

THE

Camellia Review



C. Reticulata 'Crimson Robe'

Courtesy Sweeney, Krist and Dimm, Portland, Oregon

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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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- Camellia Society of Kern CountyBakersfield, Calif.
 Meeting Place: City Hall Annex, Room 3, 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield
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 Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru May
- San Diego Camellia SocietySan Diego, Calif
 Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park
 Secretary: Mrs. Russell H. Parker, 3927 Loma Alta Dr., San Diego 15
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- Pomona Valley Camellia SocietyPomona, Calif
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- Huntington Camellia GardenSan Marino, Calif.
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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

Merry Camellias—and Christmas

Camellias and Christmas seem to go together as easily as turkey and cranberry sauce. The holiday hues of red, green and white are seen most glowingly in every camellia garden. The beauty that is Christmas is found in every camellia blossom. The old, yet ever new spirit is as true of camellias as it is of Christmas and as sure as we are that Christmas will come again next year and next year and next year, so do we know that the bloom of camellias will repeat in the same staunch and heartening fashion. Ever new, and ever undying—how wonderful it is to have Christmas and camellias.

Two C's Sitter

The newest thing in "sitters" that has come to our attention is one for cats and camellias engaged by one of our members who went away on a vacation. It's possible that such a combination would keep a sitter busy. If the cats happened to be Siamese we can imagine it was a one-time performance for the sitter. Have to find out about that—the idea intrigues us.

A Somber Camellia, Too

We were most unhappy to learn of the destruction of E. W. "Doc" Miller's fine camellia collection by a sudden brush fire. It was wonderful to know that he apparently was not too dismayed and was actually planning to start afresh before the ashes were cold. We feel he must have absorbed some of the unquenchable spirit from his camellias who through many ages have been struck down so many times only to rise again in the most unexpected places. We hope that of the new ones that emanate from these ashes there will come one or more that will bring extra camellia fame to the good "Doc."

Camellias are Good Business Too

Camellias are certainly creeping into commerce these days. We see there is a luscious new shade of Cannon bath towels labeled "Camellia Rose," and the dashing 1956 car we casually referred to as a Pink Pontiac, now turns out to be a Camellia Catalina. These manufacturers are smart cookies—where could they find greater glamour than tinting their products like the subtle hues of Camellias?

Better Late Than —

Belated but sincere congratulations are tendered to Vern and Billie McCaskill (McCaskill Gardens), to Harvey Short, and to William Woodroof, for their awards from the A.C.S. A Highly Commended Certificate was awarded the first two for their japonicas 'Billie McCaskill' and 'Guest of Honor,' respectively while the A.C.S. Award of Merit went to William Woodroof for his seedling 'Reg Ragland.'

The Birds

Mrs. Helen Shearer, officer of the local Audubon Society comments that of the bird world she would say that the humming bird is more attracted to camellias than any other bird. Well, camellias ought to be satisfied with that. We would never mind being hovered over by a "hummer." Too bad we can't attract one as well as the teeniest camellia.

And the Bees

There seems to be a general feeling that the bees are getting too much credit for the production of hybrid camellias. There is this to be said on the subject — the arguments are one-sided and words only beat fruitlessly against the busy hum of the bees who little care which side gets the credit. What we know is — the principal product of the bee world is honey and if the bees are so all-fired busy

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To All
Camellia Lovers Everywhere



from

THE CAMELLIA REVIEW COMMITTEE

DR. JOHN H. CLAIRMONT, *Chairman*

ELIZABETH BEEBE, *Editor*

RALPH S. PEER AND MRS. VERN McCASKILL, *Board Members*

ANNUAL MEETING OF AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

February 23-26, Inclusive

Please put a red "X" over these dates on your calendar. We are planning the biggest camellia event in the history of Southern California and want our entire membership and their friends to participate.

The AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY is an organization without a permanent meeting place. Once each year its Officers and Directors travel to a selected city for the Annual Meeting. In 1956, Los Angeles will have the honor and the privilege to entertain ACS members from all over the country. Following is the tentative program:

February 23—Thursday

A.M.—Registration of Visitors

P.M.—Annual Meeting

February 24—Friday

A.M.—ACS Directors' Meeting

P.M.—Banquet with ACS dignitaries as guests

February 25—Saturday

A.M.—Visit to Huntington Gardens

P.M.—Opening of Combined Show at Descanso Gardens, followed by Cocktail Party

February 26—Sunday

Temple City Camellia Festival

The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel has been selected as Headquarters. The Camellia Banquet will be held there Friday evening and, likewise, the Cocktail Party Saturday evening.

Thursday evening, February 23, it is planned to hold a Combined Camellia Meeting to which all members of ACS or any local Society and their friends are invited. There will be as a special feature a Panel of Visiting Experts who will answer any and all questions.

Bus service will be arranged between the Roosevelt Hotel and Huntington Gardens, Descanso Gardens and Temple City.

Visitors, upon arrival in Los Angeles, should register in the Lobby of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. They will then be able to purchase reduced rate tickets entitling them to the Banquet, the Cocktail Party, entrance to the Camellia Show at Descanso Gardens and bus transportation from and to the hotel.

In order to carry out smoothly our program for the entertainment of visitors, a separate entity has been formed called the LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA COUNCIL, LTD. This is a combination of the following Societies:

Los Angeles Camellia Society
Pacific Camellia Society
Southern California Camellia Society
Temple City Camellia Society

The Council is a non-profit corporation which has as its sole function to serve as the representative of the four component Societies. Its "head office" is at 8159 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles 46, California.

Out of town visitors desiring information about sightseeing or special entertainment features should get in touch with Dr. E. Clark Hubbs, 1370 San Luis Rey Drive, Glendale, Calif.

Have you ordered your Camellia seeds yet? Contact the S C C S Secretary.

✓ SASANQUAS TAKE THE STAND

The 1955-56 Camellia season for the S C C S started off briskly with its first meeting on November 8th.

Along with old members, there were many visitors, all being introduced with welcoming friendliness by President Edwards Metcalf. Chairmen of the various committees were also introduced to give everyone a general idea of the number of persons the Society requires to carry on its many activities.

Carrying on a tradition established some years ago, President Metcalf called Harold Dryden, Ex-President, to the front and presented him with a gavel made from camellia wood by Dr. Herbert Shirley.

The program was then taken over by its Chairman, Caryll Pitkin who brought up Vern McCaskill as speaker of the evening. In spite of the sudden

hot spell, the McCaskills had brought two large baskets overflowing with sasanquas, their specialty and topic for the meeting. Very amusing were Mr. McCaskill's opening remarks about camellias in general. He avowed that the only *reticulata* he could recognize was the 'Captain Rawes' and that he considered japonicas often too stiff and haughty. He felt as if some even in his own yard, he said, seemed to stick up their noses (or petals, maybe) as he passed by. But sasanquas, now—"they are so democratic, so friendly," declared Mr. McCaskill, "so full of natural charm and beauty."

