

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Camellia

SOCIETY BULLETIN

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NOVEMBER 1949

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Published monthly from November to April, and in June and September.

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, No-
vember to April, inclusive, at the auditorium of the new library of the Pasadena
City College, 1500 Block East Colorado Street. A cut camellia blossom exhibi-
tion is always held at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting at 8:00.

ROSEBUD FARM AND ITS FAMOUS CAMELLIAS

By Jerry Olrich, State Gardener

I have written often of Rosebud Farms, its gracious owner and its grand old Camellias. One never gets tired of writing or reading of this beautiful old home and grounds and its owner, who is an enthusiastic Camellia lover.

Rosebud Farm is located sixteen miles south of Sacramento on Highway 21, also known as Freeport Boulevard, which winds its way along the river bank to San Francisco and the Bay Area. Even if one were not looking for Camellias, the ride down this river road would be really worthwhile.

If one has ever ridden the roads along the mighty Mississippi, this ride will bring back memories. The ride is enjoyable at any time of the year. I hope I am not boring you with details, but one cannot tell you of Rosebud Farm without telling you something of the surrounding area.

The section along this river is an exceptionally famous farming area and very rich. The soil is very high in nitrogen and produces very good crops.

There are many famous old homes along this river and it is truly a pioneer section of our so grand State. Rosebud Farm is one of these pioneer farms.

How many times I have taken this ride, I can't recall, but I never get tired of looking and marveling at its beauty. The pioneers deserve a real vote of thanks from us, and posterity, for leaving us such a grand heritage. One of the places in question is Rosebud Farm and its Camellias.

Mrs. Edinger's father, the late Mr. Wm. Johnston, purchased three Camellias in San Francisco in the late sixties and brought them home and planted them on the northwest side of the house where they really flourished and have grown into such fine monarchs.

On March 6, 1949, it was my pleasure to conduct a tour of Rosebud Farm and guide the members of the American Camellia Society through the grounds. There were many notables on this tour, too many to mention. All of our friends from various parts of the country attested to the fact that these were the largest trees they had ever seen in the United States. Many stated that it was a sight they would never forget.

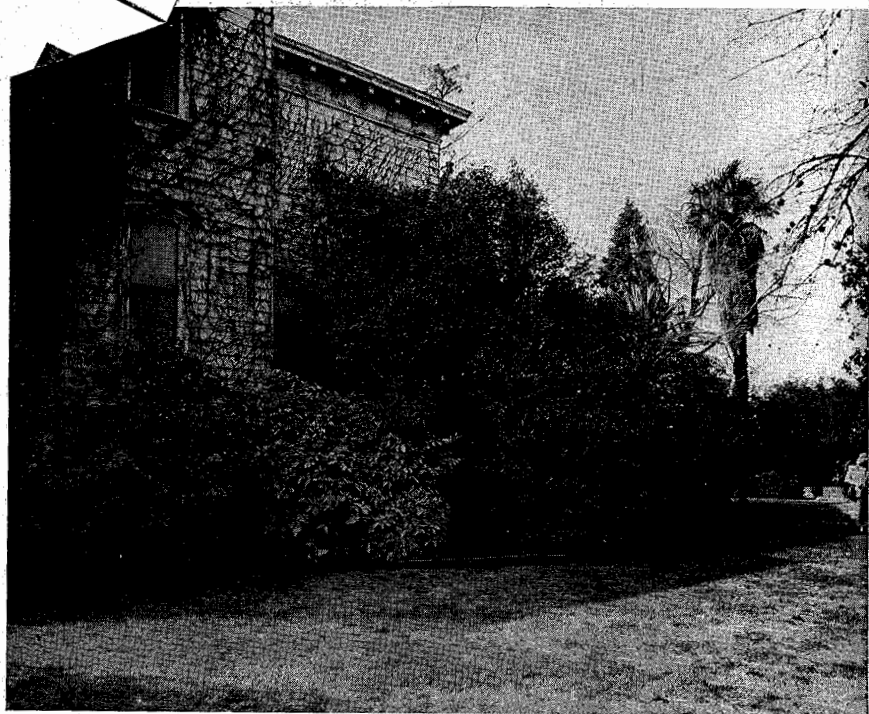
The original first three trees planted were a Wakanura (Tri-Color Seiboldi), Purity and a Pink Perfection.

