

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



C. reticulata 'William Hertrich'
Courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries

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Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

An organization devoted to the advancement of the Camellia for the benefit of mankind—physically, mentally, and inspirationally.

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, San Marino. 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: \$6.00.

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. reticulata 'William Hertrich'

C. reticulata 'William Hertrich' is the first reticulata seedling to be introduced since the group of reticulatas was imported from China in 1948. It is fitting that this seedling would be propagated by Howard Asper who had such an active part in bringing along the new importations after they arrived at Descanso. The plant is a vigorous upright grower with dull green foliage. Color of the flower is a vigorous red (HCC Cherry 722), with the blooms ranging in size from 5½ to 6¾ inches. Flowering time is midseason. The seed parent is 'Lion Head' (open pollination), and Mr. Asper says that all points concerning the new seedling are an improvement over the parent.



THOUGHTS

from the editor

I paused as I read the copy for the printer that listed the winning varieties of japonicas at the S. C. C. S. November and December meetings. I said, are all these varieties that were entered in early season competition habitual early season bloomers? I looked in my nomenclature book and found that Bill Woodroof has listed some of them as mid-season. One is listed mid-season to late. The answer to the contradiction between the nomenclature book and the actual blooming is that the use of gibberellic acid on camellias is not only advancing the blooming time of camellias but also is producing larger blooms and in some cases, different forms of blooms for some of the varieties. There can no longer be any question of whether gibberellic acid does something for camellias. That has been proved affirmatively and conclusively. There is a question, however, of whether gibberellic treated blooms should be entered in camellia society displays and competition without their being labeled as such.

There is nothing inherently wrong in the use of this treatment. It brings in blooms earlier than they would normally come. These early blooms give pleasure to the grower and to his friends who see and are given the flowers. It produces larger flowers and sometimes prettier flower formations. It has been demonstrated that it will cause some buds to open that are known as "hard to open" varieties. All these things are good for increasing pleasure in growing camellias.

It is another thing, however, when such blooms are shown in public displays. From the public's point of view, they give incorrect information regarding the seasonal characteristics of a variety. For example, early blooming varieties are at the top of my list for my 1963 grafting program. I might be misled if I made my list exclusively from the blooms exhibited at the S. C. C. S. November and December meetings. I also might have an incorrect idea as to the size of bloom I might expect to grow. Remember, the blooms were not labeled as to treatment, so only a very few people would know all the facts.

Competitively, the situation can be questioned. There is a separate show classification for flowers grown under glass. Should there be a separate classification for flowers whose growth has been stimulated by what we might call artificial means? People need not be "ribbon hounds" to want the competition to be even when they enter their blooms, whether in show or society meetings. If they do not all start from the same starting line, is it possible that the displays will suffer, and therefore the interest in the meetings decline, because of the disinclination of some people to bring their blooms. To say that all can use gibberellic acid if they desire is not the answer.

Harold E. Dyer

HOW I SELECT MY BLOOMS FOR SHOW COMPETITION

Dr. Cecil Eshelman

Sherman Oaks, California

Editor's note: Dr. Eshelman is particularly well qualified to discuss this subject. The cabinet in his home that is full of silverware won in camellia show competition attests to his ability both to grow camellias and to select the blooms that attract the attention of the judges. Both are important.

There are a few important steps that are necessary in preparing the camellia blooms to show in competition. Through the summer and into the fall period it is important to do a thorough job of disbudding. It is well to commence this task as soon as the flower buds can be differentiated from the growth buds. On those varieties that are prone to form buds in clusters the job of disbudding will be a continuous process, as certain buds in the cluster vary in their development. There are generally two or three buds to a terminal end of the branch with camellia species. One should disbud the flower buds that are closest to the middle of the plant. This procedure enables the remaining outside bud to have an uninhibited development. When the bloom attains its full size and weight, it may face down toward the ground, a position that is more apt to produce a perfect flower. This face-down position usually enables the flower to attain a slightly larger sized flower, and the form is usually excellent.

At the beginning of the week and just prior to the camellia show I carefully examine my plants to note those varieties, and even individual flowers, that I think will reach their peak of perfection for the show. I also make a note of the varieties that might produce blooms that could be entered in the multiple division. One should expect certain performances from the older plants, especially those that have performed faithfully year after year.

It is to the new varieties that will bloom for the first time that resides the greatest thrill and excitement for the exhibitor. The bread and butter varieties assure you an adequate display for the show, but the new varieties always pose a possibility of being something entirely new, spectacular, and completely attractive.

There are certain influences that play an important part in your exhibiting success. Culture practices, though important, are not the complete picture. Weather, with all of its variations, is a big factor in determining whether Bakersfield, Orange, Pasadena or Santa Maria will capture the greatest proportions of awards. A brief discussion of the type of weather, their effect on the flowers, and a few remedial suggestions might be helpful.

Ideal weather

If a generous rain can precede a show by two or three days, followed by moderately cold and foggy mornings, you can expect the ultimate in size, quality, color, and texture with your blooms.

Cold Weather

A damaging frost is rarely a problem in Southern California. Temperature to 27 or 28 degrees will nip some of the flowers and tender growth tips on the more susceptible varieties. This will cause discoloration and structural damage to the blossoms. If a heavy frost is forecast it would be well to pick the better blooms in advance and place them in containers in a protected area, or move the container grown plant to a protected spot.

(Continued on next page)

Wet weather

If adequate protection against direct rain can be maintained, a rainy period can be ideal for the opening of your blooms. The high humidity enables the flowers to reach their height of excellence, freshness, size and condition. Large sheets of polyethylene may be placed over the plants as a protection. This same material could be used to protect individual flowers.

Wind storms

Wind storms present the most adverse weather conditions for nice camellia blooms. Generally the humidity is low, and in addition the continuous pounding of the dry, hot wind takes the substance out of the blooms. This hot wind condition makes the blooms totally unfit for competition. If entered, they tend to wilt during or shortly after the flowers have been judged. The winds are quite sectional in Southern California, and if your collection is grown in an area where the wind blows quite often you are placed at a great disadvantage. Any given weekend could find this type of wind in any section of our camellia belt and it would be best if this condition occurred in your area, to forget placing your blooms in the show for that weekend. There is no method of correcting the effect of this weather adversity other than to select and pick your blooms prior to the onset of the storm and place them in a cool, humid area.

The highest attainment in show competition is to receive the "best flower of the show" award. In selecting the blooms in any classification one should hope to emulate this perfect flower. With most collections in any one weekend there will be a half dozen flowers that you can select that could approach this high goal. This special group should be handled with the utmost of care. Methods of picking, the container to be used in transporting the blooms to the show, and the time that the blooms are picked

are important, if the perfection of the bloom is to be retained. Usually a candidate for "best flower" will stand out among your plants. You will not have to look hard and long for this flower. Your experience will tell you instantly that it is an unusually good specimen. The chances are good that it will be found on a grafted plant, growing in a three gallon container, the plant having extremely vigorous growth and foliage. This graft will be three to four years from the original graft. The plant has been heavily disbudded, and will have only this one flower blooming at this time. It will be found on a lower branch, facing down, and actually barely discernable. This half opened bud was discovered early in the week, and every precaution has been used to protect it in every way. Precaution against people inadvertently brushing against the blossom has been used, also any close branches that could brush against the bloom should be tied away from the flower. The weather has been ideal through the week, and as the days of the week have slipped by the bud has progressively opened until the Saturday morning it has attained its optimum size and texture, the morning destined to justify its existence, i.e., "to be or not to be."

This particular blossom must have a combination of attributes that will impress the judges that they will be compelled to render a favorable decision in its favor. Too frequently the size of the flower is the predominant factor that is considered by the judges. It might be important that the bloom be at least up to size or slightly larger for the variety, but still not oversize to the extent that the public would be deceived as to the varietal performance. The color of the bloom, although affected greatly by the weather, will be true to the variety. Because it is fresh it will have sparkle. In a variegated flower the contrasting color will stand out,

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CAMELLIA PERSONALITIES — WILLIAM HERTRICH

Harold E. Dryden

He strides around the grounds of the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California with strong firm steps. At 86 years of age, he has the physical appearance and actions of a man just emerging from his 60's. It has been 15 years since William Hertrich was forced by illness to give up active supervision of the Huntington Gardens and was made Curator Emeritus. His active interest in the Gardens has not diminished, however, his health is good, and every day of the year, weather permitting, he walks among the trees and plants that he looks on possessively as his own. Good is the fortune of a visitor who accompanies him on one of his tours and listens to his stories of how and where he obtained the specimens that he prizes so highly.