The slides which illustrated Mr. McCaskill's subsequent talk bore out his contentions. Like the Fourth of July onlookers who gasp "Ah" as showers of firework stars fill the

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Harvey F. Short receives the Margarete Hertrich Award for 1955 for his *Camellia japonica* 'Guest of Honor,' judged the outstanding camellia seedling, outdoor grown during a given blooming season. President Edwards Metcalf presents the award at the November meeting of the Society.

DON'T FLOAT 'EM — ARRANGE 'EM

By EDNA SCHOOF

After teaching and lecturing on the "Art of Flower Arrangement" for a number of years, I have found it is like any other form of Art, an ever changing challenge that is very hard to capture in words. However, as far as our Queen of Flowers, the Camellia, is concerned, I think if I could tell you just one thing to remember when using them in an Arrangement, I believe I would say, "Use them simply, use very few of them in each arrangement and give each blossom importance."

I don't believe anything in the floral kingdom looks as hopelessly sad to me as a bowl of "floating camellias." Yes, I know they are beautiful and the color is gorgeous, but because they are lovely is no reason why their poor little heads should be chopped off and they should be made into a sad little pile of blooms.

When we speak of Flower Arrangements, we mean just that—an arrangement. If you look the word up you will find it means to "dispose in an orderly manner; or a system of parts properly arranged." So I believe another recommendation I would make would be to use other foliage with your camellias and their own bright leaves. Bring in some transitional foliage, something finer and in a contrasting color. In the six years I have been a member of the SCCS, the flowers shown in our Shows have been getting bigger and bigger, until when they are used in an arrangement they are too dominant and carry us way back to the days when we used to use a "focal point" or "Center of interest" in our arrangements.

You know the best camellias of all to use? They are the smaller blooms and the sasanquas. The smaller blooms, used importantly and not jammed together, are the loveliest

flowers of all. Also, this solves another problem for the ladies: it eliminates the inevitable explosion when Hubby comes home and finds you have picked one of his prize blossoms, just for an arrangement in the house. So, to you ladies who like to bring your gardens into your homes, via the arrangement route, why not plant some of the smaller flowers—camellias just for yourself?

An arrangement is a wonderful way to utilize blooms that are not "show" flowers and to keep your plants from being robbed of possible winners.

Local members of the SCCS will see and hear Mrs. Schoof at the December meeting as she executes "Camellia Capers" in Arrangements. See page 7.

Camellia Decoration

Here are some hints on Christmassy doings with Camellias:

For a camellia wreath, make the background much the same as you would with evergreen only use Camellia foliage. If you can spare it, cut 4" to 5" tips of branches and overlap them to form a nice fat wreath. If your foliage is not so plentiful, use only leaves and staple each leaf on to the others until you get the desired effect. Attach your blossoms, probably having to renew them from time to time although the foliage will not need changing. An artistic way to arrange the blooms is to fasten them around the circle not too close to each other, having a larger mass of them at one lower side.

For a Christmas dinner centerpiece, a dramatic effect may be obtained by making a gorgeous ribbon bow and centering it with a great cluster of Camellias. Another intriguing style is to start with a large grouping of blooms and taper them in a line in either direction down the table ending with tiny buds.

HOME OF "DRAMA GIRL" AND "MELODY LANE" DESTROYED BY FIRE

As Reported By
MERLE S. GISH

The City of Fallbrook, California has often been newsprint for citrus and avocado growers, water shed problems, and brush fires and the late home of "Drama Girl" and "Melody Lane," two fine camellia seedlings introduced by E. W. 'Doc' Miller. These and many other fine plants have been kept in a canyon off the San Margarita River and sheltered under fine oaks and tall sycamores.

'Doc' Miller and his very good friend, Mr. Sterling Tompkins, each in their own right loved and had hundreds of fine plants, including many of the newest and more desirable varieties. Their collection contained many specimens of the older and proven fine varieties of camellias including several thousand unbloomed seedlings.

Fire struck with the certainty and swiftness of "Apocalypse" that wiped out the home, nursery and all personal belongings of Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins and family. They were barely able to escape with a few cherished belongings and their pet dog 'Petie', before the fire swept down and charcoaled their home, lathhouse, greenhouse, and nursery. This garden spot was the original site of the "River Road Nursery." Later the Tompkins moved the retail business to uptown Fallbrook.

'Doc' Miller's collection of fine camellias represented years of careful selection and much vigorous and enthusiastic work. Few have seen a camelliophile so thoroughly indoctrinated with the true camellia bug. This collection, one all growers dream of having or owning is a complete loss. The heat was so terrific that large gallon jars once used to cover some precious scion after grafting were found a molten, distorted mass. Camellias were broiled, barbecued and charcoaled.

A few seeds were collected after the fire. It will be interesting to see

if these seeds will germinate after experiencing such heat. A few unbloomed seedlings were also salvaged where the top growth had been destroyed but sprouts are beginning to break near or above the soil level. Perhaps from these seeds or plants may come a true "Undaunted Flame" or "Smokey Joe."

E. W. 'Doc' Miller seems not the least dismayed and he is already planning to build another gem collection and we all wager it will be better than the one destroyed.

Come and Find Out How-To

New ideas for camellia and other floral arrangements will be the central theme for the S C C S meeting on December 13th.

Edna C. Schoof, a member of the Society, who studied horticulture under Professor Booth at Chaffee Jr. College in Ontario and is now a teacher and lecturer, will demonstrate the modern trend in flower arranging. Camellias of course will be much in evidence with emphasis on their use in Christmas decoration. Mrs. Schoof gives a cordial invitation to all those who would care to take photographs of any of the arrangements which she will design.

To The Ladies!

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

Did it ever occur to you that plants like human beings can be unhappy, very unhappy? As a garden consultant you often listen in on the troubles of the unhappy camellias as you pass from garden to garden. Once planted, your plant children are at your mercy and are often to endure the depredations of the plant villains which you, from lack of knowledge, force them to associate with. Then, too, you can plunge them into the miseries of malnutrition, believe it or not.

A garden loving young couple called me out the other day to prescribe for their various ailing plants. There was a row of camellias along the north side of the house, which by the way, had one of these modern wide over-hanging roofs. They had been mulched, they had been properly fertilized, but still they looked rather "peaked." The wax privets which they were backed up against looked prosperous and happy. "Those are the scoundrels which are forcing your camellias to look so debilitated." "But the agent who sold us the place told us they were very choice shrubs." "Bring me your newly purchased balling spade and I will show you."

George drove the spade down half-way between the hedge and the camellias, using all his strength to push through the maze of roots luxuriating in the food lately applied to the camellias. "You see," I said, "Today you must decide whether you will retain the thriving hedge or enjoy your beautiful camellias." "But what can be used for a division line?" "Why, sasanqua camellias, of course. They will make a beautiful, narrow hedge in a short time." The privets which I had so emphatically "bawled" out were soon "balled" out by some one

who could use them to better advantage, and the money collected in bought the lovely companion division line of camellias.

