our back crosses of 'Arcadian' pollen into Retic 'C. Robe,' Cornelian, 'Mouchang,' etc. show

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signs of additional excellent flowers. We believe when we see those seedlings flower where 'Arcadia' is the mother plant we will have a better chance for excellent new flowers. If we must wait 3 or 4 years to see the grafted seedling bloom, knowing the cross is 'Arcadia' X 'C. Robe' X 'Kramer Sup.' etc. leaves good reason for patience and continuing next year's work. I would like to point out making your first crosses is as easy as dabbing some known pollen on the top of the pistil (stigmatic surface) of the mother plant. Label it and let it go at that. You will be successful about 5% of the time or 5 times out of 100. But those 5 times could produce 5 to 20 or 30 seeds, each one will produce a different flower. One can be a simple single and another seed from the same pod could be the big dark red semi-double flower you are looking for. Remember crossing both semi-double flowers tends to produce more semi-doubles or more complex forms such as peony, or formals. Several years ago I made several crosses of 'Firechief' X 'Nuccio Ruby'. They produced a very dark red 4" flower, almost formal but very little pollen. Lee Gaeta made the same cross and has a similar flower but one important addition — pollen, plenty of it. Both of us have been using this pollen to cross into many dark red flowers. We could use some new excellent super dark red retic hybrids. This is one example of progress possible by working as a small group of 2 or 3 people.

2. SASANQUA X RETIC (THE GIRLS)

I submitted a separate article for "Camellia Review" that will be published in Volume 41; No. 5. May-June 1980. I will just update that article for this season. We now have about 40 different plants to work with. Most keep the Sasanqua-Retic as the mother plant and therefore maintain the bushy characteristics. We now have 9 plants that are $\frac{1}{4}$ Sasanqua and $\frac{3}{4}$ Retic. It has taken

about 8 years to obtain these plants. When we started the program in 1972 we *knew* it would take at least 8 years. For this season we will pick up approximately 25 to 35 new seed pods. This should result in about 70 or more new plants. All types of pollen have been used. These are excellent crosses and should help us obtain the *new* plants we are looking for. One interesting thing did happen, Lee Gaeta crossed the original 'Flower Girl' into 'Crimson Robe' and obtained one of the nicest flowers I have seen this season. It's a 4 inch, very dark, red flower, as dark as 'Firechief' with red stamens and a complete button of gold anthers about 2 inches in diameter. We will probably call the new flower the 'Spirit of Troy'. (USC Football Colors — cardinal and gold, etc.) This new flower is a good example of original thinking, instead of going back to the original, Sasanqua, 'Narumi-Gata' X Reticulata 'Cornelian', Lee decided to use 'C. Robe' as a mother plant with excellent results, a real winner. This one will easily compete as a show flower, but will be a *most* desirable garden plant.

3. SALUNENSIS X RETIC OR JAPONICA

Most people using Salunensis as working material cross Salunensis pollen into Japonica or Japonica pollen into Salunensis. I decided to try for a dark red Salunensis hybrid and therefore obtained a simple white Salunensis scion, grafted it and eventually set seed into it using 'C. Robe' and then 'Nuccio Ruby' pollen.

What a surprise! The Salunensis X 'Crimson Robe' cross turned out to be a white, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter flower. It has a very faint blush pink on the back of the back petals. The other cross, Salunensis times 'Nuccio Ruby' also produced a white flower, but more pink in the back petals. There is no question we now have two white Retic hybrids. We are trying to cross both plants with each other and also introduce some white

Japonica into them. I cannot tell whether we have been successful in setting seed as yet. We have taken the pollen from these plants and crossed them into Nuccio's 'Elizabeth Johnston' X 'Moutancha' cross, which is a beautiful rabbit ear'd flower, very light pink in color; also into 'Silver Chalis' a very nice textured white Japonica.

Our other crosses using Salunensis pollen have produced interesting flowers. Retic 'Royalty' X Salunensis 'Gay Time' produced an excellent flower. 'Tali-Queen' X 'Angel Wings' is another good flower. We have many crosses using 'Elsie Jury' pollen that we will be looking forward to seeing in the next few years.

4. FRAGRANCE

I enjoy the small fragrant species and their offsprings. They make excellent bushes and visitors to our garden always are delighted with the small scented flowers. Years ago, I decided *not* to go the route of trying to make a 5" flower out of Lutchuensis, etc. I decided there were plenty of fragrant Japonica around and I would cross them and introduce one part Reticulata in order to obtain size. After about 5 years I found one particular fragrant Japonica, that was a favorite of mine, continually producing full peony flowers as offspring, much nicer than the mother plant. All offspring were fragrant. About 3 years ago I took pollen from my own cross of 'C. Robe' X 'Kramer Supreme', an excellent flower and crossed the pollen into the fragrant Japonica mother plant. This season, what a surprise, I am sorry I do not have a picture, but we now have a flower that could compete with any Retic hybrid. A 5 inch diameter, full peony flower, very high, very dark and it's fragrant. There was only one flower, so I crossed 'Kramer Supreme' back into it. I am pleased to say that we have a seed pod that is now larger than a quarter! The flower had lots of pollen so I back crossed it into the fragrant Ja-

ponica mother plant, and also several other fragrant flowers we are working with. We grafted about 10 of these.

Another surprise was seeing fragrant Higo 'Nioi-Fubuki' (Scented Storm) crossed with pollen from two different fragrant Japonicas, bloom for the first time. The second generation is much, much better than either of the parent plants and the fragrance is excellent. The flowers are about 4 1/2 inches in diameter, a loose anemone form. One flower is pure white, the other is white with a small amount of pink. Even my sweet wife can smell this one.

My other working crosses are 'Lila Naff' - 'Frag Frill' X 'AKI' (Al Kruger's Fragrant Japonica). I will use these for the light color flowers. At the present time our complete working material consists of about 15 to 20 different plants, all Japonica or Retic combinations.

5. MINIATURES.

This is an unexplored field. Lee and I have made crosses using well known prize winning miniatures. It will take a few years to see the blooms. We will continue with this work. Lee has an excellent metallic red miniature with beautiful foliage. I believe we have set a seed on it using dark red pollen. We grafted a group of these for further evaluation. Last season I had a chance seedling bloom, a very pretty miniature dark red formal with spiral petals, no less. I should tell you that I selected my chance seeds about 6 years ago specifically from a grower who has made many, many new miniature introductions. I knew at the time I stood a good chance of seeing some good new miniatures. I have already seen about 4 or 5 hundred of these chance seeds bloom with perhaps 6 or so interesting miniatures, but absolutely no large flowers of value.

Miniatures that should be interesting

1. Jap 'Shuchura' (Picote) X #6819 (miniature Peony Jap)
2. Jap 'Shuchura' (Picote) X 'Pink

- Sparkle' - 'Nuccio Ruby'
3. Jap 'Tafuku' - 'Benten' X 'Peter Pan' (min.)

6. IRRADIATED PLANTS

Even though we saw drastic leaf structure changes on the 20 or so plants we processed in 1977, to this date no significant flower changes have occurred. We did manage to wipe out the pink blush on the Sasanqua X Granthamiana cross, which produced a pure white flower. This could be important later in developing the white retic we talked of earlier. It was always my intention to look for the irradiated mutant in the seed set, that is, new off-springs, so this season we have used both irradiated pollen, and plants hoping to get seed. We do have one back cross of Granthamiana X Irradiated Sasanqua X Granthamiana. Here are some slides of the blooms I have been talking about.

7. NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT THE YELLOW CAMELLIA.

I started my talk at the Pacific Camellia Society-closing meeting last year with this statement and had anticipated the roar of laughter. The response was terrific. If there is one thing we really need in this crazy world, it's a good sense of humor. My first article on "Hybridizing for Yellow — The Ultimate Challenge" was released in the July-August 1979,

Vol. 40, #6, of the Camellia Review. For those of you that did not read the article I will give you a quick summary.

The quest for a yellow camellia is at least 140 years old. Many well known Camellia People have tried to find one, but for one reason or another all ended in failure.

During the last few years, and quite by accident I have been sidetracked on an unusual program of camellia hybridization known only to myself. I take this opportunity to apologize to my two faithful co-workers, but as major events occurred it eventually became so involved and at times so frustrating that it simply was best for me to continue on my own, especially since I originally seriously thought that the entire effort was doomed to failure.

Since my Company designs and builds a great deal of specialized equipment for Aircraft and Aerospace application that no one else makes, it is not unusual for us to have customers that appreciate our efforts (we have the other kind too) and occasionally offer to do us a favor in return for our effort in producing an end item specifically for them.

Normally just the "thanks" is enough, but it is conceivable in our "Fact or Fantasy" logic that the occasion arose when floral material

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unique to developing a yellow camellia presented itself and I decided to take advantage of a very unusual opportunity.

In the past no one to my knowledge has been able to successfully involve the use of this unique material from thousands of miles away. I realize that scions or cuttings would probably not be available or allowed, so I moved in the much more practical direction for quicker and positive action, to devise a better way of obtaining working material. After all a scion or cutting of "unique material" would probably never be released. A much better method does exist and that is to obtain viable pollen and use it for immediately crossing into various camellia and camellia species.

At this time I must tell you that my "source" had sent me two different kinds of yellow pollen, for simplicity let's refer to them as yellow and yellow-orange. I was delighted to see that the two seed pods remaining on the species mother plant were one each of two colors. Now, for the record, the seeds were pollinated in October 27, 1976 and picked in October 1977. Yes, we have picked the seed of species X yellow pollen and species X yellow-orange pollen. There were two seeds in each pod. The two in the yellow-orange pod were healthy, one of the seeds in the species X yellow pod was very healthy, the other very small and weak looking.

At that time we had 3 different plants growing with Granthamiana as the mother plant. The next year we were successful again, adding a new mother plant a cross between species Sasanqua X Species Granthamiana. With Granthamiana as the mother plant we have an additional 4 plants. With Sas X Granth. we obtained 7 new plants. Using Yellow Caste Camellias such as Granth X 'Brushfield Yellow'; 'Caudata' X 'Ki Karata', Granthamiana X 'Botanuki', 'Brushfield Yellow' X 'Ki Karata', etc. we picked up an additional 15 seedlings. (Seeds picked in

1978.)

The following year I thought we would have a good season with the special pollen. The plants were loaded with over 24 seed pods. By this time I was very optimistic, but I had forgotten how hard the crosses were to make, and Mother Nature gently reminded me of the basic problem by quietly aborting most of the seed pods.

I forgot to mention I did not receive any yellow pollen but a very small amount of yellow-orange pollen (one take). The surprise was the introduction of a new pollen, a very dark red-black. Therefore from seeds picked in 1979, and yet to be grafted we have one cross of Sas/Granth X yellow-orange pollen and 7 seedlings of Granth & Sas-Granth. with red-black pollen. The use of a red-black pollen may sound insignificant when talking about color break, but when you consider that this could be used as a bridge or means to cross basically hard to cross species, the effort is bound to pay off. In keeping with our crosses of yellow caste we obtained seeds from 'Witman Yellow' X 'South Seas'; 'J. D. Williams' X 'Lee's Yellow'; 'Botanuki' X 'Lee's Yellow'; etc. In all we have 20 additional new seedlings. Let's total our score to this date. We will not count *any* seedpods that are now forming.

1. Unique Crosses using yellow & Yellow-Orange pollen — 15
2. Unique Crosses using Red-Black Pollen — 7
3. Crosses of Yellow Caste flowers that already exist — 35

This would total as yellow or yellow Caste Camellias, 50 different seedlings, Red-Black color 7 different seedlings.

The only possibility of failure with this program is the offhand chance that all these unique seedlings were self-pollinated or accidentally pollinated. All of this work is done in the green house where we seldom ever self-seed or accidentally set seed.

In late October or November of

MY TEN BEST

by Bill Donnan

1979, when my first Granthamiana bloomed I used yellow-orange pollen on it and purposely marked the tag with first flower to bloom. This cross is producing a seed pod at the present time which would rule out a chance of an accidental pollination from another plant. The chance of self pollination is very rare in this species. The three original plants are doing fine. I have one graft from each of them and plan to let them grow outside the green house this year. A single flower bud did form on one of the plants but it died and dried up before we could open it. So at the present time, we will *all* have to be patient until next year, when the original three plants should bloom for the first time. It's possible that all 50 plants will bloom white flowers, but as time goes on the "odds" are definitely shifting in our favor. After all, it will only take an additional 2 or 3 years to see the results. If only *one* out of the 50 plus plants produce the flower color break we are looking for, the entire effort will be worth while.

Before I close this talk I would like to acknowledge a very special favor someone is doing for me. I will not mention the individual's name, that recognition will come at the proper time, but I would like to express my sincere thanks in writing. This individual knows that Camellia Hybridizing takes time, patience and help in order to be successful. He has been intensely interested in our past work and understands our determination to continue with our program until we are successful in producing a show flower quality yellow camellia.

This gracious friend has sent us three new species of Camellia, which I believe are new in our country. One of the new species should produce a yellow flower. Thank you again, for your immeasurable help.

Note: This article may not be reproduced without written permission of the author.

Ed Note: This article appeared in Carolina Camellias but we are so short of articles that I am obliged to print it here!

As an Editor I have often cajoled camellia hobbyists into writing articles listing their ten favorite cultivars. So far, I have never really tried to make up my own list. However, my good pen pal, Jim McCoy, has been so nice to me over the years with his contributions to CAMELLIA REVIEW that I am almost obligated to contribute something to his CAROLINA CAMELLIAS. So, here goes!

First of all do you know what the word cajole means? It comes from the French word — cageoler — "One who decoys song birds or lures wild birds into a cage." So Jim, you have lured a wild bird into a cage and he is now prepared to "sing!"

You know, I never realized how difficult it is to list a Ten Best Camellias! First of all, if one has been in the hobby for any length of time his Top Ten list has a tendency to change with the years. As new camellia cultivars come along he drops an old favorite and picks up a new "girl friend." Another factor which enters into one's choice has nothing whatsoever to do with relative quality or merit. If some one is a "show freak" he is going to choose a bloom with which he has won trophies! Still a third factor revolves around one's personal conception of the flower form which, to him epitomizes the *Genus Camellia*. Now I can just hear you guys saying: "Well, Donnan, being a formal double freak will pick all formal doubles." Not so! But I will confess that there can never, ever, be an anemone or a peony form on my list. I just do not like them.

"Well come on Donnan, quit stalling and give us your list!" (As if anyone cared a hoot what my list would be like!) Before I give out my list of the Top Ten Best here are some



“rules” which I have laid out for myself:

(1) The list is confined to camellias in my own collection.