The life and story of William Hertrich is in large measure the story of the building and development of the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Born in Baden, Germany, he grew up in a land rich in floral beauty. At fourteen he left his formal schooling to gain practical experience in fruit and vine culture, and at sixteen he started a four year apprenticeship in horticultural and floriculture in Austria. Here he gained invaluable knowledge in the growing of ornamentals and eventually completed a graduate course in landscape gardening and estate management. His interest in rare exotics — palms, cycads, orchids, cacti, and other succulents — was always keen, but was made even more so by his frequent trips to the botanic gardens of Austria and Germany.

He came to the United States in 1900 and for two years was associated with a horticultural firm in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Desirous of working in a more favorable climate where subtropics could be grown outdoors throughout the year, he came



William Hertrich

to Southern California in 1903. In the short space of two years he acquired an outstanding reputation in the field of landscaping and horticulture. During this time Henry E. Huntington decided to transform his 650 acre ranch in San Marino into a private estate. In searching for a man who could turn his property into a beautiful garden, he was impressed with Mr. Hertrich's training, experience, and obvious talents, and on January 1, 1905 William Hertrich accepted the position of Superintendent of Mr. Huntington's undertaking. He surely did not know in 1905 that this "undertaking" would be his center of work and interest for the following 58 years.

The land he took over for development was devoid of any plantings that could be utilized in the general

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scheme, with the exception of a few native oaks. Huntington wanted his garden to present a mature appearance as quickly as possible, so Hertrich was confronted with the problem of securing a large number of fully grown specimens. He devised ways of bringing large trees from nearby estates as well as from San Diego and Santa Barbara. This was no easy task in the first decade of the twentieth century. Not satisfied with the materials commonly grown in the area, Hertrich was eager for the garden to be a sort of testing ground for rare and unusual exotics. In quest for little known plants, he traveled to most of the more important garden centers — to Europe, Mexico, Guatemala, the islands of the Caribbean, New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji — making many valuable contacts and bringing back plants, seeds and bulbs.

The Huntington Botanical Gardens consist of a series of separate gardens, skillfully blended. In each garden, Hertrich displayed his genius not only as a talented landscape gardener but also as a horticulturist with a remarkable knowledge of his subjects. The rose garden, the rockery with its cymbidiums and cycads, the Japanese garden, the camellia garden, the palm garden, the desert plant collection (often referred to as the cactus garden) — all testify to his knowledge and to his artistic sense. The celebrated Desert Garden was started in 1907 on a section of land where the soil was so poor that it was not suitable for ordinary plantings, and consisted of only the more commonly grown cacti and succulents. Today the collection consists of 25,000 plants from all over the world, occupying approximately twelve acres and considered the finest outdoor planting of its kind.

Mr. Hertrich's interest in camellias has always been high. He planted camellias on the grounds early and these early plantings are now large

trees. While the development of the present Camellia Garden has taken place mostly since his retirement from active work in 1948, he has had a hand in his advisory capacity as Curator Emeritus in its growth to its present status as the largest collection of camellias in the world. The Southern California Camellia Society has honored him and his wife Margarete by naming two of the Society's awards after them — the William Hertrich Award for the best deserving mutant of the year and the Margarete Hertrich Award for the best deserving japonica seedling of the year.

He has found time during these busy years of building the Huntington Botanical Gardens to participate in community affairs. He was active in the steps leading to incorporation of the city of San Marino in 1913. He served for twenty-three years on San Marino's city council. He was a member for several years of San Marino's school board. He has also been liberal in his cooperation with his city's Planning Commission, and many of the city's fine street plantings are in existence only because he was able to obtain the trees and to see that they were properly planted and tended.

He has been active in horticultural organizations and has been honored by them. Here are some of these honors: Medal of Honor from Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Medal of Honor from Garden Clubs of America, Citation from American Horticultural Society, Award of Achievement from International Shade Tree Conference, Award from Pacific Coast Nurserymen's Association, Award from Southern California Horticultural Institute, Award from Cymbidium Society of America for pioneering outdoor cymbidium culture in California. He is an honorary member of 12 organizations.

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EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF RETICULATAS

Arthur E. Krumm
Altadena, California

The evergrowing popularity of the reticulatas brings up the question of how many varieties are worth having in your garden or as a source of show flowers, or as cut flowers in the home. Several collectors and growers were contacted and queried as to their evaluation of the plants and the flowers. Analysis of these comments and experiences have been summarized variety by variety in alphabetical order, but not necessarily in order of popularity, best flower, or best shrub.

BUDDHA

Rose-pink, semi-double. The texture is fair and will not last as long as some others, but has many perfect rabbit ears. It is one of the earliest bloomers, in time for the first shows. Easiest to prune and shape without dieback, thereby giving a good compact shrub.

Rating: Texture AA; Show Flower AA; Shrub AAA

BUTTERFLY WINGS

Rose-red. Semi-double. Texture is poor and flower fades bad to a pale pink. Vigorous and open growth makes for a bare looking plant.

Rating: Texture B; Show Flower A; Shrub A

CAPTAIN RAWES

Carmin rose pink. Semi-double. Very late bloomer. Poor show or cut flower as the stamens blacken very fast. The texture is fair. Semi open growth.

Rating: Texture A; Show Flower B; Shrub A

CHANG'S TEMPLE

Pink and white. Peony. Texture is very good making an excellent show and cut flower. A semi vigorous grower. Semi open grower is its only bad point.

Rating: Texture AAA; Show Flower AAA; Shrub A

CONFUCIUS

Orchid pink. Semi-double. Medium size flower. Lacks good stamens which makes it no more than an ordinary flower. One of best shrubs, being compact and vigorous.

Rating: Texture AA; Show Flower A; Shrub AAA

CORNELIAN

See CHANG'S TEMPLE.*

CRIMSON ROBE

Carmen red. Semi-double. Everyone seems to agree that this variety has everything. Very good texture. Always a good show flower. Average compact growth. A typical Reticulata.

Rating: Texture AAA; Show Flower AAA; Shrub AA

LION HEAD

See CHANG'S TEMPLE.*

MOUTANCHA

Pink and white. Semi-double. Rated the prettiest pink of all the Reticulatas. Fair texture. Has the smallest foliage. A low slow grower good for containers.

Rating: Texture A; Show Flower A; Shrub AA

NOBLE PEARL

Oriental red. Semi-double. Texture is good. Is a good show or cut flower but is variable in color. Is the fluffiest and largest flower of them all. Average bushy but sometimes it is really a scraggly grower.

Rating: Texture AA; Show Flower AAA; Shrub A

OSMANTHUS LEAF

Orchid pink. Rose form. The smallest flower. Fair texture. Pretty but not striking as a show flower. Slender upright growth. Nobody seems to go overboard for this one.

Rating: Texture A; Show Flower B; Shrub A

(Continued on next page)

PAGODA

Scarlet. Formal. Good texture but has a wide color variation. Foliage is a darker green than other varieties. Makes a fair shrub as it is vigorous, upright and fairly bushy.

Rating: Texture AA; Show Flower A; Shrub AA

PROFESSOR TSAI

Rose pink. Semi-double. Fair texture. Flower lacks style. Not a reticulata type flower. Sprawly espalier type of growth makes it a poor landscaping shrub.

Rating: Texture A; Show Flower B; Shrub B

PURPLE GOWN

Purple red. Formal to peony. Excellent texture making for a good cut flower. Shrub is the most compact and bushiest of all the varieties, making it as good a shrub as can be found in the Reticulatas.

Rating: Texture AAA; Show Flower AA; Shrub AAA

SHOT SILK

Brilliant pink. Semi-double. Texture and lasting qualities are excellent. Very good shrub, being strong upright and compact.

