

THE

Camellia Review



Camellia japonica 'Reg Ragland'

Ektachrome courtesy of William E. Woodroof, originator, and Nuccio Nurseries

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

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

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- Huntington Camellia GardenSan Marino, Calif.
 Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Rd., San Marino
- Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley.....Arlington, Virginia
 Meeting Place: Alternates between Alexandria, Virginia; Washington D.C.
 and Chevy Chase, Maryland
 Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Milton H. Brown, 2220 N. Trenton St.,
 Arlington, Virginia
 Date of Meetings: 1st Monday of month, October through April.
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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

We Begin Again

This is the third year we, as editor, have written "No. 1" of a new volume of the Camellia Review and we feel more strongly challenged than ever. We look back feeling that we indeed had our nerve when we took over the magazine as now, having absorbed enough camellia lore to realize how little we know, we are often reminded of our abysmal ignorance by some of our more outspoken camellia friends. But even if we can't settle the "Hiryō-Hiryū" question we can state without fear of contradiction that this coming year is already so full of camellia interest that there will be something for every one to learn. Our greatest problem will be to condense its highlights into the pages of the Review.

A Camellia Welcome

To the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley now affiliated with the Southern California. We feel all these new members will bring a real eastern flavor to us and we look forward to much benefit on both sides.

Sasanqua Hang-over

Coming up from having been steeped, bewitched, overwhelmed and saturated by the *C. sasanqua* this past summer we are emerging for the broader camellia view. Sasanquas from any of their limitless angles are intriguing and their spell remains, some of it creeping into this issue inevitably—even as the budding sasanquas are beginning to laugh at us from surrounding gardens.

One question remains to bother us: what does the word "sasanqua" mean? Even our most knowing friends do not know the real definition. Surely some Review reader knows. Please drop us a line.

Summer Treat

A colorful bit of mail on a hot day was a copy of the May Reader's Digest sent to us by Walter Hazlewood. On first glance we wondered why, but a second look was rewarded for this was the Australian edition and the cover and back was a mass of bright camellias. Credit for the photograph was given to Max Dupain, but Professor E. G. Waterhouse of Sydney wrote an explanatory article in which he named the blooms which were Paolina Maggi, The Czar, Speciosa, Coccinea, Anemoniflora, White Tulip, Comtesse Woronzoff, Grand Sultan and Adrian Feint. Some of these are, of course, distinctly Australian so of special interest here. And the whole cover is so gay, so charming that we wonder why an American edition can't follow suit sometime.

The Review Flies High

We were quite thrilled last summer to receive an official looking envelope marked "From the Office of the Vice President of the United States" and inside to find a letter from Mr. Nixon's Secretary requesting a copy of the Camellia Review in which the *C. japonica* 'Richard Nixon' was described. So at least one copy of the Review has taken its place in the official V.P. files in Washington. (Wonder what files it rubs covers with.) The request came shortly after a fine plant of the 'Richard Nixon' was awarded for the Best-in-Show at the first Camellia Show held by the new Society of the Potomac Valley.

'Way Up Yonder'

At least it seems a long ways from Southern California—but the Review makes its way even up to the far northeast corner of the U.S. where some camellia enthusiasts just *must* have their camellias in spite of the weather. One of these is Walter Barker of Nashua, New Hampshire
(Continued on Page 36)

GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 1955-56 Camellia season.

From the indications of the programs that have been developed for you by our Program Chairman, Caryll Pitkin, and for the arrangements being made for your comfort and enjoyment by our Director, Clifford Argue, I am sure that we can all look forward to a most enjoyable and beneficial season. The Chairmen of our Committees have been working very diligently so that we can be assured of a successful year. Of course the success will depend upon the participation of our members in our local meetings, in supporting the Camellia Review and sending in noteworthy articles to our Review Committee for publication, and to spreading the gospel of Camellias and obtaining new members to add to our already existing strength.

No matter how well done the job has been in building our present firm foundation we must continue this good work, and I know your enthusiasm in either enjoying, growing or experimenting with camellias will be furthered by our joint cooperation and interest. Let us not forget one of the highlights of the season which will be the Joint Camellia Show and the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society February 24th through 26th.

Again a welcome to all members as we join in anticipation of a good year.

—EDWARDS METCALF

HARVEY SHORT WINS MARGARETE HERTRICH AWARD

The Camellia seedling, *C. japonica* 'Guest of Honor' exhibited by Harvey F. Short of Pasadena has been judged highest among the many entrants in the annual competition for the Margarete Hertrich award.

The blossom, a Lotus seedling, is from an illustrious block of seedlings which produced such outstanding varieties as 'Masterpiece,' 'Bride's Bouquet,' 'Frosty Morn,' and, Harvey tells me, others still to be released.



The flower is semi-double to semi-peony in form averaging 5½ in. in diameter with wide petals of salmon rose color and unusual blonde-yellow stamens. It starts to bloom in February and continues late into the season. The blossom opens freely with fine keeping qualities.

The plant is upright and vigorous with beautiful foliage. A splendid ornamental in any garden.

CAMELLIA WILLIAMSII HYBRIDS IN SEATTLE

By B. O. MULLIGAN

Director, University of Washington Arboretum

The history of most of these hybrids is fairly well documented, especially in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* of London (1, 2, 3, 4), and for the past fifteen years they have been extolled in English horticultural journals and by those who have seen and grown them as some of the most promising hybrids ever raised for gardens in temperate climates.

The parent plants of *Camellia saluenensis* used by Mr. J. C. Williams, of Caerhays Castle, Cornwall, S.W. England, in making this cross were raised by him from seeds collected by George Forrest in Yunnan, S.W. China, probably between 1917 and 1923 (5, 6). At any rate, by 1934, when I first became acquainted with them, Mr. Williams had raised, propagated and distributed plants of his hybrids to his friends, and these had grown to a height of several feet. *C. saluenensis* itself was available in some English nurseries by 1937 or possibly earlier.

In April 1948 we received one plant each of three of these hybrids, namely 'J. C. Williams', 'First Flush', and 'Bow Bells', from the nursery of the late Mr. W. J. Marchant near Wimborne, Dorset, England. These were 12-15 inches tall, probably two years old from cuttings or grafts. They were kept in pots for several years in a cool greenhouse, for observation and propagation, not because we doubted their hardiness in Seattle; in north Wales 'J. C. Williams' has withstood a low temperature of -2° F. without damage.

All were planted in a lath house to the north of the greenhouses during 1952 and flowered there the following spring, 'Bow Bells' early in February followed by the other two during March. They had, of course, previously bloomed in the greenhouse. 'First Flush' was moved out to the Winter Garden in May 1953, a sheltered location but on heavy clay soil which has evidently not suited this camellia, although several forms of *C. Sasanqua* grow well in it. A year later 'Bow Bells' and 'J. C. Williams' were again transplanted to permanent

sites in the same lath house, and here they have flourished in a light soil with a high humus content; the former is now (Aug. 1955) 7 feet tall, having extended its central leader almost two feet this year, the latter about 6 feet, with 33 inches of new growth.

The fourth form of *C. Williamsii* which we acquired was 'Mary Christian', two plants coming from a Seattle nursery in November 1952. One of these was also planted in the Winter Garden in May 1953, close to 'First Flush', and has grown into a compact, densely branched bush about 3 feet tall, much more shapely and vigorous than the latter. The other plant remained in the lath house with 'Bow Bells' and 'J. C. Williams' and has increased equally well in size; the present height is 6 feet, new growth 12 inches; the branching habit is somewhat better than the other two. First flowering occurred in the lath house in September 1953, in the Winter Garden at the end of November 1953.

Of these four, 'J. C. Williams' and 'Mary Christian' were named in March 1942, when both received awards at a Royal Horticultural Society show in London (1). The other two, 'Bow Bells' and 'First Flush', were evidently selections named and propagated by Mr. W. J. Marchant but not raised by him. We also possess a plant of his 'Rose Bowl', imported with others in November 1952

through the kind offices of the New York Botanical Garden, but this, though still small, is promising both for its early flowering season as well as the form and color of its rose pink flowers. He was also responsible for the introduction of others including 'Admiration', 'Chimes', 'Cyclamen' and 'Dogrose' of which as yet we have no experience.

