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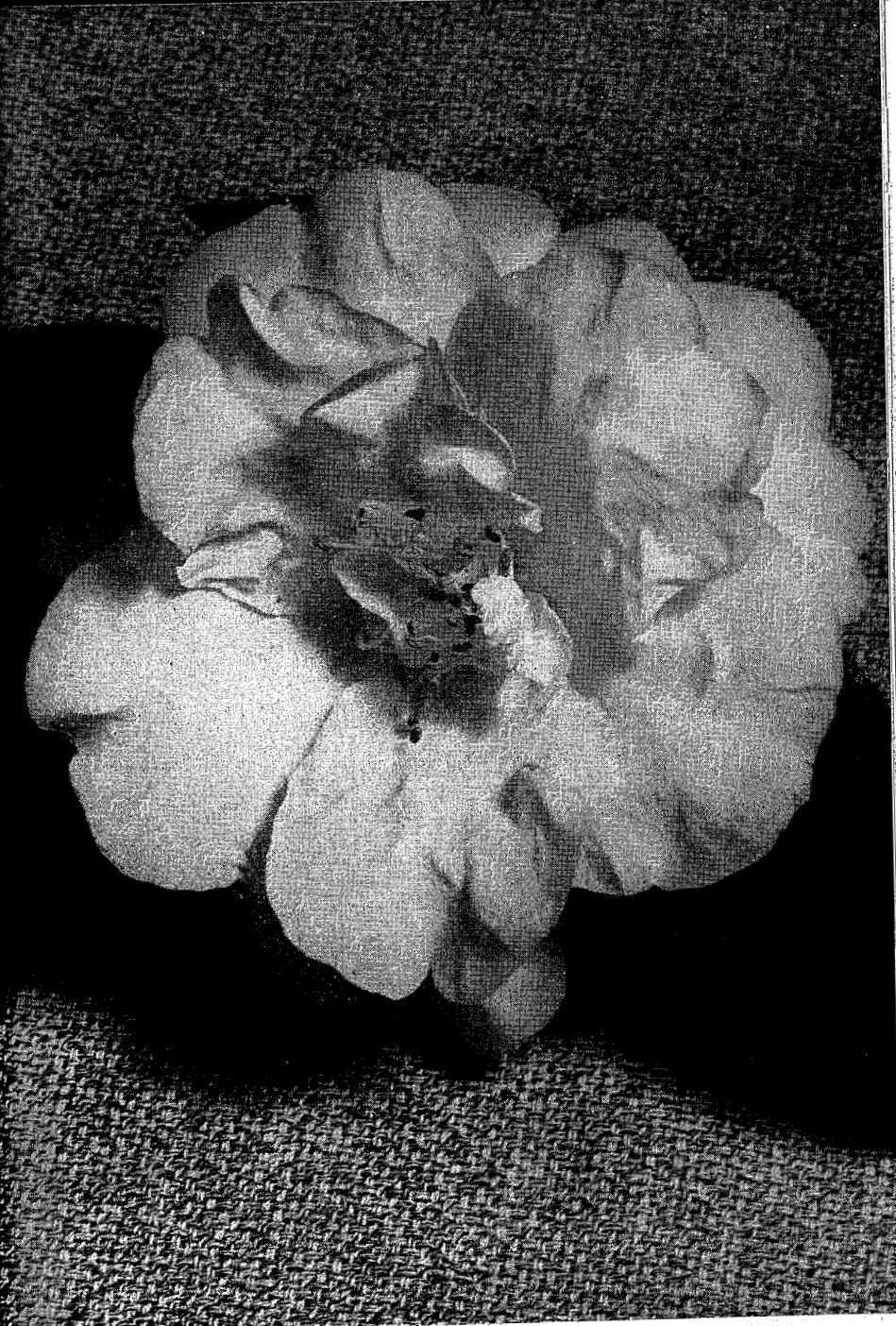
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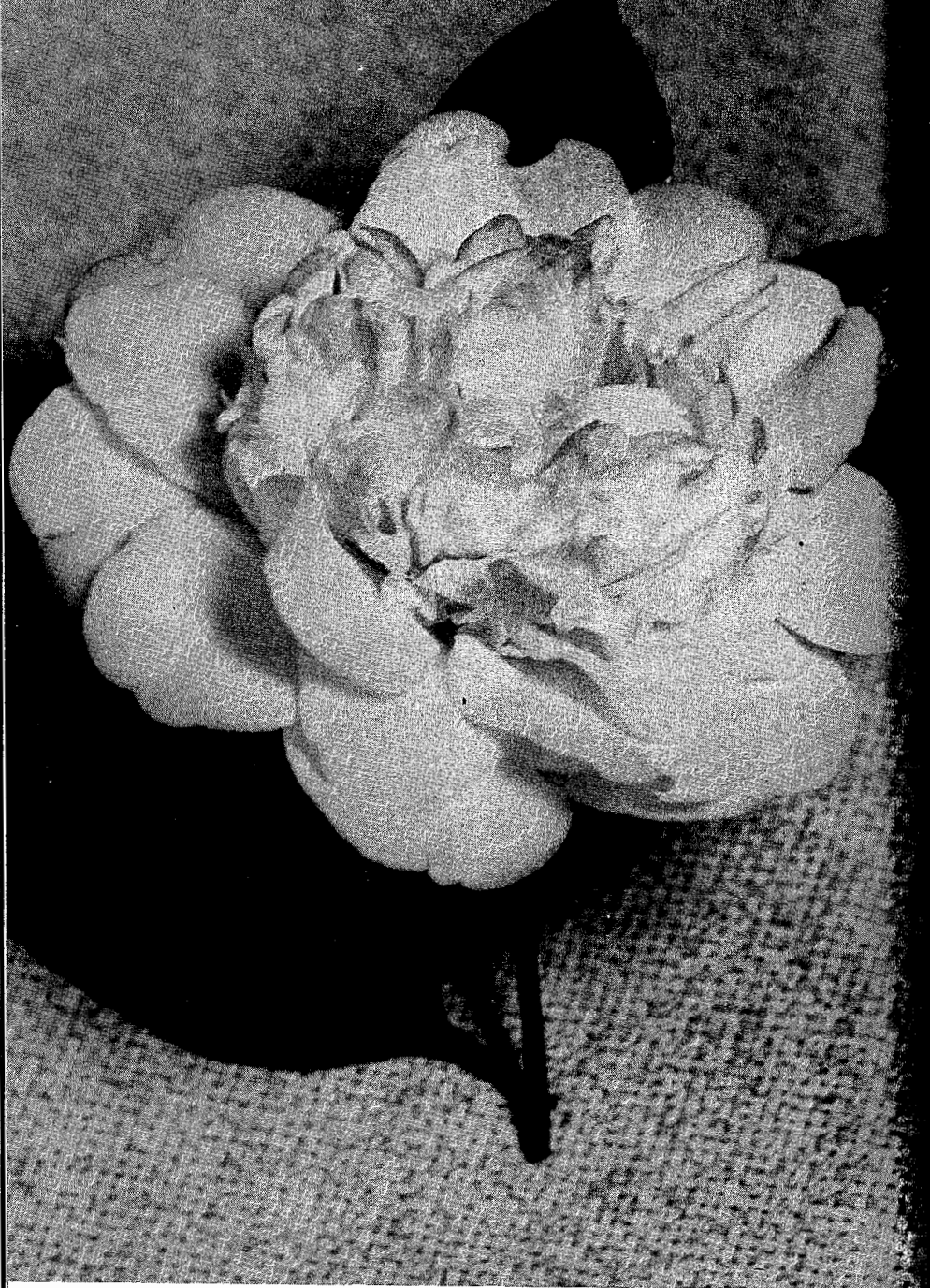
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MAKING THE FLOWERS OF THE YEAR

JENNY JONES

Courtesy Rancho del Descanso



MARY CHARLOTTE

Courtesy Rancho del Descanso

THE DESCANSO CAMELLIAS

By J. Howard Asper

The Rancho del Descanso has been quite active these past few years in developing and introducing new camellia varieties. Of those already offered to the public, the following seem to have really met the test of time and popular appeal. Since interest in them has been so marked, a few notes on their origin and characteristics may prove helpful.

