

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



C. JAPONICA 'TWILIGHT' photo by Yvonne Cave

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March - April

No. 4

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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 to the Secretary. Annual dues, \$10.00

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THE COVER FLOWER

C JAPONICA 'TWILIGHT' Courtesy New Zealand Camellia Society

"Twilight" is a C japonica seedling which was discovered among the three year old seedlings at Nuccio's Nurseries in 1960. The plant was subsequently proagated and released in 1964. The bloom is a light blush pink, medium to large, formal double. The shrub has a vigorous, compact, upright growth, with dark green foliage. 'Twilight' blooms in mid-season. One may well ask—why print a 14 year old cultivar on the cover of CAMELLIA REVIEW? The reason is that 'Twilight' is a vastly under-rated camellia here in the United States. It is a very popular cultivar overseas and it deserves more attention here at home! Take a good look at this photo, by Yvonne Cave, courtesy of the New Zealand Camellia Society, and see if you don't agree that you need this plant in your collection.

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THOUGHTS

from the editor

The November 1961 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW contained an article on the Southern California Camellia Council and its various activities. Part of the write-up was devoted to the activities of its Flower Pavilion Committee. Caryll W. Pitkin, Council President for the year 1961-1962 had appointed a committee to pursue the promotion of a flower pavilion to be built at Descanso Gardens. The committee, under the chairmanship of Frank Storment, assisted by Dr. Cecil Eshelman, Judge Bayard Rhone, R. W. Ragland, and Harold Dryden had met with representatives of the Descanso Guild and the Los Angeles County Engineers office and had approved an artists concept of a building for this purpose. In fact, there was a full page picture of the proposed building in that issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW. The construction of this building was the cherished dream of almost all camellia hobbists in Southern California.

However, 15 years were to roll by with much backing and hauling in the attempts to reach that goal. One year ago we were still "on square no. 1" in this endeavor. Then things began to change. In November, 1976 a permanent site was finally chosen for the building. In January, 1977 the Los Angeles County Facilities Department completed an Architectural Program (Preliminary Plan) for the improvements. The plan calls for a 7,000 square foot building, which, with Patio and Service areas will cost \$675,000. The revamping of the parking lots and landscaping will cost an added \$190,000. The improvements are to be financed by private donations.

Beginning in February, 1977, six meetings have been held by the Descanso Building Committee consisting of representatives from the Camellia Council, the Descanso Gardens Guild and the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta. Seven architectural firms were interviewed and finally, the firm of Barry Berkus and Associates, Santa Barbara was engaged to draw up the plans. A contract has been executed to prepare the schematic drawings and to construct a model of the building. The initial payment of \$5,000 has been made. A set of drawings and the model became available on December 1, 1977.

We can actually say that "WE ARE FINALLY ON OUR WAY!" We should also borrow a phrase from the Congressional Record and declare that "NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN TO COME TO THE AID OF THEIR CAMELLIA HOBBY!" Yes, now is the time for all of us to make a contribution to this very worth-while undertaking. The Descanso Gardens Guild has already started its drive. The Camellia Council has announced its plans for a major drive. Contributions are being solicited as follows: CONTRIBUTOR, \$25; BENEFACTOR, \$100; PATRON, \$500; FOUNDER, \$1000. You can buy some bricks; a window; a door; or a room. The main objective is for everyone to contribute his or her part toward this goal. Checks, which are tax deductible, should be made payable to the Southern California Camellia Council or the Descanso Gardens Guild.

BILL DONNAN

RALPH PEER—A MOST UNUSUAL MAN

By HAROLD E. DRYDEN

Ralph Peer was a most unusual man. He gave the casual appearance of an easy going person, not too strong in his views and not the type of person to push strongly in support of his opinions. Actually, he was aggressive and strongly supportive of programs and views in which he had strong interest. Along with this strength, he supported people who had the final responsibility and whose views differed from his.

I first knew him in 1953 when I became President of the Southern California Camellia Society. He was on the Board of Directors when I became active, with the title Second Vice President. I learned that he had declined election as a functioning officer of the Society. He was a tower of strength to the Board and to me during the two years of my Presidency.

He was the owner and active operating head of a music publishing company that operated world-wide. The story is told that his first achievement in this field followed his acquisition of a number of Mexican songs and their ensuing popularity. I always think of him when I hear the song "Granada" and understand why the vivid red, large semi-double japonica that was originated at his home "Park Hill" was given this name.

He and his wife Monique lived in a hillside estate with a Hollywood Boulevard address in Hollywood, right at the end of the Hollywood Boulevard that we know where it intersects the Laurel Canyon road. He bought this estate instead of an ample sized piece of ground for a house because he wanted a large garden. He had had poor health and his doctor advised him to become interested in an outside activity. So he adopted camellias as his outside interest. He was in no sense a gardener as we vis-

ualize in many avid camellia hobbyists, which Ralph was. I doubt that he ever did much if any work in the garden. He had competent people to oversee the garden and provided adequate facilities to carry out his desires. He was a camellia collector in the truest sense, and his journeys over the United States and in foreign countries gave him ample opportunities to pursue his collector instincts.

Ralph believed that the yellow camellia exists some place in Asia and pursued the leads that came his way. I remember his vivid description of one of his efforts in this direction. He had arranged for air transportation into the interior of Indochina and he and Monique had gone to the Saigon airport for departure. While waiting at the airport, they witnessed the unloading of soldiers who had been wounded in the fighting then going on in Indochina, in the area for which they were headed. That was enough, and he and Monique flew to Formosa instead. I grew for several years one of the varieties that he obtained on this Formosa visit. He could not resist a camellia that was new to him, particularly if it came from a foreign country and had a bit of history.

These foreign trips and his broad interest in camellias, and his desire to share his knowledge with others, caused him to be a heavy contributor to CAMELLIA REVIEW. The subjects were varied, depending on what he learned in his travels and his readings. He carried a dictating machine on his trips and I received letters with date lines all over the world during my S.C.C.S. presidency. No subject was too trite, and when a subject came to mind he reached for the dictating machine and sent the tape to his Hollywood office for transcribing. Everybody knew that a letter addressed to this office would reach him

by fastest mail regardless of where he might be.

He was co-responsible with Manchester Boddy and Dr. Walter Lamerts for the introduction of the *Kunming reticulata* into the United States, both proceeding independently and without the other's knowledge. They collaborated in the end by pooling the varieties that survived the shipments, and all were released as a group by Descanso. He wanted people to share in this new beauty, so much so that he gave a complete set to New Zealand (and possibly to others although I have no direct knowledge of such acts).

He held only three official jobs in camellias. He was President of American Camellia Society for two years in 1957-1959. Locally, he was the prime mover in 1956 in the organization of the Southern California (originally Los Angeles) Camellia Coun-

cil and was President of the Council in its first year. His influence was important in obtaining the use of Descanso Gardens for camellia shows and the support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for the first show. He was the first President of the Los Angeles Camellia Society.

He was a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society of London, which Society awarded him the Veitch Gold Medal "For services to the camellia plant." The New Zealand Camellia Society honored him for his work in camellias and particularly for his encouragement in the formation of that Society.

He died in January 1960. As Bill Woodroof wrote for *CAMELLIA REVIEW*, "no person has done or will ever do as much for camellias and their devoted followers as Ralph. He will be forever missed and never forgotten."

MAGICAL HOBBY—GROWING CAMELLIAS

BY FRANCES C. COX

Ed. Note: This article is a reprint from the magazine Modern Maturity, Vol. 17, No. 2, April-May 1974.

Camellia plants were exchanged by Buddhist monks in China and Japan as early as A.D. 552, a fact that seems to qualify these lovely flowers for the title, "Senior Citizens of the Garden." From then until the present, the camellia story is one in which the final chapters have still to be written.

Natives of Eastern Asia, camellias grow as common woodland shrubs in the coastal regions from India to Korea and Japan, where rains are heavy and humidity high. Most grow as large shrubs, but some species become trees more than 30 feet tall!

The fact that the camellia belongs to the same family as the common tea plant accounts for its migration to Europe. When European traders first attempted to import tea plants, the Chinese tried to preserve their mon-

opoly on the tea trade by deliberately substituting ordinary camellias. The first two varieties to arrive in English greenhouses in 1792 were *Alba Plena* and *Variegata*, still popular today. Before long, these and newly developed varieties spread to France, Belgium and Italy where they remained popular throughout the 19th century.

Originally known by the Japanese as "Tsubaki," camellias were renamed by the Swedish botanist Linneaus in honor of George Joseph Kamel, a Moravian Jesuit missionary in the Philippines during the latter part of the 17th century. The great popularity of Alexandre Dumas's play, "Camille," was responsible for the shift in pronunciation from the original "ca-mell-ia" to the current "ca-meel-ya."

Arriving in the United States around 1800, camellias immediately

became popular greenhouse plants in New York and Boston. They soon made their way south, growing outdoors in great numbers in the plantations around Charleston, S.C., Savannah, Ga., and Mobile, Ala., by 1835. Heading west with the Gold Rush, by way of Panama and San Francisco, they were first sold in a Sacramento, Calif., seed store in 1852. As their life may span more than 150 years, some of those original plants are still growing there.

Today camellias grow outdoors in many countries—Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Australia and parts of South America. In the United States, the camellia belt extends the full length of the Pacific Coast from British Columbia to Mexico, and along our southeastern coasts from Virginia to Texas. This area expands each year as hardier species and better growing methods are developed.

Versatile plants, camellias can be used for foundation plantings, hedges, borders, espaliers and even for hanging baskets. In addition to the original single flower form, today there are five more—a semidouble, an anemiform, a peoniform, an incomplete or rose form and a formal double.

Of the 80 species known, only four are of interest to most of us. *Camellia sinensis* is the common tea plant from which we brew our cups of tea. Lacking the familiar large flowers, it produces tiny white blossoms each fall and is grown in this country for landscaping purposes only. *Camellia japonica* is by far the most familiar species. Descended from a large shrub of Korea which grew as a single red blossom each winter, it now comes in 1,000 varieties that bloom from September to May when almost everything else is dormant. *Camellia reticulata* produces spectacular blooms up to 9 inches wide, is more sensitive to cold, not as rugged as japonica, but

still has found a place in the gardens and hearts of collectors. *Camellia sasanqua*, with its open branching growth, smaller foliage and flowers, has emerged from its original form to become a rugged plant in a variety of forms now enjoying increasing popularity.

The American Camellia Society (Box 212, Fort Valley, Ga. 31030) was formed in 1945 and boasts 6,200 members. It is open to anyone interested in camellias and their culture. One hundred affiliated local societies are scattered throughout the nation, most of whom sponsor annual camellia shows open to the public. These shows are the gathering places for camelliaphiles who come to exchange information, to exhibit their best blossoms and to compete for prizes. Many of these people are retirees devoting their time to a fascinating hobby. In addition to raising camellias, some of them are developing new hybrids and varieties by crossbreeding plants.