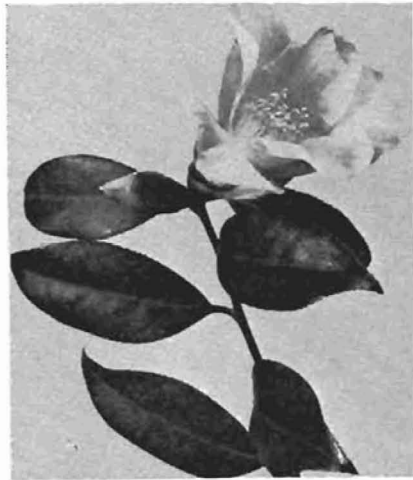
'Donation', which was raised by the late Colonel Stephenson R. Clarke of Hayward's Heath, Sussex, England, is reputed to be derived from *C. saluenensis* crossed with *C. japonica* 'Donckelarii'. It has a very attractive semi-double soft pink flower 3-4 inches wide, of which we have only seen a few here this past April on a small plant; in England it is considered one of the most beautiful of the whole group.

Distinctions between those cultivars which we have grown are not always very clear or easy to define precisely, since they may be slight and reside in a combination of such characters as the leaf shape and texture, the form, size and color of the normally single flowers including the shape and size of the petals, the season of blooming, and perhaps the habit of the bush.

Mr. H. G. Hillier has recently described (7) eleven forms of *C. Williamsii* from various raisers, but only about one-third of these, mentioned above, are growing here. No doubt when we have had time to test most of them we shall be able to form an opinion as to which are the most satisfactory and attractive for our purposes and climate. Only by growing them side by side over a period of years will it be possible to compare and evaluate them properly for different regions.

For garden use and pleasure there are distinct advantages in having several forms of these lovely shrubs planted together; the time of flowering is extended over a longer period

(Continued on Next Page)



Camellia Williamsii
'Bow Bells'

Leaves about 2½" long, 1-1¼" wide, ovate-lanceolate, acute to short acuminate, stiff and tough in texture, base cuneate, margin finely and sharply serrate, the teeth more or less incurved, venation more evident above than below, the midrib raised on both sides, petiole ¼", sparsely villous.

Flowers funnel-shaped, solitary, terminal on short branches or axillary, scentless, about 2½" long, 2-2¼" wide at the mouth, stalk extremely short; *outer sepals* shorter, green or nearly so, inner longer (to 1") becoming colored like base of flower, green tipped; *petals* 6, near Rose Madder (HCC 23/2) and Tyrian Rose (HCC 24/2) in color, deeper in tone at base, paler near tip, veins noticeably deeper in color, petals united about ½" at base, the outer two rounded obovate, next three obovate-oblong (about 2"-2½" x 1¼" - 1-½"), the inner one similar or slightly smaller than the last; pollen plentiful; *ovary* silky-hairy, especially on upper part.



Camellia Williamsii
'Francis Hanger'

during late winter and early spring, depending much, of course, on the local climate and situation; the form of the flowers varies from funnel-shaped to broadly bell-shaped or wider, the color from a bright rose to a soft pink or even white in a recent English hybrid ('Francis Hanger'). The flowers are produced generously in long succession from the upper leaf axils of short branches, in Seattle usually from mid-February into April, although occasionally we have seen blooms in late November or early December if the weather has been particularly favorable; in that case they would overlap with *C. Sasanqua*. Normally they precede al-

most all the forms of *C. japonica* here—more than 200—and overlap with their other parent *C. saluenensis*, to which they are certainly superior in flower quality.

Unlike the cultivars of *C. japonica*, however, the spent blooms drop off entirely, to form a charming carpet or mosaic on the ground beneath and not remaining to turn brown on the bush. Propagation by cuttings is considered by our nursery foreman to be at least as easy as for any other type of camellia and may be done at the same time of year; fruits sometimes form on our plants but not regularly or in quantity; perhaps hand pollination would ensure more.

To sum up, all that these plants lack to be the perfect shrub at that season of the year is fragrance, and with perseverance no doubt that desirable character could be bred into them; they are certainly going to be used more and more widely and freely in the future in our gardens.

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We are very proud of the fine advertisers that appear in these pages and hope that our readers will benefit by the fine services offered.

TO THE LADIES

By CHARLOTTE HOAK

In handling camellias, it is most essential that you realize that they stand first among the aristocratic evergreens. They are the finest contribution that China "the Mother of Gardens" has given to the gardens of the world.

And considering the camellias as aristocrats, you should choose other aristocrats to grow with them.

We could fill pages with these fine companions but it is far better to get acquainted with those which have real value and are available. Those who

pine for eastern peonies should try some of the tree peonies which are tree shrubs and thrive in any well-organized shade garden. Read what Reginald Ferrar, the great plant explorer, says of them when he found them first growing on the wooded mountain slopes of Kansue Province in China. He considers them "overpoweringly superb" and could hardly find superlatives which could be applied to their exquisite beauty. Make the acquaintance of snowy Gessekai, (Light of the Lunar World.) pink Hana-Kisoi (Floral Rivalry) and a half-dozen others and you will have treasures you will enjoy forever.

We are not growing enough fine evergreen with our camellias. We can recommend most highly the Chinese and Japanese hollies. One of the finest of the Chinese hollies is *Ilex all-clarensis* Wilson. It is a broadleaved holly with typical holly leaves sometimes as much as four inches long. We are going to use it in the near future as a substitute for English laurel which does not do well in our area. It takes shade or part shade in Southern California and full sun in the north. Armstrong's have it. Take time to look at this superior, broadleaved holly. We should be growing *Ilex cornuta* Burford. Its leaves are not prickly, it grows rapidly and berries very young, often in pots two inches high. It is happy wherever you put it. Some of our American hollies do well here. Why do we not know and use them here, especially the ones belonging to the *Opaca* group growing in Zone 30 in the

Southern States where camellias are so popular? Do you know Hume's "Hollies?" It is an outstanding Mac-Millan book devoted to hollies.

Another fine evergreen shrub which blooms at the height of the spring camellia season is *Raphiolepis indica rosea*, the pink Indian hawthorn. Grafted specimens are best. Our veteran nursery woman, the late Kate Sessions was very fond of the one she called *R. Delacouri*. There are several recent deeper-colored ones newly introduced.

How many of you know the orange *Jessamine Murraya peninsulata*? Although slightly tender, in the proper location it is one of the finest fragrant flowering shrubs for this area.

... And here my space has run out and I have hardly begun to mention the "desirables." So this will have to be continued later.

ARAM C. ADAMS

Greatly mourned by the Camellia Society of Kern County and of great loss to the Camellia World is Aram C. Adams who was a victim of a tragic fishing accident on the MacKenzie River in June. Mr. Adams was past President of the Kern County Society and a most valued and hard working member. The proposed civic planting at the new Bakersfield City Hall is to be known as the Aram C. Adams Memorial Planting.

NEW CAMELLIA SOCIETY IS FORMED IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

By MILTON H. BROWN

The Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley was founded by about a dozen enthusiasts on a wintry night in mid-January of this year. After about a year of mentioning the possibilities of forming a camellia society for the Nation's capital and its environs, and after realizing that camellia show time was fast approaching, this group of people promptly drew up a constitution and by-laws, elected a slate of officers for a two-year period, and immediately began recruiting new members.

The first meeting of the new society was held in February in historic old Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria, Virginia. Instead of the forty to fifty people expected at this meeting, more than one hundred people attended. A show committee was selected after viewing color slides of camellias grown locally and in the Norfolk Municipal Gardens and Magnolia Gardens. Several people thought that such a small and new group shouldn't attempt a show in its first few weeks of being. The enthusiasts, however, won out and The First Annual Camellia Show in the history of Washington was held on April 13 and 14.

