

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



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Two dollars

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.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vol. 49

November-December, 1987

No. 2

Camellia Nomenclature — A Clarification Of Its Purpose And Scope, <i>Bill Woodroof, Bill Donnan & Julius Nuccio</i>	3-5
Show Judging, <i>Dr. Fred Lee</i>	5-6
Show Judging — A Response, <i>Marilee Gray</i>	6-7
Parade Launches Camellia Time	7
Camellia Show Schedule 1987-88	8
It's A False Portrait, <i>Antonio Sevesi</i>	9
With Regret, <i>Edalee Harwell</i>	10
The C. Reticulata Hybrid Problem, <i>Bill Donnan</i>	11-13
Creating New Camellias — Be Tempted To Try, <i>Ray Garnett</i>	14-17
Camellia Registration and Color Charts, <i>Harry Cave</i>	17-19
Are You Cooking Your Blooms On The Way To The Show, <i>Bob McNeill</i>	19
Camellia Hybridisation, Peripatetic Camellian	20-22
The 'Alba Plena' Story, <i>Bill Donnan</i>	22-23
Concepts Of Camellia Culture, <i>J. Carroll Reiners</i>	23-24



COVER PHOTO

SILVER LACE. White Japonica. Large to very large, semi-double with irregular, lacy petals. Vigorous, compact upright growth, E-M (U.S. 1985 — Nuccio). Photo by Grady Perigan. Color separation courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries, 3555 Chaney Trail, Altadena 91001.



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THOUGHTS

from the editor

Thoughts from the Editor

Serendipity is enjoying a garden filled with beautiful camellia blossoms from Fall through Spring. As the buds begin to open, I am reminded that there are growers out there who immerse themselves in grafting, hybridizing and experiments to improve culture. We hear from some of them and value the information they send. Agreement among specialists is not always the order of the day as you will see as you go through the pages of this issue. If you have a contribution to this forum, let's hear from you. We all benefit from the experiences of our members and contributors.

The Nomenclature Endowment Fund thanks you for your generous contributions. We would also appreciate your consideration of The Camellia Review Fund which is equally in need of your gifts.

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OF

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CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE A Clarification Of Its Purpose And Scope

by Bill Woodroof, Bill Donnan
& Julius Nuccio

CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE, hereinafter referred to as the Book, was conceived over forty-five years ago by amateur camellia growers and hobbyists in Southern California. The first edition was published in 1947, and since that time eighteen revised editions have been released. During the above period of time we have occasionally read articles in publications, received letters, or have been privy to oral remarks containing criticisms and adverse comments as to the format, scope and contents of the Book from a small minority of camellia growers. Such criticisms and adverse comments would appear to be caused by: (1) lack of knowledge of the purpose, scope, and policies of the Book; (2) ignorance of the rules followed as to the contents of the Book; or (3) refusal to recognize such matters for reasons on which we do not desire to elaborate.

We therefore believe that the time has come, once and for all, to set forth the purpose and scope of the Book and the policies and rules followed as to its contents. We will also set forth what we consider to be the principle items of criticism and adverse comments, with our position in relation there-to.

At the outset it might be in order to repeat some of what is found in the "Introduction" to each new edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE, and we quote:

"CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE is published primarily for the amateur camellia hobbyist in the English-speaking world and particularly in the United States of America. The initial and continued purpose of this work is to decrease confusion and settle controversies

surrounding the names of both old and new varieties of camellias, and to present a short, concise nomenclature list for the information and protection of the amateur grower, generally."

It does not state in the purpose of the Book that there is to be created a horticultural or a botanical textbook for hybridizers, botanists or other professionals and semi-professionals. We have been criticized because of our refusal to list all known ancestors of interspecific hybrids. To do so would not only expand the Book considerably but would also increase the cost of printing. When the 17th-revised edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE was published in 1981, it resulted in a 214 page Book. The Nomenclature Research Committee then decided that something had to be done to limit the size and promote the usefulness of the Book to the amateur hobbyist. As a result it was agreed that the 1981 Edition would be designated as the Historical Edition and that future editions would delete certain old *C. Japonica* and *C. sasanqua* varieties which were no longer in substantial commercial distribution. Thus the 1984 Revised Edition was reduced to 154 pages and the 1987 Edition, to only 164 pages, even though there had been some 500 new cultivars listed. We believe that a handbook of under 200 pages is the most convenient, concise and useful tool for the amateur hobbyist. Therefore we have resisted, and will continue to resist, attempts to expand and embellish the descriptive listings by including all of the known ancestors in the interspecific hybrid categories.

When it comes to names of varieties, we try to list the first validly published name for the cultivar and we attempt to screen out the re-use of names. We have adopted and follow the International Code of Nomenclature with certain modifications which we believe are necessary in a work published principally for use by the amateur hobbyist. Yet we continue to receive admonitions against the use of the name 'Pink Per-

fection' instead of the priority name 'Usu-Otome'; or the name 'Herme' instead of the Japanese priority name 'Hikaru-Genji'. With some 5000 listed cultivars in the 1987 Edition of the Book, there are about 12 of these "mistakes"! We know that the Japanese name does have priority but many of these cultivars were imported to the United States before 1900 and the Anglo name has been in such common use for the last 80 years that we do not believe that a change is necessary or warranted.

We have, from time to time, been importuned to include and list a name for a new cultivar in one species when the name has already been used for a variety in another species classification. We believe that to use the same name in a different species would only create confusion and we have refused to do so. In one or two instances we have been obliged to include in the Book the identical name for two different species of camellia. This was done because the names had been registered and published, or the varieties were in commercial release. Wherever this duplication occurs in the Book it is noted in order to protect the amateur hobbyist.

We try to spell the name of the cultivar correctly. The first rule in this regard is that we will list the spelling of the cultivar the way it is submitted to us or the way it is registered or the way it has been published. Many of the so-called incorrect spellings were validly published and have priority in some of the early catalogues and publications. Did you know that the cultivar 'Donckelarii' has 22 different valid published spellings, depending on whether one is reading an early French, Dutch, Italian, Portugese, German, Swiss, or Swedish cultivar list or nursery catalogue! It has been spelled with one i; two i's; one a; two a's; one i and one a, etc. etc. It has been spelled with and without the c. In fact, in one catalogue it is spelled 'Don Klari'!

The original orthography (or cor-

rect spelling) used in the book is the one set forth in 1956 when the Nomenclature Research Committee struggled long and painstakingly to make a correct listing from publications then available. This committee attempted to hammer out a practical listing for camellia hobbyists. In the process they used the abbreviation "Var." for the "Variegated" color of the bloom. Unknown to these worthy pioneers, and for that matter, to almost every other camellia hobbyist, the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants had reserved the abbreviation "Var." to be used only to abbreviate the Latin word "Varietas" or "Variety"! The continued use of the abbreviation "Var." to mean "Variegated" is based on the stated purpose of the Book. To create a concise, factual listing at a minimum cost. The use of the abbreviation "Var." has never misled the users of the Book.

In the description of each variety we attempt to list its color, size, form, plant growth, bloom period, source, and the parentage of the interspecific hybrids. This description is set forth according to the rules listed in each edition of the Book under the heading entitled "Classification and Description Of Varieties". We have been chided because we refuse to use the Royal Horticultural Society color charts in describing the color of the cultivar. Research has disclosed that color charts are not particularly related to camellias. Furthermore, it is difficult to specifically identify the color adjective or the color number used in the R.H.S. color charts. Ninety percent of all camellia hobbyists, who use the handbook CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE do not own, nor do they have access to the R.H.S. color charts. Thus the R.H.S. designated colors such as, Red-21; or Pink-18 have no meaning. Similarly, the adjectives Phlox Pink; Bengal Red; or Spiraea Red leave too much to the imagination of the hobbyist. We believe that it is much better to list the color in plain terms, as, for example, Light, Dark, or

Pale Pink.