One such person is Houghton S. Hall of San Anselmo, Calif. When Mr. and Mrs. Hall bought a home in 1952 there were two camellias growing in the garden. From this introduction, his interest grew with the plants. He acquired more and more camellias for their wooded hillside property, until he retired in 1970 to devote full time to the care of more than 200 plants.

Last year, the Halls bought a new home on an acre of land, much of it shaded by three very old acacia trees, where today he grows 125 named varieties and more than 250 unnamed seedlings.

The current popularity of camellias is only another chapter in their long and illustrious life. With at least 5,000 varieties in existence today, the possibilities for crossbreeding are unlimited. We can now look forward to many sensational new camellias in the years—and centuries—ahead.

SOME NOTES ON WHY MUTATIONS OCCUR

By ELMER MUELLER

When we consider the diversity of variety in our major camellia species it becomes evident that there has been a considerable amount of inter-crossing with other species over a long period of time. Even before hybridists began to put their hand to pollination, nature was mixing up the species in the wild and in ornamental gardens where various species were planted together.

There is a hypothesis relating to the origin of new species: During the process of meiosis (sex cell division) while the genetic chains break up into short linkages and later reassemble, a section becomes reversed altering the sequence of genes in a chromosome. The altered gamete unites with a normal gamete to form a seed spore carrying an incompatible pair of chromosomes. The resulting seedling will be prone to sport. During the process of mitosis (growth cell division) such chromosomes do not pair normally and move to the daughter cells independently. Should two identical chromosomes move to the same daughter cell, compatibility will be restored and such a cell will hence divide and redivide normally. If this happens in a growth tip or axillary bud a sport variety will arise. The variety carrying the altered chromosome pair will be disinclined to cross pollenate with the original variety and will tend to become isolated and develop into a new species.

When interspecific crosses occur, not only does it bring together diverse genetic characteristics but the genetic fit will often be imprecise in one or several chromosome pairs. The position of the gene in the genetic chain is heritable so any transposition will be of lasting consequence, generation after generation. Viability of seeds and seedlings is diminished resulting in fewer healthy seedlings. Timing of genetic functions is dis-

rupted causing overlapping of growth processes and aberrations occur which eventually become normal traits of the species. Plant breeders have been able to develop varieties bearing complex flowers starting with species bearing only single type flowers; the number of petals is increased and the stamens and pistil are transformed into petaloids. Pairs of chromosomes will be incompatible and the variety will be unstable and prone to sport. Certain mutations will occur repeatedly. Thus similar sports will be propagated under different varietal names adding to the confusion in marketing and classification. My own limited observations and experiences lend support to these hypotheses.

The fruits of the Valencia orange will sometimes have yellow or darker orange stripes from the stem to the style end. Occasionally a sport branch will appear having a dwarf bushy character and bearing sweet yellow fruit. A recent warning against selecting bud wood from strains inclined to excessive striping (lest too much fruit be relegated to the cull bin) reminded me of a find I made some years ago. There was a sucker limb which forked, each branch of the fork sporting a different variety of fruit, one small and yellow, sweet to the taste, the other darker orange and more sour to the taste. The growth of the yellow sport was somewhat dwarf while the other was more vigorous. Both were more seedy. This rare occurrence was a clear example of a chromosome segregation in which both daughter cells produced a sport variety. Some ornamental varieties of citrus fruits stripe quite freely.

Like the striping of orange fruits, the striping of camellia and other ornamental flowers is the result of mutation, each stripe arising from a mutant cell. The pattern of variegation is governed by the position and

the frequency with which these mutations take place. Should the mutation take place in a growth bud a sport will occur which can be propagated by grafts or cuttings. The camellia variety "Elizabeth" has very few stripes and occasionally the whole petal or even a large part of the flower will be colored and varietal sports appear relatively often. On the other hand the variety "Extravaganza" is uniformly striped.

Tables No. 1 and No. 2 list several clones in which sports arise from

variegated varieties. Table No. 1 column "A" lists varieties basically white or very pale pink striped or otherwise variegated to both dark color and to light pink. Column "B" lists those sports solidly colored the same as the dark variegation. Column "C" lists those sports the same color as the light variegation. This color appears to be a chimerical mixture of pink and white petal cells, white prevailing at the outer edge. These light colored sports are disposed to sport further to pink and to

Table No. 1

Sports originating from varieties variegated dark color and light pink on white petals

"A" Variegated Variety Original Seedling	"B" Dark Solid Color Sports	"C" Light Pink Edged White Sports	"D" Light Pink Edged White, Dark Variegation	"E" White Sports	"F" Other Colored Sports
Tricolor California	dark pink to red	Lois Hill	dark pink markings		Annie Laurie
Lady Vansittart	Lady Vansittart Red	Lady Vansittart	Blus/Yours Truly		
Mamie	sports pink	sports light pink			
Elisabeth	sports pink	Elisabeth Pink			Milady
Mrs. Baldwin Wood	Thelma Dale	Mrs. Baldwin Wood Supreme			Charlotte Bradford
Alyne Brothers	Ladell Brothers	Linda Brothers Alyne Brothers Pk Sp			
Carnival Queen	Carnival Prince	Carnival Princess			
Richard Nixon	Richard Nixon Pink	Pat Nixon		Julie	Tricia
Melody Lane	Melody Lane Special				
Extravaganza	Extravaganza Pink				
Carters Carnival	Quaker Lady				
Tinker Bell	Jingle Bells				
Rebel Yell	Rebel Yell Pink Rebel Yell Red	Rebel Yell Blush		Rebel Yell White	Rebel Yell Bl. Var. Rebel Yell Pk. Var. Rebel Yell Red Var.
Betty Sheffield	Betty Sheffield Betty Sheffield Dawn Betty Sheffield Pink Lucky Seven	CoralBetty Sheffield	SilveBetty Sheffield Betty Sheffield Lavender Blush Betty Shef. Pk. Hrt.	BlushBetty Sheffield	WhiteBlond Betty Betty Shef. Pk. Chif. Betty Sheffield Sup.
Aspasia MacArthur	Camden Pink Otahuhu Beauty	Jean Clere Lady Loch	Glamour Girl Strawberry Blond		Can Can Margaret Davis
Tricolor Seibold	Fred Sander	Blush Tricolor Jewel Bowden	Dainty		Chalk Pink Cindereila
Finlandia (White)	Finlandia Red	Fin'and'a Blush Monte Carlo			Sunset Oaks King Lear
Linlandia Variegated	Herme Pink	Jordan's Pride	Herme Quaintance	Herme White	Colonial Lady Orchid Pink Spring Sonnet

Table No. 2

Sports originating from varieties variegated dark color on pink petals

"A" Variegated Variety Original Seedling	"B" Dark Solid Color Sports	"C" Light Pink Edged White Sports	"D" Light Pink Edged White Dark Variegation	"E" White Sports	"F" Other Colored Sports
Carter's Sunburst	Carter's Sunb. Pink		Chow's Han-Ling	White sport	Carter's Sunburst Pink Variegated
Baronnede Bleichroeder (U.S.)	Bleichroeder Pink Sweetheart			Otome White	Mother of Pearl
Bella Romana	Bella Romana Red				La Bella
Anita	Rio Rita			White Anita	Anita's Blush
Kick Off	Touchdown				Cheer Leader

white as in columns D, E and F. Some of the variegated sports listed in column F may be affected by virus and be genetically the same as varieties listed in columns B or C.

There is a similar course of sporting in all of these clones indicating that a common factor is responsible. Varieties giving rise to many sports such as "Betty Sheffield" with twenty-five or more recorded sports apparently carry several factors affecting color mutation. The "Finlandia" clone originates from a white rather than a variegated variety. We can only speculate whether "Herme" was the original seedling or sported from a variegated variety.

As these variegations are both dark color and light color on normally recessive white, the premise is that the genes giving rise to color occupy a different position in the genetic chain and are latent as long as they remain unpaired. Their function is restored when they are again paired through genetic rearrangement. The color which prevails depends on which chromosome carrying the factor for color pairs identically. Table number 2 lists those clones for which the original seedling bears light pink flowers variegated to darker color. It appears here as if the light pink color is intermediate of a pair of genes for pink and white. Though white striping is seldom seen in these variegated varieties they have sported to both solid colored and white varieties.

This concept is in conflict with the thesis that striping in flowers is controlled by a recessive pair of genes. More knowledge is needed about which factors for color that these mutant varieties carry before we can determine with certainty the validity of these two concepts.*

Some of the varieties listed in these tables were observed in my own garden. For the description of others I relied on Camellia Nomenclature and other published descriptions and il-

lustrations. Closer observation might indicate the reclassification of some of these sports. Probably the sports to fill the unused spaces in these tables may have already occurred but were of insufficient merit to register or record.

When sports involving several changes in varietal character occur repeatedly, the evidence is strong that this is due to chromosome segregation. The varieties 'Elegans Supreme' and 'Elegans Splendor' having sported from the variety Elegans and a sport of Elegans show exactly the same changes both in flower form and leaf character. Varieties with flowers prone to have occasional petaloids may carry the potential to produce sports with anemone or peony type flowers. 'Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso' sported from 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' and 'Drama Girl Dreams' sported from 'Drama Girl.'

Several of my single flowered seedlings and the variety 'Grandiflora Rosea' have in some flowering seasons borne flowers in which all of the anthers were transformed into petaloids or the anthers were ringed with a small petal. In the species *C. Vernalis* the varieties 'Star Above Star' and 'Seventy-five' will often bear flowers in which one or more stamens are transformed into complete flowers. A semi double Japonica seedling will occasionally bear flowers in which the three couplets are transformed into complete flowers. This has resulted in flowers within flowers. Grafting the scions on which these aberrations occurred has so far failed to produce any varietal change. If these aberrations were the result of cell mutation then such mutations took place within the flower bud.

A certain hybrid seedling, species *Hiemalis* Var. 'Mirandy' x species *Sasanqua* var. 'Naruma-Gata' appeared with striped leaves similar in pattern to flower striping. This plant sported a branch with normal leaves and consequently improved vitality.

In a lot of Japonica seedlings 'Lady Vansittart' x 'Wildfire' fourteen of twenty-eight seedlings appeared with variegated leaves, the albino portion of the leaves dominating. They grew well until the nourishment in the seed was used up and then died. Often young seedlings have visible aberrations which disappear with the second or third growth cycle. Could it

be that more subtle mutations occur in young hybrid seedlings which cause the plant to resemble the seed parent and raise doubt that a valid cross had been accomplished?