I was invited to speak on the evils which afflict camellias a short while ago. As I stepped in the door my critical eye fell on the evergreen groundcover which had been wished on the helpless camellias. That greedy *Helxine Soleirolii*. It was fairly climbing up the trunks of the camellias. Two surface feeders! We should war against all such surface feeding for food from the mulches and the fertilizer should go to the camellias. Moreover, they should have a chance to breathe. "It will be a job to get this voracious offender out; yet out it must go if you want your camellias to thrive," I said relentlessly.

Somebody gave me a good sized 'Fred Sander.' They bought it at a bargain, they said, from a nursery that was selling out. I love the fringed beauty of this camellia, so I bought the finest redwood container and made a special soil mixture, was very careful about the drainage. I even stood over my gardener to see that he did not break the ball. With all this care this camellia was very unhappy and I was forced to extreme measures. I barerooted it relentlessly. A ball of tangled roots told the story.

Bargains are expensive at any price if you want happy camellias. Too much to drink is dangerous to camellias also. You cannot guard too carefully the drainage you give your choice plants. Of course you cannot provide the sensitive roots with rubbers, but you can avoid all the evils that come from wet feet. Next time you go to the mountains, bring a box

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LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

By DOUGLAS G. THOMPSON

Christmas Greetings to all! Another and, of course, a finer flower season is here. I had some High Hats and a very good Youtz as early as mid-October; and by now, I suppose we are all realizing the fruits of our patience. There are always such good feelings of satisfaction and anticipation—the one for cultural efforts bountifully rewarded by old favorites, the other as we eagerly wait to see first flowers of new varieties. I also have a well-established succession of seedlings, many of which will bloom this year; and then, alas, become understock. But—well, hope does spring eternal, and it's time enough to evaluate the season as we count our ribbons, come February.

Right now, perhaps I had better report the news from Los Angeles Camellia Society. Our meetings will be held on first Tuesdays throughout the season. We have moved from Beverly Hills to the Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 North La Brea. We're hoping this more central location will better serve our part of the community. We hope, too, it will stimulate visits from members of the other societies. President Cal Mullen extends a warm invitation to everyone. Program chairman George Yule has great plans for entertainment, edification, and fellowship to be served up in just the right portions. We are continuing to make every meeting a camellia show in miniature in competition for the Arthur Freed Cup. There will be plant raffles, panel discussions, distinguished speakers, and refreshments.

We want to increase our membership and are offering a Yunnan reticulata to everyone who introduces five new members—in fact, the winners can choose any variety.

This year we are entering a publication into the camellia world in the form of a news letter, unpretentious at first, but we hope it will grow into another source of enjoyment and information for camellia lovers. Be sure to place yourself on the mailing list

Our Cover Flower

Crimson Robe — this variety is one of the largest flowered and most spectacular of the reticulata family. Its color is cherry red and the petals are ruffled and undulate. The plant is vigorous and upright in habit and bears flowers as large as seven inches in diameter in mid-season. The leaves are large and of a dull green.

Named "Tataochung" by the Chinese, this reticulata has acquired the synonyms of "Great Peach Bloom" and "Large Crimson."

This outstanding reticulata has become understandingly very popular and much in demand. Distribution is from the west coast.

with our secretary, Mrs. J. H. Tinkham, 135 So. Bowling Green Way, Los Angeles 49. She would like the names of any others you know who should receive our notices or who may be prospective members.

By the way, Mrs. Tinkham plans to accompany Frank Griffin's forthcoming personally conducted tour of European camellia centers. This should make a wonderful future issue of our News Letter. We had a recent report of a London meeting between the Ralph Peers and Bill Woodroof. Ah well, most of us just stay at home, disbud, and wait. Come see us on first Tuesdays!

THE RELATION OF ORGANIC MATTER TO THE GROWTH OF CAMELLIA

By JAMES BONNER

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California

INTRODUCTION

It is generally believed that the camellia grows most luxuriantly in soils which contain much organic matter. There is not, however, general agreement as to the best form of organic matter to use for the culture of the camellia nor is there agreement as to the reason for the effect of organic matter on the growth of this plant.

The role of organic material in soils has been the subject of extensive investigation and most workers agree that the addition of organic matter is essential to the maintenance of soil fertility over a period of years. This organic matter may be added in the case of crop plants, either as crop residues, as cover crops or as manure, and the beneficial effects may be determined not only in the field but in pot cultures under experimental conditions. Work on soils in recent years has shown that the influence of organic matter on soil fertility is primarily due to effects on the formation and maintenance of soil aggregates, effects on the physical structure or tilth of soil. It has in turn been shown that the maintenance of proper soil structure is perhaps the most important single factor in determining rate and amount of plant growth. Proper structure of the soil is essential to drainage, to root aeration and to micro-biological activities which contribute to plant welfare.

That organic matter is essential to soil welfare is therefore firmly established. Whether organic matter further influences plant growth by supplying to the plant specific organic compounds which are utilized by the plant is however not so well established. Most efforts to show that organic matter benefits plant growth by any effects other than those on the soil itself have been unsuccessful. Thus if we grow any common crop plant such as tomato, corn, etc., in sand culture and supply it with non-limiting amounts of plant nutrients (minerals), then the addition of organic matter is in general without any beneficial effect. Under these conditions effects of organic matter on structure are excluded as are effects of organic matter due to supplying of the usual plant nutrients. The usual crop plants do not therefore appear to require organic matter for any reasons other than those having to do with effects purely on the physical status of the soil.

During the course of investigations on the effects of organic matter on plant growth it was found that the camellia, unlike the usual crop plant, does appear to benefit from the presence of organic matter in the substratum in which the plant is grown. This effect does not appear to depend solely upon the physical structure of the soil. The commonly held belief concerning the importance of organic matter for culture of the camellia is therefore substantiated although the nature of the effect is as yet quite obscure. It is the purpose of this paper to point out certain of the factors involved.

Experimental

For these experiments rooted camellia cuttings were planted in individual containers, in general 1.5 quart tin cans provided with drainage. The substratum used was either 4 mesh gravel or sand containing principally particles in the range of 10 to 20 mesh together with some admixture of smaller particles. The plants were supplied once each day with an excess (enough to

drain thru the container) of a complete nutrient solution containing all of the major and minor elements required by higher plants. The nutrient was adjusted to pH 5.5. Other work has shown that this nutrient solution supports optimal or near optimal growth of the camellia under the conditions used.

The organic addenda were added to the sand or gravel in the solid form and were thoroughly incorporated to form a uniform mixture. The addition of peat or leaf mold to gravel or sand increases the water or nutrient solution retaining capacity of the mixture appreciably, the effect being larger in the gravel mixture. For this reason a control was carried out in which clay was incorporated into the sand or gravel in an amount sufficient to bring the water holding capacity of the mixture up to that of the mixtures containing solid organic addenda.

In each experiment 18 plants were used in each treatment. For the experiment, the data of which are given in Table I, the results of the series in gravel closely duplicated those in sand and the two series have therefore been pooled.

