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THE COVER FLOWER

NON-RETICULATA HYBRID — 'WILBUR FOSS'

This is the story of the Cover Flower 'Wilbur Foss'. In 1970, when Wilbur Foss was President of the Southern California Camellia Society, he and Mrs. Foss made a trip to Australia and New Zealand during the middle of August and early September, which is their camellia season. The New Zealand Camellia Convention of that year was held in New Plymouth and Mr. Foss was a speaker at the dinner meeting.

The following day, at the invitation of Les Jury, Mr. and Mrs. Foss and the Ben Raynors were luncheon guests at the Jury home in central New Plymouth. During the tour of their most beautiful garden there was a magnificent camellia bush in full bloom. It was about eight feet tall and five feet across with seven inch blooms up and down all the stems. The flowers were so thick they over-shadowed the foliage. The bush could be seen from anywhere in the garden. Needless to say, Mr. Foss wanted to know the name of the camellia which was unfamiliar to him. Les Jury indicated that this was a non-reticulata hybrid cross of *Saluenensis* x the Japonica 'Beau Harp' and that it had not, as yet, been named. Ben Raynor suggested that it really should be named and placed on the market.

The two men conferred and then said that, at the moment, it was to be called 'Wilbur Foss' and that it would be registered and marketed as such! Les Jury carried out his intention and when the Fosses returned home from their trip, Nuccio's Nurseries already had fresh scions and had them grafted. The flower is a brilliant pinkish red, large, full peony form and the plant has a vigorous, up-right growth.