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THE MIDDLETON CAMELLIAS

By C. N. Hastie, Jr.

Middleton Place Gardens, on the Ashley River, near Charleston, S. C., the oldest landscape gardens in America, dates back to 1741. For more than a century it has been internationally known. Aside from the beauty of its landscaping, the graceful terraces, ornamental lakes, walkways and great trees, Middleton Place holds rare interest as a shrine of American history. During the season that it is opened to the public, its appeal is heightened by a variety of flowers, shrubs and trees, both native and exotic. From December to early March the *Camellias japonica* are in profusion and during March and April the *Azaleas indica* are in best bloom. The plantation embraces nearly seven thousand acres, the gardens cover nearly sixty-five acres.

This famous estate has been owned by the same family for more than two centuries and a half. Soon after the original grant to the land was made, the plantation came into the possession of the Middleton family. In their descendants the ownership has continued down to the present time.

Formal landscaping was conceived in 1740, when Henry Middleton, later President of the Continental Congress, sent abroad for an experienced landscape gardener and obtained in England a pupil of the famous Petin, whose name unfortunately has been lost. Under his guidance and direction, many slaves labored from 1741 until 1750 to complete the terraces, walks and ornamental waters. He skillfully blended the coastal forest and vistas of river and marsh with the well-ordered beauty of European gardens.

Arthur Middleton, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a later proprietor of Middleton Place. He died in 1787 and was buried in the family tomb in the Garden. His son, Henry Middleton, Governor of South Carolina and later Minister to Russia, inherited the estate. At his invitation, André Michaux, the celebrated French botanist, came to Middleton Place. It is said that he procured for the gardens some of the first *Camellias japonica* ever to come to America.

Williams Middleton, who inherited the estate in 1846, is credited with bringing in the *Azalea indica* to the gardens. It is presumed that he added most of the present camellia collection.

Although legend has it that Michaux brought four camellias to Middleton Place before 1800, there are no family records to substantiate it as all papers were lost when the Federal troops burned the main house. Dr. H. Harold Hume, author of *Camellias in America,* could find no evidence in his studies that Michaux brought any camellias to America, and surmises that Middleton Place received its camellias at a later date.

Regardless of when and how the first camellias came into this garden, Middleton Place now has the most magnificent planting of camellias in the country. For sheer size and numbers, visitors find it difficult to realize that these trees are camellias. There were walks which were originally planted with camellias on either side; now, they have become dark tunnels, with branches overhead so thick that no sunlight can filter through. Under these camellia caverns, thousands of seedlings spring up and carpet the ground.

Other walks bordered by camellias have not been allowed to become 'tunnels'; their camellias have been so sheared that the visitor walks between continuous camellia 'walls,' which tower twenty-five feet above his head!

There are also many huge individual specimens, one of them, whose trunk measures 5½ feet in circumference and 28 feet tall, is an example. The great majority of these camellias are varieties attractive enough for landscaping, but not fine enough nowadays for propagation. However, there are some very fine varieties among them. Of the old named varieties, there are in Middleton Place several huge Lady Hume's Blush, some large Alba Plenas, a huge Donckelari, several Sarah Frosts, and many Christmas Cheers.

In addition, there are several magnificent varieties of the original plantings whose imported names have been lost and were lately renamed. They are Arthur Middleton, a formal deep pink showing a few stamens; Crepe Rosette, deep pink semi-double, petals veined with red and a margin of white on each petal; Henry Middleton, rose-red extra large semi-double; Williams Middleton, semi-double darkest red, two rows of petals; Heningham Smith, an Alba Plena sport showing stamens; J. J. Pringle Smith, a large dark red semi-double with huge foliage; White Chandleri, a white semi-double to peony flower, but not a white sport of the Chandleri Elegans; Rosea Indenta, very delicate light pink medium size semi-double; Josephine Duell, loose pink peony with a lavender cast. None of these have been discovered in any other old camellia plantings.

Through the years several very fine seedlings have been found, the best of which are as follows: Campbell Ashley, loose semi-double dark red with creped petals; Pearl Harbor, a gigantic rose red with peony center; Paulette Goddard, large late-blooming dark red loose peony; No. 400, loose semi-double carnation-type bright red; and Nelson Doubleday, medium size salmon pink, prominent stamens. With the tremendous number of seedlings which spring up every year, there is every reason to believe that Middleton Place will always be contributing new varieties to the camellia world.

For the camellia enthusiast who is interested in the ultimate development of the camellia plant, his travels are not complete until he visits these gardens and others of the Carolina Low Country. Here he will see what effect the camellias he sets out now will make a century later.

THE OPENING MEETING
OF THE 1948-49 SEASON

will be held on Thursday Evening, November 11, 1948, in the Odd Fellows Temple, 175 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena

PROGRAM, 8:00 P.M.

CAMELLIA SALUENENSIS

By Ronald B. Townsend

The subject of our discussion is probably better known in the trade, and generally, as Camellia 'Apple Blossom.' But since three or more different plants masquerade under that name or a slight variation, it might be best to use the term *C. saluenensis* throughout to avoid any further confusion.

C. saluenensis itself has not passed through the botanist's hands without being classified under different names and associated uncertainly with other species and other varieties. Anyone having at hand the August 1937 issue of the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* can be enlightened as to the nature of the confusion surrounding this camellia as compared with other species.