Rating: Texture AAA; Show Flower AA; Shrub AA

TALI QUEEN

See NOBLE PEARL.*

WILLIAM HERTRICH

Reddest red. Loose peony to semi-double. Howard Asper's latest introduction. Good texture. Outstanding

*Editor's note: Students of reticulatas are concluding that the people in China who shipped the reticulatas to Mr. Boddy and Mr. Peer got some tags mixed up, either unintentionally or deliberately. They believe that 'Chang's Temple', 'Cornelian' and 'Lion Head' as we have them are the same and that 'Noble Pearl' and 'Tali Queen' are the same. This view is disputed, however, by some people on the basis of what they observe in their own gardens. For the present at least, they are listed as different varieties in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE.

feature is the mass of bright yellow stamens. Vigorous upright and bushy grower with extra large leaves.

Rating: (Let's look at it for awhile before we pass judgment.)

WILLOW WAND

Orchid pink. Rose form. Has fair texture. Flower is more open than SHOT SILK otherwise it is similar but larger. Fairly open growth.

Rating: Texture AA; Show Flower A; Shrub A

The rating of the shrubs is one against the other and not in comparison to Japonicas. From the consensus of opinion it appears that the following five varieties are rated the best all around plants and flowers:

BUDDHA

CHANGS TEMPLE

CRIMSON ROBE

NOBLE PEARL

PURPLE GOWN

It also appears that in California the best flowers and shrubs are to be found in the coastal regions a couple of miles inland but not directly on the coast.

HERTRICH (Continued)

Victoria Padilla summarizes this man in her book "Southern California Gardens"* when she writes: "But far more eloquent than all the medals and praise bestowed on William Hertrich is the mute tribute paid to this great horticulturist by the many fine plants he so painstakingly brought to Southern California and nurtured through the years. The 450 palms that comprise the Palm Gardens, the eucalyptus planting covering a space of ten acres and embracing about 175 different species and varieties, the 150 species of conifers, the acres of camelias and azaleas and rhododendrons, and hundreds of other plantings — all bear testimony to his genius."

* University of California Press, 1961.

When? Why? How?

R. FLINN DICKSON SR.

Fewer and Better Flowers!

In the October 1960 issue of *CAMELLIA REVIEW* I had something to say about disbudding as an aid to getting better flowers. Since then I have begun another step that is producing very good results. It began as the result of an accident. Several 8 to 10 year old plants in containers that were under trees were badly broken up when a large limb fell during a wind storm. I had to prune them heavily. Among them was a 'Herme' that was about 60% lost and a 'Joshua Youtz' that was 50% lost. This happened in the fall and when they later came into bloom the flowers were by far the finest that these particular plants had ever produced. The same root system was feeding many less blooms, so those growing on a smaller plant with a big root system got well nourished. Now, as a result of this experience I not only try to do a thorough disbudding job but also take out a lot of the wood. There is another way in which taking out wood will improve blooms. Take it out so that the opening buds will not be touched by nearby twigs. It is not too late in the present season to take off buds and thin out those varieties that bloom in midseason to late. For those who are not getting real good flowers on your older plants, I suggest that if you get a lot of buds off of them and do a good job of thinning out the wood, you will see a big improvement; provided that they receive good summer care. The care

given plants during the summer is all important.

Camellia Flower Blight

So much has been said and written on this very serious subject that I mention it again for just one reason. Don't let your guard down just because so much has been accomplished in killing it off. If it gets started in your garden it can be devastating. As is the case with diseases we humans are liable to, the best way to meet them is through prevention. The way to prevent flower blight or petal blight as some call it, is good house keeping — nothing else.

Do not allow fallen flowers or petals to remain long enough for them to start to decompose. I try to pull off the flowers as soon as they have passed their peak. When you have picked them or gathered them from where they fell, never put them in your compost. If you cannot burn them, put them in containers to be picked up with your combustible rubbish. For further details on this you may refer to page 135 in your 1962 *Camellia Nomenclature* book.

Ancient Reticulatas

Much has been published about the background of these intriguing plants. An article that was published November 5, 1962 in a New Zealand magazine is of interest. The material for this article was supplied by Col. Tom Durrant who edits a *camellia* bulletin published three times a year in Auckland, N. Z. He is a former chairman

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HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS HAVE OUTSTANDING CAMELLIA COLLECTION

People in Southern California who like camellias are fortunate in having within easy reach of everybody the finest collection of camellias in the world at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino. Starting in January, the approximately 2000 varieties will be well on their way in their new blooming season and will reach their peak in February and early March. A trip to the Gardens during this period should be on the schedule of every person who likes camellias.

The Southern California Camellia Society is proud to have played a part in the development of this camellia garden. In 1944 the Society and the Gardens agreed to collaborate in the use of the Botanical Garden grounds and facilities for a camellia "test garden". The Society, through its Garden Committee, would provide new camel-

lia varieties in the form of plants and scions. The Gardens would grow and test these varieties under the favorable conditions that existed at the Gardens.

The concept of a "test garden" did not prevail long. It became apparent that the ideal growing conditions and the opportunities for landscaping offered a challenge to the Gardens and the Society to develop for the people of Southern California a camellia garden that would be unsurpassed. The Gardens made more land available for camellias and the Garden Committee of the Society extended its work in obtaining varieties of merit. The expectations of a decade ago are now realized in the beautiful display of blooms that will be seen in January, February and March.

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The Huntington Botanical Gardens have the largest and best collection of camellias to be found anywhere.

POINTS ON GROWING RETICULATAS

A Follow-Up

Caryll W. Pitkin
San Marino, California

In the March 1961 issue of *CAMPELLIA REVIEW* this writer reported on the experiences of Joe and Julius Nuccio in growing reticulatas. At that time they had concluded that at least a part of their troubles stemmed from over-watering and over-fertilizing. With far fewer leaves than japonicas it was a logical deduction that they needed less food and that evaporation of moisture would be slower.

Recently the Editor of *The REVIEW* asked me to take another look at the Nuccio reticulatas and see if their theory was correct and their plants looked better. They do.

However, there is still no comparison, as far as beauty of plant goes, between them and japonicas. They are just naturally more scraggly. But Nuccio's feel that a very careful watering and fertilizing program will definitely help. They try to keep them just a little on the dry side and fertilize only once a year with a light feeding of cottonseed meal. This is omitted if the leaves show any sign of burn. Nuccio plants are all container grown.

Howard Asper, who has had some spectacular results from his hybridizing program using reticulatas, be-

lieves they do better in full sun. Nurserymen and hobbyists alike are finding this to be true.

At Marshall's Camellia Nursery, Les Marshall has a number of fine looking plants, planted in his yard in full sun. They looked fine. Two large plants of 'Buddha' and 'Crimson Robe', only partially shaded by an evergreen elm, were leaning out toward the sun. A seven foot 'Cornelian' was especially vigorous. But as he pointed out these plants are in the ground and he has very sandy soil which just doesn't stay damp.

For the nursery trade Marshall's plants are in containers, but these he insists must be barerooted and repotted every two years. They go into a mix of 40% sandy soil and 60% organic material consisting of leaf mold, peat moss and old redwood sawdust which has been in his azalea beds for some time.

He summarizes his findings as follows:

1. Reticulatas are fussier than japonicas about drainage and need far less water.
2. They will not tolerate as much fertilizer.

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California Redwood Plant Tubs

There is more fun in gardening — better results, too, when you can control the soil, shade and water conditions. Doubling in duty and decoration.

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Betty's Barbs

By Betty Robinson

I am very disappointed in all of you! Not one person has given me a suggestion about a use for redwood toothpicks. I really thought that there were ingenious people in the Camellia world — where are you all?

Every now and then I think we wives should get together and compare notes. Maybe we could even have a convention and find a name for our group. I am sure that our husbands could be of assistance there. But most of all we really do need to pool information. Think of the interesting solutions we could devise for our problems.

Are you tired of picking-up petals and flowers? Well, you can solve that problem by taking off a few buds whenever you pass the plants. After all, the experts say dis-budding is vital to have show flowers and you really want to help your husband, don't you? And think how big those flowers will be when there is only one bud per plant!

Then there are the wives who are delegated the chore of watering. How

do you explain that you forgot that can in the back? That one is simple too. Everyone is using dry foliage arrangements now and think of the money you have saved by developing your own dried material.