*Reference—Camellia Review Vol. 35, No. 4, Feb. 1974 The Inheritance of Tiloral Characteristics in Camellias by George P. Hansen.

"CAMELLIA-RAMA NO KA OI"

By MARY ANNE RAY

"CAMELLIA-RAMA IS BEST!" . . . At least, so we are told. The first week-end in November 1977, the Central California Camellia Society hosted the Third Annual Camellia-Rama which was held in Fresno at the Smuggler's Inn. With a Polynesian theme this year, the "Local Islanders" (CCCS members) welcomed all the "Aikanes" (friends) from "Outer California" in the Camellia Hospitality room early Friday afternoon. (The Bridal Suite had been judiciously changed into a "Better-Your-Personality" Room.) The "Luau" included a great variety of soothing liquids and over 50 varieties of solids all of which were sampled throughout the rest of Friday. One of the very special treats were Chinese Fortune Cookies, each containing great camellia fortunes, i.e.: "Trophy! Trophy! Trophy!" "Up to the Head Table!", "You have a winner!" and so on.

Saturday morning blooms were entered for the Very Early Show. Raffle and door prizes were viewed and the symposium was off to a grand start with Art Gonos welcoming all. There were 131 registered Camellia-Lovers from all over the state. Blooms entered numbered 154 with 126 different varieties represented. Winners in the six divisions were: 'Forty-Niner'—Best retic hybrid and best of show—Bill and Harriett Harris, Fresno.

'Elsie Jury'—Best non-retic hybrid—Mr. and Mrs. James Randall, Sacramento.

'Judge W. T. Ragland Var.'—Best L-VL Japonica—Mel Gum, San Gabriel.

'Debutante'—Best medium japonica—Mourie and Elaine Abramson, Tulare.

'Little Slam'—best boutonniere—Ab and Leone Summerson, Glendale.

'Showa-No-Sakae'—best species—Wilbur and Mary Anne Ray, Fresno.

The program included the inimitable Bill Lockwood (Lafayette) demonstrating "An Easy Way to Root Prune Without Removing from the Container." He used a reversible electric drill, an auger (1" diameter) about 14 to 16" long, an extension cord and his trusty cap which he wore forward when the drill went forward and in reverse when the drill went in reverse. Bill reminded everyone to be extremely careful when using such equipment and not to use it around water.

The unmatched photographic skill of Walter Harmsen (Pomona) delighted all as he reviewed pictures he had taken of '76 Cam-Ram and many other settings where camellia persons went to the public with camellias. Walt's message was "Plow Deep"—"Get new members."

Dr. Robert "Bob" Raabe, Professor of Plant Pathology, University of California, discussed "CAMELLIA DISEASES." Dr. Raabe showed excellent slides as he spoke and invited questions from the audience at any time. Some ten or more diseases were

covered. Diseases to Dr. Raabe means "an injurious disturbance in either the form or the function of a plant, resulting from some kind of irritation." In general more problems arise with plants that are too dry. A suggestion to help control petal blight is a mulch 3" deep, since the spores do not extend that deeply. Dr. Raabe's humorous yet serious presentation held the audiences full attention and many questions were asked.

Following lunch several statewide announcements were made and the very knowledgeable Les Baskerville (San Diego) shared his years of experience with "Intentional Variegation." On display in the show were two 'Premier Var.' blooms. For some years now Les has taken the best scion and regrafted—always the best on the best stock. The results are outstanding.

A beautiful demonstration of "Waxing Camellia Blooms" was presented by Marie Perigan (Arcadia) with detailed instructions.

Grady Perigan ended the program with a mood-setting slide show of beautiful Hawaii.

At 5:30 p.m. there was a mad dash to change for the "Island Festivities," catch TV coverage . . . and hit the Champagne Hour in the Hospitality Room where all the passengers and crew were greeted with an "Aloha" kiss and a lei . . . the girls by a boy and the boys by a girl. Then on to the Banquet Room that had been transformed into the "Tropics" by the Decorations and Entertainment Chairman, Hilo Harriett, and her crew.

Lovely Polynesian dancers captivated the audience with several numbers from the slow and graceful Hula to the fast and exciting Tamure.

Over 125 rare prizes were carried off by various happy warriors. Chairman of the door and raffle prizes was "Surfer Ed" Streit.

We thank all of you who came to Fresno to participate with us. As you know it takes many grains of sand to

make a beach and ours (Hawaiian, of course) was a beautiful beach. Perhaps Wilbur and I are even more aware than anyone else just how much everyone was involved . . . and if we haven't already thanked you personally—we do NOW.

And so "Aloha"—"Until we meet again."

1978 DESCANSO SHOW TO RETAIN NOVICE DIVISION

This announcement should be called to the attention of all camellia people who have never won a silver trophy at one of the Camellia Shows. Mark the date of March 4, 1978. This year's Descanso Camellia Show, sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Council, will retain the Novice Division.

Last year the Novice Division had about 100 blooms entered in the spring show. This fall, a Novice Division was included in the Early (Gib) Show but only one entry!

However, the Southern California California Camellia Council has decided to include a Novice Division in the forthcoming 1978 Spring Show.

A separate display area will be set aside with officials present to assist in the entry of blooms. Trophies will be awarded for: (1) The best medium to large camellia; (2) the best small to miniature camellia; and (3) the best tray of three camellia blooms.

The Novice Division is open to anyone who has never won a "silver" trophy at one of the camellia shows. The new division has been established in an attempt to entice more exhibitors, and particularly new exhibitors to enter blooms in the Descanso Show.

It is hoped that the faithful camellia "experts" who show flowers at every show and who manage to win trophies will bring a friend or a neighbor, and introduce him to the exciting world of showing his camellia blooms.

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL

cordially invites you to attend

the

22nd Annual

CAMELLIA SHOW

AND

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT DISPLAY

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, MARCH 4 & 5, 1978

at the

DESCANSO GARDENS

Arcadia, California

The display of blooms will be open to the Public FREE of charge
—from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and from
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday

EXHIBITORS PLEASE NOTE

Display cards will be available at the registration desk. Blooms may be placed on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. There will be Divisions for both treated and non-treated blooms. There will be a Novice Division with ample assistance in placement. Over \$400 in awards to be made.

SHOW DINNER

PIKE'S VERDUGO OAKS RESTAURANT

1010 North Glendale Ave., Glendale

Saturday, March 4th Cocktails 6:30 Dinner 7:30

For Further Information or Show Schedules Please Contact:

Mr. Milt Schmidt, 1521 Highland Oaks Dr., Arcadia, Cal. 91006
(Show Chairman)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA COUNCIL SHOW RESULTS

**WINTER CAMELLIA SHOW—LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM DECEMBER 3-4, 1977
ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA**

- BEST TREATED LARGE JAPONICA**
Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor—'Rosea Superba'
- RUNNER-UP TREATED LARGE JAPONICA**
Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Abramson—'Miss Charleston Var.'
- BEST TREATED MEDIUM JAPONICA**
Biewind-Summerson—'China Doll'
- RUNNER-UP TREATED MEDIUM JAPONICA**
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe—'Midnight'
- BEST TREATED SMALL JAPONICA**
Rudy Moore—'Ave Maria'
- RUNNER-UP TREATED SMALL JAPONICA**
Biewend-Summerson—'Demi-Tasse'
- BEST TREATED MINIATURE JAPONICA**
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur V. Ray—'Fircone Var.'
- RUNNER-UP TREATED MINIATURE JAPONICA**
Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Rowe—'Kewpie Doll'
- BEST NON-TREATED LARGE JAPONICA**
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Stiern—'Marie Bracey Var.'
- RUNNER-UP NON-TREATED LARGE JAPONICA**
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Stiern—'Marie Bracey'
- BEST NON-TREATED MEDIUM JAPONICA**
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz—'Alta Gavin'
- RUNNER-UP NON-TREATED MEDIUM JAPONICA**
Biewend-Summerson—'Alba Plena'
- BEST NON-TREATED SMALL JAPONICA**
Rudy Moore—'Ava Maria'
- RUNNER-UP NON-TREATED SMALL JAPONICA**
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Pieri—'Kiku Toji'
- BEST NON-TREATED MINIATURE JAPONICA**
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe—'Pink Smoke'
- RUNNER-UP NON-TREATED MINIATURE JAPONICA**
Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Bliss—'Fircone Var.'
- BEST DETICULATA HYBRID (Open)**
Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Abramson—'Miss Tulare'
- RUNNER-UP RETICULATA HYBRID (Open)**
C. O. Peterson—'Arch of Triumph'
- BEST NON-RETICULATA HYBRID (Open)**
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo—'Elsie Jury'
- RUNNER-UP NON-RETICULATA HYBRID (Open)**
Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor—'Charlean'
- BEST SASANQUA HIEMALIS or VERNALIS (Open)**
Les Baskerville—'Star Above Star'
- RUNNER-UP SASANQUA HIEMALIS or VERNALIS (Open)**
Eddie McClung—'Little Pearl'
- BEST 3 LARGE TREATED JAPONICAS**
Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci—'Elegans Splendor'
- RUNNER-UP 3 LARGE TREATED JAPONICAS**
Mel Gum—'Judge W. T. Ragland'

BEST 3 LARGE NON-TREATED JAPONICAS

Biewend-Summerson—'Alba Plena'

RUNNER-UP 3 LARGE NON-TREATED JAPONICAS

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo—'Marie Bracey'

BEST 3 BOUTONNIERE JAPONICAS (Open)

Mr. and Mrs. Jaacks—'Fircone Var.'

BEST 3 RETICULATA HYBRIDS (Open)

Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci—'Lila Naff'

BEST 3 SASANQUAS HIEMALIS or VERNALIS (Open)

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Pieri—'Wm. Wylam'

RUNNER-UP 3 SASANQUAS HIEMALIS or VERNALIS (Open)

Mr. and Mrs. I. John Movich—'Shishi Gashira'

BEST COLLECTOR'S TRAY (Open) Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz

RUNNER-UP COLLECTOR'S TRAY (Open) Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci

BEST TREATED SEEDLING

C. O. Petersen—Seedling 10-16

BEST NON-TREATED SEEDLING

Rudy Moore—Vernalis Seedling

AWARD OF MERIT (Most Trophies) Biewend-Summerson

COURT OF HONOR BLOOMS

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe

Little Slam

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe

Dawn

Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor

Extravaganza

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowe

Little Slam Var.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz

Wilamina

Sunny and Bob Eastman

Sugar Babe

Bill Donnan

Grand Slam

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz

Mathotiana Supreme

June Renz

Debutante

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan

Ville De Nantes

Biewend-Summerson

Julia Hamiter

Mr. and Mrs. Jacks

Valentines Day

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo

Miss Tulare Var.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Ray

Dr. Clifford Parks

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Abramson

Alta Gavin

Biewend-Summerson

Twilight

Tom Hughes

Margaret Davis

Mel Gum

Pink Frost

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz

Fashionata

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo

Lulu Belle

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woo

Easter Morn

Mr. and Mrs. Jaacks

Grand Prix

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Abramson

White Nun

1977 CROP — CAMELLIA SEEDS

Japonica Seeds—\$3.75 per 100 (minimum order)

Sasanqua Seeds—\$1.50 per 100 (minimum order)

Reticulata Seeds—15c each

Southern California Camellia Society

P.O. Box 717

Arcadia, California 91006

ANEUPLOIDY AND POLYPLOIDY IN CAMELIAS

By JIM McCLUNG

Because of the thousands of years of natural and human hybridizing the most commonly grown camellias are very unstable. The strong tendency for *C. japonica* to mutate is one indication of this. The existence of aneuploid and polyploid clones is a further indication.