The show, held in the auditorium of Woodward & Lothrop's Chevy Chase store, was an unqualified success. The auditorium was beautifully decorated, and more than 600 blooms were exhibited. During the two-day show, more than 4,000 people admired the flowers that few thought could be raised this far north. There were on exhibit blooms from 90 varieties of camellias grown outdoors in this area, despite the coldest winter in more than ten years. In addition there were many blooms from varieties grown under glass. The Best in Show was a Tricolor Red grown by Colonel and Mrs. L. E. Edwards of the District of Columbia. The Edwards also won the Sweepstakes. Runnerup in Best in Show was a *Magnoliaeflora*, grown by Mr. and Mrs. William C. Noell of Alexandria, Va.;

and runnerup in the Sweepstakes was won by Commander and Mrs. William Domer of the District of Columbia. The Best in Show received the then-as-yet not released Richard Nixon, a plant donated by Mr. Urban Stair of Whittier, California, the Vice President's home town. The Sweepstakes winner received a Governor Earl Warren in honor of The Chief Justice and Mrs. Warren who had graciously consented to be Honorary Chairmen of the show. Plans are now progressing for the Second Annual Camellia Show which will be held April 7 and 8, 1956, once more in the auditorium of the Woodward & Lothrop store. Competition will be keen to win the Nan Crowell or the Undaunted already donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Crowell Councilman of Councilman's Camellia Acres in El Monte, California.

The Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley has, besides the usual committees on procedures and business, established: (1) The Information Committee whose function it will be to disseminate valuable information on the culture of camellias, the types best suited for this area, and other worthwhile data; (2) The Public Gardens Committee, whose goal is the establishing of a beautiful public garden of camellias in the District of Columbia; and (3) The Special Committee, which will concern itself with plant diseases and insects and what to do about them. This latter committee is also going to study the feasibility

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NEW SOCIETY *from Page 8*

of having a competition among the local growers during the growing season. This should stimulate good health habits in camellia culture locally.

The Society Joins SCCS

In July, by a mail vote, the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley became affiliated with the Southern California Camellia Society. It is the first society outside the state of California to become so affiliated. The dues of the local society include the membership in the SCCS. This should stimulate further the membership drive for the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley, which now numbers 114.

The new society in the Nation's capital normally meets the first Monday of October, November, December, February and March. The meetings will be held alternately on each side of the Potomac River. In October Mr. Norwood S. Hastie, Jr., of Magnolia Gardens is coming to talk to the local society on camellias and camellia culture. Some members are now making plans to attend the annual American Camellia Society meeting scheduled to be held in Los Angeles in late February.

As a sidelight, perhaps, mention should be made that the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley has members in Long Island, N. Y., Baltimore, Md., Frederick, Md., Fredericksburg, Va., Loudon, Va., as well as in the District of Columbia and the adjacent counties of Maryland and Virginia.

The officers are: President, Mr. Milton H. Brown, 2220 N. Trenton St., Arlington, Va.; Vice President, Mr. Charles F. Holden, Alexandria, Va.; Treasurer, Colonel L. E. Edwards, Washington, D. C.; Secretary, Mrs. Milton Greenland, Alexandria, Va.; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Milton H. Brown, Arlington, Va.;



Governor Stanley of Virginia and Mrs. Stanley recently purchased camellias for planting about the Governor's Mansion at Richmond. Varieties chosen included Magnoliaeflora, Pink Perfection, Mathotiana, Lady Clare, White Empress, Kumasaka, Rev. John Drayton and Victory White.

Membership Chairman, Commander William S. Domer, Washington, D. C.; Show Chairman, Mrs. Leon Habecker, Silver Spring, Md.; Public Gardens Committee, Mrs. Albert Walker, Washington, D.D.; Program and Projects Committee, Dr. Allen Walker, Washington, D.C.; Special Committee, Mr. Edward P. Carter, Hyattsville, Md.; Information Committee, Mr. R. Gamble Mann, Alexandria, Va.; and Publicity, Mr. John Koehne, McLean, Va.

Ed note: We are happy to print the report of this newest society which can now take its place with the reports of our other affiliated societies published in the Reviews of last year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GARDEN COMMITTEE

E. C. TOURJE, *Chairman*

The past season has been noteworthy for many reasons:

On the resignation of Ronald B. Townsend, Mr. Howard Asper became Superintendent of the Grounds and Buildings of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, and as Mr. Asper has had a long time experience and is considered an authority in the field of camellias, high interest in the Camellia Garden has been sustained.

Soon after Mr. Asper became Superintendent, the management of the Huntington Botanical Gardens obtained the services of Mr. William (Bill) E. Wylam and with the combined efforts of the two, many very important and noticeable improvements were made in the Camellia Garden.

These activities included the enhancement of the physical aspects of the Garden; improvement in equipment such as the glass house and lath house; improvement in personnel thereby contributing to the success of the Garden; more attention to the comfort, safety and interest of visitors; cooperation with camellia societies and other horticultural groups in furnishing flowers and decorative plants and, of special importance, the publication of the masterful literary work of Mr. William Hertrich, Curator Emeritus of Huntington Botanical Gardens entitled "Camellias of the Huntington Gardens." It is satisfying to note that most of the camellias described in the first volume of this excellent work were furnished to the Garden through this Camellia Garden Committee.

The Mulch Project

Perhaps the most important improvement has been the clearing of the canyon slopes and the floor of the canyon of undergrowth thereby intensifying the beauty of the camellias and complementary plantings. After clearing away the undergrowth a layer of approximately three inches of fir shavings was spread over the surface of the entire canyon area of the camellia garden. Several purposes prompted this undertaking: the shavings act as an erosion retardant, they serve as a mulch, and they are designed to aid in the control of flower blight. Beneficial results are reported in all these particulars. Some 1,186 bales of shavings were used in this operation and the considerable expense both in the labor of clearing the ground and applying the shavings and cost of material used is further evidence of the increased importance of the Camellia Garden in the considerations of the Huntington management.

Seeds

Conforming with the custom of past seasons, the Huntington gardens delivered to this committee the 1954 harvest of camellia seeds. Offered to society members, sales amounted to nearly six hundred dollars.

Labels

Both the committee and the Huntington management had long recognized the inadequacy of the labels used in the garden to identify the camellia varieties so after the subject received much earnest consideration, the committee purchased an engraving machine. It is expected that soon all the camellia plants will be attractively and properly labeled. *(See page 26)*

New Additions

An outstanding addition to the Camellia Garden was the presentation by the committee of a set of fifteen Yunnan reticulates. At the present time the total number of plants in the Garden is approximately thirteen hundred, and acquisition of new plants or scions will be determined by (1) their recognition as the best of new introductions, (2) their availability to the general public through nurseries and (3) their obtainment from other botanical gardens.

Conforming to these several factors, the Committee presented thirty-one scions to the garden, among which were *Oleifera* from both the Wisley Gardens and Descanso Gardens; *Tutcheria Spectabilis*; Charlie Hoak; Jack McCaskill; both Red and Variegated Indian Summer; Lookaway; the hybrid Donation; Nuccio's 512; the species *Oleosa*; Thomas D. Pitts; Guest of Honor; Camille Bradford; Sun Dial; Shadow Play; Special Tribute; Julia's Favorite; Seventh Heaven; Driftwood; Gayle Walden; Donna Kaye; Roxanne and Tomorrow.

Although no effort was made to publicize the Camellia Garden, it was estimated that between January 15, 1955 and April 30, the opening and closing dates, approximately 49,000 persons visited the North Vista Section of the Huntington Gardens and 38,000 continued on by foot to see the Canyon section.

NEWEST CAMELLIA TEST GARDEN ESTABLISHED

By CHARLES F. HOLDEN

The National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., has been designated an official test area by the American Camellia Society. This was brought about through the efforts of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley in co-operation with President Calder W. Seibels of the American Camellia Society, Judge Arthur W. Solomon of Savannah, Georgia, and others.