BERENICE BODDY—Introduced in 1946, U.S. Plant Patent No. 605. This is a seedling developed at Sierra Madre and named in honor of Mrs. Manchester Boddy, wife of the Editor and Publisher of the *Los Angeles Daily News*. The plant grows rapidly and its foliage is dark green and leathery in appearance. It flowers profusely from November 15 to about March 1.

The flowers are a beautiful shade of pink when first open and gradually lighten as the flower grows older. Although delicate in appearance the flower holds up well when cut and can be worn as a corsage. Last Christmas several dozen flowers were shipped by air to Chicago where they were used for bridal-party bouquets. The flowers held up beautifully and were received with great enthusiasm.

The plant sets seed easily and several important crosses have already been made using it as the female parent. One outstanding cross was Berenice Boddy \times *C. Saluenensis*, "Appleblossom." This has resulted in a light pink seedling, the first flowers of which have been quite fragrant.

MARY CHARLOTTE—First introduced in 1947. The outstanding feature of this camellia is its color, a warm flesh tone pink that is beautiful beyond description. The flowers are fairly large, resembling in form the variety Chanderli Elegans. The plants are free growing with dark green foliage. The flowers last well when cut and a corsage of this variety never fails to attract attention.

This camellia along with the varieties Pride of Descanso and Jenny Jones resulted from hybridizing done by the President of Osaka University. His purpose was to create a Royal Collection for the Emperor of Japan, and this one was rated best of all his seedlings. It was brought to America by a Japanese camellia grower in 1931 who received it as a gift when he made a substantial donation to the University. It was named Mary Charlotte in honor of a lovely young American lady whose father was a friend of the Japanese importer. So far as is known it has never borne seed, though it does bear enough pollen to fertilize flowers on other varieties.

PRIDE OF DESCANSO—Introduced in 1947. Pride of Descanso is an extremely large white flower of semi-double to loose peony form. The plant flowers freely and the flowers never fail to open. It grows upright and is very vigorous. It sets seed rather easily and for anyone contemplating a hybridizing program it would be a "must" in his collection. It originated in the Royal Collection as explained before and is certainly one of the foremost white camellias in existence. It was named Pride of Descanso by Manchester Boddy as being the pride of his famous Rancho del Descanso.

JENNY JONES—New introduction, 1948-49 season. A crinkly-petaled white semi-double about the size of Lotus. The flowers have wonderful petal substance lasting for days on the plant, as against a few hours for Lotus. It also lasts well when cut and worn as a corsage or used in house decoration. The plant flowers most profusely and a large plant in full bloom is a sight not soon forgotten. It sets seed very easily and is another "must" as a seed parent for any serious hybridizer. It is another member of the Emperor's collection.

MRS. HOWARD ASPER—New introduction, 1948-49 season. This outstanding variety came from one of a group of seedlings imported from Japan and first flowered at the Rancho del Descanso. From the time of its first flowering it attracted attention as something different in the camellia world.

The flower is large, semi-double and the firm petals form a cup-shaped bloom. Its color is a medium pink of vibrant tone. It lasts well when cut and never fails to create a sensation when worn as a corsage. The first comment usually is, "Is it real?"

The plant grows moderately well, the leaves being rather small and somewhat sparse. It flowers freely, however, beginning about February 15th. Many camellia experts believe this flower to be the result of a bi-generic cross between the species *Japonica* and *Pitardii*. Certainly it is "something new" in camellias. So far as is known it sets no seed and none of its pollen has proven fertile. It was named in honor of Mrs. Asper.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

By S. L. Marbury

Three thousand miles across the country, from the East Coast to the West Coast, measured in miles is quite some distance, but measured by the reception we received on our recent trip to California it was like visiting with life-long friends just around the corner. Never have I seen a clearer demonstration of real hospitality than that which we experienced during our visit.

There were many highlights to our trip, such as the wonderful people we met, the fascinating cities and beautiful countryside, the fine homes and gardens, our visit to Hood to see the many record-size camellia trees, beautiful Capitol Park in Sacramento, and visits to many fine nurseries where we had the privilege of seeing some of your very new and outstanding varieties of camellias.

One of the most interesting experiences to me was seeing the many thousands of camellias in containers. Having purchased quite a few camellias in the past from California, I was aware of the fact that considerable quantities were shipped in containers but had no conception of the magnitude of this method.

There are so many advantages in container-grown plants over those balled and burlapped that I am amazed more of our nurseries have not adopted this method. I can say, however, that since our return several nurseries in the East are making plans for growing a large part of their camellias in containers.

I was also quite impressed by the method of grafting being used, that is, in seeing the elimination of all protective material other than the glass jar. Here we all use Vermiculite, sand, or some other type of collar around the graft area as a protective measure.

Another highlight of our trip was the visit to the Rancho del Descanso, not only because we were lavishly entertained, but for the opportunity of being able to see the wonderful experimental work that they are doing there, as well as seeing some of their actual accomplishments.

Space does not permit me to list the names of the many fine people who went so far out of their way to entertain us and do so much for us, but I would like to say to all of you—Thanks a million, and I hope that you will invite us out again soon.

A.C.S. MEETING NOTES

By David W. McLean

The Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society was held in Sacramento, California, on March 4th and 5th.

The retiring board of directors met on the evening of March 4th in one of the conference rooms of the Hotel Senator to wind up the business of the expiring year. John Illges, Atlantic Coast Vice-President, presided in the absence of President H. Harold Hume. Routine matters of business were cleared.

Pacific Coast Vice-President Harold L. Paige brought up the matter of reorganization of the Society on some basis which would give representation to local societies. He stated his awareness of the fact that this was new business to be considered by the new board, but pointed out that his term expired with the election of officers and that he would not be a member of the new board. Mr. Paige was invited to present the matter at the meeting of the new board next morning.

Secretary R. J. Wilmot, as chairman of the Registration Committee, brought up a question of policy for that committee. Should the registration of new varieties be simply a matter of registering names and descriptions, or is it the duty of the committee to determine that the variety is different from, or better than, any existing variety? General discussion revealed the board's feeling that registration should not be considered an award of merit. A committee consisting of H. L. Paige, D. W. McLean, W. A. Murray, and W. T. Wood was appointed to bring to the new board next morning a resolution expressing the policy regarding registration.

