

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



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No. 2

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 Hall of Environmental Education, Arboretum, Arcadia. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues, \$15.00

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COVER PHOTO

BEVERLY L. BAYLIES . . . a Huntington Library seedling — hybrid *Saluensis* × *Japonica*. Medium semi-double. Medium upright growth. Developed by Rudy Moore. Plants are for sale at the Huntington Library. Photo by Bill Donnan. Color separations courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries, 3555 Chaney Trail, Altadena.

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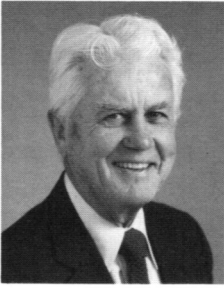
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THOUGHTS

from the editor

While Review editor Glenn Smith is recuperating from a nasty virus he asked Bill Donnan and me to fill in for him. We have done so gladly and hope Glenn will soon be back editing, as he does so capably.

Camellia societies in general are suffering from declining membership and now, if County and State facilities such as the Arcadia Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and South Coast Botanic Gardens close their doors to societies without expensive liability policies, we face serious problems. Increased membership and fund raising have become top priority.

Beginning in this issue, Marilee Gray will write three articles detailing successful methods Pomona Valley Camellia Society members have used to increase membership, invigorate their society and stage two shows annually.

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SUGGESTIONS — ANYTHING OF INTEREST
TO YOU OR OTHERS**

**INCLUDE BLACK & WHITE
PICTURES IF POSSIBLE**

A Chrysantha Flower!

by Margaret MacDonald

Oh blessed event! One of my two *Chrysantha camellia* plants has finally flowered — as of April 1986.

In November 1984 this plant (#1) came from Nuccio's Nursery in Altadena, California, in a one gallon can. Mr. Nuccio was kind enough to bring it to us at the Camellia-Rama meeting in Fresno, California. We carried it back to Salem, Oregon, and put it on a heating pad set at 70 degrees on a bench in a glassed-in room. This room has glass on all three sides (everything except the north side). A small electric heater keeps the room just above freezing in winter.

The plant grew nicely and put out a tiny bud under one of its big leaves. The bud just sat there for many months, not getting any larger or falling off.

Plant #2 came from the University of California at Berkeley, where we attended a Symposium on Camellias in February 1985. This plant, grown from one of the original seeds that came from China, was much larger than plant #1. Grafted on sturdy understock, planted in a two gallon can, it was about 18" tall. The foliage is larger and more crinkled than plant #1. The new growth is decidedly red, unlike #1. It has grown vigorously but has shown no desire to put out buds.

In September 1985, the two *Chrysantha* plants were moved — this time to another glassed-in room with the same exposure as the first one.

I put both plants on a heating pad set at 50 degrees. The electric floor heater was set to come on at around 40 degrees during the winter. Most of our nights in fall and winter find the heater working.

The plants were in a west window, and I found I needed a sheet of clear plastic over the window to prevent leaf burn.

During the growing season I watered them with "Schultz Instant" liq-

uid plant food — (10-15-10) — 7 drops to a quart.

By February 1986 the dormant bud began to swell. By April 9 it had opened up.

I don't know what I expected after all those months of waiting, but I was surprised to see that the flower isn't very big (2½") or very yellow. It has 7 petals, is pale yellow with darker yellow stamens. But it is yellow and it is a *camellia*!

Friends and relatives have come in to look at this floral phenomenon and have oh'd and ah'd over it. If they hadn't known of the travail of its birth, they probably would have passed by without a second glance — preferring the really beautiful *camellias* growing in that same room.

Some of my Oregon freinds have *Chrysantha* plants, too. To my knowledge, none of theirs has flowered yet. Since I always want to know the "why" of things, it puzzles me. Then the *Australian News* (No. 95, Dec. 85) arrived with an article by H. A. Fraser, Hume Branch. In it he states:

"My discussions in Kunming and the National Tea Research Institute at Hangzhou lead me to the conclusion that length and evenness of daylight could be a contributing factor in flowering and seed set. This is important in tea research. The native homes of tea, *C. sinensis*, and *C. chrysantha* are in lower latitudes of China with a more even daylight than Sydney, Wagga and Melbourne."

"Long day" may be a contributing factor in the blooming of my *Chrysantha*. We don't have it here in Salem, Oregon, which is exactly on the 45th parallel — halfway between the equator and the North Pole. But located about 10 feet outside the window where my *Chrysantha* plants are growing is a mercury light which comes on automatically at dusk and off at dawn. It is a "security light" that floods my

back garden and lights the plant room.

Could this be the determining factor that caused plant #1 to flower? If so, why didn't it do the same thing to Plant #2? They are sitting side by side.

I write this for all others who wonder about our yellow camellias or may have one that hasn't flowered. Is "long day" the key? I don't know. Any suggestions, anyone?

The Awakening of the Yellow Camellia

by Meyer Piet

At the close of last season we had four seed pods that were still growing on our "Olympic Gold" plant. Unfortunately, between February 1 and when I wrote my article for the *Camellia Review*, only two months had passed and the seed pods both on Olympic Gold and those using the pollen have not really had enough time to set. Last year our four pods holding on were pollen from (a) 'Lady in Red' - Cliff Parks, (b) 'Botanuki,' (c) 'Silver Chalice,' seedling, and (d) White Retic x Chinese Chrysantha. As time continued, all of the above dropped off except the last, which would have been our choice, the Cross of 'Olympic Gold' x White Retic (*Saluenensis* x 'Crimson Robe') x Chinese Chrysantha pollen.

All of our three plants using Chinese Chrysantha pollen bloomed this year and all three flowers were pink or pink and white. In addition, a new graft of 'Silver Chalice' seedling x 'Olympic Gold' pollen bloomed a single white flower. The three plants using Chinese Chrysantha pollen are unique. I have read of other people obtaining Chinese Chrysantha pollen about three years ago, but I don't believe anyone other than Lee and I obtained any new seedlings by using that pollen. All three plants have leaves that resemble the *Saluenensis* hybrids.

As the season progressed into April, May and June, the two gallon grafts of our 70 plus seedlings grew, and the new leaves, which I have shown some slides of tonight, were a sight to behold. Instead of *Saluenensis* size and type leaves, Lee and I were amazed by many, many different leaves, long and twisted, heavily serrated, all different

types, most having characteristics resembling the pollen parent, 'Olympic Gold.'

If I were returning from a new plant species expedition into China, I am certain the Camellia world would be amazed at all of the different species that had been discovered. Many articles have been written about seeing the various crosses in "the new leaf growth" of a grafted plant and the seventy 'Olympic Gold' pollen plants certainly bear this out. Since many of these plants are three feet tall, Lee and I believe we will see some of them bloom next year. This, of course, will give us additional plants and pollen to work with.

As the season progressed (1986), Lee and I picked and germinated a new batch of 'Olympic Gold' seedlings, approximately eighty, that grew successfully. We had our share of hollow seeds, mainly from Japonicas like last year. We grafted up about ten plants from our first batch of seedlings. These were small plants that were not big enough to graft the previous year, and then grafted as many of the eighty new seedlings as we could. Some of these are small and will have to wait until they grow larger.

Our one seed pod of 'Olympic Gold' x White Retic x Chinese Chrysantha produced only one seed but it germinated properly. The seed split into four or five cotyledons (seed sections), which is a characteristic of the Chrysantha family. In processing our 160 plus seeds we have seen this three to five cotyledons many times, obviously denoting a strong characteristic of the Chrysantha plant.

At this time, the first of April, seed pods are starting to show signs of stabilizing and growing.