Camellias have a basic haploid number found in the pollen grains and ova. The normal cells contain 30 chromosomes each, 15 from each parent. However, we find camellias with 45, 60, 75, 90, 105, and even 120 chromosomes. Some members of the same named variety contain varying chromosome counts, including the condition known as aneuploidy.

According to Dr. William Ackerman (*Genetic and Cytological Studies With Genus Camellia and Related Genera*) there are more aneuploid camellias than one might expect. A camellia is said to be aneuploid if its chromosome count is not a multiple of the base 15. Some of the most popular garden varieties are aneuploid. One has even been found to contain only a fragment of an extra chromosome.

A few camellias that are aneuploid are 'Arrabella' (32), 'Joshua E. Youtz' (34), 'Ville de Nantes' (29) (one cultivar—most of the 'Donckerlaarii' family is either diploid or triploid, Japanese *reticulata* 'Ootani-To-Esubaki' (91), *sasanqua* 'Narumi-Gata' (one specimen has 106 chromosomes), *hiemalis* 'Mirandy' (102), and many others.

Many aneuploids are sterile but a surprisingly large number produce viable gametes. It is only when the number cannot be divided by two that the hybridizer should consider the plant sterile as a seed parent. It may still produce viable pollen.

Some varieties of garden camellias, according to Dr. Kondo of Hiroshima University, have varying counts in

different plants. Among these are 'Coral Pink Lotus,' 'Latifolia,' 'Ville de Nantes,' 'White Nun,' and 'Narumi-Gata.'

'Coral Pink Lotus' may be either diploid (30) or triploid (45). 'Latifolia' is the same. 'Ville de Nantes,' and the entire 'Donckerlaarii' family, is basically diploid but both diploid and triploid specimens have been found. The diploids have the strange habit of producing triploid pollen cells, as well as some with 29 chromosomes. 'White Nun' is also both diploid and triploid. *C. sasanqua* 'Narumi-Gata' may be pentaploid (75), hexaploid (90), hyperheptaploid (aneuploidy of 106 chromosomes), or octoploid (120). It is probably the least stable of all garden camellias in its chromosome count.

Triploids are of great interest to both the fancier and the hybridizer. They are usually identified by their larger flowers. In the case of *C. sinensis* the triploids are much desired for their larger leaves. Triploids are in the parentage of some of our best interspecific hybrids. They are also said to be more cold hardy than camellias with other chromosome counts. All triploids should be tested for cold hardiness. If triploid seedlings are allowed to keep their tap roots they may prove even more cold hardy. The tap root would grow down below the level at which the ground freezes, supplying roots that will keep the plant alive during cold, desiccating winter winds. If the seedling does not have a good flower it could be used as root stock.

Camellias are fascinating, even in the confusion of their taxonomy, but what would we be without the beauty of this most royal plant?

**LAST CHANCE TO PAY
YOUR 1977-1978 DUES**

1977...THE YEAR FOR NOTRE DAME!!!

By HOWARD E. BURNETTE

Fort Wayne, Indiana

When a camellia fancier, such as Mrs. Charles F. (Marjorie) O'Malley, starts a project . . . look out! Several years ago during a visit to the O'Malley's beautiful Woodside, California home we observed a flat of *C. Reticulata* seedlings growing in their greenhouse and we noted that they were in need of being transplanted. These were open pollinated seeds of 'Buddha' and 'William Hertrich' and Marjorie has said that it was our encouragement which caused her to grow these on until they had bloomed. Several of these seedlings showed promise and one of them caught Marjorie's eye and she has named it 'Notre Dame.' Having been relocated in Indiana from California we have not seen this flower but somehow we feel that it is worthy of the name because it is being propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries. Two gallon size plants were shipped to Fort Wayne via air parcel and they were delivered to the University of Notre Dame where they are being cared for by an amateur horticulturist. Father Austgen. A specimen plant will be provided at a later date. It is quite appropriate to say that these plants are in good hands (no pun intended).

Now about that Marjorie Project . . . her timing was perfect . . . and the stage was set as we all joined her entourage to witness the University of Southern California-University of Notre Dame football game. This is not only one of the oldest of rivalries, but with Marje's grandchildren in attendance, her family recorded its fifth generation of Notre Dame rooters. Prior to the game we were invited to the President's Brunch where it was our pleasure to meet the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Notre President who is also celebrating 25 years and the Rev. Edmund P. Joyce,

C.S.C., their dynamic Executive Vice President who is also celebrating 25 years of service to the university. Needless to say Marjorie's clan was all decked out in vivid green, except for her one daughter who had matriculated to U.S.C. There was obvious evidence in the cowbells, whistles, etc. that we were about to witness a happening.

Having been raised in nearby Ohio and having previously lived in Fort Wayne, we were well aware of the spirit which prevails on the Notre Dame campus; however, we were not prepared for the tremendous display we were to witness prior to this big game. Marching through the tunnel came the U.S.C. Trojan Band which must have been 250 strong to perform their pre-game activities, followed by the Notre Dame band of at least 185 members . . . creating a true picture book spectacular. In the presence of approximately 60,000 partisan fans, there is little wonder that the Irish prevailed. When Notre Dame has a playing date away from home, it is assumed that one-half of the fans are for the Irish. Playing at home you multiply this number by two! The topper was when the Notre Dame team went through their pre-game warm up in the traditional blue and gold colors and returned at game time in their time honored blazing green and gold jerseys. Not since 1958 had the Irish displayed 'the green' at home. The 'Green Machine' was now ready to roll . . . and roll it did! Whereas history has now written that the U.S.C. team had been solid seven point favorites, and were soundly trounced by the score of 49 to 19, we were fortunate to have witnessed first hand the true spirit of Notre Dame . . . the promise of the opportunity to grow in mind, body and spirit.

In retrospect, whereas we were to have been a part of a planting ceremony, and since burials could be likened to plantings, perhaps Marjorie should have named her seedling 'U. S.C.' At least that is what was to be buried this day! Perhaps Nuccio's Nurseries should attempt to cross their 'Maroon and Gold' with 'Notre Dame' to see if their cross would be another 'Upset.' Seriously, it will be a pleasure to see that these camellia cultivars are properly planted and cared for, as we consider this to be only a token of repayment for such a wondrous display of the Notre Dame hospitality which we received. After our visit with Father Austgen, we are positive that his interest as an amateur horticulturist will supply more than the necessary care and attention which these plants require. We hope that the cultivar 'Notre Dame' can live up to all expectations and also become a winner. Only then can we say, "This was the year for 'Notre Dame'!"

FUTURE SCCS MEETINGS

Bernice Gunn and George Lewis, the co-program chairmen for our monthly society meetings have lined up the following speakers:

On February 14 Mrs. Rose Gish will present a program on flower arrangements. On March 14th Dr. Martin Stoner will present a talk on the petal blight research progress.

On April 11th Grady Perigan will present his annual slide show depicting the winners at the various 1977-78 California Shows.

The April 14th meeting has been designated as past president's night. All the past presidents of S.C.C.S. will be honored.

At each of the forthcoming meeting, during the intermission period, Meyer Piet and Lee Gaeta will give demonstrations of grafting, thinning, pruning, potting, fertilizing and other cultural arts.

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Cameron Cooper
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Corinne Sebire
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Debut
Dolly Dyer
Dr. Doak
Edith Hall
El Greco
Emily Box
Emily Kaye Caple
Esther Ann
Exuberance

Feathery Touch
Five O
Harbinger Var.
Hot Pants
Ina Berg
In the Pink
Jack Glen
Janus
Jean Pursel
Kalcama
Ketcam Burch
King Tut
Lady Laura
Lemon Honey
Lee Shugerman
Lime Light
Little Beaut
Mary Golombiewski
Mary Westbrook
Maui

Minnie Ruth
Miss Tulare
Mrs. Paul Gilley
Murillo
Music City
My Ernestine
My Louise
Nell Hooper
Nioi Fubuki
Nuccio's Pearl
Overture
Pat Guernsey
Patricia Coull
Paul G'ley
Paul Harvey
Pink Delight
Pom Pom Girl
Pop Gee
Prudence

Raspberry Ice
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DESCANSO FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SHOW

By RANDY McDONALD

Descanso Gardens issues a warm invitation to members of your organization to exhibit in the Seventh Annual Mary Wills Flower Show, which is sponsored by the Guild in conjunction with the Southern California Camellia Council, Saturday, March 4th and Sunday, March 5th.

Categories are:

1. Camellias (trophies donated by Camellia Council)

a. Large (not to exceed 20" wide —tall as you like).

b. Small (not to exceed 10" wide —15" to 18" high)

Ribbons will be awarded in categories 2-9.

2. Bonsai

3. Succulents (may be growing or not, may use other plant material, but succulents should dominate)

4. Potted Bulbs (in flower)

5. Ikebana

a. Traditional

b. Modern

6. Traditional

a. arrangement with fan

b. arrangement in a compote

c. arrangement in a basket

7. Arrangement using flowers or plant material with wood and or rock, which may or may not dominate.

8. Miniatures

a. small (1½" high)

b. large 3½" high)

9. Children's class (6th grade and under)

The public has requested that we open the show earlier this year. To help us comply with this request all arrangements should be well planned and organized before being brought to Hospitality House so they can be assembled quickly. Hospitality House will be open at 8:00 a.m. Access to drive there by permission of Gate House (very limited parking, may have to drop off arrangement and walk back up).

All containers must be marked on the bottom with exhibitor's name. All arrangements must be in the Hospitality House by 9:30 a.m. Saturday March 4th. Judging will take place at 10:00 a.m. and the House will open to the public at 11:00 a.m.

All arrangements must be removed from Hospitality House, Sunday, March 5th by 5:30 p.m.

Hostesses will be in the House at all times to watch over the exhibits, but after judging, exhibitors are urged to remove and take home any cherished accessory.