The "Wakanura" is the most famous of these trees, as it has produced many fine seedlings that I will tell about further on in this article. This tree is 24 feet 3 inches tall with a 37 foot spread and a trunk with a circumference of 39½ inches.

The "Purity" is the second oldy in this row and is the tallest of the group with a height of 29 feet 2 inches, a spread of 19 feet 4 inches and a trunk with a circumference of 31½ inches.

The third tree in this row is a large "Pink Perfection" with a height of 25 feet 3 inches, a spread of 26 feet 3 inches and a trunk 37 inches in circumference.

There are 204 trees growing on the grounds and most of these were planted by Mrs. Edinger, and the stories she tells about the way they were planted are something. Can you imagine anyone taking a branch approximately 30 inches in length that had broken off a Pink Perfection and sticking it in the ground and making it grow? It's unbelievable, but the tree is growing on the south side of the house. Many of the seedlings growing on these grounds have been grown by Mrs. Edinger. (How many of us could do with her green thumb!)



A VIEW OF THE EDINGER HOME FROM THE NORTH.

How many seedlings Mrs. Edinger has grown or given away no one will ever know. Some I will tell you about you already know. Some still are in the stages of development.

One of the most important in my opinion is "Arrabella," named after Mrs. Edinger's sister. This Camellia which so closely resembles a *reticulata* in form, but I think as a garden variety is much better. It is a very compact grower and a prolific bloomer and the flowers reach a good size, 5 to 6 inches. The color is sort of a light brick red semi-double with its center petals twisted and standing straight up like rabbit ears and its golden stamens that make such a lovely contrast. For many years I tried to interest various growers in this variety without any success. Now everyone wants it. It is a must for every Camellia lover.

"Pride of Rosebud Farm" is a red single sport splotted with white that Mr. George Peterson's father of Lindo Nursery, Chico, introduced to the trade quite a number of years ago. A very good garden variety.

"Anne Lindberg," named by Mrs. Edinger when Anne married Lindberg, is a semi-double rose red with intermingled golden stamens, a mid-season bloomer, that has been in the trade for quite some time.

"Mrs. Wm. Beckman," a seedling of Wakanura, is a large single to semi-double similar to a Lady Campbell, but quite a bit larger. This got its name by being one of Mrs. Edinger's father's favorite seedlings.

"Lady Astor," a seedling of Wakanura, a semi-double mostly white with several red stripes and an occasional red petal. (I have been watching this



THE WRITER LOOKING AT THE TRUNK OF THE LARGE WAKANURA.

plant as it occasionally throws a blush pink with some red. I am in hopes that it will throw a pink sport without any red.)

"Christmas Tree" is a seedling that the Chinese cook found growing under the old Wakanura. He transplanted it and the reason for its name is that it grows somewhat like a fir tree, and when in bloom looks like a Christmas Tree with ornaments. This is a semi-double similar to Lady Campbell, color and otherwise.

"Captain Jack" is another seedling of Wakanura semi-double white with red striping and sometimes throwing a red sport. Has possibilities. Named after her grandson.

"Lady Wheeler" is another seedling grown by Mrs. Edinger and named after and given to Mrs. Wheeler several years ago. This flower is a semi-double white with red striping.

"Martha Washington" is a semi-double seedling of Wakanura, white with deep pink striping, occasionally a pink petal and occasionally a pink sport.

"Red Perfection" is another seedling similar to Elena Nobile in coloring but holds a tight rosebud center for several days, then bursts out with golden stamens that really makes it a very attractive flower.

"Barbara E" is one of the most vigorous growers on the place but the buds bullnose and very seldom open. When it opens, it resembles Eureka Variegated but a much larger and heavier flower full-double white striped with red.