I'll discuss the potential seed set on our 'Olympic Gold' plant. There are three plants. My best plant is now about ten feet tall and is bending over in the green house. It was the first to bloom, about 12 flowers the first year, 75 the second season and about 75 this season (1986). The second plant in my greenhouse had about 25 flowers this season, but all attempts at setting seed resulted in failure. Lee's plant bloomed about 25 flowers and he has two pods that seemed to be holding, both crosses of 'Olympic Gold' x 'Botanuki.' As you probably remember, 'Botanuki' is a Japonica which Lee and I feel has more yellow-cream color in its anemone center than any of the yellow cast flowers.

On the big healthy plant in the greenhouse there are eight seed pods still on the plant. The pollens are 'Botanuki' x Lee's Yellow, Granthamiana #3, 'Fragrant Frill' x 'Kramer Supreme' - 'Crimson Robe,' 'Silver Chalice' x Irradiated Granthamiana #3, which is a large six-inch semi-double white flower, and *again* the White Retic x Chinese Chrysantha pollen. Sometime in the next two or three months Lee and I expect most of these pods to drop off. If we had one out of four last year, we will be lucky if three seed pods grow to maturity.

The seed pod from 'Olympic Gold' x White Retic x Chinese Chrysantha produced only one seed. The pod was about one inch in diameter, rather squashed like a torus or pumpkin, and one large seed inside, which was germinated successfully. If you will remember, the original seed sent to me by my good friend Yoshiaki Andoh of Japan, was a rather large seed. The seed grew rather slowly, and Lee and I became very concerned about its possibility of survival. Since we had trouble with the original seed, which we made four grafts of, then lost the mother plant when it was about twelve inches tall, we decided to graft the new seed-

ling. I used understock from species *Irawadiensis*, which is related to the *Chrysantha*, *Thea* family. Lee and I very carefully grafted the entire seedling without disturbing the roots in the 2" peat pot. I am pleased to say that at the present time the graft looks excellent and is starting to callus. If our luck holds and the graft shoots up this season, we could expect it to bloom in as little as two, perhaps three, years.

Using our new pollen from our three seedlings using Chinese *Chrysantha* pollen, we have set seed on other hybrids, including Japonica blood line. Also using 'Olympic Gold' pollen, we have successful back crossed into the White Retic x Chinese *Chrysantha*. One plant has three seed pods that definitely look like they will hold.

Other interesting 'Olympic Gold' crosses are on Lee's big Granthamiana x 'Pink Sparkle.' We have set seed on my "Mystery Plants," on a 'Kuro-Tsubaki' seedling which is a very dark-dark red. We have several seeds set on several of our irradiated plants which always produce unusual leaf forms.

Departing from Yellow, for a time, we bloomed our *Yuh sienensis* species, which was quite fragrant, with a very unusual four or five petal single, white flower, approximately two inches in diameter. There were five or six flowers on a small graft and there seemed to be quite a bit of fragrance. This could be due to the multitude of blooms all at the same time in a small space. If you remember, the Japanese stated that there were hedges of this species that emanated fragrance for quite some distance. We used all of the pollen and have one good cross that should show promise, a cross of *Yuh sienensis* into our non-fragrant 'Fragrant-Frill' x 'Crimson Robe'-'Kramer Supreme.'

Other species that bloomed for the first or second time — *Forrestii*, a small white flower about ½" in diameter, and *Yunnanensis*, a small, white flower about 1 ½" in diameter. Since both Lee and I could not see much advantage to working with these two *Camellia* species, even though they are

new, we used the plants for understock.

Since we mention understock, this season we, again, cut down everything in sight that did not seem to be really worthwhile. These included a large bunch of look-alike plants and those plants that had showed progress, but for some reason had retrogressed back to resemble the original plant with little or nothing new to offer. In all, Lee and I grafted up about 400 new plants.

After about 15 years of hybridizing, I would guess that less than one percent of all new seedlings are worth keeping. If we produced about four to five hundred Retic-Retic Japonica or Saluenensis, etc., crosses per year, after 15 years we are talking about 6,000 to 7,500 different plants with only a handful, perhaps 30 or 40 really good new flowers to show for our effort. Obviously, the end result is only a small fraction of one percent. We have just about stopped working on crossing Retics, Saluenensis, etc. Our big effort is to try and see if we can be successful in producing a better yellow flower.

I checked the label dates on some of my old yellow cast camellia crosses and they were made ten years ago in 1976. Lee and I now feel that most of these crosses will not cross with 'Olympic Gold' pollen and we have started to weed out the plants that we felt were hopeful and expect to use them as understock.

Ten years of effort; about three or four years using Chrysantha or 'Olympic Gold' pollen. If we are lucky, next year perhaps, 15 to 20 of our last year's 'Olympic Gold' crosses will bloom. It will take at least three years for our

present back crosses with 'Olympic Gold' as the mother plant to bloom. If all goes well, and if the three seed pods grow and germinate, etc., on our back cross of 'Olympic Gold' into our White Retic-Chinese Chrysantha plant, we could possibly see flowers in four years. It is not all really that dismal. During the various time frames additional 'Olympic Gold' pollen plants will bloom and give us more and different material to work with.

There are other negative problems such as the 'Olympic Gold' plant "Selfing" itself instead of accepting the applied pollen. Since we have enough pollen to work with (fresh and stored), both Lee and I are taking greater pains to competely emasculate the seed bearing flower. As I mentioned before, the 'Olympic Gold' pollen is very fine and could easily disperse itself onto the pistil. However, the only 'Olympic Gold' seedlings to set are all labeled, so we suspect no selfing has occurred. Species Granthamiana and Irrawadiensis have exactly the same type opening flowers as Chrysantha, yet very, very seldom set seed.

Therefore, Lee and I believe with a bit of luck and continuing our hard work, we will eventually be successful in producing new color camellias.

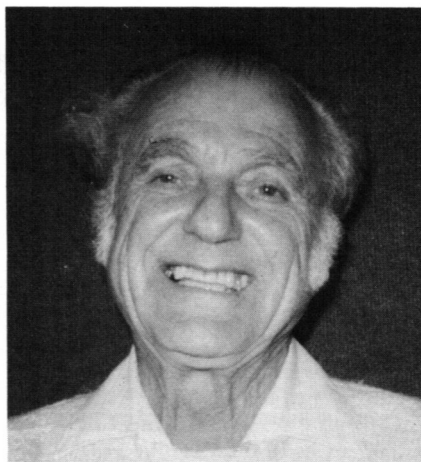
I will close my talk by telling you something that I only disclosed to Lee about a week ago; it is something I am very pleased with. On March 4, 1986, the United States Commission of Patents granted me an excellent plant patent on yellow camellias. For those of you who would like to do a little reading, the patent is Plant Patent Number 5682.

List of Complete Releases

by Meyer Piet and Lee Gaeta

1. 'Emma Gaeta' & Var. — Cross of 'Cornelian' x 'Mouchang,' Dark red — Very large — Semi-double.
2. 'Arcadia' — Cross of 'Mouchang' x Sas. 'Bonanza' — Salmon Pink — Very large — Semi-double.
3. 'Hody Wilson' — Cross of 'Crimson Robe' x 'Kohinor' — Dark