The new A.C.S. Board of Directors met on the morning of March 5th in a conference room of the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. John Illges opened the meeting and called for nominations and election of officers. The following were elected:

President—Judge Arthur W. Solomon, Savannah, Georgia
Atlantic Coast Vice-President—William T. Wood, Macon, Georgia
Gulf Coast Vice-President—Sigmund J. Katz, Covington, Louisiana
Pacific Coast Vice-President—William Hertrich, San Marino, California
Secretary—Roy J. Wilmot, Gainesville, Florida
Treasurer—T. J. Smith, McRae, Georgia.

President Solomon took the chair and was presented with a camellia wood gavel by Morrie L. Sharp of Portland, Oregon, editor of the Oregon Camellia Society's recent book. Routine business for the coming year was quickly cleared.

Harold L. Paige then requested that a committee be appointed to study possible plans for reorganizing the American Camellia Society to integrate the activities of local camellia societies and give them representation in the affairs of the national society. On motion duly made and seconded, the President was authorized to appoint such a committee to report at the next annual meeting.

The Special Committee presented a resolution embodying the policy of the Society regarding registration of new varieties. (1) Make sure the name to be given the new variety is available for use. (2) Register and publish the name and description of the new variety so that in the future the name will be protected for that variety and prevent duplication. (3) Register established sports of existing varieties under new available names, adding thereto a bracket containing the words "sport of" and the name of the variety producing the sport.

(4) Publicize and in every way possible encourage the registration of all new varieties so their names may be properly cleared as available and listed for future reference.

The General Meeting of the society was held in the Little Theatre of the Memorial Auditorium at 2:30 in the afternoon. The outstanding feature of general interest were the reports of state directors regarding cultural problems in the various areas. Several reports stressed the ability of camellias to withstand low temperatures, an ability of which Southern California camellia fans have had ample evidence during the past winter. Morrie L. Sharp of Portland, Oregon, proxying for Director H. H. Harms, showed a photograph of a camellia plant twice as tall as the man standing in front of it which had been completely under water for six weeks during the Oregon floods of last year. A privet hedge and other plants in the picture were dead as doornails, but the camellia appeared as happy as any plant could be. The general hardiness of camellias was well established.

After the general session, members and guests visited the Sacramento Camellia Show in the adjoining auditorium for the rest of the afternoon. The local show committee (Sacramento Camellia Society) has been greatly worried by the scarcity of flowers in the area. Plans for the physical setup of the show had been made so the size of the display area could be as large or small as the available blossoms and blooming plants permitted. Material poured in throughout Friday and Saturday morning. By opening time Saturday afternoon the show had assumed its usual proportions, filling the large auditorium and displaying its usual high excellence. Visitors from the East and South were particularly impressed with the backgrounds of our West Coast shows, a feature lacking in the South where camellias are not grown in containers. Some of the experts on flower form and quality were enthusiastic regarding the size and form of Pacific Coast blooms. While the size of some varieties is greater in the South, Reticulata and Lady Clare were cited as two which are definitely larger in this area.

Much more could be said about the Sacramento Show if space permitted. The flower arrangement section was outstanding, both for the arrangements themselves and the way in which they were exhibited. The beautiful background surrounding the entire floor area was made up of foliage and tall blooming plants. Suspended high above the show was a seven foot cut-out of Chandleri Elegans in color. Miss Naomi Canon, retired art teacher and an old-timer in the Sacramento Society, had converted it from a cut-out rose left in the auditorium by some flower show of bygone years. It really was an artistic feat.

The outstanding flower of this 25th consecutive show of the Sacramento Camellia Society was adjudged the Shin Akebono, a variety introduced to the area by the Toichi Domoto Nurseries.

Much could be said concerning the other activities of this old, but still young society. We hope to make a full report in a future issue.

The annual banquet of the American Camellia Society was held at the Hotel Senator, with President Carl M. Hoskinson of the Sacramento Society presiding. The Sacramento Society sponsored and arranged the affair, with the A.C.S. officers as their guests. The large banquet room was filled to capacity. Mrs. Robert Mumm presented several pianologues. Harold L. Paige read a paper on the "Purpose and Program of the American Camellia Society." William T. Wood spoke on the "Purpose and Use of the Ilges Medal." Dr. David W. McLean spoke on the "The Verschaffelt Camellias," and pointed out the early

(Continued on page 24)

SASANQUAS FROM SAWADA

By The Interested Observer

Mr. K. Sawada, proprietor of famed Overlook Nurseries, was one of the guests on the Test Garden tour sponsored by our society and the Huntington Botanic Gardens on Sunday, February 27. The tremendous ovation which Mr. Sawada received at our Annual Affiliate Meeting a few nights before was a sincere tribute to his many years of conscientious and successful work in developing some of America's finest varieties. And it was a tribute, too, to the integrity and personal charm of this distinguished grower. With Mr. Sawada on this trip was his son George, recently graduated from Cornell with a master's degree in horticulture.

The Test Garden held much of interest to Mr. Sawada. He commented frequently on the beauty and naturalness of the setting, the ideal conditions under which the plants are growing—the canyon slopes simulating as they do the natural habitat of the camellia—on the soft light filtering through the majestic oaks, and the breath-taking vistas of the landscape. When the Garden is eventually opened to the public, it will be possible for everyone to wander leisurely along the trails admiring and studying what we believe will soon be the finest collection of camellias in the world.

As the tour of the Garden drew to a close, Mr. Sawada asked this Interested Observer if the Test Garden had his introductions. I told him that the Garden probably had all the Overlook introductions now in commerce. Then with the humble dignity that characterizes the gentleman, Mr. Sawada asked if we would care to have specimens of his collection of Sasanquas. Would we care! The finest collection of Sasanqua seedlings in America!¹

Right then and there Mr. Sawada promised that at the proper season he will send to the Test Garden a plant of each of his varieties of the species Sasanqua. We are very proud and grateful.

Mr. Ronald Townsend, Superintendent of the Huntington Gardens, has designated a section of the Test Garden where this valuable and interesting collection will be grouped together on a promontory at the head of the canyon for all the world to see. The location was pointed out to Mr. Sawada and received his enthusiastic approval. It is one of the most attractive places in the entire Garden, a most fitting site for so choice a collection. Our profound gratitude to both the Huntington Gardens and Mr. Sawada for establishing this living memento of a most enjoyable visit.

¹For a description of these varieties see K. Sawada, "Southern Sasanquas," *S.C.C.S. Bulletin*, November 1948, pp.5ff.—Ed.

QUEEN OF THE GARDEN

"*C. reticulata*, introduced from Western China in 1820, has long been regarded as the queen of the family . . .," writes A. T. Johnson in his recent book. "The wonderful flowers, 5-7 in. across, wavy-petalled and richly textured, are semi-double and a glowing rose-crimson. Yet, massive and opulent as they are, they do not oppress one with that heavy, overfed effect common to some of the fully doubled japonica varieties."

The reproductions on the following pages are from *Paxton's Magazine of Botany*, Vol. III, 1837, p. 101. These plates were very kindly supplied by one of our members in Santa Ana, Mr. Fred Forgy.

