

THE

Camellia Review



Camellia japonica 'Reg Ragland'

Ektachrome courtesy of William E. Woodroof, originator, and Nuccio Nurseries

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$5.00.

DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

- Central California Camellia SocietyFresno, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Elementary School Auditorium, Fresno State College
 Secretary: Mrs. Maynard Munger, 5140 N. Fruit, Fresno
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of the month
- Camellia Society of Kern CountyBakersfield, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Fiesta Room, El Adobe Motel, Union Ave.
 Secretary: Mrs. Alvin Reimer, 119 Jeffrey St., Bakersfield
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru May
- San Diego Camellia SocietySan Diego, Calif
 Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park
 Secretary: Mrs. Russell H. Parker, 3927 Loma Alta Dr., San Diego 15
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- Pomona Valley Camellia SocietyPomona, Calif
 Meeting Place: Claremont Women's Club, 345 W. 12th, Claremont
 Secretary: Mrs. George Bill, Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April
- Temple City Camellia SocietyTemple City, Calif.
 Meeting Place: Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kauffman, Temple City
 Secretary: Gertrude S. Rose, 6025 North Muscatel, San Gabriel
 Date of Meeting: 4th Monday of each month, Nov. thru April
- Camellia Society of Orange CountySanta Ana, Calif.
 Meeting Place: YWCA Building, 1411 North Broadway, Santa Ana
 Secretary: Mrs. Geo. T. Butler, 1121 Orange Ave., Santa Ana
 4th Wednesday, Nov. to April
- Huntington Camellia GardenSan Marino, Calif.
 Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Rd., San Marino
- Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley.....Arlington, Virginia
 Meeting Place: Alternates between Alexandria, Virginia; Washington D.C.
 and Chevy Chase, Maryland
 Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Milton H. Brown, 2220 N. Trenton St.,
 Arlington, Virginia
 Date of Meetings: 1st Monday of month, October through April.
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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

We Begin Again

This is the third year we, as editor, have written "No. 1" of a new volume of the Camellia Review and we feel more strongly challenged than ever. We look back feeling that we indeed had our nerve when we took over the magazine as now, having absorbed enough camellia lore to realize how little we know, we are often reminded of our abysmal ignorance by some of our more outspoken camellia friends. But even if we can't settle the "Hiryō-Hiryū" question we can state without fear of contradiction that this coming year is already so full of camellia interest that there will be something for every one to learn. Our greatest problem will be to condense its highlights into the pages of the Review.

A Camellia Welcome

To the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley now affiliated with the Southern California. We feel all these new members will bring a real eastern flavor to us and we look forward to much benefit on both sides.

Sasanqua Hang-over

Coming up from having been steeped, bewitched, overwhelmed and saturated by the *C. sasanqua* this past summer we are emerging for the broader camellia view. Sasanquas from any of their limitless angles are intriguing and their spell remains, some of it creeping into this issue inevitably—even as the budding sasanquas are beginning to laugh at us from surrounding gardens.

One question remains to bother us: what does the word "sasanqua" mean? Even our most knowing friends do not know the real definition. Surely some Review reader knows. Please drop us a line.

Summer Treat

A colorful bit of mail on a hot day was a copy of the May Reader's Digest sent to us by Walter Hazlewood. On first glance we wondered why, but a second look was rewarded for this was the Australian edition and the cover and back was a mass of bright camellias. Credit for the photograph was given to Max Dupain, but Professor E. G. Waterhouse of Sydney wrote an explanatory article in which he named the blooms which were Paolina Maggi, The Czar, Speciosa, Coccinea, Anemoniflora, White Tulip, Comtesse Woronzoff, Grand Sultan and Adrian Feint. Some of these are, of course, distinctly Australian so of special interest here. And the whole cover is so gay, so charming that we wonder why an American edition can't follow suit sometime.

The Review Flies High

We were quite thrilled last summer to receive an official looking envelope marked "From the Office of the Vice President of the United States" and inside to find a letter from Mr. Nixon's Secretary requesting a copy of the Camellia Review in which the *C. japonica* 'Richard Nixon' was described. So at least one copy of the Review has taken its place in the official V.P. files in Washington. (Wonder what files it rubs covers with.) The request came shortly after a fine plant of the 'Richard Nixon' was awarded for the Best-in-Show at the first Camellia Show held by the new Society of the Potomac Valley.

'Way Up Yonder'

At least it seems a long ways from Southern California—but the Review makes its way even up to the far northeast corner of the U.S. where some camellia enthusiasts just *must* have their camellias in spite of the weather. One of these is Walter Barker of Nashua, New Hampshire
(Continued on Page 36)

GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 1955-56 Camellia season.