Judging will be based on Design, Distinction, Three Dimensional Character and Adherence to Classification and Condition of Material.

Come join us! We welcome as many exhibits as your group chooses to enter.

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NURSERY & GIFT SHOP**

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across from the giant RED MAIL BOX**

IN DEFENSE OF THE WHITE CAMELLIA

By BARBARA BUTLER

My purpose is to share my enthusiasm with you for the white camellia; to whet your interest in owning more white camellias; and to enter these blooms in competition. At present, the white camellia is not at the height of fashion with camellia fanciers. Its rightful place in our camellia hobby has been overshadowed by the new pink and red camellias. The exquisite delicacy of the white camellia is apparent, whether, the white camellia is exhibited as a flower, used in a bouquet, or enjoyed as a landscape specimen. The white camellia presents the purest form in which a camellia can be judged. It is this purity that makes the white camellia a joy to behold. The quality of its form, substance, and texture stand alone. White is a neutral or achromatic color of the highest brilliance, reflecting to the eye all the rays of the spectrum; the human eye is not distracted by extraneous color in judging the merits of the white camellia bloom. The perfection or lack of perfection of an individual white camellia flower is readily apparent to the eyes of the camellia judge. Insect damage, or blemishes of any kind are very hard to conceal. The true condition of a white camellia bloom may be quickly noted and evaluated. Lopsided form, irregular petal development, and incorrect stamen placement are most evident to the eye. The camellia judge could receive valuable training in learning to recognize the correct form of different camellia cultivars by carefully studying the white camellia flower in all its forms.

True, it takes more care to produce and to place a perfect white camellia bloom on the entry tables. But once there, the white camellia should not be passed over in favor of its more flashy red and pink competitors. We all have our favorite trophy award winners; let's have more white cam-

ellia blooms among them.

Some camellia societies have a special section for the white camellia and provide a trophy for the best white camellia. This is a step in the right direction to make the white camellia more popular and to call attention to its many attributes.

Those of us who hybridize must give the white camellia more thought and study in our hybridizing programs. There is a need for excellent white camellia seedlings. Think how rewarding a show quality fragrant white camellia would be.

With so much going for it why is it that the white camellia is not as popular as it should be to the camellia nurserymen and camellia society exhibitors? We find so few white camellias at the head table and even less white camellia trophy winners. With camellia growers selling 20 per cent less white camellias than a few years ago, perhaps it is time to evaluate the cause before the white camellia disappears from the trophy table.

A study of the 1976 *Nomenclature* has revealed these interesting facts:

There are 467 white camellia cultivars listed. These varieties contain the following number of flower types.

- 193 semi-double
- 42 single
- 26 anemone
- 88 peony
- 26 rose form double
- 13 miniature
- 79 formal

Rata by size:

- 112 large semi-double
- 75 medium semi-double
- 6 small semi-double
- 17 large single
- 21 medium single
- 4 small single
- 16 large anemone
- 10 medium anemone
- 13 miniature

- 39 large peony
- 44 medium peony
- 5 small peony
- 11 large rose form double
- 13 medium rose form double
- 2 small rose form double
- 23 large formal double
- 41 medium formal double
- 9 small formal double

Data by year of introduction is as follows:

- 1800-1949—178 introductions in 149 years
- 1950-1959—139 introductions
- 1960-1969—109 introductions
- 1970-1975—41 introductions

A total of 289 introductions during the last 25 years.

These facts should interest hybridizers to the basic need of a new program for improved white flowered camellias. That quality rather than quantity should be the rule for future registration of new introductions.

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON PETAL BLIGHT

By DR. JAKE HOLTZMAN

I am inclined to agree with Bill Donnan that mulch controls petal blight. We are never going to whip petal blight by picking up the petals. This procedure is only good for the waist line. About 22 years ago, when I started buying camellias, I bare rooted every camellia brought home and buried the dirt about a mile down-wind. All petals, every speck of color, was picked up and buried. This went on for many years! I thought I could whip petal blight by this procedure since I am relatively isolated. My closest neighbor is one-half mile away. But, in spite of my situation and labor, I would have a little petal blight every year.

Seven years ago I fearfully decided that there would be no more petal pick-up; no more bare rooting of my new camellias; no more picking petals and blooms off of the plants. That first year, with a carpet of petals on the ground, I worried that petal blight

would be rampant. However, there was very little blight. That was seven years ago and I have not bent over to pick up a petal since! Once in a while I will pull a dried up bloom off of a plant. My petal blight has not been completely eradicated, but it is no real problem.

I have always left the oak leaves and other debris from the trees lay where it falls so there has always been a mulch except where the wind has blown a bare spot. If I covered these spots perhaps I might attain 100 per cent control. It seems probable that I would still have spores blown in from Modesto! The city is twenty miles away.

It has been a great relief to me these past seven years to let the flower petals fall to become part of the food chain and not worry too much about blight. I only regret having chopped off so many nice camellias, just because they shattered!

Herb Blurbs

- Herbs in shampoos,
Cream, perfumes;
- Herbs to spray
In stuffy rooms;
- Herbs to season
Sauces, meat;
- Herbs to whiff,
Apply or eat
- Remind us that
The herb's a jewel
- Enjoying up-front
Herban renewal.

* * *

Tourist guide: "And this is where they signed the Magna Carta."

Tourist: "When did they do that?"

Guide: "1215."

Tourist, glancing at his watch: "Well how do you like that, Laura—we missed it by 20 minutes!"

* * *

Father to teen-agers: "You should run for legislature. You're terrific at introducing all types of new bills into the house."

THE GROWTH AND CULTIVATION OF CAMELLIAS IN ITALY

By DOTT. ING. ANTONIO SEVESI
Societa Italiana Della Camellia

Italy had a famous and long tradition in the cultivation of camellias. In the first years of the last century we had an enormous interest in cultivating camellias. This hobby was a mark of distinction for the people of the higher society. They were able to attend to the cultivation through the employmen of many gardeners. At the end of the last century the interest for camellias in Italy was completely forsaken. Other garden shrubs came into fashion and the slow growing camellias in comparison with roses, for instance, contributed to the decrease of interest in camellia.

The camellias planted 150 to 200 years ago survived in those gardens which were not destroyed by the construction of large concrete buildings. In the last 15 years the Society Italiana Della Camellia has tried to stir up interest in these camellias. Our first aim was to know the situation of these ancient trees and shrubs of camellia planted in forsaken corners of the old gardens. Some of these plants were covered by thorns and were not visible. Our first efforts gave more success than we expected. Marvellous trees one to two centuries old were discovered. By clearing out shrubs and thorns that hid them they could be seen and admired by the camellia hobbists. The owners of the gardens were persuaded that the ancient trees of camellia were sometimes the most important plants in the garden. Having found the ancient camellias, a big problem confronted the experts in camellias. This was trying to discover the names of these cultivars. More than 100 years had passed since the publication of the catalogues of the nurseries from which the plants had been purchased. Some nurseries had long lists of camellias with their own names used. From the beginning

of this century the camellias were listed without name, only "Camellia!"

The task of discovering the correct name was very hard. To complicate the matter we must add the name of Italian camellias exported to foreign countries, especially the United States where the name was completely altered or changed. The problem of the nomenclature of the ancient Italian camellias is today, an object of discussions and studies by the Italian Camellia Hobbists.

During the 20th century, on the contrary of the preceding century, no people in Italy devoted themselves to produce new cultivars raised by seeds or with hybridization and consequently no new cultivars were created in Italy. We remained, for 20 years in very bad condition in comparison with the new cultivars produced by Australia and the United States. To overcome this handicap we began importing new cultivars from both Australia and the United States. Now, in Italy, besides the ancient cultivars we have about three hundred new camellias which have been imported. Many of these are one and one-half to two meters high with marvellous blooms. Our nurserymen have made cuttings for these plants and now we have these three hundred cultivars available on the Italian market. To popularize these new camellias we have put on Camellia Shows. The success has been enormous. Many visitors take note of the names of the cultivars and nurserymen at the present time are not able to meet the demand.

The Societa Italiana Della Camellia is trying to encourage the younger members to create new cultivars. Up to the present we have had only a small success. Several new cultivars have been created and we have dis-

covered a new camellia cultivar which is scented. We feel that we must move carefully in this field of endeavor. The main species found in Italy is the *C. Japonica*. The second place is occupied by *C. Sasanqua*. The *C. Reticulata* is not common because they are weaker to the frost. In Italy, generally, the camellias are cultivated in the ground in open air. This is especially true on the borders of our northern lakes. During the winter we have some days of frost. The Japonicas and Sasanquas do not suffer but, sometimes the reticulata are a little damaged. They lose their leaves and growth in the spring is slow and difficult.

We receive the visit of a lot of camellia hobbyists from Australia, the United States and New Zealand. We hope that hobbyists from Japan who are visiting in Europe will take time to visit some of our Italian gardens.

NORTHERN CALIF. CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW

By JUDY TOOMAJIAN

The Northern California Camellia Society has changed the location of their annual Camellia Show. The Show will be held on March 11th and 12th at the WILLOWS SHOPPING CENTER on Diamond Boulevard off of Highway No. 680 at the Willow Pass Road turn-off in Concord. Willows is a new and very unique center with attractive buildings and beautiful landscaping. The buildings are all faced with natural wood; the grass areas are very green; and the brick walks made for a nice contrast to the camellia blooms.

The Northern California Camellia Society Show will be an open show with a Youth Division and a Flower Arrangement Division included. The Court of Honor will be located in a gazebo in the Mall. There will not be a Show Dinner but refreshments will be served after the judging has been

completed. For further information on the show and to obtain the show schedule, please write to Bob Ehrhart, 2108 Hadden Road, Walnut Creek, 94596, this year's show chairman.

THE 1978 CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

The Camellia Nomenclature 1978 was released from the binders during the first week in December, 1977. Shortly thereafter, December 10th to be exact, a nomenclature mail-out committee was assembled and nearly 2,000 copies were mailed out to paid-up members and to fill bulk orders.

1978 Camellia Nomenclature is the sixteenth, revised edition published by the Southern California Camellia Society. As in all past issues, Bill Woodroof has ably performed his duties as editor of the 1978 edition. Every effort was made to incorporate all the practical and advisable suggestions submitted to the Editorial Board. Most of the new cultivars listed have been obtained from registrations of new varieties with the American Camellia Society; the Australian Camellia Research Society; and the New Zealand Camellia Society.

In discussing the 1978 edition with Bill Woodroof and with Harold Dryden who assists Woodroof with all the various details of getting out a new addition, both men stressed the importance of the cooperation they have received from interested Camellia hobbyists. The volume of suggestions and corrections offered has contributed greatly to the 1978 edition. However it has been impossible to reply individually to all the letters received.

