

THE

# Camellia Review



*C. Sasanqua 'Charmer'*

*Kodachrome courtesy McCaskill Gardens*

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

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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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## DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

- Central California Camellia Society** ..... Fresno, Calif.  
 Meeting Place: Elementary School Auditorium, Fresno State College  
 Secretary: Mrs. Maynard Munger, 5140 N. Fruit, Fresno  
 Date of Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of each month through March. Exception—December meeting on 3rd Monday.
- Camellia Society of Kern County** ..... Bakersfield, Calif.  
 Meeting Place: City Hall Annex, Room 3, 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield  
 Secretary: Mrs. Alvin Reimer, 119 Jeffrey St., Bakersfield  
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru May
- San Diego Camellia Society** ..... San Diego, Calif.  
 Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park  
 Secretary: Mrs. Russell H. Parker, 3927 Loma Alta Dr., San Diego 15  
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- Pomona Valley Camellia Society** ..... Pomona, Calif.  
 Meeting Place: Claremont Women's Club, 345 W. 12th, Claremont  
 Secretary: Mrs. George Bill, Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut  
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April
- Temple City Camellia Society** ..... Temple City, Calif.  
 Meeting Place: Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kaufman, Temple City  
 Secretary: Gertrude S. Rose, 6025 North Muscatel, San Gabriel  
 Date of Meeting: 4th Monday of each month, Nov. thru April
- Camellia Society of Orange County** ..... Santa Ana, Calif.  
 Meeting Place: YWCA Building, 1411 North Broadway, Santa Ana  
 Secretary: Mrs. Geo. T. Butler, 1121 Orange Ave., Santa Ana  
 4th Wednesday, Nov. to April
- Huntington Camellia Garden** ..... San 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.,  
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 Date of Meetings: 1st Monday of month, October through April.
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# *Camellia Reviewer*

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ELIZABETH BEEBE

## **Thanks Too, For Camellias**

There's an old song that goes "Most the days I disremember, but I always knows November—" and that applies to a lot of us, at least to Americans to whom November always means Thanksgiving. And that means not only turkey and its fixin's but some bright sasanquas and early japonicas centering the table around which we gather. Of course there is plenty of reason for us to give daily thanks for being able to enjoy our American way of life but we can do it especially on Thanksgiving, not forgetting to include a little thanks for camellias tucked in somewhere.

## **Spreading the Word— Camellia, that is**

Western news is going to have 'specially wide dissemination next month when Howard Asper of the Huntington Botanical Gardens goes south and east for a series of talks to Camellia societies from Mississippi to Texas. He has promised to write the highlights of his trip for the Review.

## **Coming—An Already Famous February**

A glimpse of what will be the site of the giant Camellia Show next February 25th and 26th is given in this issue by John Threlkeld, Superintendent of the Descanso Gardens. With four local Camellia Societies uniting to present a joint camellia show in these beautiful gardens already riotous with camellias, we cannot think of a more wonderful setting for the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society. It will be well worth a trip across the country and we know that many plans are already being made to attend. We are going to put

a large sign on us and try to meet everyone.

## **It Does NOT Pay to Be Ignorant**

We call your attention to 'Captain Rawes's,' the spelling which William Hertrich has accepted as authentic and which from now on will appear in the Review. It may drive the linotyper crazy and our proof-reading too but as this reticulata was first known only as "Captain Rawes's Camellia," that spelling is now accepted in highest camellia nomenclature circles. So in there we shall edge. For more on the subject see our inadequate review of Mr. Hertrich's second Camellia book on page 17 of this issue. Also please note that 'Arajishi,' is the accepted form for that darlin' japonica. Maybe the "restive lion" will calm down now for good.

## **It Was (Pink) Perfection**

It's always good weather when good camellia fellows get together but when you add a hearty breakfast and wonderful camellia plants given away to lucky numbers (were we ever thrilled to have one) then that is a real event. Over 100 of the G.C.F. got together at Les Marshall's Nursery on a balmy Sunday morning for the opening of the season of the Temple City Camellia Society. Such a success! Why do bacon and eggs taste so good mixed with camellias? We should try it oftener.

## **There May Be a Future**

Anybody notice that we have changed from a Bulletin to a Publication? Maybe if we keep on and don't weaken, we'll be a magazine yet.

## **Years Young**

The Camellia of the month and our sincere congratulations go to Miss Charlotte Hoak who has recently celebrated her 81st birthday. The

*(Continued on Page 24)*

## DESCANSO GARDENS PRESENT CAMELLIAS EN MASSE

By JOHN L. THRELKELD

Camellia growing in the Southland has reached a position of great importance. Several varieties of Camellias are now grown in practically every home garden in the Los Angeles area.

Camellias as first introduced to the Southland were considered curiosities and were grown in botanical collections and by certain adventuresome gardeners. Through public education and the great selflessness of a few people, Camellias are now the main plant interest of hundreds and hundreds of people in various organizations dedicated to furthering knowledge and interest of camellias in every garden.

Camellias are unique in their growth requirements. It is reasonable to assume that Camellias will never become a run-of-the-mill garden shrub because of these unique requirements. Never in the history of horticulture have such plants waned in popularity.

A few years ago Camellias zoomed to popularity in the Southland. It was feared by many that they would follow the pattern of other plants and soon be forgotten — but fortunately this is not true. That zoom was caused by the unanimous desire of gardeners to fill their gardens to the maximum with this wonderful plant. Now the Camellia's popularity will



Courtesy Pasadena Star-News

**Youth and Daikaguras bloom in Descanso Gardens where some thousands of camellia lovers will meet among masses of camellias next February 25th and 26th.**

settle down to a regular pattern. It will not zoom again, but certainly will never decrease to the point of being forgotten.

Descanso Gardens has played an outstanding role in creating interest in Camellias of all types. Camellias as grown and displayed in Descanso Gardens show the ideal natural garden conditions necessary for best gardening results. The home gardener can view the massive plantings and attempt to provide conditions in his own garden as closely resembling Descanso Gardens conditions as possible.

Descanso Gardens is not designed for the purpose of showing the botanical curiosity. The Camellias are planted en masse to create a dazzling color spectacle which can be enjoyed by everyone, whether botan-

ically interested or not.

Of course, great educational value is realized by everyone viewing the expansive plantings. Descanso Gardens shows what can be done by man when cooperating with Nature rather than opposing natural laws. Indeed, Descanso Gardens as a whole is a study of Nature from the geologically interesting terrain to the introduced exotic plants, the protective covering of California Live Oaks, and the natural animal and bird life inhabitants of the area.

It is impossible for gardeners, designers or architects to create conditions even remotely approaching those which take Nature eons of time to build. It is this naturalness that makes Descanso Gardens unique in the world. Even though the first exotic plant was installed a few short



Courtesy Pasadena Star-News

**The clear waters reflect the peace and beauty of a small portion of the Descanso Gardens in La Canada, California, site of the 1956 meeting of the American Camellia Society and the mammoth Camellia Show to be sponsored jointly by the Southern California, Temple City, Pacific and Los Angeles Camellia Societies.**

years ago, the gardens have the appearance and quality of great age.