The size of the cultivar bloom as listed in the Book is the size designated by the originator at the time the variety is registered. There is no question but there will be a size variation depending on growing areas and cultural conditions. Furthermore, the use of chemical treatment will cause extreme variation in the size of the bloom. The size set forth in the Book is based upon normal outdoor growth, without the use of special treatment. CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE often comes in for critical debate by hobbyists entering blooms at camellia shows. When the show schedule calls for benching blooms by size classification the Book may indicate that the variety to be benched is a medium size (3 to 4 inches). However, the hobbyist may have a 5 inch bloom which he wants to bench. He then blames the Book for giving out the wrong size classification. If the exhibitor has a large size bloom he should bench it in the large classification no matter what the "normal" size might be indicated in the Book. If this rule is adhered to, it will eliminate much of the debate about size.



TO THE EDITOR:

October 2, 1987

Mr. Glenn Smith, Editor
The Camellia Review
Southern California
Camellia Society, Inc.
695 Winston Avenue
San Marino, CA 91108

Re: GRAY, Marilee: Qualifications of
A Good Show Judge
The Camellia Review Vol. 49,
No.
September - October, 1987,
Page 19-22

Dear Mr. Smith:

It is distressing to read this article authored by Ms. Gray on qualifications of a good show judge. Evidently, she, as many show judges, has difficulty in remembering the point sys-

The form classification used in the Book is based, in part, on the classification first put forth by the Abbe Berlese which we believe to be the most concise and identifiable by the amateur grower. We have been urged to use the terms "informal double" or "incomplete double". Such descriptions of form could include several different forms and we believe that these descriptions are valueless to the amateur grower.

In closing, we sincerely hope and trust that the above discussion will clarify the purpose of the Book and the basis for its format and contents. We will always welcome substantive, constructive and well documented corrections and suggestions for improving the Book. They will be fully considered in the light of the purpose, scope and policies and rules followed as to the contents of the Book and the space and cost. We all agree that the Book isn't going to be perfect. However, the hobbyist ought to consider that he has, in hand, a nomenclature which he can carry around in his coat pocket and the likes of which cannot be found in many other plant societies.



tem as recorded in ACS Yearbook 1978 on Page 237.

To quote from Ms. Gray's article, beginning in the second paragraph, page 20 of the article:

"The application of the varietal information must be within the accepted guidelines for judging. These guidelines place EQUAL VALUE on each of the five categories — color, size, form, condition and substance, and texture."

Also, see paragraph #7 on Page 22.

This is in complete error within the guides of the ACS as recorded in the above ACS Yearbook. This past May another judge wrote to me that size and condition are equal. At that time, a telephone call was made to ACS Headquarters to check if the point sys-

tem as recorded in the ACS Yearbook 1978 had been changed. The answer was a resounding "No."

The point system of ACS is as follows (source: Page 237, Procedures and Judging of Cooperative Shows):

Form	20 Points
Color or Markings	20 Points
Size	15 Points
Texture and Substance	20 Points
Condition and Distinctiveness	20 Points
Foliage	5 Points

There are 6 categories rather than five. Secondly, there is a very easy way to remember the point system. There are two categories which add to a total

of 20 points. These are Size of "S" — 15 points and Foliage or "F" — 5 points. Using "S" and "F" as the keys, what California city name also begins with "S" and "F" — "San Francisco". So just remember this lovely city — San Francisco — for size and foliage.

I trust that Ms. Gray will not feel too harsh of me in calling the attention to this error. But she should not feel that she is the only authoress of an article printed recently on judging which contained an error. (See ACS Journal Vol. 42, no. 2, May 1987, Page 29).

Sincerely, Fred Lee, M.D.

FROM THE EDITOR: The article below by Marilee Gray is in response to the preceding letter by Dr. Fred Lee.

If the gentleman from Louisiana was distressed by my article "Qualifications of a Good Show Judge", he will undoubtedly be further distressed by my reply.

First of all, the article was written not for publication in the A.C.S. *Journal* but for *The Camellia Review*, a publication of the Southern California Camellia Society. The article begins "The Southern California Camellia Council sponsored a judges' symposium . . ." and further on reference is made to "Southern California shows." Point: the article was addressed to Southern California.

Secondly, the quote from the article was not entirely complete. The statement on "accepted guidelines for judging" was followed by an asterisk to indicate a footnote. Unfortunately, one of the printing errors in that article was the omission of that footnote. Had it

been included, it would have read as follows: "Harold E. Dryden, "Guidelines for Camellia Show Judges," *The Camellia Review*, Vol. 45, No. 3, January-February, 1984, p. 3-10." And that article, if it is referred to, will reveal that it is, with the exception of the forward, a reprint of an article published in January, 1966, in *The Camellia Review* and in March, 1966, in the A.C.S. *Camellia Journal*. Since 1966, these guidelines have been used throughout the Southern California shows. To repeat: "These guidelines place equal value on each of five categories — color, size, form, condition, and substance and texture." To my knowledge, the schedules of all shows in Southern California contain the statements that the shows will be judged according to the rules of the Southern California Camellia Council. These are, of course, the guidelines

presented at all our judges' symposiums.

Now, why do we not wish to consider foliage in judging? Unless the leaves are attached, considering them is irrelevant. And, if the leaves are attached, some blooms could never be staged properly or to their best advantage if the bloom is positioned by an obstinate leaf twist. Also, does it seem logical to penalize a bloom because an April hailstorm or a grasshopper pausing for lunch in August left the show leaves shabby? Remember, we do not

greenhouse our show plants. We in Southern California simply prefer our judging standards to those proposed by A.C.S.

As a further indication of our independent thinking and our resolve to protect the integrity and validity of our shows here in Southern California, we have chose to disallow the use of bloom collars at shows. The schedules of many Southern California shows expressly forbid the use of collars despite their sanction by A.C.S.

Parade Launches Camellia Time

Reprinted from the Sacramento Bee, Feb. 28, 1987

Sacramento's Camellia Festival, the city's annual tribute to its favorite flower, kicks off today on land, on water and — if you count flying gymnasts — in the air.

The flower show that is the highlight of the month-long festival will be held next weekend.

The Camellia Parade begins at 10 a.m. at the corner of 14th and N streets. Floral-decorated floats, bands and show animals will be featured.

At noon, a Coast Guard cutter will sail into Raley's Landing at 725 Second St. in West Sacramento. Due to last-minute problems, however, the public will not be able to board the ship as previously planned. An emergency forced another ship to use the dock in Old Sacramento where the open house had been arranged, and the cutter's

new moorage across the river is not insured for such events.

Beginning Wednesday, however, the public can tour a Navy guided-missile frigate that will dock at the Port of Sacramento at 2101 Stone Blvd. in West Sacramento. That ship will be open for free public inspection from 2 to 4 p.m. through March 8.

The Sixth Annual Gymfest invitational gymnastic competition starts at 2 p.m. and continues Sunday at Kings arena. Women's vaulting and uneven parallel bars and men's floor exercises, pommel horse and rings are featured today. Junior National Team members and Sacramento champions will join four former Olympians at the event.

Tonight the 1987 Camellia Queen will be crowned at the gala ball at the Woodlake Inn.

Thought for Today

Are you an active member — the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you stay at home and criticize and knock ———.

Or do you take an active part to help and work along?

Do you voluntarily help at the guiding stick,

Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?

Come to meetings often and help with hand and heart,

Don't be just a member, but take an active part.

Think this over, member, you know right from wrong.

Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

by Jone Rothenberg (Camellia Society of Modesto)

Camellia Show Schedule 1987-88 Season

1987

December 5 & 6 Pacific Society Gib Show
L.A. County Arboretum
Arcadia

1988

January 16 & 17 Southern California Camellia Society
Huntington Gardens
San Marino

January 23 & 24 South Coast Camellia Society
South Coast Botanical Gardens
Palos Verdes

February 6 & 7 San Diego Camellia Society
Casa del Prado - Balboa Park
San Diego

February 13 & 14 Pomona Valley Camellia Society
Pomona First Federal
Claremont

February 20 & 21 Temple City Camellia Society
L.A. County Arboretum
Arcadia

February 27 & 28 Southern California Camellia Council
Descanso Gardens
La Canada

March 5 & 6 Kern County Camellia Society
Cunningham Gallery
Bakersfield

Not in Southern California Council

February 13 & 14 Peninsula — Redwood City

February 20 & 21 Delta — Marago

February 27 & 28 Santa Clara

March 5 & 6 Concord

March 12 & 13 Fresno

March 12 & 13 Sacramento

March 19 & 20 Modesto — Gallo Winery

March 26 & 27 Atwater

It's a False Portrait

by Antonio Sevesi

In 1928, a booklet was issued by an Italian publisher, Ulrico Hoepli, with a title "Le Camellie." The authors were A. Del Lungo, who had just graduated in Agriculture, and G. Girardi, a wealthy amateur gardener.

The first pages were dedicated to a short story of camellias. Among the other things, they pointed out, very correctly, that this shrub had not been imported in Europe by Father Kamel, that he wasn't an Italian and that his name wasn't Camelli.

This booklet was dedicated to camellias which were few at the time. As a whole, the book wasn't too bad.

When some years ago I started to study the story of camellias, I became curious to know something about Father G. F. Kamel and as other hobbyists of the last century, I tried to find a picture of the man.

In the above book, I found the pic-

ture of Father Kamel that did not seem right to me. I thought it was a reproduction of some other picture. I knew Stelvio Coggiatti was a friend of the late Angiolo Del Lungo so I asked him to inquire about the origin of the picture. To my surprise, the author innocently confessed that it had simply been selected at random. Unfortunately, it was reproduced in camellia books in the United States, Japan, etc.

The large distribution of the book with this picture induces me to reveal this mistake in the hope that it will not be repeated in the future. The researches I made at the various Jesuit houses at which Father Kamel resided, as well as in the Philippines where he died, did not turn up an actual picture.

Let us be satisfied with growing camellias that derive their name from him.

This is the false portrait.

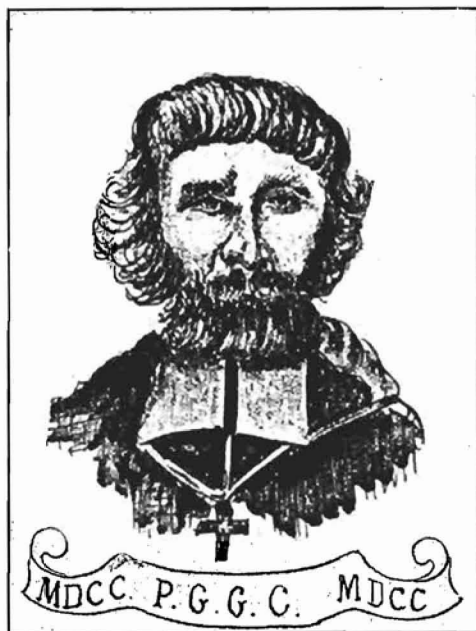


Fig. 1. — Il padre Giuseppe Camelli.

With Regret

by Edalee Harwell

San Diego Camellia Society

In 1986 it was a complete shock when I won the San Diego Camellia Society's C. Scott Campbell Memorial Trophy for the Best Grafted Plant at their show. I had won a blue ribbon for my very first entry in a camellia show, but that was for a 'Glen 40' in 1959, and at no time since had I come close to winning a trophy.

My name on the trophy joined an illustrious assemblage. How nice if I could win it again! Alas, none of my yearling grafts looked like equalling the previous year's performance of 'Bella Romana' (grafted because I thought it was an old, nearly forgotten variety that I had "discovered" in a friend's garden). To win over two-year-old grafts a one-year-old graft would have to be something special.

Something special required inspiration. Inspiration got a head start when Gene Snooks supplied two scions from what I consider his extra-special 'Tama-No-Ura.' Not wishing to waste either I grafted them both on the last of my precious rootstock. To my delight both took, sending up a neat little trio of shoots. And this niggled at my memory. Searching back issues of *The Camel-*

lia Yearbook, I finally found it — a picture of a trained 'Tama-No-Ura.' The article was "Landscaping With Camellias and Their Semi Shade Loving Companions" by Rudy Moore, and he wrote, "'Tama-No-Ura' is another C. japonica that will make a good espallier . . . I have already started training mine." (p. 114; 1980)

Now truly inspired, I rigged a small espallier for my graft and sat back to enjoy watching it grow. Finally in January, with an assist from a granddaughter, Angie Tetrault, who carefully shined each leaf with her fingers, carried the plant on her lap, and saw that it was correctly entered at the show, 'Tama-No-Ura' caught the judges' fancy. I won the C. Scott Campbell Memorial Trophy again!

But the win was tinged with regret for a letter I never wrote. I had always intended to write and thank the late Rudy Moore for his inspiration, but somehow never got around to it. Now it was too late. Or perhaps it is not too late? It should never be too late to give thanks for the many who leave a legacy of enthusiasm and sharing that makes our lives with plants such a delight.

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The C. Reticulata Hybrid Problem

by Bill Donnan

This is the third article in the last five years, with about the same title, and calling attention to the proliferation of the C. reticulata hybrid camellias. The first article, "The Reticulata Hybrid Revolution" by Bill Woodroof, appeared in the *Camellia Review*, Vol. 43, No. 2, Nov.-Dec. 1981. The second article entitled "The Reticulata Hybrid Problem" by Bill Donnan and Bill Woodroof appeared in the *Camellia Review*, Vol. 46, No. 2, Nov.-Dec. 1984. This third article expands on the problem and suggests some thoughts on how to deal with it.

When the 1951-Third Revised Edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE was published, it listed 26 C. reticulata cultivars. The reason for this number of the species was because Mr. Ralph Peer of Hollywood, California and the Descanso Gardens in La Canada had been successful in 1948 and 1949 in importing 21 new specimens of C. reticulata from the Yunnan Botanical Gardens in China. As soon as these new camellia species became available to hobbyists and plant breeders there was a mad scramble to be the first to successfully cross them with other camellia species. C. reticulata had had a reputation of being very difficult to hybridize primarily because 'Captain Rawes,' the first cultivar of this species to arrive in the Western world, had been a very reluctant hybrid parent. 'Captain Rawes' arrived in England in 1820 but it was not until 1936, one hundred and sixteen years later, that the first successful cross was made to produce 'Salutation.' With the advent of the 21 new Yunnan reticulatas, the hybridizing problem using C. reticulata was minimized.

Successful C. reticulata x C. japonica crosses in the 1950's produced 'Fairy Wings,' 'Valley Knudsen,' 'Felic Harris' and 'Howard Asper.' Then in 1965 came the retic x sasanqua crosses which produced 'Flower Girl,' 'Dream Girl,' and 'Show Girl.'

With that the flood gates opened and for the next 15 years some 20 to 30 new C. reticulata hybrids were registered each year and were, subsequently, listed in revised issues of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. In fact, in the last three years, from 1984 to 1987, an average of 23 new cultivars per year has been registered and listed in the new CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE.