- red — Very large — Semi-double.
4. 'Alma Wood' — Cross of 'Crimson Robe' x 'Ruby' — Vivid dark red. Large — Semi-double.
 5. 'Bessie Dixon' — Cross of two fragrant Japonicas $\frac{3}{4}$ " white — fragrant — Semi-double.
 6. 'Margaret Wells Choice' — Cross of 'Cornelian' x 'Arcadia' — Very large semi-double — deep rich salmon pink. (This parentage will be changed in the new *Nomenclature Book*).
 7. 'Kimberly Piet' — Formal double — 3 to 4" flower — medium to light pink with white speckle.
 8. 'Joshua Fenska' — Formal double $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3" diameter, many flowers spiral. — Dark red.
 9. 'Happy Amy Fenska' — Formal double $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3" diameter, many flowers tight spiral or stack or are normal petal arrangement, some with bud center various shades of pink.
 10. 'Yoshiaki Andoh' — Cross of 'Cornelian' x 'D. W. Davis' — Very dark rich red Higo-type flower with burst of golden anthers approximately 6" diameter, extremely beautiful flower and bush.
 11. 'Fight On' — Cross of 'Narumi-Gata' x 'Crimson Robe' — Very dark rich red with center of golden anthers — Medium — Single 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter.
 12. 'Bev Piet' & Var. — Cross of 'Firechief' x 'Ruby' — Semi-double approximately 5" in diameter — Very dark black red. Variegated, is absolutely outstanding.
 13. 'Hallelujah' — Cross of 'Silver Chalice' x 'Silver Cloud' — 6" very large, semi-double, white.
 14. 'White Wish' — Cross of 'Silver Chalice' x Irradiated Granthamiana #3 — 6" very large, semi-double, white.
 15. 'Captured Enriches' — Al Kruger's cross between 'Fraturna' and 'Rosaeffora' — Multitude of small $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter single flowers — pink and white and quite fragrant.
 16. 'Fiesta Grande' — Retic, Ja-



Meyer Piet

- ponica, x 'Flower Girl' cross, our best, after about 1,000 attempts — Light purple bud, flower turns to light lavender with white, speckles about 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter — Long blooming season and excellent Sasanqua-like leaves and plant. The perfect garden plant.
17. 'Olympic Gold' — Seedling of Chrysantha — 2" single or semi-double. The first true yellow camellia to bloom in the United States. PLANT PATENT 5682.
 18. 'Grace Gordon' — obtained from China - Small $2-2\frac{1}{2}$ " white formal with occasional pink stripe — Japonica.
 19. 'Clara Pieter' — Known cross of 'Lady in Red' - Anemone flower — 5" diameter — reddest red color — good Japonica bush & grow habits.
 20. 'Karen Piet' — Billy McCaskill seedling, very dark red formal, 3-4" diameter — with incurved petals — excellent Japonica bush.
 21. 'Kristy Piet' — Chance seedling — Japonica, very full flower, white formal, approx. $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to 2" in diameter with occasional pink specks, streaks.

Southern California Camellia Council Meeting

1985-86 Council President Chuck Gerlach passed his gavel to newly-elected president, Elsie Bracci, at the Sept. 12, 1986 meeting. Melvin, Herman and Marvin Belcher will assist Elsie as vice president, treasurer and secretary along with directors at large Tom Hughes, Glenn Attrill and Mari-lee Gray.

Chuck Gerlach noted that \$32 liability insurance fee went to Descanso for the evening's use of the meeting room and that, as of Sept. 12, a \$197 a day fee would be charged for the December "Gib Show."

Sergio Bracci, Glenn Attrill and Herman Belcher planned to meet with

the County Board of Supervisors to discuss the liability insurance issue.

Elsie Bracci announced that the Huntington Show will be Jan. 17-18, 1987; the Modesto Show on March 21, 22, 1987 at the Gallo Winery.

Al Gamper announced that the American Camellia Society Convention will take place in Portland, Oregon, April 3, 4, 5, 1987 and that the Council would participate in the Descanso Guild Plant Show.

Sergio Bracci will serve as Judge's Symposium Chairman November 15, 1986 in the Arboretum Lecture Hall where insurance will cost \$32.

County Endangering a Source of Revenue

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has chosen to endanger a valuable source of funds.

On flower show weekends attendance shoots up as hundreds of people pay admission to the Arcadia Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and the South Coast Botanical Gardens in order to view bloom and plant displays at these state and county facilities. Interested gardeners, mainly from the various plant societies, raise thousands of plants and flowers to exhibit, prepare displays, provide awards and staff the shows with knowledgeable members to educate the public on growing and pruning techniques. The county and state pay nothing for this volunteer labor or the awards.

Now the Board of Supervisors has arbitrarily decided that plant societies must carry liability insurance in order to stage these shows. The more people likely to attend a show, the higher the insurance fees.

The societies receive no part of the admission charge. All attendance revenue goes to the county or state. In essence, the more money the show

brings in, the more society members will be assessed for insurance, often close to \$400 a show.

As an outcome of the supervisors' decision to force insurance costs on plant societies, society members must investigate other show sites or eventually drop the shows entirely.

Not only do the supervisors risk losing admission revenue, but also donations from the plant societies for new buildings and equipment such as those received in the past.

The Board of Supervisors must reconsider its shortsighted new policy or risk alienating some of the staunchest supporters of our public gardens.

PAT GREUTERT,
Pasadena

Greutert is a member of the Southern California Camellia Society, Temple City Camellia Society and the California Arboretum Foundation.

— Reprinted from *Los Angeles Times*,
Sept. 20, 1986

Innovations from Pomona Valley: I. The New Exhibitor

by Marilee Gray

Preface: The Pomona Valley Camellia Society has had several requests for information on some of its activities that have resulted in new memberships. The *Review* offers the best means of answering these requests simultaneously.

Some of the things we do are definitely not new; others are innovative. At the risk of being redundant, I'll describe in a series of articles our activities in total in certain areas. Yes, our efforts have brought us new members, but that is only a by-product of our real purpose, which is to promote the hobby of camellia growing and to enrich the lives of everyone involved. Bear this in mind when reading this article.

At a Southern California Camellia Council discussion on membership, one astute observation was particularly on target. "Our camellia shows provide the best opportunity for gaining new members. What can we do to make them more productive?" The answer to that question is topic material for several articles, but let me zero in on one small facet of that answer — that of getting and keeping the new exhibitor.

Several years ago, one of our long-time board members lamented that our shows were becoming so dominated by a relatively few quasi-professional amateurs that new exhibitors were discouraged from entering. "There is no place for the hometown gardener," he said. How right he was.

A few years later, this same member proposed that a Novice Division be added to our show, and, to stimulate interest, he would annually donate a silver, engraved tray for the top bloom in the class. As a result, we now have the "Harlan Covey Award" presented annually. The engraving reads, "Best Novice Bloom, Pomona Valley Camellia Society, 19____." I have yet to see

someone win that tray who doesn't beam and become like a child on Christmas morning and call everyone in the family, even if it means long distance to the East Coast!

Blooms in the Novice Division need not be labeled, if that is a problem, so no one is excluded. The judging team is instructed to select the top bloom and four additional blooms that receive the "Award of Excellence." Each of these awards is a significant piece of crystal. More than once the judges have been sent back to finish judging the class by judging each variety as 1, 2, 3. If we expect 'Tiffanys' to be judged 1, 2, 3 on the regular table, why shouldn't that also be done on the novice table? Have you any idea how important a mere sticker is to a novice? It is the difference between having a flower not worthy of anything and having a flower that they know was judged and appreciated. Judges who overlook varietal judging are insensitive where it counts the most.

By general acceptance, anyone who wins in any novice class is forever banned from entering as a novice in that or any other show. This is to keep competition among non-winners in the novice class. However, the mere winning of a novice class does not automatically elevate that exhibitor to the level of competition found in the regular classes. Except for a very few, rare circumstances, a few years time is needed for the first-time winner to improve culture and selection enough to become really competitive in the regular classes. For this reason, we later added a second division — the Intermediate Division.

The intermediate class is intended to maintain exhibitor interest and participation during the time needed to elevate his competition level. Initially, we established three as the number of wins allowed above the novice class before

excluding an individual from entering as an intermediate. Under consideration presently is whether five would be a more appropriate number of wins allowed.

This intermediate class has developed some exceptional competition. Since this is a transitional, or preparatory level, all blooms must now be labeled as to variety. Four awards — the “Best Intermediate Bloom,” two “Awards of Merit,” and a “Court of Honor” — are given. Again, the awards are significant pieces of crystal.

Note that I repeated “significant pieces of crystal.” In no way should we consider winners in the novice or intermediate classes of less import than winners of the regular classes. Second class awards would imply second class exhibitors. I consider money spent on these awards as the most wisely spent money of all the show awards.