In this magazine a scholarly article by J. R. Sealy appears (pp. 352-369, incl.) in which full justice is done to the subject. We find that *C. saluenensis* was first distinguished by Dr. O. Stapf in 1932, but his description prepared a short while before his death in 1933 remained unpublished until it was included in the account mentioned above. The name *C. saluenensis* meanwhile had been placed on record by William Jackson Bean in the 3rd volume of his *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles* (1933), in which an account was written of a camellia grown at Caerhays, England, which Dr. Stapf had identified with his *C. saluenensis.* Seed of the species was sent to England by a Mr. Forrest who had collected them in Yunnan at an elevation of 6,000 to 9,000 feet, during the years 1912 to 1925. Dried specimens were prepared from the plants which yielded the seeds and it was from these herbarium sheets that Dr. Stapf was able to prepare his description. It seems that cultivated specimens of *C. saluenensis* all have larger leaves than those of wild plants when comparing herbarium specimens of both. In fact, Mr. Sealy has mentioned in his article that plants described by Bean differ considerably from those grown at Kells or Kew Gardens, and all of them differ to some extent from the wild material upon which the identification of the species was originally based.

There are times even now when *C. saluenensis* is confused with C. reticulata. At first glance *C. reticulata* appears to be larger only in flower and leaf, although it differs in other characteristics as well. As noted in Sealy's description *(Botanical Magazine,* t. 9505*)*, in *C. reticulata* the leaves are acuminate at the apex (gradually tapering or drawn toward the ends of the leaf); there is also a dull mat upper surface and visible venation; whereas in *C. saluenensis* the leaves are obtuse (rounded toward the ends) to acute (pointed) at the apex, and much smaller in size. The upper surface is shining and a dark green and venation is obscure, while the leaves are a pale green below. In both species the margins of the leaves are closely serrated.

Under cultivation, it appears that forms of the leaves will differ from original descriptions given by both Stapf and Sealy; inasmuch as the venations are not *always* obscure and the leaves not *always* obtuse to acute, but at times become acuminate at the apex, and the upper surface not always shining but dull, a characteristic also of *C. reticulata.*

There have also been errors made by placing *C. saluenensis* and *C. Sasanqua* in the same class. This seems unnecessary since they are easily distinguished. Dr. H. Harold Hume has pointed out the distinctions very clearly in his *Camellias in America.*

C. saluenensis is to be separated from *C. Sasanqua* by its stamens forming a cylinder adnate (attached to) the corolla. In *C. Sasanqua,* the stamens and petals are loosely attached and at maturity fall off separately. The leaves of *C. Sasanqua* are blunt-pointed, crenulate and quite distinct from those of *C. saluenensis,* which are sharp-pointed with regular serrations.

The two specimens now growing at the Huntington Botanical Gardens are not entirely identical. The writer has compared both specimens with the description given by Sealy in his above mentioned account. Our plants are from two separate sources. Scions were sent us from Armstrong Nurseries, Ontario, California, on Feb. 14, 1945 (our serial number 11369), and these were grafted on 3½-inch understock. The other is a plant sent us from Carter's Camellia Gardens, Monterey Park, California, in April 1942 (our serial number 10417).

Plant No. 11369 is now 5 feet in height with a spread of 4½ feet. It is of spreading habit and dense growth, corresponding very closely in this and other respects to botanical descriptions. It must be remembered, however, that it is growing on a large understock which has changed its habit of growth to some extent.

The fruit of this plant is plentiful this year—it apparently has been "selfed" as far as pollination is concerned. The seed receptacle which may hold from two to four seeds is light brown in color, has a slightly roughened surface—unlike that of *C. japonica* which is smooth—and is tough, somewhat corky in texture, with a lightly tomentose appearance on the outside.

We are told by Mr. Herbert Swim, hybridist at the Armstrong Nurseries, that the *C. saluenensis* sent to us from that source resulted from English seeds which in turn had been produced on plants resulting from seeds gathered by the above mentioned Mr. Forrest in the wilds of Yunnan. It was the Forrest expedition that is no doubt responsible for all *C. saluenensis* seed distributed since that time.

Our plant number 10417 has attained a height of four feet and a spread to equal it. It differs considerably from botanical descriptions and it is now questionable whether it actually is a form of *C. saluenensis* or not.

C. saluenensis is not a striking plant either as regards its general habit of growth or as to its blossoms. In comparison with other species, with respect to flower, especially, it lacks good form and desirable size—being small and single—and it does not have a definite period of blooming as do the Sasanquas.

In England the color of the blossoms is described as from white to deep rose pink, but in this country our descriptions have included only the one tone, blush pink, which accounts undoubtedly for the popularity of the name Apple Blossom. With all this to consider, though, the plant lends itself well to landscape planting because of its spreading habit of growth and the dense aspect of its foliage, together with its abundance of flowers.

SOUTHERN SASANQUAS

By K. Sawada

During the past few years the popularity of *Camellia Sasanqua* has grown tremendously, and rightly so, for it makes an ideal landscape plant—one that has a wide range of uses due to its symmetrical and compact habit of growth, its medium texture and its early flowering season.

The Sasanquas usually bloom from September to December, a time when other flowering shrubs are scarce. And because the flowers come before the severest winter weather, they are successful in locations where the cultivation of *C. japonica* is hampered by low temperatures. For example, in such areas as Birmingham, Alabama; Atlanta, Georgia; and Memphis, Tennessee; the outdoor culture of *C. japonica* is limited, but *C. Sasanqua* has proven entirely satisfactory.

