

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



Vol. 43

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No. 4

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, Marsha 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, Evalena Smith, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, 95816. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

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DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Edith Mazzie; Secretary, Evelyn Kilsby, 11 Tiffin Ct., Clayton, CA 94517. Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, November through March, Central Contra Costa Sanitary Dist. Treatment Plant, (Imhoff Drive) Martinez.

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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, Mazie George; Secretary, Mrs. Margaret Hanson, 3731 Linden Ave., Long Beach 90807. 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. 20; Fri. Dec. 18, Thurs., Jan. 28; Thur., Feb. 25; Wed., Mar. 25; Thur., April 22. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.

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THE COVER FLOWER

The cover flower is a new *C. reticulata* hybrid developed by Meyer Piet. The bloom shown on the cover is the variegated form of 'EMMA GAETA.' This cultivar was the result of a cross of 'Cornelian' X 'Mouchang.' The seedling first bloomed in 1975 from seed picked in 1972. The original cultivar is a deep rose pink, very large, semi-double with folded up-right center petals. The variegated form is even more striking. The cultivar has been propagated in both forms by Nuccio's Nurseries and was released in the Fall of 1980. Photo by Piet; color separations courtesy of Nuccio's Nurseries.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

I have been getting some "flak" as a result of my editorial on EOHIPPUS CAMELLIUS HOBBYUS! The good "flak" has been praise and agreement with my contentions. The bad "flak" has been the accusations that I have weakened the hobby by calling attention to the "slippage" which has occurred within the hobby. I am pleased to have Harold Dryden's thoughtful article to print in this issue. It is entitled: DO WE REALLY WANT NEW MEMBERS? I hope that everyone will read it.

But, getting back to my original premise, I still think that we are regressing. This factor shows up most forcefully in the decline in membership. But it is occurring in all of the other facets of the hobby. For example, NO ONE WANTS TO WRITE ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE ANYMORE! I must have spent \$15 on postage just trying to cajole people into sending in something we could print. Perhaps half of the articles we have printed lately have been reprints from other magazines. One or two hobbyists have remarked that this "stuff" should never have been published in our camellia magazine! Did you know that some of our issues in the 1960's ran to 40 pages? ALL ORIGINAL ARTICLES! Printing costs being what they are it seems apparent that we will be sticking to our 24-page format. But wouldn't it be nice if we could have those 24 pages filled with refreshing new articles?

Do you realize that we used to have 10 or 12 nurseries here in Southern California specializing in Camellias? I can name some of them because they all had advertisements in the March 1951 CAMELLIA REVIEW. They were: Cooledge Rare Plant Gardens; Warners Camellia Gardens; Bamico Gardens; Marshall's Camellia Nursery; Miller's Camellia Gardens; Nuccio's Nurseries; Boormans Camellia Gardens; Councilman's Camellia Acres; Better Gardens; California Flowerland; Carter's Camellia Gardens; and Surina's Camellia Gardens. I may have missed a few. These were the ones which carried ads in the REVIEW. Most of them are now gone!

Furthermore, many of our time-honored little facets which made the hobby more interesting no longer exist. We used to give a memento to every show exhibitor. We used to give a certificate to everyone who won a ribbon in a show. There are other facets of the hobby which have fallen by the wayside. Ask yourself these questions:

- (1) What has happened to the camellia plantings at Cal-Poly Pomona (Vorhees Unit)?
- (2) Would there be any merit in having a Camellia Research Advisory Committee within the Camellia Council like we used to have in the SCCS Society?
- (3) Whatever happened to the Lucy Hester Memorial Camellia Gardens at Descanso?
- (4) Whatever happened to the Temple City Camellia Society Kick-Off Breakfast?
- (5) Are any of the 250 camellias planted in Balboa Park by the San Diego Camellia Society still alive?
- (6) Where is the William Hertrich Bronze Plaque which used to be in the Huntington Gardens?

I could go on here but I think that I have made my point. What this hobby needs is a few more "doers and movers" who will shake the hobby out of its slumbers. If any of you are out there and have any ideas, let us hear from you.

DO WE REALLY WANT NEW MEMBERS?

by Harold E. Dryden

The December meeting notice of the Southern California Camellia Society said, "Please come and bring a friend." The cry of all camellia societies is for new members — in Southern California, in Northern California, nationwide. Membership is falling off in the upper age group and is not filling in at the bottom. I think that the answer is inevitable. We are not appealing to the group that offers the greatest potential for membership, which is the group that is growing camellias only for their garden beauty.

The Los Angeles Times Home Magazine carried a fine illustrated story on sasanquas in the November 22nd edition. It mentioned Nuccio's Nursery as a source for sasanquas and gave the nursery's address. I visited the nursery on the following Tuesday and asked if the story had generated any business for them. The response was that they had been swamped, as I had expected they would be. As I had also expected, most of the visitors were interested only in their gardens. Response to a story on sasanquas is certainly not a barometer of interest in the camellias that are usually associated with membership in camellia societies. It can be a starter, however.

I have believed since I visited Australia and New Zealand some fifteen years ago that these countries have done an outstanding job of building up membership in their camellia societies. With a population less than that of California, they have surpassed our state in camellia society membership. It is true that their climate and growing conditions may be superior to ours for growing camellias, particularly for *reticulatas* in New Zealand. I believe this is a contributing factor to their camellia society membership, however, only in that people are encouraged to grow camellias for their garden pleasure, and the camellia societies pay more attention to garden pleasure of camellias than we do.

I shall always remember the evening on the North Island of New Zealand when I discussed camellia culture in California with the members of the Board of Directors of a camellia society. Some of those present were aghast when I talked about disbudding. Needless to say, those people did not enter flowers in camellia shows; their sole enjoyment was in the flowers in their gardens. They were members of the camellia society because it provided association with people with kindred likes, both in the meetings themselves and in the garden visits that the camellia society sponsored.

Our camellia societies do not provide such a reason for joining camellia societies for people whose primary interest in camellias is in their gardens. I attend camellia society meetings, after having been a camellia society member for nearly thirty-five years and more than average active in the society during that time, because of my pleasure in associating with the people who are my friends and my willingness to listen to the repetitive discussions about how I can grow better and bigger camellias. The flowers that I see on the winners table, beautiful to behold, are judged, as they should be, according to show judging rules. The end result, as I see it, is such as to cause a neophyte in camellia growing to conclude that he is in an arena that is out of his league, and particularly so if he is left largely to himself during the evening.

I do not profess to have an answer to what I consider the problem in building and maintaining an effective camellia society membership. Possibly I should keep quiet on the subject if I do not have the answer. But when Bill Donnan told me that his drawer of "futures" is getting low (this is a perennial problem for camellia magazine editors) I decided to put on paper the thoughts that have come to me in the recent years when my own pleasure in

growing camellias has been in the flowers that I grow in my own garden.

Before I get to any positive ideas, I should make it clear that I do not think negatively about camellia shows. They are desirable for both the grower who enters the flowers and the public that views them. In fact, they may have a positive value in relation to camellia society membership in stimulating interest in growing camellias, which is the first step toward camellia society membership. I sometimes think, however, that when society programs and activities are considered, there is not a proper balance between the hundred or so members of Southern California camellia societies who enter flowers in Southern California shows and the many other camellia growers who are primarily gardeners. Telling how to grow them better and bigger is not always of interest to one who is interested in garden beauty.

Now for the positive: I have three thoughts. First, the programs should have sufficient material to satisfy the desires of people who are new at growing camellias or who feel a need for more cultural information. I admit that it is easier to make such a statement than to do it. I detect a feeling that such a course might result in some of the old-timers staying away from meetings. This might be the case. If there is merit to this idea from the

standpoint of new society memberships, somebody must decide which is more important — new people or old-timer meeting attendance.

Second, go out of the way to create a feeling of welcome to new people at meetings. This means escorting them along the tables of flowers, answering questions, anticipating questions they may be hesitant about asking, sitting with them, etc. Make them want to come back and ask them to do so. Don't rush them into membership unless they show they want to be asked. I say that I attend meetings to see and talk with my friends. If I as a camellia society member take this membership problem seriously, possibly I should be willing to forego some of this personal pleasure and participate in an organized program to encourage new people to come again and again, and to join us.