Publicity for the show always stresses the novice and intermediate classes. Newspaper pictures have often included previous novice winners, in particular. This gives a natural lead into a discussion of the intermediate class. In addition, previous entrants in the two classes are mailed a show schedule with an appropriate note penned as to their current class designation. This takes a little effort, but the

results are worth it.

Some special accommodations at the show for the new exhibitor are helpful. We now have one person at a table near the novice and intermediate display areas solely to assist the newer exhibitors. He solicits additional help, as needed, to provide and help fill out entry cards, identify, and stage blooms.

Whenever telephone contact is made with a prospective exhibitor prior to a show (a telephone number for further information concludes all newspaper articles on the show), I tell them to ask for me. They are told to approach any exhibitor and say, “I am a new exhibitor. I need assistance. Where is _____?” If I am otherwise occupied, I can always refer them to the person in charge of new exhibitors. From the positive feed-back, we can conclude that our efforts are worthwhile. From the expression of appreciation I have received from new exhibitors for assistance given at other shows, I believe there is a definite need for the new exhibitors’ assistant at each show.

In a further attempt to increase local show participation, the Pomona Valley Society experimented with a mini-show in 1986. That will be the subject of a subsequent article.

**PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR
1986 CROP CAMELLIA SEEDS**

Japonica Seeds — \$6.00 per 100 (minimum order)

Sasanqua Seeds — \$4.00 per 100 (minimum order)

Reticulata Seeds — 25¢ each

Southern California Camellia Society

P.O. Box 50525

Pasadena, CA 91105

The Seed Pickers

The phone calls went out early this year. In fact it was August 22 that the phones began to ring. Quote: "We are planning to pick camellia seeds on Tuesday, September 2. Can you help out?" Most of the answers were in the affirmative. Each Fall the Southern California Camellia Society harvests the camellia seeds at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. They have about 2,000 camellia shrubs to pick from. Usually the pickers assemble about the first week in October. However, this year the seed pods began cracking in the middle of August and the seeds had to be picked before the squirrels got them all.

The Fall of 1986 has proved to be one of the earliest camellia seasons here in California in the memory of old-time hobbyists. The sasanquas are in bloom and some of the 'Daikagura'

Family have been blooming. Most other buds are swelling and beginning to show color in the early blooming varieties.

The seed harvest this year has not been up to the usual standards of other years. There are literally a "ton" of sasanqua seeds but the japonica crop is slim. Retic seeds, for the most part, have not, as yet, ripened. They will be picked later on in October or November. Meanwhile, Harry Cave from New Zealand has mailed us a good supply of New Zealand retic seeds. All of the seeds are sold to hobbyists and nurseries around the world and the money is used to augment the CAMELLIA REVIEW ENDOWMENT FUND.

The accompanying picture shows the seed picking crew at the conclusion of the harvest.



Dean Alltizer, Moore, Perigan, Wayne Alltizer, Bracci, Donnan and Schmidt

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA REVIEW FUND

Send contributions for Camellia Review Fund to:
Warren Dickson
1935 Apex Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Search for Breschini's Pride — Success

In May of 1985, we received a letter from Helen Simon, National Editor, Australian Camellia Research Society and governor on the

Eryldene Trust. She had had no reply to an appeal in Camellia News (see below.)

Who Has 'Breschini's Pride?'

by H. Simon,
NSW Foundation Branch

WHILE in the garden of Eryldene recently, I was surprised to discover that quite a thick old trunk of a camellia was completely camouflaged by a half metre of healthy sasanqua foliage. Closer inspection revealed the label still attached to a dead branch bearing the name 'Breschini's Pride,' a camellia japonica.

Alas, this disaster was the result of neglect to cut off all growth from the understock of a graft, if and when it occurs. Refer to article "After The Graft" in *Camellia News*, December 1983.

As it is the policy at Eryldene to preserve all original cultivars in the gar-

den, this is a sad loss. It could be overcome if a member has this cultivar growing and would be willing to propagate a new plant from it. The Eryldene Trust would be most grateful for supplying a plant or scions to graft again on the original understock.

Perhaps it will be necessary to appeal to members in the USA for a replacement. 'Breschini's Pride' was registered in the USA in 1962 by Breschini himself.

Please direct all offers of help to:

The Eryldene Trust,
P.O. Box 293,
Gordon, NSW 2072 Australia
Camellia News, March, 1984

Inquiries with Nuccio's, several prominent hobbyists and Huntington Gardens were without success. No one had the plant or knew how to reach Breschini's relatives.

In March of 1986, we received the following letter from June (Breschini) and David Stewart. Our thanks to this thoughtful couple.

Glenn Smith, Editor
Camellia Review
695 Winston Avenue
San Marino, CA 91108

Dear Mr. Smith:

It has been brought to our attention that the Eryldene Trust, Gordon, Australia, is looking for a plant of scions of Caesar Breschini's "Breschini's Pride."

We have one of my father's plants and would be happy to provide scions to the Eryldene garden, if that request

has not already been filled. Of course we will need to know the procedures involved.

My father would have been proud to have his "Pride" make such a journey. Camellias were his joy and sharing was his nature.

Sincerely,

June (Breschini) and
David Stewart
1122 Palomares Court
Lafayette, CA 94549
(415) 935-5367

The Huntington Camellia Show

by Bill Donnan

The Huntington Camellia Show, staged jointly by the Southern California Camellia Society and The Huntington Botanical Gardens, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 17 and 18, 1987. This year the show has been scheduled a week later than the time-honored second week-end in January. Over the years the Huntington Show has witnessed an evolution in both location and objectivity. We hope that the forthcoming event will prove to be one of the best yet staged.

Fifteen years ago, when the first show was staged, it was held in the loggia of the Art Gallery. Subsequently, in 1982, the show location was moved to the Garden Terrace of the then newly completed \$5,000,000 Friends Hall. This location was also out-of-doors and it had its drawbacks as far as exhibitors

were concerned. However, last year the 14th Annual Show was moved indoors to the Friends Hall and this inviting location will be utilized for the forthcoming 15th Annual Show.

The objectivity of the Huntington Camellia Show has also undergone an evolution for the better. Originally the Show was staged merely as an exhibition of blooms. It was an "open" show with both chemically treated and non-treated blooms exhibited and judged on the same benches. The emphasis was directed toward a demonstration of camellia flowers and camellia culture and the competition among exhibitors was minimized. Gradually the show has evolved into the semblance of a regular camellia show. The treated and non-treated blooms have been segregated into separate divisions and are

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
will host the

15th ANNUAL HUNTINGTON GARDENS CAMELLIA SHOW

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 and 18, 1987
at the

**HUNTINGTON GARDENS,
SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA**

Sunday admittance for Los Angeles County residents is by ticket only. Obtain your free tickets through your local society or contact the Southern California Camellia Society.
(Exhibitors do not require entry tickets.)

benched and judged at separate tables. Prizes are awarded for all of the regular divisions and a special trophy is awarded for the best formal double bloom.

Even though the show has an assigned date early in the camellia bloom season, the number and quality of the blooms has improved with each succeeding year. For the 14th Annual Show there were 582 blooms benched. This year we hope to increase that total. The Show is being set up on Friday, January 16, so exhibitors can start to bench their blooms beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday. Judging will start at 10:30 a.m. and all exhibitors are asked to judge the show. As an added attraction for both the exhibitors and the general public, the newly completed Virginia Steele Robinson Art

Gallery will be open each afternoon of the show. Also, the original Art Gallery, which was closed due to a fire, has been completely refurbished and is now, once more, open to the public. Thus you can feast your eyes on 'Blue Boy,' 'Pinky,' 'Lady Petrie' and other master works. Incidentally, Lady Petrie was the wife of Lord Petrie, who is credited with importing and propagating one of the first camellias to England in 1730 ('Alba Plena').