The natural atmosphere presents conditions ideal for display. The first great public participation in display is being presented as the opening feature of the Second Annual Camellia Festival, February 25-March 11, 1956. The Los Angeles Camellia Council, representing all Camellia Societies in Los Angeles County, is co-sponsoring one of the largest cooperative Camellia Shows ever staged, in honor of the West Coast Convention of the America Camellia Society. Both the Camellia Council and Descanso Gardens' management are working on detailed planning of this grand event.

The displays will be in the gardens proper—protection from the elements being provided by attractive awning covers over the display tables and trails. Warmth and atmosphere will be provided by huge, roaring fireplaces conveniently located throughout the display areas.

The remaining festival time after the opening week-end will be dedicated to tours of the garden areas, lectures by widely known horticultural experts, movies and slides shown in a beautiful meeting room, folk dancing, music and fine food service.

It is anticipated that this big event will be the first of many more to follow—not only for Camellias, but also for Azaleas, Roses, Iris, Fuchsias, Begonias and other types of plants as represented in Descanso Gardens.

Outstanding in future development will be the establishment of a Half-Mile Trail through the wooded area which will include many new and unusual types of flowering plants. The cooperative efforts of Los Angeles County's Descanso Gardens and the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum will establish this spectacular planting.

Descanso Gardens is designed and planned to be a year-around flower

## KNOW YOUR PEAT

So that our readers will be informed when they buy peat moss we carry the following information from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Peat moss is one of the best and most economical forms of organic matter to use in the garden. Mixed with clay soil, it loosens and aerates it. Mixed with sandy soils, it increases their moisture holding capacity. Mixed with an equal amount of sand, it is one of the best seed beds available. As a mulch, it is good, although not as good as chopped corn cobs.

There are two kinds of peat, usually sold for garden use. Sedge peat is from reeds and sedges. It is usually from this country and is sold in bulk or bags as it does not compress too well. The other kind of peat is peat moss, which is dried and compressed in bales. The bulk of the peat sold is from Europe, although some is obtained from Canada.

The Federal Law requires that peat contain a minimum of 75% organic matter, but good sedge peat will be well over 85% organic and peat mosses will be well over 90% organic. On the other hand, much of the so-called peat dug locally and sold in bulk may be more muck than peat and may have as low as 50% organic matter. This is inferior material and usually not worth the price, no matter how cheap.

*Reprinted from "Golden Gardens," October 1955.*

show of great interest at any time of year—but particularly during the early Spring when the Camellias en masse take the spotlight.

*A real gardener builds a mental retreat from the care of this world; a place to plan, meditate and work with God.*



# WHY NOT TRY CAMELLIA BONSAI?

By CLARK THOMAS

For a good many years I have enjoyed growing plants as bonsai: usually they have been pines, junipers, maples and some others. In growing camellias, naturally I wanted some bonsai sasanquas, and as the general interest continues to grow in the *Camellia sasanqua* more people will also become interested in trying their hands at bonsai.

For bonsai most of the varieties can be used but usually a slow grower that tends to spread or weep some will make a better pot specimen. Look through your nursery for plants that have not been staked or trained too stiff. Sometimes the runt in a row of gallon cans will be your best choice. Look for a natural crook in the trunk or interesting roots that are exposed near the crown.

Among the more easily trained sasanquas are Tanya, Showa-No-Sakae, Mine-No-Yuki and Shishi-Gashira. At present I am training Shishi-Gashira and a couple of *sasanqua* 'Hugh Evans.' The latter grows fast but I picked a plant that had been in a five gallon can several years. Therefore the plant had slowed down, reducing the length of stem and size of leaf. For a container I found an old ceramic kiln, flat and oval, about five inches deep, two feet long and about a foot wide. The plant has about a four foot spread, rather low growing, so I have high hopes for this one.

Your containers should not be one of the fine old Japanese pieces unless you have an ancient looking plant in good proportion to the container. The plant should double the size of the pot.

In using a flat container you may find it necessary to almost bareroot the plant in order to spread the roots. I wash the dirt off the roots to help do this and wash some dirt off the surface also. Sometimes you may find an interesting crown or root leading from the plant at the surface. The plant can stand rather tall if well anchored and should look like a full grown tree standing in the landscape.

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I usually start training the plant in its original gallon can, or sometimes replant to a regular fern pan. This is a very good type of pan to use for reducing the depth of planting space. Then when the right container is found the plant can be readily transplanted. Prune or bend the branches to show their best form. A small weight for a while, or wire if necessary can be used.

The usual planting mixture for camellias cannot be firmed about the roots enough for bonsai. Add clay until your mixture feels firm because your plant may stand above the sides of the pot.

There may be little or no room for water at first. Set the planted container in a pan of water until moisture comes to the surface, then sprinkle from the top, probably every day in hot weather. If later on you should forget, or the plant looks dry, soak it again in a pan.

Repot every two or three years, wash or brush off enough dirt so that you can replant in a new mixture on the bottom and all around the sides. One light feeding each year will probably be enough,—you will notice the leaves will grow smaller.

These plants will not take the hot summer sun but they enjoy lots of light if protected.

For a hobby within a hobby I most heartily recommend a few camellia bonsai as a most satisfying variation.



# **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **HERTRICH AWARDS**

As Revised September 1955

The MARGARETE HERTRICH Award is presented annually by the Southern California Camellia Society for the outstanding camellia seedling, outdoor grown, during a given blooming season.

The WILLIAM HERTRICH Award is presented annually by the Southern California Camellia Society for the outstanding camellia mutant (sport), outdoor grown, during a given blooming season.

The Award Winner must receive the highest number of points of all flowers entered in competition during the flowering season, and must qualify under the following conditions:

### **Conditions**

1. An exhibitor must list the horticultural variety in competition for either award with the Hertrich Award Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society.

2. Listing with the Committee will be in writing, on forms supplied by the Secretary of the Southern California Camellia Society, and will include the exhibitor's name, name or number of the horticultural variety, and other pertinent details, and one 35 mm. color transparency (Kodachrome or equal) of the blossom, with a ruler (measuring device) in the picture to establish size. The ruler will be positioned in the same plane as the flower.

3. A blossom may not be entered in competition in the same blooming season as the one in which it is listed with the Committee. Blossoms can be entered in competition in the following blooming season or seasons. (Refer to Exception below) \*

4. Listing, as referred to above, is separate and distinct from any action taken by the exhibitor to register the same horticultural variety with any accredited registration agency.

5. A minimum of three (3) blossoms must be entered by the exhibitor during the competing blooming season. They may be entered collectively or individually on succeeding occasions. They should be judged preferably at a regular show or meeting, but may be judged elsewhere at the convenience and discretion of the judges.

6. A 35 mm. color transparency taken of the blossom during the competition year must accompany score sheets used by the Judges in awarding the point scores. In addition, a 35 mm. color transparency taken of the entire plant that produced the competing blossoms will be included.

7. Blossoms to be eligible for either award must be grown by the exhibitor.

8. No flower will be considered for either award unless it receives a minimum of 80 points in the judging.

### **Judging**

9. Judges will NOT be eligible to enter blooms for competition during a blooming season when they will be acting as judges.

10. Judging for either award will be accomplished only by judges accredited and listed by the Southern California Camellia Society. A minimum of two (2) judges is required to score a competing entry.