Suffice it to say that the Editor and the Southern California Camellia Society wish to thank every individual who has contributed to the sixteenth edition. As you read and use this 1978 nomenclature we solicit your counsel and advice in improving it in the future.

THE MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Cordially Invites You to Attend

the

17th Annual

MODESTO CAMELLIA SHOW

(Vintage 1978)

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, MARCH 18 & 19, 1978

at the

GALLO ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Modesto, California

This is an open show with divisions for Novice and Youth entrants. There will be a show dinner on Saturday evening, March 18th.

For Further Information and Show Schedules Contact

Mr. Phil Mobley, 2872 E. Taylor Rd., Ceres, Calif. 95307

(Show Chairman)

THE 1978 MODESTO SHOW

The 1978 Modesto Camellia Show, sponsored by the Modesto Camellia Society will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 18th and 19th, 1978. The Show will, as usual, be held in the Administration Building of the Gallo Winery in Modesto, California. The Modesto Show, which is one of the last two shows of the annual camellia show season, always draws a wide group of exhibitors and participants. This year's Show promises to be of the "same fine vintage"!

There are several reasons for the popularity of the Modesto Show. First of all, it does not compete for attraction with either a show up in the Bay area, nor a show down in Southern California. Secondly, as has been stated, it is one of the last two chances to show camellia blooms. The other late season show is the Sonoma County Camellia Show, which, this

year, is being held on the week-end of April 1 and 2, 1978. Thirdly, the Modesto Show is an "open Show" wherein gibbed blooms; glass-house blooms; and garden variety blooms are all exhibited together. Fourthly, and perhaps most significantly, the Modesto Show always turns out to be a "Fun Show." The entrance of the blooms is casual. The judging is touted as a "social event." And the atmosphere is euphoric. (Could it be the Gallo wine?)

If you missed the American Camellia Society 1977 Spring Convention which was sponsored and hosted by the Modesto Camellia Society, don't be too downcast. After all, you have another chance to participate in a camellia show in Modesto on March 18th and 19th. So, pick your blooms; pack your car; and head for Modesto. You will not be disappointed.

Any child who is anxious to mow the lawn is too young to do it.

REPORT FROM THE NORTHWEST

By MARY MARSHDALE

The autumn leaves are coloring and beginning to fall. The woolly brown caterpillars are woolier than usual. The snow level is already down to the 4,000 foot level. And it is still September. What does this portend for the northwest camellia grower? An early, and br-r-r, cold winter—that's what!

The members of the Oregon Camellia Society, who have coped with weather extremes since their group was organized in 1942 have become aware of which camellias perform well. Each year they have honored a "Camellia of the Year." The criteria for selection has included the following factors: cold hardiness for good outdoor performance, strong growth habit, exceptional flowers of good form, color and substance, varieties "not too old or too new," and availability.

More recent selections so honored (from 1961-1978), in order are: Finlandia, Diakagura, Giulio Nuccio, R. L. Wheeler, Brigadoon, Betty Sheffield Supreme, Drama Girl, Mrs. D. W. Davis, Tiffany, Ballet Dancer, Helen Bower, Tomorrow Park Hill, Grand Slam and Elsie Jury.

It is interesting to note that with a few exceptions, the majority of these camellias also appear regularly on the prize winning tables of California Camellia Societies, showing that they do well in all sectors of our west coast.

Honoring a camellia each year would be a fine custom for other camellia societies around the world. What a blessing it would be for newcomers to our hobby to find out early which camellias have stood the test in their area. Imagine trying to select your first camellia plant using the Camellia Nomenclature Book as a guide. All camellias, in print, sound attractive. But it takes someone knowledgeable and courageous like the

editor of the Nomenclature Book, Bill Woodroof, to say, "This camellia may be great in some other part of the country, but I wouldn't give it garden space where I live." Each camellia beginner would do well to heed his words, and those of experienced camellia growers in his own area, before planting varieties that haven't been tested in his local climate.

How many of us older growers can look back and remember how we couldn't wait to buy one special camellia, only to discover that it performed like a "dog" in our garden. Good garden camellias are important to most of us, who don't grow our flowers for competition, but to share with others, and to have beautiful flowers in our gardens and arrangements in homes.

With a camellia "Honor List" we would be able to order plants from nurseries around the world, confident that they would do well in our area. And we would have more new members in our societies if they had a successful start in their camellia hobby.

P.S. We will let you know in the Spring if the woolly worms were right about 1978 being a cold winter!

ODDS AND ENDS

By JIM McCLUNG

How many years have we been crying about the need for new members in our Camellia Societies? I have recently had the opportunity to talk to various lapsed members and found a multitude of reasons why they no longer attend their Society's meetings. Their reasons may well apply to prospective members, particularly those who attend a meeting or two and then are seen no more. Some of the reasons? "The Society has been run by 'so-and-so' for so many years

that he (she) thinks it is his (her) personal property." "Unless you're a member of the inner circle the meetings are useless. The same tired old people give the same tired old programs year after year." "There is too much cheating in the shows. The cheating shows in both the judging and the flowers." How many reasons can you think of? We need new members and we need some younger members. We must make our societies appeal to people of all interests. We should gear our programs to different aspects of the hobby: Landscaping, hybridizing, showing, pathology, and the many other aspects of the camellia world. If every member would bring in one new member this year we would revitalize OUR Camellia Societies. Try it.

* * *

Well, A.C.S. beat us to it again. Our younger Southern Sister is in the midst of producing a new comprehensive book on camellias. It promises to be both an important work and a useful one. At the present time A.C.S. plans to sell the volume for \$10 plus \$1 shipping. Look for it in about a year's time.

* * *

The November-December issue of *The Camellia Review* contained a very interesting letter from a Mr. A. N. Mus. Mr. Mus is confused by the method by which people learn the ins and outs of hybridizing, in particular those people who are knowledgeable about the background of camellias. He asked many questions. Perhaps the most important one was how California hybridizers and writers could untangle the complicated web of camellia parentage. My suggestion is that reader Mus should do these things, in this order. Firstly, he should take a remedial course in the English language. Secondly, he needs a sound knowledge of Latin if he is going to get the best "ipse dixit" from Sealy. Thirdly, a few basic botany courses followed by advanced

classes in plant taxonomy will help. After he has achieved all this I would suggest that he read *The Camellia Nomenclature*. In most cases reticulata parentage is given there. All he needs is eight fingers on which to count, holding the thumbs in reserve in case of loss during counting. For example: 'Betty Ridley's parentage is given as japonica 'Marie Bracey x hybrid 'Felice Harris.' The 'Marie Bracey' part is four fingers worth. 'Felice Harris' is sasanqua 'Narumi-Gata' x 'Buddha.' That's the other four fingers, 'Narumi-Gata' being two fingers worth. 'Buddha' is Reticulata 'Butterfly Wings' x Pitardii var. Yunanica. Since 'Buddha' represents two more fingers than 'Butterfly Wings' and 'Pitardii' each represent one finger.

* * *

Do you also want to win some hardware? Would you like to have those luscious big flowers of good substance that fool most judges into thinking they haven't been gibbed? I enlisted the help of some fanciers of untarnished reputation in conducting a test. If you gib the second leaf node down from the flower, leaving enough stem to cut but no more than 2 inches, the flower will, in most cases, appear to be a superbly grown specimen but there will be no sign of gibbing. The same thing can be done by putting them in the high humidity of greenhouses, plastic tents, humidified garages, etc. This method is easier and no more dishonest than many of those whose flowers make the head table. In fact, nurseries have used this practice for years to sell their plants.

* * *

If you are near a college with a good botany program and are interested in hybridizing *Biotropica* 9(2), 1977, has an excellent abstract by Dr. Katsuhiko Kondo of Hiroshima University. He gives the chromosome counts of all camellia species that are available in the western world.

WINTER IN CALIFORNIA

By STEVE SHAYLE-GEORGE

I was fortunate enough to spend a month in California in the depths of last winter. It was February-March anyway and coincided with the calendar definition of that season, but the reality was vastly different. The temperatures in Los Angeles ranged between 70° and 90° most of the time and it was very dry; but what a wonderful climate for a holiday and for living, and it makes one question the wisdom of some 200 million Americans who reside in the other states. In contrast in New Zealand we have a temperate climate with an abundance—and at times like the present—an over abundance of rainfall and it is such a pity we cannot do a trade. Where I live in Wellington, the Capital of the Country, with an average rainfall of 43 inches—we had exceeded our annual average before the end of September and it was still raining!

The main purpose of my visit was to see camellias the Californian way—to meet old friends and to make new ones and I accomplished all three in a very pleasurable way.

I spent an appreciable time with Wilber and Helen Foss in San Marino and loved every minute of it. Wilber was a very sick man but his fortitude and good humor were an inspiration to all and his subsequent death has left his many friends very sad and the camellia world bereft of one of its great characters and benefactors.

The first camellia show I attended was at Temple City and there followed Pomona, Sacramento, Fresno, Bakersfield and Descanso in quick succession. I was most impressed with the size and quality of the blooms shown, the efficiency of the organisation, the excellence of the equipment and the magnificence of the prizes.

A very interesting feature to me was the class for treated blooms and I saw some outstanding exhibits. One which will always live in my memory was the Clark Hubbs shown by Art

Gonas at Temple City. It was as high as it was wide—a truly fantastic bloom which looked as if it would weigh a pound—a great mass of magnificence. But I also detected some scepticism, suspicion and general unhappiness concerning certain untreated prize winning blooms. Of course it is not the treated blooms which cause the trouble, it is the untreated blooms from the same gardens which are looked at disdainfully if they happen to be extra large and beautiful. It reminds me of the blame mistakenly placed on the apple in the Garden of Eden. It was obviously not the apple on the tree which caused all the trouble, but the pair on the ground.

In New Zealand we do not allow blooms from gibbed bushes to be shown in our shows—mainly because our members have shown no interest in gibbing, but we do miss the breath-taking examples of the practice. We do not have freezes to spoil our shows so the only necessity for gibbing in New Zealand is to obtain early pollen for hybridizing certain varieties and our members have shown complete apathy towards creating bigger and better blooms by human intervention.

Americans visiting New Zealand have often remarked that they can more than hold their own with Japonicas but cannot compete with New Zealand for Reticulatas. From my experience at the Shows I attended, I think the statement is correct—certainly regarding the Japonicas, but I believe the Reticulatas require open ground to flourish and will not do well in containers. The Reticulata is a tree rather than a bush like the Japonica and this may well provide the answer. The Reticulatas in Huntington Gardens growing in the open ground were very worthy specimens and some of the flowers I saw on them were just as good as New Zealand can produce.