There is a planting of several years duration at the National Arboretum of 94 varieties of *Camellia sasanqua* and 40-45 varieties of *Camellia japonica*. A number of nurseries in the South, Gulf Coast and the West Coast contributed plants which form the nucleus on which it is expected in a few years one of the outstanding Camellia Public Gardens of the Country will materialize.

Several hundred plants will be added this fall and a large number of cuttings and scions have been made available.

It is hoped that nurseries and individuals throughout the country may from time to time send to the Arbor-

etum specimen plants for inclusion in the Garden. Each plant is designated by name and source of entry by a permanent plastic sign on a standard mounted in the ground, so the variety is always clearly identifiable to the public.

The addition of the Camellia Garden to the magnificent Azalea planting of several thousand varieties make a visit most worthwhile.

Dr. Francis De Vos, Assistant Director of the National Arboretum and an enthusiastic member of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley will be happy to greet members of the Southern California Camellia Society and all others affected with Camelliaitis at the Garden.

GROWING CAMELLIAS FROM SEED

By DAVID L. FEATHERS

Lafayette, California

The culture of camellias offers many interesting opportunities to one who likes to grow things and for the experienced person there is no more intriguing aspect of this wonderful hobby than the propagation of camellias from seed. There are at least two ready explanations for this:

(1) Anyone who likes to garden has a certain amount of creativeness in his makeup, which can be satisfied best by growing plants from seed. My

revered Mother always said that plants she grew from seed were her own, whereas those she acquired already living were like adopted children. However that may be, there is certainly a far greater feeling of accomplishment connected with raising camellias "all the way."

(2) The element of curiosity. With camellias, one never knows what he will get in the way of flower and foliage from seedlings, consequently there is a curious and compelling fascination waiting for that first bloom to develop. It is like getting something out of a grab bag because camellias seldom come true from seed.

New varieties of camellias can be obtained deliberately only from seedlings notwithstanding that many excellent new camellias have resulted accidentally from mutations of an existing variety arising naturally on the plant itself as "sports" or as a result of grafting. Thus it is possible to obtain new varieties from the three most common methods of propagation, but one can set about accomplishing this with any degree of assurance only with seed. However, of recent years considerable success has attended efforts to promote or induce variegation of many of the self-colored sorts by means of grafting, but that is the extent of the change.

The Flower Must Be "Complete" To Set Seed

Granted that it is desirable to grow a few camellias from seed where it can be obtained—how is it some of us never have seed from our camel-

lias? In order to set seed, the camellia must have what is known botanically as a "complete" flower—that is to say, one having the parts essential to reproduction, which are: stamens and pistil. The pollen from the stamens, when ripe, fertilizes the pistil, the means of introduction being winds, insects, birds and, on occasion, you or me going from flower to flower with a camel's hair brush. It will therefore be seen that a fully double camellia flower, having no stamens, or pistil, is incapable of bearing seed. Camellias will also vary as to the stage of maturity that must be reached before seed will form. Normally, it is not necessary with camellias as it is with many fruit trees, for example, to have another plant or variety in proximity for cross-pollination purposes because the camellia has the power of self-fertilization and thus the capacity of reproduction within itself. There are, however, some camellias which, to all appearances, have the essential flower parts but still do not bear seed because they are sterile. These are the mules of the camellia world. The matter of environment is also quite important to seed formation. A cold, damp situation will act as a deterrent to flower fertilization while a warm, protected environment will be conducive to seed set. Therefore, even when one possesses a matured camellia having open blooms with stamens, it does not necessarily follow that it will supply him with seed. In such case, there is added inducement to

belong to a camellia society because of the practice many follow of distributing seed free among the members at least once each year.

How to Handle Seed

Inasmuch as the seed pod develops from the spent flower, it follows that all the blooms should not be picked off if seed is desired. It will be found that the camellia has a cute trick of making the flower dry up on the stem, and adhere rather tenaciously, folding over the embryonic seed pod until it has developed to the point this protective covering is no longer needed. Therefore, it is even possible for the inexperienced person to distinguish between worthless spent flowers, which should be picked off, and those which are still performing a valuable function, simply by the ease with which they let go. After these protective petals have finally fallen, nothing further is required but to keep the plant in good condition until about October when it will be found that the fully developed seed pod, now perhaps an inch in diameter will begin to lose its fresh appearance and split open. At that moment, the seed will be sufficiently ripe to harvest and gathering it then will save time and trouble. Opening the pod from one to eight dark, hard-shelled seed will be found inside of various shapes and sizes. These should be planted immediately for this reason: In nature, the seed falls to the ground as soon as the pod dries sufficiently to permit the seed to escape, which will be a matter of but a few days after the pod starts to split. Thus the seed comes into contact with the ground and moisture immediately thereafter and the first step in the process of germination then begins. While it is true camellia seed can be kept for some time under favorable conditions, it is generally regarded as quite perishable notwithstanding its hard shell, therefore plant it as soon as possible.

The Jar Method of Planting

How should one plant camellia seed? This would depend to a great extent upon several factors, including the quantity to be handled, the particular facilities available, etc. However, an excellent method available to almost everyone is that of planting the seed in a closed jar (the size would depend upon the amount of seed to be handled) filled with fertilized, damp peat moss. A large-mouthed coffee or pickle jar will accommodate up to about 100 camellia seed and these gallon-size containers give sufficient bulk so as not to dry out easily, but for the average person a quart jar or even a pint would be suitable if watched closely. First, the peat moss is boiled in an old kettle so as to destroy all mold and, after it cools, the excess water is gently squeezed out. Sterilize the jar by also boiling it or washing it thoroughly in hot water containing a sodium-hypochloride bleach, (such as Chlorox) at the strength shown for removing mildew (about 3 tablespoons per quart). Then wash the camellia seed in the same solution to be sure of eliminating all sources of mold and place the moist peat and seed in the jar, mixing them up well so that the seed will be distributed throughout. The position of the seed is not important except that it must be covered sufficiently to stay moist. If you have radiant heat in your floors then it is simply a matter of placing the jar in a corner of the kitchen, under the trays in the laundry, or any other place that will not involve you in domestic difficulties, and the bottom heat will cause the seed to germinate very quickly. For real fast action, make a small opening in the shell of the seed by drawing it across a coarse file on one edge, which will enable the seed to break out from its imprisonment. If you do not have floor heat, the top of the

(Continued on Page 14)

hot-water heater or any similar place where there is continuous warmth and it is not too hot (90° is about as high as it is safe) can be utilized. It is not absolutely necessary, though preferable, that the warmth come from underneath the jar. Under ideal circumstances it is not necessary to add water to the jar, but it should be inspected occasionally to be certain that the tender roots, which should begin to form in a couple of weeks if the seed is fresh, do not dry out. In no case, however, should there be water standing in the bottom of the jar as that would be too wet a condition. After the seed has sprouted pretty thoroughly it should be planted out in the same manner as hereafter prescribed for handling seed in the normal way.

Using Flats

The normal, but slower way of planting camellia seed is practically the same as with any other seed except that it should be placed very shallow, being barely covered. Like most other plants, camellias reproduce themselves naturally by dropping their seed to the ground, so that the only covering would be fallen leaves or perhaps the chance entry into a crevice would protect it. The planting mixture should be very light and porous with perfect drainage and capable of holding moisture well. The soil mix that seems to meet these requirements best is one part sand, one part peat and one part leaf mold. Equal parts of sand and peat will do if leaf-mold is not available. The peat should be moist when mixed, so soak it a day or two in advance of using and it should *not* be fine like powder—if the particles are coarse aeration and drainage will be far better. The sand will provide sufficient fine material to bind the composition together. Plant the camellia seed, sprouted or dry, about 3 inches apart in this mixture, using a seed-flat if nothing deeper is available. I use flats that

are 6 inches deep as camellia seed sends down quite a tap-root; furthermore, the deep soil-mix does not dry out so easily. If the flat is then planted in a hot-bed, or where it will get bottom heat, the results will be much quicker but not necessarily better nor surer. In any case, place the flat in a sheltered spot where it will get warmth during the winter, when the roots will form. Shortly, thereafter, little spikes of top-growth will begin to show, quickly forming leaves at the first suggestion of spring. After these little plants have attained a height of about 6 inches, they may be lifted and transplanted to gallon cans containing a similar soil mix but to which one part of good loam has been added. Thereafter, for speedy development, they should be fertilized *very lightly* every two months or so with a good camellia-type fertilizer or rotted manure. When dry seed is planted out, some growers like to top-dress the flats with a light covering of rotting leaves (preferably small leaves, such as oak) to protect the seed and conserve the moisture. A precautionary word: watch out for sow-bugs, snails and slugs—they have a special liking for the tender camellia seedling shoots.