(2) The list must include at least one cultivar from each of the four categories namely; Japonica; Retic Hybrid; Non-retic Hybrid; and Sasanqua.

I making up these self imposed “rules” I must confess that I have violated the Ten Best rule by picking Eleven Best! (I had a tie for best and could not in good conscious break the tie.) Now, before you quit reading in disgust, here are my Top Eleven for you to snicker at — in alphabetical order — by species.

JAPONICAS

‘Adolphe Audusson Special’ The red-white form of ‘Adolphe Audusson’ is one of the most beautiful camellias in my collection. The one I have is red flushed white, not spotted but rather infused with white. In fact, my cultivar is a very large ‘Eleanor Martin Supreme’ the way it blooms and that is why it is on my list.

‘Betty Sheffield’ My cultivar which is a six foot tall bush, in the ground, throws everything from a true ‘Betty Sheffield’ to the ‘Blush;’ the ‘Pink;’ and the ‘Silver.’ Again, I am choosing a non-formal double and I am thus, confusing all of you readers — but it is on my Top Ten List.

‘Commander Mulroy’ Here is a formal double to end all formal doubles. Furthermore, I am a sucker for the imbricated petals, so what more can I say? My cultivar is in the ground so you can see that its roots are deep into my heart. (When I find room for a cultivar in the ground you can rest assured that it is one of my favorites.)

‘Daikagura’ I can just hear the cogs in your computer saying: “You gotta be kidding.” Nope! I am choosing good old ‘Daikagura’ and I’ll give you some good reasons. First to bloom in the Fall; beautiful, splashy petals, a bright, fresh harbinger of the flower season to come! (Yep! It’s in the ground and ten feet high.) This

cultivar provides blooms for my camellia route as early as September and the “strokes” I get when people see those blooms and exclaim: “My! How beautiful they are” is worth all the tea in China.

‘Fimbriata’ I’ll let you in on a little secret. If Saint Peter said: “Bill, you can bring one camellia with you into Heaven,” I would bring ‘Fimbriata.’ It is my favorite of all the camellia cultivars in my collection. In my own mind, nothing can top this one. The symmetry of the petals; the tenderness of the bud center; (like a kiss from a baby) the absolutely mind shattering daintiness of the fimbriation. Yes, this cultivar tops my Top Ten!

‘Lallarook’ Here again I am weighing the relative merits of several camellia cultivars and I come up with one which provides blooms for my camellia route. This camellia has a delicate pink shaded — off and on with some light pink spots or stripes. Also, it is a formal double and that factor sways me. Lastly it blooms all season.

‘Nuccio’s Pearl’ This is a relatively new camellia but I declare it is destined to reach the “Top Ten” on many people’s list. My cultivar is one of those rare ones which come along from time to time. The petals are all aligned into a symmetry not unlike that found in ‘Nuccio’s Gem.’ (“Gem” was close to my Top Ten but ‘Pearl’ is a tad more desirable because of its blush pink shading.)

RETIC HYBRIDS

‘Crimson Robe’ I have such a soft spot in my heart for this cultivar! First of all, it is one of the best, if not the best, of all the retics. But, more especially, it was the very first successful graft I ever made of a camellia. When that graft “took” I was hooked forever more on ‘Crimson Robe’ and, thus it is on my list.

‘Nuccio’s Ruby’ Here again I have chosen a relatively new cultivar. On my list it nosed out ‘K.O. Hester;’ ‘Three Dreams;’ and ‘Buddha.’ I

hated like sin to kick 'Buddha' off the list because I have won three Best Large Retic and three Best Tray of Three Retic with 'Buddha'! So, you better believe me when I say that 'Nuccio's Ruby' is a Top Ten cultivar.

NON-RETIC HYBRIDS

"*E.G. Waterhouse*" and "*Garden Glory*" tied for my choice as a Non-retic Hybrid. Both of these cultivars have that same "smashing pink" color. Both of them bloom in the off season as far as our Southern California Shows are concerned. 'E.G. Waterhouse' blooms too late and 'Garden Glory' blooms too soon. Yet, they are my choice for my Top Ten.

SASANQUA

'*Yuletide*' There are several new sasanqua cultivars coming along which look extremely promising. However, my two 'Yuletide' bushes, which

stand like sentinels on either side of the walk leading up to our front door are still my favorites. Did you know that 'Yuletide' is the largest selling camellia cultivar in the world? Mine throws a multitude of blooms from October through January. Out of a collection of 9 sasanqua cultivars, 'Yuletide' is on my Top Ten List.

In closing, it will be interesting to note that few, if any of these are in any Hall of Fame or All American list nor have very many of them won any of the awards which are given out by the various camellia society organizations. They just happen to be my favorites. I will let you in on a little secret. I have a couple of 'Seedlings' which I am watching — and if they turn out as they seem to give promise — I am going to have to add them to my Top Ten List!

1980 - 1981

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATON
Oct. 31 - Nov. 1	California Camellia-Rama	Smuggler's Inn, Fresno
Dec. 13 & 14 - 1980	So. Cal Camellia Council "Gib" Show	Arboretum, Arcadia
Jan 10 & 11, 1981	So. Cal. Camellia Society	Huntington Gardens, San Marino
Jan. 24 & 25, 1981	South Coast Camellia Society	So. Coast Bot. Gardens, Palos Verdes
Feb. 7 & 8, 1981	San Diego Camellia Society	Balboa Park, San Diego
Feb. 14 & 15, 1981	Temple City Camellia Society	Arboretum, Arcadia
Feb. 14 & 15, 1981	Santa Clara Camellia Society	Santa Clara Comm. Rec. Center
Feb. 18, 19, 20, 21, 1981	American Camellia Society Convention	Dunfery Hotel San Mateo
Feb. 21 & 22, 1981	Peninsula Camellia Society	Vet. Mem. Bldg., Redwood City
Feb. 21 & 22, 1981	Pomona Valley Camellia Society	Pomona Frst. Fed. S&L, Pomona
Feb. 28 & Mar. 1, 1981	Southern Cal Camellia Council	Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Feb. 28 & Mar. 1, 1981	Delta Camellia Society	Campolindo Hi-school, Moraga
Feb. 28 & Mar. 1, 1981	Sacramento Camellia Societ	Convention Center, Sacramento
Mar. 7 & 8, 1981	Kern County Camellia Society	Aram Adams Mem. Gardens, Bakersfield
Mar. 7 & 8, 1981	Northern Calif. Camellia Society	Willows Shopping Mall, Concord
Mar. 8, 1981	Central Calif. Camellia Society	Fashion Fair Mall, Fresno
Mar. 14 & 15, 1981	Modesto Camellia Cavalcade	Gallo Admin. Bldg., Modesto
Mar. 28 & 29, 1981	Sonoma County Camellia Society	Santa Rosa Jr. College, Santa Rosa

BRING YOUR HEARTS TO SAN FRANCISCO

By Marge O'Malley

The Peninsula Camellia Society will host the 37th Annual American Camellia Society Convention to be held February 18th to 21st, 1981 at the Dunfrey Hotel San Mateo, California. The Convention will be held in conjunction with the Peninsula Camellia Society's 20th Annual Camellia Show which will take place in Redwood City, California.

Plans are under way to help make this convention an outstanding success and we are working enthusiastically to make your stay with us a pleasant, happy experience. Many gala events are planned which will include excellent speakers, cultural events, a bus tour to San Francisco, and alternate visit to Dave Feather's outstanding camellia garden, a re-

ception for the incoming A.C.s. President at O'Malley's Rally, and a festive banquet at the Dunfrey Hotel on Saturday evening.