11. Scoring by judges will conform with the following point scale:
  - a. Color .....25 points
  - b. Form .....25 points
  - c. Quality (substance and texture) .....25 points
  - d. Condition (at time of judging).....10 points
  - e. Size .....10 points
  - f. Distinctive characteristics ..... 5 points

(The term "distinctive characteristics" is largely absorbed in the scale points allocated to either color or form, but in the event of some extraordinary feature—e.g.—fimbriation—as in Fred Sanders or Fimbriata, the extra 5 points might reasonably be added with an appropriate explanatory note.)

12. Where two or more competitive entries receive the same number of scale points by the judges, the Hertrich Award Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society will determine the winner, by judging the plants on the following supplemental scale of points:

- a. Habit of growth .....25 points
- b. Production of good flowers .....25 points  
(including consistent flowering)
- c. Foliage (i.e. richness of color, gloss,  
substance, etc.) .....20 points
- d. Length of blooming season .....15 points
- e. Self-grooming propensity (natural  
release of spent blooms) .....15 points

13. Individual score sheets will be used by the judges; they will sign the score sheets to attest the point score awarded. Score sheets are available from the Southern California Camellia Society.

14. April 30 is set as the termination of the blooming season in competing for these awards. All judging will be completed by this date.

15. Judges will forward their score sheets, through Club Secretaries, to the Hertrich Award Committee, c/o the Secretary of the Southern California Camellia Society, not later than May 15 following the close of competition.

**Other**

16. Any blossom which shall have received either award shall thereafter be ineligible to compete under these regulations.

17. A blossom shall not be eligible if it has been available commercially prior to entry in competition for either award.

18. These awards will be evidenced by a plaque, bowl, or other suitable trophy (elective) appropriately engraved bearing the name of the winner and shall be the property of such winner.

19. The names of the respective winners of these awards will be published in the July issue of the Camellia Review.

20. These rules and regulations shall be subject to revision or amendment by the Board of Directors of the Southern California Camellia Society. Any revision or amendment so made will become effective for the succeeding blooming season.

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\* *EXCEPTION:* For the season October 1955 through April 1956 only:  
The requirement to list the horticultural variety in competition, as set forth in Condition 3 above, will be waived for the season October 1955 through April 1956 only.

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# GIANT CAMELLIA TREE

By DR. HIDEMIKI UEKI

*Translated from Bulletin No. Seven of the Japanese Camellia Society*

As I had an opportunity to investigate the Iyo tree at Oose on March 31, 1955, I offer the following report to the membership:

**Place:** Goji, Oose, Uchigo-machi, Kita-gun, Ehime-ken. An enormous camellia tree stands on the top of one of the hills at the foot of Mt. Chotsuka, completely surrounded by cultivated fields.

**Shape of the tree:** The top spreads out like an open umbrella with clumps like brooms hanging from the ends. The tree is lacking in virility, and on one side there are no leaves whatever.

**Size:** Around the roots, at the bottom of the trunk, the measurement is fourteen feet, four inches. About three and one-half feet above the ground, the circumference is ten feet and six inches. At a height of two feet, the tree branches out into two trunks where the lowest branch has a circumference of eight feet and three inches. The total height is approximately forty-six feet. The branches spread out in all directions—to the East, sixteen feet and six inches; to the North, twenty-four feet, five inches; to the West, sixteen feet, six inches; to the South, nineteen feet, two inches. The area covered by the tree is over one thousand square feet.

**History:** The story of this tree is not very well known to the local inhabitants, but the oldest people in the nearby village say that it has been standing there ever since their childhood. Probably this region was covered with a virgin forest several hundred years ago, and in this forest grew wild camellias. Because this tree stood on the top of a hill, it is probable that it was considered sacred. At the present time, there is an image of a roadside God standing under the tree, and, formerly, the people in the village paid homage to it once a year. In recent times, however, this practice has been discontinued, and instead of protecting the sacred tree, they are destroying it by permitting the excavation of soil from the hillside. The tree no longer looks healthy—for a good many years now it has had no leaves on one side. It still blossoms, and there is seed, but this seed does not ripen well. The best estimate of the age of this tree indicates that it is more than five hundred years old.

**Variety:** This is the ordinary wild *C. japonica*, having small red single flowers. The blooming season is the middle and latter part of March.

**Conclusion:** In comparison with the other known large camellia trees of Japan, this specimen is certainly much larger and is probably the largest in existence so far as can be ascertained from the records. The giant tree of Shikoku, located at Miita-mura, Takaoka-gun, Kochi-ken, is described in the Tree Magazine of Shikoku, printed by the Forestry Department of Shikoku, as having a circumference of six feet, six inches at a height above the ground of three and one-half feet. It is only forty feet tall and is thought to be three hundred years old. Another famous camellia tree, described in a book written by Dr. Seiroku Honda about giant and old trees, is located at Uyeda, Hyomi-gun, Toyama-ken. This measures eight feet in circumference at five feet from the ground, is thirty feet high, and is said to be more than eight hundred years old. The tree at Oose is certainly much larger, and so far as can be ascertained, is the biggest camellia tree in Japan. It is regrettable that this famous remnant of the camellia forest, which once covered many

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## LET'S FACE IT

By E. C. TOURJE

*San Gabriel, California*

Time was when many of us thought the craze for size in camellia blooms would wane and that evaluations would rationalize themselves, but no more. If Mr. Gallup were to take a poll he would show most of us convinced that the adoration of size will continue—perhaps indefinitely. Arguments pro and con are not going to alter human nature. Moreover, it is not for me to say that it should be otherwise.

I sincerely hope no one who reads this will conclude that I am opposed to size in camellias. On the contrary I admire size in camellias as much as the next fellow. *But not* because of *size alone*.

We can all think of a half dozen of the world's finest camellias which have huge blooms. But they are not among the finest on account of size only. They have in addition to size all the other admirable attributes of excellent camellias. And then I can think of a half dozen other camellias with huge blooms. They are big—no doubt about it—but what else do they have to offer? Will you not agree with me that their size makes them seem a bit coarse, like the \$20,000 bull? And yet there are those who glorify them solely because of their size.

Human nature being what it is will remain so as far as I am concerned. I am not going to condemn, neither will I apologize. I shall, however, urge that the basis for rating and evaluating, yes judging, be revamped to avoid pitting a dainty exquisite bloom three or four inches in diameter—a camellia which we could all agree has everything a good camellia should have—against a big five and a half inch bloom which is showy as well as beautiful.

I am frank to say that this idea does not originate with me. Although for some time in the recent past there have been rumblings of dissatisfaction over the judging of large against small camellias I first heard the thought expressed very lucidly by

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Harvey Short. Harvey of all persons! These last few words because Harvey Short earned his very enviable reputation for his priceless seedlings by growing and exhibiting big camellias! Big yes, but that is not all. They were showy too and, of equal importance, they were and are beautiful.

Harvey Short, however, is a true camellia fancier. He sees and appreciates the beautiful in camellias regardless of their size, and so, coming from him, the idea of classifying camellias according to size of bloom has unusual merit. I am certain you will agree with me that the thought makes sense.

