

*The*  
*Camellia Review*



PURPLE GOWN (Tzepao)

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

*Vol. 12*

APRIL, 1951

*No. 7*

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, November to April, inclusive, at the auditorium of the new library of the Pasadena City College, 1500 Block East Colorado Street. A cut camellia blossom exhibit is always held at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$4.00.

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Meeting Place: Santiago Park, Santa Ana	
Secretary: Mrs. Perry Grout, 1802 East Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana	
Date of meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month.	

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## AS I SEE IT...



by  
*Arthur S. Kane*

AS I SEE IT . . . paper and printers' ink is a weak medium through which to try to convey the sheer beauty of the Kunming Reticulatas which graced our cover last month and this month. Even the artist's palette or the magic of modern color photography cannot fully capture the delicate nuances of shading present in many of the blossoms. Because there are so very few examples of these plants in this country at the present time, you would be well repaid in making a trip to Rancho del Descanso, just to feast your eyes. Beauty, so says the old adage, lies in the eye of the beholder—and it takes the educated eye of the initiate to absorb the full effect of symphony, meisterwerk or flower. Musicians derive more emotion from music than does our friend, Joe Ox. The best way to educate the eye to feel the effects of beauty is to look upon as many examples of it, in the particular field of the hobby or craft, as can be found. And to date, of what we have seen, in our humble opinion some of the Kunming Reticulatas for flower kingdom beauty rank along with the Mona Lisa and Beethoven's Fifth.

\* \* \*

Noted with approval: The tendency, observed lately over a spreading So. Cal. area, of landlords of newly built apartment houses and bungalow courts to plant one, two or more camellia bushes in the forecourt, or along the front of the building. In a few years these bush-

es will break out into magnificent displays in winter, and lend a touch of artistry to buildings otherwise more useful than beautiful.

\* \* \*

Reading Dr. Lammerts' article on "The New Reticulata Hybrids," (as yet unpublished) which he has written for the 1950 American Camellia Society Yearbook, is like reading a swashbuckling adventure novel. He makes the search for, importing of, and arrival of a batch of *C. reticulata* by air express from China into the kind of tale that stirs the blood and touches the imagination. As a committee of one, therefore, I hereby convey on Dr. Lammerts the Kane Medallion for the finest bit of horticultural writing these tired old eyes have gazed on in lo! these many moons. Ah, that some of the rest of us had his touch!

\* \* \*

Wanted: A good pithy word to mean—"one who grows, admires, and knows something (or a great deal) about camellias." Something which could be roughly translated by the term "camellia fan," but should have overtones of a little more dignity. I've tried using the combination "camellia-ist" several times in this magazine, but it is an ugly word, difficult to pronounce. "Camellian" doesn't sound quite right for a person; sounds more like the name of a genus or species. Constantly writers and editors are put to such devious devices as "camellia fancier," "camellia lover," "camellia admirer," etc., in trying to designate succinctly a person who either grows camellias, or admires them from a distance. I envy Fred Walters of *Pacific Rose Society News*, who has a perfectly good word with which to designate his clientele—"rosarian." Frankly, I'm baffled. Got any good ideas?

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# FURTHER NOTES on the *Camellia Reticulata* Hybrids

By DR. WALTER E. LAMMERTS

Descanso Gardens, La Canada, California

The story of the discovery, importation and successful propagation of the *Camellia reticulata* hybrids from Kunning, China, was recently published in the 1951 YEARBOOK of The American Camellia Society.<sup>1</sup> Since this data was submitted in the spring of 1950, another flowering season has come and gone and as a result of the more detailed study of plant and flower characteristics certain comparisons and conclusions are now clearly established. Inasmuch as brief descriptions of the 15 varieties to be released in the spring of 1952 were given in the above article, individual kinds will be mentioned only to illustrate certain features as they are discussed.

The most frequent question we are asked is, "Do these new *reticulatas* have such small and dull greyish green looking leaves as *Captain Rawes*?" The answer is that all the varieties have leaves that are much more glossy green, some rivaling *C. japonica*. Most of them have leaves much larger than that of *Captain Rawes* or even the larger leaved *C. japonica* varieties. This is clearly shown in Figure I, where a typical *Captain Rawes* leaf shown on the left, is compared with a typical leaf of *Great Peach Bloom* (or *Large Crimson*), *Purple Gown* and *Noble Pearl*. Even the glossy surface of the leaves shows up clearly in this photograph! Many of the leaves of *Great Peach Bloom* are 5½ inches long. Even more remarkable is the thick leathery texture of the leaves with the deep reticulations on the leaf surface and serrations of the leaf margins. No two varieties are alike in this respect. In fact I predict that some day when they are well distributed, many of them will be extensively planted because of the floral value of their unusually beautiful leaves. As shown by the leaf of *Noble Pearl*, many varieties have sinuate to undulate instead of flat leaf surfaces, and *Great Shot Silk* has arc shaped leaves of medium size, clothing the plant in great abundance.

Not all the varieties, however, have leaves as large or larger than those of *C. japonica*. *Willow Leaf Pink* for example has long deep green willow-like narrow leaves only 1 - 1½ inches wide. These leaves are admirably suited to the slender, spreading pendulous habit of this very vigorous growing variety. It tends to grow only in one plane so is a natural for espalier work, or planting near a garden wall. According to Dr. T. T. Yu<sup>2</sup> a large tree of this is growing in the grounds of the Temple of Helungtan, north of Kunning, having a trunk 14 inches in diameter and bearing over 1,000 flowers during the Chinese New Year. The flowers are fully double and of an unusually dainty pale orchid pink color, technically classed as spinel pink.