Third, do something to provide opportunities for camellia gardeners to enjoy and profit from seeing other camellia gardens. I was impressed by the manner in which the people in Australia and New Zealand regularly do this. I have been told that the problem in such a program is that it must be done on weekends, and this conflicts with shows. There are problems here, which must be balanced against the need to interest new people to grow camellias and join camellia societies.

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Probably all that I have done is to restate a problem, which any dim-witted writer can do. There must be an answer, or camellia societies will wither. I feel sure about only one thing: asking members to bring a friend to the meeting will not in itself answer the problem. The answer must come in some positive thinking and planning on the part of those who are now running our camellia societies, and with

full support of such a program from the old-timers who are creating the problem by fading from the picture. With such a program, members may be more inclined to take a friend to the meeting when the friend's desire is only to grow camellias that are pleasing to his eye. That friend may later want to show his prize camellias in a camellia show.

SOME OBSERVATIONS OF *CAMELLIA* *RETICULATA*

Colonel T. Durrant

Rotorua, New Zealand

Ed. Note: REPRINTED from the INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA JOURNAL, Vol. 12, October 1980

After nearly 30 years of growing and observing *Camellia reticulata* in New Zealand and seeing their performance in many other countries, it is difficult to reconcile what we see here with their reported behavior elsewhere. One assumes that most people who commit themselves to published writing on the subject are reporting their actual experience and observations though there is some evidence that this is not always the case and statements in earlier writing are repeated without checking them for accuracy. Anyone who has done literary research in any field, knows that this is by no means confined to camellia writing! One frequently reads descriptions of *Camellia reticulata* which suggest that the plants are leggy, sparse and ungainly; that they suffer from apical dominance, which means that growth usually occurs only from apical buds; that they must not be pruned beyond a developed growth bud; that leaves on the current season's growth tend to fall, and that they are more difficult to establish than the better known *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua*.

None of this coincides with their observed behavior in New Zealand conditions where such symptoms would be taken as clear evidence that the plant was not thriving. Habit of growth

varies between varieties but plants are well furnished and graceful, flowering is prolific and there is no evidence of apical dominance. They are, in fact, much more handsome garden plants than are most japonicas, they make brilliant displays of color with the flowers held boldly erect, neither concealed in the foliage nor drooping their heads. When necessary, we have repeatedly pruned *reticulata* plants very severely, reducing them to a bare framework of heavy wood without a single leaf of growth bud remaining. Invariably they have produced ample, adventitious buds and grown away with great vigor. Provided new plants have been grafted on healthy vigorous stocks, they establish without difficulty and with very little care and attention.

How can we account for these extraordinary differences in *reticulata* behavior? It is certainly not due to any special cultural treatment given to them in New Zealand where most gardeners expect to give minimal attention to their plants; nor do we have any secret magic formulae by way of fertilizers! The only logical conclusion seems to be that, unlike some other camellia species which appear to flourish in a wide range of climate conditions, *Camellia reticulata* requires much more specific and limited conditions in

which it can thrive. The range of conditions which make up the New Zealand environment — latitude, free draining, acid soil, temperate climate and ample rainfall, apparently meets *reticulata* optimum requirements. If this is correct, then the indifferent growth habits reported from many other countries are the plants' response to marginal conditions in which they are struggling to exist and are unable to flourish.

Another indication that New Zealand conditions are eminently suitable for *Camellia reticulata* is the fact that the plants, or most of them, set seed very freely, both casually and to hand pollination. Much of our seed has been distributed to many other countries, including Japan, Britain, Italy, U.S.A., and France. Our Japanese correspondents say that seed-set on *Camellia reticulata* rarely, if ever, occurs in that country. A recent communication reports that plants originating from our earlier seed shipments are now flowering and setting seed without difficulty. This opens up the possibility of breeding programmes in that country using *Camellia reticulata* as a seed parent. Some writers in the U.S.A. have reported poor fertility in *reticulata* seed with germination rates as low as 20% - 25%. Our experience is that, provided seed is germinated immediately it is ripe, rates of 95% - 100%

are usual. Similar rates with our seed are reported from countries as far apart as France and Japan. It should be noted that the seed is packed in dampened plastic bags and shipped by air mail as soon as it is gathered.

ROOT SYSTEMS

Horticultural writers constantly describe camellias as being surface rooters, warn against surface cultivation and regard ground cover plants with suspicion. E. Hyams (co-author with Neil Treseder of *Growing Camellias*, Nelson, 1975) even goes so far as to say on page 22, "The roots of the camellia are fine, fibrous and densely crowded; they are neither adapted to, nor is there any need for them to grow far from the plant and deep into the sub-soil. Thus, camellias are among those plants which form a root ball, a dense and stable mass of top soil held together by the system of fibrous roots; this makes it easy to transplant them at almost any age, . . ."

The late Dr. B.W. Doak, a soil scientist of international reputation and one of New Zealand's earlier successful camellia breeders, wrote the following in *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin*, Vol. 1, No. 6, dated July 1960:

"A fallacy that has gained considerable credence of recent years is that camellias by nature are surface rooters. Some writers have even gone so far as

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to say that camellias do not form tap roots, even when raised from seed. This is quite untrue. Even with cutting grown plants heavy secondary tap roots are formed, provided that drainage is good and the subsoil is not virtually impenetrable by roots. Even in quite heavy clay subsoils, camellia roots will go down to a considerable depth when drainage conditions permit."

These remarks apply to *Camellia reticulata* and to all the other camellia species which we have grown. All germinating camellia seeds put down a very long tap root, even before the plumiole appears above the surface. We have measured tap roots, from *Camellia reticulata* seeds which were 27 inches long before any branching occurred and when the plumiole was barely an inch above the ground. In our experience, container grown plants, including seedlings which have had the radicle severely cut back, invariably put down strong secondary tap roots within a season or two of being planted in open ground. After several years in one position, so far from being "easy to transplant at almost any age," it is virtually impossible to find any feeding roots within 2 or 3 spits of the surface. If the shifting goes ahead in spite of this, one is usually left with a plant with several long tap roots, and no feeding roots, which means that the top must be cut off almost to ground level, if there is to be any chance of survival.

It is quite clear that camellias are not surface rooting by nature but do possess the important capability of adapting their root systems to the situation in which they find themselves. In containers they form the dense root ball to which Hyams refers; where the subsoil is impenetrable, they will form surface roots which may travel some distance from the plant. Their root systems are totally different from those of rhododendrons which have true fibrous roots, never straying from the surface.

PROPAGATION

Cleft-grafting continues to be the

principal method of propagating *Camellia reticulata* and undoubtedly, the use of inferior and badly grown stocks continues to be the cause of most failure to establish successfully. Many grafting failures arise from the same reason. The latter was dramatically illustrated in a garden we visited in England in 1978. In spite of very adequate propagating facilities, some 40 or 50 *reticulata* grafts had failed completely. The stocks used were japonica/sasanqua rooted cuttings, pencil thickness and in small plastic containers. Examination showed that cambium layers had been matched correctly, that no callous had occurred and that none of the stocks had regrown from the base — which usually occurs when grafts have failed to take. We then turned out the stock plants to find that all were heavily infected with *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Stocks in this condition do not survive the cutting back process involved in cleft grafting. The grafts had failed because the stocks had died. There should be no need to labor this point.

