

THE *Camellia*
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Red Hots'

Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

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

All are welcome to attend Society meetings held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, on October 29—Lecture Hall, November 19—Ayres Hall, January 28, February 25, March 25,—Lecture Hall, and April 26, Ayres Hall. A camellia culture demonstration/lecture and cut blossom exhibit at 7:30 p.m. precedes the program which begins at 8:00 p.m. Bloom placement at 7:00 p.m. for the exhibit.

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THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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Cover Photo 'Red Hots'

Medium, tubular, brilliant red japonica. Semi-double. Pointed petals. Dark green foliage. Compact, upright growth. Beautiful in mass bloom. Early to mid-season bloom period.

Photo-Bill Donnan

Color separations courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries

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THOUGHTS

from the editor

The assembled authors in this *Review* issue have given years of caring service to our hobby and our organizations. They have taken time to sit down and put their thoughts on paper to communicate with you. Their time and thoughts are much appreciated.

Special thanks must go to C.C. Bush who was the only author of all the articles I received to speak up for virusing camellias (*Camellia Review*, September-October 1992). It takes courage to voice a minority opinion. While I may not agree with his stance, I admire him for speaking out. He was also gracious enough to send another article which you will find in this issue.

As speaker at the October Southern California Camellia Society meeting, Huntington Gardens superintendent Dr. Jim Folsom mentioned that because it contained virus, he had had the entire Huntington orchid collection destroyed! No plants were saved or given away.

Isn't it becoming clearer and clearer that, as Bill Donnan says: "Virus is the AIDS of the camellia world?" Shouldn't we hobbyists realize that and stop spreading disease among our flowers?

Further discussion of virusing camellias continues in this issue.

—Pat Greutert

New Members

Southern California Camellia Society welcomes:

Ligia B. Franco de Garcia
P.O. Box 431898
San Diego, CA 93132

Ed Garcia
436 Calle Borrego
Walnut, CA 91789

University of Georgia
Periodicals Desk AG
Athens, GA 30602

Correction-Camellia Society of Modesto

Ron Jackson writes that their society has a new secretary, Sandra Taylor, 2005 Little Oak Way, Modesto, CA 95355. They have also had to find a new meeting place: Mancini Hall Senior Citizen Center, 718 Tuolumne Blvd., Modesto. We are sorry the information on our back cover will be incorrect on the remaining covers which have already been printed for the next two *Review* issues.

Camelliomania?

Dr. R.L.Bieleski

Horticulture and Food Research Institute of New Zealand

Oh dear! I hadn't intended to upset people such as Mr.C.C.Bush quite so much—I didn't realize how attached some people were to their viruses. To quite a degree, one's appreciation of colour and form is a very personal thing, and the glaring patches of white on deep red in some virus-derived selections that I find so ugly seem very attractive to others. But tastes change, tastes can be changed, and tastes differ from one another.

In old China, young girl's feet were bound to make them small in adult life, because very small feet were seen as a feature of beauty in a woman: but not today, the only bound feet you will see in China are on the old grandmothers because society has come to see that particular feature of "beauty" for what it really is, a distortion caused by interfering with natural growth.

To me, the virus-derived camellia "cultivars" should not be graced with the name of cultivars (which technically they are not); and as with bound feet, should progressively become regarded as the products of distorted growth. Quite simply, I advocate that we change our tastes a little: after all, it is not as if the plant breeders can't give us true variegated cultivars. I suspect, for example, that virus-derived camellia variegations (often of the blotch type) are much more popular in the U.S.A. than here in New Zealand where they play a relatively minor part on the show benches and in our gardens.

The placing of virus-infected plants on a pedestal is not a new situation. The oldest records we have of plant viruses in action are to be found in paintings by the Dutch Masters in the early 1600s. Tulips were becoming extraordinarily popular in the Netherlands at the time, and the most highly-valued of all were those plants, sometimes limited to a single bulb,

which showed strong colour breaks in the petals.

When the artists were painting their subjects, they usually wanted to portray them as people of substance and standing, and so depicted them along with the appropriate symbols of wealth, which were variegated tulips in those days, just as film stars today are photographed with Porsches.

By the 1630s, these broken-coloured tulips became so desired that it led to a phase in the Dutch economy called "Tulipomania" when large numbers of bulbs of particularly desirable "breaks" changed hands for vast sums of money, and led ultimately to a major market crash which affected the whole country's economy, much like our stockmarket crash of 1987.

Today we know that the particular characteristics of those most highly-variegated forms came about through nothing more than virus infection. By 1675 Blagrave was able to describe in detail methods for transferring colour break characteristics to new tulip varieties, methods which depended on the characteristic behavior of viruses in infecting their hosts. [As an interesting aside, the word we use today to describe the deliberate infection of a plant or animal—innoculation, refers to the grafting of an "eye" (ocula) or bud onto an infected stock; so that in preparing our virus-variegated camellias, we are carrying out "innoculation" in the original sense of the word.]

So Tulipomania was driven almost entirely by virus-induced variegation in tulips, even though it took until the middle of this century for the process to be understood. Today, colour-broken tulips are quite a minor part of the trade as tastes have changed, and as the commercial growers have found it pays to keep viruses out of their fields. There is more than

one tulip virus, and a couple are very debilitating indeed to the plant, not at all the sort of thing a grower wants to cope with. These days colour and form modification are being achieved mainly by conventional breeding.

So a vigorous interest in virus-induced flower variegation is not a new thing. But I guess I take mild exception to the remark that I am highly educated but have little wisdom, which I can only interpret as saying that I am an academic without any appreciation of practical realities.

The recent tendency in horticulture, as we improve our knowledge and techniques, has been almost entirely one way: to eliminate virus-infected plants from our plantings; and even where deliberate virus infection is being used, it is with a specific attenuated strain that gives minimal symptoms and which is being used to protect the plant against infection by nasty strains of the same virus. The point has perhaps been missed that orchid societies already have a ban on display of obviously-infected flowers and a policy of trying to remove virus-infected plants from general hobby culture. (Commercial growers generally need less urging.)

Ironically, when the local orchid society found out about my anti-virus article, they "invited" me (badgered, would be more accurate) to talk to their monthly gathering of about 200

people as part of reinforcing their anti-virus policy and so that new members could better understand its background.

It is perhaps more difficult to propagate and culture orchids than camellias, and it certainly takes as long to raise them from seed to flowering size. But orchid growers can get rid of viruses from their orchid plant collections, and most of them do, foregoing the "lovely" mosaic pattern in the foliage and the "uniquely" twisted petals in the flowers by so doing. I have found orchid growers and camellia growers to be equally-skilled plantsmen and plantswomen, and equally well-informed and intelligent about plants, so why should something that is done by the one group be beyond the scope of the other to even think about.

The removal of plant viruses from ornamentals intended for the amateur grower has been happening in this country for some years. The Nursery Research Centre of Massey University, partly funded by the industry, has developed what they call "High Health" plants, which are cultivars that have had the normally-resident viruses removed, allowing the resultant virus-free clones to be sold at a premium through the nursery trade.

The experience of gardeners who have planted the High Health plants such as *Daphne odora rubra* is that they

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do much better in the garden, without showing leaf blotches or pimples that are the usual unsightly characteristic of the virused plant.

The Institution in which I work has been actively involved over 40 years in identifying plant viruses, eliminating them from commercially-important plant cultivars, lobbying for a virus-free policy in two major industries, and supporting those industries that have now adopted that policy.