So come on out, all you camellia hobbyists. Bring your blooms and enjoy some spirited competition and some good fellowship. As a final inducement, the Show Committee has scheduled a no-host dinner to be held on the evening of January 17, at a location to be announced.

McCaskill Memories

Charter Society member Vern McCaskill has maintained his nursery, McCaskill Camellia Gardens, on Michillinda Avenue in Pasadena, since 1932. Still active running the nursery, Vern is a rich source of early Society history.

Years ago, as he and wife Billie sat chatting on their back patio with Robert Long, another camellia nursery owner, the mail came. Vern thumbed through a booklet from the Azalea and Camellia Society of America, headquartered in Macon, Georgia, and asked, "Why can't we have a camellia society here?"

"Why, we can," Long said.

They began calling everyone they thought would be interested in joining and had an organizing dinner meeting at the Constance Hotel, then on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena.

Those in attendance at the organizing meeting were mainly camellia nursery owners, of whom there were an abundance. At that time, Temple City alone had at least a dozen camellia nurseries. They formed the Southern California Camellia Society and, surprisingly, elected Lovell Swisher, a

rose man, as president.

January 8, 1940 the first meeting took place at the Central Library on Walnut Street in Pasadena. Dues were set at \$1.00 per year.

Vern also remembers getting together with Ann Galli, an interested Society member, to put together a little nomenclature booklet listing various camellias by color. He sold them to his customers.

In 1947 Bill Woodruff came along to compile the first nomenclature book as we know it today. (Vern has assisted on the nomenclature research committee ever since.)

Vern recalls the first *Camellia Nomenclature's* striking black cover featuring Mathotiana (Julia Drayton).

Interestingly, Armstrong Nursery in Ontario propagated Mathotiana, and of course, when the flower appeared on *Nomenclature*, people trooped to Ontario to buy one.

In Ontario, the flower had a tight center; when brought to Pasadena the center opened fully and showed its stamens.irate customers had their first lesson in how climate can affect blooming habits.

Southern Hospitality by Grady Perigan

In August of 1985, Helen and I completed a tour of New Zealand with Hulyn Smith of Valdosta, Georgia as our tour director. Upon completion of the tour, he invited us to attend the annual camellia "Kick Off" meeting of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society in October of 1985. We had already made other plans and were obliged to turn down the invitation, but with the anticipation of attending in 1986.

Julius Nuccio mentioned that he and Bonnie had attended the 1985 meeting and enjoyed it immensely.

Having met many couples from the Atlantic Coast on our New Zealand tour, we made plans to attend the Oct. 1986 meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and in so doing renew acquaintances. Some additional couples from California had the same idea, including: Sergio and Elsie Bracci, San Marino; Jim and June Grant, Santa Rosa; Caryll and Pauline Pitkin, San Marino; Vic and Bernice Thompson, Whittier; Al and Frances Gamper, La Crescenta; and John Movich, Pomona.

Julius recommended flying on Piedmont Airlines, which was unfamiliar to us, but we took his advice and booked to Charlotte, S.C. and then on to Myrtle Beach. We were pleasantly surprised and found that Piedmont is a first class airline and is expanding in size and territory covered.

We arrived on Thursday evening and were met at the airport by Col. Elliot Brogden, President of the Atlantic Coast Society. He took us directly to Son and Ann Hackney's residence in Myrtle Beach for cocktails and an introduction to "Peach Fuzzes." After cocktails, we were treated to a very nice seafood dinner by the local group at a nearby excellent cafe.

Friday included registration, tall tales about how to win at camellia shows, how to fertilize, and how to get

the new introductions. All this was discussed at informal gatherings around the motel, located at the beach.

We were taken to visit Brookgreen Gardens, located about 25 miles from Myrtle Beach. It is a very extensive garden with beautifully landscaped ground and beautiful bronze statuary in and around the gardens.

In the evening a buffet party was held around the swimming pool at the motel. The theme was "Christmas in October." Food was furnished and served by the ladies and it was very delicious. The temperature was in the low 90's and very humid, which is unusual for this area in October. Santa Claus was very warm in his red suit. A number of people ended up in the pool to cool off.

Saturday morning included a "Bloody Mary" party, sponsored by Col. and Mrs. Brogden, followed by a business meeting and a short program. In the evening a Seafood Spectacular and drinks were served at the Elks Club, which was followed by another program.

The evening was terminated with a very lively auction and raffle.

We were pleased to meet six couples from the Atlantic Coast whom we had met on our New Zealand tour, namely; the Coles, the Atkins, the Chappells, the McClintocks, the Smiths, the Walshes and the Heins.

We also renewed other old acquaintances who had visited California in the past; the Hackneys, the Racoffs and Ethel Rhyne.

After the convention was over, Helen and I extended our trip to include Charleston, Hilton Head, and Savannah, Georgia. We enjoyed all of the "Southern Hospitality" and wish to thank everyone that provided it for our California group and made the trip so pleasurable.

The 1986 Trophy Winners for Single Blooms

by Don Bergamini

The following list was compiled from shows in California using the *Nomenclature* to place the blooms in size categories. Trouble comes for placement with 'Pink Dahlia,' 'Kramer's Fluted Coral,' and 'Freedom Bell,' which are listed as miniature or small but are usually larger and placed in the Non-Retic class, therefore I have placed them in the Non-Retic category.

These winners have either been best or runner-up in the open, closed or special class in the show.

The top winner in the large/very large Japonica class was 'Tomorrow Park Hill' with five wins. In the medium Japonica class the judges gave the nod to 'Cherries Jubilee,' 'In the Pink,' 'Nuccio's Jewel' and 'Wildfire,' each getting four wins. The small category placed 'Grace Albritton' with six wins as the top winner, while 'Man Size' with four wins copped the miniature class. 'Harold Paige' and 'Terrell Weaver' took the honors in the Retic/Retic Hybrid category with five wins each. No surprise in the Non-Retic class with 'Elsie Jury' taking seven wins for top honors.

Newer varieties to look out for as future winners are 'Chie Tarumoto,' 'Cherries Jubilee,' 'Woodford Harrison,' 'Kramer's Fluted Coral,' 'Julie' Var., 'Dawn's Early Light,' 'Hilda Jamieson' and 'Ann Clayton.'

Japonicas (Large/Very Large)

'Tomorrow Park Hill'	5
'Easter Morn'	4
'Elegans Chapagne'	4
'Miss Charleston' Var.	4
'Swan Lake'	4
'Adolphe Audusson Special'	3
'Elegans Supreme'	3
'Carter's Sunburst'	2
'Charlie Bettes'	2
'Chow's Han Ling'	2
'Grand Prix'	2
'Katie' Var.	2
'Marie Mackall'	2

'Moonlight Bay'	2
'Silver Cloud'	2
14 others 1 each	

Japonicas (Medium)

'Cherries Jubilee'	4
'In The Pink'	4
'Nuccio's Jewel'	4
'Wildfire'	4
'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	3
'Nuccio's Gem'	3
'Betty Sheffield Supreme'	2
'Chie Tarumoto'	2
'Feathery Touch'	2
'Jean Clere'	2
'Magnoliaeflora'	2
'Midnight'	2
11 others 1 each	

Smalls (All Species)

'Grace Albritton'	6
'Alison Leigh Woodroof'	4
'Splash O'White'	4
'Baby Pearl'	3
'Demi-Tasse'	2
'Kitty'	2
'Wilamina'	2
12 others 1 each	

Miniatures (All Species)

'Man Size'	4
'Botan-Yuki'	3
'Spring Festival'	3
'Ellen Daniel'	2
'Fircone' Var.	2
'Kewpie Doll'	2
'Little Slam'	2
'Tammia'	2
12 others 1 each	