In 1967, in 'Some comment on *Camellia reticulata*,' we reported considerable success in grafting on *reticulata* seedling stocks. Commercial propagators had found that it was not possible to achieve a sufficiently high percentage of 'difficult' varieties of *Camellia reticulata* ('Purple Gown,' 'Pagoda' and 'Moutancha') when using the normal japonica and sasanqua stocks. After successfully grafting the difficult varieties on seedling *reticulata* stocks at our suggestion, a prominent Australian nursery found itself with a substantial stock of *Camellia reticulata*, 'Captain Rawes,' for which there was no particular demand. An enterprising propagator cut back these plants to about 4 inches above the original grafting point and regrafted them with 'Purple Gown' and 'Moutancha' with remarkable success. We continue to graft *Camellia reticulata* on its own seedling stock whenever this is possible. Within the Genus *Camellia* we have grafted many species on whatever camellia stock has been available and have no clear evi-

dence of incompatibility.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Camellia Nomenclature 1978, published by the Southern California Camellia Society, has 250 main entries under the heading "Species *reticulata* and hybrids with *reticulata* parentage." This is double the number which appeared in the 1972 edition of the same publication and illustrates the very keen interest now being taken in the development of new garden varieties based on *Camellia reticulata*. Almost all the more recent hybrids have *reticulata* as the female parent and *Camellia japonica* as the pollen parent. There are probably at least another 250 varieties likely to appear in the next year or two and one already hears cries of alarm at this continuous proliferation. To bring the numbers into perspective, it should be noted that *Camellia Nomenclature 1978* has over 5,000 entries under the heading, "Species *Camellia japonica*," and that the *American Camellia Yearbook*, published at the end of 1978, includes 33 further registrations of varieties of that species.

It is undoubtedly true that many of the newly raised varieties based on *Camellia reticulata* are so similar that they are difficult to tell apart and that confusions of identity are bound to occur. Against this, it must be remembered that the only way to ensure emergence of really superb varieties is to make certain that the maximum numbers of seedlings are grown on to flowering and that it would be counter-productive to discourage any camellia grower from taking part in this. It is quite remarkable how many fine varieties are recorded as "chance seedlings" — many more, in fact, than are the result of deliberate breeding programmes.

Some regional considerations must also be taken into account. Currently, the main flow of new varieties comes from four widely separated regions, the East and West coasts of the U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand. Varieties are evaluated initially under regional conditions and by regional standards

of judgment. For example, in the U.S.A., camellia hobbyists place far more weight on the production of flowers suitable for competitive shows than on garden merit, while in Australia, and certainly in New Zealand, the reverse is the case. While a good deal of interchange occurs between regions, varieties, highly regarded in one region may not necessarily achieve the same status elsewhere. Valid judgments of quality and general merit are extremely difficult to arrive at, particularly since individual preferences play a large part in any evaluation, and varieties would need to be in a general circulation for several years before any such attempt could be made. Many varieties will only achieve limited local distribution but there is enough intercommunication between regions to ensure that anything really outstanding will quickly be recognized. Provided it is clearly understood that registration conveys no implication of merit, it is better that even varieties with very limited circulation should be properly recorded, than that they should appear in nursery catalogues with names which may be already recorded or not be in accordance with international nomenclature rules.

There is growing feeling that too much emphasis has been placed on size of flowers as a measure of merit. I trust that our distinguished President will forgive the statement that "large is not necessarily beautiful!" The current interest in miniatures and small flowered hybrids indicates a swing of the pendulum away from the 7 and 8-inch flowers which one sees so often on honors tables. In the last few years some very remarkable new varieties have emerged but has any of them exceeded the grace and beauty of 'Chrysanthemum Petal,' the splendor of 'Pagoda' or the quality of 'Moutancha'? That, of course, involves a personal value judgment.

THE YUNNAN RETICULATAS

Study of this fascinating complex of ancient varieties of *Camellia reticulata* re-

ceived a serious setback last year with the death of Dr. Kinhachi Ikeda, of Japan. With remarkable persistence and the great advantage of being able to read Chinese characters, he had assembled the available Chinese literature, established contact with the authorities in Kunming, exchanged plants and plant material with them and published very detailed accounts of all his work in the American Camellia Society's Yearbooks and other Camellia literature. He edited the *reticulata* section of the Japanese *Encyclopedia of Camellias in Color*, Vol. II, and carried on a worldwide correspondence in search of information. We had exchanged letters and camellia material with him for many years and I would like to record a most sincere tribute to this kindly, generous and scholarly man who made such an important contribution to camellia knowledge.

Most Western studies of the Yunnan camellias have been greatly hampered by having to rely on translations, or partial translation of the relevant Chinese literature and it has never been possible to be certain whether discrepancies within and between documents arose from inaccurate translation or existed in the originals. It is certain that there is considerable disagreement between scholars on the transliteration and translation of Chinese characters. Dr. T.T. Yu (in *R. H. S. Camellia and Magnolia Conference Report 1950*) said, "old literary descriptions are inadequate for diagnostic purposes and the characteristics that are mentioned for separating the varieties are in many cases so slight that it is impossible to distinguish the 72 distinct kinds." He went on to describe 18 varieties which could be clearly identified. More recent accounts (Ikeda, K., "A revised list of Yunnan *reticulatas*," *A. C. S. Yearbook 1976*, p. 136 et seq.) indicate that several more old varieties have now been distinguished and also that a number of newly raised varieties have been named in Yunnan.

Dr. Ikeda records having received

plants of some of the varieties not previously seen in the West including 'Hentienko' ('The Dwarf') but the elusive 'Paouchucha' ('Noble Pearl') is apparently still missing. We have no details yet available on whether these varieties established safely or on their performance in Japan.

Inability to read Chinese makes it impossible for most of us to make any contribution to the discussion of priority names and correct nomenclature of the Yunnan *reticulatas* but this group of cultivars continues to be of the greatest interest and importance to the horticultural world in general and to dedicated camellia lovers in particular. We can only hope that the current international and political climate will soon make it possible to arrange reciprocal exchange of visits with the camellia experts in Yunnan with the intention of sharing camellia knowledge and material on a worldwide basis.

THOSE WINNING SINGLES OF 81 by Don Bergamini

The results of single winners in all the shows in California are included except for two shows, for which I could not find results. The list which follows includes winners, runner-ups, gibbed, ungibbed, whites and species.

JAPONICAS (LARGE — VERY LARGE)

Tomorrow Park Hill	5
Grand Prix	3
Kramer's Supreme	3
Carter's Sunburst	2
Carter's Sunburst Var.	2
Chow's Han Ling	2
Elegans Champagne	2
Elegans Supreme	2
Grand Slam	2
Silver Clouds	2
Snowman	2
22 others with 1 each	

JAPONICAS (MEDIUM)

Alta Gavin	4
Eleanor Martin Supreme	4

Nuccio's Jewel	4	RETIC & RETIC HYBRIDS	
Nuccio's Gem	3	Dr. Clifford Parks	7
Nuccio's Pearl	3	Harold Paige	4
Ballet Dancer	2	Nuccio's Ruby	4
Glen 40	2	Pharaoh	4
In The Pink	2	Valentine Day	4
Margaret Davis	2	Miss Tulare	3
Spring Sonnet	2	Kohinor	3
Wildfire	2	Cornelian	2
11 others with 1 each		Curtain Call	2
JAPONICAS/HYBRIDS (SMALL)		Dr. Louis Polizzi	2
Ave Maria	6	Francie L	2
Grace Albritton	4	Valley Knudsen	2
Alison Leigh Woodroof	2	16 others with 1 each	
Black Tie	2	NON-RETIC HYBRIDS	
Demi-Tasse	2	Elsie Jury	12
Lady Hume's Blush	2	Angel Wings	6
Maroon and Gold	2	South Seas	4
Tom Thumb	2	Anticipation	3
7 others with 1 each		Pink Dahlia	2
JAPONICA/HYBRIDS (MINIATURES)		10 others with 1 each	
Frances Councill	3	SPECIES	
Tammia	3	Star Above Star	3
Bob's Tinsie	2	Bonanza	2
Kewpie Doll	2	Botan Yuki	2
Man Size	2	4 others with 1 each	
Trinket	2		
10 others with 1 each			

New Reticulatas From China

First Release In The World

Introductory offer of a random selection of scions from among the first 40 varieties recently received by the University of California Botanical Gardens, available for shipment this Fall, on the following basis, postage prepaid, for these quantities only:

10 different varieties — \$100.00

25 different varieties — \$200.00

Supply is limited and orders will be processed on a first-come first-served basis, subject to prior sale — payment required with the order. All proceeds to be used (1) for reimbursement of our substantial outlays and (2) any excess will be applied to further research projects as in the past. Make checks payable and forward to:

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
RESEARCH COMM.