CAMELLIA RETICULATA.

(CAPTAIN ROWES' CAMELLIA.)

CLASS.

MONADELPHIA.

ORDER.

POLYANDRIA.

NATURAL ORDER.

TERNSTROMIACEÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—*Calyx* imbricated, surrounded by accessory bractæas or sepals. *Stamens* cohering into a tube (monadelphous). *Anthers* elliptical, two celled, opening lengthwise. *Capsule* furrowed, with a dissepiment (partition) in the middle of each valve, separating from the three angled axes when ripe. *Cells* one or two seeded.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—*Plant* shrubby, from eight to ten feet high. *Leaves* stiff, oblong, acuminate, serrated, flat, of rather a dull colour, veins deeply sunken (reticulate). *Flowers* large, axillary, solitary, of a clear rose colour. *Calyx* five-leaved, slightly tinged with purple. *Petals* from seventeen to eighteen, somewhat undulated (repand, or wavy), mostly entire, carelessly arranged. *Stamens* a great deal shorter than the petals, often divided into several bundles placed opposite the inner petals. *Ovary* silky, of a roundish form, four celled. *Stigma* simple. *Style* sometimes two or three parted.

AMONG the many splendid species of this genus that annually beautify our collections by their rich blossoms, there is no one that has a more just claim to our admiration than the present; so imposing are its blossoms when fully expanded, that if it were not for the superior colour of its petals, and simple form of the leaves, we might say it somewhat approximated in appearance to the well-known tree *Pæonia*, (*Pæonia Moutan*). And certainly the loosely arranged and wavy disposition of the petals give the blossoms of this plant a not very distant likeness to those of that genus.

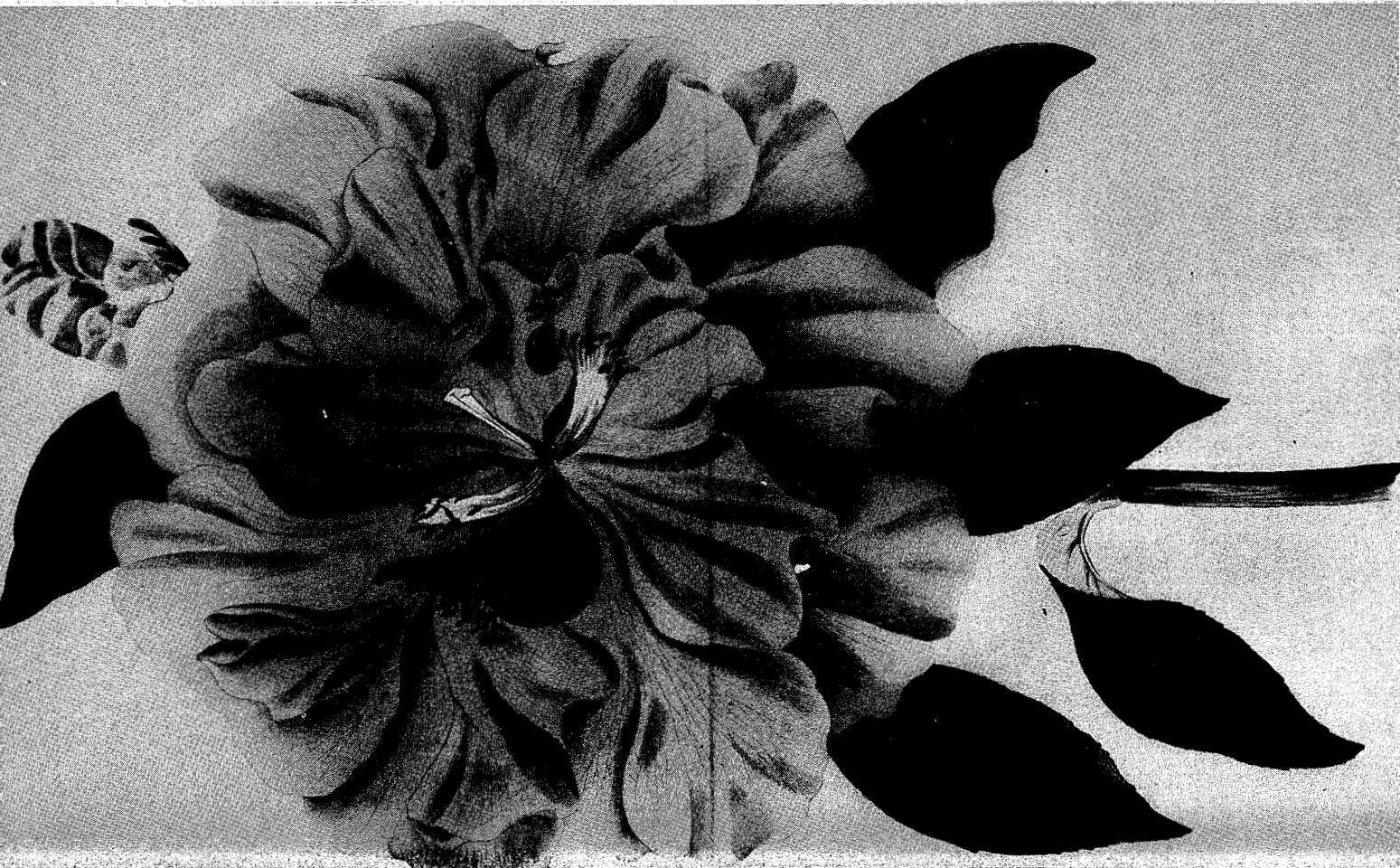
The common culture observed in growing that family of plants will be found to suit this very well; but if any difference is necessary to be made, we should say a little stronger soil should be given, as it is inclined to grow somewhat stronger than many of the other species. For further particulars of culture, see Vol. 1. page 33.

The generic name is given in honour of George Camellus, or Kamel, a Moravian Jesuit and traveller in Asia. The specific name (*reticulata*) is given in reference to the resemblance the nerves of the leaf bear to net work.

This gaudy species of *Camellia* produced its blossoms, for the first time in this country, in the conservatory of Thomas Carey Palmer, Esq., at Bromley.

It was brought from China by Captain Rowes, in compliment to whom its English name is given.

Messrs. Lewcomb, Prince, and Co., of Exeter, kindly favoured us with the accompanying figure.



THE CAMELLIA

By G. B. TIROCCO



Translated from the Italian by

CLAUDE CHIDAMIAN

PREFACE

Twenty-one years ago the only modern European book on the camellia was published by Francesco Battiato in Catania, Sicily. It was a slender paper-bound volume without photos or drawings; the author, G. B. Tirocco, called it simply *LA CAMELIA*. But the modest text contained some of the finest pages in all camellia literature.

It is a unique work in many ways. Unlike all the other European books on the subject, it is devoted to the culture of camellias out-of-doors, not under glass. The warm Mediterranean shores of southern France and Italy furnish the locale for Signor Tirocco's discussion. One might substitute the words *Pacific Coast* anywhere in the text without altering the sense of it in the least.

Time and again the author calls on the leading growers of Italy and France, both amateur and professional, for their opinion on points of controversy. Letters, books, and articles are freely quoted, virtually making the text a symposium of the best camellia information available in Europe.