We have hopes of making this Convention an International success, because we understand that many Japanese camellia lovers and enthusiasts are planning to make a comprehensive tour of the Northern and Southern California Show season during February and March. We also hope to host a large contingent of camellia hobbyists from Australia and New Zealand. We will keep you posted as the plans unfold. We can assure you that there will be many surprises in store for all participants. Meanwhile, the following Program has been developed:

PROGRAM FOR AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING

Dunfrey Hotel 1770 S. Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo, California 94402

Hospitality room opens 5:00 P.M. Room 3106.

Plenty of food and drinks.

Dinner on own, if you are still hungry?

Also Registration.

8:30 A.M. Registration

9:00 A.M. Committee Meetings, A.C.S. Board

Meetings and Endowment Board Meetings until 5:00 P.M.

Lunch on own.

9:00 A.M. For those not attending board meetings.

Bus tour of San Francisco or Garden tour of Dave Feathers etc. TAKE ONE CHOICE. Return to hotel by 1:00 or 2:00 P.M.

Lunch on own.

7:00 P.M. Dinner at hotel.

8:30 A.M. Registration

8:30 A.M. Hospitality room 3106 open for coffee.

9:30 A.M. until 11:30 A.M. Educational Program in Cypress Room.

Lunch not necessary.

12:30 P.M. Buses leave hotel for Woodside.

1:00 P.M. until 4:30 P.M. President's Reception and Cocktails at Charles and Marjorie O'Malley's home.

4:30 P.M. Buses will return you to hotel.

Dinner on own, if needed.

7:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. Cultural meetings in Cy-

**Wednesday,
February 18**

**Thursday,
February 19**

**Friday,
February 20**

**Saturday,
February 21**

press Room.

8:30 A.M. Registration.

8:30 A.M. Hospitality room open for coffee.

11:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. Judges Luncheon Buffet for All Conventioneers. Judges will eat, when they return from judging.

1:00 P.M. Buses leave for Show.

1:30 P.M. Camellia Show Preview for A.C.S. members.

2:00 P.M. Camellia Show opens to public.

6:30 P.M. Hospitality Hour at Hotel.

7:30 P.M. Annual Banquet.

After dinner a dance band.

Full Convention — \$85.00

Friday and Saturday — \$65.00

Saturday only — \$50.00

Please come and have fun with us in San Francisco. You won't be sorry. Register with hotel as early as possible. Please send Registration Fee to:

Nancy or Jack Mandarich

700 Woodland Ave.

Menlo Park, Calif. 94025

CAMELLIA GIANTS OF THE PAST — John P. Illges

ED NOTE: This tribute to John P. Illges was written as a Foreword to the 1955 Yearbook of the *American Camellia Society*.

The 1955 edition of the *American Camellia Yearbook* is dedicated to John Paul Illges, Columbus, Georgia.

Mr. Illges is one of the founders of the American Camellia Society, a Patron, a former Vice-President and now Director-at-Large from the Atlantic Coast Territory, a well-informed Accredited Judge whose services are in demand at camellia shows all over the country, and last, but not least, a great lover of camellias. At his home, "Plumfield," may be found a very good collection of camellias growing in the open and under glass. He has originated several very fine seedlings — Plumfield White (the second variety to be registered with the American Camellia Society) won the Society's Award of Merit at the camellia show staged by the Middle Georgia Camellia Society in Macon in 1948; Pink champagne, a soft pink, incomplete double flower, is widely and favorably known.

It is interesting to observe that each of the members to whom the Yearbook has been dedicated have made

outstanding contributions to the Society and the Camellia. R. J. Wilmot worked faithfully in the task of organizing the Society and serving as Secretary and Editor. Space does not permit a reference to Dr. H. Harold Hume's many contributions to the Society, the Camellia, and horticulture in general. The writer modestly points to the development of the Test Gardens and Foundation as part of his contributions. D. C. Strother has done more than any other individual to clarify camellia nomenclature. Calder W. Seibels, our President since 1952, has given unstintingly of his time and talents to further the interests of the Society at home and abroad.

Charles Sumner once stated that no true and permanent fame can be founded except in labors which promote the happiness of man. Camellias through the ages have contributed to the happiness of man. Mr. Illges has achieved true and permanent fame through his endeavor to promote happiness of man by

offering encouragement, in the form of the Illges Medal, for the development of beautiful new seedling camellias.

The incentive for the award was the desire to enrich the camellia world through the development of new seedlings, to bring about a means for the evaluation of the most worthy new introductions, and to reward the originators in an appropriate manner. Only seedlings that have won Highly Commended Seedling Certificates and are registered with the American Camellia Society are eligible for the Illges Medal.

That Mr. Illges' hopes that his award would stimulate the development of new seedlings of outstanding excellence have been realized is evidenced by the quality of the blooms of varieties that have been awarded the Illges Medal — Beau Harp

(1949), originated by G. H. Wilkinson, Pensacola, Florida; Joseph Pflingstl (1950), an introduction by Emmett Pflingstl, Montgomery, Alabama; R. L. Wheeler (1953), one of the several very fine seedlings developed by R. L. Wheeler, Macon, Georgia; and Mrs. D. W. Davis (1955), a seedling propagated by D. W. Davis, Seffner, Florida.

It is interesting to observe that the first three winners, all solid in color, are now available in variegated forms. Dr. John D. Bell, Emmett Pflingstl, and R. L. Wheeler Variegated.

It seems especially fitting that the Tenth Edition of the *American Camellia Yearbook* should be dedicated to John Paul Illges who has done so much to promote interest in the culture of camellias.



THE CASE HISTORY OF A CAMELLIA SNOB

HARRIET HENTZ HOUSER, Perry, Georgia

ED NOTE: I chanced to read this article and just had to reprint it since it typifies the development of most camellia hobbyists. Reprinted from the 1952 Yearbook of the American Camellia Society.

In an amusing book published some time ago, Russell Lynes undertook to classify the various types of snobs, and he did a pretty thorough job of it; but he overlooked one flourishing variety — the camellia snob. At one time I was a camellia snob and I can speak with authority on the subject.

Due to climatic conditions the camellia snob flourishes in the Southeast, the Far West, and the Northwest. I haven't met many of the Western snobs, but I assume that they are much like the ones found in the Southeast. Each year the number of camellia snobs — I shall refer to them hereafter as C. S. — increases alarmingly. You can be a C. S. and not be any other kind of snob. All it takes is a few more plants than your neighbor, a charter membership in the American Camellia Society, or a ribbon from one of the important

shows. Many a C. S. is anotherwise solid citizen.

As mentioned before, I was a C. S. I was the type that might be likened to the ancestral snob who reclines smugly in the shade of the family tree. You see, camellias weren't new to me — and that's equivalent to saying your forebears landed at Plymouth Rock. I can hear myself now: "Oh, we've *always* had camellias. My grandmother had them in her yard in North Florida." I never mentioned the fact that I didn't know the twenty-foot plants from a lemon tree. But camellias *were* in my background, and that permitted me to ask disdainfully, "Why all this sudden commotion about camellias?"

It was a friend of mine who really opened my eyes to my condition. After years of apartment life he and his wife built a house in a near-by town. It was just six years ago that I first

stopped by to see their new home. The yard had just been landscaped and it took optimistic vision to foresee anything of beauty in its future. I shuddered over the profusion of ligustrums on the front lawn, thinking of the havoc they'd play with the azaleas and camellias — if they had any.