Tips on Hastening Blooms

If the root system is kept slightly confined, the seedling will bloom earlier. Where the roots are able to wander at will, the seedling seems to want to make growth rather than bloom. However, growing camellias from seed requires some patience, as it takes from at least three to ten years or more for a seedling to flower under normal conditions without artificial stimulation. Therefore, I follow the practice of leaving the seedling in the gallon can, even to the point it gets somewhat root-bound, so as to induce earlier blooming. If the growth should be so vigorous as to make it appear the plant must be transplanted to avoid injury,

then it would probably be well to root-prune the seedling slightly so as to slow down the tendency to growth and encourage blooming.

Camellias seldom come true from seed, therefore do not expect to get an exact reproduction of the parent for that is unlikely. The more petals the flowers of the plant or plants have, the more likelihood of obtaining a double, or formal-type bloom, from the seed. There is no certainty that the offspring will even have the same general color as the parent; in fact, I have had clear red and clear white seedlings from the same seed pod.

You May Hit the Jackpot

While it is true that the chances of obtaining a really outstanding new variety from seed are extremely limited, actually a great deal depends upon the source of the seed planted. Experience proves that seed obtained from an environment where there are only a few single or semi-double varieties is extremely unlikely to result in out-of-the-ordinary seedlings. On the other hand, I have been quite surprised at the percentage of doubles and fairly good blooms that have resulted from seed obtained from a source where there is present a considerable number of camellia varieties of many forms and sizes of flower. But, even though the blossom should prove to be ordinary or duplicate an existing variety, the effort is not lost entirely for camellia seedlings make the best understock there is for grafting purposes as they have a natural root system. So try planting a few camellia seed. For the person who has patience and likes to grow things it is certainly an interesting and very worthwhile experience. Perhaps you may be lucky and hit the jackpot! In any case, you will have that certain gratifying feeling that comes from doing anything that is creative.

Reprinted from the bulletin of the Northern California Camellia Society.

Our Cover Flower

Needing but little introduction is this bright flower developed by William Woodroof and named after his friend "Reg Ragland." This outstanding seedling won the Margarete Hertrich Award for 1954 and has added dramatic color to the world of Camellias. Reputedly claiming 'J. J. Pringle Smith' as a parent, which is a solid red, practically all the grafts made from the parent are variegated. The flower is very large, a full semi-double, with smaller upright center petals. Mr. Woodroof says, quote—"the flower has everything a good camellia should have—substance, texture, size and form. It is long lasting, blooming over a long period. The plant is vigorous, compact and upright with large, dark green foliage, and grafts and grows well."

FOR SALE Camellia Seeds

from the Camellia Garden
at the famed
HUNTINGTON
BOTANICAL GARDENS

So long as limited supplies last, members have the option of seeds from white variety japonica plants, solid color varieties, variegated plants or sasanquas. Late orders will be filled from whichever groups remain or from mixed seeds.

\$3.00 per 100 seeds

\$2.00 per 100 for orders in excess of 100 with limit of 300 seeds to each membership. No orders for less than 100 seeds accepted. A packing and shipping charge of 25 cents will be made covering each order and must accompany payment for seeds. Make remittances to —

Secretary Southern Calif. Camellia
Society
40 North San Rafael
Pasadena, Calif.

MORE ABOUT THE YELLOW CAMELLIA

By RALPH PEER

Last year's decision to hand over all of Tonkin, the Northern Province of French Indo-China to the Communist Viet Minh regime has effectively sealed off the area in which Yellow and Purple flowering Camellias are known to exist.

West of this region, however, lies the largely unexplored Northern portion of Laos. Looking at a relief map of this region, it occurred to me that if members of the Camellia family of plants were growing in a river valley in Tonkin, one might expect similar plants in other similar river valleys further West.

During a visit to London several years ago, I had the good fortune to become acquainted with Mr. F. Kingdon-Ward, the Dean of living British plant explorers. Since 1912 he has been travelling through the Himalaya Mountains, usually on the Southern side; on one of his trips he discovered and named the Camellia species, *C. Wardii*. I got in touch with him at his home in England and have received a most interesting reply, parts of which I will share with you:

"Laos, through which I once travelled several hundred miles, is of course little known, and there are certainly many good plants to be got there, particularly in the mountains. I don't suppose it is any more difficult to travel there today than when I was there—or any easier. It should not be particularly difficult to get there, though it might be very difficult indeed to stay there long enough to make worth while collections. But I don't think one would go to Laos from Hanoi.

"When I was in Luang Prabang, over twenty years ago, they were even then building a motor road across the Traninh Plateau from Luang Prabang to Vientiane, crossing the great Z-bend of the Mekong. However, I travelled down the river by raft—

"Furthermore, the French had begun building a railway from some town on the Mekong (where I stayed the night) between Vientiane and Savanaket, straight across to Vinh

on the coast of Annam. I think that also must long since have been finished. However, the political situation being what it is, I personally think that the best way to go into Laos today—since one cannot go via Burma and the Shan States, as I did—is via Siam: Bangkok to Chiangmai by rail, thence across country to the Mekong (bullock cart?), and so to Luang Prabang and the Traninh Plateau. Hanoi and Luang Prabang, on either side of the mountains, are only 25 miles apart in an air line.

"My experience of Camellias in North Burma and Assam is that they most frequently occur on the banks of rocky streams, at, or close to high water mark (e.g. *Camellia Wardii*, *C. stenophylla*, *C. costei*, *C. fluvialtis*, and others).

"During my time in Laos it was understood that one travelled everywhere by raft or pirogue up and down the network of rivers—there were no roads. I had a map, published by the French Government, showing all these rivers and routes, but it is now lost. It would be a useful thing to have if you are contemplating such an expedition. I spent some days floating down a river by pirogue, but the most promising bits were the terrific rapids we passed too quickly to see anything."

There is, of course, no certainty that the yellow flowered Camellia species extend this far west of their known habitat, but possibly some means can later be found to make a thorough search in Laos.

NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

Santa Clara County Society

Officers for the year ending April 1956 are as follows: President, Bernard F. Hoisholt, Box 175, 123 La Paloma, Saratoga. Vice President, Edwin L. Mitchell, 1555 Cherry Ave., Saratoga. Secretary-Treasurer, Kenneth L. Boosey, 119 Cleaves, San Jose.

Temple City

New officers of 1955-56 are as follows: President, Arthur E. Krumm, 2081 Summit, Altadena, SY. 7-6868: Vice President and Librarian, Mrs. June Shroth, 432 N. Alabama St., San Gabriel, AT. 1-3306: Treasurer, Frank Ramsey, 2025 S. 4th, Alhambra, AT. 2-4054: Secretary, Mrs. Gertrude S. Rose, 6025 N. Muscatel, San Gabriel, AT. 7-3535. Chairmen of Committees are as follows: Plant Procurement, Ernest Pieri: Program, Richard Noble: Show, L. R. Bryant: Membership, F. K. Murray.