Bear with me while I reduce this business of pitting blooms of different size against each other to an absurdity. Can you imagine the lifted eyebrows if one were to suggest that a dainty miniature by Hilliard or one by Richard Cosway should be judged in the same classification as the Blue Boy! Or, to make it worse, judged in competition with Leonardo da Vinci's heroic masterpiece, The Last Supper! Sounds pretty stupid, doesn't it? Now, let's consider architecture: We all think of the Empire State Building as the ultimate. There is nothing like it in the world. Nor is there any building in the world quite comparable with the Taj Mahal or say The Palace of Versailles. Yes, you know what I mean. It would be ridiculous to judge one against the other, and no one does it.

Let me give one other illustration

which every country boy will understand and which is so absurd as to be laughable. Can you imagine the judges at the state fair being asked to group Shetland ponies, thoroughbreds, standard-breds and draft horses together for judging? If you have the urge to be thrown out most unceremoniously on the back of your lap I suggest that you try this some time.

Well, what is the difference? Why should we continue year after year to determine the "best in the show" from blooms of all sizes? Is there any reason for it? Is not every comparison an argument against it?

Recently many show schedules have been placing the reticulatas in a class by themselves. This is most certainly a step in the right direction, but only a step. A number of societies have adopted schedules giving separate classification for miniatures or "boutonnieres." In fact, I think Temple City has followed this practice for two years. This, too, is significant

of better thinking. Then, the upsurge in interest in sasanquas and the lengthening of their blooming period is bound to result in separate classifications for that species. It should be so.

But our greatest problem is still unsolved—that of correcting the injustice of classifying all sizes of japonicas together for judging. Why do we not take the plunge? Why do we hesitate and procrastinate? Why not adopt Harvey Short's suggestion and revamp the schedules to create a classification for each of three sizes of japonica blooms: miniatures—up to two inches; medium size bloom—say two to four and one half inches; and large to very large—say four and one half inches up.

Let appropriate awards be given for the best in each size classification and stop the nonsense of glorifying one size over another. Let us face the problem squarely and fairly. Reason and good judgment will dictate the results.

## **NEW IDEAS TO BE INAUGURATED AT WELL PLANNED FIRST MEETING**

The first meeting of the S C C S for its 1955-56 season will be held November 8th at the usual meeting place. The main topic of the evening will be sasanquas with Vern and Billie McCaskill as co-speakers and exhibitors of many varieties of sasanquas from their gardens, supplemented by slides of sasanquas on which they will comment. After the intermission, the McCaskills assisted by Bill Wylam will answer questions.

Some innovations in the monthly flower competition are to be introduced this year beginning with the November meeting. Two silver awards will be given at the end of the year for owners of flowers winning the greatest number of points; one to the

winner who possesses 25 or less camellia plants and the other to the winner owning more than 25 plants.

The blossom tables will be classified as follows: One table whose flowers exceed 4 inches in size: One table with flowers under 4 inches and one table for the display of blossoms by those persons never having as yet won a S C C S blue ribbon. There will be one blue ribbon awarded the winner at this table, automatically qualifying him to exhibit at one of the other tables at the next meeting. Points for this blue ribbon will go toward the annual award.

There will also be a table for blooms of commercial growers or collectors which are only for noncompetitive exhibition.

## SOME NEW SOUTHERN VARIETIES OF THE CAMELLIA JAPONICA

By AUBREY HARRIS

This list is by no means complete. Listing *all* the new varieties of camellias from Texas to the Carolinas would be like trying to count the daffodils popping up in the spring.

Many of these I feel are going to become real show winners in a few years but with sports, and seedlings being bragged upon in every section where camellias are raised it is only to be expected that somewhere there just must be duplications.

Should there be an oversight in the list I apologize. Should I have described some incorrectly, I am sorry. The list was made up with information I had on hand.

**BEN PARKER:** Large to very large semi-double to loose peony. Between stamens and petals is set of two to eight trumpet-shaped flowers on each bloom.

**DIXIE KNIGHT:** Large dark Red peony and looks like a real good one.



'Margie Dee Fisher'

**DR. McINTOSH:** Large to very large fluffy semi-double to loose peony Seedling of White Empress. Center petals high and twisted mixed with yellow stamens. Rose Red.

**DUCHESS OF COVINGTON:** Large fluffy semi-double White background, beautifully flecked and moired with Pink. The reverse coloring of Ruth Royer. Sport of Duchess of Sutherland.

---

**EMILY WILSON:** Large light Pink, incomplete double to semi-double with mixed petaloids. Prolific bloomer and said to be hardy.

**EUNICE BUCKLEY:** An extra delicate Pink, semi-double and very flat. This looks like a real comer from slides of it.

**FREDERICK BECK:** Very large Red single. Petals very coarse. A seedling.

**GERTRUDE MURRAY:** Very large White incomplete double with intermixed yellow stamens.

**H. M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II:** Large Rose Pink loose semi-double to loose peony form with large petaloids and yellow stamens inermixed.

**HARRISON JONES:** Semi-double. A seedling from the Cliff Harris Nursery.

**KING SIZE:** 5-6 inch dark Red incomplete double similar to Prof. Sargent.

**KITTY BERRY:** Very similar to Debutante but a crisper color.

**LILI BREWSTER:** 5-6 inch White incomplete double with 2 rows of petals showing considerable depth with mixed petaloids and stamens. Some blooms open with rosebud center.

**MARGIE DEE FISHER:** Large semi-double Pink variegated.

**MARTHA BRICE:** Very large peony, Blush Pink. Comer of Wild-wood.

**MARY ANNE HOUSER:** Very large Rose Pink incomplete double to loose peony form with large petaloids.

**MARY SEIBELS:** 5-6 inch loose peony form, Medium Pink.

**MISS MIDDLETON:** 5-6 inch double with unusual petals. Pink and White profusely moired.

**MIRIAM STEVENSON:** Large soft Blush Pink semi-double to incomplete double with unusual arrangement of stamens.

**MITISSA:** A Fisher seedling, White showing bright Yellow stamens. Similar in formation to Youtz.

**MRS. GILBERT E. FISHER:** Very large Blush Pink semi-double.

**MRS. W. D. DAVIS:** 6-6½ inch Blush Pink semi-double shaded slightly deeper Pink at outer margin of petals.

**MYNELLE HOWARD:** Blush Pink loose unusual semi-double with rabbit ears. Some blooms resemble orchids.

**MARGARET TURNER:** Large to very large incomplete double with large petaloids. White, lightly striped and flecked with Pink.

**PINK CHAMPAGNE:** 5½ inch soft Pink incomplete with large petaloids.

**RED WINGS:** Large to very large high semi-double Red with several rabbit ears in center giving flower a winged effect.

**RIVERS YERGER:** Very large incomplete double with stamens and petaloids intermixed. White with occasional Pink stripes.

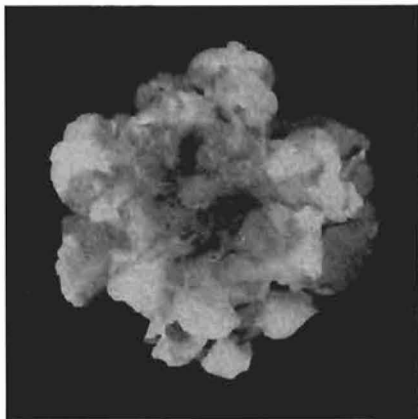
**SALLY KENNEDY:** Large to very large Rose Pink to Rose Red fluffy semi-double to loose peony with stamens intermixed.