Retic/Retic Hybrids

'Harold Paige'	5
'Terrell Weaver'	5
'Curtain Call'	4
'Emma Gaeta' Var.	4
'Lasca Beauty'	4
'Miss Tulare'	4
'Pharaoh'	4

'Emma Gaeta'	3	make a fantastic collection of twenty
'Nuccio's Ruby'	3	varieties.
'Dr. Clifford Parks'	2	'Tomorrow Park Hill'
'Valley Knudsen'	2	'Elegans Champagne'
14 others 1 each		'Nuccio's Jewel'
<i>Non-Retic Hybrids</i>		'Eleanor Martin Supreme'
'Elsie Jury'	7	'Margaret Davis'
'Pink Dahlia'	5	'Grace Albritton'
'Angel Wings'	3	'Ave Maria'
'Coral Delight'	3	'Alison Leigh Woodroof'
'Julia Hamiter'	3	'Man Size'
'Kramer's Fluted Coral'	3	'Little Slam'
'South Seas'	3	'Botan-Yuki'
'Waltz Time'	2	'Dr. Clifford Parks'
13 others 1 each		'Harold Paige'
<i>Species</i>		'Lasca Beauty'
'Star Above Star'	3	'Nuccio's Ruby'
'Egao'	2	'Miss Tulare'
'Shibori egao'	2	'Elsie Jury'
'Koto Hajime'	1	'Angel Wings'
		'Pink Dahlia'

This list was compiled from results of shows from the last seven years.

As an added treat this year, I am going to include a list of varieties in each category which are most likely to win their classes at the shows. This would

If you have this collection and care for your plants, it would be very difficult not to win a few shows.

Silver Anniversary

by Peter Grosso, Show Chairman

The Camellia Society of Modesto celebrated its 25th Camellia Show March 15 and 16, 1986 with the splendor of all silver trophies. The Palm Court at the Gallo Adm. Building was a fitting setting for Modesto's Silver Jubilee. Even the weather sent thunderbolts and a hail shower to greet the early arrival of the exhibitors. Umbrellas, raincoats, and boots failed to dampen the enthusiasms of greeting of old and new friends. Jerry and Betty Grover had hot coffee and donuts in the Hospitality Room for all.

This year, the Flower Arrangement Section, hosted by Jane and Bob Dorn, was staged on the second floor gallery where the beauty of the flowers could be seen by all.

The lower floor was a mass of blooms. Highlighted at center court by the round tiered Trophy Table, it was centered by a towering modern floral

arrangement. A second long table held even more silver trophies. Our thanks to Judy and Harlan Smith and their committee for creating a beautiful display.

The number of blooms entered was down slightly from other years because of the early warm spring and stormy weather. The winning blooms were a delight to judge. A total of forty-nine trophies were awarded. Forty for camellia blooms and nine for floral arrangements. Our congratulations to all who contributed their flowers, time, and help in judging and clerking.

Seventy judges were invited from as far away as San Diego and Santa Rosa. Julius Nuccio remarked that he enjoyed his first time at judging in Modesto. This year, our Chairman of Judges was Virginia Rankin. She split the final judging teams into two groups for final balloting. This shortened the

voting time and allowed all the judges to finish judging early.

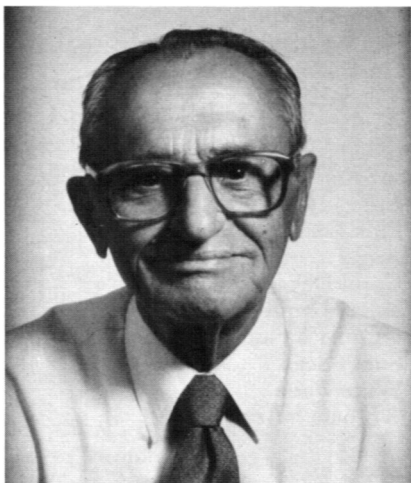
Jean and Paul Dean, Barbara and Tom Mahurin and their committee were in charge of tabulation. Mary Jo Pinheiro, Runners.

The staging and procurement duties were ably done by Tony Miranda, Paul Baker, Walt Ragland and Tony Pinheiro.

Peter and Hazel Grosso won the trophy for the best Silver Anniversary Japonica bloom. Sweepstakes Award was won by Robert F. Ehrhart, Walnut Creek. Best Flower of the Show, 'Lasca Beauty,' by Mr. and Mrs. James Randall of Sacramento. The Best Yellow Bloom, a seedling #M32(1), and Best Fragrant Bloom went to Ken Hallstone, Lafayette. Best Higo, 'Tenjo,' Art Gonos Family, Fresno. Harlan Smith, Judy Smith, and Helen Doggett won in the Arrangement Division. Best Seedling Awards went to Dave Feathers and Jim Toland, Lafayette.

Special credit and thanks go to LaVerne Baker and Natalie Miranda, who were chairmen and hosts for the Saturday afternoon Buffet Luncheon. Don Griffing was bartender extraordinaire. The affair was held in three rooms at The Best Western Motor Hotel. One hundred and fifty guests attended. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent visiting with special guests. Early members of the Camellia Society were honored. They were: Our first president, Dwight Wait, Esther Muxlow, Elva Henderson, Esther Gnesa, and Alice Gladen, wife of the late Dr. Gladen to whom our 25th Show was dedicated. Active members from 1961 to 1986 were: Barbara Butler, Jake and Eleanor Holtzman, and Dorothy and Gordon Hooper. Marie Vernor, Ethel Proudly, and Cleo Buchanan were unable to attend because of poor health.

Marie Vernor organized The Modesto Camellia Society in January of 1961, under the auspices of the Modesto Garden Club. The purpose of the Camellia Society was to hold flower shows featuring a horticultural section



Peter Grosso

of camellia blooms and a camellia flower arrangement section. Both sections would be governed under the rules set forth by the California State Garden Clubs for floral-horticultural shows. Thus, The Modesto Camellia Society joined the Modesto Garden Club for sponsorship. With the help of a core of leading home gardeners, nurserymen and horticulturalists, this group attended its first meeting at the Modesto Junior College Agricultural Building. Plans were made to organize and prepare the Society's first Charter.

Dwight Wait became the first president, succeeding acting president Marie Vernor. Our first three shows were held in the old library at the Modesto Junior College. The next two shows were staged at the new Student Center.

The Society changed its name to The Camellia Society of Modesto and adopted a new set of by-laws when we moved the 6th show location to the Gallo Adm. Building and became an American Camellia Society sponsored show. The Arrangement Section with help of the Modesto Garden Club and the Arranger Guild then functioned under the rules and regulations of the Arrangement Section of the American Camellia Society.

Dwight Wait commented, "We hoped our camellia society would be something to strike the fancy of the community . . . take hold and go forth and develop over the years. It was a bit of a gamble, but our Society keeps promoting and working on the show to make our Camellia Cavalcade a vibrant part of our city's social calendar." Dwight Wait is a retired Modesto Junior College ornamental horticultural teacher. He has written several textbooks on plant identification. These texts are widely used throughout our California Schools.

For twenty-five years Barbara Butler and Dr. Fred Rankin have set up the Educational and Cultural Exhibits. This year, the Educational Exhibit featured the outstanding progress of camellia flower development over the last quarter of a century. Dr. Rankin had a display of grafting techniques and cul-

tural practices. These tables were manned by their creators who answered any questions asked by the guests.

Two tables of waxed camellia blooms were also displayed by Virginia Rankin. These waxed blooms attracted much attention from the visitors.

A table featuring material of the American Camellia Society was staffed for the two day show by Helen and Armando Caputi, Ellen Van de Pol, Hazel Grosso and Mayling Butler.

The evening gala was a dinner dance at the Elks Lodge. Everyone enjoyed Gallo Wine and a peppy dance band. The dinner was a fitting ending to a day filled with renewing friendships made during 25 years of attending shows and exhibiting camellias in California.