Thirty years ago virtually all New Zealand grape vines and most apple trees were infected with one or more viruses. Today, nearly all new plantings are being made with virus-free material; and the coordinating bodies of three industries (Apple and Pear Marketing Board, Wine Institute of New Zealand and Grape Growers Council), all managed by active practitioners from those industries, are vigorous in encouraging apple and wine growers throughout the country to make all new plantings from virus-free stock, and to progressively replace existing virus-infected plants with new uninfected stock.

In the early stages, many of the apple growers were not keen on the new way on the grounds that the virus-free plants were too vigorous to manage; but all that was required to harness that extra vigor into producing bigger crops of better apples was using a more dwarfing rootstock.

Today the APMB funds an industry plant nursery repository, FIPA, to maintain ample stocks of new cultivars and virus-free clones of old cultivars so that production nurseries always have ready access to virus-tested and virus-free budwood. Removal of apple viruses from most major plantings has been an important factor in the apple industry's dynamic growth in recent years to a point where New Zealand apples are exported in quantity to that connoisseur of apple quality, the West Coast U.S. citizen, in the face of your own

excellent apples.

Even more striking has been the part played by virus-free plantings in the great leap forward by New Zealand's wine industry over the last 15 years, from a producer of *vin* very *ordinaire* to a serious international wine exporter and a regular winner at international exhibitions against French and even California wines. Here, New Zealand has followed the fine example set in California. Under the guidance of Professor Goheen of the University of California, Davis, the California wine industry has removed virus infection from its main plantings; and once again the improvement in vine health and grape quality has been a significant factor in the rise of that industry to become a world leader. Most of you will already have consumed products from virus-free California grapes—why not extend that experience to the virus-free products from New Zealand that can be found on your supermarket shelves! You will find that virus elimination is more than an academician's dream.

I guess my real point is that I have faith in the ability of our camellia breeders to serve us up, over a period of time, far more pleasing forms of colour shading, petal variegation and picotee trimming than we will ever get by shooting the blunderbuss of virus at them. It's up to us to support the breeders who refuse to inoculate virus into everything they produce.

As far as we know, each new camellia seedling starts its life virus-free, and our first step should be to keep them that way. The next step can be to propagate our nursery stock from virus-free clones. As Professor Tanaka points out (*Camellia Review*, September-October 1992) the techniques for full and ready tissue culture of camellia are not yet available. But in the last few years, under the pressure of modern molecular biology, we have seen a rapid advance in our skill at tissue culture. This is because those marvel-

ous genetic tricks for changing plants that are talked about in the press mostly require us to regenerate new, genetically modified plants from little blobs of tissue growing in tissue culture.

It took over three woman-years-effort in our Institution to reach a point where it was possible to tissue culture and regenerate kiwi plants, but we got there. In general, the plants that are most difficult to handle are the ones that are difficult to graft and strike from cuttings: on that basis, camellia should be reasonably amenable, and there are good prospects that we could develop the required tissue culture methods given enough concentrated effort. In so doing, we would open the door to other forms of genetic manipulation that are being tested on guinea pig plants like tomato. For example, our Institute is treating the prospects for genetically manipulating both kiwi fruit and apples very seriously, which is why we are now in a position to tissue culture both of them. It mainly required a lot of hard work and trial and error to get there.

As Professor Tanaka also points out, a critical step in producing virus-free plants is to have reliable methods for recognizing the presence and absence of the viruses (virus-indexing, we call it). We do not yet have these methods for camellia viruses. But once again there has been enormous progress in the methods avail-

able over the last ten years or so, with immunological and molecular probe techniques largely displacing the older use of indicator plants and the electron microscope. In general, these new ones are easier to use, more reliable, and can be made very much more sensitive.

There's little doubt that methods for camellia would be capable of being developed, as has already been done with many other species, given some concentrated effort. As a rule, a given plant virus has very close relatives that infect other plants and detection methods for one can be applied to the other. For example, the most serious problems in tomato and cymbidium orchids are both caused by specific strains of tobacco mosaic virus.

Our experience at this Institution in developing tissue culture and virus-indexing methods for a number of species and the successful elimination of virus from infected cultivars of grapes, apples, garlic, nerines and other plants gives me good reason to believe we could do so with infected camellia cultivars if we really wanted to. Maybe we don't want to, but there's plenty of experience that says it's practical, and that the modern trend in horticulture is to eliminate virus from plantings. Does wisdom consist of saying "I will not change regardless," or is it saying "let's think about the possibilities and advantage of change?"

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Some Pros and Cons about Introducing the Camellia Virus into Camellias

Dr. William L. Ackerman

The introduction of virus(es) into camellias in order to produce variegation remains a very controversial issue despite its rather widespread use. Although I have tried to remain neutral over the years, it has not been easy. Those I have talked with usually have rather strong opinions either pro or con. Basically, I can see both sides of the issue, but the weight of evidence certainly warrants caution by those who follow the practice.

The camellia color-breaking virus can change a rather drab solid-colored cultivar into a beautiful variegated specimen that is enough to be a real show stopper. The intriguing part of it is that one simple grafting operation with the right virus-infected material can make a spectacular change. It is a perfect example of the ultimate "quick fix." Like most quick fixes, however, there are also some serious drawbacks. Basically, the grafter can unknowingly get more than he bargained for.

Perhaps one of the main problems is that we are not talking about a single simple virus. Also, viruses can be notoriously unstable; can mutate in subtle and not so subtle ways. Just how many viruses can cause variegation in flowers and/or leaves, I do not know, but I would speculate that there are at least half a dozen. The one we normally think of is called the color-breaking virus and creates clear, well-defined variegation in the flowers without visibly altering the rest of the plant very much. It is strongly suspected that an often closely-associated virus causes yellow blotching of the leaves, usually on isolated parts of the plant.

Then, there is at least one color-breaking virus that can be dormant for decades in certain cultivars only to break out unexpectedly when infected material is used as rootstock for some susceptible cultivar. In this

respect, I had a bad experience about 15 years ago. At the U.S. Plant Introduction Station, Glenn Dale, Maryland, we had several camellia introductions from Japan that had been grown in one of the greenhouses since the 1950s. In the mid-'70s, we had no use for two of these, so I top worked one of them to a new release of mine, 'Frost Prince' (a pink single), as a quick way to produce an abundance of scions. The grafts took and the growth was vigorous. However, when these plants flowered, they were unattractively blotched and streaked with white. By the third year, the leaves on new growth appeared crinkled and distorted. Both plants were destroyed and I feel I lost several years in getting this cultivar released to nurserymen.

The above is but one example of what can happen with virus-infected materials. A virus is a disease organism, make no mistake about it. To deliberately spread a disease can be unpredictable and hazardous. I have gained a very healthy respect for the problems in dealing with viruses from my past 25-year-experiences at the Glenn Dale Station where our main function was the virus-indexing program for tree-fruit introductions. Ornamentals were an incidental sideline.

Lastly, those who play with viruses should realize that is a oneway street. You may change a solid-colored cultivar to a variegated one, but once infected, you cannot change it back again. Who wants all camellias to be variegated? Certainly not most of us. Granted, there are methods through heat treatment for removing some viruses from tree fruits grapes and certain other food crops, but it is a *very* expensive process and usually takes upwards of five to seven years.

My final warning to those who advocate the deliberate introduction of virus diseases into camellias—It is a

slippery slope which can lead to disaster. I do not know of any specific research in camellias regarding the affect of viruses on growth, viability and adaptability to adverse climatic conditions. However, I am very familiar with the magnitude of devastation that viruses cause on many

food crops amounting to millions of dollars annually. In camellias, declines caused by virus infections may not be so obvious, but it is hard for me to believe that they are the exception in the plant world; and that infected plants will be as vigorous and healthy as those uninfected.