Camellias And —

Camellias are going to be well mixed with coffee, bacon, eggs and other breakfast trimmings including plentiful portions of fresh jelly (Billie McCaskill's own brand) on the morning of October 9th from 8:30 till twelve. The occasion is the 1955-56 season kick-off for the Temple City Camellia Society. The breakfast is to be held at Les Marshall's Camellia Nursery at 6747 North Rosemead Boulevard, San Gabriel, and all camellia-interested persons are invited. Come with one dollar in hand which will entitle you to a wonderful breakfast served hot by the best Camellia Chefs, and also to prizes (yes, camellias and their accessories) every half hour. Included also will be answers by the experts to questions about camellias which may have been bothering you.

Chairman of the whole affair is Jack McCaskill who confided to us that only 92 persons attended the breakfast last year but he knew at least a hundred who would be coming this year. So come early — O yes. No long speeches. And lots of beautiful camellia plants to browse among in the Marshall Nursery. We'll be seeing you — all who live within commuting distance.

Pomona

New officers for the 1955-56 season include Floyd Bunnelle of La Verne, President; Oliver Hein of Riverside, Vice Presiednt; Mrs. George Bell of Walnut, Secretary; Clark Thomas of San Dimas, Treasurer. Other Directors are Gollis Thompkins of Riverside; B. M. Pace of Upland; C. D. Cothran of San Dimas who will be in charge of Plant Procurement; Mrs. George Pugsley of Pomona, Membership and Kimi Yamamoto for Publicity.

San Diego Society

Officers for the 1955-56 season are as follows: President, George Ellis, 1036 Tarento Dr., San Diego 7; Vice President, Willis H. Miller, 4366 Altamirano Way, San Diego 3; Treasurer, Lyle Carringer, 825 Harbor View Place and Secretary, Mrs. Russell H. Parker, 3927 Loma Alta Drive, San Diego 15.

YOUR KODACHROME LIBRARY

By GULITA COOPER

Autumn Time—Camellia Time—Kodachrome Time. It's time for understanding spring again in September. The sasanquas are blooming and soon the japonicas will open and later on the reticulatas will appear and we will enjoy a succession of flowers in our garden that should be an incentive to us to photograph. With all the awakened interest in color around us that we read about these days, the effort should be all the more rewarding and inspiring.

In the beginning it was our hope to have in our Kodachrome Library, not only slides of flower specimens but other classifications of camellia culture as well; such as methods of camellia hybridization, growing of camellias from seed, grafting, flower arrangement and corsage making. Also to learn from our slides more about the use of camellias in landscaping our gardens. In fact we hoped to have as many aspects of Camellia history, culture and growth as possible.

Thus far we feel that we have made a substantial beginning and we are looking forward with renewed interest to the coming Camellia year.

Your Kodachrome Library now consists of the following:

- Single Blossom slides—101
- Flower Show Outdoor Garden Displays—9 slides
- Camellias in Formal Table Setting—5 slides
- Camellias Used in Bridal Ensemble—1
- Flower Arrangements—20 slides
- Flower Show Displays of Blooms—20 slides
- The Verschaffelt Collection—142 slides
- The Samuel Curtis Book—9 slides
- Best flower on bush in Natural Surroundings—1 slide

Of the single blossom slides, we have specimens of *c. sasanqua*, *c. japonica*, *c. reticulata*.

We would still like to add more slides this year of new varieties and *c. saluenensis*. We'd also like to include some slides showing Camellia culture, propagation of seed and grafting.

Since the inception of the Koda-

chrome Library in 1951 with 75 slides, it has now grown to 307 slides. All donated by interested members who have wanted to share in helping us build a reference slide Library that can be used by our members who might represent the Society at a meeting of another organization presenting a program on Camellias.

We would like to thank the following members who have contributed slides to our Library: Dr. John C. Clairmont, Mr. Edward L. Cressel, Col. C. M. Gale, The Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, Dr. C. Raoul Merrillees, Mr. and Mrs. Cifton Johnson, Elizabeth Beebe, Mrs. A. Rester, Dr. G. E. Fisher, C. Stewart. We are grateful for your interest and for the quality of the slides that you have sent us. For, we do not want just quantities of slides but we do want quality as well in the ones that we do have. In this respect, we have surely been very fortunate thus far.

One of the values of your Kodachrome Library is that it can serve as a real source of inspiration to the garden enthusiast. Through use of these slides many interesting programs can be arranged for meetings and occasionally we find a provocative question arising with the use and comparison of these slides. For example, this year we were given two slides of the Sasanqua 'Jaune' that you saw on the

(Continued on Page 35)

FOR SPECIAL MENTION

You can't keep good camellias down and several in southern California are inexorably blooming themselves right into the limelight. Among these are

'Royal Trumpeteer'

This beautiful white is rewarding the patience of Mr. Les Marshall who in his Camellia Nursery propagates hundreds of camellias every year. Mr. Marshall has many seedlings but this particular plant, developing from a magnoliaeflora seed showed unexpected endearing characteristics. With care of seven years, such an outstanding flower became established that visitors to Mr. Marshall's Nursery were notably impressed by it. After a reference to it by Mr. Roy Thompson in a Bulletin of the Pacific Society, Mr. Marshall received many inquiries about the plant. Now he is afraid that he will not be able to satisfy all demands for it. Mr. Marshall first christened the flower 'Trumpeter' on account of its narcissus-shaped center but finding that Walter Hazlewood of Australia had called a single red of his by that name, Mr. Marshall changed to 'Royal Trumpeteer' which is certainly apropos. One of the most notable virtues of the flower is that it holds up exceptionally well. The Marshalls' description of it is as follows:

Seedling No. 158 of Marshall's Camellia Nursery. Bloomed first in 1950. A seedling of Magnoliaeflora that has a faint blush overcast in bud form but is pure white when fully opened. A four to five inch semi-double, of unusual form, with sixteen petals, the center three of which do not open or fold back to the same extent as the others, but rather form a trumpet or funnel center to the flower. Normally a mid-season bloomer that may bloom from early January to late April. The flower has excellent keeping qualities and does not shatter easily. The plant is a moderately fast grower, upright and rather compact in habit with pleasing, dark green foliage.

'Nan Crowell'

Elizabeth Councilman, *La Dame*

aux Camellias of Councilman Camellia Acres, waited a long time in her propagation of camellias to choose a flower she felt worthy of naming after her Mother. This is the one, and much admired by all who see it. The flower is a clear pink fading to blush in the center. Of medium to large, the double flower is of rose form. The plant is described as of medium, compact growth.

One of the admirers of the plant is Mr. Robert P. Holmes of Mount Olive, North Carolina. Mr. Holmes was former president of the North Carolina Society and in writing about his own 'Nan Crowell' he said, quote: "Today when I was out in my garden, which is on our plantation about five miles from our home, I said that I was coming directly home to write and tell you how beautiful my 'Nan Crowell' is blooming. This has been our very poorest year for blooms that I have experienced in the 18 years which I have been growing camellias.

"First was the long spring and summer drought, next was the hurricane 'Hazel' which nearly wrecked my garden. Then came the early, severe winter, therefore we have had very few decent blooms. But today I had three beautiful blooms on the 'Nan Crowell' which I do not think could have been more perfect, which makes this quite a remarkable flower after coming through like it did."

'Coral Pink Lotus'

Some two years ago Don and Blanche Miller, who know their camellias, saw a Lotus seedling that
(Continued on Page 25)

NEW APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATIONS

APPROVED BY NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE OF S C C S
AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Camellia japonica **'Aristocrat'**

This seven-year old seedling was developed by Harvey F. Short, through Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens, 889 North Foothill Boulevard in Pasadena, California. With 'Amabilis' and 'Lotus' as parents it has a single flower with a four to five inch blossom of faint blush color opening to pure white; the petals having the crepy appearance of certain types of Hibiscus. The plant grows in rather pyramidal form with dark green heavily textured, elliptical leaves. It is compact and upright. Blooming months are January, February and March.