% Kenneth C. Hallstone,
996 Victoria Court,
Lafayette, Calif. 94549

THE SATSUKIS ARE COMING! THE SATSUKIS ARE COMING!

by Bill Donnan

It may be something of an anomaly for a camellia magazine to have articles about azaleas in it. Yet it is even more of an anomaly for the Editor to keep writing about them. But I can't help it! Just wait until you have seen the new satsuki azaleas! I can almost guarantee that you are going to "flip," as I have done, over these new cultivars. Yes, I know that you are going to say: "We have had satsuki azaleas here in California for years!" And I am going to declare: "But not like the new ones at Nuccio's Nurseries!" (By referring to them as "new" I mean to imply that they are new to California. Some of the "new" ones which have been imported were developed over 400 years ago.)

When Bonnie and Julius Nuccio visited Japan in 1977 they brought back some of the Japanese satsuki azaleas with them. Later, Nuccio's imported many more varieties. They now have over 160 different cultivars for sale and, perhaps, the largest collection of satsuki azaleas at any nursery in the United States. Anyone interested in azaleas knows about 'Geisha Girl,' 'Gunbi,' 'Gumpo,' and 'Shinyo-No-Tsuki,' to name a few. These varieties of satsuki have been around for many years. For example, 'Valo,' one of the early American satsukis, is actually a rhododendron, species *eriocarpum*. Another American named satsuki and an early favorite, 'Summer Sun,' is also a rhododendron — species *indicum*. In fact, it was *R. indicum* which was shipped to Holland by the East India Company in 1680 and it became the parent of many of the Belgian Indicas we have in our gardens today.

The first major shipment of satsuki azaleas to come to the United States was sent to the Arnold Arboretum, in Boston, in 1917. Later, in the 1930's, 'Geisha,' 'Gunbi,' 'Gunrei' and others arrived. In the 1950's the National Arboretum, in Washington,

D.C., imported about 200 azaleas, many of which were satsukis. But only now, after a concerted effort by Nuccio's Nurseries to obtain as many of these beautiful specimens as possible, has the splendor of their floriferous tendencies been revealed. Satsuki azaleas are truly the treasures of Japan. For the most part they are late blooming — May and June. This late blooming tendency is the origin of their name. Satsuki is the Japanese word for the month of May. They may be late blooming but as I write this (late October) the satsuki lath house at Nuccio's Nurseries is alive with blooms! In fact, some of the new importations bloom the year round.

One thing the new satsukis have in common with some of those you readers may be familiar with, such as 'Gumpo,' is that they have a very dense growth habit and make an excellent evergreen, spreading shrub. However, the thing which makes the new varieties so unusual is the many, many flower forms and the blaze of color combinations. I have observed as many as five different color combinations on one plant. For example, let's take the description of one of the new cultivars right off of the top of the listing in Nuccio's brochure: "'Aikoku' — white with an occasional stripe of purple or lavender pink. Some solid pink edged white and white center bordered purple." Count them, there are five different color combinations on 'Aikoku.' I am telling you that you *JUST HAVE TO SEE* these crazy mixed-up cultivars! I am also warning you that once you see them you are going to become "hooked"! I'll let you in on a little secret. Even Mr. Camellia Nomenclature — none other than Bill Woodroof — got hooked. His wife, Barbara, wanted several azaleas to decorate the front walk for a wedding reception. Bill brought two of the satsukis and brought them home last

spring. As of this writing he has now purchased over 40 specimens and planted them in his garden — and they are even crowding out some of his older camellias!

The culture of the satsukis is basically the same as that of all the evergreen azaleas such as Kurumes, Belgians, and Southern Indicas. Weather-wise they are as hardy as most of the Kurumes. Depending on the age of the plant, 3 to 4 years, and the suddenness of the temperature change, they will withstand down to 5 degrees F. Well, what more can I tell you? You have now had a fair warning! Don't wander up to Nuccio's Nurseries with-

out taking a peek at some of these beautiful cultivars. What is more, see if you can get Young Julius to take you back to the azalea hybridizing and seedling lath house. They are crossing some of the new satsukis with some of the Nuccio hybrids. You might be lucky enough to see some of these crazy satsukis crossed into 'Nuccio's Pink Bubbles' or one of the 'Carnival' hybrids! Yes — the satsukis are coming and you better be ready for a big surprise. (Nuccio's Nurseries has a Satsuki Azaleas Brochure listing all of its cultivars and it will be sent to anyone interested in requesting a copy.)

SHOW RESULTS

Southern California Camellia Council Early Show December 12 & 13, 1981

Best Treated Large Japonica	<i>'Bob Hope'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Runner-up	<i>'Miss Charleston Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
Best Treated Medium Japonica	<i>'Georgia Rouse'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Runner-up	<i>'Margaret Davis'</i>	D.T. Gray Family
Best Treated Small Japonica	<i>'Pink Perfection'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Alltizer
Runner-up	<i>'Little Man'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Ray
Best Treated Miniature Japonica	<i>'Cotton Tail'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. John Movich
Runner-up	<i>'Man Size'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Non-treated Large Japonica	<i>'Tiffany'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Runner-up	<i>'Kramer's Supreme'</i>	Ben Berry
Best Non-treated Medium Japonica	<i>'Ballet Dancer'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Runner-up	<i>'Eleanor Martin Sup.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wally Jones
Best Non-treated Small Japonica	<i>'Ava Maria'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
Runner-up	<i>'Alison Leigh Woodroof'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Best Non-treated Miniature Japonica	<i>'Pink Smoke'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Milt Schmidt
Runner-up	<i>'Kewpie Doll'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Retic Hybrid	<i>'Valley Knudsen'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Runner-up	<i>'Mouchang'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
Best Non-retic Hybrid	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Runner-up	<i>'Debbie'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Best Species	<i>'Bow Bells'</i>	Bill Donnan
Runner-up	<i>'Star Above Star'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Three Large Treated Japonicas	<i>'Elegans Supreme'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up	<i>'Tomorrow Park Hill'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Three Medium Treated Japonicas	<i>'Alta Gavin'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Art Gonos
Runner-up	<i>'Nuccio's Jewel'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Three Large Non-treated Japonicas	<i>'Giulio Nucci'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Putnam
Runner-up	<i>'Kramer's Supreme'</i>	D.T. Gray Family
Best Three Non-treated Japonicas	<i>'China Doll'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Davis
Runner-up	<i>'Finlandia Red'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Putnam
Best Three Retic Hybrids	<i>'Valentine Day Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Runner-up	<i>'Valentine Day'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Best Three Miniature Japonicas	<i>'Pink Smoke'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Ab Summerson
Runner-up	<i>'Fircoe Var.'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo

Best Three Non-retic Hybrids	'Garden Glory'	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Davis
Runner-up	'Freedom Bell'	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Best Three Species	'Miss Ed'	Rudy Moore
Runner-up	'Shisha Gashira'	Caryll Pitkin
Best Seedling	'Nancy Reagan'	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
(This seedling was voted an A.C.S. Award)		
Best Collector's Tray		Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Runner-up		Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Award Of Merit For The Most Trophies		Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
Runner-up		Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Large Novice Bloom	'Ivory Tower'	E. Verity
Best Medium Novice Bloom	'Midnight'	E. Verity
Best Three Novice Blooms	'Pink Perfection'	Carol Van Zandt

COURT OF HONOR BLOOMS

'Francie L.'	Caryll Pitkin
'Maroon & Gold'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Garden Glory'	Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Gerlach
'Tomorrow's Dawn'	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
'Elegans Supreme'	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Dryden
'Midnight'	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
'Jenny Mills'	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
'Kewpie Doll'	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
'Helen Bower'	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Davis
'Giulio Nuccio'	Mildred Murray
'Giulio Nuccio Var.'	Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goertz
'Tomorrow Park Hill'	Caryll Pitkin
'Little Slam'	Mr. & Mrs. Walt Harmsen
'Mark Allan Var.'	Rudy Moore
'Cotton Tail'	Dr. & Mrs. Fred Mowrey
'Wildwood'	Mr. & Mrs. George Butler
'Tom Knudsen Var.'	Rudy Moore

VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS

by **Luann B. Munns**, Editor of *Lasca Leaves*

Ed. Note: Reprinted from the September/October 1981 issue of Garden, a publication of the Garden Society of the New York Botanical Garden.