Letter

Dear Pat,

You asked hobbyists for a response to your article on "Virus—Deadly or Delightful." Well, better late than never. Here's an "off the top of my head" response:

The perspective of the hobbyist toward virusing is different, perhaps, than that of the Huntington Botanical Gardens. The hobbyist is looking for a stunning flower that will win a prize. Many beautiful show flowers have been intentionally virused. Since the practice of virusing has been heavily entrenched in this country for a great many years, it would be almost impossible to convince people—not just hobbyists, but the gardening public and commercial growers as well—that virusing should be outlawed. It doesn't seem very practical at this point to ask people to boycott the purchase of virused camellias and ban the exhibition of them in flower shows.

The camellia collection here at the Huntington has several objectives: to have a representative planting of historic camellias, species, important plants such as higos, fragrant cultivars, and many important introductions—i.e. first hybrid crosses—plus

August 7, 1992

camellias popular in other countries. Some of these, of course, have been virused.

There has been discussion here at the Gardens on whether we should put in new plantings of camellias that are virused. We sometimes worry that the older plants might somehow become infected. In fact, upon review of the plants in some sections of the garden, I have found, for example, a 'Robert Casamajor' and a 'Fircone' virused. Both these camellias are large, well-established plants and our files do not show them planted as variegated cultivars.

Virusing often does not show on a plant for many years, so it is difficult to know whether these two plants were initially virus-free.

Our general plan at this point is to avoid planting new camellias that are virused. In other words, we would plant an 'Emma Gaeta' in preference to an 'Emma Gaeta Variegated'. We do not plan to go through the Garden and take out all virused plants. This would be impractical and we would lose a number of beautiful trees.

Ann Richardson, curator,
Huntington Botanical Gardens

3 Part Arboretum Symposium and Mini-Show

The second in an Arboretum-sponsored series open to members and non-members features a mini-show open to first-time exhibitors and those who have yet to win a head table award in a regular show. January 16, 1993

Mini-Show 1-2 p.m. Bring flowers.

Demonstration lecture will include: propagation, grafting and a discussion of available varieties of camellia. 2-4 p.m. Free.

Basic Slag

C.C. Bush

In his article "Pro-Virus" in the September October 1992 Camellia Review, Mr. Bush talked about "basic slag." Your editor was curious about the term so she wrote to Mr. Bush and received this interesting reply.

When I was a co-op at Georgia Tech, I had the opportunity to work in Birmingham, Alabama, at the Bessemer plant of Tennessee Coal and Iron, in 1940 or '41. At that time, I worked on a Bessemer Converter which converted iron ore into "pig iron" or cast iron. The procedure was to fill the converter with limestone, iron ore and coke (coal). The coal was ignited and when it reached a certain temperature, I would dump a sack of manganese with other materials—(just what, I was not informed) called a "charge." Another worker turned on the air into the bottom of the converter and the resulting fireworks is what Hell must look like. When the fireworks subsided, then the molten pig-iron was drained off and the residue left in the converter was slag.

This slag is crushed and sold to mix with asphalt in highway construction. They use a lot of it or Birmingham would have been buried years ago if the slag had been allowed to accumulate.

One use of the slag is to make Magnolia cement. This cement sets up under water and is made by jetting water (a six inch stream) into molten slag.) The resultant foam is crushed and sold as cement. Basic slag must be the residue left from the open hearth process, as I do not remember the slag from Bessemer converter being so dark. This residue is then crushed and put in a ball mill to pulverize into a very fine powder.

I was introduced to Basic Slag by Dick Ward of Birmingham, on a visit to his home to see his greenhouse. Also, Gordon Maughan advised me to use Basic Slag to reduce the acidity of the soil in which camellias are planted. It would also provide trace elements that the camellia plants seem to thrive on.

Should a plant have excessive var-

iegation, you could treat it (if planted in a two-gallon pot) with two tablespoons of basic slag, work it into the soil to one or two inches from the surface, being careful not to damage the roots. If that is not enough, use another tablespoon in about one month. I do not recommend using basic slag in great amounts. It will harden like cement if not mixed into the soil.

In the southeast, we usually have acid soils. I have always been told that camellias need acid soils; however, my experience indicates that camellias do better if the soil is almost neutral—pH of 6 to 6.5 We also have dieback. We can tolerate petal blight, but die-back quickly kills a plant. Die-back can be reduced by applications of pelatized dolomite or lime with basic slag added to the lime. Good healthy roots seem to be resistant to the die-back fungus. Die-back has been reduced by use of systemic fungicide (clearly 3336 F) and by reducing the acidity of the potting mix.

Basic slag should not be used to excess. I use only small amounts in certain plants with specific symptoms. If a plant shows visible symptoms of stress, then it is probably past the point of recovery. In my opinion, a good culture and fertilizing program minimizes the stress effect.

The fertilizer mix I have the most success with is:

- 50 lbs. cotton seed meal
- 20 lbs. azalea and camellia fertilizer (Fertilome)
- 4 lbs. nitrate of soda
- 2 lbs. approximately basic slag
- 5 lbs. dehydrated cow manure

This mixture is applied at five to six week intervals, April through August 15.

Basic Slag seems to provide those extra vitamins and minerals that ca-

mellias need to become healthy and robust. It may not be the perfect solution in all mixes, however, my plants have demonstrated a pronounced visible improvement since I began using it. A 50 lb. sack goes a long way.

The following was copied from a Basic Slag sack:

VMC Low Phosphate Basic Slag Bulk or Bag Guaranteed Analysis:

1% Total Phosphoric Acid - .5% Available phosphoric acid

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DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Here Mr. Bush includes label directions for use of Basic Slag on lawns, but since we are interested mainly in camellias, your editor has dropped those.

Ornamental Shrubs and Trees

On acid soils apply 5 to 8 pounds per 100 square feet of plant bed area or area covered by branch spread of trees.

The amount of VMC Low Phosphate Basic Slag recommended should maintain a satisfactory pH for most plants. At the same time it furnishes phosphorous, calcium, magnesium, manganese and iron as plant nutrients.

Soil tests are recommended to be certain that proper pH is maintained.

Certain acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododerons, camellias and blue berries require a pH of 5.5 or below. VMC Slag is not recommended for such plants.

I have nothing further to add on the subject of basic slag other than though it is not recommended by Vulcan Minerals for camellia culture, I have found it advantageous if used in small quantities as I have previously described.

Judge's Symposium

An ACS-accredited symposium for accreditation or renewal will be held at Descanso Gardens, January 16, 1993, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch provided for a nominal fee. All are welcome to come and gain camellia knowledge. Descanso Guild-sponsored. Free.

The Agony and the Ecstasy

Bill Donnan

Have you ever watched a camellia plant die? The leaves turn from shiny green to dull green, then to shades of brown, and finally are shed. If you love camellias, this sight is an agony which knows no bounds! Conversely, if a sick camellia plant recovers and comes into full bloom, one experiences an ecstasy of equal power! Here is the story of my recent agony and ecstasy.

As some of you may know, I moved into the Morningside Retirement and Health Care Complex in November 1991. It is a brand new \$100 million entity built on 70 acres in Orange County. It has about 300 condo units plus 30 villas or homes. There is a 50-unit assisted-living building and a 100 bed skilled-nursing facility as part of the health care complex. The spacious grounds, putting green, croquet court and small lake have all been landscaped at a cost of \$1 million. But alas!! There was not even one camellia plant anywhere to be seen when I moved into my two bedroom unit.