Camellia japonica **'Fire Falls'**

With its name inspired by the glowing, clear rich red of its informal double to full double blossoms, this beautiful japonica seedling was developed by Harvey Short through Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens of Pasadena. Professor Charles Sargent is its only known parent. The 60 to 70 petals do not follow any set pattern but give a ruffled effect stretching the blossoms to a four and one-half inch diameter. This six year old plant grows rapidly and makes a handsome, dark foliaged shrub with large leaves. Blooms appear from January through March.

Camellia japonica **'Flower Song'**

This formal double seedling of dahlia-like form was developed by Harvey F. Short through Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens of Pasadena, California. The glowing, coral pink blossoms reach a diameter of four inches on compact bushes which grow upright with nicely serrated dark green leaves. 'Rainy Sun' is the only known

parent. Blooming time from November through March.

Camellia japonica **'Guest of Honor'**

This seedling offspring of 'Lotus' (other parent unknown) was developed by Harvey F. Short through Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens of Pasadena. The bush, upright and compact, has smooth-appearing leaves and blossoms of semi-peony form with color of rich coral or salmon pink. The plant is seven years old and bloomed for the first time in 1951. It blooms in January, February and March.

Camellia japonica **'Indian Summer'**

This seedling first bloomed in 1950 and was developed by the McCaskill Gardens of 25 S. Michillinda in Pasadena. Its only known parent is 'Daikagura.' The peony form blossoms of rose red, at times variegated, reach a maximum diameter of five and one-half inches and bloom from October to March. The compact, upright bush carries leaves of dark green with a medium green on their reverse side.

Camellia japonica **'Mamie'**

This semi-double seedling was developed by Clark W. Thomas of 128 W. 6th Street, San Dimas, California. Claiming 'Lady Van Sittart' as its only known parent, the bush blooms from January to March with thick, stiff leaves of dark green on top lined with grass-green underneath. The white flower has two or three petals colored 'C. M. Wilson' pink, and ranges from three and one-half to four and one-half inches in diameter.

Camellia japonica **'Medallion'**

This seedling which first bloomed

in 1950 was developed by Martin Ruster of 394 Bonita Avenue in Pasadena, California. Blooming in March, April and May the plant appears to be adaptable to espaliering. The dark green leaves are lined with lighter green. The formal double flowers are of rose pink shading to paler pink in the center. They have incurved petals with tendency to a light stripe in the center of each petal. The only known parent is 'Chiffon.'

Camellia japonica
'Rosenlee'

This seedling of unknown parents was developed by Lee Smith of 2193 North Holliston of Pasadena, is twelve years old, and blooms from March through April. Of formal double form, the flower is pure white with tiny pink markings on four to ten of its petals, and measures from three and one-half to four and one-half inches in diameter. The bush grows rapidly, is compact and upright with heavy-textured leaves of dark green lined with a lighter shade of green. It bloomed first in March, 1952.

Camellia japonica
'Seventh Heaven'

Characterized by an unusual hue of medium light pink, this anemone form seedling was developed by Harvey F. Short through Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens of Pasadena, California. The only known parent is 'Elegans'. Bloom is from January

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through March. The plant grows rapidly with much of the habit growth of 'Elegans' other than appearing taller. It is a seven year old plant, blooming first in 1951.

Camellia japonica
'Sultana'

Developed by the McCaskill Gardens of Pasadena, California, the one known parent of this plant is 'Matho-
(Continued on Page 25)

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CAMELLIA NEWS FROM TOKYO, JAPAN

By EIKICHI SATOMI, *Tokyo*

The Camellia Show sponsored by the Japanese Camellia Society was held at the Mitsukoshi Department Store in Tokyo from March 29 to April 3, inclusive.

Altogether the exhibits included about two hundred varieties. There were also five exhibits of ikebanas (Japanese type arrangement), one exhibit of America type arrangements, and also a collection of bonsai (dwarf tree). There was a showing of books, catalogues, and magazines of interest to Camellia lovers.

The very cold weather just before the opening of the show made it difficult to find a large number of blossoms. The Japan Air Lines, however, came to the rescue by bringing a quantity of fine blossoms from the famous nurseries at Kumamoto in Kyushu, the South Island of Japan.

This, the third Camellia Show held in Japan, was the most successful since the end of the war. I am sure

that the presence in Japan during the last year of many American visitors making constant inquiries about Camellias must have stimulated general interest.

More than 30,000 people attended this Show. Among the notables who visited the display were Prince Takamatsu (brother of the Emperor), Mr. I. Kono (Minister of Agriculture), Mr. S. Fukuoka (Editor in Chief of the Japanese edition of Reader's Digest), and many other officials and dignitaries. These people were all greatly interested in our display and many of them bought young plants for their gardens.

As it is not the Japanese custom to hold a contest, the Trophy donated by the CAMELLIAN was presented to Mr. Jisuke Minagawa, whose nursery, now more than one hundred years old, has had so much to do with the development and preservation of new varieties.

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Camellia MAIL BAG

From Alexandria, Virginia Charles Holden writes:

Yes, we grow sasanquas in Old Virginia. There are quite a number of plants in Northern Virginia and in Washington that have been in the ground for years.

At our home we have a row of several plants against a red brick wall in our garden that are most effective. Several of these plants are Maiden's Blush with some Mine-No-Yuki and Showa-No-Sakae intermingled. As accent plants we have a large Apple Blossom beside our garage that was about five feet tall when planted three years ago. This plant is now between eight and nine feet tall with a spread of equal amount. Then we have a crimson Negish-ko on the lawn which is doing equally well.

The sasanqua grows like a weed, is extremely hardy and blooms beautifully for us. Bloom starts about the later part of September or early October and only late in December when it gets down to freezing on occasions are the plants bloomed out for us. I would presume with you the bloom would extend almost all winter.

From Porto, Portugal, Snr. Moreira da Silva writes:

Concerning sasanquas, they have been cultivated for many years in Portugal. We have some varieties known everywhere such as Mine-No-Yuki, Onigoromo, Fukuzutsumi, Azuma Nishiki, Thea Chinensis, etc.

We have also two Portuguese varieties, named Barao de Soutelinho and Baronesa de Soutehino sowed by an Englishman, Alfred Tait, distinguished by the Portuguese government with the most noble title Barao de Soutelinho. The flowers are about 8 cm. large and the first is white and fleshed pink and the second pure white.

Dick Lashley writes from Greenville, S. C.

For the 1955 records, I have an Are-Jishi that had two blooms July 12th, one bloom July 18th and three blooms July 26th. There are five blooms on the bush now (August 8th) and from the looks of the buds, the plant will bloom out by September 1st. Several of our local growers, Rudolf Anderson, Cecil Morris, Dave Tillinghast and Calvin Teague were amazed and got an eye full on July 12th.

From Arlington, Virginia

Mr. Milton H. Brown, President of the new Society of the Potomac Valley writes — quoting from a longer letter:

Some of us are making tentative plans to attend the ACS meeting in Los Angeles next February. If you or any of the officers of your Society are going to be in Washington at any time, we should like to welcome them here and also to call a special meeting of the Society in order to hear about Camellias from them. We particularly hope that Mr. Peer will see his way clear to come to talk to us about his many experiences in the world-wide camellia trail.

I thought you might like to see the enclosed picture from the Sunday Star showing a picture of part of the staging of our first show last April 13 and 14. End quote.

Ed note: Indeed we were very much enchanted by the Camellia cover of this Sunday magazine depicting the beautiful niece of the Ambassador of Thailand relaxing by a green-rimmed pool in which pink and white camellia blooms were floating. The salmon pink of the flowing robe of the brunette Miss Panyarjin against the deep camellia pink was utterly charming. The magazine also carried a story of the Society's Camellia Show.

(Continued on Page 26)

FOR SALE

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

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. Vol. I and II, \$10.00 each.

"The Yunnan Reticulatas," 50¢.

"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.

"Flower Arrangements of the Ohara School" the 1952 edition. Printed in English in Japan in folder form this book has six pages of descriptive matter and twenty-four colored prints in the Japanese manner. \$4.60, from \$10.00 to \$12.00 in bookstores.