Around the corner of the house we came to the camellias — two little switches, hothouse-grown plants. The nurseryman had mulched them so bountifully with pine straw that they looked like pale green feathers on top of a huge-brimmed straw hat.

"Nice," I lied.

"Well, we think that two camellias are enough," my friend explained. "We've decided not to fill the yard up with the same things everybody else has."

"Funny," I thought, "How could I have failed to notice that boorish streak in him before?"

"What varieties did you buy?" I inquired.

"A white one and a red one," was his unbelievable answer! Heavens, how could he be so ignorant! Why, even the youngsters of my acquaintance know the plants by name! "I don't know their names," he continued. "What difference does it make? One's white and one's red, and that's good enough for me." He looked quite satisfied with himself.

I left my friends with a strange, sad feeling. I take disillusionment hard.

The next year they added two more plants to their collection — a pink one and a variegated one. Meanwhile, the ligustrums had grown outlandishly.

Later that winter while wandering idly through the aisles at the Middle Georgia Camellia Show my eye fell on a blue ribbon attached to a fine Herme specimen. There must be some mistake. I read and re-read the card! Well, this was rich. Bless his soul — he had driven fifty miles to enter his little Herme and had won a blue ribbon! I wished I could see him.

I did see him. He spent a full hour telling me how he started not to bring his entry; how he was afraid the cold would get it; how he was afraid the head would fall off on the long ride, how he had fertilized and cared for it. Nature had been wise keeping this man childless — suppose a child of his had ever won a spelling bee!

I hardly recognized his place on my next visit. The house looked lonely and naked. When I stopped the car I saw what was wrong — the ligustrums were gone. Everything in the way of plant life was gone except the camellias. A tour of the yard revealed unfamiliar names on the aluminum plates — but I would have died before admitting to him that I didn't know them. He spoke glibly of scions, mutations and assorted viruses.

The following year I was in the midst of the excitement of entering my own choice blossoms in the Middle Georgia Camellia Show when I saw him coming. As he mounted the long steps he was followed by a retinue such as might attend the Shah of Persia! In each hand he gingerly bore an enormous aluminum carrying case with little partitions for the prim bottles that held the blossoms. Each dark-skinned attendant was carrying similar aluminum cases. On his face was a look that I always imagined Alexander wore when the fever of aggression had hold of him. I quickly gathered up my kitchen trays loaded with damp moss and absorbent cotton. And I'd thought they were such fitting travel cases for my flowers! He won the sweepstakes that year, and deep down inside I was glad, because he deserved to win. But I didn't want to see him.

He began writing articles for small magazines about his imported seed from Japan. He intimated that he had much to offer the camellia world at some future date.

It was my last visit to his house that convinced me I should take up making hairpin trimming. If camel-

lias could do this to a man in six years, they were indeed insidious.

When I knocked on the door his wife asked me if I'd seen John as I came in.

"He's outside some place," she said. "We'll find him — I know he's dying to see you."

I don't know how she arrived at that conclusion, because he didn't so much as look up or reply when I spoke to him. He was squatting beside an Imura camellia. On his face was the intensity that I associate with a brain surgeon in mid-operation. He was holding a magnifying glass and examining the stamens of an open flower. Beside him on one of his wife's Tole trays was a small roll of cotton, several camel's hair brushes, tweezers, cuticle scissors and empty capsules.

"I believe I'll try storing some of this pollen and cross it with one of the later flowers," he mumbled.

"What in the name of gracious are you doing, Sherlock?" I demanded shrilly. Maybe I should have tried another tone, but the man looked as though he needed jerking back to sanity.

Slowly, very slowly, he turned. He lowered the hand that held the magnifying glass. He didn't rise — but you've never seen such dignity on the face of a squatting man. The look he gave me bore no trace of the pleasant association that had been ours through many years. He was a demented stranger. I wondered wildly if he planned to attack me with the cuticle scissors. Then he relaxed; he became a patient man confronted with overwhelming ignorance.

He raised the magnifying glass again and turned back to the Imura.

"I'm cross-pollinating," he informed me; his tone heavy with condescension.

I murmured something about having guests for dinner and hurried away. As I dashed toward my car I looked back once to make sure this was the same man who little more

than five years ago had said, "I've bought a red one and a white one."

I scrambled in my purse and took out my memorandum book and made a notation to stop by the store and buy some thread and hairpins.

NEW CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE BOOK

**by Harold E. Dryden, Business
Manager**

"Camellia Nomenclature"

The new 1981 edition of "Camellia Nomenclature" is at the printer's, with delivery scheduled for late September. It will replace the 1978 edition which was delivered in late 1977. Names of new varieties since the publication of the 1978 edition have been listed periodically in "Camellia Review" and in the A. C. S. "Camellia Journal", and the three-year interval between editions seems to have met the test satisfactorily.

The earlier delivery date has been chosen so that the new book will be available for early-season shows and to get ahead of the mail rush with which the book has had to compete in former editions.

Everybody knows that printing costs have sky-rocketed in the last three years, and the cost of publishing "Camellia Nomenclature" has climbed correspondingly. The individual book price of the new edition will be \$6.00 per copy, with lower prices to camellia societies for orders of 12 and more copies.

The problem of increasing size and cost of "Camellia Nomenclature" has been in the minds of the book's editors for the past several years. The extension of the interval between editions and the listing of new varieties in the two camellia publications has been a step toward holding down costs. There are many listings in the book that are inactive, and discussions have been held regarding a practical way to identify such listings

for removal. So far this idea has sounded better in theory than in practice. Circumstances may call for further study of such a step. There is the possibility, also, of further extending the issue interval, with supplements between editions.

Meanwhile, the Editor of "Camellia Nomenclature", Bill Woodroof, will begin preparing his new manuscript as soon as the 1981 edition is printed, in preparation for printer's copy for the 1984 edition. We hope that the upward spiral of printing costs will level off.

PEACH — APRICOT — ORANGE

by Milton H. Brown

No, I have not gone off my rocker and I am not trying to sell fruit. Believe it or not, I am talking about future colors for our camellias.

In the past there has been some loose talk about "contacts" in Hong Kong and elsewhere about the "yellow" camellia. Indeed, one man told me that he had received the "yellow" camellia from a contact in the Orient. The "yellow" camellia bloomed this past season — *PINK!*

New official contacts have been opened up with the people in The People's Republic of China for the exchange of plant material. Even now, there are eight plants of the yellow *C. chrysantha* growing in our country thanks to proper contacts directly with the Yunnan Botanic Institute in Kunming. Dr. Wu Cheng-yi, its director, along with Dr. Yü, Te-tsun of the Beijing Botanic Institute and Dr. Sheng, Cheng-kui the Director of the Chung-shan Botanic Institute visited The United States National Arboretum and Dave Feathers and other members of the Northern California Camellia Society and Dr. Bruce Bartholomew of the Botanic Garden at the University of California at Berkeley last year and exchanged ideas. (For a quite detailed article on the visit of 14 of us to the Botanic In-

stitutes in Shanghai, Kunming and Beijing see the August issue of *The Camellia Journal*.)