The Sasanqua is much hardier than its relative, the japonica, and thus its adaptability and distribution as a plant is much greater. For example, it has been found that in the Houston, Texas, area where the soil is of the heavy clay type and where drainage is not very good, *C. japonica* does much better if it is grafted on Sasanqua understock. It has been the experience of the writer and probably of all others who have grafted camellias, that the Sasanquas in almost all cases prove to be better understocks for the japonicas than *C. japonica* itself. During the past several years a very large percentage of the Sasanquas produced have been used as understocks.

The *Camellia Sasanqua* is endemic to Japan, where it grows in the mountains of the southwestern part, particularly on the Shikoku and Kyushu Islands. The wild forms of the species are characterized by small leaves and small single white flowers. It was this petite type of foliage and flower that caused the Japanese to cultivate and treasure this plant. There are reports that as long as two hundred years ago there were nearly two hundred varieties of this species growing in Japan. A recent report by a Japanese horticulturist tells of one of the largest Sasanquas known, a plant found at the Shizuoka Prefectures measuring twenty-four inches in trunk diameter and thirty feet in height.

Camellia Sasanqua was first described by Thunberg in 1784 in *Flora Japonica.* Booth in the *Transactions of the Horticultural Society of London* (1830), reports that the *C. Sasanqua* was introduced by Captain Wellbank and the Honourable Court of Directors of the East India Company. It is thought now, however, that these early importations were not the Sasanqua described by Thunberg, but were probably some of the other closely related species, possibly *C. maliflora* or *C. oleifera.* Sealy, in his article 'Species of Camellia in Cultivation,' states that the plant Thunberg described did not reach the Western world until about 1869 and was not introduced into England until ten years later[1]

There is no record of just how the Sasanquas came to the United States, but it is the opinion of Dr. Hume that they came from England. The first plant

[1]See 'Camellia Sasanqua,' S.C.C.S. Bulletin, September 1948, p. 11.

known here was a single pink-flowered variety, probably what is commonly known today as 'Rosea.' About the close of the last century, the Yokohama Nursery Company sent a number of Sasanqua plants to this country, among which was a variety known as Mine-no-yuki, a semi-double to double white-flowered type. During the season 1909-1910, the Alvin Japanese Nursery Company and the Saibara Nursery, both of Houston, Texas, imported a number of the Japanese Sasanqua varieties. Around 1930, E. A. McIlhenny of Avery Island, Louisiana, received a number of the Japanese varieties. In 1934, Overlook Nurseries of Mobile, Alabama, also made importations of Sasanquas. Just prior to 1940, the Kiyono Nurseries of Semmes, Alabama, received some of the choicer varieties from Japan. A number of varieties have been imported or developed on the West Coast, notably by Doty and Doerner, Inc., of Portland, Oregon, and the Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens of Pasadena, California.

We at Overlook Nurseries have been growing Sasanqua seedlings since 1925, and from the many plants developed have selected about a dozen of the most desirable and introduced them as new varieties. There are probably many others who have added much to the culture of *Camellia Sasanqua* through importation and development of new varieties, but whose work has escaped the attention of the writer.

The Sasanqua is a member of the genus Camellia and can be described, particularly the cultivated forms, as shrubs varying in form from a loose, spreading habit of growth to compact upright types. The branches and twigs are slender, reddish brown, and when young are covered with small silvery hairs. The young leaves are also hairy, particularly along the midrib. The leaves are small, usually 1½-2 inches long and 3/4-1 inch wide. They are elliptic to oblong with their apices blunt, bases tapered and the margins more or less crenulated. The leaves are leathery and are dark glossy green. The flowers are mostly single, but some are semi-double and others are double of the imbricated type. The size of the flowers varies from 2½-3 inches in diameter. The calyces are cupped and green. The petals are obovate, free to the base, and the color varies from white through pink to red. Some are variegated. The stamens are loosely coherent at the base. The Sasanqua flower has a characteristic odor which can be most closely described as being musty. The fruits are small, usually about ½ inch in diameter, and are ovoid to sub-globose in shape. The number of seed in a fruit varys from one to two and they are dark brown.

Johnson, in his paper in the *American Camellia Society Yearbook* (1947), reports the chromosome number of the *Camellia Sasanqua* as sixty. This makes the species a tetrapoloid, whereas the japonica varieties are diploid.

Probably next to the japonicas, the Sasanquas rank as the most widely grown species and are represented by more horticultural varieties than any other. Hume, in 1943, reported that at that time there were about seventy-five different Sasanqua varieties listed in the trade catalogs. How many of these were true, separate varieties is unknown. Since that time, a number of new varieties have been introduced so that the number of the varieties now extant is unknown.

(Continued on page 17)

TEST GARDEN TOPICS

By David W. McLean

Of the one hundred and forty Australian varieties contributed by W. G. Hazlewood, of Epping, New South Wales, about fifty will be ready for grafting on Test Garden seedling stock—will actually make their debut in the Garden—during the coming winter. Mr. Hazlewood has been asked to make a list of American varieties he would like for his own collection, so we can return his courtesy in kind. At that, we will remain deeply in his debt for the extraordinary care, the unusual perseverence, which enabled his contribution to make the grade when inspected at the U. S. port of entry.