Again — our object is to be help-mates. When they want help fertilizing, if you are very generous with the amount, you can develop a lovely green foliage with contrasting brown tips. And this again can be effective in flower arrangements. This plan has several useful by-products. If the plants live, they grow so much that you can possibly have some branches for use in the house and if they don't live, you won't have to fertilize any more.

However, I must add this caution. If your husband has high blood pressure, use these suggestions at your own risk. Maybe I better not discuss any more of these helpful hints in public or I may be tarred and feathered and dumped at the edge of town.

(Continued on page 18)

SURINA'S CAMELLIA GARDENS

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A DISCUSSION ON SILVER AND ICE CREAM

Wilber Foss
San Marino, California

Strange heading for a camellia article, but if you will give me a minute I would like to share with you some ideas from people who have won silver with *reticulatas* and eaten ice cream from a wooden freezer. If you want a piece of silver it is so easy to go to Hall's and buy it. But isn't a free ice cream cone much more tasty than one that costs a dime? And isn't homemade turned ice cream a real joy compared to store bought half-gallons?

In the same manner of speaking silver won is more valuable than silver bought. I have a wonderful never fail recipe for ice cream but I can't give you a never fail formula for prize *reticulatas*. I can, however, impart to you from camellia lovers, who have won with their *reticulatas*, their methods and thoughts on the subject.

I have visited many gardens of camellia lovers and it is easy to see that it takes thought, planning, drainage, pruning and tender care to be able to be successful in reaching the head table. Many of us will never forget the beautiful 'Noble Pearl', best of show at Temple City, won by Mr. Nishimoto. In his garden in Altadena, Mr. Nishimoto was more than cordial and willing to discuss his methods. I viewed the plant from which his prize bloom came and was amazed to see that it had still on it, in good condition, from 7 to 10 blooms equally as good. I became inquisitive at this point and had to ask how this one plant could produce so many beautiful uniform flowers.

Mr. Nishimoto told me many things about the care of his plants but the one thing that differed the most from the general methods was pruning. He prunes heavily right after the plants flower. He feels that

what he really is doing is disbud-ding before the buds set and thus reserves to the plant the strength that will then go into the buds that are allowed. I ventured back a couple of months later and if you could have seen the coat and hat tree that had produced his winner you would have wondered how a camellia lover would have the heart to prune to the bone.

Another outing took me into Frank Storment's gardens. The distance from Altadena to Pacific Palisades is near 40 miles. The climatic conditions of these two gardens are as unlike as the ancestors of these two fine camellia growers. One of the early shows netted Katherine and Frank three beautiful pieces of silver from their *reticulatas*. We talked about camellias in general, and then got around to *reticulatas* in particular.

The discussion was about as you would expect—water, fertilizer, pruning, varieties, and then exposure. Frank Storment has *reticulatas* in the ground at the corners of his house with a south east exposure and no protection, that are full, large, shiney, green and compact like japonicas. Frank disbuds but his secret is plenty of sun and good drainage. We saw some plants on the side of his hill in the wide open spaces that were as beautiful as you have ever seen, even without his prize winning blooms on them. Frank loves the blooms the three short months but his beautiful bushes are an asset to his garden the other nine months of the year. Watch for great competition in the near future from this garden.

The camellia in my blood took me many miles and through many gardens but my reporting to you is only about those methods or ideas of treat-

ment that differ from the norm and still produce winners.

Al Gunn's garden might be one of these. The same friendly greeting between kindred souls; the same conversation — water, pruning, feeding, varieties, and the soil. This is Al's theme song, SOIL AND SALAD BOWLS. His secret is in the mix, so he says. We talked long on this subject. I'm sure he has something here as he has silver to prove his point but it was from his wife, Bernice, who shares her sala bowl with him that we learned the real secret. With an all engulfing love for camellias, one is able to awaken at 5:30 each morning, silently steal from the house into the sanctuary of the lath. Each and every one of Al's plants at this hour get the "tender treatment". Bernice Gunn isn't quite sure what this consists of at 5:30 A.M., but after Al picks the winner she takes over and gives the bloom "tender care" until it is carefully put on the table to be judged.

Do you have a secret you would like to share in exchange for my prize winning ice cream recipe?

HOW I SELECT *(Continued)*

and the variegation will be attractive and will immediately gain your attention. This flower will be so typical in its form for the variety that a judge should recognize the name of the flower without it requiring an identifying label to be attached. If it should be a flower of 'Mattie O' Reilly,' it will be the loose semi-double flower over the other two forms, because this form is the favorite among the growers and judges alike. The stamens will be golden yellow, will be firm, reflecting the freshness of the bloom. These ideal conditions actually exist for only a brief time, and the trick is to time the maximum development of the flower with the first two or three hours of the show.

If by chance you are fortunate in having such a bloom as described above for the morning of the show, you can inform the head judge that you already have the "best of show". By this announcement you will save the many judges the agony of selecting the flower among the thousands that are competing.

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PART 7 — HORACE CAMPBELL

Ernest (Ernie) Pieri

Did you know that Horace was a motorman in the Los Angeles Street Car System, and that he also was an inspector for the State Department of Agriculture?

Horace was born in England, the son of an English minister. He moved to Canada after the first World War. While there he met and married an American girl who was teaching school in the town where he lived.

He came to Southern California in 1923, lived in Los Angeles until 1939, when he moved to the present location of the Longden Nursery. During his years in Los Angeles he served as a motorman for the Los Angeles Street Car Company until 1927, and then worked as inspector for the State Department of Agriculture inspecting citrus. This activity became tiring to one who wanted to work regularly and not spotty as in the inspection work, so he decided to try a new vocation, that of becoming a gardener. He felt that at least that would give him outdoor work and it would be as regular as he wanted to make it.

It was doing these years of gardening that Horace became interested in camellias. He found out about camellia seeds and was able to secure his first camellia seeds from the Huntington Gardens in 1935. As his gardening activities increased, he was able to work at homes where there were some well established camellia shrubs which had to be pruned. He decided he would like to find out if they could be rooted. He asked several of the then prominent nurserymen, but they seemed to be too busy to give him any information on the subject of rooting camellia cuttings. To find an answer to his question, he decided to plant cuttings all year

round to determine which would be the best time of the year to start camellia cuttings. Sort of a trial and error method. But he did find out that June and July were the best months for putting out camellia cuttings for rooting.

His seeds did very well and he sold his first seedling plants to Les Marshall in 1945 (understock perhaps). He also sold some of his seedlings to the late Mr. Ralph Peer, to be used as understock for grafting.

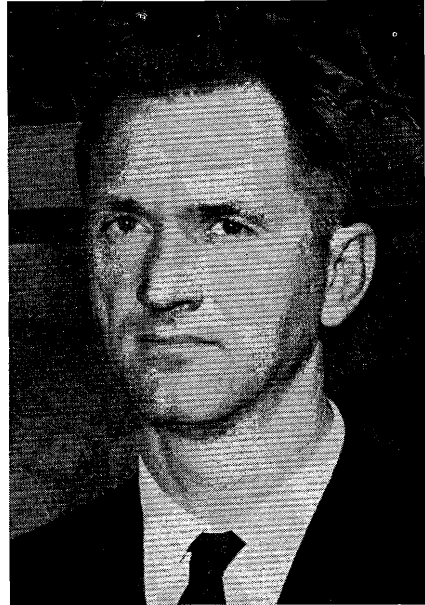
He also purchased camellia plants for his own garden during the years he worked as a gardener. He set out a plan of purchasing one or two camellia plants a month until he felt that he had a pretty good variety of camellia plants so he that could take cuttings from them to make more plants. By 1948 he had acquired enough camellia plants that he had to drop one or two days a week from his gardening activities to take care of his nursery, and finally quit the gardening business for the camellia nursery business. He became more interested in camellias as his nursery business increased, but he also felt that he should add other gardening material to supplement the camellia business.

During the early 1950's, he saw and purchased a plant of the beautiful pink camellia 'C. M. Wilson' from Carter's Nursery in Monterey Park. He felt that this was one camellia that should be brought to the attention of the public. (How well I can remember the Longdon Nursery exhibits at Southern California Camellia Society meetings and shows, featuring many blossoms of the 'C. M. Wilson'.)