"Mrs. Edinger" is a seedling that Mrs. Edinger gave to a friend several years

(Continued on page 6)

LONDON CAMELLIA CONFERENCE

By Ralph S. Peer

I have just received from the Royal Horticultural Society of London information about the Camellia and Magnolia Conference which they propose to hold next year. I have been requested to make this information available to any of my friends who might be interested in attending the Conference. It occurred to me that an article in the Bulletin of our Society might be in order, as undoubtedly a great many of our members are planning a visit to Europe during the summer of 1950.

There will be a six-day conducted tour of the famous Gardens of Cornwall, starting March 25th and ending March 30th. The all-inclusive cost, including rail travel from London to Falmouth, will be approximately \$60.00.

On March 31st and April 1st, excursions have been arranged from London to various famous gardens in the vicinity of London, including the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley. These trips will be by motor coach at a cost of approximately \$3.00 per person, including luncheon and tea.

The Conference will open at 2:30 p.m. on April 4th under the chairmanship of Lord Aberconway. The first speakers, Mr. G. H. Johnstone and Dr. W. L. Stewart, will discuss "Camellias in Cornish Gardens" to be followed by Dr. H. Harold Hume, who will speak on "Forms of Camellia Japonica."

On the morning of April 5th, at 10:30 a.m., Mr. H. G. Hillier will have as his subject "Propagation of Camellias and Magnolias," to be followed by a talk by Mr. J. E. Dandy on "Survey of the Genus Magnolia together with Michelia and Manglietia."

That afternoon, Mr. G. H. Johnstone will speak on "Chinese Magnolias in Cultivation," to be followed by Mr. J. R. Sealy, whose subject will be "Camellia Species."

I give below the itinerary of the tour through the Gardens of Cornwall:

Saturday, March 25—By train from London to Falmouth. Lunch and tea on train. Dinner at hotel.

Sunday, March 26—Lunch at Truro. Visit to the Gardens of G. H. Johnstone, Esq., Trewithen, Grampond Road, and to the Gardens of Mrs. F. Williams, Scorrier House, Scorrier. Return to Falmouth.

Monday, March 27—Visit to the Gardens of Viscount Falmouth, Tregothnan, Truro. Lunch at Carlyon Bay, St. Austell. Visit to the Gardens of Cmdr. H. H. Thomas, Heligan, St. Austell. Return to Falmouth.

Tuesday, March 28—Visit to the Truro Flower Show. Lunch at Truro. Visit to the Gardens of Charles Williams, Esq., M. P., Caerhays Castle, Gorran. Return to Falmouth.

Wednesday, March 29—Visit to the Gardens of M. P. Williams, Esq., Lanarth, St. Keverne. Lunch at Penzance. Visit to the Gardens of Mrs. Charles Williams, Trewidden, Buryas Bridge, Penzance, and to the Gardens of Col. E. H. W. Bolitho, D.S.O., Trengwainton, Penzance. Return to Falmouth.

Thursday, March 30—Breakfast at hotel. By train from Falmouth to London. Lunch and tea on train.

Anyone desiring to participate in the Conference and the Excursions should make advance reservations. This can be done by means of a letter addressed to the Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London, S.W. 1, England, or I will be glad to transmit requests for reservations.

Mrs. Peer and I expect to be in London at that time to attend the Conference.

YESTERDAY — TODAY — TOMORROW

By the Interested Observer

There are those among us who yearn for the "good old days" (in this case only a few short years ago) when the handful of faithful met on Thursday evenings at the Pasadena Public Library to talk Camellias and with pride exhibit our favorite flowers to the envious admiration of our friends and neighbors. They were indeed happy days. These old timers knew and called each other by their first names; we visited each other on Saturday and Sunday afternoons; we helped each other in our individual problems; we exchanged and gave scions and cuttings that our friends might share with us our joys and triumphs without jealousy or withholding; we looked forward to each Thursday evening "prayer meeting." Yes, they *were* happy days.

But those of us who now do the most yearning for those days were then doing the most yearning. We yearned for larger membership; for affiliate societies in other communities; for larger and more comfortable quarters; for a loud speaker system (do you remember how we hoarded our dimes for that?); for Camellia shows that would surpass all others; for bigger and better Bulletins; for nomenclature books which would receive the plaudits of the Camellia world; for a research department that would be the envy of every horticultural society; and a Camellia Garden that would surpass everything of its kind anywhere. In short we wanted first national and then international recognition, but some of us did not count the cost.