We are deeply indebted to Carl Tourje also, for it was Carl's early contact with Mr. Hazlewood in another committee activity, his vision as regards the Test Garden, and his subsequent patient cooperation, which finally produced such splendid results.

A hearty hand goes to Jerry Olrich, Superintendent of Capitol Park in Sacramento, who contributed eighty scions during 1947! That, too, really spells enthusiasm and cooperation.

Curator Townsend, of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, recently took your chairman on a hike through areas of the Gardens he had not previously visited, in order to explain some of his plans for the Test Garden. In passing, we also visited the approach, now being readied for eventual opening to the public, to the Huntington Mausoleum. This will present a long and impressive avenue to the top of a knoll where Mr. and Mrs. Huntington were laid to rest. When landscaped and planted according to plan, it will be one of the beauty spots of the Gardens.

Mr. Townsend plans to make the Australian collection a unit in itself and will endeavor to follow the same plan for other large unit collections, insofar as possible. The present thought is to place the Australian group in the Test Garden extension (beyond the Japanese Garden) mentioned in our recent report to you in this column.

A large group of seedling understock is being brought together in an area close to the headquarters and propagation center of the Botanic Gardens. Eventually, grafting for the Test Garden will be done in this secluded and more convenient area. Supervision and post-operative care will then be in the hands of one man, under immediate supervision of the Curator. When grafting is done throughout the Test Garden canyon, as it has necessarily been up to this point, supervision falls to several men in charge of several areas. Some of the commoner varieties have been grafted to large seedlings in the Botanic Gardens, with a view to moving them later to locations in the canyon. All of this presents some interesting problems to be worked out for the future.

Grafting to large trees, with trunks four to six inches in diameter, presents interesting problems in itself. When there is sufficient scion wood, several grafts are made around the periphery of the trunk stub. If all take, all is well; circulation of the entire cambium layer will be re-established. If only one scion takes, maintenance of circulation in the remaining areas becomes a vital problem, lest one side of the large stump die. If a sucker starts on the

unsuccessful side, it is encouraged. By the following year a scion from the successful side can be grafted to this sucker and the tree is well on its way.

If only one or two scions are available for the large understock, and by chance both fail to take, a number of suckers are allowed to grow and new scions are grafted to these during a subsequent season. Incidentally, grafts take more readily on the young wood of suckers than on the old wood of a large trunk.

When the graft must perforce be made on a seedling which is later to be moved to a more desirable location, another problem enters the picture. After the graft has grown for a year, the large, long tap root characteristic of seedlings is carefully cut and the soil replaced. The plant is then left undisturbed for another year, when it can be moved with good chance of success. Preference is given to moving the plant after, rather than before, grafting because the new leaf system is smaller than the root system; damage to the latter will not throw the tree out of balance as it would were the original large leaf system intact at the time of moving.

Another interesting thing about grafting to large understock, perhaps new to many of our members, is that the scion grafted to large understock is apt not to bloom as soon as the scion grafted to good stock in, say, a gallon can. The tendency of the plant is to rush foliage growth in order that the top may balance the large root system. If therefore you call in a grafting expert to change over the large dud in your garden, the rate of plant growth will make your eyes pop; but the gallon-can graft may bloom a year ahead of it.

The original concept of the Test Garden as merely a test garden for clarification of varietal nomenclature soon broadened to that of a Camellia Repository. Little did any of us dream that the Garden would approach fulfillment of this large concept so quickly! Mr. Townsend confided to your chairman that the time has arrived to work out with the committee some sort of yardstick, some level of quality, for acceptance of new varieties for the Garden; also a level of quality by which a new variety will rate one of the large seedlings as understock.

It goes without saying, that there is no object in devoting space to varieties, especially new and unknown ones, so mediocre that the bloom is 'just another flower.' The lone bloom in the desert, even in the small garden, is always wonderful, whatever its intrinsic quality. In a large collection, 'just another flower' becomes (to mix metaphors just a bit) a gray horse of quite another color. Some yardstick should undoubtedly be worked out at this point. But what shall it be?

Registration presents another problem. When this society commenced registering new camellia varieties, as a step toward avoiding future confusion in varietal nomenclature, there was no other agency in this country for such registration. There was no other camellia publication in which to publish registrations. Our membership had become national in complexion, with a bit of international color added. The regisration activity was sorely needed; it was a large step forward in camellia progress in these United States.

(Continued on page 13)

A LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

Dear Mr. Tourje:

Your letter arrived today, and the Bulletin a few days ago. Your article is a great effort and if I wore a hat, which I do not, I would need a larger size. Many thanks for the nice things you said about me, but I was determined to get the plants over to you somehow or other.

If Bill managed to get Lady St. Clair through and has a scion for you to graft, put it on a stock that is growing near a tree of some sort. It is one of our loveliest varieties but is usually a heartbreak as nearly all the blooms ball and won't open properly. But I find that if the growth is restricted and the plant more or less neglected, that it flowers normally. It seems as if it makes too many petals when cultivated and it will not open, but when planted near a tree this seems to reduce the number of petals and it is quite all right. Old plants growing in an old cemetery in almost pure 'concrete' also seem to open properly, but young ones in the garden do not.