Quite by chance he found that 'Captain Rawes' would root, but found

that it had a poor root system and that it would make a better plant if grafted on good understck. He also liked to experiment with breaking or variegating the solid colored camellias. He also thought that he could grow some that would have a great deal of fragrance. He tried grafting camellias to gardenias, but all he got was dead camllia scions and sickly looking gardenias. Some of his experiments of variegating the solid colored camellias by grafting to understock that had a great deal of virus in the plant resulted, not in a change of bloom, but in a change in the foliage of the grafted plant. He now has closed his retail nursery, and with the help of his son Stewart, is growing shrubs for the wholesale trade.

Of course Horace is always willing to sit down and talk camellias to anyone who will sit and listen to him. One of these individuals who sat and listened was a gentleman we know as Louis Strohmeyer. In the early 1940's, Louis would come over to the nursery and watch Horace put out cuttings. He had purchased several grafted plants from the Longdon Nursery, but after watching Horace make cuttings for a while, he expressed a desire for an outside hobby, as his job in Los Angeles kept him inside a great deal of the time. Horace told him anyone could make camellia cuttings and get them to root. He suggested that Louis make himself a cold frame and he would furnish the cuttings and show him how to prepare them for rooting in the cold frame. Louis proved to be a very eager and capable student, because he was able to make a good percentage of his cuttings take root. He was able to root several varieties of cuttings that other nurserymen were having trouble getting to root. Louis went from cuttings to seedlings and grafting. He has produced two very lovely seedlings, 'Alice Lon' and 'Giesha Girl'.



Myron W. Kinnach

Myron W. Kinnach New Huntington Gardens Supt.

Myron W. Kinnach is the new superintendent of buildings and grounds of the Henry E. Huntington Library, Art Gallery and Botanical Gardens. He succeeded Howard Asper in this position on November 1, 1962. Kinnach is a native of Los Angeles but comes to the Huntington Gardens from the University of California at Berkeley where he has been assistant manager of the University's Botanical Garden for the past eleven years. His chief botanical interest is cacti. He is also interested in camellias and has assured those who have talked with him about camellias that he will give the same active interest and attention to the camellia garden that his predecessors have given to it. He is a new member of the Southern California Camellia Society.

WINNING CAMELLIAS IN FLOWER COMPETITION AT SOCIETY MEETINGS

The Southern California and Temple City Societies regularly have competition in blooms at Society meetings and give awards at the end of the camellia season to people who have accumulated the most points. Both Societies have a representative number of blooms at all their meetings and the judging is usually done by accredited judges. Winning blooms are therefore significant as indicative of the better varieties on a "best of show" basis. Following are the winners at the Temple City November 29th and Southern California November 13th and December 11th meetings. Varieties are listed in order from first down.

Temple City Society

- Japonica — large to very large
'Clarise Carleton', 'Marie Bracey',
'Joshua Youtz', 'Imperator
(France)', 'Alba Plena'.
- Japonica — Small and Medium
'Marjorie Magnificent', 'Magnolia-
flora', 'May Ingram Var.', 'Colletti',
'Ballet Dancer'.
- Japonica — Miniature
'Florence Daniell', 'Memento',
'Wilamina'.
- Sasanqua
'Chansonette', 'Jean May',
no third.
- Hybrid
'Donation', no second or third.
- Other Species
'Dawn', 'Hiryu', no third.
- Reticulata
No entries

Southern California Society

NOVEMBER

- Japonica — Large to very large
'Joshua Youtz', 'Kick-Off' 'Adolphe
Audusson Special', 'Mrs. D. W.
Davis', no fifth

- Japonica — Small and Medium
'Daikagura', 'Mrs. Goodwin
Knight', 'My Fair Lady', 'Conrad
Hilton', 'King Cotton'

- Japonica — Miniature
'Dryade', 'Sugar Babe', no third

- Sasanqua
'Little Gem', 'Interlude', 'Mine-No-
Yuki' (White Doves), 'Showa
Supreme', 'Elfin Rose'

DECEMBER

- Japonica — Large and very large
'Coronation', 'Joshua Youtz',
'Flame', 'Reg Ragland',
'Alice Wood'

- Japonica — Small and medium
'Debutante', 'Majorette', 'Morning
Glow', 'Katherine Nuccio',
'Magnoliaflora'

- Japonica — Miniature
'Jingle Bells', 'Tinker Bell',
'Wilamina'

- Sasanqua
'Little Gem', 'Dazzler', 'Interlude'

- Other species
'Dawn', 'Sukiya', 'Hiryu'

- Hybrid
'E. G. Waterhouse', 'Citation'
no third

- Reticulata
No entries

BETTY'S BARBS (Continued)

By the end of camellia season I have usually thought of several things I would like to call this hobby but few of them have been printable. A few weeks ago I received a typed letter from a friend in Northern California whose husband is also a camellia addict. She was in quite a hurry and made a fascinating typographical error. Her sentence read "Are you getting tired of all the talk about Damellias?" Another problem solved!

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY PRESENTS DRINKING FOUNTAIN TO HUNTINGTON GARDENS

On November 7, 1962 representatives of the Southern California Camellia Society formally presented to the Huntington Botanical Gardens a drinking fountain that is located adjacent to the Japanese Tea House. With the fountain are five plants of the new *reticulata* seedling 'William Hertrich'. Mr. Hertrich accepted the gift on behalf of the Gardens. Presentation was made by A. H. Dekker, Chairman of the Society's Garden Committee.

For a number of years the Huntington Gardens have turned over to the Southern California Camellia Society for sale the seeds from the Garden's camellia plants. The Society has

used the net proceeds from these sales for the benefit of the Gardens. In the early years, the money was used largely to buy camellia plants and scions of new varieties. The plantings in the Garden are now such that only plants and scions of outstanding new varieties are purchased, which leaves an amount that is available for other types of purchases. Several years ago, equipment was purchased for making the many name plates that are needed throughout the Garden. A teakwood bench has been built this year and is now on trial use. If this bench proves to be satisfactory, others will be purchased.



From left, A. W. Garner, S. C. C. S. President; A. H. Dekker, Chairman of S. C. C. S. Garden Committee; William Hertrich, Curator Emeritus of Huntington Botanical Gardens.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON JUDGING

William E. Woodroof

After growing camellias as a hobby for about twenty-five years, and participating in the judging of camellia shows, both as a judge and as chairman of judges, for over eighteen years, some observations on judging might be in order.

Selection and Qualification of Judges

I believe that the principal obligation in camellia shows is to the exhibitor who makes the show possible, and thereafter to the public which view the show. To satisfy this obligation the most important thing is to select the best available qualified judges.

In my opinion, some of the most important elements necessary to qualify a judge and upon which the selection of judges should be based are as follows:

1. Extensive, continual and direct experience in the growing and observation of a wide variety of camellias.
2. Knowledge of the characteristics of the varieties of camellias in the area of the show. This is very important, due to the fact that characteristics of flowers of a particular variety vary substantially in different areas.
3. Ability to:
 - (a) Apply experience and knowledge in a practical and equitable manner.
 - (b) Work in harmony with others.
 - (c) Make decisions with dispatch.
 - (d) Negate personal preference to the greatest extent possible — be objective.

Organization of Judging

The following organization and procedure has been developed over

the years and has proved to work successfully:

1. Judges are divided into three-man teams, the number of teams depending on the size of the show. However, experience has disclosed that judging is facilitated by the use of a minimum number of teams.
2. Chairmen of judges and such additional top judges as may be required act as supervising judges to aid teams as to any problems that may arise.
3. Where outside judges are invited, the majority of judges on each team should be those who have knowledge of the characteristics of the varieties in the area of the show.
4. An attempt is made to place on each team persons who are compatible, and to combine slower with faster judges.
5. Judges with special qualifications, such as knowledge of *reticulatas* and various species are assigned to those areas.
6. When a team finishes its assignment it is transferred to help other teams, as all teams do not judge with the same degree of speed and the work cannot always be equally divided, so as to expedite the completion of judging.
7. Judges assigned to specific areas, such as *reticulatas*, miniatures and various species, make all special awards in such areas.
8. Judges assigned to *japonica* classes or divisions make all special awards for *japonicas*, including the best flower in the show.
9. Judges of seedlings are not disclosed, as experience has demonstrated that this is a tender

area, and this practice avoids unnecessary criticism and controversy.