Seeds of the *C. chrysantha* were, then, sent to this country by Dr. Chang Ao-lo, the Vice Director of the Institute in Kunming. These are now coming along quite well and, hopefully, blossoms will be seen in two years or so. Propagation of this rare species will continue with plants becoming first available to bona fide researchers of the ACS. During my visit to Kunming in March, Dr. Chang said that he would be sending scions of this species to the U. S. Arboretum when they become available later in the year. Also, while there we did see plants that had been grafted on *C. japonica*. We were informed that even though one graft had been made four years ago and the other two years ago, neither had as yet flowered. Indeed, the leaves looked a bit hurt by the "cold" of the Southern California-type weather of Kunming.

This species is found in southern Kwangsi Province, near the Vietnam border, where the climate is tropical in nature. This bodes well for hybridizing this species to meet one of the ACS goals, that of breeding for heat hardness or heat tolerance.

AH, but here comes the frosting. The yellow bloom of *C. chrysantha* is nothing to write home about — except for that glorious amount of pollen on each one. With that pollen we can then go for the peach, apricot and orange colors for camellias. Can't you just picture a bloom the size and formation of 'Dr. Clifford Parks' or 'Harold L. Paige' with the color of the wonderful and so very popular 'Peace' rose or 'Tropicana' rose? Then get Ackerman and Hallstone to breed in a lovely fragrance? Get out your membership blanks, my friends, because you will be swamped with new members in this renewed interest in camellias.



A bad fitting suit never wears out.

CAMELLIA-RAMA VI — 1980

(Forecasts and visions from the crystal ball)

By Mary Anne Ray

The "Mystical Wizard of Fres" foresees a gathering of Camellia-Loving Spirits, participating in the prodigious phantasmagoria of CAMELLIA-RAMA VI. The phenomenon, presented annually by the Central California Camellia Society will be held, this year, under the guise of "TRICK OR TREAT" on Saturday, November 1st at the Smuggler's Inn. (3737 North Blackstone, Fresno) Naturally, the Camellia Hospitality Room will be open Friday afternoon, October 31st and,

as you know, the "Spirits" will begin to roam on that evening — Hallowe'en Night! There will be treats of tantalizing morsels and magical potions conjured up by the hosting cult. The password is "CAMELLIAS — WITH FUN AND CULTURE."

On Saturday — November 1st there is a kaleidoscope of exciting visions: There will be an Early Show of camellia blooms — treated and untreated. (Entries 8:30 - 9:30 AM and 12:00 - 12:30 PM)

- 8:30 - 9:30 AM "Spirits" registering and automatically being eligible for door prizes.
9:30 - 12:00 PM Morning Seance
12:30 - 2:00 PM Buffet luncheon & Judging of Camellia Blooms** (Voting for Best of Show by all registered "Spirits")
2:00 - 4:30 Afternoon Seance
4:30 - 5:00 Announcements of general camellia interest

This year's cultural sessions will feature the following list of speakers:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bob & Ruth Marcy (San Jose) | Julius "Nuccio" (Altadena) |
| Rudy Moore (West Covina) | Gene Snooks (La Jolla) |
| Bill Lockwood (Walnut Creek) | Grady Perigan (Arcadia) |
| Dr. Martin Stoner (Pomona) | Dr. Bob Withers (Australia) |

The Northern California Camellia Research Committee

- 5:00 - 6:30 Suddenly all "Spirits" disappear. The crystal ball shows intermittent flashes of costumes, masks, theatrical make-up, wigs . . . transfigurations of "Spirits" readying themselves for the Grand Seance. Witchcraft is transforming a large room for the meeting of the occult — with a banquet, of course.
- 6:30 - 7:30 Apparitions from the past, the future, outer space and even from the eerie present materialize in the Camellia Hospitality Room where the hosting cultists are poised and ready with "Witch's Brew" for the traditional Champagne Hour. The scene is one of mass camaraderie and fun.
- 7:30 - ?::?? THE SPELL HAS BEEN CAST! The Happy "Spirits" converge in the Banquet Room and the Grand Seance begins with the traditional Prime Rib Dinner, followed by a "super Raffle" (camellia plants and some very unusual one-of-a-kind surprises), enchanting entertainment and a "TRICK OR TREAT" bag for each spectre. One spectre has just won the first prize of the "Special Raffle" — a huge quilt with matching pillows (handquilted — another of D & MA's creations). There are second and third prizes.

The crystal ball becomes cloudy and darkens — it has been overworked!

The Central California Camellia Society extends a most cordial invitation to each of you to join us October 31st and November 1st for our annual state-wide convention — CAMELLIA-RAMA VI. We'll be waiting to welcome you.

CAMELLIA-RAMA Chairman

“Mystical Wizard of Fres”

Wilbur Ray

5024 E. Laurel, Fresno, CA

CAMELLIA-RAMA Secretary

Ghost-writer & Mrs. Wizard

Mary Anne Ray

(209) 255-6277

ROOM RESERVATIONS: (Smuggler's Inn) — Single \$34 — Double \$38 (Additional person \$3)

Please enter the following room reservations:

No. of Rooms _____ Single _____ Double _____ Twin _____

Other _____

No. of persons _____ Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Special Instructions _____

Note: Please DO NOT send any money for Motel Reservations. You may pay the motel upon check-out. Your reservations will be held without deposit.

CAMELLIA-RAMA VI REGISTRATION FORM:

1. Registration only () at \$2.00 @ \$ _____
2. Camellia-Rama Luncheon () at \$5.00 @ \$ _____
3. Camellia-Rama Dinner () at \$11.50 @ \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Send BOTH motel room and Camellia-Rama VI reservations to:

CHRIS GONOS, 5643 N. COLLEGE, FRESNO, CA 93704 (209) 439-2228

Please make checks payable to “CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA-RAMA” for registration, lunch and dinner reservations only. Thank you.

(Early reservations greatly facilitate lunch and dinner arrangements.)

THE CAMELLIA

**BY DAVID FEATHERS & MILTON BROWN
476 PAGES OF HISTORY, CULTURE AND
GENETICS — 25 PAGES OF COLOR PHOTOS
PRICE \$12.50**

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
TOM HUGHES**

**4628 EL CAMINO CORTO
LA CANADA, CALIF. 91011**

CAMELLIA DISEASES

ED NOTE: This material has been reprinted from the publication "Growing Camellias" Home and Garden Bulletin No. 86. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

DISEASES

Inspect your plants frequently for the signs of camellia diseases described below. Treat these diseases promptly.

Die-back and Canker

Die-back and canker is a fungus disease that forms cankers on twigs and causes branches to die back. Young succulent shoots suddenly wilt and die when attacked by this fungus. The leaves turn dark brown but may remain attached to the shoot for some time. Where the dead and living tissues join, a small area of bark and woody tissue may turn brown.

Cankers are usually present. Often, however, they are inconspicuous, slightly depressed dark areas in the bark at the base of the dead portion of the twig or branch.

To control this disease:

Remove dead twigs or branches well below any visible cankers, and paint wounds with wound dressings.

Burn all infected debris.

Spray pruning wounds or scars left where infected leaves fell off with bordeaux mixture or captan during the growing season.

Dip graft scions and grafting or pruning tools in ferbam or captan (8 teaspoons per gallon of water) to prevent transfer of the fungus to new wounds.

Flower Blights

Sclerotinia flower blight. The main fungus causing flower blight is *Sclerotinia*. It invades the flower as soon as the tips of the petals are visible. The first signs of this infestation are small, irregular, brownish specks on the expanding flowers. Where spring is warm and humid, the specks enlarge and unite until the whole petal is destroyed. Then the entire flower becomes dull brown

and falls from the plant.