As soon as new hybrid cultivars with C. reticulata parentage were registered, there was a dilemma concerning where to list them in the next issue of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. At first they were listed under the heading HYBRIDS. However, several seedlings of the 'Wild Form' C. reticulata, namely 'Elizabeth Johnstone,' 'Mary Williams,' 'Superba' and 'The-withen Pink' were included in the RETICULATA listing. By the time that the 1970 Revised Edition came out, there were 53 cultivars and seedlings of cultivars in the RETICULATA listing and some 40 C. reticulata hybrids included in the HYBRID listing. Something had to be done about this confusion. Thus in 1972 the Nomenclature Research Committee decided to eliminate these old listings and create two new, more definitive listings. One list would include "SPECIES RETICULATA AND HYBRIDS WITH RETICULATA PARENTAGE." The other list would include "HYBRIDS WITH OTHER THAN RETICULATA PARENTAGE." This is the way that they have been listed in all subsequent issues of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE.

Early on, and up until the advent of C. chrysantha and other camellia species, the consummate aim of every hybridizer was to create larger, more 'rabbit eared' and more nearly 'cabbage headed' cultivar blooms. The "buzzword" for any new worthwhile retic hybrid was EXTRA LARGE! Now, within the last few years, the hy-

bridizers have begun to shun the mediocrity of endless, look-alike 'cabbage heads' and are striving for miniatures, smalls, mediums, fragrance, and color breaks. Instead of doping up a "mother" *C. reticulata* bloom with *C. japonica* or *C. sasanqua* pollen, the plant breeders are using pollen from *C. chrysantha*, *C. pitardii*, *C. fraterna*, *C. lutchuensis* and other odd species.

Why was it that we all thought that the only good *C. retic* hybrid was one which produced a 6 to 7 inch bloom? I think that it stems from the fact that the first *reticulata* cultivars which were imported in 1948 and 1949 were of the large size. However, many of the newer Yunnan *reticulatas* which were imported to California in 1980 have been classed as medium and two of them, 'Empty Mouth' and 'Magnolia Camellia,' are classed as small! Furthermore, several of the early camellia hybrids which were registered in the 1950's were classed as medium in size. Dave Feathers gave us 'Fairy Wings' and 'Hy Ball' as early as 1955 but nobody wanted to look at them because of the size factor. Dr. Clifford Parks registered two small size *retic* hybrids in 1977, namely 'Ann McCulloch Hill' and 'Dot Spenger,' but I have never seen either one benched in any camellia show here in Southern California and I don't know of anyone who has either of these cultivars in their collection. Let's face it. Unless a new *retic* hybrid seedling bloomed large or very large, it was cut off and used for understock.

Such is not the case 'Down Under' in Australia and New Zealand. These hobbyists have long ago seen the beauty and merits of miniature and small cultivar blooms. They not only have come forth with many new and interesting non-*retic* hybrids but they have also been on the hunt for small *reticulata* hybrids. One of the first which came out in 1981 was Camellia Lodge Nursery's 'La Petite.' To get a feel of what they are doing in Australia, you should read Ray Garnett's ar-

ticle "Creating New Camellias" in the March 1987 issue of the Australian Camellia Research Society *Camellia News*. Garnett has made 7000 pollinations and grown 1540 seedlings, most of which have been *C. reticulata* crosses with other species. Garnett tells me in a recent letter that the admiration for medium and small *C. reticulata* hybrids is great in their Victoria Branch. In fact, they have been obliged to segregate their *Retic* Hybrid Division into 4½ inch and smaller and 4½ inch and larger sections at their camellia shows.

We may have to do the same thing here in our California camellia shows in the future. Up to now we have asked our show judges to choose between all of those extra large 'cabbage headed' blooms and some excellent medium-sized blooms such as 'Fire Chief,' 'Friendly Skies,' 'Fluted Orchid' and 'Canadian Capers,' to name a few. The extra-large blooms usually get the nod because of the 'bigger is better' syndrome. We have recently seen the registration of several nice new small to miniature *retic* hybrids: 'Tiny Girl,' developed by E. P. Akin of Shreveport, La., and 'Jo Jo,' developed by John Movich of LaVerne, California, and there will be many more coming. What is going to happen as our plant breeders dab all of that *C. chrysantha* pollen onto the *retic* hybrid "mother" plants? We are going to see smaller *retic* hybrid seedlings. The same goes for these of *C. lutchuensis* pollen to obtain fragrance. Ditto for *C. oleifera* and *C. pitardii*. So step back and take another look, all of you camellia show chairmen. You are going to witness a revolution in the *C. retic* hybrid family of cultivars and our camellia shows are going to have to accommodate these new smaller *retic* hybrid blooms.

So much for the camellia shows. Now what about the future issues of the revised editions of *CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE*? Hybridizers are crossing and re-crossing *retic* and non-*retic* hybrids. Some of the latest seedlings resulting from these crosses

are only 25 percent *C. reticulata*. What is going to happen when a new cultivar has only 10 percent or 5 percent *C. reticulata* species in its make-up? Well, I would guess that for the foreseeable future, as long as a new seedling has any portion of *C. reticu-*

lata "bloom" in its make-up, it will be listed under the SPECIES RETICULATA AND HYBRIDS WITH RETICULATA PARENTAGE listing in the CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE.

Success

Success is speaking words of praise,
In cheering other people's ways,
With every task and every plan.
It's silence when your speech would hurt.
Politeness when your neighbor's curt.
It's deafness when scandal flows,
And sympathy with other's woes.
It's courage when disaster falls,
It's patience when the hours are long.
It's found in laughter and in song.
It's in the silent time of prayer,
In happiness and in despair.
In all life and nothing less,
We find the thing we call success.
. . . Anonymous

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Creating New Camellias — Be Tempted To Try

by Ray Garnett, Victorian Branch

Reprint from *Camellia News* — March 1987

Hybridising can become an obsession. There should be a phone number to ring, so that when temptation occurs (such as beckoning pistil) you can seek advice and counselling. For a number of years I have tried to resist the urge as the flowering season commences. Sometimes I partially succeed; at other times I am a hopeless failure. Why do I need more seedlings when every nook and cranny is overcrowded with them? It is probably an over-optimistic attitude that hopes for a possible unique camellia amongst all those rows and rows of seedlings. Hundreds are still to flower, but those that have flowered may be of interest to some camellia growers.

During the past ten years I have attempted approximately 7,000 pollinations between numerous camellia cultivars and species. From these attempts, 1,540 seedlings have evolved. Of those that have flowered, most have ended up as grafting stock. Some have been kept for future hybridising, some are still being evaluated. From the 1,540 seedlings, 980 have been intra-specific hybrids from 92 different combinations, and 560 have been inter-specific hybrids from 190 different combinations. A total of 590 intra- and inter-specific combinations set capsules but a high percentage either aborted, were not viable or the seed or seedling did not germinate or survive to a point where propagation was possible. Most of these failures were inter-specific.

In the early years I had few seed bearing cultivars to use, and even now use a limited number. The initial crosses were with the single flowering sasanqua 'Exquisite'. This was crossed with all the best sasanquas, such as 'Bonanza', 'Jean May', 'Chansonnette', 'Sparkling Burgundy'. Many seedlings were insignificant singles, although some were semi-double to in-

formal or peony form. None, however, have been better than their parents as yet. It was interesting to note that most were heterozygous, with a recessive white gene. The 'Exquisite' x 'Bonanza' flowers are mostly deep pink to red with no white blooms amongst 40 seedlings. 'Hiryu' has recently been crossed with some of the 'Dream Girl' hybrids. The sasanquas appear very fixed in their genes, with little variation occurring in their progeny, some being very similar to either one of their parents. To enhance the size of the flower, a number of sasanquas have been crossed with 'Dream Girl' ('Narumigata' x 'Buddha'). These seedlings tend to be open and spreading, although some have been compact. The flowers favour the sasanqua parent in size, with form single to informal. Some by 'Bonanza' (Pollen Parent) have form and colour similar to 'Bonanza'.