TABLE I

Effect of Various Addenda on the Growth of Camellias (var. Pink Perfection) in Sand Culture. Rooted Cuttings. Initial Height 7.6 cm. Greenhouse, Natural Day Length. All Plants Supplied Daily with a Complete Nutrient Solution Adjusted to pH 5.5.

Addendum to Sand	No. of Plants	Amount of Addendum % by Volume	Addendum to Nutrient	Growth in 18 mo. cm/pl	Increase or Decrease from Control
None (control)	36	—	None	26.4	
Clay	18	10	None	22.7	-14%
Manure	36	10	None	32.3	+22%
Leaf mold	18	25	None	32.6	+23%
Peat	36	25	None	36.6	+38%
None	18	—	Ext. of Manure	23.9	- 9%
None	36	—	Thiamin	33.9	+27%

The typical experiment of Table I was continued over a period of 18 months. It may be seen that the addition of manure, leaf mold, or particularly of peat, to the sand substratum gave considerably increased growth in height. The full measure of the effect is not given by height measurements alone since the plants of the organic matter treatments were also more branched and in general more luxuriant than the controls. It is unlikely that this effect can have been due to an effect of organic matter on mere physical moisture retention of the substratum. Thus, the effect cannot be duplicated by additions of clay to the substratum. It is to be stressed that none of 16 species of crop plants showed any such specific response to organic matter so that the effect with camellia can hardly have been due to simple and general effects on water or nutrient relations.

The effect of organic matter on the growth of camellia cannot be duplicated by water extracts of the organic matter, at least in the case of manure as it is shown in Table I. A water extract of manure, applied at a rate essentially equivalent to that effective with solid manure was found to be ineffective when applied daily with the nutrient solution. The active principle of manure

(Continued on Page 24)

SOME SUGGESTIONS ON THE PHOTOGRAPHING OF CAMELIAS BY ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

By FRANK REINHART*

In the photography of Camellias, as well as in the photography of other types of flowers it is well to resign oneself to the fact that it is technically impossible to avoid compromising. A typical example of this occurs in the taking of a close-up of a pure white bloom, still attached to the leafed stem. In order to capture the delicate texture and vein pattern of the intensely light-reflecting petals of the bloom, it is necessary to give an exposure so light as to almost completely sacrifice any detail in the leaves. However, if for your purpose it is absolutely necessary to have leaf detail, a heavier exposure will have to be given, and a certain amount of detail sacrificed in the bloom. In black and white photography this problem can be minimized by slightly under-developing the negative, and thereby reducing the contrast.

Therefore it can be seen that it is well for the photographer to have definitely established in his mind exactly what he expects to accomplish with his photograph before he starts it.

Besides the camera and tripod, the basic equipment required consists of four photofloods in reflectors mounted

on tripod stands, a small-topped table, or easily constructed pedestal, to hold the bloom or arrangement of blooms to be photographed, and a background fixture consisting of a few smooth plywood boards about four by four feet square, with a frame of your own devising to hold one of them in place behind the subject. One of the plywood boards should be painted white for use in both black and white and color shots. The rest may be painted different colors, appropriate for use as background for your color shots.

A good method for holding the Camellia in position for photographing is to press the stem into a block of white foam plastic called Styrofoam. This material photographs with such a neutral effect, that the impression is created that the Camellia is "just there," not resting on and held in place by a concrete object. (Figures 1 and 2.)

The correct positioning of the lights for the particular bloom with which you are working presents the greatest problem. If your negative turns out overexposed or underexposed, you simply need to make another one with a decreased or an increased exposure. However, if your first result turns out to be a very elegant picture, only faintly resembling the bloom which you had placed before your lens, because the lighting arrangement had been inappropriate for that particular bloom, there are still countless lighting combinations which may be tried



Figure 1

with the use of four photofloods.

A simple, easy to control, and effective method of placing the lights is to put one on each side of the bloom at a distance of about four feet, one in back of the camera, and one behind the bloom. The one behind the bloom should be placed low enough to be out of the picture, and directed upon the background board. Its only function is to illuminate the background. If a white bloom is being photographed, it should not be used at all. The two lights, one on each side facing the bloom, are the principal illumination. These are known as the modeling lights, and how well you are able to capture the contour, depth, and particular identifying characteristics of the bloom depends on the positioning of these lights. For the *C. japonica* 'Arrabella' in Figure 1, the modeling lights were placed at a sharply oblique angle to the bloom. Oblique lighting tends to give depth to the photograph. Notice how the center group of stamens and petaloids is made to stand out from the comparatively flat body of the bloom. For the *C. japonica* 'Il Cygno' (Hearn's) in Figure 2, the modeling lights were moved back to either side of the camera, thus creating almost direct frontal lighting. Notice how the resulting narrow shadows sharply outline the formal arrangement and involute mar-



Figure 2

gins of the petals. The fourth light, which is placed in back of the camera, is called the fill-in-light, and is used to soften the shadows created by the modeling lights. It may be moved closer to or farther from the bloom, depending upon the intensity of the shadows.

* *Ed. Note: Mr. Reinhart is on the staff of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery and took the photographs used in William Hertrich's "Camellias of the Huntington Gardens."*

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GROWING BLOOMS FOR EXHIBITION

By CARYLL PITKIN
Program Chairman S C C S

The secret of growing beautiful ribbon-winning camellia blooms, if there is a "secret," is very probably the careful attention to all the rules for camellia culture which we all know so well. The articles on culture in the SCCS book, "The Camellia, its Culture and Nomenclature," are excellent and could well be the text book for all who grow camellias.

Let's review some of the points to remember. First, of course, the selection of the varieties is all-important, some listed varieties being so inferior to the newer kinds that they hardly deserve a place in our gardens, especially if we are cramped for room. Watch the kinds which win ribbons year after year and concentrate your attention on these.

Incorporate plenty of well pulverized, dampened peat moss in the soil before planting. Don't plant too deeply and be sure the drainage is good. Camellias should never be permitted to dry out and here in Southern California especially where the summers are long and sometimes pretty warm, frequent watering is a must. Personally I like to take the hose and wash off the plants every evening when I get home from work. It is certainly relaxing to spend an hour or so in the cool of the garden after a hot day and the camellias seem to enjoy it too.

Now as to fertilizer; this is a most controversial subject and many people have very definite ideas on the subject. It seems to me that if you use a commercial blend developed especially for camellias and use it according to directions, you can't go wrong. I have used a mixture of 80 per cent cottonseed meal and 20 per cent fish meal for several years and find that it does a good job. I start using it just before the new growth in the spring and apply it sparingly every month until fall. A good mulch is a big help in proper care of your plants. Personally I like to use a combination of peat moss and well rotted steer manure about 50-50 and apply it about two inches thick all around the plant.

Debudding is a must. Start in as

soon as you can tell the growth buds from the flower buds and thin to not more than one every four or five inches.

Care must be employed in picking the blooms so as not to bruise the petals. Cut enough stem so you can handle the bloom without touching the flower. If your bloom reaches its peak in a few days before it is to be shown it is still possible to hold it a couple of days in the refrigerator. If you have the moist cold type, no special care is necessary, otherwise it would be a good plan to put it in a closed container such as a plastic bag with a little water in the container.