The Bulletin this time is extra interesting, particularly 'The Hovey Story,' which although I have it from *The Garden,* still may not be known to most people. Let us have similar history whenever possible. The bit about 'A Cure for Wylam's Woes' would be all right if the plants were larger, but the small ones could not be treated this way and in any case would be prohibitive in cost to send by air. The method described is mentioned in one of the gardening journals of the last century, but at present I cannot lay my hands on the reference.

I will be interested to hear what you think of the Australian varieties when you see some of the flowers. Some of them I think will be new to you but you may have others, some perhaps under a different name. I have compared our Paeoniflora rosea with your Debutante and it seems identical, unless it is a seedling from it which has come true to type. The description of a tall upright growth fits it to a T.

Don't worry about scions until the autumn, as they will carry better then than now and I can graft any time in the year. I put on a few from some of the sorts sent previously, but the rest were not large enough to take any wood from. They will be all right after the spring growth, which is due any day now. As regards varieties to send, I wrote to Bill on the matter but if you have anything new you could send it and it would be very much appreciated.

Can you tell me anything about Kimberley? How large is the flower, are the leaves widely spaced on the plant and is the foliage long and narrow, or rounded? I have a sort imported from Japan called Crimson Cup, which is about 3½ to 4 inches across with wide-spaced, long and narrow foliage. Professor Waterhouse thinks it is the same as your Kimberley, but the pictures in Hume and Gerbing do not seem to be of a flower as large as that.

If you would like more varieties next year let me know and I will send them over, but I would like to know early so as to get the plants picked out and given special treatment.

Sincerely yours,

Signed—Walter G. Hazlewood

THE EDITORIAL

The editorial for this issue is not here. Look for it on every page, o the cover and in the illustrations, in the type that spells this word.

We've tried to say something so big this time that it couldn't be put i a column—it took the whole Bulletin and then some. It was big and littl too, at the same time. That's the funny thing about it. We just said, 'Can this thing be improved.' And it started to grow right then and there an hasn't stopped since.

We hope you won't need specs to read the ink, or a magnifying glas to see the footnotes, or strain your imagination to visualize the pictures You can take your neck off the swivel now that there is only one colum to scan, and you won't have to put the Bulletin under the mattress ever night to keep the pages neat.

And the cost? Oh is Col. Gale, our Treasurer, happy! He can soon mai these things by the pound, just like potatoes. And we won't have to bu envelopes, invisible green ink, microscopic footnote type, or any of tha fancy stuff.

If we're not careful this is going to be the best camellia journal eve published.

CLAUDE CHIDAMIAN

AMONG THOSE PRESENT

K. SAWADA has earned an enviable reputation as one of America's foremos camellia growers. His seedlings and introductions are among the finest i existence today—White Empress, Imura, Sara-Sa, Queen Bessie, Lurie's Fa vorite, Mrs. K. Sawada, to name just a few.

We are particularly fortunate to be able to reproduce two of Mr. Sawada' original Sasanqua paintings in this issue. He has generously offered to loa a group of these watercolors for exhibit by our society this season.

C. N. HASTIE, JR. is General Manager of the famous Magnolia Garden and Nurseries near Charleston, S. C. In a note accompanying his manu script Mr. Hastie writes: 'Please make it entirely clear that I am connecte with Magnolia Gardens and Nurseries and not with Middleton Place Gar dens. Both gardens have camellia nurseries, so it would be rather confusin for anyone to write a letter addressed to me and send it to Middleton Place because both nurseries can supply the Middleton Garden varieties. In othe words, I do not want to intercept any inquiries or orders which are aime specifically at Middleton Place.'

We didn't realize what we were getting Mr. Hastie into when we aske him to do the Middleton article, but you may be sure his next contributio will be on his own enterprise, Magnolia Gardens.

RONALD B. TOWNSEND, new Superintendent of the Huntington Botanica Gardens, is sure to become one of our most active contributors. He not onl has a wealth of material in the Garden to write about, but a very keen in terest in every phase of camellia lore.

HINTS ON DISBUDDING

By Julius Nuccio

Camellias are disbudded primarily to obtain large specimen blooms. To properly accomplish this, one must first choose the varieties that warrant disbudding. Varieties such as Covina, Countess of Orkney, Monjisu, Pink Perfection and any of the naturally small-flowered, profuse bloomers should not be disbudded, because their beauty lies in their profusion of bloom and they will never reach a "show" size.

In choosing varieties for disbudding, select those that can definitely be improved by obtaining maximum size. A great many camellias come under this category, such as Lotus, Herme, Emperor Wilhelm, Adolph Audusson, Finlandia, Alba Plena, Lindsay Neill, Donckelari, Frizzle White, Flame, Glen No. 40, H. A. Downing, Pax, Ville de Nantes, and many others of the peony, semi-double and formal types that will normally reach 3½ inches without disbudding.

The proper time to disbud is when you are definitely able to distinguish the flower bud from the growth bud. This may be as early as midsummer for the early blooming varieties, but for most camellias September and October have proven to be the best months. By then the buds are large enough so that it is easy to select the ones that are to remain and those that are to be removed.

In selecting buds for size, keep in mind that the best flowers are produced on the first cycle of new growth. Flower buds set on the second cycle of growth very seldom reach maximum size. For best results, never leave more than two buds on a terminal or growth cycle.

Buds may be removed by carefully twisting them off, or better still by piercing a hole with a large pin or a shingle nail from the tip of the bud down. This method allows air to enter the bud so that it will dry and fall off naturally, thus eliminating possible injury to the adjoining bud you intend to keep for bloom.