This first English translation is offered with the hope that it may prove useful and interesting to all who grow and love the camellia.

CLAUDE CHIDAMIAN

INTRODUCTION*

O fortunate this camellia
that pale dies among the white veils
of her bosom: veils half-open, agitated
by the pulsing of the swelling forms!

L. Stecchetti—*Nuova Polemica*

Time was when the greatest merits were attributed, not without reason, to the camellia. It was acclaimed the Queen of the Winter and ranked above other flowers, even the rose, both for the splendor of its flowers—white, red, spotted, streaked, single and double—and for its foliage—deep green, shining, persistent. It was extolled as the symbol of Constancy, of Beauty, of Pleasure and of Virginity.

But, after the ever-blooming roses were developed, which also bloom, with a more than spring-like splendor, in the depths of winter: after the creation of the most recent varieties—among them the *Souvenir de la Malmaison*, the *Paul Neyron*, the *Marechal Niel*, the *Paul Nabonnan*, the *France*, the *Ulrich Brunner*, the *Kaiserin Victoria*, the *Etoile de France*, the *Karl Druschki*, the *Musk* and others, whose beauty is further enhanced by their fragrance, the camellia lost much of its vogue and no longer contended with the rose for the proud and well-merited title of Queen of Flowers.

Besides fragrance, the camellia lacks a stem or pedicel. Unless supplemented by artificial means, as expert gardeners prepare them, they do not lend themselves readily to the creation of bouquets, floral pieces or corsages.

Nevertheless the camellia is still highly valued as an ornament to apartments and gardens. Because of its shape, its foliage, and its facility in adapting itself to living in a container more readily than the rose, it seems destined to continuing popularity. Certainly if these arboreal plants, bearing their glossy leaves and waxy, symmetrical flowers of the most vivid and variegated colors in even the most inclement seasons, did not lack fragrance and pedicel, they would be unrivalled.

In the following poetic allegory by Robert Corvelisse of Ghent is explained the reason for the camellia's utter lack of fragrance. Vulcan had surprised Venus in intimate embrace with Mars. Cupid, on hearing of this, reproached his mother bitterly. Venus, greatly angered by her son's words, wanted him severely punished. She at once ordered the Graces to whip him with rose-tree shoots and so to lacerate the young god's tender flesh.

Young Cupid was fearfully awaiting the terrible punishment when Flora, pitying him, tenderly entreated Zephyr to fly to Japan and pluck the stalks of the thornless rose, called *Anacanthis* by the gods and *Sasanqua* by men, with glossy leaves and flowers only slightly different from the true rose. In a moment Zephyr returned laden with blossoming branches. The Graces admired them very much and put them in their hair and in their bodices. The thrashing they gave Cupid was a mere formality and painless; but Venus, on learning of all this, conceived a violent hatred for the camellia. She punished it by depriving it of all fragrance and banishing it to a faraway, lonely and unknown island. Her orders were respected so well and so long that not even at the beginning of the eighteenth century was this flowering plant known.

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It was only about 1690 that Kaempfer gave a brief description of it; this he published in 1712 in his *Amoenitates exoticae*.

In 1739 Father George Kamel, a Jesuit and apostolic missionary interested in botany, was struck by the beauty and majesty of certain trees. Reaching as much as ten meters in height, and known to the natives as *Tsubaki*, they were admired particularly for their grace, their shape, the sheen of their leaves and their single, waxy flowers, shading from pink to red. He introduced some specimens into Europe. The famous naturalist Linnaeus was the first to name it *Camellia japonica* (the red camellia with single flowers) and the Abbot Berlése confirmed it; this name records the origin of the plant and the name of its introducer into Europe.

Some, however, believe that the eminent botanist of Rashult (Sweden) so named the *Camellia japonica* because of the great friendship that existed between him and the Jesuit Father Kamel or Camellus, and not because the latter was its first importer; indeed some affirm that Father Kamel was never in Japan.

According to the affirmation of Von Siebold it was Lord Petre who first introduced such a shrub into Europe, as it is known that in 1739 he was already cultivating it in the gardens of London.

Disregarding all controversy as to its first importer, I will state that the first single-flowered camellias were cultivated in the gardens of England and later in those of Italy and finally of France and Germany. It is indeed certain that the first camellia which appeared in Italy was that very celebrated one in the royal gardens of Caserta, and that in 1794 Leopoldo Gallo was cultivating camellias in his own gardens in Florence.

In France the first camellia was cultivated by Joséphine Beauharnais, wife of Napoleon Bonaparte, when her husband was First Consul (1799). A branch of it, presented to Tampomet, gardner at La Malmaison, was planted in suitable soil by him and carefully and patiently nurtured. That slip developed into a new plant admired and extolled by all Paris, and long preserved in the renowned establishment of Courtois.

For more than half a century, however, no camellias were known other than those with single flowers and fertile seeds, descendants of the European exotics. These regularly produced plants identical with the first, as it was not possible for a single species, forced to be self-fertilizing, to produce individuals of character differing from the ancestor. It was only toward 1786 that new varieties appeared.

The above-mentioned Berlése then, in his learned and interesting work, *Monographie du Genre Camellia* (of which at least three editions were printed in Paris in less than a decade, from 1837 to 1845) affirms that Captain Connor imported in 1792 into Europe for the garden of Stater of London the camellia with red and white variegated flowers and the double white camellia. He says also that two years later, in 1794, Preston introduced from China the double red camellia.

The greatest and most interesting importation of splendid new varieties began at the dawn of the past century, the nineteenth: especially from the woods of Japan and China, although there were also camellias in Cochin-China and in India.

In 1806 in fact, according to Gori and other writers, the camellia *Incarnata* was introduced, in 1808 the *Myrtifolia*, in 1809 the *Pomponia*, in 1810 the

Paeoniaeflora, in 1811 the *Sasanqua alba* and semi-plena rosea, in 1814 the *Warrata*, in 1818 the *Sasanqua rosea plena*, in 1819 the *Oleifera*, in 1823 the *Kissi* and in 1824 the *Henryoides*, the *Hybrida*, the *Reticulata*, and the *Sasanqua alba plena*.

From then on the varieties multiplied rapidly to infinity; so that in 1845 Berlèse in his already mentioned monograph enumerated over seven hundred, and in 1854 Aschieri, in the Milanese periodical *I Giardini*, brought the varieties up to more than one thousand five hundred. At present, it would be a very arduous task to enumerate them all, especially since the same variety is known under names differing according to the region in which it was obtained, whether by crossings with exotic plants, or by crossing of the exotic plants with the new importations.

Certainly for the botanist or naturalist who considers a double or variegated flower a veritable monstrosity, the division of the camellias does not present many difficulties, as it is a rich genus of few species. Such, however, is not the case for the cultivator who calls a flower a variety if it is even slightly modified in form or color.

The worthy Abbot Berlèse, however, boldly set to work by himself. With reference to color only, he divided camellias into two great classes: unicolored and bicolored. This division was illustrated by him with appropriate and effective plates in the monograph mentioned above, with the shading or gradations of the colors.

Nowadays, because of the great number of varieties, it would no longer be easy to follow this same method. But I must add that Berlèse's is an accurate work, well-conceived and worthy of study by amateurs and even more so by camellia fanciers.