All this sounds like a lot of work but actually it's a lot of fun and the satisfaction of growing a beautiful flower is plenty of reward for a camellia grower.

Ed. note: Mr. Pitkin's C. japonica 'Mrs. Freeman Weiss' was judged best amateur bloom at the 1954 Camellia Show and he has won many other "firsts."

TO THE LADIES from Page 8

or two of shaley soil to arrange for proper drainage. In woody soils like these, camellia ancestors lived for centuries in their Chinese homeland and were happy.

Chlorosis is a malnutrition disease often as common in plants as in humans. Lack of iron causes this affliction. A dose of Irontone will counteract the alkalinity which makes camellias very unhappy.

(Continued on Page 25)

CHOOSING CAMELLIAS TO MATCH THE TIME — THE PLACE — AND YOU

By EVELYN JOHNSON

The Feminine Angle

The choice of a camellia blossom for a woman to wear with her costume poses two important problems: one, the camellia must keep well enough to remain intact for two or three hours and must not fall from its calyx and two, the calyx itself should not be so large that the blossom stands out too far from its position on the costume. Some camellia varieties have a naturally flat calyx, and they are especially adaptable for corsage use if other necessary qualifications are present in the wanted blossom.

If the plants are small, take the blossom from the plant just below its calyx and tailor it with wire and floral tape before attaching it to the costume. However, if your plants can be cut with leaves and wood, a charming effect can be had with the natural placement of the flower on its own stem, with a leaf or two in natural position. This is especially true when the small branch and flower are pinned to the handbag.

A new trend in ladies' handbags has been the introduction of the "kangaroo" purse. This is a coin purse identical in outline with its parent bag and tucked into a horizontal pocket on the side of the bag. This kangaroo pocket makes a natural site for display of a beautiful camellia blossom. Ordinary care in handling the bag enroute will insure arrival at the tea or concert with the camellia blossom in prime condition.

An evening bag, if it has been used for a number of seasons, takes on new life and beauty if you pin a perfect Frizzle White, Hana Fuki or White Empress on it. As an additional precaution it is sometimes advisable to carry the blossom in a corsage box to the party. Pinning the flower on after arrival, in the powder room, is often insurance against some disastrous incident to the blossom enroute. To be really ravishing, the camellia should be without blemish and it deserves your best efforts to that end.

In choosing a camellia blossom to wear, cut the one which is most perfect of all the blossoms in your collection which are out that day. A blossom which is tired and past its maximum expansion a few days ago, has no place on your best costume. Cut it if you must, but place it tenderly with the others that you cannot bring yourself to throw away. Keep them close to you in the kitchen where you can enjoy them to the last, but do be ruthless and do cut the most strikingly beautiful blossom you have when you wish to wear it.

Much has been said in print about the "busy look" in costume or home decor. I am sure it is all very correct and I do pay lip service to it; but when I am moved to carry or wear a camellia flower, I am afraid I forget some of the rules. I am trying to encourage you to wear and display your very beautiful camellias and if your dress is a "busy" winter print, wear that gorgeous Finlandia Var. if you feel like it. You may not have another perfect blossom again all winter; wind, rain, blight, and searing 90 degree winter weather being what they sometimes are.

Young people find the most imaginative places when attaching camellias to the costume. I recall single blossoms of tiny Prof. Sargent attached to black velvet pumps; Pink Perfection, Mrs. Tingley and Berenice Boddy surrounding pretty curved "pony tails"; accenting a tiny waist, a High Hat pinned to a pale blue velvet belt and a lovely, smallish Maliflora (Betty McCaskill) hanging on a short slender chain as a living medallion.

For a child's birthday, shatter two or three Debutante blossoms and work the tiny bunches of petals wired together, along the Alice-in-Wonderland headband, wrapping with floral tape as you go. The effect on a young seven-year-old with either straight or curly hair is glamour itself.

C. M. Wilson, Berenice Boddy, Hana Fuki, Debutante, Pink Ball, High Hat, — in fact I cannot think of a camellia blossom that would not look superb pinned to a fur coat or stole. They are completely beautiful with both gray and brown tones in furs as well as with black furs.

The very elegant Hana Fuki is striking worn with light or dark blues, gray blues and many other shades. I have never seen it worn with violet but it should be stunning.

If one possessed a very large blossom of one of the Chinese reticulatas and wished to accent the costume and to display the blossom for the enjoyment of others, by all means wear it. If in doubt, pin it to the hair toward the back of the hairdress giving the general effect of a gorgeous flower hat, and entirely in proportion. If the figure is petite, do wear the camellia blossoms in the hair. The large figure is more readily able to carry the large blossoms and remain in good proportion. Concern to avoid the very small blossoms is this person's forte. Group at least three Pink Perfection-size blossoms or two blossoms Pink Perfection-size with their leaves if you are the larger type woman.

So much has been said and written warning against "more ribbon than flower" in a corsage that any warning of mine would be mere emphasis.

Photographs of winter brides often reveal camellias in the wedding bouquet. What more joyous occasion for wearing camellias could one imagine?

Masculine Modes

San Francisco has always been to me, a very glamorous city and there you will frequently see a gentleman wearing a fresh flower on his lapel. A trip to the Art Gallery and you are sure to see true San Franciscans. They look so very attractive and I am reminded of San Francisco and charmed too when men of our own Camellia Society come to a meeting with a perfect small Fir Cone, Puritan Lass or Betty McCaskill on their lapel. Kuru-Tsubaki, the deep maroon camellia worn on a gray or tan suit with dark maroon knit tie (and dark maroon socks, too, I hope), is a very attractive ensemble. The beautiful Vernalis may not hold but it would be very good as a lapel flower if it is cut from the plant before fully expanded. Chogi-Guruma is my choice to be worn with a very pale blue shirt and navy blue tie, equally good worn on the lapel of a dark navy suit, or char-blue suit. All the charcoal shades from char-green to char-brown would be enhanced by a lapel camellia. I have always enjoyed Vern McCaskill's appearance with a perfect rose-bud-centered Shishi-Gashira on his coat lapel. Bill Wylam attended the November meeting of the S C C S and the lapel of his gray tweed coat was the perfect background for a fine Australian Hiryu blossom. Its color contrasted attractively with a bright, dark blue tie.

Puritan Lass, a white formal boutonniere type is especially nice for a man's coat lapel at a dinner party or worn to church on Sunday.

I hope the gentlemen will collect enough boutonniere type camellia plants to wear their charming blossoms in season.

Mrs. Johnson has long been a S C C S member—lover, student and judge of camellias. Her observations here are both keen and charming.

MANY METHODS SUGGESTED FOR PRESERVING CAMELLIA BLOOMS

By C. D. COTHRAN

Early in September Elizabeth Beebe, Editor of our Camellia Review wrote to me saying that she had seen an article in a Sunday newspaper regarding treating rose buds with wax and then causing them to open when wanted. She wanted to know if the same treatment would work for Camellias.