Prior to my visit I had always heard that one of the great chores associated with camellias in the States was the collection of spent blooms after flowering to prevent the spread of petal blight. I had wondered how on earth they could be collected from an extensive planting such as Huntington or Descanso or in some of your big nurseries. The fact is of course that it is not possible and the spread of the blight is solely dependent on the climate conditions prevailing at the time. It is an exasperating disease and I only hope that the latest attempt to find an answer by the promotion of a cash award is successful.

At the commencement of my visit I soon discovered that a dictionary was required to determine the accuracy and true meaning of the words I was using and it is surprising to find there are many quite significant differences. In the main, I think it fair to say that Americans are more accurate in their choice of words but I found in many cases that words I used which were queried were found to be correct when referred to the dictionary. One which wasn't, was the word "Pottle" which we use and apply to the small containers used in the exhibiting of camellias. We use the word to describe the little pot and it sounds perfect for the purpose but it was quickly queried and the dictionary let me down badly, describing it as a pot holding half a gallon!

My only complaint during my visit related to geography. Very few Americans who hadn't travelled to New Zealand had much idea where New Zealand is. A few thought it was part of Australia which was about the worst thing anyone could impart to a New Zealander. We are entirely separate countries—far more separate than the U.S.A. and Canada because we are insulated by 1200 miles of ocean called the Tasman Sea. Some didn't know where Australia was even though that country is similar in size to the U.S.A. and has vast wealth and

potential. Some wanted to know what State New Zealand was in and I facetiously replied that we had a balance of payments problem. I suppose the reason for this lack of knowledge is that your country is so powerful and important that it is hard not to ignore countries which have no dominant role in world affairs or survival. However, in the horticultural sense I believe New Zealand is second to none and our climate and rainfall ensures that it will always remain so. With a population of only 3,000,000 it has a Camellia Society of over 1600 members and is thus only second in membership to the A.C.S.

I was amazed at the vastness of California and the wonderful fertility of its two great valleys of Sacramento and San Joaquin. Its stupendous trees particularly the sequoias, sempervirens and gigantea. Its incredible freeways and roads and the complete absence of potholes. I wanted to see a pothole and had to travel to a remote spot beyond King Canyon near Lake Hume to find one. Then there was the heart warming friendship of the people — particularly Camellia lovers—and the hospitality for which Americans are famed. Apart from the Foss's, I stayed with Bill and Evelyn Johnston, Maurie and Elaine Abramson, Ken and Kay Hallstone, Jack and Lee Osequeda and Carryl Pitkin and I thank them for their great kindness to me and the fun we shared and the knowledge I gained.

California is a very clean state and the anti litter laws and their severe penalties must be playing an important role in keeping it so. In fact everything was favourable and optimistic in California apart from the fear of drought and its consequences to this fertile land. May the drought break and a good and prolonged rain soak the soil. Then it will definitely be the most favourable place on earth.

* * *

God created time so everything wouldn't happen at once.

SHOW RESULTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

HUNTINGTON GARDENS—JANUARY 14-15, 1978

BEST JAPONICA LARGE AND VERY LARGE

Tomorrow Park Hill—Caryll Pitkin

RUNNER-UP JAPONICA LARGE AND VERY LARGE

Elegans Splendor—Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci

BEST MEDIUM JAPONICA

Nuccio's Pearl—Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan

RUNNER UP MEDIUM JAPONICA

Midnight—Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan

BEST SMALL JAPONICA

Pink Doll—Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Rowe

RUNNER UP SMALL JAPONICA

Demi-Tasse—Mr. and Mrs. Jaacks

BEST RETIC VERY LARGE

Valley Knudsen—Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor

RUNNER UP RETIC VERY LARGE

K. O. Hester—Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor

BEST NON RETIC HYBRID

Angel Wings—Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci

RUNNER UP NON RETIC HYBRID

Elsie Jury—Mr. and Mrs. R. Jaacks

BEST FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

Mrs. Herbert Shirley

COURT OF HONOR

Ave Maria—Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Bliss

Maroon and Gold—Mr. and Mrs. Grady Perigan

Grace Albritten—Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci

Fircone Var.—Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor

Waltz Time Var.—Mel Gum

Gee Homeyer—Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor

South Seas—Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci

Margaret Davis—Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci

Spring Sonnet—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz

Juanita Smith—Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor

Francie L.—Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Abramson

Pharaoh—Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci

Julio Nuccio Var.—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz

Gulio Nuccio Var.—Caryll W. Pitkin

Miss Charleston Var.—Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci

High Wide 'n Handsome—Mr. and Mrs. Al Taylor

Clark Hubbs—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Goertz

Elegans Supreme—Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Bracci

Best Flower (by vote of the public)—Miss Charleston Var.

Attendance—3686.

Dame May was witty but John Money is something you got to
Greenleaf was Whittier. make in case you don't die.

THE INTRODUCTION OF CAMELIAS INTO AUSTRALIA

By **WALTER G. HAZELWOOD**

N.S.W., Australia

Ed. Note: This article is a reprint from the July 1951 issue of Camellia Review.

The actual date of the introduction of camellias into Australia can not be definitely fixed, but it is believed that Captain John Macarthur, of the 102nd regiment, was responsible for their being first brought here. John Macarthur was born in Plymouth, England, in 1767. His father, who came from Argyleshire, in Scotland, had joined the Pretender, in the rising of 1745. After the failure of the rebellion he fled from the country and sought refuge in the West Indies. Some years later he was allowed to return to England and resided in Plymouth, where John was born.

John entered the army in 1782 but a year afterwards was placed on half pay. This enforced idleness caused him to look around for something to occupy his time and he took up residence at a farm in Devonshire. Here he acquired the knowledge of farming which, in later years, stood him in such good stead, that he became the originator of the great merino wool industry in Australia. In 1789 he accepted a commission in the 102nd regiment, formed for service in New South Wales, and arrived in

Sydney in June 1790.

Three years later he obtained a grant of 200 acres of land, near Paramatta, which he named Elizabeth Farm, after his wife. As part of his activities, he began crossing the hairy sheep of India with those of English breeds, and his success with these was so encouraging that he made efforts to obtain some merino sheep from South Africa, which arrived in 1797. About 1803, Macarthur went to England with samples of his wool, which so impressed the Secretary of State, Lord Camden, that he gave orders that Macarthur was to be given 10,000 acres of land, on which to develop his wool growing. This property, Macarthur named Camden Park, after the official who had been the means of his obtaining it. Macarthur returned to Sydney in 1805 bringing with him two ewes and three rams from the merino flock of George III; and many valuable trees and plants. It is not known if camellias were included in this lot of plants or not, but it is almost certain that some came in a later batch, which he imported in 1817.

For his participation in the deposing of Governor Bligh, Macarthur was sent to England for trial, and was

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not allowed to return for some years. He spent some of his time, with his sons, James and William, travelling on the Continent studying the culture of the vine, olive, and other industries. During this time he must have seen camellias in bloom, and have been much impressed by them, as his collection in later years ran into hundreds of varieties. Refusing to admit having done wrong in assisting to depose Bligh, he declined to purchase, by submission, the power to return to Australia. Eventually the Secretary of State withdrew his objections, and placed at Macarthur's disposal, free of cost, considerable space in a vessel, in which he brought stores of plants of various kinds.

John Macarthur died in 1834, but his work was carried on by his son William. The first record of the plants growing at Camden Park seems to be a printed list dated 1843, and this contained the names of 26 camellias. These were: *Alba plena*, *Alba simplex*, *Altheaeflora*, *Anemoniflora*; *Anemoniflora alba*, *Atrorubens*, *Coccinea*, *Corallina*, *Incarnata*, *Myrtifolia*, *Aleifera*, *Paeoniflora pallida*, *Paeoniflora rubra*, *Pressii*, *Punctata*, *Rosa Mundi*, *Rotundifolia*, *Rubra plena*, *Rubra simplex*, *Spectabilis*, *Variabilis*, *Variiegata plena*, *Uelbanki*, *Maliflora*, *Reticulata*, *Sasanqua*.

Some of these sorts could not have been in the 1817 shipment as they were not introduced into Europe until after that date, but it is very likely that *Anemoniflora* was, as the plant of this is away from the other varieties, and is growing near the house amongst the older planted shrubs.

In the next list, published in 1845 there are 35 varieties of camellias. The 1850 catalogue contained 81 names of which 31 are Camden Park seedlings. In 1857 this had grown to 86 camellias and also contained the names of 65 varieties of orchids, 236 herbaceous plants, 461 bulbs, 1100 shrubs and trees and 385 fruit trees. This represents a very wide collection

of plants and for some years the Macarthur estate was the main source of supply for the colony, for fruit trees and ornamental shrubs. It is reasonable to suppose, that to have flowered his own seedlings by 1850 he must have had plants of some age, first to produce seed, and then for the seedlings to reach flowering stage. Judging from his descriptions, his earliest seedlings were from *Anemoniflora* and *Paeoniflora*.

The Camden Park records show that Sir William Macarthur imported 32 varieties from Verschaffelt in 1860. A further lot from the same source comprising 68 sorts was imported in 1871 and 51 from Linden of Ghent. There must have been many other importations of which I have not been able to find the records as the notebooks contain names of 245 different varieties growing in the garden. As a mark of appreciation for the number of camellias he had bought, Verschaffelt presented Macarthur with the last four instalments of his iconography, 1857, 1858, 1859, and 1860.

As far as I can discover, these are the only copies of Verschaffelt in Australia. The Macarthurs seem to have been the main importers of plants in the early days, but all ships' captains were instructed to bring back seeds and plants from the different countries they visited. The old sailing vessels called at Brazil and Capetown on their way to Australia, and ships were sent to India for food after the colony was established. Even to this day the influence of the plants brought back from these countries is evident in the old gardens of Sydney.

Our earliest nurseryman was Thomas Shepherd, who arrived in Sydney in February 1826, having been brought here by Governor Darling for the express purpose of establishing a commercial nursery. He received a grant of land from the Governor and started his nursery in 1827. In a book of lectures, published in 1835, he mentions getting a choice

collection of grafts and trees from Sir William Macarthur, but does not say of what these consisted. He was allotted convicts to work his nursery and it is interesting to note what wages were paid. The weekly ration was, 20 pounds of best beef, 12 pounds of best flour, one and one-half pounds of sugar, four ounces of tea, and four shillings for clothes. Shepherd raised a number of seedlings of which *Azarea*, *Leviathan*, *Speciosissima* and *Chats* are still grown. He also imported many varieties from Europe and in 1883 his catalogue contained 167 sorts of camellias.

John Baptist, a Portugese nurseryman, started in 1837, and he raised some of his own seedlings and imported many others. George Brunning of Melbourne imported the three Hovey camellias *C.H.*, *C.M.*, and *Mrs. A. M. Hovey*, and catalogued them in 1882.