In 1843 Luigi Colla published, by the press of Pomba of Turin, another work on the camellia, also based on the color of the flowers, under the modest title of *Tentativo di una nuova disposizione naturale della varietà di Camellie*.

With regard to the colors: despite the most careful and patient attempts, no one has yet produced a blue or a yellow camellia.

The total absence of these two colors was noticed and deplored as early as the beginning of the past century, and still more around 1850 when a false report was spread that in the Borromean Islands [in Lake Maggiore in northern Italy] there grew camellias with flowers of a deep cerulean blue.

Not a few gardeners as well as scientists got set to try to produce the two colors. First of all was the afore-mentioned Aschieri, who believed yellow could be obtained by some crossing with the camellia *Carnea*, and blue with some substance that would act on the camellia blooms as iron filings and rock-alum on the hydrangea, whose natural pink color they change to blue. But still the substance was not found; trials and retrials were made, to the limits of patience; still the stubborn camellias refused to acquire the longed-for colors.

The gardeners still refused to give up and professor Agnelli, in a poetical work on flowers published in Florence in 1870, assures us he is still trying and hopes to succeed in his attempt:

... if I can, for the fair waxy flower
That adorns for us the winter and in Japan is a forest,
Steal of blue a small part from the sky
Or snatch the sweet golden tint from the sun.

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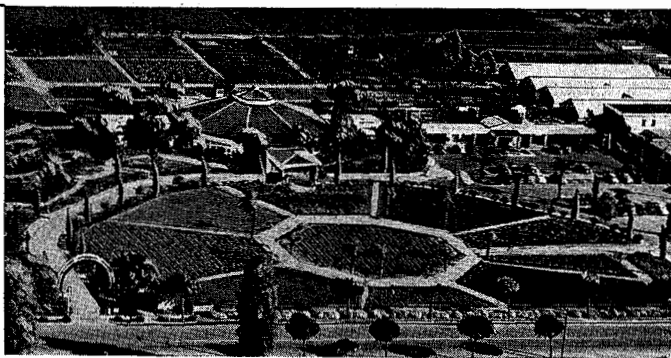
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In his interesting poetical work *L'Amore per i Fiori*, from which I culled some interesting notes about the camellias, Pietro Gori relates that the well-known camellia-fancier Prof. Santarelli several years ago saw bursting into bloom in his garden in Florence a camellia with a semi-double white flower with a sulphurate-colored center.

Even though it was not the long-awaited yellow, it at least approximated it, and was hopefully named *Lusinghiera*.

Through patient and minute care he got some fertilized seeds which, after planting with every precaution, produced among others a plant with lovely blooms of a color indefinite but fairly close to yellow. From it he hoped to attain the long-sought color, but to date, so far as is known, he has not succeeded.

Another fond hope of the gardeners is the blue color latent, in the opinion of some, in the violet petals of the variety *Bella Ardiglione*.

I hope with Gori that this modest blue may emerge from the petals of the camellia, where it lies jealously and mysteriously hidden. May it show itself in all its splendor, and may this new glory fall to our Italy: a glory which should certainly be her due when one considers that the perfecting of this charming flower is, as I have said, a wholly Italian achievement.

Along with the absence of the two colors, perhaps even before, the absence of perfume had been deplored. It was deeply regretted that so precious and beautiful a flower lacked even the faintest fragrance.

To this end, too, floriculturists and scientists joined forces: they made graftings on rose-trees; they surrounded and sprinkled the camellia roots with highly perfumed essences, scents and other chemical preparations. However the camellias, in this matter as in that of the two colors, remained unresponsive to all treatments and experiments.

It would seem as if Nature had denied them such a prerogative and privilege, so as not to make them too proud by making them truly heavenly, and as if hope had turned into despair when, in January 1854 there appeared in the *Gardener's Chronicle* an article destined to rekindle the dampened ardor and reanimate the weakened and disappointed spirits. An unknown, hidden under the pseudonym of Violet, claimed to have a fragrant camellia. Thus it was no longer impossible to give the camellia a perfume; the secret lay only in the manner of procedure. Once again all were at the task.

The revived passion was further heightened by a communication from one Hally Blackheant which, if it had not been the offspring of an over-lively imagination, would still today be important in justifying the continuous and untiring efforts toward a like end. Hally Blackheant wrote that he had a single-flowered camellia which, for three years in a row, had emitted an elusive odor somewhere between that of a carnation and that of a hyacinth.

Eager to get double camellias, he fertilized his precious plant, and from three seeds he got three plants, of which one was double and odorless, one single with the odor of the mother-plant, and a third with single flowers without odor.

In the fourth year, the mother-plant lost its odor and produced no more seeds, nor did the daughter plants, and all hope vanished. And yet, in China the *Camellia Sasanqua* is cultivated to have its dried petals mixed with tea to give it fragrance. The plant is also known by the name of "flower of tea" (*cha-onaw* or *tha-chwa*). It is said to be cultivated also for the preparation of a cosmetic.

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Perhaps in its natural climate it emits some slight perfume, or this might be imparted to the dried petals by some special process; the fact remains, however, that in Europe neither the *Sasanqua* nor its sisters exhales any perfume, if one excepts the *Myrtifolia*, which shows some trace. It is perhaps on this account that the famous critic and writer Enrico Nencioni did not fear to call them the "... *insipid camellias*."

I shall conclude with the above-cited Pietro Gori who fervently hoped that the predictions of our worthy Aschieri may be verified, and that the desires of the devotees of Flora may be fulfilled and that the camellia may finally win its century-long valiant war with the rose. Then it may take on the color of the clear blue Italian sky and of the tangerine and orange, and the perfume of the king and queen of flowers: the carnation and the rose.

GENERALITIES

The rich flora of Japan has provided our gardens with very many precious plants which have acclimated themselves very well and may be said to have found in Italy a second homeland.

Among these precious acquisitions must certainly be included the camellia. This not only for the elegance of its flowers, with their variety of form, color and doubleness of petals, but for its beautiful, glossy and lasting foliage. First introduced into Europe in 1739 by the Jesuit Father Camelli, it was dedicated to him by Linnaeus who called it *Camellia japonica*, thus forming a new genus whose specific name derives from its country of origin.

The camellia is in fact, both for its majestic bearing and its gorgeous bloom and dark green foliage, one of the shrubs most worthy of consideration, the most appreciated decoration of our festivals, our terraces and our gardens, in the chill of winter and the warmth of spring and summer.

Since, owing particularly to its origin and delicate constitution, it cannot live in the open in regions where the minimum temperature reaches, even temporarily, a few degrees below freezing, it needs protective shelter to insure it against frost and to allow it to bloom even in rigorous weather. This it does, though less profusely than in a favorable climate, where it may attain the proportions of a delicate and graceful little tree.

Many years' experience has shown that in Europe Central Italy's temperature is among the most favorable for the cultivation of camellias in the open. In fact, in no other Italian city so much as in Florence, where the first camellia appeared in 1794 in Count Gallo's garden, was there such an increase in the number of impassioned lovers of this most beautiful genus of plants and in the numberless varieties obtained by seed from artificial and natural pollinization.