Even though I was now living 45 miles away from Nuccio's Nurseries, I had decided that I was not going to miss those weekly, 6 a.m. learned discussions on taxes, sports and politics. Thus, each week I began the practice of picking a box of camellia blooms at the nursery and bringing them back to Morningside. These blooms were prominently displayed on the reception desk in the main lounge. They soon became the focus of the residents' attention, and Bill Donnan came to be known as "that camellia fellow" who lives on the third floor. I will confess that I was basking in the glory of those camellia blooms.

As time went on, I noticed that there was a great deal of interest in flowers, so I proposed to the social chairwoman that we try to hold a small camellia demonstration in our

Lakeview Hall Auditorium. She agreed and the demonstration was set for Thursday, February 27, 1992. I picked up about 50 camellia blooms from Nuccio's Nurseries and set them up in plastic cups on long tables. I had each bloom identified and described. I had invited Grady and Helen Perigan down for a luncheon. They put on a superb color slide show together with a display of camellia wood candlesticks, painted ceramics and water color pictures of camellias. This demonstration created quite a bit of agitation for a camellia garden here at Morningside.

Thus it turned out that a few days later, the Morningside manager came to me and said: "Bill, we are getting all kinds of requests for a camellia garden here at Morningside. I have a spot over between the Commons Building and the five-story building where we might plant some camellias. Will you help?"

When we looked at the site it seemed to be an ideal spot from a shade and shadow standpoint. I told him that I would be happy to furnish the camellias. My thinking was that this is my home. I would like to spend a little money to beautify it with my favorite shrub, the camellia.

I made a sketch of the plot and we discussed it up at the nursery. We decided that we could probably space about 30 to 35 camellias in the chosen plot. I picked out a list of 30 plants: 'Adolph Audusson Variegated', 'Alba Plena', 'Betty's Beauty', 'Elegans Improved', 'Cherries Jubilee', 'Commander Mulroy', 'Daikagura', 'Debutante', 'Donnan's Dream', 'Fimbriata', 'Glen 40', 'Grand Slam', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Jean Clere', 'Joe Nuccio', 'Katie', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Lallarook', 'Margaret Davis Picotee', 'Merry Christmas', 'Nuccio's Carousel', 'Nuccio's Gem', 'Nuccio's Ruby', 'Harold Paige', 'Pink Perfection',

'Professor Charles S. Sargent', 'Purity', 'Egao', 'Shibori Egao' and 'Misty Moon'.

You can see that they are not all formal doubles! But a lot of them are the real goodie oldies and they are all my favorites.

We chose some of the best 2 and 5 gallon plants in the nursery. Julius Nuccio threw in two one gallon 'Dwarf Shishi Gashira' for good luck. He brought them down in the nursery truck and we spaced them in the most advatageous locations.



Bill Donnan digging in at Morningside

The soil in this location appeared to be quite heavily textured. Thus, I specified to the landscape people that they should dig large, deep, double-diameter holes and plant with one part original soil and two parts peat moss or humus or potting mix. I also asked them to notify me when they planned to do the planting so that I could be there to see that every thing was done right.

As luck would have it, I had to be at an important meeting in Pasadena on Friday. Sure enough, the landscape crew planted the camellias while I was gone. When I got home, the camellias were all planted! There were about 10 large paper sacks on the edge of the plot filled with the clay soil taken from the holes where the camellias had been placed. Thus I knew that my instructions to plant one-third soil and two-thirds planting mix had been observed. The sacks had printing on the side which read Gro Power Humus Planting Mix. I was happy to see that the landscape people had followed my directions. The garden looked wonderful! The camellia plants were all identified with metal tags and they were a lovely sight to see.

Many residents came to view their "very own camellia garden" and Bill Donnan basked in the glory! I was in ecstasy. I haunted the garden and lovingly tended the plants, with their shiny green leaves and fat buds.

By the following Tuesday, four days after the camellias had been planted, I noticed that several leaves had dropped to the ground around several of the plants. I attributed this to the shock of the transplanting. However, by Friday there were three plants which had shed about half their leaves! On the following Tuesday, I drove back up to the nursery where we phoned the Gro Power company to find out what ingredients they used in Gro Power humus planting mix. We found that it contained a large amount of nitrogen fertilizer. I then realized that the roots of my newly

planted camellias were being burned to a crisp!

What should I do? I was in agony! Julius suggested that I try to save as many as I could. So we loaded up my Taurus station wagon with plastic cans and sacks of nursery planting soil and I headed back home.

I dug out all of those camellias which I thought I could save. I washed off the root ball and put them into the plastic cans with the fresh mix. I canned up 20 of the "best"-looking plants, but over the next two weeks, more and more of the re-canned plants died!

Out of the original 32 camellias, I managed to "save" 12 plants. The rest

of my lovely camellias had bit the dust! I decided that the original location for the Morningside Camellia Garden was a poor choice due to the prevalence of heavy clay soil and because the entire plot had become saturated with nitrogen fertilizer.

We took the surviving 12 camellias along with four new plants and spotted them near the entrance to the complex. As of this writing, the 16 replanted camellias look great! Several of them have started to bloom and I have fond hopes that they will all thrive.

And so, dear reader, you can see that here at Morningside I have experienced "The Agony and the Ecstasy."

Southern California Camellia Show Schedule-1992-93 Season

Dec. 5-6	1992 Pacific Society Gib L.A. County Arboretum Arcadia	Feb. 13-14	Southern California Society Huntington Gardens San Marino
Jan. 23-24	1993 South Coast Society South Coast Botanical Gardens Palos Verdes	Feb. 20-21	Pomona Valley Society First Federal Savings Claremont
Jan. 30-31	Arboretum Show L.A. County Arboretum Arcadia	Feb. 27-28	Southern California Camellia Council Descanso Gardens La Canada Flintridge
Feb. 6-7	San Diego Show Casa del Prado— Balboa Park	Mar. 6-7	Kern County Society First Christian Church Bakersfield

Northern California Show Schedule

Nov. 7	1992 Camellia-Rama Mini-Show Fresno	Mar. 13-14	Northern California Camellia Society Walnut Creek/ACS Convention
Feb. 6-7	1993 Napa Valley Camellia Society Mondavi Winery-Napa Northern California Council Meeting following show and lunch	Mar. 20-21	Modesto Camellia Society Gallo Winery Administration Bldg. Potluck lunch on Gallo veranda immediately following judging—Bring something to share.
Feb. 13-14	Peninsula Camellia Society Redwood City	Mar. 27-28	Atwater Camellia Society
Feb. 20-21	Delta Camellia Society Marina Center Pittsburg, CA	Apr. 3-4	Mini-Show Walnut Creek
Feb. 27-28	Santa Clara Camellia Society		
Mar. 6-7	Sacramento Camellia Society Central California Camellia Society* Fresno Fashion Mall		

*The Fresno show has been changed for this year only because of the ACS Convention.

What Was Hot in 1992?

Don Bergamini

Each year Don does readers a real service by compiling the winners from California camellia shows and giving his observations and conclusions.