Another variety, *Small Osmanthus Leaf* also has very narrow leaves only about 1 inch wide, but differing from those of *Willow Leaf Pink* in

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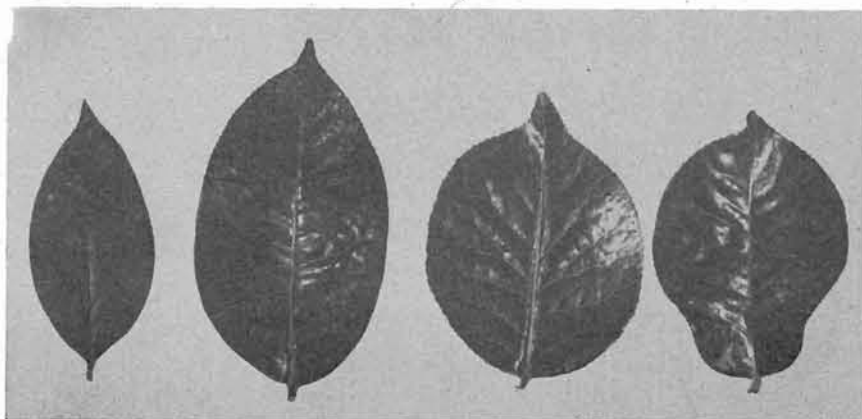


Figure I Showing from left to right leaves of *Captain Rawes*, *Great Peach Bloom*, *Purple Gown* and *Noble Pearl*.

being concave and much more reticulate on the surface with deeper marginal serrations. The flower of this variety is also double, but more carmine pink in color than *Willow Leaf* and with white stripes on the inner petals.

Both of these varieties resemble certain of the cattleya orchids in color tones as well as petal texture and sheen, bringing to the camellia enthusiast flower colors hitherto unknown.

The other varieties, though differing strikingly in leaf form, size and marginal serration, are all significantly larger than the *Captain Rawes* type as well as more glossy in surface texture.

We are also frequently asked if these new varieties are as straggly in growth habit as the *Captain Rawes* variety. Though we have, of course, only been able to observe grafted plants for about two years, it is already quite clear that many of them are quite compact in growth habit, with leaves closely spaced, thus giving the appearance of a well clothed plant. Even the small leaved *Willow Leaf Pink*, and the small *Osmanthus Leaf* varieties are very graceful in their growth habit.

The vigor of these new *reticulatas* as judged by the amount of growth made by grafts in one year would be amazing were it not for the fact disclosed by Dr. T. T. Yu that many of them are actually trees. Thus, the variety *Pine Cone* grows as a tree in the grounds of the Temple of Hsishan in Kunming, to a height of 30 feet and a trunk diameter of 20 inches. *Lion Head* is growing there as a tree 50 feet tall with a trunk over 20 inches in diameter. Surely camellias to attain such a height would have to be vigorous growers!

Before we proceed to a discussion of certain interesting features of the flowers a word as to grafting of these varieties may be in order. According to Dr. Yu, propagation in China is accomplished only by inarching or approach grafting. Such a slow and cumbersome method hardly appeals to our fast moving brand of Western horticulture. Accordingly, from the time we first acquired the original plants in 1948, we have been handling

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# LIFE BEFORE HOLLYWOOD

*The Autobiography of a Camellia Plant*

By MONIQUE I. PEER

HONGKONGENSIS is my name—it was also the name of my mother and father. My uncle is the mighty Trade Wind who is always rustling around. Quite often he would start arguing with Mr. Monsoon and then what violent storms we would have to bear. They would fight so fiercely



MONIQUE I. PEER

that their thunder and lightning could be seen and heard for hundreds of miles. I didn't mind so much when I was just a little seed pod in my mama's arms, but one day Uncle Wind was so gusty that she dropped me and I fell to earth where I was lost amongst the heavy underbrush. That was when I really became terrified by my uncle's up-roars. Earth was very kind to me, however, and before long I found that I was growing roots. Pretty soon I began to develop a periscope. I had lots of fun with that because as it emerged from the earth it began to grow eyes and ears, and then I suddenly saw my mama again. She was overjoyed and told me that I was growing into a plant like herself.

People called our periscopes trunks and our eyes and ears buds and leaves—oh, it was wonderful to see the world again! Mama was beautiful—she had on such a lovely green dress with gorgeous red blossoms. I can best describe her by quoting what they say about our family at the University of Hong Kong:

*“Camellia Hongkongensis—Local Chinese name, hung char fa (red tea flower). Color is solid and varies from deep pink to cerise. It is the only native red flowered camellia in the Colony, and blooms from November to mid-March. Flowers are solitary, sessile and are usually held erect; they are two inches long and as much or more across when opened. The hundred or so bright yellow pollen covered anthers show up brilliantly against the cerise petals. Leaves are alternate, evergreen, lanceolate, acuminate and with slight serrations near the tip. The young foliage produced in February and March is of an unusual color. In some lights the leaves appear blue and in others, purple. In reflected light they appear olive-lead color above and deep mauve below, and if held up to the light they appear purple. Once seen and recognized the leaves could scarcely again be con-*

fused with those of any other plant. Habit—upright evergreen branched tree to at least 20 feet.”

Uncle Trade Wind I no longer feared because Earth had explained to me how much good he and rainy Mr. Monsoon did for us all. Many of the family were around to greet me—and also many of my relatives such as Tutcheria-Spectabilis, and Camellia Salisifolia, who were both decked in pearly white. Cousins Rhodoleia, who seemed to be much taller trees than the rest of us, displayed their brilliant clusters of carmine flowers sparkling in the sun as Uncle Wind and Mrs. Mist had a friendly chat amidst their petals.

As I grew up I learned many things; for instance, that I lived on an island thirty miles square called Hong Kong—under a British flag; that the beautiful shimmering water far below was called the South China Sea. I learned that I am a native, so I asked Mama to tell me more about our homeland. She said Hong Kong is a small and beautiful island, separated only by the Straits of Kowloon from the New Territories (a part of our country) situated on the Chinese mainland. We live just south of the Tropic of Cancer at latitude 22° in a sub-tropical climate. Our mean temperature varies from 40° to 80° F. When Mr. E. E. Monsoon visits us between January and July we have twelve to sixteen inches rainfall per month, and the rest of the year only from one to two inches. (I recently learned that when it is noon in Hollywood it is 4:00 a.m. the next morning in Hong Kong.)

Though there are many Chinese in Hong Kong, our island belongs to some people who also are natives of another island (to be truthful, a little larger than ours, though I'm sure not as beautiful) right on the other side of the world called Britain.