Flowers appear May, June and shatter. All have sasanqua fragrance. 'Dream Girl' is fairly easy to cross using sasanqua and reticulata pollen, and also the reticulata hybrids, including 'Dr. Clifford Parks', 'Lasca Beauty', 'Howard Asper'. The resultant seedlings from these crosses vary according to the way the genes fall. Those with large reticulata flowers 12-15cm (5-6") have similar growth and leaves like the reticulata parents. Texture is fair. Where compact growth is obtained in the seedlings the flowers are usually smaller 7.5-10cm (3-4"), although they often have the advantage of producing numerous flower buds up the stem. Similarity in colour and form of the pollen parent is also noticeable.

'Purple Gown' progeny is evident in the shading and petal shape. 'Dr. Clifford Parks' creates good pinks and deep reds, semi-double and anemone in form. Flowers appear June to July.

Some flowers shatter others fall in one piece. There is seldom any noticeable 'Dream Girl' fragrance in these seedlings. Using japonica and japonica hybrid pollen on 'Dream Girl' was more difficult. Sasanqua and reticulata takes were roughly one in four attempts, with the reticulata hybrids varying to one in ten. The japonica and japonica hybrids were one in forty to sixty with many not setting seed at all. The seedlings from this form of cross were mainly open and spreading, only a few were compact. Flowers were small to medium, single to semi-double. One was a formal double. Colours, white margined pink to pink. 'Dream Girl' fragrance on most. Flowers appear early June to July, and shatter. Leaves are often unusual shape.

One cross 'Dream Girl' x 'Kramers Supreme', a medium informal pink has a slightly sweeter 'Dream Girl' fragrance than normal. Another seedling, 'Dream Girl' x 'Alice Cutter', has small japonica type leaves, compact stiff growth and is reasonably seed and pollen viable, as are a number of the 'Dream Girl' x Japonica hybrids. 'Dream Girl' crosses by both 'China Lady' and Granthamiana Pollen produced some attractive leaf forms. The influence of Granthamiana in all of these seedlings was very pronounced. They were all of an open spreading growth. Flowers were single to incomplete and anemone form. Texture was poor. Colour very pale pink to soft pink (10-13cm). Flowering begins in May. No trace of 'Dream Girl' fragrance. Some had stamens massed as Granthamiana; however, in some seedlings the pollen sacs did not mature. Viability has yet to be proven. Flowers fall in one piece.

A number of 'Dream Girl' x Fraterna seedlings were produced. The cross was not difficult (one in ten). Some seedlings were weak. One that was grafted early has developed into an open growing plant, small Fraterna dominated leaves and wavy 7cm (2½") semi-double pink flowers along the stems. It has a very faint sweet fra-

grance with viable pollen. Flowers appear in June and fall in one piece.

The only other species to take was 'Dream Girl' x *Salicifolia*. It has been extremely slow in growth and even though recently grafted, will take time to develop.

Lutchuensis pollen did set seed on 'Dream Girl,' but the seedlings eventually died. Some of the 'Dream Girl' hybrids have been selfed, back crossed, and crossed into other cultivars and hybrids. The 'Dream Girl' hybrids, because of their spreading open growth, and usual lack of good quality flowers, have been a disappointment, as initially it was used to create early large flowering compact plants. Further crossing between the hybrids may create this object.

Only two reticulata cultivars ('Cornelian,' 'Overture') have been used as seed parents. 'Cornelian' was crossed with a number of reticulata and reticulata hybrids, but most of the progeny have not been better than those already named.

One cross, 'Cornelian' x 'Fuyajo,' produced a large 10cm (4") single, deep dark red, with red filaments, good texture and reasonable pollen. This hybrid is seed and pollen viable. A 'Dream Girl' x 'Fuyajo' seedling by contrast only produced a light pink flower, with little trace of 'Fuyajo' influence, whilst a 'Dream Girl' x 'Bright Buoy' ('Fuyajo' x 'Hassaku') seedlings has large 13cm (5") deep pink incomplete to peony flowers of good texture, and similar flowering as 'Dream Girl.' This hybrid has only a slight trace of pink in the filaments and either shatters or falls in one piece.

'Overture' seedlings from mixed crosses, though large and attractive, produced nothing very different except two seedlings from 'Overture' x Fraterna. These displayed the typical Fraterna influence in the small leaves, general growth, and small 7.5cm (3") single pink flowers. These hybrids are seed and pollen viable.

'Lasca Beauty' as a seed parent is easily crossed with most of the reticu-

lata hybrids, usually producing good large flowered seedlings of reasonable texture. Japonica and japonica hybrid pollen is more difficult. By contrast, 'Lasca Beauty' has recently produced seedlings by *Fraterna* and 'Dream Girl' x *Fraterna* Pollen. Some of the japonicas have been crossed with the *saluenensis* hybrids, and a number of lovely flowers have eventuated from this form of hybridising.

'Fuyajo,' as previously mentioned, has been used as a pollen and seed parent. Strong dark red flowers, with pink filaments and nice golden anthers are the usual result. The flowers are mostly medium to small in size. In an endeavour to offset this problem, Les Jury's "breeder plant" 'Bright Buoy' ('Fuyajo' x 'Hassaku') has been extensively used over the past four years as a seed parent. This cultivar has single deep crimson flowers, 10cm (4") pink filaments, golden anthers, and a good texture. To date, the seedlings that have flowered have been deep pink to dark bluish red in colour. Most have exhibited, to some degree, the pink filaments and golden anthers of the parent. Plant growth is relatively compact, with good dark green leaves and a tendency to flower early in the season (May, June) and whilst still a small plant. ('Bright Buoy' will begin flowering in early May.) Flower size so far has been of medium size 10-12cm (4-4½"). Whether this cultivar will create a good large red, only time will tell. Possibly, many of the seedlings would flower a violet blue colour if planted in a mountain soil mix, as a large number have 'Donna Herzilia De Freitas Magalhaes' as a pollen plant.

The *Pitardii*-*Pitardii* hybrids (seed and Pollen), also flower early in the season on a small plant. Their small to medium size leaves and compact growth add a difference in contrast to some of the other fast growing open hybrids. Usually their flowers are small to medium, relatively floriferous, and attractive with golden pollen anthers. This species is very easy to hy-

bridise, apart from the japonicas. It has produced seedlings by *Transnokoensis*, *Fraterna*, *Lutchuensis* (Okinawa Form), 'Dr. Clifford Parks,' 'Fragrant Pink Improved,' *Cuspidata*, and *Lutchuensis* (Taiwan Form). Most are fairly healthy, but slow growing seedlings. The *Lutchuensis* (Okinawa Form) hybrids will probably not survive, even though they are grafted, as they appear to have serious genetic problems.

Hundreds of seedlings from intraspecific crosses within the japonica cultivars have evolved over the years, and whilst many lovely flowers have eventuated from this standard form of hybridising, none has surpassed the best of the named cultivars as yet! The hybridising of the japonica cultivars 'Tiffany,' 'Dr Tinsley' and 'Edith Linton' with some of the species has created some interesting seedlings. A number of hybrids ('Tiffany' x *Lutchuensis*) were produced in the early attempts. These were a weeping type hybrid, small leaves, single whitish pink flowers (7cm), heavily perfumed, but with pale leaves that have a tendency to distort, especially if exposed to too much sun. A later cross ('Tiffany' x 'The Czar') x *Lutchuensis* has produced two seedlings, one, a single soft pink flower (7cm), and the other a soft pink tight peony flower (7cm). Both are perfumed. The foliage on these latter two hybrids is fairly good. They also have the normal *Lutchuensis* weeping habit in growth.