SINGLES			
Large-V/1 Japonicas		'Little Michael'	4
'Royal Velvet'	8	'Grace Albritton'	4
'Carter's Sunburst'	2	'Tammia'	3
'Charlie Bettes'	2	'Kewpie Doll'	2
'Fashionata'	2	'Pink Smoke'	2
'Grand Prix'	2	'Spring Festival'	2
'Helen Bower'	2	11 others with one each	
'Kramer's Supreme'	2	Species	
'Miss Charleston Variegated'	2	'Shibori Egao'	5
'Mrs. D.W.Davis Special'	2	'Egao'	3
'Prima Ballerina'	2	'Star above Star'	2
'Royal Velvet Variegated'	2	'Yuletide'	2
'Silver Cloud'	2	20 others with one each	
'Snowman'	2	Retic/Retic Hybrids	
'Swan Lake'	2	'Emma Gaeta Variegated'	6
'Tiffany'	2	'Lasca Beauty'	6
'Tomorrow Park Hill'	2	'Miss Tulare'	5
20 others with one each		'Harold Paige'	4
Medium Japonicas		'Larry Piet'	3
'Grand Marshal'	6	'Valentine Day'	3
'Nuccio's Jewel'	4	'Arcadia'	2
'Betty Foy Sanders'	3	'Black Lace'	2
'In the Pink'	3	'Curtain Call'	2
'Magnoliaeflora Variegated'	3	'Dr. Clifford Parks'	2
'Wildfire'	3	'Emma Gaeta'	2
'Cherries Jubilee'	2	'Nuccio's Ruby'	2
'Desire'	2	'S.P.Dunn'	2
'Magnoliaeflora'	2	18 others with 1 each	
'Margaret Davis'	2	Non-Retic Hybrids	
'Margaret's Joy'	2	'Julie Variegated'	6
'Mrs. George Bell'	2	'Pink Dahlia'	5
'Ragland Supreme'	2	'Joe Nuccio'	4
'Sawada's Dream'	2	'Pink Dahlia Variegated'	4
11 others with one each		'Waltz Time Variegated'	4
Small (any species)		'Elsie Jury'	3
'Dahlohnega'	7	'E.G. Waterhouse Variegated'	2
'Ave Maria'	4	'Mona Jury'	2
'Pink Perfection'	3	10 others with one each	
'Wilamina'	3	MULTIPLES	
'Alison Leigh Woodroof'	2	Japonicas	
'Black Tie'	2	'Nuccio's Carousel'	7
'Demi-Tasse'	2	'Royal Velvet'	6
'Hishi Karaito'	2	'Betty Foy Sanders'	4
'Little Babe Variegated'	2	'Magnoliaeflora'	4
'Maroon and Gold'	2	'Julia France'	3
'Pink Doll'	2	'Margaret Davis'	3
'Spring Daze'	2	'Tomorrow Park Hill'	3
'Tom Thumb'	2	'Wildfire'	3
'First Blush'	2	'Grand Prix'	2
11 others with one each		'In the Pink'	2
Miniature (any species)		'Nuccio's Jewel'	2
'Something Beautiful'	5	35 others with one each	
'Lemon Drop'	4	Boutonnieres	
		'Pink Perfection'	7

'Grace Albritton'	5	'Four Winds'	2
'Alison Leigh Woodroof'	3	'Miss Tulare'	2
'Covina'	3	'Valley Knudsen'	2
'Lemon Drop'	3	8 others with one each	
'Spring Daze'	3	Non-Retic Hybrids	
'Spring Festival'	3	'Freedom Bell'	5
'Ave Maria'	3	'South Seas'	3
'Hishi Karito'	2	'Anticipation Variegated'	2
'Kewpie Doll'	2	'Buttons 'n Bows'	2
'Tinker Bell'	2	'Debbie'	2
14 others with one each		'Elsie Jury'	2
Retic/Retic Hybrids		'Julie Variegated'	2
'Emma Gaeta Variegated'	8	'Nicky Crisp'	2
'Dr.Clifford Parks'	5	'Sylvia May Wells'	2
'Arcadia'	4	'Waltz Time Variegated'	2
'Harold Paige'	3	6 others with one each	

BERGAMINI WRAP-UP

'Royal Velvet' was very popular with the judges, winning eight times as a single and six times as a multiple. 'Nuccio's Carousel' is definitely the variety for multiples entry, winning seven times in the japonica classes. 'Grand Marshal' took the medium japonica class with six decisions by the judges.

'Dahlohnega' dominated the smalls class with its pale-yellow petals catching the eyes of the judges seven times. 'Pink Perfection' and 'Ave Maria', even though they are old timers, still win as singles and multiples. 'Something Beautiful' won five bests in the miniature singles.

One of my favorites, 'Emma Gaeta Variegated', carried off six winners in singles and eight multiples awards among the reticulata hybrids. If you want a winner, this one is a must.

Another of my favorites, 'Julie Variegated', got the nod six times to head the list of single, non-reticulata hybrids and 'Freedom Bell' captured five wins in the multiples.



"I nominate this woman as the official Huntington bag lady" reads the caption on this photo of Ann Richardson purloined from her desk at the Huntington Gardens.

American Camellia Society Convention

The Sacramento Camellia Society is hosting an ACS convention in Walnut Creek, March 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, 1993 at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Featured speakers will include: Jim Randall; Jack Mandarich; Art Gonos; Julius Nuccio; and Sergio and Elsie Bracci.

Activities will include a visit to Filoli Gardens and an optional post-convention Mexican cruise. Full convention registration fee: \$175.00 After February 1, 1993: \$185.00

For further information contact: Bob Ehrhart, 2081 Norris Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Phone (415) 934-6117.

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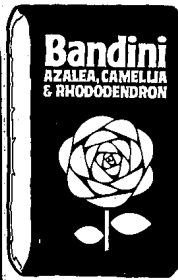
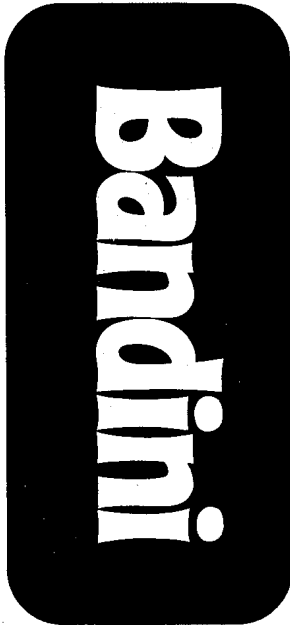
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Plant Cultivar Names

Thomas J. Savige

International Registrar

The International Camellia Society

International Registration Authority for the Genus *Camellia*

Wirlinga, NSW, Australia

In the past, plant names have been misspelt, duplicated, abbreviated and misapplied so that, in the more popular genera in particular, it has been difficult to be certain of the correct names for some cultivars. However, since the last war, codes have been promulgated for the proper control of both botanical and horticultural nomenclature.

In 1958, the first International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (referred to as the Cultivated Code) was formulated and issued by a special International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants, set up by the International Union of Biological Sciences to which all UN members are signatories. This Cultivated Code was republished with some amendments in 1961 and again in 1980. This was found necessary due to a number of changes and developments within agriculture, horticulture and silviculture, including the requirements for standard lists of cultivated taxa for various purposes as well as clarification of various questions arising from the application of the earlier dated Cultivated Codes.

Since 1980 the evolution of statutory international and national legislation, the advent of genetic engineering, the use of trade marks and increasing development in plant breeding have had considerable impact on the requirements of cultivar nomenclature.

Following the first International Symposium on Taxonomy of Cultivated plants, held in Wageningen, Netherlands in 1986, The Horticultural Taxonomy Group (referred to as Hortax) was set up in 1988. This group evaluated the present Cultivated Code and came to the conclusion that it had some shortcomings in its practical application by potential users, which sometimes resulted in it being ignored by the very people and organisations it was designed to help. Hortax have now proposed a further revision of the Cultivated Code, the principal changes of which are summarised as follows:

1. Limitations of the Code defined in relation to national and international legislation.
2. The Code phrased in easy to understand language to suit not only horticultural taxonomists, but plant breeders, foresters, nurserymen and gardeners.
3. A minimum of technical words and a glossary to explain words without an obvious meaning.
4. Clearer guidelines to the naming of plants. The recommendations given in earlier Codes being removed or amended to requirements so that the former "grey" areas have been removed.
5. Clearer guidelines for International Registration Authorities.
6. The use of examples to illustrate the Code.