We have that recognition now. We have all the things we yearned for yesterday, but too few of us realize how or why we have them.

We propose through the pages of the next several issues of the Bulletin to not only tell our new members, affiliates, and friends, but to remind our older members how and why we have that recognition, and we propose to run a number of articles on the blessings that are ours—that are ours exclusively. They are the things we hoped for yesterday, but did not realize that the price was the cost of those good old days.

We expect to tell you of our affiliates and what they are doing. Do you realize that some of our affiliate societies now have larger memberships than Southern California Camellia Society had but a few years ago? Do our members know that the San Diego affiliate is establishing a camellia garden in beautiful Balboa Park patterned after our own at the Huntington Botanic Gardens? Do we know and appreciate the fact that far off Fresno is one of our most enthusiastic and progressive groups, and that it has the largest membership of all our affiliates? Do we know that Kern County, despite its summer heat, grows some of the finest camellias grown in California, and that its society exhibits at our Camellia Shows were among the outstanding displays. Do we know what plans Pomona is making to enlarge its already substantial and faithful group? How many of us know about the activities at Temple City—that lusty, vigorous young member of our family that claims the right to the name of Camellia City?

We of Southern California are very justly proud of our affiliates, and we want all our members to know about them, and when possible to attend their fine meetings.

We expect to tell you, also, of our Camellia Garden—The Southern California Camellia Garden, formerly known as the Test Garden, which is one of the units of the Huntington Botanic Gardens. It is the finest thing of its kind in the world. There is nothing to compare with it, anywhere. It's setting

is magnificent. Its beauty is incomparable. It will be available to us this winter. We are proud of our collaboration with the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery in the establishment of this wonderful project. We will tell you about all these things, and our collection, which boasts more than six hundred of the finest varieties. We will tell you of our importations of new and rare species and varieties from abroad—of our efforts to give you the unusual. You will hear much of the Garden during the coming season. It is worthy of all we can tell you, and more. Watch for the dates when Curator Townsend will show us what he has done.

We have started the series of articles which has been promised to you with an announcement of the new members in the Research Committee. You will find this on another page of this issue. We propose to tell you many more things about this committee, and the work which it is doing. It would be difficult to gather around one table the talent which this committee represents. No other similar society in America can match this group of scientists, who are contributing at their own expense their efforts to make your Society the most forward looking and progressive horticultural group in the world. Their research efforts are beginning to show results, and we will give these results to you as they are announced.

Then there are the plans for the forthcoming Camellia Show in Brookside Park in February. Previous efforts were wonderful, but they will seem pale alongside those of the next show. You may be sure that much will be said about this during the next few issues.

At the beginning of this editorial, mention was made of an early yearning for a nomenclature book which would receive the plaudits of the camellia world. Well, we had that two years ago. But all who read this will agree that the splendid book of two years ago was merely a preface to the masterpiece now in your book stacks. The current issue of the nomenclature book is the camellia fancier's bible. There is nothing more to say which all our readers have not already thought about this book.

Yes, the old days were good ones, indeed, but what of our advances would any of us sacrifice in order to return to them?

ROSEBUD FARM—*(Continued from page 3)*

ago without naming it and this friend decided to name it after her. This is a large semi-double white with red striping with golden stamens intermingled sometimes throwing a red sport.

There are another 60 seedlings coming along and some have possibilities. Mrs. Edinger has been watching them closely; and with her luck with seedlings watch for something good.

To write about Rosebud Farm without a few words about its so lovely and gracious owner would be slightly amiss. Mrs. Frank Edinger is a true lover of Camellias, which can be attested to by her garden and her success in growing them. A trip to Rosebud Farm and a personally conducted tour of the grounds by Mrs. Edinger is a must, and I assure you; you will never forget either. You are always welcome at Rosebud.