**TIC TOCK:** Semi-double while showing bright Yellow stamens. An occasional Red stripe on one petal.

**TILLIE WORTH:** Very large Pink and White incomplete double with small petaloids. Sport of Big Beauty.

**TOMORROW:** Large to very large strawberry Red irregular semi-double with large petaloids and stamens.

**WINIFRED WOMACK:** Semi-double with several rows of petals. A shade a little deeper than Blush Pink and the Pink deepening as it nears the outer edge of petals. A seedling of *Magnoliaeflora* but has more petals



'Mitissa'

and is a more vigorous grower and without die back tendency of parent. One of the really good new ones.

## **HERTRICH AWARD RULES** *from Page 8*

Non-winning blossoms which have competed previously, as well as new blossoms, will be eligible to compete this year (October 1955-April 1956) without the requirement for listing with the Committee. To be eligible for competition in succeeding seasons, such blooms should be listed as set forth in these rules and regulations.



# THE USE OF EMBRYO CULTURE IN GERMINATION OF CAMELLIA SEEDS

By W. E. LAMMERTS

For most intervarietal crosses in the genus *camellia* the moist peat method of seed germination described by E. C. Tourje<sup>1</sup> is entirely adequate. The only possible advantage of embryo culture would be the more rapid germination obtained. Seedlings usually are large enough to transplant in 3-4 weeks after culturing.

When interspecific crosses are made, however, seeds with defective embryos are frequently obtained. Particularly is this true when species differing in chromosome numbers are involved. Thus *C. japonica* is diploid with 15 pairs of chromosomes in most varieties which set seed. *C. reticulata* is, however, according to Patterson<sup>2</sup> hexaploid, that is, has 45 pairs of chromosomes. In general when species differing so greatly in chromosome numbers are crossed, the resulting embryos rarely develop completely normal seeds. Though the new *C. reticulata* varieties have not as yet been studied cytologically, their almost complete pollen fertility leads me to suspect that they, like the species type examined by Patterson, are also hexploids.

In any event when varieties of *C. japonica* are crossed with the new *C. reticulata* varieties as pollen parents, relatively few seeds with even fairly normal embryos are obtained. Most of the seeds are merely empty seed coats or have almost completely shriveled embryos. The relatively few embryos obtained are so badly shriveled it is very doubtful if they would ever respond to normal seed culture methods. However, when both the outer and inner seed coats are carefully removed and the embryos placed on nutrient agar, they soon absorb water and nutrient salts, swell up to almost normal size, and germinate about as rapidly as normal intervarietal embryos. Good results have also been obtained with embryos from other interspecific crosses such as *C. japonica* (male) x *C. cuspidata* (female), and *C. japonica* (male) x *C. saluenensis* (female).

In order to embryo culture *camellia* seeds, the seed coats should be removed from the embryo. This may readily be done with a sharp knife cutting the end of the seed carefully at first so as to find out the size and location of the embryo. In a normal *C. japonica* seed it of course, fills almost the entire space within the outer seed coat. In the interspecific crosses, however, often only 1/5 to 1/3 of the space is filled by the badly shriveled embryo. The embryo should then be soaked overnight in water, as a result of which they often swell up greatly and then the inner soft membranous seed coat may be readily removed. The embryos are then soaked for about one hour in fresh water and then thoroughly washed for about 5 minutes by placing cheesecloth over the petri-dish container and setting it under the water tap.

The nutrient solution formula recommended by H. B. Tukey<sup>3</sup> of the Geneva Experiment Station, New York, was tried in comparison with other more complicated formulas and has been found just as satisfactory. Tukey's formula is as follows:

### SALT MIXTURE

KCl .....	10	grams
CaSO <sub>4</sub> .....	21½	grams
MgSO <sub>4</sub> .....	2½	grams
Ca <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> .....	2½	grams
FePO <sub>4</sub> .....	2½	grams
KNO <sub>3</sub> .....	2	grams
Total .....	22	grams

1½ grams of this salt mixture, 9 grams Bacto Difco Agar and 5 grams of sucrose are used to 1 liter of distilled water.

About 10 grams of nutrient solution are placed in 1-oz. massage bottles and autoclaved at 10 lbs. pressure for 20 minutes.

A sterilizing solution is made by using 10 grams of dry chloride of lime to 140 cc. of warm distilled water. Stir and shake the mixture thoroughly and then filter off the solution which should be a clear, straw color.

The embryos are sterilized by placing them in this solution heated to 110° or 115° F. for about 5 minutes. Thorough but gentle shaking of the disinfectant and embryos in the petri-dish while holding it over the Bunsen burner is helpful in eliminating any air bubbles which may hinder complete sterilization. Ten percent Vatsol O.T.C. powder used at the rate of 1 gram per liter of sterilizing solution is helpful, though not necessary, in that it reduces surface tension and so aids in sterilizing any embryos which may be badly infected. For most ordinary culture work the addition of the surface tension is unnecessary, however.

Transfer to the culture bottle is done rapidly by the usual bacteriological technique in order to avoid as much as possible infection of the embryo from the air. A long 6-inch forceps is most useful, flaming it in a low flaming Bunsen burner each time a new embryo is transferred. Avoid air motion as much as possible and, of course, make certain that the desk where the work is done is thoroughly cleaned with an antiseptic solution before beginning this phase of the work. The 1-ounce massage bottles should be held in the left hand, if right handed, and cap only opened about ½ inch, just long enough to allow insertion of embryo removed from calcium hypochlorite solution by

the previously flamed forceps held in the right hand. With sufficient practice the cap of the 1-ounce massage bottle may be unscrewed, lifted and rescrewed on the bottle by two fingers of the left hand while the bottle is being held in the palm of the left hand. The embryos in the culture bottles should be placed in weak north light of Wardian cases at temperatures of 70-80° F. The cotyledons will often open up in 3-4 days and by the end of 15-20 days the main root will be well grown and stem or epicotyl development will be quite evident. Usually the young plant will be ready to transplant to moist peat in 2-inch pots at the end of four weeks and about 100% humidity and a temperature of 75-80° F. should be maintained at this most critical stage. The little seedlings should be fed weekly with a nutrient solution such as the one reported by the John Innes Horticultural Institute of Merton, England. This solution is made from a salt mixture<sup>4</sup> consisting of 25% nitrogen, 19% of which is organic, i.e. derived from urea, 7% phosphorus and 7% potash. In addition 1% sulphur, 1% calcium, ½% iron and smaller percentages of magnesium, manganese and other minor elements are present to satisfy any minor element deficiencies. A dilution rate of 420 ppm. of nitrogen, 150 ppm. of phosphorus and 120 ppm. of potash is used. This rate is obtained by using 2 level teaspoonfuls of above mixture to 1 gallon of water. By sprinkling this solution on leaves as well as filling the pots some absorption of nitrogen is obtained directly through the leaves. As mentioned in another article, growing under continuous light results in very rapid growth, hybrids often flowering in 1½ years from the time of embryo culture.

<sup>4</sup> Tourje, E. C. *Camellia Seed Culture*, 1950, *Camellia Research*, p. 15.