Closing time brought sadness, as

The Camellia Nomenclature Book

by Bill Donnan

The 19th Revised Edition of *Camellia Nomenclature* which is published by the Southern California Camellia Society will be off the press on October 1, 1986. This book, which is updated every three years, has been the "bible" of the camellia world since it was first published in 1947. It is presented as a gift to all paid-up members of the Southern California Camellia Society and is sold to other camellia societies and to individuals throughout the world. The printing of the 19th Revised Edition is being authorized at 2,500 copies and it will be released on a first come, first served basis.

The new edition contains nearly 5,000 entries of camellia cultivars, some 230 of which are new registrations since the 18th Edition was printed. Among these are: some 110 *C. japonicas*; 70 new *C. reticulata* hybrids; 40 new non-*reticulata* hybrids; and the balance are listings of new *C. sasanqua*, *C. hemalis*, and other species. The book also contains a list of camellia species grown in the United

States together with a listing of major camellia award winners in the U.S.A. There is also appended a brief cultural outline for camellias.

Each of the 5,000 varietal entries in the new book contains the name of the cultivar, its color, size, form, growth habit, period of bloom, and, wherever possible, the name of the originator and the year of registration. These data and the entire updating of each succeeding edition is made possible by the close cooperation among: the American Camellia Society; the Australian Camellia Research Society; and the New Zealand Camellia Society. These three entities working in cooperation with the Southern California Camellia Society screen registrations and provide the material to update each new edition.

During the last eight or 10 years these camellia societies have each established strict registration procedures which have done much to facilitate the screening and the authenticating of both new and old varieties. Prior to

1980 many camellia cultivars became named and were entered into the *Camellia Nomenclature* book by simply sending the information to the Southern California Camellia Society. Since then this practice has been discouraged and new cultivars are first screened by the registration committees which have been set up by the three cooperating camellia societies. The registrations are then submitted to the Nomenclature Research Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society for inclusion in the next revised edition. This procedure tends to limit the random naming of chance seedlings which may or may not have any merit.

The indiscriminate naming and registering of chance seedlings had become so widespread in the past that the publishers of *Camellia Nomenclature* became concerned about the size of the

book and its increasing costs of printing. Thus there were about 1,500 varieties of old *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua*, mostly out of general distribution and of little practical value, which were dropped from the 1984, 18th Revised Edition. These cultivar names will not be included in the new book. The Southern California Camellia Society has retained about 500 copies of the 1981, 17th Revised Edition for sale to anyone interested in the Historical nomenclature. However, for the avid camellia hobbyist who wants to grow and show the newer and more spectacular camellia cultivars, the new 19th Revised Edition of *Camellia Nomenclature* will be the up-to-date book for his camellia library. These books will become available from your local society shortly after October 1, 1986.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

ENDOWMENT FUND

Send contributions for Camellia
Nomenclature Endowment Fund to:

John Utvich
2975 Somerset Place
San Marino, CA 91108

The Early Bloomers

By Bill Donnan

There is nothing quite as satisfying as an early blooming camellia. I am talking about *C. japonicas* — not *C. sasanquas* and the other relatives. For sure, 'Setsugekka', 'Yuletide', and 'Shibori Egao', to name a few, are great camellias. One expects *C. sasanquas* and *C. vernalis* species to bloom early and we take them for granted when they do bloom. But I am talking about October and November blooming *C. japonicas*. After giving our plants all of that "tender loving care" throughout the long hot summer months, the first blooms of the camellia season win our complete admiration.

Is there anything more heart warming or satisfying to our tired old eyeballs than the first bloom of

'Daikagura'? Along about October 20th of each year 'Daikagura' is the "KING" of my lath house! Later on in the year when "Daik" and its sports 'High Hat' and 'Conrad Hilton' have to compete with some of the other December and January blooming cultivars, they tend to get bypassed. The first blooms of 'High Hat' and 'Conrad Hilton' look like show winners. Later on in the season the fresh blooms of the cultivars look faded and "dirty".

I don't know what could look better to a formal double freak like me than the first bloom of 'Alba Plena'. It comes early too and its sport, 'Fimbriata' is also an early bird. I grafted a scion of 'Alba Plena Improved' from the 20 foot high plant at the Hun-

tington Gardens. I don't know how anyone could improve on 'Alba Plena' but that is what the name plaque says in the gardens. There are other early bloomers such as 'Debutante', 'Lulu Belle' and 'San Dimas' to name several. Most of these cultivars continue to bloom through January and into February. On the other hand there are some cultivars which will put out several early blooms and then "go dormant" for several months and finish up their bloom cycles in later February. One of these is 'Pink Perfection'.

Most of our early bloomers are old varieties but there are a few hybrids that make the list. One of my favorites is 'Garden Glory', a beautiful deep pink formal double (natch). One of the few early retic hybrids is 'Betty Ridley' but we should not be too surprised since it is one fourth sasanqua. This hybrid happens to be a cross of 'Marie Bracey' x 'Felice Harris' and 'Felice Harris' is half retic and half sasanqua.

Some ten years ago Nuccio's Nurseries embarked on a program of looking for early blooming cultivars in its seedling house. They had discovered that early bloomers "walked" right out of the nursery when people saw them in the Fall. In other words an early bloomer is not hard to sell. As a result of this program they have come up with three or four good ones and more early blooming cultivars are now being tested for future release. In 1983 they introduced 'Rudolph' an early blooming, bright red, anemone, named after Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer. This camellia looks a little like 'Prof. Charles Sargent' but since it blooms early it sells like crazy! Jim Nuccio managed to virus 'Rudolph' and if this virus holds on additional grafts, the nursery won't be able to propagate enough of their variegated form. In 1984 Nuccio's introduced 'Happy Holidays', a nice pink formal double and 'Donnan's Dream,' a sweet-pea pink white formal. Both of these cultivars are just average or better camellias but the big "plus" is that

they both bloom early and keep on blooming right through the winter.

Nuccio's Nursery has been looking for years for a new medium to large, red formal double which would bloom early. They thought they had the "answer to the maiden's prayer" when their seedling house produced #8101 which first bloomed on October 2, 1980. This was a medium to large, bright red formal double. It was "just the ticket" to complement the famous 'Nuccio's Gem', a white formal double. They "jumped" on this one with grafts and cuttings from the original plant. Alas! All of their subsequent attempts to propagate a true, early blooming #8101 resulted in some of the worst looking "dogs" one could ever imagine! They have accused me of ruining the plant because I took pictures of the original cultivar.

On the brighter side is the story about chance seedling #7724. This seedling first bloomed in the Fall of 1976. It is a medium-sized pink semi-double with a white streaked border on the petals. It looks like 'Herme's' younger brother but the petals have a better picotee edge. Well, this seedling wasn't regarded as being much but it was kept in the Number 2 lath house for several years and was even propagated with maybe 10 grafts and a few cuttings. Since the bloom wasn't anything to "write home about" it just stayed in the back of the nursery. Besides, who would want to buy another 'Herme' look-alike? Then, two years ago it dawned on everyone that this camellia began blooming in mid-October! A few of the 20 gallon plants were brought up to the front of the nursery where people could see the early blooms and they became a "hot ticket item". All at once seedling #7724 looks like it might get a name and some space in the grafting and cutting sheds, all because it blooms early!

I'll end this article on early bloomers with a story you won't believe! Here is what happened to Rudy Moore, Curator of Camellias at the Huntington

Gardens in San Marino, California. Rudy has several of the Number 2 C. chrysantha seedlings. (Number 2 seedling came from the Berkeley Botanical Gardens) In August 1985 Rudy grafted 2 scions and he set the plants in the greenhouse at the Huntington Gardens. One of the grafts callused over but instead of sending up a

growth shoot it sent up a bud! The chrysantha bud began to swell and on November 18, 1985 it was in full bloom. I know that there are a lot of hobbyists out there who are praying that their C. chrysantha plant will set buds and bloom. Rudy Moore has demonstrated how to get the C. chrysantha to bloom early!