In the early nineties, Australia experienced a severe financial depression and for many years gardening activities were at a low ebb, and very few new camellias were planted. Owing to the lack of demand and the expansion of the city, nearly all the old plantations have disappeared, but there are still very many old plants growing in the older districts of Sydney.

Sometime in the 1930's interest was revived in the camellia and now the demand is greater than ever. The revival was mainly due to the introduction of the single and semi-double types, but the old formals are still the favourite of many people. I do not think camellias will ever go out of fashion as completely as they did previously, but it behooves the nurseryman and hybridist, to introduce new types, from time to time, and so keep the interest in them from flagging.

THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Ed. Note: This item was reprinted from USDA Vol. 36, No. 11, May 1977.

How would you like to take an afternoon stroll through an avenue of flowering dogwoods? Drive leisurely along a stream-edged woodland of ferns and wildflowers? See 70,000 colorful azaleas shaded by oak, dogwood, and tulip trees? You can at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

A few minutes from the sound and fury of Capitol Hill, the National Arboretum is a peaceful outdoor museum of trees, shrubs, flowers, ferns, and exotic plants.

Established in 1927, the Arboretum is administered by USDA through the Crops Research Division of the Agricultural Research Service. It is headed by Dr. John L. Creech, world famous plant explorer and horticulturist.

Researching plants and providing

information to the public about trees and shrubs are the main concerns of the Arboretum. But in addition to being a research and education center, Arboretum is a place simply to enjoy nature.

The Fern Valley Trail, for example, is a naturalistic planting of ferns, wildflowers, trees, and shrubs. This winding trail gives nature lovers an opportunity to explore the variety of woodland wonders. Throughout the valley, plants are grouped according to their natural environment. The delicate plummy fronds of the New York fern brighten shaded spots in the moist woody areas.

In another part of the valley, a rocky slope provides a natural setting for plants like the spinulose woodfern and the flowering hepaticas that thrive in the shade and loose soil of rocky crevices.

One of the most important groupings of plant material at the Arbore-

tum is the Gotelli collection of Dwarf Conifers. On a neatly landscaped hill, fifteen hundred slow-growing and dwarf conifers contrast dramatically with their normal size counterparts. Some of these conifers are only a few inches tall; others range up to six feet in height.

The Arboretum also houses the National Bonsai collection. The 53 miniature trees and shrubs were given to the United States in tribute to the nation's bicentennial. The plants—one which is over 350 years old—com-

prise some of Japan's most treasured specimens. Pines, camellias, flowering plums, and junipers are among the many varieties of bonsai displayed in the Arboretum's outdoor pavilion.

During May, visitors to the Arboretum can see azaleas and rhododendrons in bloom on the slopes of Mt. Hamilton. Abundant species of wildflowers and formal gardens of peonies are also at their peak. June is highlighted by the blooming of daylilies and waterlilies. Then come the crape myrtles and hibiscus.

DEMISE OF THE CAMELLIA; WILL IT RETURN?

By JAMES H. WAGNER

Horticultural Department, Mount Hood Community College, Oregon

In 1955 multi-million dollar damage occurred to nursery stock grown in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Severely hurt were the growers who had specialized in growing camellias. Along with other ornamentals, this early frost seemed to signal the death of the northwest camellia market. Nearly ten years later another early frost discouraged those growers who continued to grow the meager amount of camellias available at the local garden centers.

Did the growers make a mistake in their retreat from the camellia market? What really happened? Were the camellias being raised really that tender? Let's examine plants in general in regard to what makes them tender or hardy. Maximum hardiness is achieved when plants are exposed to a cool, dry, sunny fall. Cool dry weather in the fall of the year discourages plant growth while both conserving and encouraging the storage of food. Sunshine on the other hand encourages photosynthesis causing development of additional food which will be stored for next spring's growth.

Free water or the more pure water found in succulent plants freezes at 32° bursting plant cells causing those plants to dry up and die. Osmotically

held water is found in many plants growing in the temperate zones of the United States. This type of water contains sugar like substances which act like an anti-freeze in plants. The higher the sugar content, the lower the temperature at which this water will freeze. This is like ice cream, because of its sugar content, it will melt at temperatures normally used to freeze ice cubes. Another type of water found in hardy plants of the temperate regions is referred to as bound water. This type of water contains an accumulation of water soluble carbohydrates and starts to freeze at still lower temperatures than osmotically held water. Obviously the lower the water content and the higher the reserve food supply in the remaining water, determines to a great extent the degree of hardiness attained by our landscape ornamental plants.

In light of the above information, why were the camellias caught in the 1955 early freeze damaged. Other plants damaged were English laurel, 30 year old Evergreen Magnolias, Abelia, Daphne Odora, Mexican Orange, roses and many others. The total list includes many of our hardiest and semi-hardy plants. Many tender plants, such as 1300 fuchsias in

one planting, were not damaged— Why? Hot dry weather in late summer and the gradual approach of cold weather in the fall causes plants to harden off. During this process excess water leaves the plant condensing that left behind which increases the hardiness of plants. Could the camellias have been damaged in 1955 because the cool summer and early frost did not allow them to harden off, I think so! If so, can this be prevented in the future and some growers feel the answer is yes.

Farmers of ornamental crops need only the wisdom of the food crop farmer who must learn how to read and forecast possible predicaments caused by weather conditions. It is easier to manipulate the growth of our ornamental shrubs than many of our annual and biennial food crops that once stunted are of little value. If weather conditions are setting us up for that early freeze we can withhold plant food and water. Don't be too anxious to water excessively during hot August weather. Not only will your plants harden off but they will tend to produce more flower buds if they are somewhat dry during August.

In the last ten years experiments have been made on Landscape Ornaments showing nursery plants well fertilized in the fall show less winter damage the following spring. Perhaps growers should consider fertilizing camellias twice each year, once in the spring when the new growth starts and again in the fall after sufficient frosts have caused these evergreen plants to become semi-dormant. Avoid using long lasting nitrogen fertilizers on these plants if its presence will not allow the plants to harden off in late summer.

Was it lack of knowledge that caused the demise of camellias in the Pacific Northwest nurseries or strictly a matter of economics, only time will tell. Meanwhile camellias will continue to be a rare sight in garden centers except for a few imports from other states.

With the nursery industry booming in Oregon, perhaps one of the new growers will try raising some of the older proven camellias such as Diakagura, Arejishi, Chanderli, Ella Drayton, Emperor of Russia, Finlandia, Nagasaki, Gigantea, Grandiflora, Herme, Kumasaka, Mikado, Pink Perfection as well as the newer varieties.

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

- Feb. 11-12, 1978—Penninsula Camellia Society, Vet. Mem. Bldg., Redwood City
- Feb. 11-12, 1978—San Diego Camellia Society, Balboa Park, San Diego
- Feb. 18-19, 1978—Santa Clara County Camellia Society, McCabe Hall, San Jose
- Feb. 18-19, 1978—Temple City Camellia Society, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia
- Feb. 25-26, 1978—Delta Camellia Society Camplindo High School, Moraga
- Feb. 25-26, 1978—Pomona Valley Camellia Society, Pomona First Fed. S& L, 99 N. Gary, Pomona
- Mar. 4-5, 1978—Camellia Society of Sacramento, Convention Center, Sacramento
- Mar. 4-5, 1978—Southern Calif. Camellia Council, Descanso Gardens, La Canada
- Mar. 11-12, 1978—Northern California Camellia Society, Sun Valley Shopping Mall, Concord
- Mar. 11-12, 1978—Camellia Society of Kern County, Aram Adams Mem. Gardens
- Mar. 12, 1978—Central Calif. Camellia Society, Fresno City College
- Mar. 18-19, 1978—Camellia Society of Modesto, Gallo Administration Bldg., Modesto
- April 1-2, 1978—Sonoma County Camellia Society, Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa

Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

Societies with asterisk () are Affiliates of Southern California Camellia Society*

***CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY**—President, Richard Stiern; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr., 733 Delmar Drive, Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: 2nd Monday, October through April, at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield.

***CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY**—President, Roy Zembower; Secretary, Mrs. Frances L. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, Santa Ana Fed. S & L Bldg., 1802 N. Main, Santa Ana.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO—President, Albert L. Biggs; Secretary, Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G St., Sacramento 95816. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

***CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Wilbur Ray; Secretary, Mary Ann Ray 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February in All-Purpose Room, Delmar School, 4122 N. Del Mar, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mary Bergamini; Secretary, Al Maggiora, 2907 Euclid Ave., Concord, Ca 94520. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, November through March, Lafayette Fed. Savings & Loan, 1406 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek.

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Donald W. Hurst; Secretary, Mrs. Lewis Singer, 409 W. Pine St., Lodi 95240. Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October thru May, United Methodist Church, Lodi.

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ernie Pieri; Secretary, Mrs. Happy Stillman, 8159 Hollywood Blvd. 90069. Meetings: st Tuesday, December through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood.

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Jake Holtzman; Secretary, Mrs. Walter Ragland, 709 Leytonstone Dr., Modesto, Ca 95355. Meetings: second Wednesday, October through Hay, First Fed. S & L, 2711 McHenry Ave., Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Frank Percel; Secretary, Judith Toomajian 18 Diablo Circle, Lafayette Ca. 94549. Meetings: first Monday, November through May. Chabot School 6686, Chabot Rd., Oakland.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Judy Simmons; Secretary, Avonne Crawford, 2301 Sylvan Lane, Glendale 91208. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Central Bank of Glendale, 411 N. Central Ave., Glendale.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, August Meier; Secretary, Margaret Tupitza, Municipal Service Building, Redwood City 94064. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, Municipal Services Center, 1400 Broadway, Redwood City.

***POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Mr. Lloyd Hawes; Secretary, Mrs. Janice Hawes, 12625 Kellogg Ave., Chino 91710. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, Pomona First Fed. S & L Bldg., 399 N. Gary, Pomona.

***SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Les Baskerville; Secretary, Keith Nelson, 37 Shasta St., Chula Vista, 97010. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, John M. Augis; Secretary, Mrs. Helen Augis, 2254 Fair Valley Court, San Jose 95125. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through April, Great Western Savings Bldg., 2100 El Camino Real, Santa Clara.

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Joy Monteleone; Secretary, Ms. Vera Parker, 7949 Lynch Rd., Sebastopol, 95472. Meetings: 4th Thursday, October through May, Steele Lane School, Santa Rosa.

***SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Ms. Maize Jeane George; Secretary, Ms. Sheila Christenson, 23034 Doris Way, Torrance, Ca 90505. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through May. South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes.

***TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY**—President, Mrs. Marion Schmidt; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel, Ca 91776. Meetings: Friday, Nov 18; Fri. Dec. 16; Thurs. Jan. 26; Thur. Feb. 23; Thur. Mar. 23; Thur. April 27. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.



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