(Continued on Page 18)

## NEWS NOTES AND NOTICES

### Temple City Camellia Society

The November 28th meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Club auditorium, Woodruff and Kauffman, Temple City will feature a talk on SASANQUAS by Mr. Vern McCaskill of McCaskill Nursery. The usual display of Camellia blooms will be held and refreshments will be served.

Drawing prizes will be 9 Japonicas from Vincent's Nursery, a reticulata, sasanqua, redwood tub and a pair of shears.

You are invited to be with us.

### Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley

*First Fall Meeting*—At the first fall meeting of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley on October 3rd plans were discussed for two camellia exhibits to be prepared by the Society.

Dr. Allan Walker of 2924 Cleveland Ave. N.W., Washington, Chairman of the Society's Program Committee, reported that plans had been completed for an exhibit at the 10th Annual Congress of the American Horticultural Society in the Shoreham Hotel in Washington on 26-29 October. The display consisted of camellia plants and blooms, both sasanquas and japonicas, camellia literature, and an educational exhibit.

According to Mr. Milton Brown of 2220 N. Trenton St., Arlington, Va., President of the Camellia Society, initial preparations have been completed for the Society to have an entry in the National Capital Garden Show next March, an exhibit space of 200-240 square feet having been allotted the Society.

Following the completion of the Society's business, an informal but very informative talk concerning the proper cultural practices to be followed in growing camellias was given by Mr. C. Norwood Hastie of Magnolia Gardens. Mr. Hastie, who is the owner of Magnolia Gardens, illustrated his talk with colored slides of plants and blooms from camellia plants growing in his vast collection.

*Plans for Second Annual Show*—The Society's Second Annual Camellia Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8, 1956, in the auditorium of the Woodward and Lothrop store in Chevy Chase, Maryland, a suburb just outside Washington. Staging of the show will be carried out on April 6.

Mrs. Leon B. Habecker of 10513 Green Acres, Silver Springs, Maryland, will again be the show's General Chairman. Co-Chairman for the show is Mrs. Andrew Parker of 4000 Nebraska Ave. N.W., Washington.

*Society Preparing Camellia Catalog*—The Society's Information Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Gamble Mann of 810 Vicar Lane, Alexandria, Va., is now in the process of preparing a catalog of all varieties of camellias grown by the Society's members both indoors and under glass in the Washington and nearby Virginia and Maryland areas. This catalog will not only list all varieties but will also contain other useful information about each of the varieties reported such as the period of blooms, hardiness, disease resistance, and details concerning each plant's specific location. The committee will also endeavor to provide appraisals of each variety as to its suitability for growing in this "marginal" northern climate. Present plans call for com-

*(Continued on Page 27)*

# *The Camellia World Eagerly Awaits Volume II* of "*Camellias in the Huntington Gardens*"

By ELIZABETH BEEBE

I have had the rare privilege of being allowed to pore briefly over the one and only final proof of William Hertrich's second volume of "*Camellias in the Huntington Gardens*" which is at this moment on the presses, and will be ready for distribution about the middle of November.

My glimpse was tantalizing and this does not pretend to be any adequate review of the volume, but some of this review's deficiencies may be compensated for in part by my sincere regard for the book which, as every bit of literature ever written by William Hertrich, can be unequivocally accepted as absolutely authentic.

This volume, like the first, contains 249 beautiful black and white full page photographs of japonicas chosen with the utmost care from the Huntington Gardens with detailed description and in addition, yielding to the intense interest manifested now in reticulatas, Mr. Hertrich has added 20 photographs of the Kunming reticulatas also with descriptions of the blossoms and plants with leaf studies. Of great interest is a history of the reticulatas in the forepart of the book.

The history of the 'Captain Rawes's' is taken up in great detail beginning with its introduction into England in 1821 by Captain Richard Rawes who only knew it as an outstanding camellia plant. The comment which it caused finally attracted the notice of the Horticultural Society in London which was responsible for a hand wrought colored illustration that appeared in Edward's Botanical Register in 1827. Here it was noted as "Captain Rawes's Camellia." In December of that same year a beautiful hand done illustration was printed in Curtis' Botanical Magazine.

In 1924, nearly one hundred years later, Eric Walther of the Strybing Arboretum of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco imported the 'Captain Rawes's' and one of these plants which he sent to the Arboretum of the University of California has won wide fame for its persistence of growth in

spite of transplantings and ravishment of hundreds of cuttings. Indeed this one plant is now considered to be the source of most of the 'Captain Rawes's' in America.

This is but a brief resume of the finely written history Mr. Hertrich has prepared for this second volume. In his data about the Kunming reticulatas, I was forcibly struck by the statement that of the twenty varieties imported, nineteen have been known since 900 AD.

Besides the above features, Mr. Hertrich goes into explicit descriptions of the method of grafting used at the Huntington, his details complementing the introductory remarks on grafting methods included in the first volume.

The format of Volume II of course is similar to that of Volume I. There are three exquisite color plates of 'Willow Wand', 'Noble Pearl', and 'Purple Gown' and it would be very hard to find photographs of camellias anywhere that can in any way surpass the black and white full page photographs found in this book.

In spite of the formal and standardized plan, the personality of William Hertrich is firmly stamped on and pervades this book as was the case with Volume I. Though a year has passed since the latter was published, the author seems not a day older; the old-world courtesy, the

*(Continued on Next Page)*

## HERTRICH *from Page 17*

twinkle in his eye are there as usual. The year has not been ageing to him. It has merely been Time filled with more honors which he graciously accepts with little fanfare, and with the work he loves. This Volume II marks only the halfway point in his projected series. Volume III is to continue the description of japonicas with the addition of sasanquas, while Volume IV is to include various other species and also hybrids. The series will constitute a monumental work on Camellias which cannot fail to be accepted as the Camellia Classic of the 20th Century.

Knowing the intensity with which he has worked, thought, and written about camellias constantly for so long, I asked, "Now that this second volume is finished are you getting tired of camellias?"

He gave his hearty laugh. "Tired of camellias now? Why, I'm just waking up."

At this moment, William Hertrich has already started work on Volume III.

## EMBRYO CULTURE *from Page 15*

<sup>2</sup> Patterson, Earl B. 1950. Two More Hexaploid Camellia Species. Southern California Bulletin 11:5 p. 19.

<sup>3</sup> Tukey, H. B. 1934. Artificial culture Methods for Isolated Embryos of Deciduous Fruits. American Society for Horticultural Science 3: p. 303-322.

<sup>4</sup> Sold under the name of Descanso Plant Food. Other liquid plant foods of lower nitrogen content may be used, if this product is not available, by adjusting the dosage rate to match high nutrient level used. The plant nutrient should contain urea so as to be readily absorbed through leaves as well as roots.

*Reprinted from "Camellia Research," a publication of the Southern California Camellia Society in 1950.*

## 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.

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## FOR SPECIAL MENTION

### Rosenlee

About twelve years ago a friend dropped four seeds in the hand of Lee Smith of Altadena, California, saying casually, "Here, grow some camellias."

How innocently do great events start! The four seeds were planted and one of them, like one child of a large family sometimes, outgrew the rest in vigor and individuality, producing such outstanding blossoms in 1950 that the Smith family was quite amazed.