My parents have had occasion to speak to camellias from the mainland, and it seems we are lucky because the British love nature and they see to it that we are not maltreated by humans. Be that as it may, not long ago we went through an awful experience—we heard mighty roars like thunder—only it wasn't. Later we learned it was gunfire. Parts of our lovely hillsides were blazing with fire and we were so petrified we could not move. Shortly thereafter hordes of humans speaking not English or Chinese, but Japanese were trampling over us and cutting down our families left and right (1941). It was plain murder . . . how I hated those people . . . they took my mother and most of my sisters and brothers, too. It was only because I was still so small and managed to hide under a thorny bramble that I was not snatched up too . . . oh, my poor, poor family. I was ever so grateful to the bramble, and he said he would protect me as long as he could, but that it would not be possible to do so forever because the day was coming when I would develop into the tall and stately tree my mother had been. I prayed that this day would never come—but there was no way for me to stop myself from growing.

After a long, long period (5 years), another change took place in our homeland. The foreign soldiers left and the friendly British came back again. I began to feel happy once more, especially since I noticed that some of those beautiful blossoms my mother wore were appearing over me too; I didn't know it, but that happened to be another danger signal. In spite of the British Forestry policing the territory, young Chinese boys

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# CONTAINER CULTURE

By INTERESTED OBSERVER

## Part II — Nutrition

*(For the first article in this series on Container Culture, see Vol. 12, No. 3, December 1950 issue of Camellia Review.)*

THIS chapter should not in any sense of the word be considered as an objection or handicap to container culture. If we were to suggest, or even intimate, that children are an objection or handicap to happy married life, we would be snowed under with protests—and very deservedly so. None will deny, however, that children do present problems which call for careful study and consideration in order that the children may bring greater blessings to the lives of the parents, if for no other reason. It is in this sense that this chapter is presented.

All soils suitable for the planting of camellias are naturally nutritious, and generally speaking, contain all the elements requisite for the satisfactory and continued growth and blossoming of camellias, provided enough soil is available to the roots. By that is meant: soil which is reasonably friable, has a satisfactory pH, necessary humus and has in it all the other factors such as good drainage, which are essential to the best growth of camellias. Perhaps a number of paragraphs should be devoted to this, but neither time nor space permits. It may, therefore, be assumed that when the term "suitable soil" is used, all the factors which go to make good soil are considered and assumed to be present.

Let us, therefore, proceed with the statement that camellias planted in the ground in reasonably suitable soil, and in a reasonably suitable location will, with normal care, continue to make satisfactory growth for many years without benefit of added fertilizer. Moreover, they will continue to set buds normally and bloom very satisfactorily although the writer certainly does not recommend that fertilizer be withheld, but on the contrary advises the judicious use of fertilizers for more satisfactory growth and more satisfactory bloom.

The reason that these ground-planted camellias continue to thrive in natural soil without fertilizer is as before stated that the soil has been provided by nature with all the necessary elements. The roots of each plant reach out into new and unused areas and there find the sustenance just as nature intended they should.

Not all of us have the space, however, in which to make our camellia plantings in the ground where the roots can reach out at will. In fact, most of us with sizable collections must, from necessity, resort to container culture in order to indulge our tastes for the newer varieties, without parting with the older ones. Not only is that true—there are those who from choice prefer container culture, and firmly advocate this method on the principle that it is possible to control more carefully the growth and blooming habits of container-grown plants than of camellias grown naturally in the ground.

It should, therefore, be pointed out that when container culture is em-

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## *To The Ladies!*

By EVELYN W. JOHNSON

We, with Past Presidents Mr. H. C. Hill and Dr. L. J. Taylor, have recently enjoyed the responsibility of transporting and arranging the exhibits for the Southern California Camellia Society at the Pomona, San Diego and Temple City Camellia Shows.

Since the camellias came from many gardens, there were varieties with which we were not familiar. It was important that the blossoms should be properly identified and the following system was finally evolved:

If possible the reds should be cut and placed in a large box, then the whites, pinks and varicolors—each in separate boxes. The display then can be easily set out at the show—reds, whites, varicolors, rose and pink.

When starting to cut the blossoms, have a supply of small slips of paper ready. Enter the varietal name on the slip of paper at the top or bottom. Place the blossom on the paper so that the name can be read without disturbing the blossom again. When the boxes have been filled, make separate lists of the varieties for each box. Take lists indoors and from them print name cards 2"x3½" with black wax china marking pencil or broad point pen, capital letters one inch high. As the cards for each box are completed, place in an envelope and put envelope in the box. Enter the total number of cards on outside of envelope.

On arrival at the Camellia Show two people should work together to arrange the exhibit. The small empty water containers are set out in a pleasing arrangement, according to

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## CAMELLIA SEASON

By ELIZABETH C. COUNCILMAN

*Some folk find spring their favorite season,*

*Bursting forth with leaf and bloom—  
Some like fall with trees a-russlin'  
Scattering leaves before the broom.*

*Summer time some folk prefer, to  
pass the year's best days,  
Walking in the mountains, or resting  
by the sea,*

*But winter is the time I love,  
When my camellias bloom for me.*

*A sea of gorgeous color,  
A tapestry of green—  
Each flower a perfection  
In beauty, stands serene.*

*So other folk may have their seasons,  
With their beauties every one—  
Let me enjoy camellias blooming  
Through the winter's rain and sun.*

## CAMELLIAS & MAGNOLIAS

Report of the Conference  
held by The  
Royal Horticultural Society  
London, April 4-5, 1950

This comprehensive report, in beautifully illustrated book form, may soon be out of print, due to its initial small printing, and the heavy demand for it. It will probably not be re-issued. Southern California Camellia Society has arranged to import 30 copies of this important work. These will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. If you wish to purchase, please send in your order early.

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# CAMELLIA LEAF BURN

By J. J. LITTLEFIELD

As a garden consultant, I thought I knew all the answers to camellia troubles . . . A *chamaelaucium*, (Geraldton wax flower shrub) grew exuberantly beside my front porch. I finally decided I'd rather have another camellia in its place as a companion plant to *Anna Frost* camellia.

So the wax plant was rooted out and *Debutante* camellia set up house-keeping in its place, "Surely", I thought, "Debutante will feel at home beside the healthy, robust growing *Anna Frost* camellia." Yes, the *Debutante* was planted properly. Drainage was provided, and plant set in a good soil mixture of peat moss, leaf mold, bit of well weathered manure, and existing garden soil.

Soon the troubles started. Leaves turned brown from the edges on in towards the centers. Some of the brown burnt-like leaf margins were about a quarter of an inch wide. In checking with several camellia specialists the symptoms indicated alkali burn.

A generous handful of sulphur was scattered evenly in the basin of the thinnish three-foot-tall plant. Iron sulphate (snow-form, looks like flour) was applied in diluted liquid form. One heaping tablespoonful to each gallon of water. Two basin fillings constituted one treatment. This particular size basin drank up seven gallons of diluted iron sulphate. Two treatments were applied during the summer, at intervals of six weeks apart. It was fed a specially formulated camellia food obtainable at nurseries, three times during its growing season, watered regularly and had semi-weekly foliage baths during the summer months.

Still the plant didn't respond to treatment. In fact, Martin Faber, then president of the Pasadena Horticultural Society asked me "What's the matter with that camellia? The leaf edges are burned, and the leaves are almost paper thin!" I explained about the alkali water burn trouble.

Next year the brown leaf margin edges were narrower. The same cultural treatment was applied. Sulphur, iron sulphate, acid plant food feedings, and systematic watering. Finally, after two years of constant care, more so than for a growing child, that plant snapped out of its misery ailment, and now is beginning to perform somewhat near normal.

It took me over two years to figure out why *Debutante*, a first class healthy looking plant when purchased and set out beside the portly *Anna Frost* camellia should act up the way it did.

The *Debutante* camellia trouble was this . . . I didn't dig out enough soil which contained bits of alkaline reaction roots of the Geraldton wax plant! I should have made a much larger hole for the *Debutante*, filled it partly with good garden loam, then mixed the other humus type ingredients with that soil.

It's a good idea to study the soil situation if you contemplate planting a camellia in place of another shrub that has grown in that location for a number of years. If there's any doubt as to soil condition, don't even hesitate for a minute. Dig out that soil that has been occupied by the roots of the other plant. Bring in some good soil from other parts of the garden or if you have it, use compost soil.

# Camelliana

By VERN McCASKILL

Has the Double Reticulata gone the way of the Dodo Bird or could it possibly be hiding away in some forgotten European garden? *Camellia Reticulata Flore Pleno* was pictured in *L'Illustration Horticole* by Verschaffelt in 1862, and, with its forty-odd petals it had very little resemblance to the Captain Rawes variety that we grow today. Here's hoping that somewhere it still lives and that someday, not too far off, it will make its reappearance.

The beautiful Pale Pink Herme Sport that won the Frank Williams Cup at the show will be named Spring Sonnet if the name is available. Mr. C. Norwood Hastie, Jr., the very personable owner of Magnolia Gardens at Charleston, South Carolina, said that it was the most important flower that he saw here in California when he visited in February.

Judy O'Grady, the Colonel's Lady, and practically everyone else are growing camellia seedlings now. Several fine ones have flowered this season and have been or soon will be named. Most of us know that all new plant varieties should be named in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature as adopted by the International Horticultural Conference in London in 1930. Very few of us have the least idea of what comprises this set of rules. The complete code will, no doubt, be published in a later issue of the Review but, as a mistake once made is hard to correct, suppose we be guided by some of the most important rules

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**Southern California  
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# ★ *News of the Societies* ★

## **KERN COUNTY**

The Camellia Society of Kern County held its 3rd annual Camellia Show on Feb. 24th and 25th. It was held in the show room of the San Joaquin Tractor Co., Highway 99 at California Ave.

Our attendance for the two days was 5906. (It was free.)

Seventy-one exhibitors participated. We also sold twenty new memberships. Mr. J. J. Littlefield came up from Pasadena to act as judge—which we appreciate very much.

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## **ORANGE COUNTY**

The Camellia Society of Orange County has issued its first Honorary Membership to Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Johnson. We feel very fortunate in having two such wonderful friends so genuinely interested in the success of our society. Because of their wise counsel and generosity in their donation of time and materials, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have endeared themselves to our entire society.

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## **TEMPLE CITY**

The following officers and directors have been elected to serve for the '51-'52 season: Robert H. Leeper, president, 6135 N. Oak St., Temple City; John P. Commons, vice president, 2355 Brentford Rd., San Marino; Marguerite Merrillees, secretary-treasurer, 517 S. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena 10; Directors—Mrs. Lynn Timm, Mrs. Zita Marks, Mrs. Fern Sense, Robert M. Leeper, John P. Commons, Mrs. Marian Burcky, Lawrence R. Bryant, Jack Whitaker, Miss Marguerite Merrillees.

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## **SACRAMENTO**

Camellia Society of Sacramento has elected the following officers to serve for the coming season: Norman F. Schwiek, president; Mrs. Ann McKee, recording secretary; Mrs. Wm. Doidge, corresponding secretary.

An interesting experiment was tried this year at the Sacramento Show. Instead of flower-form classification, a color and varietal arrangement was used.

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## **CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**

Our good member, Homer Wilson, has brought distinction to our Society by having grown a beautiful seedling, which is yet unnamed and that's where we come in. We are going to give a big camellia plant as a prize to the member who submits the best name. Put on your thinking cap, write a fetching name on a penny postcard and mail to Homer Wilson,

734 University Ave. You don't have to enclose even one box top. Win, lose or draw, it will be fun, so please submit a name. Here's the description: Very large, semi-double, brilliant red. Even flamer than "Flame".

By the way, did you ladies read in Mary Hampton's Fashion Notes that in order to be in there pitching this spring you should have citron colored gloves and for that added dash, run out and pick two yellow and orange camellias to accentuate the positive. Neat trick, I say. My husband, the old meanie, won't let me lay a finger on *any* of his yellow camellias, let alone the orange ones, so it's plain to see I won't be one of the ten best dressed women.

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## SAN DIEGO

The San Diego Camellia Society would like to express through the medium of the Bulletin, its thanks to the Southern California and the Pacific Societies for their many courtesies extended to our members. We should also like to congratulate all those who were responsible for putting on such a good Show. We appreciate the difficulty it presented this year which is certainly an "off-year" for camellias. Despite all this, the commercial displays were beautiful, the educational exhibit most informative and interesting, and the various divisions featured hundreds of fine blossoms.

The attendance at the March meeting of the San Diego Society was approximately 75 very enthusiastic members, with an acre of the most beautiful flowers you ever laid eyes on. Dr. Tellam, the President, opened the meeting. The first order of business was a report by Mrs. Carlton on the Show. Their Show was attended by approximately 4000 people and was very satisfactory. There were a great number of beautiful blooms and the Show Committee was very enthused over the attendance and the displays by individuals and growers.

The shining light of the meeting was the beautiful blooms that were brought in from Encinitas, Vista, Ramona and, of course, various sections of San Diego including La Mesa. Dr. Tellam had his usual display of wonderfully large blooms, which is a close competitor with Harvey Short's, both of Ramona. Both of the Millers, one from La Mesa and the other from Encinitas were very close competition on their blooms.

The comedy of the evening was the presentation to the membership of the San Diego Society of the winnings of Dr. Tellam at the Temple City Show. As you undoubtedly know, Dr. Tellam took six or seven Firsts, a couple of Seconds, and one or two Thirds; also got the prize for the best flower of the Show and to top it off was the Sweepstakes winner of the Temple City Show. He took the first prize at the Southern California Camellia Show for the best flower, duplicating this at Temple City and winning Sweepstakes; all from the town of Ramona.

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The University of Washington Arboretum reports that their *Camellia Reticulatas* were killed or severely damaged last winter. Their *Camellia Japonicas* and *Sasanquas* were mostly damaged to some extent but those protected from morning sun and wind by evergreen trees escaped with less injury than those in a more exposed location. The Arboretum, being between the Sound and Lake Washington did not suffer from as low a temperature as most locations in Oregon.

—From *Oregon Camellia Bulletin*



Figure 2—Large Crimson or Great Butterfly Wings.  
—Photo by Nuggins, Santa Barbara, Calif.

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#### RETICULATA HYBRIDS . . . from page 4

them in exactly the same manner as *C. japonica* varieties—that is by cleft grafting, using scions from well matured growth. By placing the grafts under continuous light and feeding weekly with Descanso Plant Food as described in the 1949 YEARBOOK of American Camellia Society<sup>3</sup> we have been able to grow grafts as much as 10 feet high in 10 months time. With normal handling and pinching well branched plants 2-3 feet high may readily be grown from winter grafting in one season.

The most remarkable feature of these new *C. reticulata* varieties is, of course, the amazing transformation the flowers undergo in their opening. Thus *Lion Head* opens at first to an informal 4½ inch semi-double flower either red, variegated with white, or a vivid turkey red with only a slight suggestion of variation on a few inner petals, depending on which color selection is flowering. The petals at this opening phase are very thick, the golden anthers not yet shedding pollen, and the flower rather flat and similar in form to some of the larger semi-double *C. japonica* varieties. Then as the days go by the petals gradually enlarge and become more wavy and crepelike in texture. The central petals raise up and fold lengthwise at the base almost completely hiding the golden stamens now shedding their abundant pollen. This transformation gives the flower interesting three dimensional values not found in the *C. japonica* varieties. When completely developed the flower is about 4½ inches high in the center and by actual measurement 6½ inches in diameter!

In normal weather due to this long period of development the individual flowers actually are lovely and worth looking at for easily a whole week.

All of the other varieties which have so far flowered, undergo a similar dynamic transformation, making them seem much more "alive" as flowers than the comparatively static *C. japonica* varieties, in this respect resembling very much The Queen of the Flowers, the rose. So far ten have flowered and correspond rather closely to the descriptions given by T. T. Yu in the article referred to above, with certain interesting exceptions. Random notes taken on the flowers of these varieties follow:

1. *Butterfly Wing X Peony*. The flower of this hybrid opens to a delicate Phlox pink (H.C.C. 625/1) semi-double with deeper colored venations. The undertones of color which develop later resemble those of certain orchids. It is a rather high centered flower and eventually reaches a diameter of 4 inches and height of 2½ inches.
2. *Large Crimson or Great Peach Bloom*. The flowers at first open to a vivid bright crimson (H.C.C. 22) rather large 5 inch semi-double flower. The flower at this stage is rather flat, the dark red petals, each of exquisite crepe texture surrounding the circle of antique-gold stamens. Later the inner petals raise up and fold lengthwise becoming very wavy and crinkled, giving the flowers interesting and varied form, no two being exactly alike. The height of the flower also gradually increases until finally about 3 inches high by 5½ - 6 inches in diameter. (See Figure 2)
3. *Great Shot Silk or Large Spinel Pink*. The most remarkable feature of this medium sized (4½ inch) variety is the color and texture of the petals. Opening to a bright pink technically known as spinel pink (H.C.C. 625/1) the petals gradually fade slightly to a lighter color hitherto unknown in camellia flowers. Each petal has minute almost pin-point deeper pink dots, and when viewed in the morning sun many little diamond-like points sparkle like minute dew drops. Curiosity prompted me to closely examine the petals for the cause of this remarkably beautiful texture. A hand lens revealed many large apparently transparent cells scattered among the colored ones, thus giving the diamond effect when viewed in the sunlight.
4. *Purple Gown*. The flower first opens to regular formal double, deep purple red in color, with pin stripes of white, then transforms into a greatly enlarged, informal peony-formed 6-8 inch flower, each petal crinkled near the base, waved in outline and of a lovely crepe-like texture. The height eventually reaches over 4 inches and at this stage the petals are a most beautiful wine-red in color technically known as Orient Red (H.C.C. 819).

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5. *Willow Leaf Spinel Pink* or *Narrow Leaved Shot Silk*. The almost formal double flowers of this graceful willow-like leaved variety are only intermediate in size, that is about 4 inches across. They are, however, very dainty in their very pale pink orchid-like color tones and have an unusually fine silky velvety texture. Technically known as light spinel pink (H.C.C. 625-3) the flowers show a color hitherto unknown in camellias.
6. *Jewellery* or *Noble Pearl*. A remarkably large flower 6 - 6½ inches in diameter and 2½ inches high, opening to bright turkey red (H.C.C. 721/3) colored petals of very large size each of the outer petals actually 2x2½ inches in size. This variety has very thick petals of velvety texture and the inner petals are crinkled, and folded length wise, again giving the highly variable form to the flowers so characteristic of the lighter colored *Great Peach Bloom*.
7. *Cornelian*. A truly variable flower showing already three phases of color forms which we are endeavoring to stabilize by scion selection. The typical variegated semi-double form has 20 - 25 petals and opens to a full centered flower 5 - 6 inches in diameter and over 4 inches high. Each petal is basically turkey red in color (H.C.C. 721) variegated with white and often suffused with orchid pink at tips. The inner petals are waved and crinkled with a few small petaloids in the center. Quoting one observer "The flower looks like a huge semi-double red *Gigantea* with an artistic arrangement of red, white and bluish colored sweet pea blossoms placed on top of it." Again when viewed at an angle snow clad mountain peaks are brought to mind.  
An almost white form with only touches of blush pink and red has occurred and also a type with much less variegation. Both of these types are interesting and lovely departures from the more usual balance of variegation.
8. *Chang's Temple*. Described to us by H. T. Tsai, an associate of T. T. Yu, as being a brilliant pale pink. This variety as so far flowering is a variegated type having much more of the pale pink tone than *Cornelian* but like it in many respects. The petal arrangement, however, is different, and the flower is flatter and in this respect resembles *Noble Pearl*. The predominant color is turkey red (H.C.C. 721).
9. *Lion Head*. Two color phases are already in existence here. As described by T. T. Yu, this variety is a turkey red (H.C.C. 721) with no touch of variegation. The first plants to flower for us were highly variegated as shown in the American Camellia Society YEARBOOK

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article referred to above. Recently a bud on a grafted plant opened to a magnificent 6½ inch fully red flower having only a faint suggestion of variegation. Evidently this was the color phase described by T. T. Yu, and we are endeavoring to select for this color phase by scion selection.

10. *Great Butterfly Wings* or *Thick Leaf Butterfly*. Another variety in the same general semi-double class as *Large Crimson* and *Noble Pearl* but having lighter crimson to rose madder flowers (H.C.C. 22/2 to 23/2). The flower is remarkably large, some being almost 6 inches in diameter, and due to the folding and crinkling of the petals the form of the individual flowers varies in a most fascinating manner. This variety, as the name implies, resembles a huge exotic butterfly in the wavy arrangement of its individually large and very thick petals.

In general the varieties which have so far flowered agree with their actual flower colors and other characteristics with the very fine descriptions given by T. T. Yu in his report mentioned above. The exceptions, such as the difference in color in the variety *Great Butterfly Wings*, are merely due to differences in the effect of our more intense light conditions on color expression. Certain other differences, such as noted in the variety *Lion Head* and *Chang's Temple* are probably due to the hybrid nature of these varieties, thus giving rise to interesting sports for color and degree of variegation.

Hybrids between these varieties and *C. japonica* varieties are now coming into flower and it will be most interesting to see what the combination of the characteristics of these two greatly different species groups will develop in the way of new flower characteristics.

- <sup>1</sup> Lammerts, W. E. The new *camellia reticulata* hybrids. The story of their discovery, importation and propagation. (Page number not available until YEARBOOK is released).
- <sup>2</sup> Yu, Te-Tsun. *Camellia reticulata* and its garden varieties. Camellia and Magnolia Conference October 1950. Pages 13 to 26.
- <sup>3</sup> Lammerts, W. E. Effect of continuous light, high nutrient level and temperature on flowering of camellia hybrids. American Camellia YEARBOOK 1948. Pages 53 to 56.



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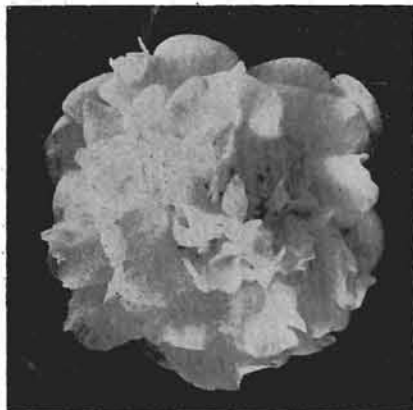
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and men would stealthily come through our land under cover of darkness and chop us down for firewood. My flowers made me very conspicuous, particularly as Mr. Moon used to love to look at himself in the dewdrops reflecting from my leaves and petals.

One night the inevitable happened—there were so few of our camellia family left that our flowers were easy to spot and a group of bandits sighted me from a distance without any trouble. On they came with a rush—I must have been quite a prize because they were all exclaiming over me. Mr. Bramble said he would do his best to help me by sticking his sharp thorns into as many hands and feet as he could manage, but he warned me that the most we could hope for was a delay, because he could see that they were determined to get me. But now I had a fortunate break. Mr. Ralph Dean, the head of the Department of Gardens for Hong Kong, happened to be in the vicinity with two of his friends, Ralph and Monique Peer who were visiting him from a far away enormous country called America. He quickly got his men together and rounded up the bad boys. They were taken by truck to some special place where they punish humans for stealing plants—for ours is a forest reserve which belongs to the "Crown."