'Tiffany' has also created some attractive slow growing compact hybrids from *Fraterna* (6) and *Transnokoensis* (9). Most have fine small leaves to intermediate, of a deep green. Of those that have flowered, three have been singles (7cm) pale pink to soft pink, and one an anemone form (8cm) soft pink flower. These were all 'Tiffany' x *Transnokoensis* hybrids. 'Edith Linton' has also produced a number of seedlings from *Transnokoensis*. One that recently flowered on a very small plant was a soft pink anemone flower (7cm) very similar to the 'Tiffany' x

Transnokoensis hybrid previously mentioned. 'Edith Linton' x *Assimilis* resulted in two seedlings, both with narrow wavy leaves and a lovely russet colouring of the new growth. These are yet to flower.

A number of *Cuspidata* hybrids (pollen) have evolved from crosses with the japonicas. These also display a narrow leaf, sometimes with a slight wave. The growth is usually stiff and upright, flowers single (5cm) white shaded pink.

The viability of these small species hybrids has yet to be proven. They all have a good texture and fall in one piece. All show the strong influence of the species parent in both growth and flower form.

Last season numerous seedlings

were raised using 'Snow Drop' (*Pitardii*-*Pitardii* x *Fraterna*) as the pollen parent. This lovely free flowering hybrid was used in an effort to create small floriferous compact plants. Some of these crosses mentioned in this article have been easy to accomplish, even the species hybrids. They may have taken after only a few attempts, whilst others have occurred only after numerous attempts over a number of years. Some that I have tried, have not succeeded even after hundreds of attempts, whereas some will take one season, yet repeated efforts in future years have yielded no results.

The temptation to try is always there.

It is very difficult to resist!

Camellia Registration and Color Charts

by Harry Cave

I have read Mr. Bill Donnan's article on Registration of New Varieties in the Jan-Feb 1987 issue of *Camellia Review* with a great deal of interest. I agree with his comments except for one major exception. The exception is the continuing resistance to the use of color charts in registration.

I have been involved with camellias all my life. I was brought up in a large garden with many camellias planted by my grandfather, and purchased my first camellia as a teenager almost 50 years ago. I joined the N.Z. Camellia Society soon after its formation in 1958 and I joined the Southern California Society about 1967.

In writing this article I am aware that I am challenging the accepted practices of a group of the finest and most knowledgeable camellia growers in the world. I am fully aware of the

tremendous job done by the Editorial Committee who have compiled 'Camellia Nomenclature' over the years. Each of the 19 editions has improved in content and accuracy. Growing camellias without the aid of 'Cam Nom' would be a much less rewarding experience and overseas growers know the debt they owe to this Committee. Indeed the N.Z. growers acknowledged that debt in a small way when they invited Bill Woodroof as Chairman of the Editorial Committee to become an Honorary Life Member of the N.Z. Camellia Society.

Let me put my case.

Registration of a new cultivar means the recording of all the FACTS that can be observed about that plant. Flowers and leaves are assessed as well as the growth characteristics of the plant itself. Petals are counted, flowers



and leaves are measured and form, shape and color are described in detail. These are recorded as a group of FACTS about the plant. Except for the color, which seems to me is one person's OPINION. That person, the raiser, is the only person entitled to give a verbal description of the color, and that is duly recorded in 'Cam Nom' as FACT. Is he, or she, correct in that description? Is his, or her description of the color accurate? Does that verbal description convey the correct color to anyone else? Do we all see the same color when we read 'orchid pink' or 'rose red' as a color description?

Those terms may be all right for a quick assessment, but are woefully inaccurate. 'Orchid pink' and 'rose red' will cover every color between white and red! They are meaningless when trying to define a particular shade in that range of colors. The ONLY way to record a flower color accurately is to check it against a color chart. Its color is then a matter of *fact* and can be checked against the same chart anywhere in the world. The verbal description can go in 'Cam Nom' while the color chart reading stays with the registration forms.

A couple of years ago I carried out a simple test at a seminar where about 40 camellia growers were discussing growing, showing and judging flowers. I took along two flowers from seedlings which had just flowered for the first time. I invited everyone to write down a brief but accurate description of the color of the flowers. The replies were very revealing.

The first flower was a *reticulata* hybrid, a second generation Crimson Robe seedling. My description was: Bright raspberry red, deep outside, pale in centre.

Other descriptions were:

Soft pink red	Shaded coral
Mauvey pink,	pink
popular	Deep rose
fashion shade	Deep pink
Vieux rose	fading to
Translucent pink	cream

Bright cerise	Clear rose
pink	Sparkling cherry
Crushed	Crystal rose
strawberry	Deep rose
Rose red	Orchid pink
Crushed	
raspberry	
Bright red	
tending	
towards	
Crimson Lake	

These are all describing one flower! Which description is the nearest to the true color?

The second flower was a Tiffany seedling and an unusual color. My description was: Mid pink, suffused with lavender.

Other descriptions were:

Yucky purplish	Gunmetal pink
pink	Blue strawberry
Purple cast	Deep rose with
Smokey rose	purple sheen
Old rose	Mottled mauve
Mulberry	pink
Fuchsia pink	Fading old rose
with lavender	
overtones.	

There were several other descriptions of each flower which my stenographer didn't catch. I think you will see my point when I say that verbal descriptions are not good enough, and the use of color charts to record accurately each flower's colour is essential.

I'm not at all worried what chart is used to check the color or whether several charts are used in different countries. They can easily be checked against each other once the first valid evaluation is made.

I would be very doubtful about using charts put out by paint companies or fashion houses. Their charts are primarily aimed at introducing fashion colors which change rapidly, and do not attempt to record the minute variations in natural flower colors.

The Australian Camellia Research Society is introducing two different color charts for use this year. One of these is the Royal Horticultural Society's chart mentioned by Mr. Donnan. The earlier Horticultural Color Chart

which used the extraordinary names for colors has been superseded and those names have been discarded. The modern charts are simple to use: They are arranged in four fans and matching flower colors is easy. I haven't found any camellia colors in several years' use, which cannot be almost perfectly matched. Sometimes the flower colors blend from one shading to another, and this can easily be recorded too.

There is no need for everyone to have charts as long as the Registrar or Registration Committee have a set.

In New Zealand the Registrar used to request a color photo of the flower being registered. This proved to be as useless as the verbal description because of several factors, chiefly poor photography and differing emulsions on different films. Now, I ask for a young flower to be posted to me in a plastic bag in a small packet. Even if it is damaged I can still obtain a pretty

good color recording.

Of course the RHS charts are specifically designed to record all flower colors, not just camellias. Their use is recommended by the Federation of Plant Societies, the international body who control the registration of all plants. At their most recent conference in 1985, Mr. Tom Savage, our International Registrar of Camellias, read a paper to the conference on camellia Nomenclature and Registration.

The Royal Horticultural Society has been going for over 150 years and has a membership of over 80,000 scattered all over the world. Perhaps they have learned something about plants and flowers in that time.

My hope is that this small article may provoke a bit more thought and talk about color charts. To me they are an essential tool in improving camellia registration.

H. B. Cave



Are You Cooking Your Blooms On the Way to the Show?

by Bob McNeill

We have recently acquired a newer car with a catalytic converter. The last two before this one were pre 1974, burned leaded gas, and had their mufflers elsewhere than under the trunk. This was one of the things we used to look for in choosing a car. We wanted a cool trunk, insulated by upholstery from the passenger compartment. This car was a sudden chance to have newer, better wheels and we snapped it up without looking underneath. It wasn't until we arrived at the Arboretum for the judging symposium that I lifted out of the box of flowers and found the bottom quite warm! Be-

fore the day was over some of our blooms were sagging.

The quickest and simplest answer, of course, is to insulate. A local hardware store was able to supply me with two foot by four foot sheets of half-inch styrofoam. The car has a split-level but flat floor in the trunk, and I will lay the two layers, glued to each other, but not to the metal.