CAMELLIA SEED

The Secretary's office has for sale Sasanqua seed from the Huntington Gardens at $5.00 per hundred, half price to members for their own use. Proceeds go to the Test Garden Fund.

Plant the seeds 1 inch deep in a mixture of sandy loam, moistened peat moss and leaf mold. Or, better still, use the new method of germination reported in the Bulletin (March 1947), pp. 8-9.

The seed will germinate and develop roots and top in 3 to 5 months. When the plant is about 6 inches tall, transfer to a 6-inch pot or gallon can.

Most seedlings will not bloom until they are about 5 to 7 years old. The bloom generally produced is of single form and no particular value, although on rare occasions a beautiful new variety is discovered. If the flower is worthless, the plant can be used for understock.

TEST GARDEN TOPICS . . .

(Continued from page 8)

In 1945 the American Camellia Society was organized. Its By-laws provided for a registration committee and registration of new varieties. This year, its committee has actually come into activity and is setting up a program for registration. Professor Roy J. Wilmot, who has devoted years of study to varietal nomenclature as a project of the University of Florida under Dr. H. Harold Hume, Provost of the Division of Agriculture, and has conducted the Camellia Test Garden connected with it, whew! where were we?—Professor Wilmot is Chairman of the American Camellia Society's Registration Committee. Verne Mc Caskill, H. L. Paige, H. H. Harms and William Hertrich are members from the Pacific Coast.

Partly because of their undisputed qualifications, and partly because of the liaison thus established with the national committee, this writer asked Messrs. Hertrich and Mc Caskill to serve as consultants to your own Registration Committee. In passing, your committee has also inaugurated the custom of checking the availability of new varietal names with Professor Wilmot and our own nomenclature committee. Your chairman also wrote Professor Wilmot asking in what way we could all cooperate in the matter of registrations, and to what extent the plans of the A.C.S. had progressed.

Professor Wilmot replied citing the provision for registrations in the A.C.S. By-laws in 1945; stating also that he had had considerable correspondence concerning registration with the late Newell F. Vanderbilt of San Rafael even prior to that, and that they had worked out a registration form—all this before Wilmot even knew of the existence of the S.C.C.S. He had tried to interest the American Nurserymen's Association and the Southern Nurserymen's Association in registering camellias, but found them unresponsive.

Professor Wilmot in his reply also raised the question of whether a new variety should be registered when it had bloomed only once or twice, or whether it should be placed in a test garden and allowed to prove its worth. The importance of some form of national registration, either through a single source or by collaboration, is evidenced by the fact that two nationally known growers applied for national registration this year, each describing a new and different variety, but both coming up with the same name!

The *Yearbook* of the A.C.S. will publish descriptions of all newly registered varieties *unless they have been previously published;* in the latter case, the published description will be cited.

Secretary Wilmot goes on to state that Mr. Paige, of Oakland, Calif., has contacted all the central California camellia societies and has had each of them appoint an assistant to him for the national registration committee. In closing, he points out that at present real registration of camellia varieties is only done by the A.C.S. and S.C.C.S. The American Nurserymen's Association records camellia varieties along with other woody plants. Wilmot states that he has given this problem a great deal of thought and asks our candid opinion as to what is to be done. He suggests a method of handling our registrations on a national basis such as is used in the American

Rose Society, passing all information and data back to our group. He expresses regret that the national society's registration program has blossomed into action so late as to make it 'look like an interloper,' and is most desirous of our mutually working out some plan which may provide national registration without loss of prestige to our society.

The July *News-Letter* of the A.C.S. states that their application form (quite similar to our own) will be sent to the applicant to be filled out by him in triplicate. One copy remains with the applicant, one goes to the American Nurserymen's Association for registration as a new woody plant, and the third goes to the A.C.S. for processing. The American Society's Registration Committee agreed that the Registration Fee of $2.00 should be waived on all varieties already in the trade, in order to include them and get them on the record.

In closing, the A.C.S. *News-Letter* pays our own test garden a nice compliment:

'It is the opinion of the [A.C.S.] Committee that plants or scions of all new varieties should, if possible, be sent to the Test Garden at Gainesville [The original Camellia Varietal Test Garden at the University of Florida] or to others which may be designated, such as Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Huntington Botanic Gardens (Southern California Camellia Society Test Garden). Only gardens that will agree to accept such material with the assurance that propagation for other than experimental purposes will not be allowed, will be officially designated. *At present such assurance can only be given by the garden at Gainesville, Southwestern Louisiana Institute* and *Huntington Botanic Gardens.*'

NEWS NOTES

Mr. William T. Wood, Chairman of the A.C.S. Exhibitions and Awards Committee, reports the following show dates for the 1948-49 season:

FEB. 5-6. AUGUSTA, GEORGIA. Camellia Show* by the Sand Hills Garden Club.

FEB. 12. LAUREL, MISS. Camellia Show by the Laurel Garden Club.

FEB. 12-13. SAVANNAH, GEORGIA. Camellia Show*

FEB. 12-13. GLENDALE, CALIF. Camellia Show by the Pacific Camellia Society.

FEB. 19-20. CHARLESTON, S. C. Camellia Show*

FEB. 19-20. MACON, GEORGIA. Camellia Show* by the Middle Georgia Camellia Society.