Mr. Smith was undecided whether or not this was a definitely new variety and time went on while the seedling grew and bloomed with abandon and established its own personality and habits. This year Mr. Smith has registered the camellia with the S C C S as 'Rosenlee,' a name combining his with that of his wife.

Blossoms of the *C. japonica* 'Rosenlee' measure four or more inches. They are always pure white except for tiny little streaks of rose, only three or four or possibly six to a flower. This is the reason why Mrs. Smith was all for calling this camellia 'Slightly tetched.'

Another well established characteristic is that the 'Rosenlee' is a very

late bloomer, not showing flowers usually until March which has precluded exhibiting the blossoms at local shows. This late blooming however which goes on for a couple of months (with loads of blossoms Mr. Smith says), would be a definite asset in a well planned camellia garden.

There is at present only one 'Rosenlee.' The bush is over seven feet high and no scions have been taken from it. But from all indications we prophesy that many camellia lovers will eventually have the chance of enjoying this unusual camellia.

### Seventh Heaven

Few people may actually attain a Seventh Heaven, but camellia people at least can look forward to seeing a small bit of it when the *C. japonica* 'Seventh Heaven' is exhibited for the first time this coming season.

This lovely flower is one of a group of 'Elegans' seedlings and has been developed by that Mr. Seedling, himself, Harvey Short.

He tells us that the flower is large, semi-double to anemone form with wide petals and of a very unusual color, almost a clear lavender pink.

(Continued on Page 24)



'Rosenlee'



'Seventh Heaven'

# Camelliana

## Horticulture Includes Camellias

For a most charming colored illustration of several favorite varieties of camellias (japonicas) and an accompanying interesting article, "Broader Horizons for Camellias," it is suggested that you consult the October 1955 number of the magazine Horticulture. Camilla Bradley Truax of New Orleans writes entertainingly of camellias, giving an over-all general picture. She begins her article with a brief background of the genus camellia in the United States, then proceeds to highlights of camellia culture. Helpful to amateurs is her listing of varieties according to early and late blooming propensities and hardiness. A small amount of space is devoted to the sasanqua with descriptions of a few of the better known varieties, i.e. Ko-Gyoku (Little Gem), Setsugekka, Ocean Springs and Hiryu, although it is evident that Mrs. Truax is much more interested in japonica blooms than sasanqua plants.

## The Beautiful Camellia Catalogs

Our desk seemed suddenly to burst into bloom last week when we received the catalogs from three nurseries, namely Barrios of Semmes,

Alabama, Nuccio of Altadena, (California of course) and Coolidge Gardens of Pasadena. It seems as if nobody—nobody—could resist the appeal of these catalogs. It is interesting to note the field they cover. Mr. Barrios, of course specializes in sasanquas, although he offers a large variety of japonicas, as well as companion plants.

Julius Nuccio offers fifteen varieties of reticulatas—an outstanding feature, as well as a wide selection of japonicas which include the newest varieties as well as all the old favorites. He also has many fine sasanquas.

This particular brochure from Coolidge is devoted to Harvey F. Short's "Camellias of Tomorrow," those wonderful seedlings, several of which have taken top honors in competition.

It is very hard to make a choice as every one of the colored representations has a charm all its own.

Any one of the above catalogs mentioned will be sent upon request.

It was gratifying to read a note in Mr. Barrios' catalog—a part of which we quote: Publications will reward you with lots that you would like to know about Camellias, and of the happiness many are gaining from them, End quote. Then The Camellia Review is listed with the suggestion that a subscription would be worthwhile.

Best of The Old  
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# PSEUDO CAMELLIA HYBRIDIZERS

By FRANK GRIFFIN

Editor of "The Camellian"

Every now and then we get a letter or an announcement telling us that some nurseryman is carrying on an extensive camellia hybridizing campaign. They go on to say that they have produced certain varieties and that in the future they will create many fine new varieties. Without taking a negative attitude we must always take such information with a grain of salt! Frankly, we believe any attempt to hybridize camellias or to produce a specific new variety or species will be lost motion. We base this opinion on the fact that Herbert Swim, Walter Lammerts, and K. Sawada have done camellia hybridizing in a rather extensive fashion, but so far as we know have produced nothing of note. George Sawada, Swim, and Lammerts have all the know-how and training coupled with experience. They know all the facts about inbreeding, cross-breeding, and cross pollination. Certainly, they may cross species and varieties. However, their percentage in producing desirable blooms is no better than chance seedlings. One exception or one in several thousands is Buddha that is listed as a "new reticulata." This is actually a cross of *C. reticulata* 'Lion's Head' with *C. pitardii*.

Harvey Short has produced more satisfactory varieties than anyone else we know of. He has obtained all shapes, sizes, and colors out of Lotus seedlings. His pollination is done by friendly bees! It would appear to us that it would take a vast amount of inbreeding and what have you to produce a desired form of color or size, and we do not have that long to live!

In roses the Charlotte Armstrong was not exactly a chance seedling, but pretty much so, because there are plenty of others derived from the same source with a variety of shapes and colors which bear no resemblance to their blood sister. As the result of inbreeding they have produced many fine roses having many of the fine qualities and characteristics of the Charlotte Armstrong.

Sure, you can produce camellias by hybridizing. You can even patent a new variety, but that doesn't mean that it is a good and desirable camellia! We still think that many more beautiful and new camellias will be produced accidentally than those which may be produced—on purpose!

We are still counting on the bees!

## COUNCILMAN CAMELLIA ACRES

Introducing Nan Crowell — large chrome pink Elegans seedling  
Dragon Lady — Undaunted — Miss Betty  
Sasanquas & Yunnan Reticulatas

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## TO THE LADIES

By CHARLOTTE HOAK

We are eternally grateful to China, "the Mother of Gardens," for contributing Camellias to the world. Moreover, you must realize that there are many other plants, trees, shrubs and perennials that have accompanied them through countless ages, for China was highly civilized when our forbears of the Western world were wearing skin coats, and knew little or cared less about the artistic value of the green world about them. We are also beginning to realize that climate makes a difference and camellias really demand the climatic set-up of their homeland to develop to their greatest perfection.

To make this clear, we have two types of gardens in the Southwest; watered gardens and semi-arid ones. The latter plant material comes largely from the four other sections which have the so-called Mediterranean climate. We have in our area scores of

plants which have come from Australia, South Africa, around the Mediterranean and from parts of South America. To these we add our own native material. Even in the recent sizzling hot spell the camellias which are properly planted, adequately shaded and copiously watered have not been damaged. We suffered severely but it was the most valuable lesson we could learn.

Recently I visited the Arboretum at the University of California in Berkeley and also the Golden Gate Gardens in San Francisco and in the December *Review* I shall tell of the companion plants used with camellias in these beautiful gardens.

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*Ed. Note: We take this opportunity to correct two errors in Miss Hoak's October article. Correct horticultural names are *Ilex altaclarensis* Wilson and *Jessamine Murraya peniculata*.*

### GIANT CAMELLIA TREE *from Page 9*

sections of our country, is gradually growing weaker and does not produce leaves on one side. Immediate attention should be given to this problem. The tree should be fertilized and pruned in order to increase its vitality.

In conclusion, I desire to extend my deep appreciation to Mr. Matsuman, Director, and Mr. Ikeda, Engineer, both of the Forestry Department of Kitagun, who were kind enough to act as guides for our party.