For more than a half century Virginia Robinson's cherished gardens inspired admiration in anyone fortunate enough to visit them. Zoe Akins, a close friend and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, was moved by the contrasting moods of the gardens in different seasons to record her impressions in a poem later read as a eulogy to Mrs. Robinson. The rain Miss Akins described still falls on the terrace and carefully tended plants, but the lady who called for the violins no longer stands watching it.

During her lifetime, Virginia Robinson spread pleasure among her friends with meticulously planned parties in her home and garden. She made

equally precise arrangements to ensure that her beloved estate would always remain intact as a botanical garden for the people of Los Angeles County. To accomplish this, in 1974 she decided the estate and a million dollar endowment fund for its maintenance to the County with the stipulation that it be used as an arboretum or botanic garden.

The mild climate in this particular area of Beverly Hills provides ideal outdoor conditions for the cultivation of tropical and subtropical type plants that the other facilities cannot duplicate. Because of this fact, the garden will serve as a major research center of the Department for the testing and selection of plants. This program, initi-

ated with the founding of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in 1948, has led to the introduction of over 80 plants to the landscape of Los Angeles and Southern California.

The Virginia Robinson Gardens Foundation was recently organized to support the newest of the Department's facilities. The Foundation, led by Mrs. Lucy Toberman, president, has offices at the gardens at 1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills. Incorporated as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, the Foundation's primary purpose will be to raise funds to support the educational and research activities of the gardens.

Since Mrs. Robinson died in 1977 a few weeks before her 100th birthday, the grounds that once echoed to the sound of her fashionable parties have been silent, maintained by her staff of gardeners and longtime major domo, Ivo Hadjiev, while Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens officials went through the time-consuming process of preparing the grounds for public use. The preliminaries are now almost finished with the first public opening of the Virginia Robinson Gardens scheduled for mid-1982. Improvements include paving several foot paths and installing ramps, handrails, rest-rooms, a small parking lot, and a new fire hydrant.

The 6.2 acre estate surrounds a one-story stucco mansion designed by Mrs. Robinson's father, architect Nathaniel Dryden. Mr. Dryden also designed "El Miradero" in Glendale, now the Brand Library, for Leslie Brand in 1903.

Mrs. Robinson liked to point out that hers was the first house in Beverly Hills. The area was all open country in 1911 when Mrs. Robinson and her husband, Harry, son of the founder of the Robinson's department stores, returned from their three-year honeymoon to Europe and Kashmir. One evening soon after their return they went searching for the stylish new Los Angeles Country Club. They didn't find the club but they did find for sale a

sloping site surrounded by barley fields near what would later become Elden Way.

"Just like that, my husband said, 'This is where we're going to live,' " Mrs. Robinson once reminisced to a biographer. "Burton Green had built Beverly Hills. But there wasn't one house here . . . just a little bit of a real estate office, kind of a shed, on Santa Monica Boulevard."

Mr. Dryden designed the Beaux Arts style mansion for gracious entertaining with large windows facing the marble terrace and a broad lawn indented into the slope behind the house. Mrs. Robinson gave her first party shortly after completion of the residence in the fall of 1913, and she remained one of the most vivacious, popular hostesses in the city for the next 66 years. When Beverly Hills celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1964, the city presented Mrs. Robinson with a plaque naming her "First Lady of Beverly Hills."

In her spacious home, Mrs. Robinson lived and entertained in a style seldom seen in this country with a staff of 11 servants catering to an assortment of prominent and amusing visitors. Sir Anthony Eden was a favorite in a guest list that ran the gamut from statesmen to film stars.

Most of the gala events such as her annual party for the Hollywood Bowl Patronesses were held on the lawn that sweeps 100 yards from the terrace behind the house up around the pool to the guest house pavilion at the top of the slope. Although the mansion and guest house pavilion complement each other, structural details and design complexity make the architecture of the pavilion more significant, according to architectural historian John Chase. A screen of windows topped by fan lights and set slightly behind Tuscan columns typify the Palladian and 18th century French styles that influenced William Richards when he designed the pavilion in 1924. The sliding windows flood the interior with sunlight and, along with the lattice-

covered mirrors at opposite ends of the room, give the room the appearance of an airy gazebo.

The other main room on the lower level is a game room where Mrs. Robinson played billiards with her guests. A small spiral stairway leads to the second floor card room where she often exercised her formidable bridge playing skills with Fred Astaire and other close friends.

All the rooms and garden terraces were planned on a human scale for enjoyment by visitors, not as intimidating monuments to Mrs. Robinson's considerable wealth. Consequently, although individual features may be unremarkable in themselves, they combine to create an atmosphere of irresistible charm. Their timeless elegance will still be apparent to visitors in the years to come because Mrs. Robinson kept the buildings and gardens unaltered, such a perfectly preserved symbol of Beverly Hills' glamorous past that the estate is now included in the National Register of Historic Places.

MY TEN FAVORITE CAMELLIAS

by Antonio Sevesi

Milan, Italy

To write on this subject after that many famous camellia hobbyists have done, it is rather difficult task for me specially because I started growing camellias on Lake Maggiore, all alone, meeting a certain difficulty from the part of local floriculturist who grew camellias without any name and no idea of the progress that in America, Australia and New Zealand, they made with the creation of many new varieties.

But let me go back to the main subject. First of all the problem of giving an objective judgment. I immediately understood that it was impossible. As the parents are more inclined to see good qualities in their weaker children or in their eldest, in the same way I

cannot avoid some supervaluation that does not allow a serene judgment.

'VERGINE DI COLLEBEATO' — I love and hate this camellia. It has given me an enormous satisfaction as it has helped me to launch, in the world of camellia hobbyist, the "Società Italiana della Camellia" that I had founded some years before. The discovery of this white Camellia with petals placed on seven spirals was propagandized by my friend Tom Durrant. Unfortunately, the 80% of the flowers of the cultivar is not at all spiraled and on the contrary presents two or three centers, here is the reason of my hatred. But how not be grateful to this camellia?

'LADY HUME'S BLUSH,' the tender rose, the perfect shape, the coldness emanating from this perfection, has led me to grow more than one plant of this camellia. But what a fatigue, what a slowness in the growth! Having dedicated all my cares to this camellia, seeing the perfection of its flowers, as a compensation to my fatigue I must admit that I am very fond of it.

'MAGNOLIAEFLORA' — I have many plants of this cultivar in my garden because of the beauty either of the flowers or the shining green leaves. The shape is pyramidal. The blooming starts very early and goes for a long time. The last flowers have a darker color. I remember that the first plant imported from Japan into the Western world bloomed on the Lake Maggiore at a few miles from the garden in which I grow my camellias.

'SNOWMAN' — an American friend sent me some years ago some small plants among which there was this one. When I saw it blooming for the first time I was amazed by the shape of the flower. These petals seeming motionless fly in the endless space! The whiteness of this camellia left me astonished. In this moment on the specialized print I did not find at once, notes of this quality. Only some years after the camellia hobbyist got aware of the beauty of this camellia.

'NUCCIO'S GEM' — also this flower is splendid. I cannot judge the plant as it is still very young, but the whiteness of the flower is unique and charms still more than the shape that is also very beautiful.

'FRANCIE L.' — one cannot be indifferent to the bigness of the flower and this one's own characteristic. Also in this case the petals are very big, giving to the flower a remarkable lightness if you compare it to the formal double ones. I am very grateful also to this camellia that draws the attention of visitors during the shows.

'KRAMER'S SUPREME' — it arrived to me from America together with 'Snowman' and when it bloomed I was charmed by the beauty of the flowers. Now that the plant has grown I notice that its shape is splendid, erected. The blooming is very rich and the blooming period very long.

'LEONARD MESSEL' — I like it in its whole. The flower does not tell me much. The trees are not distinguished among the others for particular characteristics, also the flowers even being beautiful are not comparable to those of 'Magnoliaeflora,' for instance. However, the richness of the blooming, the freshness of the flowers and their color that tones with the color of the leaves and with the shape of the plant in this whole, make this camellia one of my favorites.