Have you felt the floor of your trunk or the bottoms of your boxes lately?

Shala says: Why not write the size category on the face of the entry card? That ought to make some judging decisions easier.

Camellia Hybridisation

by Peripatetic Camellian

From *Camellia News* June, 1984,

The Australian Camellia Research Society, pp. 9-11.

On page 7 of the last issue of *Camellia News*, No. 88 — March 1984, two headings, viz: "Prize for Hybridising" (a bloom hybridised from *C. chrysantha*) and "Camellia Chrysantha" with subheadings "sadly . . . buds drop" and "Pink Flowers . . .?" engendered the idea that some thoughts on the philosophy and fundamentals of hybridising might be appropriate.

Throughout the world, much hybridisation has been carried out and collectively there are many articles describing this work with the results achieved. It is very apparent that camellia hybridisers are most co-operative and ready to share with each other experiences and materials. A refreshing honesty appears in these articles so that the more definitive assertions are accompanied frequently by "speculative" or "tentative" ones. I shall try to continue this practice in what follows.

A hybrid is defined as an offspring from combination of:

1. Two different species;
2. Hybrid and any species;
3. Two hybrids

Apart from true hybridisation, there is intra-specific cross-pollination where the technique is identical and the success rate quite high. Cross-pollination success becomes progressively more difficult as we proceed to the inter-specific (only about 10%) and in turn to the inter-genetic (about 1%).

To begin with it is worth noting that in recording crosses, the seed parent (female) is always placed first and the pollen parent (male) second. This first crossing is known as the F1 hybrid; it may not be at all outstanding but if back-crossed with one of the parents (F2) may be distinctly better than any of the parents.

It is quite likely that someday genetic engineering will speed up the hy-

bridisation process but presently it is a long-time project — probably ten or more years from the time of conception to completion of evaluation so that it is imperative to have objectives and stick to them; frequent sidetracking can lead to marked prolongation or even becoming inextricably bogged. Feel free to choose your objective; the most popular ones appear to be:

1. A new colour, particularly yellow or blue;
2. Early to mid-season blooming;
3. More two-tone blooms — either sharp-edged (picotee) or graded margin;
4. Fragrance;
5. Climate hardiness — heat in the southern hemisphere, cold in the northern hemisphere.

Having settled on an objective, it is worthwhile searching the literature or enquiring from other hybridists whether someone has already started on that track because if an F1 hybrid is already available, some years are saved.

Next comes the choice of the female parent — a good seedsetter is essential. There are no hard and fast rules but the following suggestions, although tentative, are widely accepted. In general, singles and semi-doubles are preferable to more complex forms. If a polyploid camellia is being crossed with a diploid, there is better seed-set and a greater variety of seedlings if the polyploid camellia is the female parent. If the parents have common ploidy, other things being equal, it makes no difference to the characteristics of resulting plants which way the cross is made. Some of the more commonly successful crossings have been:

- C. reticulata X C. japonica
- C. sasanqua X C. reticulata

C. reticulata X *C. granthamiana*
C. japonica X *C. granthamiana*

Hybridising is to some extent an individual art so try any combination desired both ways (reciprocal crosses) and find which gives most success.

When to hybridise is important. This depends on temperature and receptivity of the stigma. Temperature is critical as seed-set does not occur if the ambient temperature is less than 16°C. This is confirmed in natural conditions by the setting of seed in *sasanquas* prior to the onset of cold weather and the absence of seed-set in *japonicas* and *reticulatas* until the return of warm weather — usually late August or September, in the southern hemisphere.

If hybridisation is to be carried out in the open, it has to be delayed until the warm sunny days of September but if a temperature-controlled greenhouse is available, it may be carried out as soon as buds are available — pollen having already been garnered, perhaps from the previous season.

With regard to breeding for early flowering, it is desirable this should be performed in a temperature-controlled greenhouse for it is more likely the seed parent as well as the pollen parent will be an early bloomer and so a greater likelihood of success, the stigma must be receptive, ie, moist and sticky so that pollen grains adhere readily.

As already mentioned, pollen can be collected when ripe and providing it is kept dry and stored in a refrigerator will remain viable for twelve months. It can be harvested into a small envelope or gelatin capsule placed within a screw-capped jar in which silica gel or calcium chloride acts as a desiccant. Allow pollen to warm before use.

The actual technique of cross-pollinating is not difficult and is described below. However, it must be stressed that it is vital not to allow contamination of the stigma with foreign pollen from any source — “a cuckoo in the nest” could spoil the whole programme.

CROSS-POLLINATING TECHNIQUE:

1. Choose a suitable bud; it should be swollen and just ready to open with petals beginning to separate — Figure 1.
2. With sharp knife, razor blade or pointed scissors, cut through petals only, right around bud just above the tips of the sepals — usually about one-third to one-half the length of the bud from the base — Figure 2.
3. With scissors or a pair of forceps, remove all pollen anthers and the adjacent filamentous part of the stamen — Figure 3 (bird's eye view). Be careful not to damage stigma, style or ovary.
4. Place selected pollen, either stored or directly from a flower, on the stigma — Figure 4. Use plenty of pollen as with some varieties less than 10% is viable. As the bud was unopened just prior to pollination, it is possible the stigma was not yet fully receptive so this pollination should be repeated the following day. The simplest and safest way of applying pollen is to use a “cotton bud” or improvise one by wrapping a small amount of cotton wool around the tail end of a match; **discard** after use.
5. Use a good quality brown paper bag and twist-tie to cover the pollinated bud and label with the names of the two parents and the date the cross was made.
6. Keep bud covered (except for re-pollination on following day) for two weeks, when bag can be removed.

Finally, having achieved one of the 10% successful inter-specific hybrid seedlings, it must be grown on and in due course evaluated in relation to the initial objectives or, if they were not met, on its merits. If the new hybrid is to be worth registering and a lasting success, remember it has to compete with the strict criteria adopted by reputable commercial growers, viz: (1) All

testing to be done under outside conditions; (2) at least ten plants of a variety; (3) at least three to five blooming seasons.

EDITOR: *Due to problems of reproduction we could not print the illustrations.*



The 'Alba Plena' Story

by Bill Donnan

Since 'Alba Plena' is one of my favorite camellia cultivars, I thought it might be interesting to trace the history of this camellia. What I write here is a compilation of information gleaned from some of the camellia books in my library.

Camellias came into the Western World in the mid seventeen hundreds. In fact, H. Harold Hume, in his book, *Camellias, Kinds and Culture* (1951), states that Lord Petre was growing camellias in his conservatory at Thornndon Hall, Essex, as early as 1739! However, it was not until the introduction of 'Alba Plena' and 'Variegata' in 1792 that camellia culture became important in England. To quote Hume, "With these two introductions camellia culture really started. Before that date camellia received scant attention in Europe."

The introduction of 'Alba Plena' into England occurred when Captain Connor of the British East India Company's vessel *Carnatic* docked in London in 1792 on a voyage from Canton, China. The cultivar he brought with him was called 'Double White.' However, it became so popular that it was propagated widely and the name 'Alba Plena' appeared in Andrew's Botanical Repository dated 1797 describing the 'Double White' cultivar. According to Thomas Savige, International Registrar and International Camellia Society Authority for Registration of the Genus *Camellia*, 'Alba Plena' had been grown in Japan for over 100 years prior to its importation to England. In Japan the cultivar 'Alba Plena' is named 'Qianyebai,' which translated means, 'Thousand Petal White.'

Savige indicates that 'Qianyebai' had been referred to by that name in Japan as early as 1621.