However, the basic interest of the average gardener is in the formation of valid cultivar names and synonyms as far as ornamental plants are concerned.

Firstly, the international term "cultivar," derived from Cultivated Variety, denotes a plant or an assemblage of cultivated plants clearly distinguishable by certain characteristics and which, when reproduced sexually or asexually, retain these distinctions.

The words "variety" and "form" in English or their translation into other

languages are sometimes used informally for the word "cultivar," however, they must not be used as a synonym for the word "cultivar" when fulfilling the Articles of the Cultivated Code.

When a cultivar is altered by the presence of a virus or other organisms or by techniques such as genetic engineering, and a plant produced that is distinguishable from the original cultivar, this altered plant can be distinguished as a new cultivar and given a new name.

A cultivar derived by selection or from a bud mutation which shows a resemblance to its parent may be given a name which shows this relationship, but not in any way which would cause confusion.

Cultivar names may be given to plants with characteristic growth habits maintained by methods of propagation because they were originated by vegetative propagation from different phases of one plant's life cycle or derived from aberrant growth such as a witches broom.

The use of the term "strain" (or its equivalent in other languages) is not accepted under this Code.

The full name of a cultivar comprises the valid botanical or vernacular name followed by the cultivar name (cultivar epithet): i.e. *Camellia japonica* 'The Czar'.

A cultivar name published on or after January 1, 1959, must be a name in a modern language, not a botanical name in a Latin form or partly in Latin form, with the exception that a botanical epithet in Latin form at species rank or below, published before January 1, 1959, subsequently reclassified as a cultivar, is retained as the cultivar name.

The orthography of words in Latin form which are used for cultivar names should be in accordance with the Botanical Code; if not the spelling should be corrected. Accents must be retained.

A cultivar name must be distinguishable from the botanical name by enclosing it within single quotation marks. Double quotation marks and the abbreviations CV. and var. must not be used to distinguish cultivar names. When botanical names are printed in italics, cultivar names must be printed in roman.

The initial letters of the words in a cultivar name should normally be capitalised except when hyphenated or are conjunctions or prepositions and in Japanese names, the "particle" no. Note: it is desirable to hyphenate Japanese names, both for uniformity and to follow the Hepburn transliteration system. Examples:

Camellia sasanqua 'Shôjô-no-mai'

Camellia japonica 'Sound of Music'

Camellia japonica 'Souvenir de Bahuaud-Litou'

Camellia vernalis 'Star Above Star'

Hyphenated Latin epithets should delete the hyphen unless the component words stand as words on their own. However, when the last letter of the first and the first letter of the second component are vowels, the epithet remains hyphenated. Hyphenated cultivar names in a modern language must not be subsequently separated into single words unless correcting a grammatical error. The initial letters of second and subsequent elements of an hyphenated name should be capitalised only when derived from hyphenated personal names, taken from hyphenated place names or taken from names in common usage.

The name of a new cultivar published after January 1, 1959 may consist of up to three words, but one or two words are preferable. Hyphenated words are regarded as single words. If in kanji or Chinese characters they must not contain more than 4 characters.

From a date to be decided, cultivar names in any of the following forms are invalid and must be replaced:

- (a) Botanical name of a genus used without qualification.
Note: It is permitted to use the botanical name of a genus in combination (other than the genus to which the cultivar belongs) provided that the botanical name is never the final word in any epithet. i.e.
Camellia hybrid 'Rambling Rose' is not permitted.
japonica 'Rose Queen' is permitted.
- (b) Names formed or apparently formed by combining parts of the Latin epithets of the parents. However, names in which only part of the epithet is derived from the name of one parent is permitted.
C. x williamsii 'Salonica' derived from *C. japonica* and *C. saluensis* is not permitted.
- (c) Names including the following words: variety (or var.), form, cross, grex, group, seedling, sport, strain, selection or mutant or their plural form, or the words "improved" and "transformed."
The abbreviation "var.," to denote variegated. The word variegated must be written in full.
- (d) Names containing or composed of abbreviations, numerals or an arbitrary sequence of letters (except in the case of some crops).
- (e) Names including abbreviations. An exception is made for cultivar names published before (date to be decided), which included forms of address that are normally abbreviated or initial letters of personal names.
- (f) Names beginning with the following abbreviated forms of address: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.
- (g) Names beginning with the definite or indefinite article.
Note: Names published before (date to be decided) which begin with the the definite article are permitted.
- (h) Names of more than 10 syllables or 30 letters.
- (i) Names of common descriptive words or phrases. Examples: 'Large', 'Large White', 'Double Red' are not acceptable.
- (j) Names likely to be confused with existing names within the same cultivar or group class.

Cultivar names must not be translated. Note: If a name is translated this is regarded as a synonym and the valid cultivar name is the name in the original language.

Cultivar names may be transliterated, in which case they are regarded as the original name in a different form. Pinyin transliteration system should be used for Chinese names and Hepburn for Japanese. Note: The carat^ can be used in place of the overscore to indicate double length vowels in Japanese.

Valid publication of names is effected by the distribution to the public of printed material and does not include microfilm, handwritten material and non-technical newspapers. Chinese, Japanese and Korean books are accepted if, prior to January 1, 1900, they were copied by hand or reproduced mechanically or graphically from handwritten originals.

Copies of all publications containing new cultivar names should be sent to the appropriate registration authorities.

On or after January 1, 1959, the publication of a new cultivar name without a description will not be regarded as effective publication.

In order to be valid, the publication of a cultivar name after (date to be decided) must:

- (a) be effectively published as above.

(b) be accompanied by a description, or be accepted by an International Registration Authority or a statutory body with reference to a description.

- i. The description must contain particulars to distinguish the cultivar from others in its group.
- ii. Parentage and history with name of originator or introducer and mode of reproduction should be stated when known.
- iii. An illustration should be published with the description.
- iv. A standard specimen and coloured illustrations should be deposited in a public herbarium.
- v. Any reference to a previously published description must include the full title of publication, with page number on which the description appears and the date of publication.

Note: For cultivar names published before January 1, 1959, a description or reference to a previously published description is not necessary.

Any modern language can be used for a description.

A name is not validly published and is to be rejected:

1. If against the wishes of the originator, unless the originator has knowingly distributed the plant unnamed.
2. If, at the time of publication the cultivar, of which it purports to be the name, neither does nor did not exist.
3. It was originally published as a synonym.
4. It is not accepted by the author in the original publication.
5. It is a provisional name, which must be clearly stated.

Note: When two or more names are proposed in one publication for the same plant, none is validly published.

For the purpose of valid publication after January 1, 1959, the publication must be clearly dated at least as for year.

The date of a name is that of its valid publication.

Note: The correction of its original spelling does not affect its date of publication.

A legitimate name is one in accordance with the code. In a cultivar and group class there should be no re-use of a name within that class. Unless otherwise determined, a cultivar and group class is a genus. Exceptionally, on the advice of its IRA a name may be re-used if:

1. The original plant is no longer in cultivation.
2. Has ceased to exist as breeder material.
3. Is not a component in other plant pedigrees.
4. Name was rarely used.