Touch of Chinese Splendour Comes to Town

by Chong Wing Hong

Reprint from *The Straits Times*, Tuesday, November 19, 1985

Courtesy of Houghton S. Hall, San Anselmo, CA

Camellias from heavenly Hangzhou are in full bloom, well ahead of springtime, at a debut exhibition now on at a local hotel. Chong Wing Hong finds out more about the flowers and penjing (miniature landscapes) which are also on show.

For the first time, the camellia — a Chinese symbol of splendour and prosperity — is being exhibited on a large scale in Singapore.

About 100 pots of the flower — of more than 60 varieties — are now on display, together with some rare species of chrysanthemum, bamboo and bonsai (miniature plants) at the China Precious Flowers Exhibition at Dai-ichi Hotel in Anson Road.

What makes the show special is that the plants were air-flown from their place of origin, Hangzhou, a poetic city in central China.

The camellia adds colours to the city, which has earned the reputation of being a "paradise on earth" in China.

An official from the Seiwaen (Singapore Japanese Garden) Arts Centre, the show's organisers, said that flying the flowers in was made possible because the rooted plants were imported together with soil, under a special permit.

Experts have also been flown in to take care of the plants.

Perhaps the best person to comment on the camellia is Mr. Ji Jinlong, 47, director of a plant nursery at the Bureau of Gardens and Historical Relics of Hangzhou, who has 30 years' experience tending the flower.

"The flower is precious because it is

loved by the masses and the poets," said Mr. Ji, who became a horticulturist when he was still studying at Hangzhou University.

Here are some of the qualities of the flower which Mr. Ji has listed:

- The camellia is noted for its relatively large size, many shapes and orderly petals.

- It comes in red and white, and is also variegated.

- Most of the species are short and suitable for gardening.

"Singapore is, I'm told, a garden city and I hope the luxuriant camellias will further enhance its beauty," said Mr. Ji.

The camellia grows in an optimal temperature ranging between 18 deg and 25 deg C, and prefers wet and acidic soil.

"As long as it is not planted near the sea, where the soil is alkaline, it can flourish quite well."

Under normal conditions, the flower blooms in spring, between February and March. Those that are being shown here have been treated chemically so that they blossom at this time of the year.

"Through research and using the bud-grafting method, our bureau has produced about 400 new varieties of camellia over the years," Mr. Ji said.

The flower commands a high price in China. A certain species sells at 80 *yuan* (about S\$54) in Guangzhou, but it fetches 800 *yuan* once it crosses the border to Hongkong.

"Despite its high price, the flower is often sold out as it is a popular gift among businessmen."

The camellia was first recorded in the history of the Song Dynasty more than 1,000 years ago.

Poetry in the Song and Ming (AD 1368-1644) Dynasties compared the flower to a beauty with rosy cheeks.

One of the varieties was likened to the drunken royal concubine, Yang Guifei, of the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-917), who mesmerised the emperor with her beauty.

"It is dawn when I wake up from a sound sleep in spring,

"Back from my dreams, it is the camellia which greets me!" so wrote Song Dynasty poet Wang Meixi.

There are many poetic names given to the flower, such as *yumeiren* (jade lady) for the white variety, *da-jixiang* (great prosperity) for the red and *shiba xueshi* (18 scholars) for the variegated flowers.

The camellia was introduced to Japan about 1,000 years ago and to Europe during the 17th century. It has become a vogue in Europe since.

Camellia clubs in Japan, Britain and the United States attracted many members.

There has been a revival of interest in the flower in China after the Cultural Revolution.

Besides attending to the flowers, the bureau also looks after tourist attraction sites totalling 49 sq km, said the bureau's manager, Madam Feng Xiangzhen, 47.

"We are taking care of the famous Westlake and the Yue Fei Temple (of a heroic general who defeated invaders in the Song Dynasty)," she said.

"We have 5,000 workers in our department and another 2,000 local contractors help to grow the flowers."

Co-sponsored by the newspaper group, Lianhe Bao, the China Precious Flowers Exhibition will be on from 11 am to 10 pm daily until Sunday.

Admission tickets cost \$2 each for adults, \$1 each for children and \$1 a camera.

The Camellia Nomenclature Book

The 19th Revised Edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE which is published by the Southern California Camellia Society will be off the press on October 1, 1986. This book, which is updated every three years, has been the "bible" of the camellia world since it was first published in 1947. It is presented as a gift to all paid-up members of the Southern California Camellia Society and is sold to other camellia societies and to individuals throughout the world. The printing of the 19th Revised Edition is being authorized at 2,500 copies and it will be released on a first come, first served basis.

William E. Wylam contributes an award which may be given each year to an outstanding miniature camellia. The editor regrets that Mr. Wylam's name was misspelled in the Review.

Correction for the Directory of Other California Camellia Societies for this and the next two Camellia Review issues.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY — President, Marvin Belcher, Secretary, Fred Dukes, 733 Del Mar Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93307. Meetings: November 18, 1986, January 20, February 17, 7:00 p.m., 3700 Christmas Tree Lane. April 5, Pot Luck Dinner, 4 p.m.

Corrections for Southern California Camellia Society Registration List:

Dr. and Mrs. L. E. Chow (Arleen) — Correct phone (805) 327-4011
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley W. Miller, 1590 E. Chase Ave. (from Chase Rd.)

Writers Wanted

Send articles, comments, clippings, suggestions — anything of interest to you and other camellia hobbyists. Black and white pictures appreciated.

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Apologies to Nuccio's Nurseries for incorrect mailing address and phone number in last issue. Members, please correct your September-October 1986 issue.

Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY—President, Marvin Belcher; Secretary, Nadine Wade, 172 N. Jaye Street, Porterville 93257. Meetings: To be announced.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF MODESTO—President, Ron Jackson; Secretary, Merry Harris, 416 Maple St., Modesto 95351. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., Centenary Methodist Church, Room 6, Norwegian & McHenry Avenues, Modesto.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY—President, Dr. Ivan Richardson; Secretary, Mrs. Frances L. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, Tustin Branch Library, 345 Main Street, Tustin.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO—President, Thomas Lee; Secretary, Mrs. Lana Paulhamus, 1909 Discovery Way, Sacramento 95819. Meetings: 7:30, Fourth Wednesday, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ed Streit; Secretary, Ruth Ann Lewis, 6440 Sequoia Dr., Fresno 93711. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February, Sheraton Smugglers Inn, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Jack Lewis; Secretary, Nancy Pitts, 2606 Desrys Blvd., Antioch 94509. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through March, Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Rd., Concord.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Don Bergamini; Secretary, David L. Hagmann, 464 Camino Sobrante, Orinda, 94563. Meetings: 1st Monday, November through April, Heather Farm Community Center, 301 N. San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Dean Alltizer; Secretary, Marcie Alltizer, 1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale, 91202. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., Descanso Gardens.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ken Henley; Secretary, Cameron Ainsworth, 3879 Vineyard Dr., Redwood City 94061. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October through March, Ampex Cafeteria, 411 Broadway, Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Melvin Belcher; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 1st Tuesday, November through April, Pomona First Federal S & L, 1933 Foothill Blvd.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Cindy Drake; Secretary, Edalee Harwell, 2165 Leon Ave., San Diego 92154. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, George Avery; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. John Augis, 2245 Fairvalley Court, San Jose 95125. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Sumitomo Bank Bldg., 515 North 1st St., San Jose.

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—Correspondent, Jim Grant, 3282 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa 95401.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Dr. Glenn Burroughs; Secretary, Pauline Johnson, 1251 10th St., San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, October through May, 7:30 p.m., South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274.

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Helen Perigan; Secretary, Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, Nov. 20, Ayres Hall; 4th Thursday, January through March, Lecture Hall; 4th Thursday, April 25, Ayres Hall.

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