FEB. 23. COLUMBIA, S. C. Camellia Show*

FEB. 26-27. COLUMBUS, GEORGIA. Camellia Show*

MARCH 6-7. SACRAMENTO, CALIF. Camellia Show*

*Auspices American Camellia Society.

FEB. 23. MARSHALLVILLE, GEORGIA. Camellia Show.

FEB. 26-27. BERKELEY, CALIF. Camellia Show.

FEB. 26-27. PASADENA, CALIF. Camellia Show by the Southern California Camellia Society.

MARCH 12-13. OAKLAND, CALIF. Camellia Show.

SOUTHERN SASANQUAS . . .

(Continued from page 6)

A description of some popular varieties and seedlings follows:

ROSEA—This is probably the first variety to be known in this country and it is very popular in the Gulf Coast region. The flowers are medium size, usually 2½-3 inches in diameter. Petals number five to six—rosy crimson in color. The plant is a profuse bloomer from September to November and has an upright habit of growth.

MINE-NO-YUKI—This variety is also known as 'Snow on the Mountain,' which is a literal translation of the Japanese name. It was introduced into this country at the close of the last century from Japan. In checking a number of Japanese nursery catalogs, the writer has failed to find the name Mine-no-yuki listed. From the descriptions of the varieties furnished, the variety Fuji-no-mine seems to be identical with Mine-no-yuki. The translation of the former name can also be 'Snow on the Mountain.' The flower is a semi-double to double of loose peony form, 3-3½ inches in diameter, and white. The plant is a profuse bloomer and a vigorous grower with a spreading habit of growth.

DAWN—The Alvin Japanese Nursery Company of Houston, Texas, imported this variety from Japan in 1909. It came under the name of Akebono. Later I translated the name and introduced the plant as Dawn.[2] The flowers are large, usually from 3-3½ inches in diameter, and consist of petals which are wavy and crinkled. There are few petaloids present in the flower. The color of the flower is a porcelain white with some of the petals having tips of faint pink. The plant is late in blooming (October-January) and is an upright grower, rather slow but hardy. Dr. Hume once told the writer that he is of the opinion that Dawn is not a true *C. Sasanqua* variety—pointing out the differences between it and other varieties. They are (1) the difference in time of bloom (Dawn is much later than the Sasanqua varieties), (2) the flower buds of Dawn are more resistant to cold, (3) the odor of the Dawn is not of the characteristic musty type of the Sasanquas, and (4) the stamens of Dawn are joined a much greater distance from the base than the other Sasanqua varieties, whose stamens are loosely connected at the base. However, thus far the true species relation of Dawn has not been determined.

CLEOPATRA and BRILLIANCY—About fifteen years ago the writer imported one hundred Shishigashira plants. These arrived in very poor condition and only three plants of the lot survived. When these remaining plants bloomed, they were quite different from Shishigashira. After a thorough check of the existing varieties of Sasanquas in Japan, the writer could not find any varieties that were similar to the flowers of the plants he had received; therefore, he concluded that the plants he had received were seedlings and he introduced them as such. One of the plants bore a semi-double flower and was introduced as Cleopatra, and one with single flowers was called Brilliancy. The doubleness of the Cleopatra flower is brought about by the merging of two apparently

[2]Illustration from an original watercolor by K. Sawada, inside back cover.

single flowers. Both of the varieties have very dark shiny green foliage and are very compact growers, though Brilliancy is probably a bit more slender and upright than Cleopatra.

BUTTERFLY and MAIDEN BLUSH—Both of these varieties were included in the importations of the Alvin Japanese Nursery Company in 1909. Neither of the varieties had names, being merely imported as single white and single pink, respectively. Some years later the writer gave these varieties the names White Butterfly and Maiden Blush. Both of these varieties are very hardy and vigorous growers. From our experience Butterfly is such a vigorous grower that it has proven to be one of the best Sasanqua varieties to use as understock on which to graft *C. japonica.*

HIODOSHI—This is one of the variegated forms of the *C. Sasanqua* and it was imported from Japan by E. A. McIlhenny. The flowers are single and are a moire variegation of crimson and white. The plant is an upright, compact grower, but it is very slow.

SHISHIGASHIRA—This is another of the importations by E. A. McIlhenny. Later it was imported by the Kiyono Nurseries under the name of Benikantsubaki. The two seem to be the same variety. The flower is small, 2-2½ inches in diameter, semi-double to double, some being imbricated, and of a crimson red. The plant is dwarf and is an extremely slow grower. This variety is recommended for small gardens and for pot culture.

USUBENI—The importation of this variety by Kiyono came under the name of Usuiro-kantsubaki, but since Tsubaki refers to *C. japonica,* the latter part of the name was dropped and the variety at present is called Usubeni, meaning light pink. Usubeni seems to be identical with Showa-no-sakae, which was an importation of Doty and Doerner, Inc., of Portland, Oregon . The flower is semi-double to double, of loose peony form, 2½-3 inches in diameter. The color of the flower is a soft pink, occasionally marked with some variegation of white. The leaves are thick, deeply crenulated, and dark green in color. The plant is a slow grower and has a dwarf habit of growth.

KOW-GYOKU (Little Gem)—The flower of this variety, which is an importation from Japan by E. A. McIlhenny, is a full double, imbricated one of white with a faint marking of pink on the outer edges of some of the petals. The plant is a slow grower.