Instructions to Judges

Qualified judges ordinarily require little, if any, instruction, but, generally, it is advisable to instruct on the following:

1. Do not judge any variety with which you are not familiar, and in such case request aid from a supervising judge.
2. Do not award a blue ribbon to a flower, or adjudge a flower the best flower in the show, that is not a normal, well-grown specimen of the particular variety, as this is harmful to the variety and to the nurseryman and unfair to the public.
3. Judge the flower based on its condition, etc., at the time of judging, and not based on your opinion as to what the condition, etc., of the flower may be on the second day of the show.
4. Where weather conditions are adverse around show time, be lenient within the bounds of sound judgment. (This, of course, only applies to outdoor and not glasshouse flowers.)
5. Do not allow condition of a flower to be the predominant factor in judging, as the viewing public is very critical of awards to an inferior flower over a superior or normal, well-grown flower because of some insignificant mark or defect. (This, of course, does not apply to glasshouse grown flowers.)
6. Do not eliminate a flower because it does not exactly conform to the description in *CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE*, as the characteristics of a particular variety may vary substantially in different areas and information as to such variation may not have been available for

inclusion; and do not eliminate a flower because it is not included in *CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE*, as the name and description of the flower may not have been registered or published and information received for inclusion.

It is obvious from the above that to be a qualified camellia judge, a person must have an extensive and broad experience in the growing of camellias. This is, of course, true in any field.

Temple City Camellia Society

The Temple City Camellia Society's second meeting of the season will be held on Thursday evening, December 27, 1962, at 8:00 P.M., in the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

The guest speaker of the evening will be Mr. Julius Nuccio of the Nuccio Camellia Nursery in Altadena. Mr. Nuccio will discuss seedlings, how to plant and propagate them and the rewards and pleasures to be derived from this type of culture. He will also detail the nursery's experience through the years in raising seedlings and will mention a few of the many fine plants that have been introduced and registered by the nursery. Mr. Nuccio is one of America's best known camellia personalities and has done much to place the camellia in the present position among the fine flowers of today.

The Society will host the Pomona Camellia Society at this meeting and will designate the evening as "Pomona Valley Camellia Society night." It also welcomes the membership of all other camellia societies, as well as the general public, to be with it at this meeting.

RETICULATAS IN THE SOUTH

Joe Austin

Four Oaks, North Carolina

Editor's note: I asked Mr. Austin to write this article for the information of readers in California. It is not news to people of the South.

When I accepted to do this article I didn't realize the territory it covers. From North Carolina to Florida is a long ways. I am speaking temperature wise as well as miles. Today parts of Florida are enjoying 80 degrees when we have a cold 36.

Reticulatas in the south are grown under glass. There are a few being grown outside in Florida. I am sure they can be grown around Orlando, Fla. with success. In most of the south you would not get by many years without the plant being killed.

Most of the sets of reticulatas received by a few in the early 50's soon died from too much water, fertilizer, scion giving, and soil not porous enough. For the last five years we have had many greenhouses built and everyone has to have a few plants of reticulata.

Last spring we cut our fifteen foot plants down and moved in smaller plants. Our plants were in the ground but we now have them in pots. Plants growing in the ground grow like weeds and after four years we find the blooms grow smaller.

The soil mix we use is $\frac{1}{4}$ peat, $\frac{1}{4}$ rotted cow manure, $\frac{1}{4}$ course sand,

and $\frac{1}{4}$ woods mould. You will get a good amount of sand in the woods mould so this gives a light porous mix. I know from experience this is the most essential thing in growing fine plants and beautiful blooms.

In the south our grafting season starts in January in Florida and here we like to graft in March. I have found the later we graft reticulatas, the better the "take".

We have just returned from Gulfport, Miss. and the A.C.S. convention. We visited many private gardens and nurseries. The only reticulatas I saw on the trip was at Tammia Nursery, Slidel, La. Anyone coming south should seek out the private greenhouses if you want to really see camellias at their best. You are always welcome.

The varieties liked best down here are the largest: 'Crimson Robe', 'Buddha', 'Noble Pearl' and 'Lion Head'. We are all looking forward to 'William Hertrich' bloom this season and can't wait for some more of the new ones.

1963 S.C.C.S. dues are now due to Secretary-Treasurer:

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HOW TO TELL CAMELLIA SPECIES AND HYBRIDS IN RETROSPECT

Jack Clark
Auckland, New Zealand

Instead of waiting years for seedling hybrids to flower to prove if the cross is successful, try testing the wood for aroma. If successful, the aroma gene will be passed from the species on to the seedling hybrid. There might be exceptions to the rule but up to the present time any exceptions I have come across have been caused by the human element; taking pollen from an open flower or records not kept correctly.

This aroma is found in the following species. It is possible there are other species having aroma that are not available for testing at present.

Sinensis, variety Assamica
Kissi
Drupifera
Oleifera
Pitardii, variety Yunnanica
Cuspidata
Fraterna
Tsaii
Irrawadiensis
Wild reticulata
Granthamiana
Reticulatas and their hybrids

When one of these species has been used as a seed parent or a pollen parent, the aroma gene will be carried on to the hybrid seedling. If the plant is in strong growth, it is advisable to

wait till new growth has hardened, or to test hard wood. Fresh material will have the best aroma. I have found that material left on an open bench or material from England or America has only a faint trace.

For the layman or even the professional, it is a simple operation to scratch the bark and smell for aroma.* More research will be needed on the subject but for some hybridists "it is later than you think." Time is so fleeting.

I have not included saluenensis because there is the true type with no aroma and some so-called saluenensis which are hybrids with aroma. The hybrids mentioned are just a few for anyone to do a trial test.

The International Camellia Society has a more complete list of species with and without aroma. Further research is required and I would appreciate information from hybridists with different groups of hybrids involving different species with the aroma gene.

* This presupposes, of course, that the person making the test has a highly developed olfactory sense. Weather might also be a factor contributing to the intensity of the aroma.—Ed.

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“WATER” IS SUBJECT FOR S. C. C. S. DECEMBER MEETING

“Water” was the subject of discussion at the December 11th meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society, not from the point of view of how and when to apply it to camellias but rather from the standpoint of its content and the effect of this content on camellias. Southern California is not blessed with rainfall or with water from wells. 100 years ago this was not true, and stories of that period tell about the flowing streams and the ease of obtaining water from underground. The influx of population in the 20th century changed this and made it evident that the area must go outside to obtain the water for the expected population increase. The City of Los Angeles took the first step by going to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, some 250 miles to the north, and built an aqueduct to bring the water from that source to Los Angeles. The first water came in 1913. In the 1920's the California State Legislature created the Metropolitan Water District for the Los Angeles area and the people in the District as originally formed voted \$220,000,000 for more water. The District went to the Colorado River, also some 250 miles away, for water to serve an area that now embraces six Southern California counties from San Diego to Ventura. The story of an area going out of its own water shed for its water and what this means to camellia growers was told by Mr. Harold Pearson of the Metropolitan Water District organization.

Camellia growers in Southern California draw water from three sources, Pearson said. He discounted the idea that the pH content of any of the water in the area creates a problem for camellia people, thus challenging a view that has been held with regard to the water brought from the Colorado River. He told the group that the

only problem in this area that has its source in water is that of soil salinity. Water from wells has a low salt content. Only a few areas receive such water and they should have no salinity problem. Likewise, people within the city limits of Los Angeles who use the water brought from the Sierra Nevada should have no great problem, because the salt content of this water runs around 300 parts per million. The water brought from the Colorado River by the Metropolitan Water District, however, has a salt content of 600 to 800 parts per million, enough to require positive action to meet the problem. Pearson stated that the control of salinity is not unique with Colorado River water, but applies wherever salinity exists and in degrees depending on the extent of the salinity.