In the mild region of the olive and citrus plants, on the pleasant shores of our lakes, in Southern Italy, along the enchanting Ligurian Riviera, in the territory of Nice and especially in Tuscany, where it has become general and acclimated in those gardens whence come the most beautiful and highly valued varieties grown in all Europe, it flourishes in the open in its regular seasons and even reaches a height often more than five meters.

However, in the other parts of Italy there is no lack of localities adapted to growing camellias in the open; here other distinguished amateurs and horticulturists have devoted themselves to it with complete success. On the Riviera of Genoa the business in these flowers is very extensive. In the famous gardens on the shores of Lake Maggiore and the pleasant hills of Brianza

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camellias abound. Hence the Garden of Caserta which is mentioned by all writers on the camellia shows that even in Southern Italy there are cool shady localities where the camellia can thrive equally well.

This precious plant, native of Japan and imported in 1739, belongs to the family of the Ternstroemiaceae according to the general table established by Adrien de Jussieu. Under the long, intensive scientific culture lavished upon it, especially since its introduction here up till the present, the original botanic type of camellia was modified to such an astounding degree that it disappeared entirely from our gardens, leaving a distinguished and well-deserved place to the endless varieties, with their brilliant attractive colors, their symmetrical flowers, double and extra-double, richly petalled: all from the same original.

As I shall say later, if the camellia is cultivated in a pot, in a climate other than its native one, it attains the moderate size of a shrub. If it is planted in the open in a favorable climate, it grows to the size of a small tree, at times even exceeding six meters in height—but never those dimensions it reaches in Central Asia and in the regions of Japan and northern China. It is in this latter region that are found those camellias which Europe has now naturalized in its hothouses and whose persistent foliage, tough and green, and whose large flowers, as Figuier notes in his *Histoire des Plantes*, rouse the admiration of artists, and of which more than seven hundred varieties are now enumerated.

BOTANICAL NOTES

The camellia is a shrub with a hard stem, straight even in mature specimens, with smooth bark which is relatively thin, with solid wood and a small soft pith. It has many branches, and axillary buds which are strongly developed, long, sharp and of rapid germination, especially in the spring.

It is protected by tough scales, which it sheds early. It has thickened curled leaves, glossy, alternate, finely toothed, of which some are quite irregular, with short petioles. The leaves are strongly inserted on the branches and are capable of remaining on the plant even for several years. In spite of the inflorescence being terminal, it is nearly always accompanied by buds with leaves.

The flower is, for the most part, solitary and odorless, but is always majestically posed on an abundant crown of more or less adult leaves. The flower, single in the botanical type species, is double, extra double and very abundantly petalled in the ornamental varieties, highly admired, which are cultivated in pots or in the open ground. It may be a pure snowy white, a flesh pink, a carmine red or scarlet; it may also be shaded, marbled, spotted, streaked, variegated, speckled with gleaming colors. The fruit is solid, sometimes trilocular, spherical, two or three centimeters in diameter; it opens longitudinally. As autumn approaches, it falls from the plant. The few seeds, two or three at most, contained in it are monocotyledonous, hard and easily germinated. Plants born from them generally bear flowers in the third or fourth year.

It is indisputable fact that of the hosts of ornamental plants cultivated in Europe, particularly in Italy, few have been so successful at home and abroad. A shining proof of this is the truly extraordinary number of varieties described in the catalogues of the commercial botanical establishments, and still more in the special and rare publications or monographs on this attractive and precious plant.

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AMONG THOSE PRESENT

S. L. MARBURY of Wilmington, North Carolina, was really converted to container culture during his recent visit here. Since his return he has canned nearly a thousand camellias, most of which he plans to give away just to spread the idea down South.

J. HOWARD ASPER, manager of the famed Rancho del Descanso, thought it might be a good idea to get the history of the Descanso camellias in print while they are still new. We wish more nurserymen would help get the varietal record straight by furnishing authentic data on their introductions.

Even though at present the camellia's cultivation has somewhat declined from its earlier profitable extent, prior to the winter cultivation of the rose, the reflowering carnation, the wallflower, the hyacinth, the narcissus and other flowers; though Dresden, in Saxony, has taken the lead from Florence, Genoa and Nice: this does not mean that the gardeners of Tuscany, Liguria and the Riviera have ceased to export camellia plants and blooms to all Europe.

That export trade declined especially after the gardeners of the northern countries, realizing that the commerce in these and other flowers can be very profitable, decided to meet it, especially in or near the large cities, with artificial cultivation in greenhouses or hotbeds. This explains why today Dresden holds that deserved leadership which was held for nearly a century and until a few years ago by our Florence.

Cultivated on trellises, in open ground, within roomy and majestic hothouses which might be called "winter gardens," this plant has been the delight and the favorite of amateurs and visitors who go there to finish their winter promenades, amidst the lustrous greenery and the rich colors of the gorgeous blooms, while outside the hush and chill of winter prevails, with temperatures below freezing.

For this reason also the camellia became for its cultivators in cold climates a sure source of profit. Meanwhile, let us be content to have it as an ornament of our houses and gardens.

GENERA AND SPECIES

Among the many known genera and even more numerous species of camellia, I shall mention: the camellia of China (*Camellia euryoides* of Linnaeus) of the family of the Ternstroemiaceae, a woody tepidarium plant, native of China; the camellia of Nepal (*Camellia Kissi val Nepal*), also a woody ornamental tepidarium plant; the Indian camellia (*Camellia axillaris* Roxbg.) also of the family of the Ternstroemiaceae, a woody ornamental tepidarium plant, coming from the East Indies; the camellia of Cochin-China (*Camellia drupifera* Lour.) also of the family of the Ternstroemiaceae, a native of Cochin-China, where it is expressly cultivated along with the olive for the extraction of a combustible oil: it is a woody ornamental tepidarium plant; the oil camellia (*Camellia oleifera* Abel) of the same family as the preceding—Ternstroemiaceae—a native of the East Indies, a woody plant of China, oil bearing and growing in open ground; the camellia Sasanqua (*Camellia Sasanqua* Thumb.) a pink variety, also a native of China, a woody ornamental tepidarium plant; the camellia Reticulata (*Camellia reticulata* Lindley), also a woody ornamental tepidarium plant of Chinese origin.

This last is, without doubt, one of the most delicate species, suffering much from chlorosis. It is much prized for its splendid flowering near winter's end and for its flowers. Among the fullest of its genus, they may measure sixteen to twenty centimeters in circumference. Generally the flowers are single, sometimes double, of a magnificent vivid red with wavy marks and spots, usually of pink.

One of this species' gravest defects is frequent shedding of its not too dense foliage. To get fine specimens, one must, as soon as it stops blooming put it in a warm greenhouse, cut off the new buds, bend the branches somewhat and sprinkle the leaves frequently. This tends to increase the number of new shoots. Once this is done, the plant must be set in the open, in semi-shade. As this species is very frail, it must be helped and sustained with active, stimulating fertilizers (nitrate of sodium, ammonium sulphate or nitrate).

Crossed with *Camellia japonica* it has given rise to magnificent and choice varieties, much esteemed by fanciers.

Setting aside for the moment all the above-described camellias, I shall deal only with the Japanese camellia and its varieties, single, double and extra-double.