A cultivar has only one name by which it is internationally known.

Where a later name is in general use, this can be retained if the use of the former would be confusing. Such a decision must be made by the IRA and published.

A cultivar name remains unchanged when the botanical name is changed.

A cultivar name is to be rejected if it is contrary to the articles of the Code.

A legitimate cultivar name must not be rejected merely because it is inappropriate or disagreeable, has lost its original meaning or another is thought preferable.

Passings

Marilyn Frick, Villa Park
Dr. John H. Urabec, LaCanada-Flintridge

What's in a Name

Bill Donnan

Everyone can recall that old saying: "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Well, I am now wondering whether the change of the name of the camellia species *Camellia chrysantha* to *C. nitidissima* is going to cause a class action suit! Yes, dear reader, dear old amateur camellia hobbyist, the famous yellow camellia species *C. chrysantha* has now been renamed *C. nitidissima*. The people in China are given credit for this change. I feel a little bit like Desi Arnaz who plays the part of Ricky Ricardo in the "I Love Lucy" TV shows. Someone is going to have to "splain" to me why this change is found to be necessary.

Here we are in the amateur camellia world where we have been using the word "chrysantha" for twenty years. Then some group comes along and makes the decision that we must now use *C. nitidissima* to describe the yellow-flowered species. Why is this? Did the powers that be decide to change the name because the species would not produce a good yellow hybrid? Did they conclude that "this dog won't hunt" and decide to rename it? Did they decide to rename it in order to fool the customs agents who are now banning the shipment of the (so called) *C. chrysantha* because it has been declared an endangered species? Or did they decide to rename it in order to, once more, confuse the amateur camellia hobbyist?

No. The reason for the change was that the taxonomists in China have now deduced that *C. chrysantha* and *C. nitidissima* are one and the same species! Furthermore, the species *C. nitidissima* was discovered and described in 1948 while the (so called) species *C. chrysantha* was discovered in 1979. Thus the term *C. nitidissima* has priority.

I must confess that I have always been puzzled about how taxonomists

go about their business. I once wrote an article titled "Sex and the Single Species" which can be found in *The Camellia Review*, Vol. 47, No. 3, pages 3-5; January-February 1986. In it I tried to explain how different species are found and classified. Thus I was not surprised when the expert plant hunters and botanists went from about 100 species to about 200 species of camellia. I could see that there was ample justification for increasing the number on the grounds that there was a wide new area in which to look for new species.

We all rejoiced when the experts told us that, at long last, they had found the elusive yellow-flowered camellia. Then, when they told us that there were possibly ten or more of these yellow-flowered species, we all were astounded.

But now, when they declare that henceforth the use of the term *C. chrysantha* is wrong and that we must now use the term *C. nitidissima*, I have the urge to rebel. I am beginning to wonder! HOW IMPORTANT, REALLY, IS THE RIGHT NAME? Who really decides what name to use on a camellia species?

I can understand some of the reasons for some of the names which have been used. For instance, *C. japonica* because it came from Japan; *C. forrestii* because maybe George Forrest found it; *C. gigantocarpa* because the seed pods are so huge; *C. hongkongensis* because it was found near Hong Kong; and *C. reticulata* because the leaves are heavily-veined and reticulated. But most of the other species names seem to follow the whims of the botanists who discovered them.

Where the term chrysantha came from and why some group decided to change it to nitidissima is a complete mystery to me. I got out my ponderous, 8-inch-thick *Webster's Dictionary* to see whether I could find any clues as to why the word chrysantha was

used in the first place. Using the term *chrysantha* does have some merit. It probably derives from the word *chrysaniline*—a yellow crystalline base; or from the word *chrysanisic*—pertaining to or designating a golden yellow chyrstalline acid; or, most probably, from the word *chysanthem*—a yellow pigment obtained from the *chrysanthemum* flower.

However, the term *nitidissima* escapes me, and the only word in my dictionary which even gets close is the word *nitidous*—denoting shiny or glossy. Maybe the Chinese plant people think that the yellow flowers of this species or the leaves are glossy. But whatever it was that caused them to change the name of this species, I, for one, hope that they will change back to the original term.

Let's try the idea of not changing the term *chrysantha* on for size! Let's "run this idea up the flagpole and see whether someone will salute it." (Let's

all write our congressman on this subject.) But, in all seriousness, why not suggest to the Chinese taxonomists that they all get together and decide that the term *chrysantha* has more merit than the term *nitidissima*. Why not explain to them that there have been, probably, a million or more crosses and back crosses; and tens of thousands of studies; and hundreds of articles on the subject of *C. chrysantha*; and that to change the term would cause considerable confusion. After all, Sealy states in his *A Revision of the Genus Camellia*, R.H.S., London, 1958, that the species *C. japonica* has had 23 different names and synonyms. Suppose that it was discovered that the term Higo was used in the 16th century to describe the species we now call *C. japonica*? Would we now change the term to higo?

I realize that I am "tilting at windmills!" Maybe I should change my name from Bill Donnan to Don Quixote.

To Tom Savige

Dear Tom,

You don't know this, but I am one of your most appreciative admirers. If only you lived next door or even a free phone call away, I would deluge you with questions. You are one of those nit pickers who will go to any length to solve a style problem. I flinch every time I write up show results with something like 'Emma Gaeta Var.'. I know you are looking over my shoulder saying: "No, no, Pat, it's variegated—*variegated*! The board of directors of our Southern California *Camellia* society has decided that *The Camellia Review* editor should have your new books [*The International Camellia Register*]. I will dance on the ceiling—so happy to have a definitive source for *camellia* questions.

I get so sick of hearing people say: "We're just hobbyists. What difference does it make?" Well, I would like people to look at the *Camellia Review* when a style question arises

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and say: "Well, let's look and see what Pat does." And I want to be correct. And Tom Savige will help me.

My biggest criticism of *Camellia Nomenclature* is that all cultivar names are in caps. I know that Bill Woodroof did that originally to save controversy. But it doesn't help the poor magazine editor who wants to know if it's 'Alba plena' or 'Alba Plena'. I have figured that one out, and also have seen a Savige missive that tells me the Japanese *no* always has a small *n* as in 'Tama-no-Ura' [actually it should be 'Tama-no-ura'], but there are so many other Japanese names I wonder about.

Tom Durrant's book *The Camellia Story* has been a great help to me in so many ways, but then, how about *Genus Camellia* or genus *Camellia*? Durrant uses the former but others use the latter. Must one always use *C. japonica* or can you just say: "It is a *japonica*." Durrant seems to go with

C. japonica but doesn't mind *reticulata* and even surprises me with *C. hybrid*. California's most reputable *Sunset Garden Book* uses *Camellia Sasanqua* (as Harold Hume did way back in 1955) but *Camellia japonica*.

I spend so much time poring over various texts trying to find a definitive reference, and there isn't one. I just finished a letter to Art Gonos telling him I believe *Camellia Nomenclature* should be italicized in the text rather than have single quotes. Then I picked up Durrant's book and find

'*Camellia Nomenclature*.'

This will be my fourth year as *Review* editor. I have spent so many hours trying to figure out punctuation and horticultural style. This next year should be a breeze with your help. Thank you for all the years I know you have spent researching your books. I can't wait to hold those volumes in my hands and see what you have done. Future editors will bless you.

—Pat Greutert

Savage Answer

Dear Pat,

Thank you for your faith in me though it may be misplaced. As International Registrar for the International Camellia Society, I only try to follow the International Code for Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants to the best of my ability without fear or favour. As you are no doubt aware, this contains rules on nomenclature as well as form and style. As I have to deal with the idiosyncrasies of camellia enthusiasts from all parts of the globe, I find it necessary to adhere closely to the Code and play no favourites. There is no doubt that this leads to nit picking, they are not my nits but those of the Code.