I replied, saying that I did not know if it would work with Camellias as the subject, but there was a chance that it might. If any one wants to try, the following general method is suggested.

Select a bud with a stem several inches long and at least two leaves. The bud should be only a few days from blooming, and I think the bud development may be the crux of the whole experiment. Melt a sufficient quantity of Parowax in a double boiler and bring the temperature to 125° F. If the wax is too hot it will burn the bud and cause it to turn brown. Keep the coated buds in the refrigerator, and remove several days before it is desired for it to open. Remove the wax from the bud, cut a little off the stem, and place in water in a cool room.

My directions sound more or less explicit, but actually they relate only to a general method. My interest has been in lengthening the life of cut flowers after they have opened, and this interest has led me to investigate many methods that have been devised for this purpose. Some of these methods have been patented, and perhaps some of the readers would be interested in a brief review of some of them.

On June 11, 1867, Mrs. P. T. Vining of New York, N.Y. was granted United States Patent No. 65,777 on the "Improvement in preserving flowers and other vegetable forms." Mrs. Vining says that her "invention is for preserving the objects in their natural state, without change of form or color, retaining flowers, etc. in their original freshness and beauty for an indefinite period." Her in-

vention consists of applying a "liquid solution of glass, or other silicate" with a soft brush and letting it dry. The flower is then placed in a receiver, the air removed and carbon dioxide is allowed to take its place. Furthermore, the receiver has a yielding or elastic device to prevent undue pressure with changing temperatures.

Mrs. Vining must have moved because on June 27, 1871, another patent was granted to her on the same subject (No. 116375 Improvement in Preserving Natural Flowers) but her address is given as Springfield, Mass. This patent is interesting because it is the only one that mentions Camellias. Just how did she come to know about Camellias in Springfield, Mass. in 1871? Perhaps some reader will know the answer to this. Anyway, after reading how it is done, the title seems a little misleading. The method for camellias, tuberoses, pinks, and white flowers generally is to soak them in very dilute lime-water until they begin to look transparent. They are then soaked in dilute hydrochloric acid (50 drops to pint of water) for three hours, rinsed in fresh water and dried between muslin sheets. The petals are then strengthened with melted wax brushed on with a soft brush and the flower shaped. This method is really intriguing, and I think I will have to try it.

On October 28, 1884, Emma J.

(Continued on Next Page)

Woodruff (how does it happen that all of these early inventors were women?) was granted U.S. Patent No. 307,157 for a "Compound for Preserving Flowers, Etc." This compound consists of 2 pounds wood naphtha, 2 pounds benzole, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound acetic ether, one half pound chloroform, one pound sandarac, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound white dammar, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound white wax, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce corrosive sublimate. This forms a varnish into which the flowers are dipped and allowed to dry. Does this interest any one?

Therese Reinherz of Munich, Bavaria, Germany secured U.S. Patent No. 417,384 in 1889 on preserving natural flowers by means of a stiff backing on the petals. This was done by brushing an adhesive on the back of the petals, then sticking "textile fabric, paper, leather or similar material." This sounds like work to me, but try it if you wish.

On October 1, 1895 Ernest Pfitzer of Heidelberg, Germany secured U.S. Patent No. 547,227 for a process of preserving flowers, leaves, etc. In this patent the material is first soaked in alcohol containing sulphurous acid and then in a preservative fluid of castor oil and turpentine in alcohol. Since the flowers and leaves are somewhat bleached by the first solution, a dip in a suitable dye solution is recommended.

William Hecht, of Berlin, Germany proposed in U.S. Patent No. 584,355, June 15, 1897, to treat the material as in the first step above, and then to dip in glue and then apply colored powders, or fine silk fibers to the sticky surface. This process was used to prepare the very decorative "Mak-art" bouquets.

James M. Howard of Boston, Mass. in U.S. Patent No. 689,807, Dec. 24, 1901, proposed to dip flowers and leaves in a solution composed of one ounce of gum tragacanth dissolved in a half gallon of water and to which is added about a teaspoonful of pis-

tachio and a teaspoonful of eau-de-cologne.

U.S. Patent No. 996,788 was granted to Linnie E. Ostrander of Harbor, Oregon on July 4, 1911. It has a method which might be applicable to camellias. A thin glue or gelatin is used, and to each quart is added four tablespoons of sugar and dissolved. Then add two tablespoons of tartaric acid. Keep tepid and move the flower back and forth until all parts are covered. Shake the flower lightly to remove excess material and allow it to dry. When dry the flower may be suitably tinted by means of dye in an alcoholic solution.

In 1912 Walter W. Gayle of Montgomery, Ala. found that if he dipped a mature but unopened cotton boll in melted paraffin that it would not open until the coating was removed. This invention (U.S. 1,038,562) may be the forerunner of the rose bud idea.

Therese Reinherz of Munich had another patent issued October, 1913, as U.S. No. 1,076,786. In this patent gelatin, castor oil, and glycerin are mixed together and a small amount of milk of magnesia and Venetian turpentine may be added if desired. Flowers and foliage are dipped or brushed with this composition and allowed to dry. The inventor says that no special skill is required for applying this coating. This mixture sounds ridiculous, but a slight modification of this makes an excellent emulsion for white flowers. It does not keep well as the gelatin is an excellent medium for bacteria.

We have a number of patents immediately following the above which relate to leaves and ferns. They are interesting but have no application to flowers. There was issued on Nov. 21, 1933, a patent to Phillip Joffre of New York, U.S. No. 1,935,706, entitled "Art of Preserving Biological Specimens," which does seem to be of interest. The inventor states that

the invention will produce biological specimens such as flowers and leaves which will be permanently preserved as regards form and/or color and texture. The inventor says to melt camphor, naphthalene, or paradichlorobenzene, hold just above the melting point and quickly dip the specimens. All of these materials slowly volatilize and eventually the object will be completely free. Does someone want to try this? A coating of lacquer or shellac varnish may be used to reinforce the petals if desired.

One last patent which may be of interest. This is U.S. No. 1,931,325, issued October 17, 1933 to Clive N. Pillsbury and assigned to B. F. Goodrich Co. This relates to a process of protecting living plants which comprises coating the entire surface of a major portion of the plants with an aqueous dispersion of substantially pure rubber, and evaporating the water therefrom. I have found this to be a good method for protecting camellia blooms also. I used a mixture of two synthetic rubber latices, one very hard and rather dull when dry and the other somewhat soft and glossy. The combination produced a very natural effect, almost unnoticeable, and it more than doubled the life of the flowers.

The best way, of course, is to have enough Camellias so that there are always fresh ones available. However,

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Mr. Cothran is a director of the Pomona Valley Society.

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CAMELLIAS IN AMERICA *SASANQUAS from Page 5*

By RALPH PEER, Los Angeles

Undoubtedly the most authoritative and comprehensive book about camellias ever prepared is the new edition of Dr. H. Hume's great work **CAMELLIAS IN AMERICA**, now ready for distribution. First printed in 1946 by the J. Horace McFarland Company, America's premier horticultural printers, it was soon completely distributed. Now Dr. Hume, one of the Founders of the American Camellia Society, a most distinguished teacher and a world famous horticulturist, has brought his book up to date by adding new chapters and many new color plates.