**Featuring New Sasanquas**

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## **Camellia MAIL BAG**

### **SEPTEMBER BULLETINS**

#### **Mississippi**

We were very interested to receive the Bulletin of the Jackson Camellia Society and also their membership list. We found quite a few S C C S members among the names and are pleased that Mr. Clarence Buckley and Jack McDill, President and Secretary respectively are S C C S members also. Mr. Buckley is also Editor of the Society's Bulletin and so greetings, Mr. Buckley, from one editor to another. Cute art work enlivens the Bulletin and illustrates some informative data on camellia culture.

*October Flash* . . . We cannot refrain from quoting Mr. Buckley in his November Bulletin. His description of a quartet of Camellia experts is as follows: Four fellows who think the other three can't grow camellias.

#### **Texas**

Welcome was the September Bulletin of the Dallas Camellia Society revealing that its editor is also President of the Society—Mr. C. Jack Cowart. Dates for the Dallas 1956 Camellia Show are announced as March 10th and 11th.

#### **Oregon**

The Bulletin of the Oregon Society so capably edited by Mr. Andrew F. Sears contained interesting news of camellias and the people concerned with them. One item said, quote: Mr. Lindsay reports that one cutting of *Camellia reticulata* which he rooted in 1953 has made another growth this year, (the second growth) and is now approximately 10 inches tall. Last year he put in 10 cuttings and successfully rooted seven of these, and of these seven, five have put out new

*(Continued on Next Page)*

### **Our Cover Flower**

What could have been more perfectly named than the *C. sasanqua* 'Charmer' which graces our cover this month?

The coloring is unique among sasanquas as the coral edging of the snowy white blossoms extends clear to the base of the flowers, while an elusive woody fragrance adds a final alluring touch to the fairylike blooms.

The McCaskills who developed this seedling suggest that the 'Charmer' is well adapted to espaliering where it shows off its loveliness to fine advantage.

### **FOR SALE**

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

## MAIL BAG *from Page 23*

growth this year and are now 5 inches tall and the other two appear to be getting ready to put out new growth. According to the experts this is impossible. End quote.

*We might observe, that from the camellia viewpoint, nothing seems to be impossible and we'll bet on Mr. Lindsay's 'Captain Rawes's.' Leave it to Nature! You know the experts say that the way bumblebees are constructed they can't possibly fly. But a-ha—and ho-ho. We'll be awaiting the success story of the above reticulata confidently.*

## SEVENTH HEAVEN *from Page 19*

The plant seems somewhat open-branched although upright and more vigorous than the Elegans. Like them

## REVIEWER *from Page 2*

greater part of her life has been and still is being devoted to the advancement of horticulture especially in California. From her background of botanical knowledge and experience Miss Hoak writes with a sure touch spiced by strong personal convictions, so that her column "To the Ladies" can always be counted on for reading pleasure and profit.

## Good News!

Camellias have again proved their unpredictability for contrary to all

*(Continued on Page 28)*

it prefers a coolish spot—is not too happy with extreme heat.

Its blooming season is from January through March.

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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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## NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES *from Page 16*

pletion of the catalog sometime in December, at which time it will be distributed free to the Society's members and be available to others for a modest charge.

*Hurricanes and Camellias*—Mrs. Karl Wunder of Virginia Beach, Va., a Society member, has reported as follows concerning the effects on camellias growing on the ocean front of this past summer's series of hurricanes. "I have checked the camellia plants on the ocean front and the plants a mile back from the ocean front and find that they were not damaged by the salt and sand spray. The foliage is a healthy green and the plants are well budded. . . . Azalea leaves were burned. . . . Also most evergreen shrubs showed some damage to the foliage from the salt spray."

*New Committees*—As directed by the full membership of the Society, the Executive Committee has set up recently a number of new standing committees. These include the Finance Committee, chaired by Mr. William S. Domer of Washington; the Projects and Program Committee, chaired by Dr. Allan Walker of Washington; the Information Committee, chaired by Mr. Gamble Mann of Alexandria, Va.; the Public Gardens Committee, chaired by Mrs. Albert W. Walker of Washington, and the Special Committee, chaired by Mr. Edward Carter of Hyattsville, Maryland.

*Affiliates are reminded that this is YOUR page in which the Review will publicize news of your activities. Send your items to the Editor.*

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### NEW ADVERTISING RATES — EFFECTIVE OCTOBER, 1955

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prognostigation, the harvest in the Huntington Camellia Garden yielded a much greater quantity of seeds than had been anticipated. Maybe it was the result of our lengthy unparalleled hot weather—maybe it was just to make up for other scanty production or maybe it was just with a gentle camellia chuckle that the lovely Huntington plants suddenly produced so many thousands of seeds. Regardless of reasons, the Garden Committee feels that there are enough seeds now to satisfy everybody. See the advertisement for revised rates and offers. There's a powerful heap o' pleasure in them thar seeds.

### **"Mum" Is Not The Word**

One of September's highlights has been our spirited correspondence with Aubrey Harris of Shreveport. Mr. Harris was good enough to take time and trouble to make out a list of new southern japonica introductions which we publish in this issue. However, he made a statement in one of his letters which we find too provocative to pass over. He said, quote:

"The varieties I don't consider real NEW, you on the coast haven't even heard of. While those that you westerners consider new, to us they are a couple of years old."

That sounds fishy to us for the news of a good new variety spreads like a gossipy rumor. There's one thing certain about an outstanding new camellia: its developer may guard the parent plant but he wants to tell the world about it, otherwise where is the triumph? "Murder will out," they say. We say that "beauty will out," too and we are willing to stand on our assertion.

We must confess we thought Mr. Harris sounded a bit patronizing in his above-quoted statements but the way he ended his letter made total amends. Quote—"To me this is the

finest thing in raising Camellias, the feeling of helping your friends and making new ones." To which we cry "Bravo—" a hundred times over for we have long been convinced that the Camellia is the most perfect "tie that binds."

### **Which Camellia Are You?**

Inevitably we find ourselves classifying our friends along camellia lines and it is only by a great exertion of will power that we refrain from putting names in here. Maybe this idea could turn into a profitable mail-order business, i.e. "Send one dollar and learn what camellia you resemble most."

Don't you know people who are definite reticulatas? That is, brazen, colorful and dramatic, like a 'Captain Rawes's'? Or some very conventional friends who are quite formal in form, righteous and smug, in fact, real 'Pink Perfections'? Some we know are true sasanquas; hardy souls whose seriousness is relieved by flashes of bright humor like the blossoms of the 'Mine-No-Yuki' that spring like stars from their sturdy foliage. And we are also fortunate in knowing some such utterly charming individuals that they might truly be related to a 'Magnoliaeflora' or a 'Jean May.'

It really might be a lot of fun during the long winter evenings (as we say jokingly) to make a list of your friends and their characteristics and figure out just which camellias they resemble the most. It might even change some of your cultural methods of those same plants.

As for us, we probably are some hybrid of irregular form, variegated, and unpredictable. Maybe you have a camellia plant like that—not outstanding but with a few possibilities so you keep it around. Next time you see it, think of

Liz.

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*in the*  
*Huntington Gardens*

by  
**WILLIAM HERTRICH**  
Curator Emeritus

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