DDT ON CAMELLIAS

The following are excerpts from a reply by Dr. Lammerts, Chairman of our Research Committee, to an inquiry as to the effects of DDT spray on camellias:

Briefly, though Mr. Hertrich reported serious injury on certain varieties of camellias following a spray of his oak trees with a spray material containing among other things DDT, it is my belief, as well as that of many others, that the injury resulted from other ingredients of the spray rather than the DDT.

The enclosed copy of a report of work done at Sacramento indicates that no injury in general resulted from spraying with DDT done there.

I personally have sprayed quite a number of camellia plants with the typical DDT sprays and have seen no injury at all. Accordingly it is my belief that occasional sprayings with this material in no way harm camellia plants. Of course I presume that repeated sprayings would show the cumulative bad effects reported on other plants following the long continued use of this spray.

Sincerely, Dr. Walter E. Lammerts

In the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito Abatement District a series of tests was run, because of the fact that the residents in this district were afraid of injury to camellias from DDT formulations used for mosquito control. An area was elected in which no plantings of camellias were present, and camellias placed in tubs were spaced variously to simulate conditions which might occur in yard plantings. There were six such tests, the material being used in an aerosol, applied by jeeps at a distance of about 8 feet from the curb. This is not quite comparable to spraying either camellias directly or spraying trees overhead, but it is interesting as supplementary data.

TEST A—5% DDT in a summer oil; a very light one, incidentally.

TEST B—Same formulation, except that the concentration of DDT was 10%.

TEST C—Same as Test A, except there was 1 gallon of 25% DDT added to 14 gallons of the oil as a fortification.

TEST D—1 gallon of 25% DDT concentrate plus 4 gallons Diesel oil.

TEST E—Same as Test D only more heavily applied.

TEST F—5% solution applied 8 times at 5-day intervals.

In the tests were 128 plants of 42 varieties.

The conclusion reached from all these experiments was that the 5% DDT in summer oil, in other words—very light oil, in an aerosol had not under these conditions, harmed camellias; but it must be remembered that the spraying unit does not approach closer than 20 feet. This is of academic rather than practical interest compared with our type of spraying here.

A nurseryman in Sacramento County sprayed 1,000 plants in 1- and 5-gallon cans, two years ago, with DDT standard dosage, 1 pound actual DDT per 100 gallons with an Aresket spreader. The nurseryman reported that 5 Cheerful plants died about 6 months after they were sprayed, but looked all right 2 months after. Later the leaves turned yellow and the plants eventually died. Perhaps it is questionable whether this is entirely due to the spray, since there were other plants of the same variety which did not die. However, Cheerful appears to be a doubtful variety as to tolerance. The other varieties sprayed in this lot of 1,000 were Chandleri, Elegans, Prof. Sargent, C. M. Hovey, and Elena Nobile. These were not injured.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

THE SOCIETY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS met for their regular monthly meeting at the home of Secretary-Treasurer Gale on Wednesday, October 19, all Directors being present except Seavey who was sick, and Fink who was out of town. Also present were Past-President McLean, Nomenclature Chairman Woodroof and Editor Chidamian.

It was decided that a brief summary of the proceedings of the Board should be printed in the Bulletin following each meeting. Therefore this will be a regular feature of the Bulletin.

The following was directed:

That a membership application blank be printed in each Bulletin.

That Director Parker confer with the Secretary-Treasurer and prepare and submit to the Board at its next meeting outline for a budget for the current season.

That The Pacific Camellia Society be furnished nomenclature books at approximate cost, or \$.55 each, to the extent of their membership at the time of applying for these books.

That an exhibit be made by the Society in the Pasadena Fall Flower Show and Sec'y-Treas. Gale was appointed to provide same.

That the Research Committee be provided twelve nomenclature books to be given by them to cooperating organizations.

A letter was read from Anne Galli expressing her appreciation of the Honorary Life Membership voted to her.

President Hill, Chairman of the Show Committee, reported favorable progress in the arrangements for the camellia show to be held at Brookside park, Pasadena, on February 18 and 19, 1950.

The next meeting was announced for November 16, to meet at the same place.

1950 CAMELLIA SHOW. