

THE

Camellia Review



Camellia japonica 'PINK CLOUDS'

*Courtesy Harvey F. Short,
Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens*

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

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No. 2

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Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$5.00.

DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

- Central California Camellia SocietyFresno, Calif.
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 Date of Meeting: 3rd Friday of the month
- Camellia Society of Kern CountyBakersfield, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Fiesta Room, El Adobe Motel, Union Ave.
 Secretary: Louise J. Haberfelde, 1800 2nd St., Bakersfield
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru May
- San Diego Camellia SocietySan Diego, Calif
 Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park
 Secretary: Mrs. L. B. Goodall, 3036 Suncrest Dr., San Diego 16
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- Pomona Valley Camellia SocietyPomona, Calif
 Meeting Place: Claremont Women's Club, 345 W. 12th, Claremont
 Secretary: C. D. Cothran, 1105 San Dimas Ave., San Dimas
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month
- Temple City Camellia SocietyTemple City, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kauffman, Temple City
 Secretary: Gertrude S. Rose, 6025 North Muscatel, San Gabriel
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month, Nov. thru March
- Camellia Society of Orange CountySanta Ana, Calif.
 Meeting Place: YWCA Building, 1411 North Broadway, Santa Ana
 Secretary: Mrs. Geo. T. Butler, 1121 Orange Ave., Santa Ana
 3rd Tuesday, Nov. to April
- Huntington Camellia GardenSan Marino, Calif.
 Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Rd., San Marino
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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

The Eternal Challenge

Reading about a search going on for a truly black tulip we wondered just why the idea of a black tulip was so appealing? Would you care now for a black camellia? A yellow camellia — O, that's different. Yet a tulip fancier might wonder why anyone would want a yellow camellia. The underlying principle seems to us quite the same — a part of the cosmic urge, the sense of wanting and reaching out for something different, something that will better or broaden existing patterns. The wonderful fact is that when the black tulip and the yellow camellia become a common reality (as of course they will) there will be some other goal looming up for a challenge. Time and life may stop or be nonexistent out beyond the stratosphere but here they keep on inexorably and in our participation in that restless forward surge Nature sees to it that occasionally we make some small contribution to give us a glow of satisfaction. Fortunately we don't stop to consider how minute our triumph is compared to the universe.

A Sad Story

We are not going to mention his name but one of our enthusiastic amateurs who is growing Camellias commenced to be alarmed and puzzled by all the funny little growths on his bushes. He didn't know what to do about them and waited until he could talk to a camellia friend. He found out too late, for the birds knew and the squirrels knew what the funny little things were and so when Mr. X hurried to harvest his seeds there wasn't a single one to be found. He'll be on the spot next year you bet — and the birds and squirrels will have to hunt up another newer camellia fan. They'll find one, too.

Our Societies Leap Into Print

This month inaugurates the beginning of a closer relationship between our Society and our affiliated Societies with the Pomona Valley Camellia Society contributing news of itself and its members. This is the first of a series as our Reviews this winter will feature our other affiliates. The Pomona Society responded so enthusiastically to the idea that we feel a high standard has already been set for the other Societies to measure up to. The December Review will headline the Orange County Camellia Society.

Another Use For Camellias?

Apparently there is no end to the uses to which Camellias are put. Along with the Pomona stories came an amusing bit about Kimi Yamamoto, publicity Chairman of that Society. Seems that when her parents were in Japan they had a neighbor who invariably helped herself to a leaf from one of their camellia bushes when she came calling. This she would make pliable by toasting, put loose tobacco in it, then roll and twist at both ends and have herself a smoke. This was not unusual as leaves were sold in the small village shops for this purpose as proper cigarette paper was scarce. Not unusual there, perhaps, but the adventurous Kimi tried it here. We understand she tried it *just once*. O well — maybe after all there are better uses for Camellia leaves.

The Sunny Side

One awfully hot and sunny afternoon we were admiring the 'Carolyn Tuttle' plants up at the Nursery—all so uniform and shiny and clean-looking when between moppings of our brow we happened to notice the street sign on the side street. "El Sol" it said and we couldn't help but think that that is an auspiciously named

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The Camellia Review

Presents a Report of

THE POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The first in a series featuring our affiliated societies

THE CAMELLIA IN POMONA VALLEY

History, Whimsey and Personalities

Camellias and Pioneers

One hundred years ago the camellia was enjoying one of its periods of great popularity. Highly prized as an ornamental plant, it attracted the attention of the amateur gardener, as well as the professional nurseryman and florist. It is interesting to note that in this period Alexandre Dumas, fils, wrote the novel and later its adaptation as a stage play "La Belle Dame aux Camélias" (The Beautiful Lady of the Camellias.). Both novel and play enjoyed tremendous popularity in France. The English translation of the play was equally successful in these United States as "Camille." Its popularity here was also coincident with a period of camellia popularity. Did Dumas feature camellias in his story in an effort to cash in on a current fashion in plants? We don't know, but it is interesting to speculate that he might have. It would be almost as easy to prove this conjecture as to sift the fact from the fancy in this "history" of the camellia in Pomona Valley. In preparing this article several interviews, both personal and by telephone were made, and old newspaper files were consulted. A great deal of interesting material came to hand, but much of it could not be authenticated and some of the stories were directly contradictory. Whimsey covers this interesting, but unprovable material. The subject deserves careful research.

Somewhere in old journals, diaries or newspaper files may exist a record of who, among the earliest nurserymen of our district, either grew or imported camellia plants. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Harry E. Walker of the Pomona Historical Society, it was determined that the landscape planting of a "boom" hotel, being converted to a San Dimas residence after the boom had "gone bust", was undertaken in 1889 by Mr. A. R. Meserve, a Pomona nurseryman. This planting was completed in 1890 and in that year he planted a pink camellia on the north side of the building. This plant, a Pink Perfection, is still there; is in good health and produces an abundant crop of blooms each year. In 1925 the building was unoccupied, and during this vacancy the plant was literally cut to pieces by a local nurseryman to obtain cuttings. It has since grown out and again is well shaped, but its size does not indicate its age. In the latter part of the nineties other camellias were planted near this building and as their groves came into bearing, a few citrus ranchers beautified their door yards with a camellia.

The James Loneys, pre-railroad pioneers of Pomona, lived on the west side of North Park Avenue. It is remembered by Frank Loney that in his parents' yard was a beautiful camellia plant. In the middle 1890s it had a height of

(Continued on Next Page)

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over six feet. It was a red one and later they planted a Pink Perfection. The fact that blossoms from these plants were taken to his teachers in the old Central School may have, in some small way, influenced the high scholastic record that Frank attained. After the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Loney, the Pink Perfection was lifted and replanted in the Pomona Cemetery as a living memorial. It is shaded by a native sycamore, is now a large plant; in the spring lovely with blossoms. The red camellia failed to survive progress in the form of an apartment court. Where did this big red camellia come from? The records have been lost, but it is remembered that Mr. Meserve and Mr. Loney were good friends. Where exact records are lacking, it is fun to speculate. The growing grounds of A. R. Meserve and the house that he occupied were purchased from the widow of Don Ignacio Palomares. The Palomares Adobe has been completely restored and is now a marked historical site. Mr. Meserve went from Pomona to Los Angeles to become one of the early Horticultural Commissioners.

The Pomona Valley Camellia Society draws its membership from Covina on the west to Riverside on the east. This is the old "Orange Empire", but the eastward spread of the Los Angeles metropolitan area is changing the face of the country. It is becoming more urban, an area of small homes and their attendant shopping centers. Some of the cities and towns of this area are Pomona, Covina, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Ontario, Upland and Riverside.

Camellias and Personalities

Old timers of this district who were interviewed, recollect that in the nineties there were a few fair sized plants around the country and that later some of the more progressive nurserymen began to import plants from old established nurseries in France and Belgium. Some of these came in as named varieties, usually with French or German names, but these names were either lost or were disregarded and the color of the bloom was the only designation given the plant. Other plants found their way here from Japan and these were sold simply as Japanese camellias.

One interesting story of this period concerns a shipment of plants made from France to Pomona for the beautification of Ganesha Park. On their arrival the plants appeared to be of such poor quality and their condition so bad, that the importer refused to pay the excessive shipping and other charges which had accumulated. Some one acquired the shipment by paying the charges and the plants were literally peddled through the district. A few of these survived in the yards of the older homes and the more unusual have been the parent stock of some of the locally named varieties. In the decade from 1900 to 1910 many camellia plants were sold and propagation was begun from the then existing plants. Plants so propagated were given local names, usually after the owner of the parent plant and thus have come down to us Jordan's Pride, Colonel Firey, Leora Hedlund. The Mehl family of Upland had a lovely red camellia. One nursery, propagating from it, sold Mehl's Red, another variety from the same plant was Ruby Glow, named after the daughter, Ruby. Current nomenclature has changed the name of all of the above varieties, but the Covina, named after its locale, has remained with us, unchanged. Customarily the nurseryman sold Red, White, Pink or Variegated camellias and as their climatic requirements were much the same as citrus, they found their home here a congenial one. Altho their growth

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was not fast; with only minimum care they paid good dividends of lovely blooms to their proud owners.

Probably the most famous of the local varieties was the Colonel Firey. Colonel Frank M. Firey (the title is presumed to be honorary, since no reference was found to military service) was a pioneer in Pomona, a leading citizen who was an early mayor and later its Postmaster. He was a citrus grower and interested in growing rare or unusual plants. Shortly after the turn of the century Colonel and Mrs. Firey toured the Orient and brought back a number of exotic plants, which were planted in their garden on North Gordon Street. Whether the camellia came in at this time is not known but a red camellia in this garden gained local fame for the size and beauty of its bloom. From this plant came the cuttings which were grown and sold under the varietal name of "Colonel Firey". It has since been determined that it is identical with the "C. M. Hovey," an older named variety and should be so called, but the name "Colonel Firey" still persists on the Pacific Coast.

An amusing experience occurred when a nurseryman, in the late nineteen twenties, arranged for cuttings from this, by now, large plant. He had expected to go with his propagator and take such wood as was suitable for rooting, but was told that Colonel Firey, himself, would make the cuttings. A few days later he was advised that his cuttings were ready and to please call for them. Imagine his astonishment to find a large pile of prunings awaiting him, some of which had a diameter of more than one inch. This was probably one of the rare occasions when camellia cuttings were made with a pruning saw! With the passing of Colonel and Mrs. Firey, this famous plant was moved to the Pomona College Campus under the supervision of C. D. Cothran, who is well known in Southern California Camellia circles.

Camellias and the Valley

By the early nineteen twenties interest in camellias had increased to such an extent that most local nurseries offered a good selection of named varieties, but collectors were demanding more and more varieties. Many of the collectors bought from the catalogs of Southern nurseries and due to the use of local name and general laxness of camellia nomenclature, the duplication was enormous. John R. Harris of San Dimas, a serious collector at this time, bought widely by catalog throughout the South and in time his collection contained, among many others, Julia Drayton, Mathotiana, Purple Emperor, Wm. S. Hastie, Mathotiana Rubra and Purple Dawn. Careful planting and good care helped to grow these plants to blooming size without delay. Being a careful observer, it was not too long after the plants started blooming that he noted a most remarkable similarity in the blooms of these red camellias. Later a careful check of the accepted nomenclature revealed the fact that they were all one and the same variety. Mr. Harris' planting has not had many additions in recent years, but it remains a fine collection of the popular varieties of a generation ago.

It has been mentioned elsewhere that the famous original "Colonel Firey" is now part of the camellia collection of Pomona College. Not only on the campus of Pomona College, but in the landscape plantings of Scripps College, Claremont Men's College, Claremont College (Graduate), which together comprise the Associated Colleges of Claremont, camellias have been lavishly used. On shaded terraces and courts they are grown in containers; they

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border oak shaded walks in massed plantings and in the north open shade of many a college building they may be found as floral accents in the foundation planting. The nearness of these plantings to the women's dorms has been a source of comfort to many a Claremont citizen who happened to have a blooming plant in his garden or by his front door. In the dear, dead past, formal affairs during the spring months occasioned raids on the bloom laden plants of sleeping citizens. If stolen fruits are the sweetest, then this floral loot, gained at the risk of limb and/or liberty, was irresistible to many a sweet co-ed. Now with bloom available in their own front yard, as it were, and radio equipped prowls cars patrolling the quiet streets, floral larceny has gone out of style.

Growth in the population of the district has been paralleled by the growth in popularity of the camellia as an ornamental plant, and it was only a matter of time until an organization of individuals, having a genuine love for the camellia, was formed. The collections of the members of the Pomona Valley Society range in size from a few plants in their gardens to collections of 4000 plants, representing 600 varieties. Some members are interested in propagation by cuttings or grafting; others enjoy their plants as elements in a landscape design or the blooms in floral arrangements, but the unity of the group is maintained through a common interest in this very lovely ornamental plant.

One of the current collections in this district is believed to be unique in that, altho it contains six hundred plants, three hundred of them of blooming size, it has only one named variety. This is the "Onetia Holland" registered in 1953 and named for his wife by J. A. Holland of Upland. The rest of the plants are unnamed seedlings.

The camellia garden established at California Polytechnic, which has been fully covered in another article, is sponsored by the Pomona Valley Camellia Society and has proved of great value to students majoring in Ornamental Horticulture. At the risk of appearing to boast; attention is called to Merton K. Johnson, an ornamental horticulture major at Cal Poly, who in 1953, at the beginning of his freshman year, was awarded the California Association of Nurserymen scholarship for his "outstanding and extra curricular achievements". One of his extra curricular activities has been a membership in the Pomona Valley Society for several years. When an eighth grader he won his first blue ribbon, competing with his elders.

In the time that was available for the preparation of this article, it was impossible to follow all of the interesting leads suggested in the interviews. Probably the story of the shipment of camellias for Ganesha Park was mentioned most often and with the most widely conflicting details. It was also emphatically denied. The wildest version, which wasn't heard until the article was almost finished, concerned not a shipment, but a shipload of camellias from, of all places, Cuba. This variant is herewith submitted and if it be whimsey make the most of it.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SHOWS

While producing seven annual Camellia Shows, the Pomona Valley Camellia Society has scored several points — use a judging phrase — on originality. As far as we are aware, the Society was the first to use a modern bank for a setting, to initiate junior competition for children under 18, and to display

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an exhibit of some 250 camellia blossoms with the varieties shown in alphabetical sequence. How these shows developed makes an interesting story, and here are the highlights.

"From small beginnings, a beautiful camellia grows," could well describe the growth of the camellia shows staged by the Society. The primary objective of most shows is to acquaint our friends and communities with the beauties of camellias and to stimulate interest in their culture. At times, the money-making potential of a camellia show is pushed to the forefront. Our society has tried both free and money-raising shows and the first emphasizing the primary objective has been the most successful.

An exhibition of flowers and plants by members and local nurserymen at a regular meeting to which the public was invited marked the first show in 1948. The interest aroused gave ample evidence that an annual two-day camellia show would be successful. The next four shows stressed the beauty of the camellia — the flower and the plant, but a small admission charge was made to defray expenses and to raise money for Society activities, notably a society-sponsored camellia garden (see page 8). Featured in these shows were exhibits by nurserymen to illustrate the use of the camellia in landscape design. On two occasions Mrs. T. E. Johnson of Johnsons' Camellia Gardens created a breath-taking ensemble of a bride and bridesmaids (with manikin models) using camellias in bouquets and flower arrangements.

At the 1951 show Mr. Raymond Smith, President of the First National Bank of Pomona, and Mrs. Smith became members of the Society. His bank had sponsored two chrysanthemum shows on the Armistice Day week-ends of 1949 and 1950. He was so enthusiastic about the camellia show that he suggested the possibility of holding it in the bank building at some future time. In 1953 when Washington's birthday fell on Sun-

day and the bank observed a holiday on the following Monday, the Society decided to use the bank for its show setting. The bank agreed to furnish the building and bear the necessary expenses provided the show was free of charge to the public. The attractiveness of a free show was immediately apparent by the greater attendance.



This beautiful arrangement of C. japonica 'Purity' was a prize winner for Elizabeth Whitehead in the 1953 Pomona Camellia Show.

Regina Yamamoto holds the blue ribbon as she admires the exhibit.

The following year the bank had completed a new branch office of modern design and the 1954 Show was moved into this new setting which provided the most beautiful background for the displays to date and attracted record crowds. The doubling of the number of amateurs entering into the competitive divisions was indicative of the increased community-wide interest in the Show.

It was also at the 1954 Show that a separate division for Junior Competition was initiated. In earlier shows young people had sometimes entered exhibits and carried away ribbons and the Society thought the creation

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of a separate division would stimulate further interest by junior entrants.

At the 1953 show E. W. "Doc" Miller spear-headed a project to have an exhibit of named varieties of cut bloom shown in alphabetical sequence. Through the cooperation of his many friends in San Diego County and Los Angeles County, and in particular Nuccio's Nursery, he and his co-workers assembled a superb group of some 250 varieties. This was the outstanding feature of the 1953 show and his idea is perhaps partially responsible for a swing toward exhibiting camellias in the competitive divisions according to varieties instead of by divisions, classes and colors.

The Society is looking forward to its eighth annual show which will be held on February 19 and 20, 1955.

THE SHOW GARDEN

From the large number of people who visit the Camellia flower shows we can deduce that there are a large number of people who have a more or less passive interest in Camellias. These people are satisfied to have one or two plants at home and fill out the rest of their interest by going to events at which the blossoms are exhibited.

Now and then an individual moves out from this passive group and becomes an avid collector. He haunts the nurseries, his friends (if they have Camellias), and scrapes acquaintances with strangers. Everything is grist for his mill, fuel for the fire. He fills every conceivable space around his home with plants, new ones, old ones, the best, the average, and the ordinary. Each is an additional variety, and he counts his varieties as a miser counts his money.

Gradually the laws of time and space are forced onto this red-hot

collector. Because of his job he does not have time to take care of any more plants, and his wife says she must have space to hang out the laundry. Reluctantly the collector faces the sad fact that his collection must have a limit, that even though he loves every one of his plants, he must dispose of some and become a specialist in his collecting. He wishes there were some means of observing the habits of the plants under natural conditions before he buys them. He is also looking for a good home for some of his more ordinary plants.

The more passive enthusiast who wants only a few Camellias for planting around his home shares the wish of the collector. When enough people get to feeling like this we have a great deal of what it takes to make a Demonstration Garden.

The Pomona Valley Camellia Society began to think about a garden in 1949, but the requirements for such a garden are rather severe. Since the Society could not afford to buy the land and improve it we began to search for a civic or non-profit organization which would have an interest in such a project, and would have the land, and could largely take over the care of the garden after it was established.

The Society was extremely fortunate in its search. We found that the California Polytechnic College, located on the lovely wooded hills south of San Dimas, and west of Pomona, not only had an ideal location, available water and help, but also was keenly interested in a Camellia garden. The mutual interest helped us to draw up a formal contract in short order, and early in January of 1951 both parties signed it. "Jolly" Batcheller has served as the Cal-Poly representative on the Garden committee since the inception of the garden, and our relations have always been cordial and pleasant.

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A dedication ceremony was held early in February of 1951 with President Rifenerick and Secretary Gale of the Southern California Camellia Society present. A short talk and handshake by Cordner Gibson, Dean of Cal-Poly, and Harold Pearson, president of the Society, sealed the bargain and started the planting.

The Demonstration Garden is located at the entrance of the campus, and comprises about five acres covered with giant old oaks. It is open to the public at all times, but the watchful students have kept vandalism at a minimum. There are some 450 plants, and over 200 varieties in the Garden at this time. It has proved to be an ideal location for Camellias, no doubt similar to their original home in China. Large donations by nurseries and small donations by individuals have kept us planting, and the garden flourishing. We are still accepting donations, and all are invited to inspect the Garden. With this wonderful natural location we expect this Demonstration Garden to eventually be one of the finest in the West.



Clark Thomas, right, Chairman and C. D. Cothran of the Show Garden Committee (and also Secretary of the Pomona Valley Camellia Society) inspect C. japonica 'Elisabeth' in the garden. The thirty year old Pink Perfection in the background was transplanted in the garden by Society members and Cal-Poly students.

RIVERSIDE VIEW

There are at least a dozen members of the Pomona Valley Camellia Society who live in Riverside. It is generally thought by them that the deep well water and climate in Riverside are quite suitable for growing camellias. Although the warm summers contribute much in the way of extra growth, several of the members think that the blooming season is as much as a month later than other locations nearer the coast.

Society members here are very enthusiastic and number many hundreds

of camellias in their lath houses. The last year has seen several new additions in housing facilities and many dozens of the latest varieties have been added to the various collections of members. The greatest interest in this locality seems to be in growing and collecting new varieties. Each member has a large number of seedlings of his own on their way up but none has attained the distinction of being both a prized seedling and a "native" of Riverside, as yet.

We can claim some glory though in the fact that E. W. "Doc" Miller
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DON'T SPARE THE WATER

By J. HOWARD ASPER

Water Now

Many camellia plants suffer in the fall of the year from lack of water. With the advent of shorter days and cooler nights, many gardeners lose interest in watering their shrubs, camellias included. With most shrubs this is not serious, since they are naturally going into dormancy. But camellia plants are forming and developing buds for winter bloom and suffer decidedly from lack of water.

Fall and early winter often bring on days of high temperature and low



HARVEST TIME

Bob Powell, president of the Orange County Camellia Society with his vice president, Bud Adams (on ladder) and Bill Ehlen (on right) picked six gallons of seed pods from this Camellia tree.

The tree is on the J. E. Prentice property, 1600 East First Street in Santa Ana and was planted there about 1880. The tree is 18 feet high with a trunk seven-teen inches through.

O yes — there was finally one gallon of seeds.

humidity. Both are hard for camellias to withstand, but especially so when the plants are not properly moist. One certain result is smaller flowers. The water content of camellia flowers is around 98% and it naturally follows that for flowers to attain their ultimate size the bearing plants must have plenty of moisture. All growers have noted the relationship of plenty of early fall rainfall and large blooms during the winter season.

For Flower Opening

Another vexing result of insufficient watering is flower "balling" or failure to open. This more commonly happens in the full double varieties but is certainly more prevalent after hot dry weather. Last winter in Southern California was a typical example. All-time records for low humidity and high temperature were broken in December, January and February. Correspondingly all records of number of complaints were broken for flowers not opening.

For Healthy Plants

The general health and vigor of the plant is also affected by lack of moisture. In the fall and early winter this shows up in poor growth the following spring. And can even result in lighter budset during the following summer.

How to Water

Water is best applied by sprinklers during hot fall days of low humidity. Plants should be given one thorough watering each week and if possible a quick spraying each day. This applies moisture directly to the leaves and offsets the ill effects of low humidity.

Careful attention to watering camellia plants will pay rich dividends in larger flowers and healthier plants.

THE VERSCHAFFELT COLLECTION

By GULITA COOPER

"An assemblage of works of art" is a collection — the dictionary says — and our Verschaffelt Collection of slides in our Kodachrome Library is just that very thing. Each picture is a bit of art — a bit of color-beauty — an artistic representation of our Camellia blossom.

So that you may know how fortunate we are to have these slides for your study of Camellia culture, I would like to offer this article to the membership telling something of their interest and origin, since I was responsible for taking over the task of working with the slides from Dr. David McLean, who, together with Mr. Laemmerts, made some 142 slides from the Verschaffelt books to show to members and friends of the Camellia Society several years ago.

The slides are of prints from the books by Ambroise Verschaffelt made in the years 1848-60. The Books are garden manuals, and there are twelve volumes. The slides are taken from each of the twelve volumes, and the dignity and character of the Camellia flower itself was caught, I believe, by these simple prints. In order to show the flower there is a lithograph print accompanying each description. The descriptions of each blossom are in French and are charming to read. The translation of the French can be found in a book by Mr. McIlhenney. The English translation is interesting and valuable, but the French, together with the print, is a charming treat.

From a botanical point of view these books by Verschaffelt are valuable because they serve as a source of information whereby we can trace the parental strains of our present day varieties. For example, in the Verschaffelt book we find the flower Comte de Gomer spoken of as 'obtained from seed by one of our honorable correspondents, M. Bernardino Lechi of Brescia (Lombardy) dedicated to a distinguished amateur, M. le Comte de Gomer of Amiens, France.' We find this same flower and name in our gardens in Southern California today.

We find, too, that the same confusion of names existed then as now, even with the fewer numbers and

varieties. It was no doubt due to the mislabeling of camellias in the nurseries themselves where the task is really an almost unsurmountable one. It requires such exactitude on the part of the grower to keep alive the name of a plant on its proper grafts, cuttings, etc. Great care, great patience, great understanding is evidenced in any grower who will give enough time and has enough appreciation for the parental flower strains to take care in tending to the details of labeling properly, to see that its grafts, its rooted cuttings, each are labeled carefully and well.

As an aid, then to Camellia study and culture, The Verschaffelt Collection is a valuable one. Through them we have access to a study of varieties and names and can trace the history of these queenly flowers from their entrance into the homes and gardens of France and England in 1848-60. The influence of these plants was to gradually reach America until today we have them as treasures in our gardens — a kind of regal evidence of a thoroughbred quality among flowers.

The Verschaffelt Collection also is a rare treat as an introduction to Camellia history. The slides are exquisite reproductions of our Camellia blossoms. One particularly interesting point to remember in seeing this collection is that the prints were made

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VERSCHAFFELT from page 11

in 1848-60, a time when lithography itself was undergoing a renaissance. Some very poor prints flooded the markets and the quality of these lithographs in such a simple thing as a garden manual make them even more interesting and appreciated by us today.

From this brief account, I hope enough of you will find occasion to use these valuable slides and to share in appreciating their beauty and charm. They are in your Kodachrome Library ready for your use.

We are deeply grateful to Dr. David McLean for his contribution to the study of Camellia history through his donation of these interesting slides, and I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to have shared in preparing them for the members of the Society to use from our Camellia Kodachrome Library.

Just as a postscript, I would like to say that Camellia enthusiasm has a serenity about it that we're all searching for these days. When you share a knowledge of the growing and care of camellias with another, you've established an understanding of something that one only learns through planting, nourishing, living with and growing camellias. By growing camellias we learn what it means to plant, to nourish, to appreciate their quality of beauty in a garden. This camellia enthusiasm knows no limits — we're always seeking new ways to share it with a friend — and one way is through our Kodachrome slides. For, there are many who have no means of growing camellias but who can and would enjoy the picture of a beautiful blossom such as we have in our Library; who can appreciate their color — their seeming fragility and their unparelled beauty of form and texture — but for lack of a garden cannot grow them. For these friends of yours, take Kodachromes and share with them the beauty of

MY CAMELLIA

By RALPH S. PEER

During a recent visit to Australia I was taken to the home, studio and garden of one of Australia's great artists, Mr. Byram Mansell. Here I became acquainted with the "aboriginals" now causing such a commotion in the world of art.

This indeed was a most pleasant interlude in a grueling trip. My host fitted perfectly into his well designed home and beautiful gardens. There was just one flaw—NO CAMELLIAS! The next day I sent a carefully selected DAITARIN with my compliments. Apparently my friend was pleased because just as I returned to Los Angeles from this trip a letter arrived containing the following poem:

MY CAMELLIA

Oh flower of heavn,
So perfectly formed.
A dream: "The dawn of day"
Curved are your petals,
As the rainbows arch,
When the rain has passed away.

To gaze upon your beauty,
And think what may you be.
Your lovely form and colour
That speaks of tranquility.
Born in a land of sunshine
Far over the summer seas.

Your beauty needs no perfume
Like other flowers I know.
The nectar of your stamens
Is the secret you conceal
For you are "the flower of heaven"
With beauty to reveal.

the flowers in your garden — and then send one of your especially fine ones to be used in our Camellia Library.

Camelliana

From Oregon

The October Bulletin of the Oregon Camellia Society, edited by Andrew Sears announces the following:

"On the program for the next meeting we will be privileged to see 3D camellia slides on the screen for the first time in the Northwest and perhaps for the first time at a Camellia Society meeting anywhere in the country. The projection of 3D slides on the screen is one of the latest developments in slide projection and according to all reports, the results are "out of this world."

"Most stereo pictures are usually viewed with hand viewers and those who have seen slides by this method will tell you that the realism is almost unbelievable. The projection on the screen using special projectors and 3D glasses is said to be even more breathtakingly beautiful."

Sounds as tho the S C C S might be coming in second.

From Louisiana

We quote from the bulletin of the Men's Camellia Club at Shreveport:

Your News Letter editor has been asked to list the 10 varieties that will be outstanding in North Louisiana this coming season . . . if any member thinks I am going to stick my neck out that far . . . well, I will and if said neck is chopped off you will be sorry because, judging from other localities and their winning blooms, I am going to predict that these are the ones that you will want. I am not including those varieties that most of you already have except the real outstanding ones. Bear in mind that some of these I haven't even seen, but from what I have heard and read here is my list: Spring Sonnet, Elizabeth Le Bey, Monte Carlo, Mattie O'Reilly, Pink Champaigne, Mrs. W.

Our Cover Flower

C. japonica 'Pink Clouds,' the winner of the Margarete Hertrich award for 1952-53, was developed by Harvey F. Short.

It is an Elegans seeding, semi-peony form of creamy white streaked occasionally with rose pink. A lavender pink blush marks this flower as unusual for several days. The plant blooms from January through March with flowers from four and one-half to five and one-half inches in diameter.

'Pink Clouds' has a medium compact habit of growth with broad, very dark green foliage. It is released this season.

D. Davis, Masterpiece, Monique Peer, Dave Strother and Elcante.

"However I'll stick my neck further out and say that most shows over the south will not be won with the new varieties but with such old standbys as Ville de Nantes, Charlotte Bradford, Gigantea, R. L. Wheeler, Mathotiana Supreme, and Thelma Dale. They did during the past season."

Well, let the arguments start. We too are going to publish a west coast list along about next month. Have to have some time to get the neck in good condition.

The R.H.S. Journal Takes Up Spelling

In the June 1954 issue of the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society there is a short but fascinating article entitled "Monsieur Donckelaer's Camellia" written by Robert Adams. It seems that the first of these Camellias were brought in cases from Japan to Antwerp in 1831 and arrived at the time the French were besieging the citadel with the result that the cases were knocked about by cavalry. In spite of this disturbed beginning in

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Europe, the Camellia has flourished. Also in spite of its name, which according to Mr. Adams has been spelled variously as 'Donklaeri,' 'Donckelaeri,' 'Donkelaeria,' 'Donkelaari,' 'Donckelaari,' 'Donckelaarii,' 'Donckelarei,' and 'Donckelari.'

Mr. Adams goes on to say, quote: "In spite of the fact that 'Donckelari' is the name used in *The Camellia—Its Culture and Nomenclature* (1954) published by the Southern California Camellia Society, the correct spelling of the name is 'Donckelarii,' and under the present rules of nomenclature the plant should be known as *Camellia japonica* 'Donckelarii.'" End quote.

Back in 1884

We were greatly intrigued recently while looking through the quaint little "Annual Descriptive Catalogue" of 1844 published by Warren's Garden and Museum, Nonantum Vale, Brighton, of horticultural items for sale at Warren's Floral Saloon, No. 1, Tremont Temple in Boston.

A most imposing assortment of trees, shrubs, vegetables and flowers are listed, interspersed with bits of comment, propagating advice, poetry and philosophy. Under "Greenhouse Plants," nearly 100 varieties of Camellias are offered with the comment that through arrangements with Europe, every new variety will be available. The following are a few in the list *not* familiar to us: 'Arden's Superba,' 'Albarubens,' 'Claretas,' 'Fortuite,' 'Frankfortensis,' 'Hesias,' 'Hetre petre alba' (delicate and curious), 'Hexangularis' (delicate blush, six-sided), 'Landrethii,' 'Martha' (Bust's), 'Nonatensis,' 'Preston's Eclipse' (clear cherry color, pretty), 'Philadelphicum' (Smith's fine rosey red), 'Punctata' or Gray's 'Invincible,' 'Revisii,' 'Sesanqua rosea plena' (Lady Banks double apple flower'd), 'Victoria antwerpensis.'

All the above including 'Reticulata' are listed under japonica. Wonder if any of our readers know any of these varieties.?

Camellia MAIL BAG

From Semmes, Alabama

Mr. Charles Barrios writes in part:

Several attempts have been made on an article about sasanquas before beginning this letter but I just can't get "right." Many words are spoken and written of something of great interest. Often, the talk and the writing, in part, is repetitious of another's dream or experience. To attempt an article on the beauty and merit of the Camellia sasanqua would be a carbon copy to sasanqua enthusiasts who have a file of such knowledge greater than I could impart. And too, the more one says the more he can be criticized. Sounds like I am a fraidy-cat. If this were politics I would attempt bearing in mind Huey Long's feeling that "Every knock is a boost." But the most ardent critics I have known are Camellia Philes.

When I first came into the horticultural world I was told by an old timer that when one has spent two years in experience he thinks he knows all about it. But that the longer he makes a study of plants the more he will realize how little he does know about them. Enough years behind me proved his wisdom. That may be why I cannot become enthused or inspired to express my thoughts in print. Too, this is just the second year that I have advertised nationally. My goal is to become known and respected for "a good deal" to the extent that my customers will be friends who will talk for me rather than against me. I realize that every customer cannot be fully satisfied but there is great

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To The Ladies!

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

Now is the most opportune time to prepare for our annual spring flower show. Sit down and make an inventory of all your available material. Don't miss anything and don't allow yourself to be caught napping, forced to search wildly and often futilely for the material to exhibit.

Here in the west we do not have to depend upon hothouses for the bulk of our material as our eastern friends do. In our gardens without the benefit of artificial heat there can be an abundance of wonderful material if we go over our planting calendars and make a working list of what is in the height of bloom besides camellias and azaleas.

In late February and early March, many of our deciduous trees and shrubs are at their height of bloom. The showy Chinese magnolias, the flowering peaches, plums and apples are among the trees. There is no garden shrub which lends itself to decorative purposes better than the flowering quince which may be had from tinted apple blossom pink to luminous glowing scarlet.

We have many excellent evergreen shrubs which bring a splash of color to our late winter and early spring garden. One of these is the new hybrid leptospermum. You may remember how beautiful it was in the medal-winning display of the Coolidge Rare Plant Nurseries last spring in the Pasadena Flower Show. The pink flowering raphiolepis is exceedingly popular. It is one of those dependables which call for no replacements during the show. There is a new one now on the market, Raphiolepis Coates Crimson, a vivid new color variant of *R. indica* which has been

developed at the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation. Read Maunsell Van Rennselaer's informative article in the July "Golden Gardens."

For several years we have grown different forms of the so-called *R. Delacourii*, a fine French hybrid. Several nurseries are offering especially fine types of it. Be sure you get a shrub which has been grafted, and if it is in bloom you will be certain to get the color you want.

Blooming heathers bear tiny flowers in feathery sprays which are ideal for the popular miniature arrangements. Then there is a white, fragrant "Breath of Heaven" which lends charm to many Victorian type arrangements.

A hasty review of bulbous plants includes the many fine daffodils and jonquils; the green-tipped *Leucojum aestivum*; clustered daffodils and various polyanthas, the polyantha called "Geranium" being especially fine. Wedgewood iris is dependable, in fact it is up now in many gardens. Of the tulips, don't miss the Lady Tulip, *T. clusiana* and the gorgeous Giant Tulipa, Fosteriana, Red Emperor. This fall we have been charmed by the hardy cyclamen with its miniature blossoms so like colorful jaunty violets. Once planted they will increase in beauty year after year.

Winter flowering annuals are legion including pansies, violas, stocks, calendulas and a whole host of primulas. Anybody can have *Primula malacoides* in abundance in all its delicate colorful beauty. Now is the time to plant so don't delay.

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REVIEW ADVERTISERS**

NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

ALABAMA

The Birmingham Alabama Men's Camellia Society Annual Show will be held in the Municipal Auditorium in Birmingham, February 5th and 6th, 1955.

MISSISSIPPI

The Men's Club of Shreveport, will hold its 1955 Camellia Show on February 26 and 27, 1955. Roy Stringfellow has been appointed show chairman with Bill Roundtree as co-chairman. Plans for the center rotunda at the Exhibit Building are complete. Six jewelers have already donated silver bowls for prizes and 14 Camellia plants have been offered.

TEMPLE CITY

Season Opens With Breakfast Meeting

Temple City Society's fall season was launched with a very successful breakfast meeting held on Sunday, October 10, at the Rose Camellia Nursery on North Muscatel Avenue, San Gabriel.

The men acted as cooks on an outdoor grill, serving bacon, eggs, potatoes, hot biscuits, jam, jelly, coffee and orange juice. The ladies made the biscuits and waited on tables.

About 100 persons enjoyed the breakfast which was served from 8 a.m. until noon and enjoyed a social get-together on a beautiful morning — lovely music in the background and camellia talk everywhere. Numerous plants were given as door prizes, sending away many happy persons. Eight year old Marty Spence won the large General Patton, the grand prize for the day. He is now a camellia enthusiast.

Special guests included Mr. and Mrs. Donald Barnett. Mrs. Barnett is General Chairman of the Temple City Camellia Festival which is held yearly. The Temple City Camellia Society's Show is held at the same time.

The next regular meeting of the society will be held Monday, November 8, 1954, at 7:30 p.m. at the Temple City Woman's Club at Kauffman and Woodruff Streets, Temple City. Mr. Richard Noble, Program Chairman, announces that Mr. William Wylam of Huntington Botanic Gardens will present the program on sasanquas, illustrating with blooms.

The following plants, secured from Vincent's Camellia Gardens, will be offered at the November meeting: F.G. No. 2; Lady Hume's Blush; Captain Rawes; Glen 40, Red; White Empress; Villa De Nantes; Donckelari; White Daikagura; C. M. Wilson; Mary Charlotte; 1 reticulata; 1 — 14" redwood tub; 1 corona curved shears.

Mr. Arthur Krumm, President, extends an invitation to all members and camellia lovers to attend the November meeting, which promises to be a very interesting one. They are also invited to bring their blooms for display.

CAMELLIA SHOW NEWS

Mr. K. E. Barley, Show Chairman, announces that preparations are going forward for our annual show, which will be held at the Temple City Woman's Club on Saturday and Sunday, February 26 and 27, 1955. This is a change from last year's location as the committee feels that this location will coordinate the show with post parade activities of the Temple City Camellia Festival.

MAIL BAG from page 14

joy in striving to increase the percentage to the 100 mark." End quote.

Ed note: Mr. Barrios is another of our new friends through correspondence. We print the above part of his letter because we realize, tho sadly, that he has much foundation for letting his sasanquas speak for him rather than putting his knowledge of them down, and so irrevocably, in print. We feel there is altogether too much criticism of camellia writing and often, too, by those who don't or won't, or can't write. On another page we publish a list of Camellias of which the author states frankly he has "stuck his neck out." Constructive criticism is one thing—but how often does it have that vindicating adjective? No one has all the answers and the amusing part is that the critics are themselves criticized. Mr. Barrios is lucky to be able to offer his beautiful sasanquas in lieu of words.

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YOU CAN HANG THEM UP, TOO

By ELIZABETH COUNCILMAN

Perhaps all other fields of Camellia versatility have been more exploited than its use as a hanging basket plant. The Camellia, as a hanging basket subject, is as usable and as beautiful as any other material available.

If you want to add charm to your patio, lanai, breezeway, lath-house or your garden (from trees), I know of no more unusual and gracious way than the use of Camellia hanging baskets. This idea can be carried still further with the use of wall-pockets, which are lovely planted with Camellias and used on the shady sides of walls or buildings.

For this use of the Camellia, again, care should be used in choosing the varieties best suited for this type planting; mainly, varieties with low growing, weepy growth tendencies.

To mention a few varieties of this type, the first to come to mind are the chandleri family, or, Elegans (Chandler) variegated, Elegans, (Chandler) Pink or Francine, and C. M. Wilson.

All of this family, with training, will give the desired effect. To these we can add, Enchantress, the lovely single pink, H. A. Downing, an equally nice, rather large semi-double red, Lindsey Neil, and Nan Crowell, the variety I named for my Mother, a chrome pink, loose anemone to rose form type flower. At this time we are developing two hanging basket type Camellia seedlings, Bashful Pat and Weeping Anna, which are of different shades of pink and both

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HANGING BASKETS from p. 17

large formals. They will be on the market at a later date.

As with the Espaliered Camellia, the hanging basket Camellia requires a certain amount of training to attain the desired results. It should be topped in the beginning to encourage the growth of the side branches and if these branches have tendencies to grow upward instead of downward, weights can be hung on them to encourage them to weep.

Containers, of course, are very important in this endeavor. They should be strong and well built of red wood and hung with heavy chain. The ones we have are eighteen inches across the top and six inches across the bottom, with fourteen inch boards used in the construction. This gives you a good size basket with a wide surface area. The wall pockets are actually half a basket with an aluminum backing. The baskets can vary in size ac-

ording to your individual needs.

In these baskets we use the same potting mixture that we use in all container grown plants; one third peat moss, one third soil, one sixth sand, and one sixth leaf mould. Care should be taken to keep a heavy mulch of peat moss, at least three inches at all times and care also should be taken in the watering of these baskets. The heavy mulch will help to hold the moisture, but a basket hanging in the air will naturally dry out faster than a plant on, or in the ground, so it is necessary to water them a little more often.

I would keep this fact in mind in choosing a location for my Camellia hanging baskets and be sure that they had a good deal of shade. Where too dense shade is not good for Camellias in the ground because they need air and light to grow, this would not affect the hanging basket Camellia because the required amount of air and light are easily available.

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This new variety brought out by the McCaskill Camellia Gardens won the 1954 William Hertrich award. See October Review.

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SEMMES, ALABAMA

RIVERSIDE VIEW from page 9 lives here and has for several years. He has several thousand camellias in his collection and is the only Hert-rich Award winner we have in these parts. His seedling, "Melody Lane" won the Hertrich award in 1951 and is the pride of many camellia gardens today. I am sorry to say that "Mel-ody Lane" is not a native Riversideer, but originated in Fallbrook where "Doc" keeps his camellias at the River Road Nursery.

If "Doc" would only keep some of his prize seedlings where he lives at Riverside we might even claim his newest sensation, an extra large semi-double which is a deep salmon rose-pink in color — "Drama Girl". It is a Fanny Bolis seedling and the foliage

and bloom indicate Lotus as the other parent. A remarkable feature is its long blooming season even under ad-verse weather conditions. It is all that the name implies.

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FOR SALE

The Secretary of the Society has the following books for sale:

"Camellias and Common Sense," by Claude Chidamian, \$4.00.

"Old Camellia Varieties," a list with brief descriptions compiled at the request of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society of the R.H.S. and the British Museum, by A. I. Ellis. A 374 page, 9x11 book, reprinted by permission by Mr. Ralph Peer. \$5.00.

"Two Cats and Forty Camellias," a 136 page story form about the growing of Camellias mixed up with cats and cooking by our own member Elizabeth Councilman of Councilman Acres. \$3.00.

Our own book, "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature," a 1954 revision \$1.25 or \$.75 each in lots of not less than 12.

"Camellias in the Huntington Gardens," by William Hertrich. \$10.00.

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CAMELLIA REVIEWER

from Page 2

street to run by a nursery. There was plenty of "el sol" that day and many another day too I am sure. Incidentally Mr. McNeill was pretty pleased that his very first real customer for his fine *C. japonica* 'Carolyn Tuttle' was Dr. Clark Hubbs.

Daikagura Day

September 29th is always celebrated in two ways by the Howard Asper family. The first way is the celebration of the birthday of one of their two sons. The second is the finding of a Daikagura bloom. This they have done for over ten years—and this year was no exception. What Daikagura would disappoint the Asper family?

Who Sets Camellia Styles?

Funny to think that any beautiful Camellia could go out of style but looking back over Camellia years it is an unescapable fact that Camellia fashions change as radically as women's hem lines and hats. Perhaps the type of Camellia in vogue is a reflection of the times. Long skirts of the mid-Victorians were topped by the prim pinning on of a chastely formal Camellia while certainly our current casual clothes and short skirts are properly accompanied by the irregular and looser peony form flower. The one big difference is that the Camellias have always been beautiful which is more than you can say for women's styles. Wonder what Camellia Dior would choose as a complement to his radical straight-line look?

Late Tip

And if these meanderings are making you drowsy—

The pleasantest way to your beauty sleep

Is to count Camellias instead of sheep.

suggests

Liz

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