He reviewed the reasons for the high degree of salinity in the Colorado River water. In order that the water might be of high quality from the consumers' point of view, it goes through a softening and filtration plant before delivery to the distributors. (The Metropolitan Water District is a water wholesaler.) The hardness of the water when it arrives at the plant is due to the presence in solution of calcium bicarbonate, calcium sulfate, and magnesium sulfate. Softening is accomplished by reducing the calcium and magnesium in these three compounds to the point which proves most desirable to the consumers, or about 125 ppm total hardness. Due to the favorable cost of salt (sodium chloride) and the high operating efficiency of the relatively new resinous exchangers, the most economical method of softening Colorado River water is by cation exchange. In this process the hardness-forming calcium and magnesium are removed from the water and re-

placed by non-hardness-forming sodium from the exchange materials. When, after removing a certain amount of hardness the exchangers become exhausted, they are regenerated by the slow passage of a salt solution through the material, after which the excess salt is rinsed out with filtered water and discharged through a long pipe to the ocean. Chlorination assures delivery of a bacteriologically safe water to the customers.

Special treatment of plants is needed where the softened water is used to irrigate camellias, azaleas, begonias and other plants requiring a well-leached acid soil. (1) The soil must be provided with good drainage characteristics. (2) It should be leached occasionally with an excess of irrigation water to remove any accumulated salines from the root zone. (3) The plant nutrients lost by leaching should be replaced through the use of fertilizers and soil amendments.

Pearson used an interesting demonstration to illustrate the importance of proper soil mixture and good drainage characteristics. He had two jars, one with loam soil and the other having soil underlain with a coarse gravel. Outlets were provided at the bottom of the jars for the run-off of water. The purpose of the demonstration was to show that the water drained better in the container with pure loam. In the demonstration, the

water was running out of the jar with pure loam before it reached the level of the gravel in the second jar. He pointed out that the soil in the bottom attracts the water, whereas there is nothing in the gravel to attract it. When there is gravel in the bottom, the soil will have to become wetter than in the other case for the water to go through to the bottom. The conclusion, of course: in container growing, use the regular soil mix from top to bottom. And when planting in the ground, don't fill the bottom of the hole with sand or gravel.

The purpose of leaching (point 2) is to prevent saline accumulation at the root zone. Just watering the plant is not enough. To leach, Pearson suggested that the plant should be given a normal watering, then another watering after the soil has become saturated to move the salts out of the roots. He emphasized several times that loose soil is necessary for leaching so that the water can force out the salts.

Pearson stated that leaching could be done periodically in a single leaching operation, or some could be done with every watering. Frequency depends, of course, on the amount of salts in the water. As concentration goes up, there is need for more frequent leachings. He suggested that a good leaching every 6 to 8 weeks

(Continued on page 28)

MARSHALL'S CAMELLIA NURSERY

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SUCCULENTS FOR CAMELLIA GROWERS

Harold E. Dryden

One day last camellia season we had dinner guests, which as usual called for flower arrangements on the dinner table and in the living room. I spotted a particular one with camellias — three blooms of 'Princess Irene' with stems of course, and with succulents as complementary materials. I liked it. Now a grower of camellias doesn't ordinarily think of growing succulents. Many of us are fortunate, however, that we have wives who are interested in using the camellias attractively in the home and therefore see to it that other plants are grown in the garden that make this possible. (We do float camellias some but mostly they will be seen with other materials.) It occurred to me that a story on succulents in CAMELLIA REVIEW might be interesting as well as an incentive to some people to plant them in their gardens. I made a note of it for later use.

First, what are succulents? They do not belong to any one family of plants; in fact, there are one or more succulent species in nearly thirty plants families. Cacti are probably the best-known family of succulents, but not all succulents are cacti. They get their name from the Latin *succulentus*, which means juicy or fleshy,

because they are all drought-resistant plants especially adapted to taking up and storing great quantities of water in their thick leaves, stems, or branches. They have been called "camels of the plant world". Book titles classify them into two groups. Claude Chidamian, for example, titled his book "The Book of Cacti and Other Succulents". Since we are not interested, in this instance, in cacti, we shall discuss the subject from the point of view of the "other succulents" as they are defined by the writers.

Their first good point is that they last a long time in the house — three or four weeks at least. With the same foundation of succulents, or maybe a few minor changes, fresh camellia blooms can be used to replace the old blooms as they fade. Camellias can be used with long stems or with short ones, red, pink, white or variegated in color, to give the effect of variety of arrangement without the time and effort required to build a new one. Use of some camellia foliage with the succulents enhances the opportunity for variation in the form of the arrangement.

Second, they are easy to grow, at least in our part of the country. They are not particular about their soil.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mrs. Ralph S. Peer wishes to announce that Mr. John Sobeck is no longer connected with the Park Hill Camellia Gardens since August 1962. In his place, we now have Mr. Basil Neptune. All exchanges of scions, information and experimental work is to be continued between all camellia enthusiasts wherever they may live.

If you have had any past direct correspondence with Mr. Sobeck concerning camellias for Park Hill, we would very much appreciate a copy for our files.

They do not need much attention, including watering. They do not require much space, unless one wishes to make them a primary part of a landscaping plan and I am not writing about succulents from that point of view. A little corner can be used or they can be planted here and there as a space shows up. I am not suggesting hit or miss plantings in a garden. Succulents go well with many other plantings, however, and a person can plant them "here and there" without destroying the orderly appearance of his garden. As for growing them, "Oh, just stick them in the ground" is the usual answer to the question how to plant them.

Third, they are easy to obtain, as easy as camellia scions. There is the advantage over scions that they can be planted anytime. They can be bought at nurseries, just as camellias can be bought at nurseries. We have a few, very few, that came from

nurseries. The usual way to obtain them is to show just a mite of interest in them to one who grows them, and the lid is off. It seems that people who grow succulents are just as anxious to give away succulent slips as are real camellia hobbyists to give away camellia scions. We called on Rose and Merle Gish a while back. They are using succulents as a primary part of their landscaping. You know what? We came back with a carton full of little succulent slips to "stick in the ground". One time in our home, after a party, every woman took away some succulent slips.

While succulents have been discussed thus far from the point of view of use as cut material, they should not be overlooked also as house plants. No other group of plants is so well adapted to the heat, drought and neglect that plants are likely to find indoors. And no other offers such

(Continued on next page)



A little corner of the garden can be used for succulents.

interesting forms and colors, habits and blooms with so little effort and expense. There is no need for special equipment or space—even a crowded window sill can hold a splendid collection. The only real need of succulents indoors is a place in the sun, such as before windows where they are assured of getting most of the available sunlight throughout most of the day.

The purpose of this article is not to give a learned dissertation on families and tribes (that's what they are called) of succulents or on how to grow them. Your library will have books that tell better than I can. Claude Chidamian's book above referred to is a good one. It is complete and well written. It's also interesting, particularly to one who once thought that succulents and hens-and-chickens were synonymous. But a book on the subject really isn't necessary if all one wants is to grow some succulents for use with camellias in the house. Just whisper your desire to someone who has them, then "stick in the ground" the slips that are sure to follow. Mother nature will do the rest if you give them only the little attention they want.



New Data For 1964 Nomenclature Book

Bill Woodroof, editor of the S. C. C. S. Nomenclature Book, has announced that the 1964 edition will contain for all varieties to the extent possible the source of every variety and the date of introduction. He requests that people who have this information for a variety or varieties send such information to him. He wants the year of introduction, the city and state where it was introduced and the person who introduced it. Mr. Woodroof's address is William Woodroof, 555 S. Flower St., Los Angeles 17, Calif.

WATER (Continued)

would be satisfactory for the Colorado River water.

He said that there is less need for leaching when plants are in the ground because there is less chance that there will be salt accumulation in the roots. The roots are distributed over a wider area and the soil gets better utilization of the water.

With regard to fertilizing to replace nutrients that are lost in the leaching process (point 3), he suggested the use of organic fertilizers that are not highly soluble, such as cotton seed meal and fish meal. He asked if in view of the need to retain the fertilizer in the soil for a period of time, it would be better to put the fertilizer in one spot rather than spread it. He replied that the fertilizer should be spread, because concentration in one spot would probably burn the roots, and the closeness of the roots to the surface makes it desirable for the entire root system to receive the fertilizer.

Pearson stated that water companies know the salinity content of the water they distribute. If a person wants to know the kind of water he is giving to his camellias, he should be able to find out by calling the water company.