The following Sasanquas are selections made by Overlook Nurseries and have been introduced to the market during the past several years. Some of the original names given to the varieties have been changed to avoid confusion with some of the existing names of *C. japonica* varieties. Where the name has been changed, the old names are included in parenthesis after the present one.

AUTUMN BEAUTY (Jeff's Watermelon Pink)—The flowers of this variety are large, about 3½-4 inches in diameter, of watermelon pink and open from October through November. The plant is an upright, slow grower.

FLORIBUNDA—The six to seven petals which make up this flower are white with a lavender pink margin. This is one of the early bloomers, blooming in September. The plant is a compact, upright and vigorous grower.

GULF GLORY (Grandiflora Alba)—The flowers are single, large (3½ inches in diameter), pure white, and bloom from October to December[3]. Th growth habit of the plant is upright and spreading.

LAVENDER QUEEN—The flowers are single, 3-3½ inches in diamete and consist of seven petals which are lavender pink.

PAPAVER (Rosea Papaver)—The single flowers are bell-shaped (resemblin poppies) until they are fully opened. The plant blooms from September October and is slender and upright in its habit of growth.

ROSY MIST (Rosea Magnifica)—The flowers are large, single, consistin of six to eight pink petals, and bloom from October through November. Th leaves are very large, thick and of coarse texture and deeply crenulated. Th variety is characterized by a low spreading habit of growth.

SLENDERLEE (Mutt's Watermelon Pink)—This variety is a very fast up right grower and the branches are slender. The flowers are medium in siz and consist of five watermelon-pink petals.

SPLENDOR (Rosea Grandiflora)—This is one of the most profuse bloome of all of the Sasanquas. The flowers are very large, 3½-4 inches in diamete and consist of ten petals of a delicate pink color. The petals are a darker pin toward the tips. This October-November bloomer has a low spreading hab of growth.

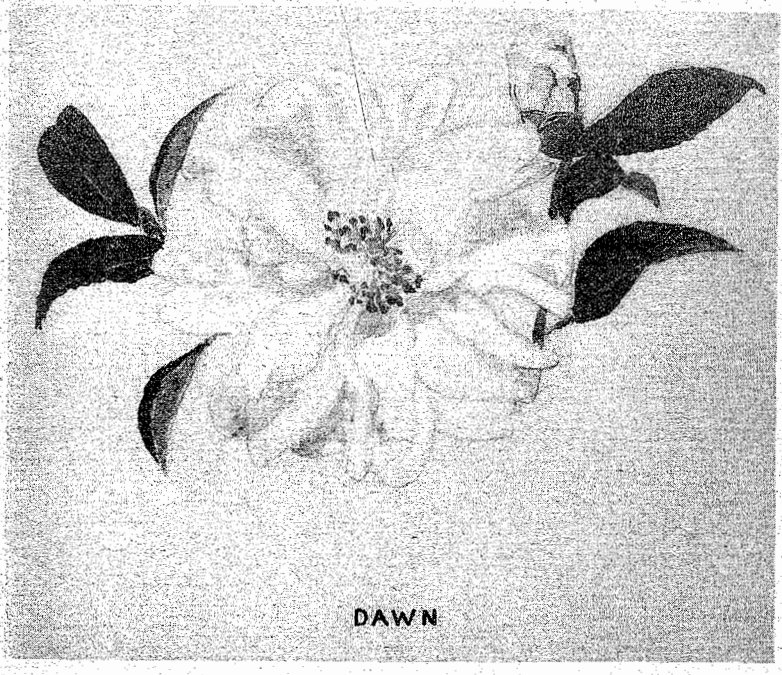
VELVETY (Crimson Velvetti)—The flowers are single, with six or seve petals of crimson red color with a velvety overcast. The plant blooms in Octob and November and is a compact, semi-spreading type.

VERSICOLOR (Tricolor Magnifica)—This variety produces a showy flowe of medium size, variegated pink, lavender and white. It is a compact plan and grows upright.

WILLOW LEAF—The leaves of this variety are very unusual and slightl crenulated. Their shape reminds one of a willow leaf. The flowers are singl of medium size, and are white with a faint pink margin. The plants are com pact upright growers.

In conclusion, in response to the many people who ask which of the Sasan qua varieties are best, let me say that the only way to answer that questio is to limit it to read, 'What is the best Sasanqua variety for a particular pur pose?' For example, probably the best varieties for a limited area would b Shishigashira, Usubeni, or some of the other dwarf types. On the other han if large specimens are desired, Dawn, Cleopatra, Hiodoshi, or Autumn Beaut would be the best. If a tall upright plant is desired in a landscape such varie ties as Brilliancy, Floribunda, Slenderlee, or Cleopatra should be chosen. I a low spreading effect is wished the logical choices would be Splendor o Rosy Mist. Varieties with showy white flowers (Mine-no-yuki and Gul Glory) exhibit their excellence among other shrubbery for a border planting For a hedge or screen planting one would choose Brilliancy, Floribunda Papaver, Crimson Bride, and Slenderlee, because they are narrow, upright and compact growers. And as previously stated, Butterfly is the best Sasanqu understock on which to graft *C. japonica* varieties.

[3]Illustration from an original watercolor by K. Sawada, on opposite page.



DAWN

GULF GLORY
(GRANDIFLORA ALBA)