'FRED SANDER' — an old camellia. The English nurseryman sold it to me, as a 'Sode Gakushi.' When I saw it bloom it was crimson and frimbriated. It was 'Fred Sander' without doubt. I prefer it because it is very attractive in the shows and to visitors of the garden. I show it as the antithesis of the classical formal double that only a few years ago was the only one we know. For this property, of creating a culture on the field of the camellia, I give importance to this camellia which when seen for the first time makes the visitors say: "But this is a carnation!" Therefore, this camellia shows how great is the space that our favorite flower occupies in the different shape.

'SHOWA-NO-SAKAE' — when in the first cold Autumn days the garden has no more flowers, the first flower, of this camellia, appears. The heart is full of joy, at the thought that after this first flowers, others will bloom for all the last of Autumn and Winter. The column shape of this plant, more than 2 ½ meters high, is a charming source of color in the grey Fall days.

I have listed the ten camellias that for personal reasons I prefer. But also other varieties, some old ones without name, are splendid. Also, camellias obtained by seeds present characteristics of color and shape very interesting.

NEW CAMELLIA BOOK

by Bill Donnan

Just off the press in Australia is a wonderful new book on camellias. Authored and edited by Stirling Macaboy, THE COLOUR DICTIONARY OF CAMELLIAS is one of the finest camellia books to come into my possession since the Japanese Encyclopedia volumes were released. This remarkable 9 x 12 hard-cover book would do credit to anyone's living room coffee table. But rather than belabor you with a book review, let me quote from the dust jacket as follows: "Lavishly produced, as befits the flower it celebrates, THE COLOUR DICTIONARY OF CAMELLIAS is bound to become the one essential volume for every admirer, every lover, every would-be grower of these stunning cold-weather flowers. It deals with almost 2,000 species and cultivars from many times and many places, describes over 1,000 of them in detail, and illustrates more than 400 in rich, lifelike colour.

"A well researched and lively text traces the history of camellias from their natural habitat in the mountains of southern China through a checkered history in Japan's warlike middle ages. The race to import them to Europe is described, and also their subsequent spread to the antipodes and the New

World. All sections of the book are illustrated, both with a veritable treasure house of Japanese and Chinese art works and a dazzling collection of colour photographs showing the most popular and spectacular camellia varieties — some so new they are yet to be released to the growers round the world. Paul Jones, acknowledged as the world's finest painter of flowers, is represented by an exquisite painting of the unbelievable *Camellia Chrysantha*, the golden camellia from Guangxi. The author's text is supported by contributions from such internationally known camellia experts as Thomas L. Savige; Milton Brown; Kenneth Hallstone; and the late Professor E.G. Waterhouse, whose au-

thority on nomenclature is beyond question. The book is honoured by a preface from Julius Nuccio, the American hybridiser who has developed so many of the finest camellias in the twentieth century." To sum it up, my friends, this is one book which you ought to have for your camellia library and for your enjoyment. I must confess that I have used my volume several times already as a reference or to look up the picture and color of a cultivar. The book was published by Lansdowne Press, P.O. Box 60 Dee Way, New South Wales, 2099 Australia. In the United States it can be purchased at **The American Camellia Society**, P.O. Box 1217, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030. The price is \$32.50 postpaid.

CAMELLIAS AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM by Erik A. Neumann

Ed. Note: Reprinted from Program Aid 890 of The U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In the late fall, winter, and early spring, camellias are in bloom at the National Arboretum.

The camellia plantings, located on the edge of the Cryptomeria Valley Planting, are labeled to help visitors identify the various species.

The camellia collection was begun in 1949 with the gift of 100 *Camellia sasanqua* plants from the Garden Club of America. In a few years they were doing so well that the Arboretum decided to broaden its camellia program. Between 1955 and 1959, 90 varieties of *Camellia sasanqua* and 126 varieties of *Camellia japonica* were added to the collection. These plants were the gifts of many private citizens. The present Arboretum collection of over 600 varieties is a result of the stimulus provided by these early gifts.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Camellias are members of the botanical family *Theaceae*, which includes the common tea plant, *C. sinensis*, as well as the genera *Franklinia*, *Gordonia*, and *Stewartia*. Approximately 82 species of the genus *Camellia* are native to tropical and subtropical Asia. Noted

for their conspicuous flowers, camellias are considered by botanists to be evergreen shrubs or small trees.

KINDS OF CAMELLIAS

Three species of camellias are in general cultivation in the United States: *C. japonica*, *C. sasanqua*, and *C. reticulata*. The first two species are of particular interest here at the Arboretum along with a fourth species, *C. oleifera*.

You also will see some plantings of *C. vernalis*, *C. hiemalis*, *C. wobisuke*, and *C. williamsii*.

C. japonica is the hardiest camellia in the Washington, D.C., area. It is the best species for planting along the Atlantic coast north of Washington, D.C. *C. japonica* generally blooms in the spring.

C. sasanqua is almost as hardy as *C. japonica*; its northern limit of hardiness along the Atlantic coast is Washington, D.C. *C. sasanqua* blooms in October and November. Both *japonica* and *sasanqua* camellias have been grown in China and Japan for centuries for use as ornamental plants.

C. reticulata is the tenderest of the camellias commonly grown in the United

States. It blooms in the spring and has very large flowers. It can be grown outdoors in Southern California or in the Deep South, but in other areas its needs indoor protection during the winter.

Although *C. oleifera* is not in general cultivation throughout the United States, a mass planting of oleifera seedlings is here at the Arboretum. *C. oleifera*, with single white flowers, is known as the oil-bearing camellia. The seeds contain a very high percentage of oil, which, in the Orient, is extracted and used for hair tonic.

Species that are less widely grown but are still of commercial importance in the United States include *C. vernalis*, *C. maliflora*, *C. saluensis*, and *C. hiemalis*.

Camellias are native from the Indo-china mainland to Korea and the islands that lie offshore. Early merchant seamen trading in these waters took some beautiful Japanese camellia plants home to England with them. Later on, between 1783 and 1797, camellias were brought from England to the United States. The first camellia imported was a red-flowering japonica variety.

CULTURAL SUGGESTIONS

Washington, D.C., is located at the northern edge of the "camellia belt." Here, only the hardiest camellia varieties are suitable for outdoor planting. A list of the hardier varieties has been included in this publication.

Camellias do well in slightly acid soils. They also will succeed in neutral soils if fertilizers are used that favor acidity. The soil does not have to be as acid as that for azaleas and rhododendrons. A surface mulch is helpful year round; pine needles and pine bark will work well.

Camellias need enough sunlight during the summer months to set flower buds, but need very little sunlight during the winter. Camellias also need protection from strong winter winds, which, in the presence of full sunlight, cause leaf burning.

Select a planting size, therefore, that provides alternating sunshine and

shade in the summer, complete shade in the winter, and protection from winter winds. A planting site on the north side of a building or fence or under tall pine trees can provide these conditions.

Although camellias are drought tolerant, they need occasional watering during extended dry spells.

Camellias are relatively free of pests and diseases.

SELECTED LIST OF THE HARDIER CAMELLIAS

J — Japonica

S — Sasanqua

H — Hiemalis

WHITE

Dawn (Vernalis) (S)

Finlandia (J)

Leucantha (J)

Mine-no-Yuki (S)

Setsugekka (S)

White Glory (S)

White Queen (J)

RED

Are-Jishi (J)

Blood of China (J)

Gov. Mouton (J)

Hiryu (H)

Mathotiana (J)

Tricolor Sieboldi (J)

VARIEGATED

Donckelarii (J)

Elegans (J)

Lady Vansittart (J)

Ville-de-Nantes (J)

LIGHT PINK

Agnes O. Solomon
(dbl. fl.) (S)

Berenice Boddy (J)

Dr. Tinsley (J)

Jean May (dbl. fl.) (S)

Magnoliaeflora (J)

Marjorie Magnificent (J)

Papaver (S)

Pink Perfection (J)

DEEP PINK OR ROSE

Cleopatra (S)

Crimson Tide (S)

Kumasaka (J)

Lady Clare (J)

Orchid (S)

Shishi-gashira (H)

Showa-no-Sakae (H)

Sparkling Burgundy (S)

USING BOTTOM HEAT

by Arthur Carter

Ed. Note: Reprinted from The Garden, Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, Vol. 102, Part 10, October 1977.