This is the only book ever published which covers all phases of camellia interest — history, botany, propagation, world distribution, related species, cultivation, landscaping, pests, diseases, etc. In addition, there are 65 full page color plates (7½ inches by 10¾ inches) of actual blossoms. All known facts have been faithfully recorded — here we have a reference work written in a most entertaining fashion which should live for all time.

CAMELLIAS IN AMERICA, Revised Edition, 1955, published by J. Horace McFarland Company, can be purchased from your favorite bookstore, through your local Camellia Society, or direct from the publisher. 568 pages, Price \$25.50.

heavens, so the Camellia Society audience "Oh-ed" and "Ah-ed" as beauty followed beauty on the screen. The luscious pinks and rosy hues of the popular Shishi-Gashiras, Showa-No-Sakaes and Pink Snows were interspersed with the lovely whites such as Mine-No-Yuki and the delicious Ko-Gyoku. Several slides showed use of the sasanquas about the McCaskill's home, including a scene of the pool with pink blossoming Tanya like an ethereal aureole around a charming little statue.

An unexpected and happy end to the slides were the views of the *C. japonica* 'Guest of Honor,' the Harvey Short seedling which won the Margaret Hertrich award for 1955. The presentation of the silver bowl with proper inscription had been presented to Mr. Short earlier in the evening by President Metcalf.

After an intermission for refreshments, Mr. McCaskill answered questions from the audience on sasanquas.

Bill Wylam, Judge of the entries, awarded the Blue Ribbon for best camellia entered in competition by an individual owning less than 25 plants to Don Moorhusen, taking him out of the Novice class. Edwards Metcalf carried off 1st for best sasanquas and 3rd for his Daikagura blossom.

The awarding of a number of beautiful sasanquas to lucky individuals made a most pleasant finish to the evening.

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NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

Temple City Camellia Society

Frank Williams, well known camellia lover, will show his slides of Southern Gardens on December 28th at the Women's Club, Woodruff and Kauffman, Temple City at 8 p.m.

Drawing prizes will be 13 Japonicas from the Longden and Councilman Nurseries, a Reticulata and a Sasanqua, and the usual tub and shears.

You are invited to be with us and enjoy the beauties of the Middleton Gardens (7,000 acres), Magnolia Gardens, Bellingrath Gardens where visitors totaled 1,600,000 during 1954, Gerbings Gardens, John Illges' Gardens and the Dave Strothers Gardens, which hosts 6,000 visitors a weekend.

Pomona Valley

With the coming of cooler weather and encouraged by our sasanquas in bloom and the first of the japonicas, stirrings of camellia interest are again awakened in us, as we hope in you, and we look forward to another successful season with our members and friends.

For our first meeting we are fortunate in having as our guest speaker, a sasanqua enthusiast, William E. Wylam, manager of the Oriental Garden of the Huntington Botanical Gardens. His talk on the sasanqua will cover their culture, propagation, background and adaptability. Slide illustrations will show varieties, some never seen before. Need we remind you the Camellia sasanqua "Bill Wylam" graced the cover of the December, 1954 *Camellia Review*?

In our rapidly growing community of well landscaped homes, the sasanqua should be better known. Bring your friends and neighbors to our meeting so that they may become acquainted with this versatile plant. They will be most welcome.

San Diego

The San Diego Society in cooperation with the S C C S and American Camellia Society announces that its Ninth Annual Camellia Show will be held in the West Room of the Electric Building, Balboa Park, San Diego on Saturday and Sunday, February 11th and 12th, 1956. Time, 2 P.M. to 10 P.M. and 10 A.M. to 7 P.M., respectively. Show Chairman is Mrs. Althea Hebert, 8845 Country Club Place, Spring Valley, California.

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FOR SPECIAL MENTION

A New Huntington Seedling

E. C. TOURJE, *Chairman*
Camellia Garden Committee

There is a new exciting seedling at the Huntington Botanical Gardens which is very definitely a credit to the Camellia Garden. Everyone who has seen it is quite enthusiastic about its possibilities, and hopeful that its future blooms will prove to be as beautiful as the first two blossoms. One of these opened November first and the other following closely thereafter. The plant is a three year old chance seedling and in growth habit indicates Debutante blood, especially the foliage which has much the same shape, color and serration. But the bloom! Four and one-half inches across; three inches thick; alabaster white petals and petaloids arranged in rather loose peony form again suggestive of Debutante but not quite as tightly formed. Certainly one of the most interesting features is the complete absence of stamens. This is not only unique in blooms having this form, but doubtless accounts for the purity of color and the total lack of the creamy effect so common among peony and anemone form whites having stamens. In the course of time, grafts of this amazing new and as yet unnamed Camellia will provide blooms from which it can be determined just how good the variety is when propagated. The grafts will also provide material for distribution among the nurserymen, thus enabling wide and equitable dissemination. Until then it is, of course, unavailable to anyone.

But, the point I wish to make is that you and I can also grow these fine seedlings from the same seeds as those which produced the exquisite bloom described in the above paragraph. Actually the Huntington Staff

grows relatively few seedlings, and your percentage is just as good as theirs' on chance seedlings. Now, the likelihood of getting something "good" is better than ever before because the plants of newer and more interesting varieties, at the Huntington, are reaching seed bearing size in increasing numbers; and I think we are all agreed that the probability of growing better seedlings from seeds derived from good parentage is better than those coming from crosses of less desirable varieties. This year's supply is being rapidly depleted. We have already sold all "white" seeds harvested separate from other seeds, although the "mixed Japonicas" contain many seeds harvested from plants of white varieties. Better get yours while the viability is still high. Don't wait—and be disappointed.

The Old

Just as the promise of a wonderful new seedling is worth special mention, so is a certain other camellia in the Huntington Gardens that has bloomed there for at least 65 seasons. Not surprising is it that this is a 'Pink Perfection,' that variety that to many individuals has practically symbolized the Camellias. This Pink Perfection plant was four or five feet high and planted by the old Shorb house when William Hertrich first went to work for Mr. Huntington. When the house was torn down to make way for the Huntington mansion, the camellia was transplanted to a prominent spot in the North Vista which obviously it took over for its happy permanent home. Year after year it has been a mass of blooms. One year so many buds dropped off that Mr. Hertrich instructed a guard to pick them up daily and bring to his office. In less than six weeks he had counted around 2,500 buds. A greater

(Continued on Page 25)

NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES, *Continued*

Central California Society

Program Chairmen for the year will be Mr. Lewis Levalley and Dr. Walker M. Wells. The Society will hold its Annual Camellia Show on March 4th, 1956. An official Test Garden is to be established at the Fresno State College.

Potomac Valley

Fungicides, Insecticides to be Tested — The Chairman of the Society's Special Committee, Mr. Edward P. Carter of Hyattsville, Maryland, has announced that during the coming year his committee will undertake controlled experiments with various fungicides and insecticides recommended for use on camellias.