"Camellias, Kinds and Culture," by M. Harold Hume. \$6.00.

"The Camellia, What to Do," published by the Oregon Camellia Society. 35¢ postpaid.

"Camellias, Illustrated," by Morrie Sharp. \$5.00.

* * *

The latest revision of Rules and Regulations for both the William Hertrich and the Margarete Hertrich Awards will appear in the November *Review*. Don't miss it—maybe some one of your camellia plants is already growing toward one of these awards.

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SPECIAL MENTION from Page 19

they knew instinctively was outstanding. It was about eight years old at the time and they felt that it promised a brilliant future.

Their judgment was soon vindicated, for that same year a flower from the plant was so unusual that it attracted immediate attention, and won second place for seedlings at the Temple City Camellia Show. Having all the best characteristics of 'Lotus', the petals were more heavily textured and of a beautiful coral pink with deeper pink veinings.

Living up to all their hopes, 'Coral Pink Lotus' is proving to be a fine, hardy plant, withstanding both heat and cold very well and producing flowers the Millers consider much superior to the one which took second place. The plant has the same blooming time as its Lotus parent and will be registered next year.

REGISTRATIONS from Page 21

tiana,' and along with its leaves and bud formation this sport has many of the same characteristics. The flower is scarlet, reaching a maximum diameter of six inches and is described as both semi-double and peony form with varying number of petals. The first blooms appeared in 1948.

Camellia japonica **'Sun-up'**

Classified as an anemone to peony form, this iridescent, coral pink bloom was developed by Harvey F. Short

DOROTHY DIGS

in the garden



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MAIL BAG from Page 23

From New South Wales, Australia Walter Hazlewood writes in part:

Seven new members joined our branch bringing our membership to 70. At the July 11th meeting Mr. Kirk talked on Foliage as an aid in identifying camellias and the Killara Horticultural Society held their annual Camellia Show on July 16th. This is the main Camellia Show in Sydney and many visitors came from Melbourne to attend.

Ed Note: With the reversal of seasons "down-under" our summer months become the blooming time for Australian camellias. In the long list of varieties mentioned in his letter by Mr. Hazlewood, we note a few that are not too familiar here such as the sasanquas 'Hino-tsukasa,' japonicas 'Grunelli,' 'Little Princess,' 'Doris Tagg,' 'Narara,' 'Robin,' 'Campanella,' 'Polar Bear.'

* * *

In a more recent letter Mr. Hazlewood compliments the Sasanqua issue of the Review (and thank you) also bringing up a bit of controversy as follows, quote: "In the Review there are some errors in the list. One is that Fugi-no-mine and Mine-no-uke are two different varieties. I think the error comes from the Japanese sending out both sorts under the same name. Fugi-no-mine is upright in growth and has variegated leaves and is inferior to Mine-no-uke which has a pendulous habit.

For So. Calif. Residents

A tantalizing glimpse at a list of programs lined up for the coming season by Caryll Pitkin, Program Chairman, promises meetings of rare worth and interest, starting off with a sasanqua treat in November by the McCaskills who are a sasanqua family par excellence.

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Second Triumph

Very pleasant it is to announce that the second volume of "Camellias in the Huntington Gardens" will be off the press early in October. Congratulations to William Hertrich, Grand Old Man of Camellias (and general horticulture) in appreciation for all the work, and time that have gone

into this book. The Camellias themselves are to be congratulated too for the faithful expose of their better varieties. How rewarding it is to us, also, to be able to reap the results of the dedication of a man's lifetime of study. Look for a review of this new volume in the November Review.

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HELP WANTED

Mr. C. N. Hastie has accepted a project from the American Camellia Society to write a series of lectures with accompanying 35 mm slides, on the various phases of Camellia culture.

He is very desirous of obtaining help, particularly from Camellia growers on the West Coast, and if you are in this category, whether professional or amateur, Mr. Hastie would appreciate it if you would write up some material he could include in these lectures.

You may address him as follows:

Mr. C. N. Hastie
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YOUR LIBRARY from..Page..18
 cover of The Sasanqua Issue. In that Review is an article by Mr. Ralph Peer quoting from Robert Fortune's book *Wanderings in China*, published in 1847. He relates in his article that some years later 1850 Fortune wrote "I found a yellow camellia—it is certainly a most curious plant, although not very handsome. The flowers belong to the anemone or Warrath class; the outer petals are of a French White, and the inner ones are of a primrose yellow." We have in our Kodachrome Library in The Verschaffelt Collection a beautiful slide of this very Camellia: Comparing it with the Camellia 'Jaune' found in Porto, Portugal that is pictured in the same article, we notice a striking difference in color. The present day camellia is no doubt a descendant of Robert Fortune's Camellia, but of

complete yellow as opposed to the variations in coloring in the Camellia 'Jaune' described and pictured in the Verschaffelt Garden Manual of 1853.

So, at once we see the interesting use that our Kodachrome Library can be, in helping us to trace the parental strains of our present day garden camellias, through the use of *The Verschaffelt Collection*.

Our aim now should be to take more Kodachromes—be inspired and share and continue to build with us a better and finer Kodachrome Library for our Camellia Society of Southern California.

Ed note: For specific information about borrowing slides, Society members should write to Mrs. Gulita Cooper, 2345 Sherwood Road, San Marino, California.

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CAMELLIA REVIEWER *from P. 2* who manufactures machinery (probably for bread and butter) for relaxation while he coaxes two or three dozen camellia plants to thrive in a "Temperate House." He has automatic window openers that keep the day temperature about 60° and at night from 45° to 50°. Yes sir—don't ever underestimate the power of a camellia.

As Inevitable as Flowers In the Fall

It is seed time again and following tradition, comes the annual offer to Society members of seeds—good camellia seeds. You are warned that the harvest is more limited this year than last and in order to get viable seed of the type you want, we urge you not to delay—run, don't walk to your nearest ball-point and get your order out by the next mail. Camellia seeds have ideas of their own, you know, and don't wait to perform for dilatory planters. Mr. Feathers, in his article in this issue, points out that the seed is ready to begin its own cycle the minute it drops to the ground, so this is an added reason for your prompt action. If you are at all uncertain about how to go ahead once you have seed in hand, just follow instructions given by Mr. Feathers. You'll certainly have some success—maybe a winning seedling. Who knows?

Flash! Flash!

Even before this issue goes to press with its announcement of seeds for sale, the Garden Committee has received seed requests. One of these was for 2,000 seeds. Of course this is far above the maximum allowed to an individual so the enthusiast can not be entirely satisfied. The early requests however indicate such a trend that we feel it is only pertinent to mention some sasanqua seedling cultural suggestions made by Carl Tourje, our

seed specialist. He states that although the technique of germinating sasanqua seeds and growing the young seedlings is substantially the same as with japonicas, one should guard against over potting because the sasanqua does not ordinarily develop a root system as extensive as that of japonicas. He quotes Vern McCaskill as saying that he is continually amazed that so small a root system can produce such large grafts. Mr. McCaskill is partial to sasanqua understock and uses lots of it. Of course a smaller seed should be in a smaller container.

Mr. Tourje also points out that those who germinate their seeds in damp peat and pinch the young tap root should keep in mind the importance of this practice with sasanqua seeds. It is the natural tendency of this species to throw the tap root down to greater relative depths than the japonicas and in container-grown plants the loss of energy through permitting this tap root to grow unchecked can be avoided by pinching off the root as it develops, at about one inch from the seed. This keeps all that energy into lateral feeder-roots making a better plant in less time.

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no William Hertrich Award given this year as no mutant entered was judged to merit the distinction.

Ending With a Smile

Camellias are such serious, earnest plants that they seldom have time for frivolity so when a camellia yields a chuckle we are all for it. Like recently when we were soberly reading over new registrations, we came to the description of a white bloom whose petals have slight pink touches. An alternate name, suggested its developer, might be "Slightly Tetched." Well, aren't we all?

Asks

Liz

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