We are all very fond of Mr. Ralph Dean—he helps us very much by trying to build up new families of our species. Then I heard him talk lots and lots about Hongkongensis to the Peers—and finally I heard him say "I would be delighted to give you this plant of Hongkongensis together with a *Tutcheria-Spectabilis* and some *Rhodoleia* and a *Salsifolia* to take to America with you." What a shock I got—I just became numb—and while the humans continued chatting Mr. Bramble came and stroked me back to consciousness. "Don't you be so afraid," he said "I have plenty of relatives over there and from what I hear they have quite a jolly time, and as long as they don't interfere with people's pathways they are left to do pretty much as they please." Well, that may be, thought I, but "won't I be terribly lonesome so very far from home and knowing no one except *Tutcheria*, *Rhodoleia* and *Salsifolia*?" "Oh, I don't think so," answered Mr. Bramble, "The English speaking people have a great admiration for plants and they treat them with much respect. As a matter of fact, I heard Mr. Dean say that the Peers have many kinds of *Camellias* which they have brought to their home in Hollywood from all parts of this tremendous world. Some came from the Chinese mainland, others from Japan, England, Guernsey, France, Portugal, Italy, and even Australia and New Zealand. Furthermore, dear Hongkongensis, I've heard tell that they have *Camellias* in America that are even more beautiful than are to be found in any other country. No, I don't think once you've made the long trip and settled down in a position of honor amidst others of your race that you'll find life either lonesome or hard."

Well, I had to resign myself to my fate—there was nothing I could do about it. Within a few minutes some people from the Gardens Department arrived with spades and dug around me. They cut some of the arms off Mr. Bramble and as we bade one another fond farewells and Godspeed I found myself being lifted up off the ground and put into a can, then carried to a truck which took us all to a very noisy place called Victoria.



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Then, next morning someone came and put me under a water tap, stripped me of every bit of Earth and clipped many of my branches. I was put into a Chinese clothes hamper together with my friends Tutcheria and Rhodoleia, with our roots resting in wet moss.

The next day we were moved by automobile to another vehicle of which I had never heard; it was called an aeroplane. When this contraption started moving it went so fast that we all got dizzy and finally when we came to we realized we were floating amongst the clouds. (I must remember to let Mr. Bramble know about this.) Suddenly we were whirling around and again got dizzy, and the next time we could understand anything we were on the ground in a place called Tokyo. We were looked over by some Americans and then allowed to stay still in the same spot for a fortnight, the only interruption being that someone came to water us constantly. Apparently neither Mr. Rain or Mrs. Mist could reach us. This same thing was repeated many times—we went up and down, up and down, and eventually reached a spot where we were taken out of our moss nest and looked over by some people very, very minutely. We kept hearing the words "San Francisco." We finally were allowed to creep back into our moss and after being watered again took to the clouds in that strange flying bird and landed for the last time, I hope, in Los Angeles. Here we again were looked over and then a car took us for a long ride to a place called "Park Hill." (Later we learned that this was the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Peer.) The car had hardly stopped moving before someone by the name of Theodore (the gardener) came and pulled us out of our moss hamper and put us into the most wonderful bit of Earth we've ever met. We were not planted next to each other, but we were within calling distance. I looked around, and sure enough I was surrounded by many, many camellias. I didn't know any of them, but they were all so kind and each in turn told the story of where he came from—so that today, after a year's absence from Hong Kong I feel very much at home, and am having more fun and kinder treatment than I ever dreamed possible for humans to bestow! (And, Mr. Bramble, you are so right, the American Camellias are as beautiful as they are kind!).

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## CAMELLIA JOSEPH PFINGSTL NAMED BEST SEEDLING

In a colorful ceremony attended by more than 500 members of the American Camellia Society at Savannah, Georgia, Mrs. Emmett J. Pflingstl of Montgomery, Alabama, was awarded the Ilges Medal for her new variety *Joseph Pflingstl*, declared to be the best seedling of 1950.

The Ilges Medal is the highest award of merit issued by ACS and is greatly coveted. For further details concerning this gorgeous camellia see the October, 1950, issue of *Camellia Review* and the four-color picture on the cover.

We are happy to announce that after winning this award, Mrs. Pflingstl made available to Southern California Camellia Garden at Huntington Botanic Gardens not only the famous *Joseph Pflingstl* camellia, but also its equally famous variegated form, *Emmett J. Pflingstl*.

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## OUR COVER FLOWER

*Camellia Review* is deeply indebted to Descanso Distributors for their kindness in letting us use the beautiful color plates of *Lion Head* and *Purple Gown* as our last two cover pictures, March and April. In fact, they were so gracious as to recall the plates of *Lion Head* from the east for us, after they had been sent to the printers of the American Camellia Society Yearbook, 1950. These two four-color pictures we considered "musts" for our magazine, inasmuch as we had articles running in March and April by Dr. T. T. Yu and Dr. Walter Lammerts, respectively, on the Yunnan Reticulatas.

### TO THE LADIES—from page 8

the numbers on the outside of the envelopes. One person places the card on the table, while the assistant holds the box of camellias ready. The slips of paper under the blossoms in the box are easily read and the camellias can be placed on the proper cards on the display table. Continue in this manner until all camellia blossoms are in place. A turkey baster is very useful to fill the small water containers under the blossoms. A Kleenex or small piece of cloth prevents dripping water on the paper table covering.

\* \* \*

One of the pleasures of a camellia collector is the interest in old camellia prints from Paxton's or other old botanical publications. One of our prints is a beautiful Lady Hume's Blush. In this instance we acquired the print before the plant. However, we now have a plant of that variety and I hope some day to arrange Lady Hume's Blush camellias on the table beneath the print.

In New Orleans in the French Quarter is a shop owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lieutaud. They have very beautiful camellia prints. A few remain of these hand colored prints by Jung from the Abbe Berlese publication. They are surpassingly beautiful, but alas, I could only look and deeply admire!

### CAMELLIANA—from page 10

now. They are as follows:

"As far as possible, names of horticultural varieties should consist of a single word; the employment of not more than three words is permitted as a maximum.

"A varietal name in use for one variety of a kind of plant should not be used again for another variety of that kind, even though it may be attached to a different species.

"Varietal names likely to be confused with one another should be avoided.

"Where personal names are used to designate varieties, the prefixes 'Mr.', 'Mrs.', 'Miss', and their equivalents should be avoided.

"Excessively long words and words difficult to pronounce should be avoided in coining varietal names.

"The articles 'A' and 'THE' and their equivalents should be avoided in all languages when they do not form an integral part of a substantive.

"In order to be valid, a name must be published with a description in a recognized horticultural periodical, or in a dated horticultural catalogue."

The Best in Show at Temple City was a very fine Finlandia Variegated shown by Dr. Reuben Tellam of Ramona.

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**AS I SEE IT**—from page 22

Mrs. Elizabeth Councilman responded nobly to the call for some poetry about camellias and has sent in two poems. I noted with interest that the Oregon Camellia Society bulletin, in their February issue, also put out a plea to the rhymsters to send in some camellia poetry. Seems to be a scarce commodity.

Beside Mrs. Councilman, only one other contributor responded with a poem entitled "Yearning." At his own request, he shall remain anonymous (and I don't blame him, in view of the halting meter of his verse) but I think the poem expresses the sentiment of so many, that I cannot overcome the urge to reproduce it:

#### YEARNING

Roses are red  
Violets are blue,  
If we had yellow camellias,  
Wouldn't that be sumpin'?

Slightly reminiscent of Ogden Nash, wouldn't you say?

\* \* \*

Rufus was gone so long, I thought the doggone carrier pigeon had deserted to the enemy, but he swooped in yesterday with both jets wide open, in a very jubilant mood, and reports that the Gulf and South Atlantic camellia growers, after their bitter winter of discontent, daunted but unbowed, have re-inventoried their stocks and in some cases have been delighted to discover sparks of life returning in plants they had written off. This is not a general condition, be it understood, says Rufus, but practically all Southern growers are determined to win back their lost territory and re-stock, so

(Turn to page 24)



## CONTAINER CULTURE . . . from page 7

ployed, a very different nutrient situation presents itself than is the case with camellias grown under natural conditions. On the one hand, with camellias grown in the ground we have root systems capable of reaching out and out into new and rich soil for their sustenance, while on the other hand, with container-grown camellias, the roots are confined to a very limited area and quickly exhaust the fertility of the soil in which they are confined.

It is quite obvious that the elements which go to create this fertility must be replaced from time to time or the camellias languish. This is not as difficult as it would at first seem. In fact, in Europe and in the eastern and northern sections of the United States are found many container-grown camellia collections which have subsisted for many years not on the change or replenishment of soils but on the careful addition of fertilizers. This despite the fact that the better growers of hot-house camellias make a practice, we are told, of periodically replenishing the soils in which they are grown.

It should be self-evident that the most satisfactory nutrient for container-grown plants is that which contains the most of the essential elements found naturally in rich soils, and in about the proportions so found. These fertilizers are not readily found, because most fertilizers contain only in varying degrees the elements most quickly exhausted, viz.: nitrogen, phosphorous and, to a somewhat lesser extent, potash. This type of fertilizer is entirely satisfactory for plants which are grown in the ground, because most soils contain all other so-called "lesser elements" in satisfactory quantities for the indefinite nourishment of the plants growing in them, needing only replenishment of the nitrogen, phosphorous and potash which plant life most quickly exhausts.

Container-grown plants require something more, however. Especially when the containers become so large that the replacement of the soil, or "stepping up" the size of the container becomes impractical.

Perhaps the most simple approach to the problem would be to discuss specific types of nutrients, or even specific fertilizers, pointing out what one contains or does not contain, as against others which contain either more or less of this and that. You can be certain that the manufacturers in each instance will not underestimate his claims for what his particular nutrient will do for each individual camellia grower.

It seems quite evident, however, that the grower who produces the most satisfactory results is the one who will give to his individual problem the

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thought which his container-grown collection justifies. Some fertilizers are ideally suited for the growing of sugar beets; others for a lush hay crop. None of these are suitable for container-grown camellias. The question always is, what is a well-balanced nutrient, designed to replenish the elements which your container-grown plants are withdrawing from soils in which they are planted? Your nurseryman can help you on this, despite the fact that his problem is not necessarily the same as yours. When you find what you believe to be the right formula, whether it be a liquid or a solid, organic or otherwise, use it with discretion—preferably in smaller quantities over a longer period of time; and under no circumstances pursue the theory that “if a little is good, more is better.”

Remember, always, that although the need of the container-grown plant for artificially applied nutrient is greater than that of the ground-grown camellia, the danger of root burn is proportionately greater due to the fact that the concentration of the entire root system is within a very limited area.

Approach the subject with the same good common sense which prompts the mother to send her boy off to school with a lunch box which contains an apple as well as a cold pork chop, and the fertilizing of your container collection will be simplified and bring pleasure and satisfaction to the one whose hope for more and better camellias lies in the practice of container culture.

---

#### AS I SEE IT—from page 22

that coming seasons will find them once again revelling in the luxuriance of fine camellia blooms to which they have always been accustomed. And that, added Rufus thoughtfully, is what makes them the fine people they are. \* \* \*

Tertius wants to know why we don't give out with some solid information in this colyume, instead of filling it up with gossip, rumor and trivia. The answer, Sir, is simple. Matters technical can be handled by competent men like Dr. Lammerts, Ronald Townsend, Interested Observer or any one of a dozen. Ye ed. set himself the task of mixing a little leavening into the (sometimes) too-dry dough of an all-technical contents page. We hope we have succeeded. (And, anyway, we're a specialist on gossip, rumor and trivia.) \* \* \*

One nice thing about Mother Nature. She is lavish in allowing variations from a standard pattern. Let

the sports, mutations, fluctuations and variants fall where they may. Which is what makes flower growing such a fascinating pursuit—particularly with camellias. Rather, an escape from the constant trend toward standardization of a machine-made civilization. Imagine what would happen if an industrial giant named—let's say—“General Camellia Blossoms, Inc.” were to arise in the land. Production of all types other than the standardized 8, 10, or 12 varieties chosen for mass production would be immediately discontinued. This would allow for high-pressure advertising and high-volume sales. Horrible thought, isn't it?

\* \* \*

Alack-a-day, here it is April already, and the end of the season! And here we are, nearly at the end of Volume 12, with only one more issue to come in July. So, appropriate to the climate and the season, the *Review* will take a little siesta. Hasta la vista, amigos!

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