The advantages of providing bottom heat in greenhouses have been known for some time and many gardeners have been brought up with the maxim 'warm bottom and cooler top.' The construction of a hot bed from fermenting manure and other organic matter was an art perfected by the old gardeners.

'Progress' inevitably occurred and hot water pipes replaced manure, but the temperature control was still difficult to achieve and electric cables were ultimately used to provide the source of heat. On a small scale, electric light bulbs have also been employed to heat the compost held in a tray above. Success is limited with this method, but the length of life of the bulb seems to be reduced and the energy source is either on or off. There can be no fine temperature control.

Electricity as a source of energy has obvious advantages from the point of view of temperature control, provided the equipment is accurately sensitive and wisely placed. When the cost of energy increased, the situation was reviewed with a view to using it more efficiently. Frequently, when such economic pressure is applied, the answers to the questions posed are not available. What is the optimum temperature and correct relationship between compost temperature and greenhouse air temperature? Need bottom heat be maintained for twenty-four hours a day or can a fluctuating regime be accepted? Needless to say, this case is no exception. All the answers are not available.

Acceptable systems *have* been developed for many situations, but all have a major factor — the energy cost charges. A new look becomes necessary.

Some commercial growers have installed small bore pipes (usually of plastic) in the bed so that hot water can

be used to supply bottom heat. Small bore pipes provide fairly rapid circulation and give a reasonably uniform distribution of heat. The old four-inch cast iron pipes contain a large volume of water; because they were slow to heat or cool down, such pipes under a bench made temperature control difficult to achieve. Plastic pipes are very suitable, being flexible and easily handled. In most cases (mainly for propagation purposes) they have been buried or sandwiched between layers of concrete.

Many experiments have been carried out in the past to investigate the benefits of soil warming but the results have not always been conclusive. New cultural systems such as Nutrient Film Technique and growing in limited volumes of compost contained in bags or troughs certainly justify further investigation into the value of bottom heat. Some of the Experimental Horticulture Stations of the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service are interested in various systems and early results from Fairfield E.H.S. look very promising. Provided the roots are kept warm, it might well be possible to reduce the night temperature in the greenhouse and so make considerable fuel savings when growing early tomatoes.

Other crops might respond similarly and there is evidence from Luddington E.H.S. that less bottom heat can be used in the propagating bench in winter and still produce good rooting with certain plants. Trials over two seasons suggest that with a glasshouse air temperature of 10°C (50°F), plants that root within six weeks of insertion root just as well in the propagation bed when bottom heat is applied only during the hours of daylight instead of twenty-four hours per day. This can lead to considerable savings in energy input. Slower-rooting plants behave

somewhat differently, but work on them is continuing.

From the home gardener's point of view, a delay in rooting need not be critical, particularly if it saves energy; he has no strict timetable to meet as is often the case with the commercial grower. The art of the propagator is to stimulate a portion of a plant to become a self-supporting individual. In many cases it is a race against the depletion of food reserves before roots have been produced. Bottom heat frequently speeds rooting and a cool top slows down the rate of utilization of the food reserves.

Gardeners without a source of bottom heat must not be led into thinking that such an aid will solve all problems. The basic propagation and cultural skills are still essential for success, but the growth of many plants is speeded up. The major use at present is for propagation although it could well be that the future will see changes in cultivation techniques that will enable a lower house temperature to be maintained, with a saving in energy.

There are many types of propagators and seed raisers available on the market, ranging from plastic domes covering a tray heated by electric cable, to sophisticated models incorporating additional sources of light. There are many uses for such aids provided one plans the next stage. Seedlings raised early in the year must have suitable light and warm conditions available when the pricking out stage has been reached, otherwise the advantage is lost or reduced. An area of bench provided with bottom heat in a cool greenhouse could well provide the answer. There are also small paraffin heaters which do quite a good job in providing bottom heat, but with these accurate temperature control is not possible.

Controlling the temperature is important from the plant's point of view and when comparatively high cost energy is being used it becomes important from the cost angle as well. It is the temperature in the rooting or growing

medium that counts, and sometimes there is a poor relationship between the thermostat setting and the compost temperature. In some nurseries, accurate temperature measuring devices are inserted into the compost and the thermostat is adjusted to give the results required. For domestic greenhouses a good thermometer should be available to find out what is happening in the compost. Calibration is better achieved on a dull day or the thermometer should be shaded so that the sun's heat received by the thermometer tube or mount does not affect the results.

The positioning of the thermostat is also important and the installation instructions should be followed accurately. Frequently it is installed in the wrong position or at the wrong depth in relation to the soil-warming cables. If the rod of the thermostat is inserted at right-angles to the length of the cables and at about the same depth, there can be little relation between the desired temperature and that actually being achieved in the compost.

Bottom heat is commonly used in conjunction with mist application for propagation and in this case drainage is very important. If too much water is retained in the rooting medium, heat is wasted in maintaining the temperature in it. In addition, the nozzles and electronic leaf or other device controlling water application, must be cleaned and well maintained to avoid uneven watering or overwatering. Efficient mist propagators are very useful tools for the propagator but I often wonder how their popularity would have been affected if polythene film had been invented first. Certainly, during the winter months, excellent results can be obtained under polythene film but at present, experiments at the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute show that mist had the advantage in recent summers. It may be that more shading is required in summer to get the best results from polythene film. For some plants, growers drape thin polythene so that it actually touches the foliage

while for others, they keep it raised clear of the leaves to prevent scorching. It may be that there is too much light or heat in such conditions. Certainly, the experiments by the G.C.R.I. (referred to earlier) showed that the water stress within the cuttings was eased when the plastic film touched the foliage.

Bottom heat is widely accepted for use in propagation but is used less extensively for crop production. Forty or more years ago, trials were conducted to test the economics of soil warming in glasshouses and cold frames but the results did not persuade many growers to try the system. In more recent years the use of straw bales as a growing medium for glasshouse crops bore some resemblance to the old hot bed system. Now, as fuel costs rise and new cultural systems are being devised, provision of bottom heat could become more important in the future.

THE DESCANSO SHOW

By Roland Reuter
Alhambra, California

If you suddenly become addicted to camellias and find that the few plants in your yard are insufficient, you need only mark your calendars for the 27th and 28th of February. Then you can attend one of the biggest camellia shows in the country and what is unquestionably the largest display of the plants on earth!

Descanso Gardens, in La Canada, and the Southern California Camellia Council will host its annual Camellia Festival in what must be the perfect setting for such an event: 25 acres of camellia gardens boasting no less than 100,000 plants!

George Lewis is the Gardens' superintendent and he supplied much valuable information about the flowers and the show. He is a 25-year veteran of the Department of Botanic Gardens

and he would quickly impress anyone with his expertise and obvious love of and dedication to his chosen field.

Mr. Lewis provided some interesting facts: Camellias originated in Japan and were named in Europe after George Kamel, the monk responsible for bringing the first seeds to his native Austria in the early 1600s. Camellia plants were brought to America in the mid-1700s and for nearly two centuries the best gardens could be found in our Southern states. Many of them still exist. Camellias exhibit an unusually long blooming period and this is particularly so in the ideal Southern California climate.

Mr. Lewis maintains that a camellia garden where the different varieties are properly staggered may bloom for as long as seven months.

According to the superintendent, Descanso Gardens will again serve "only as a backdrop" to the February Festival, which is sponsored by the Camellia Council. This organization will also provide especially trained judges who will award many trophies and prizes in what Mr. Lewis terms "an atmosphere of sharp competition" where each participant wants to contribute the "perfect" flower. The Festival will attract California buffs and hobbyists from as far south as National City to as far north as Crescent City. The day before the show each of these dedicated growers will lovingly prepare and pack anywhere from one to one hundred camellias to eventually contribute to a grand total in excess of 5000 specimens. Each specimen will be individually exhibited on tables positioned along 3/4 miles of garden paths, flanked by 100,000 live camellia plants.

The quality of the people, their efforts, skills, knowledge and dedication that make such beauty-filled weekends possible, should inspire even devout workaholics to take a little time to stop and at least look at the flowers.