The fungus continues to develop in the fallen flower and eventually forms hard, irregularly shaped, dark brown to black bodies called sclerotia. These sclerotia endure through the winter and spores from them infect new flowers the following spring.

To control this disease, gather and destroy all fallen flowers for at least two seasons. Drench the soil with ferbam or captan (8 teaspoons per gallon of water) to reduce the number of sclerotia surviving in the soil.

New flower infections can often be prevented by placing a 3-inch mulch of woodchips around the base of each plant. This provides a barrier that prevents the spores from the sclerotia from blowing onto the leaves or flowers.

Botrytis flower blight. Plants that have been damaged by frost may be attacked by the fungus, *Botrytis*. This fungus invades weakened tissue during cool, humid weather. It causes brown, discolored areas on the petals or leaves. Often a "cloud" of spores can be seen coming from infected tissue with the slightest air movement. The only control for this disease is to prevent tissue injury.

Leaf Gall

Leaf Gall is caused by fungus that invades new leaf tissue in the spring. Infected tissues swell and appear fleshy. Extreme swelling results in a whitish, fleshy gall on the leaf by summer.

To control this disease, prune out and burn these galls, and spray the foliage with bordeaux mixture (2-2-50), zineb, or captan (4 teaspoons per gallon of water).

Leaf Scorch

Leaf scorch normally occurs when the leaves dry out during freezing winter weather, and the plant cannot get enough moisture from the soil. Protect plants exposed to freezing wind with burlap windbreaks. Water plants during winter. Heavy mulchings helps to keep the subsoil from freezing.

The scorched appearance of leaves may also result from too much sun, too much or too little fertilizer, or deep planting.

Chlorosis

Yellow leaves or areas on leaves often appear on camellias. This disorder is often caused by deficiency of some elements in the soil, especially iron. Normally it can be corrected by application of iron chelate to the foliage or to the soil, or to both.

Bud Drop

Bud drop causes the tips of young buds and edges of petals to turn brown and decay, or to drop completely from the plant. This disorder results from growing camellias in an unfavorable environment.

Bud drop on indoor plants is usually due to over-watering, insufficient light, high temperatures, or pot-bound roots. Outdoor plants may drop buds during severe frost in the fall or severe freezing in the winter. In dry climates, bud drop may result from lack of adequate water.

INSECTS

Camellias may be severely damaged by insects unless they are protected by prompt application of insecticides. No one insecticide will control all pests of camellias. To select an effective insecticide you must first identify the insect or its characteristic plant injuries. Recommended insecticides are available at garden-supply stores. Follow label directions for dilution and care in handling.

Scales

The leaves or bark of camellias frequently become encrusted with hard-shelled insects known as scales. The insects feed on plant juices and cause injury or death to the plant.

The most common species of scales found on camellias are tea scale, peony scale, and wax scales.

Description

The young insects of all species are tiny, flat and yellow; they can be seen crawling on leaves in summer.

Some characteristics of the adult scales are as follows:

Tea Scale — Brownish shell, about one-sixteenth inch long. Causes yellow blotches on upperleaf surfaces; infested leaves drop off prematurely.

Peony scale — Grayish brown; grows to about one-tenth inch long. Burrows beneath bark of twigs and stems and feeds on plant juices; infested areas swell, later sink; smaller stems die quickly. Produces one generation of young a season; other species, several generations.

Wax scales — Reddish-brown body with thick, white or slightly pink waxy coating. Grows to about one-third inch long. Causes stunting or dying of plants.

Control

When the scales are in the crawler stage, spray leaves and twigs with malathion or dimethoate 3 times or more at 10- to 15-day intervals. Begin spraying in May or June in the South, and June or July in the North. Use 2 teaspoons of either 57 percent malathion emulsifiable concentrate or 23.4 percent dimethoate, emulsifiable concentrate per gallon of water.

Some species of scales, such as the tea scale and the peony scale, can be controlled with summer oil emulsion. Apply it only in early spring before plant growth starts. Use 5 tablespoons of summer oil emulsion in 1 gallon of water. Summer oil emulsion does not give satisfactory control of wax scales.

Whiteflies

Adult whiteflies are very tiny; they have pale-yellow bodies and white-powdered wings. The scalelike young feed on underleaf surfaces and cause black, sooty deposits on the leaves.

To destroy overwintering young, spray foliage with a summer-oil emulsion in early spring before plant growth starts. Use 5 tablespoons of summer-oil emulsion in 1 gallon of water.

For summer infestation spray with malathion or lindane. Make two or three applications at weekly intervals. Use either 2 teaspoons of 57-

percent malathion emulsifiable concentrate or 1 teaspoon of 25 percent lindane emulsifiable concentrate per gallon of water.

Mealybugs

Adult mealybugs are oval or elongated about one-fifth inch long, with a white waxy or mealy covering. Black sooty molds on leaves followed by wilting and dying of the leaves are signs of infestation by mealybugs.

Mealybugs are usually found in clusters along the veins and undersides of leaves or in crotches of twigs. They secrete a sticky honeydew that attracts ants; the ants feed on the honeydew and spread the mealybugs to other plants.

The first step in controlling mealybugs is to eliminate ants in the garden. Soak the soil with a mixture of 2 level teaspoons of 40-percent chlor-dane wettable powder per 3 gallons of water for 30 square feet.

The second step is to kill the mealybugs. Spray with malathion as for whiteflies when they are first observed. Spray two or three more times at 10-day intervals.

Fuller Rose Beetle

The fuller rose beetle leaves black excrement on leaves and eats notches in the leaf margins. This pest is common on camellias in the South.

The adult beetle has a brown or grayish body. It is about three-eighths inch long and has a white diagonal stripe across each side.

Spray or dust plants with lindane about July 1 and repeat 2 weeks later. Use 2-percent lindane dust or spray with 1 teaspoon of 25-percent lindane emulsifiable concentrate per gallon of water.

Leaf Feeding Beetles

Several kinds of beetles sometimes feed on the foliage or flowers. Beetles such as flea beetles can be controlled with diazinon. Use 2 teaspoons of 50-percent diazinon wettable powder or 1 teaspoon of 50-percent diazinon emulsifiable concentrate per gallon of water.

Mites

Speckled leaves that later turn

rusty brown are a sign of the southern red mite. This dark red pest is common on camellias throughout the South. It attacks both upperleaf and lowerleaf surfaces. It lays shiny eggs that resemble red pepper.

Feeding injury starts in April and continues until fall. Injured leaves do not recover, but control measures will prevent injury to new growth.

When injury is noted, spray foliage with dicofol. Use 1 teaspoon of 18.5 percent dicofol emulsifiable concentrate in 1 gallon of water. Repeat spraying in 10 days.

Precaution

Pesticides used improperly can be injurious to man, animals, and plants. Follow the directions and heed all precautions on the labels.

Store pesticides in original containers — out of reach of children and pets — and away from foodstuff.

Apply pesticides selectively and carefully. Do not apply a pesticide when there is danger of drift to other areas. Avoid prolonged inhalation of a pesticide spray or dust. When applying a pesticide it is advisable that you be fully clothed.

After handling a pesticide, do not eat, drink, or smoke until you have washed. In case a pesticide is swallowed or gets in the eyes, follow the first aid treatment given on the label, and get prompt medical attention. If a pesticide is spilled on your skin or clothing, remove clothing immediately and wash skin thoroughly.

Dispose of empty pesticide containers by wrapping them in several layers of newspapers and placing them in your trash can.