Mr. Carter, a plant pathologist by profession, will endeavor to determine the efficacy of the various preparations tested and also whether or not the particular climate of this area plays a part in their effectiveness.

ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW PLANNED

By CARL A. WESTON, *President*
Men's Camellia Club

Our Club is planning to have its annual Camellia Show March 10th and 11th, 1956 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

If Mother Nature will just give us a little break, we are going to have a fine show and expect to exceed the 12,000 attendance we had at our last show. To interest the "professional amateur," we plan to award to the best unlimited collection. The only limit will be one blossom of each variety and credit for "show quality" blooms only. I have not seen this tried but it seems to me that it should draw out the collectors and at the same time take them out of the way of the small amateur so that they may have a chance at some ribbons too.

While it is not a new idea, we also plan to award to the best professional collection to encourage the nurserymen to put their "best foot forward" for us.

We have a very good bud set in this area. The late March freeze did do some damage and resulted in the early bloomers setting their buds about a month late, the midseason

flowering varieties are not so late and will probably bloom on schedule. I am guessing that 'Mathotiana' and the sports of it will take a good share of best in show this year. All 'Mathotianas' have the first good bud set in about three years and all of them are full of unusually large buds.

FOR SALE

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

Our own book, "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature," a 1956 revision \$1.50 or \$.90 each in lots of not less than 12, will be ready in January.

"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

(Continued on Page 24)

FOR SALE *from Page 23*

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 in America, 1955," by H. Harold Hume. \$25.50.

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

Sasanqua issue of the Camellia Review, 75c postpaid. 57c in orders of 25 or more.

All prices mail and tax prepaid when payment is received with order, otherwise these charges will be added.

GROWTH OF CAMELLIAS *from Page 11*

so far as camellia is concerned is not then due to any simple water soluble compound. This is not to say that camellia growth cannot be increased by certain simple organic compounds. Table I also includes data on plants grown in sand or gravel and supplied daily with thiamin (vitamin B₁) in the nutrient solution. Growth was significantly increased, a result in accordance with those reported earlier by various authors. Various considerations make it clear however that the effect of organic matter on the growth of camellia cannot be in general due to thiamin. Thus, peat which is very effective in increasing growth of the camellia is a poor source of thiamin. Thiamin is also ineffective when applied to soil since it is strongly absorbed on the clay fraction.

Conclusions

The experiments which have thus far been done indicate that camellia does grow more luxuriantly in the presence of organic matter. This conclusion is based primarily on the fact that camellia grown in sand culture with non-limiting water and non-limiting mineral nutrient supply responds to the addition of solid organic matter by increased growth. The behavior does not seem to be due to effects on water retention by the substratum and appears to be an effect over and above the usual influence of organic matter on soil structure. Leaf mold, peat, and manure are all effective, with peat perhaps the best under the conditions tried. The effect does not seem to be due to any readily water extractable material contained in the organic matter.

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I hereby make application for membership in your society and enclose \$5.00
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“WHITE FOR DECEMBER”

suggests

HARVEY F. SHORT

Camellia Sasangua being early, has been much proclaimed, and second glances are cast on pure and dainty white flowers.

“Setsugekka” (Elegant Friends), will be found a highly rated one to enjoy. “Autumn Snow” and “Moon Moth” are two new additions of excellent character. Another known as “White Frills” is an exceptionally fine one, inclined to make a spreading bush, and will soon be available to the trade.

In the Japonica grouping, several beautiful white ones make the early Fall and Christmas Season. Aside from our well known Alba Plena, others that appear are the Joshua Youtz, Dessa Thompson, Bride’s Bouquet, Masterpiece, White Empress, the handsome Shiro-Chan and the very new Conrad Hilton. Emmett Barnes is rated early, and the new seedling, Julia Stafford, will bear watching as a fine one.

To find out where the above varie-

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ties may be obtained, write to “Clearing House,” care of the Editor of the Review.

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So. Calif. Camellia Society

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REVIEWER *from Page 2*

around the camellias, where is the honey? Here is a splendid chance for a commercial by-product of all-out appeal. Train the bees to do your pollinating and have some hives handy. Anyone for Camellia honey?

Coming — Coming!

The new revision of the nomenclature book. It will be published in mid January, 1956 and will be issued at that time to all members, including affiliated members *who have paid their 1956 dues*. It will be issued thereafter to members as their 1956 dues are paid.

This beautiful new Nomenclature Book will be the 5th revision issued by the S C C S, marking a steady growth of documentary knowledge of camellias from the four page brochure called "Classification of Camellias" which was put out in 1942. If you have one or five hundred camellias, you just can't afford to be without this book. It's so simple—be sure your dues are paid and wait for the mailman.

The Unconquered

Our Camellia seeds have, of course, being going out, literally by the thousands (and in passing if you haven't ordered yours yet, you'd better hurry and do so right now) and we hope to have some interesting letters soon from some of the purchasers. Planting camellia seeds gets to be quite a habit; from the casual individual who occasionally flips them into the ground and steps on them, to the technical expert who conducts year by year experiments. An old member of the S C C S who is a confirmed seed purchaser is Mr. Paul Dennison. For some years he has worked with seeds and complains that his results are too negative to make any real report. In fact, the camellias seem so impervious to insects, smog, and even X-Rays that he is engaged mostly in seeking some drastic meas-

ures that will affect them. For instance he tried quite tremendous radiation on the seeds along with tulip bulbs. The amusing result of this was that the tulips were all definitely dwarfed while the camellia seedlings showed no effect whatever. Must be their invincibility that makes them such a challenge.

Camellia Time Out

We were relaxing in the smogless California sun the other morning taking a few minutes off to contemplate our sasanqua 'Colleen.' Temporarily arrested by unseasonal hot days, buds were now showing clear pink and delicate blossoms with timidly but with irrepressible force were opening as surely as Time ticks on. Here in this plant, we thought, could be found arguments for the perfect life: tranquillity unruffled by human pettiness, beauty taken for granted, a force minus the nervous thrill of cracking the thermal barrier or riding in the transonic stratum. Suddenly we commenced to feel superior—all of this power represented in this plant we gloated was under our thumb. 'Colleen' must be cared for, shaded, watered to achieve its goal for 'Colleen' is a civilized camellia, no more blooming on a rocky Oriental hillside struggling for survival against nature as did its ancestors. Now it is dependent on civilization—in fact, on us. Maybe that's what keeps all camellia growers so fanatically bound; the products, dramatic, beautiful, wonderful are *their* achievements. "My camellias," they can say. Probably just as well to let all camellias know right here and now that we, humans, have the upper hand.

It's Christmas

So have yourselves some wonderful holidays with a plethora of camellias and heaps 'o good wishes

from

LIZ

Camellias *in the* *Huntington Gardens*

by

WILLIAM HERTRICH

Curator Emeritus

★

VOLUME II

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Bibliography. Nomenclature with Synonyms Cross-Indexed.

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