SHOW RESULTS

HUNTINGTON GARDENS CAMELLIA SHOW

January 9 & 10, 1982

Once again the Huntington Gardens Camellia Show sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society, The San Marino League, and the Huntington Botanical Gardens proved to be an outstanding event. Under the leadership of Warren Dickson, Society Show Chairman, and Mary B. Hunt from the San Marino League, the Show was staged in the Patio of the new Entrance Pavilion of the Gardens. The cut camellia blooms were benched on round tables and the flower displays, prepared by the San Marino League members, provided a very pleasing centerpiece for each table. As in the past, the Huntington Show stressed camellia culture. The continuous demonstrations of all the horticultural husbandry attendant to good camellia propagation were avidly observed by the public. These demonstrations were carried out by the team of Sergio Bracci, Meyer Piet, Lee Gaeta, Rudy Moore, and Grady Perigan. The attendance for the two day Show was 5010.

Herewith are the results of the camellia competition:

TREATED FLOWERS

Best Large Japonica	<i>'Miss Charleston Var.'</i>	Elaine Abramson
Runner-up	<i>'Kramer's Supreme'</i>	D. T. Gray Family
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Margaret Davis'</i>	D. T. Gray Family
Runner-up	<i>'Wildfire'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Reich
Best Small Japonica	<i>'Grace Albritton'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up	<i>'Kitty'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Best Large Reticulata	<i>'Dr. Clifford Parks'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Runner-up	<i>'Harold Paige'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Non-Retic Hybrid	<i>'Elsie Jury'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Runner-up	<i>'Freedom Bell'</i>	T. D. Gray Family

NON-TREATED FLOWERS

Best Large Japonica	<i>'Katie'</i>	E. C. Snooks
Runner-up	<i>'Giulio Nuccio Var.'</i>	Mildred Murray
Best Medium Japonica	<i>'Wildfire'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Milt Schmidt
Runner-up	<i>'Herme'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Altizer
Best Small Japonica	<i>'Ave Maria'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Grady Perigan
Runner-up	<i>'Keupie Doll'</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci
Best Species	<i>'Eago Var.'</i>	Rudy Moore

Best Formal Double of the Show	<i>'Miss Charleston Var.'</i>	Elaine Abramson
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COURT OF HONOR

<i>'Valentine Day'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
<i>'Little Lavender'</i>	won by	J. E. Christinson
<i>'Nuccio's Jewel'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
<i>'Maroon & Gold'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
<i>'Nuccio's Jewel'</i>	won by	T. D. Gray Family
<i>'Tali Queen'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz
<i>'Easter Morn'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Ray
<i>'Chows Han-ling'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. Berkeley Pace
<i>'Betty Sheffield Supreme'</i>	won by	Rudy Moore
<i>'Mark Alan Var.'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. B. M. Pace
<i>'Betty's Beauty'</i>	won by	Rudy Moore
<i>'Fashionata'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz
<i>'Pink Perfection'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. Milt Schmidt
<i>'Gen. George Patton'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Ray
<i>'Tomorrow Park Hill'</i>	won by	Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Bracci

'Elisabeth Weaver'
'Fircone Var.'
'Firechief Var.'
'Bob Hope'
'Coronation'

won by
won by
won by
won by
won by

Mr. & Mrs. Al Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks
Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Goertz
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jaacks

As is the case in all new awards, there was some confusion in the choice of the Best Formal Double of the Show. The fifteen judges voted for the "best formal double" and chose 'Miss Charleston Var.' with 'Grace Albritton' as the runner-up in the voting. After the awards had been made it was discovered that 'Miss Charleston Var.' is a rose form double and not a formal double. Thus, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo are, in fact, the winners of this new award with their 'Grace Albritton' bloom. The "Committee of Judges" has decided to let the awards stand as they were issued on Saturday noon, and to buy Mr. & Mrs. Jack Woo a **formal double bourbon** at the next Show Dinner!

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND

The CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND is now into its sixth month. All contributions are tax deductible and the FUND will ensure the continued publication of the NOMENCLATURE. The following list contains the names of contributors since January 15, 1982.

Dr. & Mrs. Louis M. Schumacher - Contribution in memory of Maurie Abramson
Colonel Tom Durrant - Cash Contribution
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Clere - Cash Contribution
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Butler - Contribution in memory of Mel Gum

Surina's Camellia Gardens - Cash Contribution

Mr. & Mrs. Paul McClelland - Contribution in memory of Margaret Short
Mr. & Mrs. Willard F. Goertz - Cash Contribution

Nuccio's Nurseries - Cash Contribution

Judge Sherril Halbert - Cash Contribution

Butch Verity - Cash for plants sold Southern California Camellia Council - Profits from Dinner

Eleanor Ingram - Cash Contribution
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Beckman - Contribution in memory of Maurie Abramson

As of January 15, 1982 the balance in the Fund was \$5987.59.

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5675 E. Walton St., Long Beach, CA 90815

OLD FAVORITE ADOLPHE AUDUSSON by Albert Fendig

Ed. Note: Reprinted from a back issue of Carolina Camellias.

The vivid coloration, the firm, styled lines of this cultivar and its variegation assures this old favorite of continued popularity.

It was named for Monsieur Adolphe Audusson of Angers, France, from whom it was obtained by the Guichard Sisters, of Nantes, France, in about 1877. First publication of the name appears to be in the nursery catalogue of Henry Guichard of 1909.

It has a vivid deep red color, ranging from deep cherry to shades of purple. The pure red form is striking and so are its many variegations, some of which are generously splotted with white and some of which are moired. The center column of stamens, composed of white filaments, merged together at the base and tipped with golden stamens, is eye catching. The petals are large, nearly round, and measure up to two inches in diameter. These petals sometimes fold over, occasionally stand erect and "rabbit ear." They are distinctly veined. The bloom varies in form from semi-double with prominent central stamens to incomplete double when the stamens peep through a mass of semi-erect petals and petaloids.

Synonyms

Because of its tendency to variegate in form and color, names such as ADOLPHE AUDUSSON VARIEGATED, ADOLPHE AUDUSSON SPECIAL and AUDUSSON SUPREME have been bestowed upon it. F.M. UYEMATSU is a synonym for the variegated form and ADOLPHE and AUDREY HOPPER are synonyms for the self-red form. THE CZAR, an Australian seedling, at one time was believed to be the same as ADOLPHE AUDUSSON but Professor E.G. Waterhouse, in his book "Camellia Trail," has proved that these two cultivars are distinct.

Good Habits

In addition to its fine flower, the foliage and habits of this outstanding old favorite must not be overlooked. The leaves are large, dark, glossy green and are more or less oblong. The shrub is vigorous, upright, with dense foliage concealing its branches. It blooms profusely and produces a long-lasting flower whether cut or permitted to remain on the bush.

The popularity of this particular cultivar is witnessed by the fact that it received the award of merit from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1934 and since then has won "best of show" in many American shows when it was in competition with some of the outstanding new varieties.

The whims of the times are not apt to cause this "old favorite" to be replaced in the camellia gardens of the world.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Mrs. Mazie Jeane
George
Has Moved to
Long Beach

The address is:
5675 E. Walton St.
Long Beach, CA 90815

Phone:
213-429-6269

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, Marsha 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, Evalena Smith, 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, Al Taylor; 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, Edith Mazzie; Secretary, Evelyn Kilsby, 11 Tiffin Ct., Clayton, CA 94517. Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, November through March, Central Contra Costa Sanitary Dist. Treatment Plant, (Imhoff Drive) Martinez.

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Warren Dickson; 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. Helen Caputi, 800 E. Morris Ave., Modesto, Ca 95351. 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, Marcie Alltizer, 1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale, 91202. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Glendale Federal S&L, 401 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mrs. Chas. O'Malley; Secretary, Ali Henley, 1006 Sonoma Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, AMPLEX Cafeteria, 401 Broadway Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ronald Braid; 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, Ben Woodward; 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, Mazie George; Secretary, Mrs. Margaret Hanson, 3731 Linden Ave., Long Beach 90807. 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. 20; Fri. Dec. 18, Thurs., Jan. 28; Thur., Feb. 25; Wed., Mar. 25; Thur., April 22. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.

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