The Code is in its 4th revision which should be released in 1993. I enclose a copy of an article outlining some of the more pertinent parts of the proposal. It follows the previous rules to a large extent but has simplified some of them and made some of the recommendations into firm rules. Of course privately you can go on expressing yourself in any form you choose, but I feel that official organs of national and international plant societies should endeavour to adhere closely to the requirements of the Code, not only to exhibit a more professional appearance, but to reduce international misunderstanding and show a uniformity of expression.

I will try to comment on the various points you raise in your letter and in

October 13, 1992, Australia the same order. I am sure that most of what I have to say to you will already have considered.

Firstly, there is the use of the abbreviation of the word "var." for variegated. In the past the Code advised against the use of abbreviations in any form. In the proposed revised code, abbreviations of any form will be strictly barred. No more Dr. for Doctor; Col. for Colonel; Rev. for Reverend; Prof. for Professor, etc. This requirement will be introduced from its date of issue. As usual, the form of names in existence before the date of the revision will be let stand.

However, in the case of the abbreviation "Var." the use of this has always been against the rules of the Horticultural Code, due to its restriction to its use in the Botanic Code for botanical names as an abbreviation for the Latin "varietatis" for variety as in *Camellia japonica* var. *rusticana*. It is considered that the use of the same form "var." for both variegated and variety is most undesirable and could be confusing.

Sure, we are just hobbyists, but that is no reason to be deliberately incorrect, and sure, it does not matter much between ourselves, but when we express ourselves erroneously in otherwise erudite articles in our society magazines it tends to downgrade the horticultural standing, not only of the author, but also of the publication. This is one of the more difficult duties of an

editor: to diplomatically get agreement to correct any such variation in form and style from the author.

I consider *Camellia Nomenclature* to be probably the most important publication in the English-speaking camellia world, even though the editors have been constrained, to some extent by local usage, to the use of certain synonyms and pseudonyms in some cases. I agree with you that listing cultivar names in "caps" is undesirable, particularly now that the Code is setting out the orthography of Chinese and Japanese transliterated names as well as Latinized and hyphenated names that have been a source of confusion in the past. I feel that listing of cultivar names such as in *Camellia Nomenclature* would be best done in roman boldface with caps for initial letters where required.

The initial letters of the words of cultivar names are normally capitalized unless they are prepositions, and are printed in roman type, while botanical names are printed in italics.

Exceptions in cultivar names are hyphenated names such as 'Eye-catcher', 'Show-off', 'Shôjô-no-mai', 'Tama-no-ura', 'Waka-no-ura', etc. where only the initial word is capitalized. The only time that the second and subsequent words of a hyphenated name are capitalized are for hyphenated personal names such as 'Eleanor Blakely-Phillips'; or if taken from hyphenated place names such as 'Shangri-La'; or hyphenated substantive names such as 'Can-Can', or finally, taken from names in common use such as 'Tutti-Frutti'.

In transliterated Japanese names only the initial word is capitalised when joined by hyphens, i.e. 'Tokino-hagasane', except when it includes the name of a district: 'Miyakodori-Nagoya'.

Cultivar names are usually enclosed

in single inverted commas, i.e. 'Alba Plena'; 'Mary Elizabeth Ballard'.

To be botanically correct, when the hierarchy of the camellia is being dealt with, it should be written in italics *Genus Camellia*, but when referring to it in text "the genus *Camellia*" botanically or "genus camellia" colloquially.

When writing about the species, the initial mention is written in full *Camellia japonica* and after, just *C. japonica* unless another genus is introduced between. The initial letter of the name of a genus is always capitalized while that of the species is always in lowercase.

Colloquially, one can write that it is a japonica or reticulata or sasanqua, etc. if it is in the text of an article solely about camellias. However, one must be careful as these names are used as species names in other genera. It is quite acceptable, and probably safer, to refer to them by their their complete botanical title if preferred.

Titles of publications such as *Camellia Nomenclature* are usually written in italics.

[Since your *Review* editor has received so many inquiries about Savige's books, this last paragraph is printed in bold.]

I have finally been given a firm commitment on date of publication of the *International Camellia Register* by the printer in Singapore. It is December 15, 1992 for shipment. I see the first complete copy for final checking for OK in two weeks. I keep my fingers crossed that the the setup is right and I can say: Print the booger.

Best regards,

Tom Savige

If you want to get in on the pre-publication price of \$80.00 for Savige's International Camellia Register you may send a check for \$80.00 for each two volume set (includes postage) to: ICS, 10522 Ferncliff Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70815-5213.

Please send contributions for The Camellia Review Fund and the Camellia Nomenclature Fund to: Bobbie Belcher, 7457 Brydon Rd., La Verne, CA 91750.

Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB AND CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ward Dabney; Secretary, Connie Freitas, P.O. Box 918, Atwater 95301. Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Bloss House, Cedar & First Street, Atwater.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mary Anne Ray; Secretary, Christine Gonos, 5643 North College Ave., Fresno 93704. Meetings: Kickoff breakfast October 3rd, remaining meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February, 7:30 p.m., Sheraton Smuggler's Inn, 3737 No. Blackstone, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, Evelyn Kilsby, 11 Tiffin Ct., Clayton 94517. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, October through March, 7:30 p.m., City of Pittsburg Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor St., Pittsburg.

KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Glenn Burroughs; Secretary, Fred Dukes, 733 Del Mar Drive, Bakersfield 93307-3843. For meetings dates, times and location call Fred Dukes, (805) 831-4383.

MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President: Ronald Jackson; Secretary, Betty Grover, 1108 Ulrich Ave., Modesto 95350. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, September through April, 7:30 p.m., Centenary Methodist Church, Room 6, Norwegian & McHenry Ave., Modesto.

NAPA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Don Fretz; Secretary, Susan Bogar, 2414 Trower Ct., Napa 94558. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, September through May, 7:00 p.m., Villa Del Ray, 3255 Villa Lane, Napa.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, C. Adair Roberts; Secretary, Jim Toland, 1897 Andrews Drive, Concord 94521. Meetings: 1st Monday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Road, Concord. Final meeting in May is a dinner meeting.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Russell Monroe; Secretary, Mary Simmons, 5616 Freeman Ave., La Crescenta 91214. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through March, 7:30 p.m., Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada.

PENNINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Bob Logan; Secretary, Mickie Farmer, 360 Santa Margarita Ave., Menlo Park 94025. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October through March, Veteran's Building, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Julius Christinson; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 2nd Monday, November through April, 7:30 p.m. Church Fellowship Hall, White & 6th St., La Verne.

SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Ron Morrison; Corresponding Secretary, Evalena M. Smith, 601—34th St., Sacramento 95816-3819. Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October through April, 7:30 p.m., Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, CDR. Lindsey Edward Kalal, USN, Ret.; Secretary, Edna Baskerville, 4871 Lucille Pl. San Diego 92115. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through May, 7:00 p.m., Room 10, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY INC., CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, John Mendoza; Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Marcy, 1898 Kirkmont Ave., San Jose 95124. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, 7:00 p.m., 515 No. 1st Street, San Jose.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Helen Gates; Secretary, Pauline Johnson, 1251—10th St., San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, October through May, 7:30 p.m., South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CAMELLIA SOCIETY Inc.
7475 Brydon Rd.
La Verne, CA 91750-1159

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