It is difficult to remove all traces of a herbicide (weed killer) from equipment. Therefore, to prevent injury to desirable plants do not use the same equipment for insecticides and fungicides that you use for a herbicide.

Note: Some states have restrictions on the use of certain pesticides. Check your state and local regulations.

THE CAMELLIA CULTIVARS OF FELIX JURY

by Dave Henderson

Elsewhere in this issue reference is made to the giving by the Southern California Camellia Society of the Dr. John Taylor non-reticulata hybrid Award for 1979 to 'South Seas.' Also on the cover of this issue we show a fine photo by Mrs. Yvonne Cave of an equally fine cultivar, 'Dream Boat.' Both of these cultivars were originated by Mr. Felix Jury of Tikorangi, near Waitara, and it seems appropriate, therefore, to make some reference in this issue to the various cultivars raised by him.

Mr. Jury's registrations have not been prodigious, but what he has produced has been of very good quality. Since he has been a farmer all his life, the time available to following up his interest in ornamental plants has been severely limited. Nevertheless, I venture to suggest that that interest has seldom been far removed from his thoughts. He could well be described as a plant lover, a plant hunter, a botanist and a hybridist. The interesting and unusual plants growing in their garden is a tribute to both Mr. and Mrs. Jury. Felix has developed new cultivars in other fields as well, magnolias for instance, but it is with his camellia hybrids that we are here concerned.

To New Zealand camellia lovers, perhaps his best known production is 'Water Lily.' It has rated highly in many opinion polls, and there must be few gardens with a lot of camellias in them which do not include a 'Water Lily' among them. It is too well known to need much description. Sufficient to say that it is a formal double flower, lavender tinted bright pink, and the plant blooms early and late. There has been some criticism of the variety in some districts for the variable nature of the flowers, but the perfection of the formal double

flowers when achieved is well worth waiting for. The seed parent was *C. saluenensis* and the pollen parent *C. japonica* 'K. Sawada.' Like all others, it was a controlled, hand-pollinated cross. It was registered in 1967. Mr. Jury achieved the Best Bloom of the Show Award with it at the national show at New Plymouth in 1969. It has been on the Award of Garden Merit list since 1971.

'South Seas' is described elsewhere. For some reason it does not seem to be so widely grown as the others. Actually it makes a very showy garden plant with a mass of bloom frequently smothering it. New Zealand experience is that the individual blooms are not long lasting and it has not been much as a show flower. However, it has been a winner at California shows.

'Dream Boat' is a cultivar of similar parentage to 'Water Lily,' but of much more recent registration. The flower is fairly similar in form and colour except that 'Dream Boat' almost invariably shows an incurve in the petals. The flower can be very beautiful indeed. Because it is newer to the public than 'Water Lily,' it is not yet so widely grown and for that reason has not yet been given an Award of Garden Merit. However, this year, it was placed on the subsidiary list of ones "worth watching."

The remaining Felix Jury registration is a reticulata, 'Red China.' Its parents are *C. reticulata* 'Trewithen Pink' and *C. reticulata* 'Cornelian.' It is crimson to carmine red with yellow stamens. It is a very large semi-double to loose peony form. It is a good garden plant, and this year was given an Award of Garden Merit.

To have registered four cultivars, and to have two of them granted the New Zealand Award of Garden Merit, a third placed on a promising list and the fourth granted an American award is no mean feat, and Mr. and Mrs. Jury deserve every congratulation.

From - *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin*

NEWS FROM FRESNO

The Central California Camellia Society has decided to change the dates of their monthly Meetings. This year they will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month, November through February, at the Smuggler's Inn in Fresno. Herewith is a schedule of events for the camellia society for the coming year.

Oct. 4th (Saturday)

Kick-off Breakfast at the home of Bob & Betty Kellas

Oct. 31 - Nov. 1

CAMELLIA-RAMA VI and Mini Show at the Smuggler's Inn, Fresno, Chair persons — Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray

Mar. 7 - (Saturday)

Pre-Show Dinner 8:00 PM - Smuggler's Inn Fresno, Chair persons — Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray

Mar. 8 - (Sunday)

33rd Annual Camellia Show — Fashion Fair Mall, First & Shaw Chairmen — Frank Serpa & Bob Grim

April 5

Annual Garden Tour

April 8

Annual Barbeque - 6:30 PM - Cal State U. Fresno Hort. Building
Needless to say — "Everyone is invited!"

SONNET TO A CAMELLIA

by **DR. JAKE HOLTZMAN**

Comes now the new growth so bright
A vibrant green that shines at night
New leaves petite to start at first
But forcing, in one great burst.
In weeks the new buds will appear
Some round, some long, some shaped
just like a tear
That grows and swells like a pregnancy
Till finally burst forth for all to see
A gorgeous, vivid, shining thing, alive
With shapes and forms which no one
could contrive.
With reds and pinks and whites and
variegations
And only seen in God's creations
I envy not the pictures sold for plenta
For, have I not my own sweet 'Alba
Plena'?

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Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

***CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY**—President, Leland Chow; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr., 733 Delmar Drive, Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: To be announced.

***CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY**—President, Roy Zembower; Secretary, Mrs. Frances L. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, Santa Ana Fed. S & L Bldg., 1802 N. Main, Santa Ana.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO—President, Ann McKee; Secretary, Mrs. Zella Mack, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, 95816. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

***CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Bob Kellas; Secretary, Mary Ann Ray 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through February in Smuggler's Inn Motel.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, Jack Lewis, 3824 Beechwood Dr., Concord, Ca 94520. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, November through March, Lafayette Fed. Savings & Loan, 1406 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek.

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Robert Jackson; Secretary, Mrs. Happy Stillman, 8159 Hollywood Blvd. 90069. Meetings: 1st Tuesday, December through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood.

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ron Kellogg; Secretary, Mrs. Walter Ragland, 709 Leytonstone Dr., Modesto, Ca 95355. Meetings: second Tuesday, October through May, Downey High School, Coffee Road, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, David Hagmann; Secretary, Judith Toomajian, 18 Diablo Circle, Lafayette Ca. 94549. Meetings: first Monday, November through May, Chabot School 6686, Chabot Rd., Oakland.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Alice Neely; Secretary, Marge Alltizer, 1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale, 91202. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Central Bank of Glendale, 411 N. Central Ave., Glendale.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Jack Mandrich; Secretary, Robert Marcy, 1898 Kirkmont Dr., San Jose 95124. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, AMPEX Cafeteria, 401 Broadway Redwood City.

***POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Julius Christinson; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 92504. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, Pomona First Fed. S & L Bldg., 399 N. Gary, Pomona.

***SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Eugene Snooks; Secretary, Mildred Murray, 467 E. Fulvia St., Encinitas, 92024. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Robt. Marcy; Secretary, Donna Hardy, 349 Condon Ct., Santa Clara 95050. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, September through April, Allstate Savings 1304 Saratoga Ave., San Jose.

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Woody Passinetti; Secretary, Mrs. Nona Passinetti, 295 Bloomfield Rd., Sebastopol 95472. Meetings: 4th Thursday, October through May, Piner Grade School, Santa Rosa.

***SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Wallace Jones; Secretary, Mrs. Martha Ann Walter, 671 Calle Miramar, Redondo Beach 90277. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through May, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes.

***TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Sergio Bracci; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel, Ca 91776. Meetings: Friday, Nov. 21; Fri. Dec. 19, Thurs., Jan. 22; Thur., Feb. 26; Wed., Mar. 26; Thur., April 23. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.

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