HUNTINGTON GARDENS (Continued)

Visitors from other states who grow camellias never fail to visit the Huntington Gardens, and acclaim it as a must for their visit to Southern California. Recently, a couple from New Zealand stopped one day in Los Angeles on a flight from Auckland to London, their only stop; to visit the Huntington and Descanso gardens. California residents should not miss this wonderful display of camellias.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY HEARS METCALF TALK ON MINIATURES

The speaker at the December meeting of the Pacific Camellia Society was Edwards H. Metcalf who talked on the subject "Why Miniatures." He opened his talk by asking "why compact automobiles?" Miniatures do for camellias, he said, what the compacts do for automobiles; they round out the whole group.

Metcalf brought his first miniature with him when in 1937 he moved from the San Francisco Bay area to Southern California. A year or two later he bought 'Fleurette' from McCaskill Nurseries. At that time, Vern McCaskill and Bill Wylam were the only people in Southern California who were becoming interested in miniatures and were saving their seedlings that produced miniature flowers. Others were cutting them off for understock. If other camellia propagators at that time had saved their miniature seedlings, we probably would have hundreds of miniatures now instead of being relatively at the beginning of a miniature era.

The miniature flower is ideal for flower arrangements in small containers. Use the larger flowers, he said, in the larger containers and the miniatures in the small containers. Billie McCaskill had made two arrangements which Metcalf discussed to illustrate the point. In corsages, also, the miniature is useful. Metcalf used two corsages made by Elsie Dryden to illustrate this point, one made with a single large flower and the other with three small ones. The miniature is also desirable for men's lapels and for children. Big flowers do not look right on children, he said. In this connection, Metcalf said he had received a letter asking him for some scions of miniatures for the letter writer's children.

Miniatures should be used for

basket growing and for container culture for decorative purposes. In such cases, container, leaf and flower are proportionate in size.

To meet such uses, miniatures must have lasting qualities, and should not be judged solely on the basis of blue ribbon potential. Also, we should not confine our thinking to japonicas. In fact, some of our miniatures that we call japonicas are now suspect. He said that some people are questioning whether 'Tinsie' is a japonica. The rapid development of hybrids will also affect this situation. As he discussed the subject, he said that he was talking about miniatures as a size of flower, and in the uses he had suggested all species would fit provided they were of "miniature" size.

He cautioned regarding classification of miniatures, saying that we cannot judge the permanency of size on the basis of blooms in the early years of a seedling. The blooms may get larger as the plant grows in size. He thinks we should grow them for several years — 5, 6, or 7 years — before classifying them. They should be grafted on other stock as a part of the test. 'Hishi-Karaito', for example, was once classed as a miniature but is now classified as small.

In the ensuing discussion, John Robinson stated that he gives miniatures the same cultural treatment that he gives all his plants. He does not disbud because, he said, excess buds will fall off by themselves if given time. After all, the purpose of miniatures is small flowers, and disbudding is done for large size.

Flinn Dickson, Chairman of the Southern California Camellia Society Awards Committee, reminded the audience of the William E. Wylam perpetual trophy for new miniature

(Continued on next page)

PACIFIC (Continued)

camellias.* He urged all to save their good miniature seedlings and to be mindful of this trophy when they get a good new flower.

President Raymond Noyes reviewed the Pacific Society's plan of competition for the best new seedling (all species) of the year. Competition is limited to members of the Pacific Society. Blooms in competition will be brought to Pacific Society meetings and a suitable award will be made at the end of the season for the bloom that is adjudged best by the judges.

A message to Southern California Camellia Society members who do not live in Southern California! When you come to Southern California and want to see our camellias, please let the Secretary know so that he can arrange for someone to show you around. Southern California people are proud of their camellias and want visitors to see them under the best conditions. Don't be bashful about it.

Friends are like flowers. I have found
them so;
The hardy staunch perennials that
grow
Year after year are like some friends
I know.
One need not cultivate them with
great care,
They only need the sun and wind
and air
Of trust and love, and they are
always there.

—Grace Noll Crowell

*See November 1962 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW, page 3.

New Books About Camellias

Two new books have been published recently about growing camellias, one by a Southern California man, the other by two women who live on the other side of the United States. They are:

"The Camellia Book" by John Threlkeld, former Superintendent of Descanso Gardens. It covers all phases of camellia culture and propagating, and has been written for use as a day by day handbook for people who grow camellias. It is published by D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. and sells for \$7.75.

"You Can Grow Camellias," announcement of which is just out, is written by Mary Noble and Blanche Graham and is published by Harper and Row, New York. According to the publisher's announcement, "here is everything you need to know about growing camellias successfully indoors and out, based on the experience of experts."

Not to be overlooked or forgotten is "Camellia Culture," published by the Southern California Camellia Society and edited by S. C. C. S. member Carl Tourje. This book is a basic book about camellias and their culture, with chapters written by 55 experts over the country on subjects which they know thoroughly. The information contained in this book is basic to the helpful day-to-day information which is given in the two books recently published. The price of this book is \$11.50. It can be obtained from the Secretary of S.C.C.S.

**GO NOW AND WRITE A
CHECK FOR S.C.C.S. DUES**

WHEN? WHY? HOW?

(Continued)

of the South Auckland Education Board. He is reported to grow from six to seven thousand camellias in his 2-acre garden. His great interest in reticulatas, of which he grows a considerable number, led him into checking their origin. His information is that these flowers that we now know as 'Professor Tsai', 'Tali Queen', 'Pagoda', 'Purple Gown', 'Crimson Robe', etc. have been traced back in a direct line to 9th century plants raised in South-west China. Another significant aspect of their history is that the Chinese growers always, through the hundreds of years, reproduced them by grafting only.

GROWING RETICS (Continued)

3. They need more organic material in the mix.

4. They must have plenty of sunlight.

Following the advice of the local nurserymen and profiting from their experience our most successful hobbyists have planted their reticulatas in the ground where they get plenty of sun.

New Camellia Registrations

BOB MEALING (62-43). A chance seedling first bloomed in 1959 when 10 years old. Originated by Dr. H. G. Mealing of Look Away Gardens, North Augusta, S. C. Flower is a semi-double, $3\frac{1}{2}$ " to 4" in diameter. Color is 623/2 on opening but fading with age to 623/1. Blooms midseason to late on a vigorous upright plant. Flower is featured by a large cluster of bright yellow stamens.

TIFFANY (62-44). (Pat. 2159) This chance japonica seedling originated by Dr. John H. Urabec of La Canada, Calif., bloomed first in 1956. It is proposed to introduce it in 1964 through Tomlinson Nurseries of Whittier, Calif. Form is loose peony to anemone. Flower size is about $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Color is light orchid pink running to deeper color towards outer edge. Blooms mid-season on an upright vigorous plant of medium growth.

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- Camellia Society of Kern County.....Bakersfield
 President: Lawrence Ellis; Secretary: Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, 1902 Niles St.,
 Bakersfield.
 Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of the month, October through April, in Police
 Building, 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield.
- Camellia Society of Orange County.....Santa Ana
 President: Howard Foust; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1121 Orange, Santa Ana.
 Meetings held fourth Tuesday of month, October through April, in Orange County
 Farm Bureau Building, 1916 W. Chapman, Orange.
- Central California Camellia Society.....Fresno
 President: Edwin H. Hiber; Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Simonsen, 3251 E. Bellaire,
 Fresno 3.
 Meetings held at Heaton School, Del Mar Ave., Fresno, on the following dates:
 November 14th, December 19th, January 23rd, February 27th, March 27th.
- Huntington Camellia Garden.....San Marino
 Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Road, San Marino.
- Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....Pomona
 President: Bancroft Benner; Secretary: Mrs. Soby Yamamoto, 1081 Weber St.,
 Pomona.
 Meetings held 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April, in the
 Ganesha Community Building in Ganesha Park, Pomona.
- San Diego Camellia Society.....San Diego
 President: Mrs. Althea T. Hebert; Secretary: Mrs. J. O. Henry, P.O. Box 522,
 Chula Vista.
 Meetings held 2nd Friday of the month, November through May, in Floral Associ-
 ation Building, Balboa Park, San Diego.
- Temple City Camellia Society.....Temple City
 President: Laurence R. Shuey; Secretary: Mrs. Peter Folino, 708 W. Pepper Dr.,
 Arcadia.
 Meetings held November 29th and thereafter December thru March on 4th Thurs-
 day in Lecture Hall of L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

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