There is another book in my library entitled *Old Camellia Varieties*, compiled by A. I. Ellis and published by the Royal Horticultural Society of London in 1953 (through the generosity of the late Ralph Peer). In it there is some interesting information on 'Alba Plena.' In that book the cultivar is listed as C. Flore Pleno Albo (Double White C.). This above listed name was first listed as such in: *Illustrations and Descriptions of Camellias* by A. Chandler and W. B. Booth, London, 1831. After seeing the name Flore Pleno Albo, one wonders whether the original 'Double White' may have arrived in France, Italy, or Portugal prior to 1792. The name Flore Pleno Albo sounds as though it ought to be of Latin origin and could, possibly, be the forerunner of our present 'Alba Plena' epithet. (When one attempts to read up on certain aspects of camellias there are usually two or more conflicting accounts of the early history.) In the same A. I. Ellis book is a listing for C. 'Fimbriata' (C. Fringed 'Double White') which is described as a sport of 'Double White.' This cultivar was imported about the year 1816. It is not known who imported 'Fimbriata' but it must have been propagated in Japan for some years prior to its importation.

In the Hume book cited above, I find that camellias were imported to America in 1797 or 1798 from England to the nursery of John Stevens in Hoboken, New Jersey. Also, in July 1800, a Michael Foy brought a plant of 'Alba Plena' from England to Stevens.

This is the first recorded entry of 'Alba Plena' to the United States of America. When 'Alba Plena' came to California is not known. Camellias were first imported to Sacramento from Boston in 1852. Doubtless, not long thereafter 'Alba Plena' must have been in the periodic shipments of camellias which reached California. When 'Alba Plena' reached Southern California is open to question. At the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, California there were two camellia shrubs on the estate when William Hertrich arrived as Head Gardener in 1905. Subsequently, many more camellias were

planted and by 1915 the collection had been greatly augmented. No doubt 'Alba Plena' was by then on the grounds. Hertrich later developed a sport of 'Alba Plena' which he named 'Alba Plena Improved.' The sport is a tad larger in size and the petals lack the conformity of the parent plant, but it is, nonetheless, an outstanding bloom. There are two or three 25 foot high shrubs of both 'Alba Plena' and Hertrich's 'Alba Plena Improved' growing in the North Vista at the Huntington Gardens. In November and December of the year they are a beautiful sight to see.



Concepts Of Camellia Culture

by J. Carroll Reiners

(Excerpted from various "Bulletins", of

The Camellia Society of Sacramento, 1984)

LEAF COLOR

Dull light green or yellowish leaves means that something is wrong with the roots, as deficiency in minerals, or lack of nitrogen. What to do? First, check for root vigor. Poor roots mean possible root-rot due to overwatering, and/or poor drainage. If the roots are deteriorated, dispose of the plant. If the roots show reasonable vigor then treat for lack of nitrogen and/or minerals. Lack of nitrogen is the most common cause of dull yellowish leaves and is simply cured by fertilizing with a higher nitrogen fertilizer. Lack of minerals is rather uncommon but is a possibility in container culture. The best panacea, that we know of, is a product called "Pentrex"; it is an excellent scientifically formulated and balanced liquid fertilizer, high in nitrogen, with trace elements, chelating agent, root stimulant and soil penetrant. Use "Pentrex" with caution and use it one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the recommended strength. It works. In warm weather, the treatment will green the leaves in two weeks.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Paleobotanists, in their study of and correlation of life forms of the past and present, learn of many generalities relative to adaptations. For instance, plant species are less able to tolerate changes in their environment from warm to cold than cold to warmer. The world climates have been changing to cooler conditions since 70 million years ago causing many extinctions of both plant and animal life. Evidence from fossil leaves and present leaves indicates that leaves with smooth margins are commonest in tropical conditions whereas leaves with toothed margins are dominant in cooler temperature climate zones. Garden enthusiasts have a better chance for plant experimentation when they grow plants from cooler climates, and plants with toothed margins may have a greater inherited hardiness to cold.

Of camellias, those with *reticulata* parentage are the least hardy. During our winter cold weather move these cultivars, which are in containers, to

the warmest places in the garden for their flower buds will usually drop if subjected to freezing temperatures.

ORGANIC MATERIALS

Camellias like organic material in their soils. Some organics are better than others. It is preferable that they do not rapidly absorb nitrates from the soil as they decompose. The good organic is one which is nearly inert (does not decompose immediately) such as the redwood products, which contain tannic acid preservative. Pine and fir bark products are excellent but do avoid the pine and fir wood shaving for these rob the camellia of nitrates because they quickly decompose. The ideal product is a Pine-Fir bark product which has been nitrolized (a 1% additive of nitrogen and then composted for one year). Our own composted garden refuse which we can nitrolize, by adding a bit of ammonium sulphate, makes a perfect organic for camellia soils. Oak leaves are good but gathering them in the wild always has the risk of Oakroot Fungus contamination.

ACCELERATE SEED GERMINATION

The camellia seed is enclosed within a dark brown hard covering. This

seedcoat is so protective of the embryo that it sometimes inhibits quick germination. We have experimented for years on how to circumvent delays in seed sprouting with some of the following tricks, before planting the seeds: a. File a small hole in the seedcoat, b. Crack the seedcoat, and/or c. Remove the seedcoat.

Another method is to soak the seed in water overnight and then plant. A variation to soaking in water is to pour boiling water into a can of seeds and let them soak for several hours before planting. Many species of plants with hard-coated seeds have adapted to and require heat to initiate germination (an evolutionary response to forest fires). Many California native plants, such as the Knotcone Pine, will not germinate its seeds until stimulated by the intense heat from a forest burn.

The quickest way to germinate camellia seeds, however, is as follows: Pick seed fruits from the camellia bush in September, before the fleshy husks crack open to drop the brown seeds. These seeds within the fruits will be fresh, unhardened and ready to germinate *if planted immediately* in moist peat. Most of the seeds will expose the growing radicle (rudimentary root) in a week to 10 days. Fresh seed planting is the BEST METHOD.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL OFFICERS SEPT 1987

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Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB AND CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, George Klein; Secretary, Ruth Myers, P.O. Box 918, Atwater 95301.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ed Streit; Secretary, Mary Anne Ray, 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February, Sheraton Smugglers Inn, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, Evelyn Kilsby, 11 Tiffin Court, Clayton 94517. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through March, Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Rd., Concord

KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Dr. Leland Chow; Secretary, Fred Dukes, 733 Del Mar Dr., Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: November 1, January 12, February 9 and April 10, Dr. Leland Chow's residence, 200 Vista Verde Way, Bakersfield 93309.

MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Virginia Rankin; Secretary, Barbara Butler, 1016 Sycamore Ave., Modesto 95350. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, September through April, Centenary Methodist Church, Room 6, Norwegian & McHenry Avenues, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Jack Lewis; Secretary, James R. S. Toland, 1897 Andrews Dr., Concord 94523. Meetings: 1st Monday, November through April. Heather Farm Community Center, 301 N. San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek.

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

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Marcie Altizer; Secretary, Mary Simmons, 5616 Freeman Ave., La Crescenta 91214. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., Descanso Gardens.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Kenneth Henly; Secretary, Edie Briscoe, P.O. Box 56, Los Altos 94023. 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 Savings and Loan, 1933 Foothill Blvd., La Verne.

SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Jim Randall; Correspondence Secretary, Lana Paulhamus, 1909 Discovery Way, Sacramento 95819. Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October through April, 7:30 p.m. Shephard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Cindy Drake; Secretary, Edalee Harwell, 2165 Leon Ave., San Diego 92154. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, 7:30 p.m.; Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—Information not received.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Wally Jones; Secretary, Pauline Johnson, 1251 Tenth St., San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, October through May, 7:30 p.m., South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palo Verdes Peninsula 90274.

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Grady Perigan; Secretary, Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776. Meetings: November 19, January 28, February 25, March 24, Lecture Hall, and April 28, Ayres Hall, L.A. County Arboretum.

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