From the indications of the programs that have been developed for you by our Program Chairman, Caryll Pitkin, and for the arrangements being made for your comfort and enjoyment by our Director, Clifford Argue, I am sure that we can all look forward to a most enjoyable and beneficial season. The Chairmen of our Committees have been working very diligently so that we can be assured of a successful year. Of course the success will depend upon the participation of our members in our local meetings, in supporting the Camellia Review and sending in noteworthy articles to our Review Committee for publication, and to spreading the gospel of Camellias and obtaining new members to add to our already existing strength.

No matter how well done the job has been in building our present firm foundation we must continue this good work, and I know your enthusiasm in either enjoying, growing or experimenting with camellias will be furthered by our joint cooperation and interest. Let us not forget one of the highlights of the season which will be the Joint Camellia Show and the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society February 24th through 26th.

Again a welcome to all members as we join in anticipation of a good year.

—EDWARDS METCALF

HARVEY SHORT WINS MARGARETE HERTRICH AWARD

The Camellia seedling, *C. japonica* 'Guest of Honor' exhibited by Harvey F. Short of Pasadena has been judged highest among the many entrants in the annual competition for the Margarete Hertrich award.

The blossom, a Lotus seedling, is from an illustrious block of seedlings which produced such outstanding varieties as 'Masterpiece,' 'Bride's Bouquet,' 'Frosty Morn,' and, Harvey tells me, others still to be released.



The flower is semi-double to semi-peony in form averaging 5½ in. in diameter with wide petals of salmon rose color and unusual blonde-yellow stamens. It starts to bloom in February and continues late into the season. The blossom opens freely with fine keeping qualities.

The plant is upright and vigorous with beautiful foliage. A splendid ornamental in any garden.

CAMELLIA WILLIAMSII HYBRIDS IN SEATTLE

By B. O. MULLIGAN

Director, University of Washington Arboretum

The history of most of these hybrids is fairly well documented, especially in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* of London (1, 2, 3, 4), and for the past fifteen years they have been extolled in English horticultural journals and by those who have seen and grown them as some of the most promising hybrids ever raised for gardens in temperate climates.

The parent plants of *Camellia saluenensis* used by Mr. J. C. Williams, of Caerhays Castle, Cornwall, S.W. England, in making this cross were raised by him from seeds collected by George Forrest in Yunnan, S.W. China, probably between 1917 and 1923 (5, 6). At any rate, by 1934, when I first became acquainted with them, Mr. Williams had raised, propagated and distributed plants of his hybrids to his friends, and these had grown to a height of several feet. *C. saluenensis* itself was available in some English nurseries by 1937 or possibly earlier.

In April 1948 we received one plant each of three of these hybrids, namely 'J. C. Williams', 'First Flush', and 'Bow Bells', from the nursery of the late Mr. W. J. Marchant near Wimborne, Dorset, England. These were 12-15 inches tall, probably two years old from cuttings or grafts. They were kept in pots for several years in a cool greenhouse, for observation and propagation, not because we doubted their hardiness in Seattle; in north Wales 'J. C. Williams' has withstood a low temperature of -2° F. without damage.

All were planted in a lath house to the north of the greenhouses during 1952 and flowered there the following spring, 'Bow Bells' early in February followed by the other two during March. They had, of course, previously bloomed in the greenhouse. 'First Flush' was moved out to the Winter Garden in May 1953, a sheltered location but on heavy clay soil which has evidently not suited this camellia, although several forms of *C. Sasanqua* grow well in it. A year later 'Bow Bells' and 'J. C. Williams' were again transplanted to permanent

sites in the same lath house, and here they have flourished in a light soil with a high humus content; the former is now (Aug. 1955) 7 feet tall, having extended its central leader almost two feet this year, the latter about 6 feet, with 33 inches of new growth.

The fourth form of *C. Williamsii* which we acquired was 'Mary Christian', two plants coming from a Seattle nursery in November 1952. One of these was also planted in the Winter Garden in May 1953, close to 'First Flush', and has grown into a compact, densely branched bush about 3 feet tall, much more shapely and vigorous than the latter. The other plant remained in the lath house with 'Bow Bells' and 'J. C. Williams' and has increased equally well in size; the present height is 6 feet, new growth 12 inches; the branching habit is somewhat better than the other two. First flowering occurred in the lath house in September 1953, in the Winter Garden at the end of November 1953.

Of these four, 'J. C. Williams' and 'Mary Christian' were named in March 1942, when both received awards at a Royal Horticultural Society show in London (1). The other two, 'Bow Bells' and 'First Flush', were evidently selections named and propagated by Mr. W. J. Marchant but not raised by him. We also possess a plant of his 'Rose Bowl', imported with others in November 1952