The Japanese camellia (Linnaeus' *Camellia japonica*) is native of that island, whence it came to us. It is a woody plant, single flowered, fruit-bearing and cultivated almost entirely for its seeds and for its habit. It is an ornamental outdoor plant.

The double and extra-double camellia (*Camellia japonica floriplena* of Linnaeus), also native of Japan, is actually the primitive botanical type so modified by intelligent and assiduous cultivation as to have produced the innumerable varieties, richly colored, symmetrical and abundantly petalled, that we now possess.

It is a plant for both earth and pots, fond of shade; it is a marsh plant, hence a lover of peat-composts, especially those of heath and chestnut. Of this species, over seven hundred varieties occur in Italy, the majority obtained from seeds improved, selected and developed in our country.

This species, blooming in winter as well as other seasons, in its native country grows to a height of twelve meters. In our open earth cultivation it rarely exceeds six meters.

The Mercatelli of Florence, to whom I appealed for more data on these plants, kindly informed me that, judging from their many years of experience, in our country camellias may easily grow to six or seven meters in height, with a maximum trunk circumference of forty centimeters at twenty-five centimeters from the collar. The maximum branch circumference immediately above the forking of the trunk is about thirty centimeters.

Carlo Moroni, chief gardener of Villa Pallavicini at Pegli, to whom I addressed the same question, told me that on the Riviera camellias may attain four or five meters, with a maximum diameter of the branches from three to five meters, which is equivalent to a maximum circumference of twelve to sixteen meters. The trunk, at twenty-five centimeters from the collar, is over sixty centimeters in circumference. These figures are for open earth. In potted cultivation, proportions are reduced by at least two-thirds. These replies were about the same as those given me by camellia growers of Southern Italy and the Nice territory.

The splendid red flowers of the typical Japanese camellia barely reach six or seven centimeters in diameter and, like all wild species, are single.

I have referred especially to the *Camellia reticulata* and the *Camellia japonica* because they are the prototype of the genus *Camellia*, from which derived the greater part of the magnificent and countless varieties that form the ornament and delight of every aristocratic home, of every park and garden.

The existing varieties are so numerous today that even to enumerate or describe them however briefly would be an arduous task.

Relying mainly on the aid given me by distinguished amateurs, I shall describe very briefly only those camellias considered best by the majority and consequently highly recommended and prized. Collectors are referred to the very rare and still incomplete special monographs.

(To be continued)

NEWS NOTES

WITH US FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING were the James A. Buzzards of Bellevue, Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Buzzard (It's pronounced Boo-zard) are long-time members of our society and real camellia fans.

It gets pretty cold around Seattle, and it is well into spring before the bite goes out of the wind that blows in off the Sound. Camellia growing, therefore, is not quite as simple as it is around Los Angeles—well, that is if you don't count the 1948-49 season. But the 450 varieties in the Buzzard garden are proof that they know how to overcome such difficulties.

There are some advantages in their northern location, too. The cool, moist climate permits them to grow many of their plants in the open, with no shade at all. Better still, the blooming season there is so late that the Buzzards are able to view the whole Pacific Coast camellia cycle and still enjoy their own plants.

In January they lock up and start south, taking in shows and meetings wherever they find them. Then gradually moving up the coast with the blooms, they arrive home just at the height of their own blooming season. As one of their acquaintances put it, if the name were pronounced as it is spelled, the Buzzards might very appropriately be called migratory birds.

BACK COPIES OF THE BULLETIN are needed to make up complete files to be placed in the Los Angeles Public Library, Pasadena Public Library, and the libraries at U.S.C. and U.C.L.A. Members having copies of the following are requested to send them to our Secretary as soon as possible: 1945—January, February, November, December; 1946—February, September; 1947—January, April, August, November, December; 1948—February, November.

THE SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY has completed arrangements with the San Diego Park Board for a camellia garden in San Diego's 1400-acre Balboa Park. With the cooperation of W. Allen Perry, Park Director, a committee headed by Lucien C. Atherton has chosen the canyon running south from the House of Hospitality as the area to be planted. This canyon of 20 acres or more contains the Moro Garden and an extensive planting of large shade trees.

The initial planting of 53 specimens represents the first outdoor planting of camellias in the park. The plants, so far, have been donated to the society by members, but it is hoped that others interested in the park will furnish plants when the project becomes more widely publicized. The society is planting, labeling, and plotting the plants which are given to the park. The park furnishes soil, peat moss, etc., for the planting and has agreed to water, fertilize, and otherwise care for the plants.

The committee expects to have an extensive planting of seedlings as well as named varieties within a few years. At that time, more paths and vantage points will be constructed so that the garden can be more fully enjoyed by the public.

DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES this issue of the Bulletin has been delayed in reaching you. The next two numbers will appear in June and September as scheduled.

A.C.S. MEETING . . .

(Continued from page 6)

growth of confusion in varietal nomenclature during the period between Samuel Curtis's *Monograph on the Genus Camellia* (1819) and the Verschaffelt *Nouvelle Iconographie des Camellias* (1848-1860). The talk was illustrated with Kodachrome slides of Verschaffelt camellias.

On Sunday the Sacramento Society conducted a trip to Rosebud Farm, universally known to camellia lovers as the home of the largest camellia trees on the Pacific Coast and the birthplace of the varieties Pride of Rosebud Farm and Arabella. Mrs. Eddinger, owner of the ranch, again proved herself a most gracious hostess, and the much photographed trees were again very much photographed.

In the afternoon there was a garden tour, after which the visitors moved on to Oakland, full of enthusiasm and appreciation for the fine hospitality extended by the Sacramento group and the fine arrangements planned and carried out by A.C.S. Director at Large, A. E. Morrison.

The Oakland and Santa Clara camellia societies jointly "took over" at Oakland. On Monday morning an automobile cavalcade took the guests across the two San Francisco Bay bridges, through the city and down the peninsula to visit the James Nursery in Los Gatos. The Santa Clara Camellia Society was host at a luncheon to the 40 or 50 persons making up the cavalcade, after which the party moved on to Hayward and the nursery of Toichi Domoto, arriving back in Oakland rather breathless from the activity and the camellias seen during the day. A brief brush-up, a hasty dinner, and on to the excellent joint meeting of the Oakland and Santa Clara societies at which Herbert Mitchell showed some of the Kodachrome slides for which he is famous.

Members of the A.C.S. delegation expressed themselves as greatly impressed by the amount and scope of camellia activity on the Pacific Coast. They were also enthusiastic about the hospitality shown them throughout their travels here.

Tuesday morning found this scribe and his pardner sprawled in the easy chairs of the Daylight, trying to recuperate slightly on the way home, while the visitors from the American Camellia Society, undaunted by past exertions, boomed on toward Oregon for the Portland Society's show and meeting! None but the brave—and the rugged!

It is a distinction to be a fine guest. Certainly all who were privileged to meet the visitors from the East and South found them not only wonderful camellia fans, but wonderful people as well.

PRIDE OF DESCANSO

Pictured on the opposite page is another fine camellia introduced by the Rancho del Descanso. This superb white flower is considered by many experts to be one of the most outstanding camellias in its class.

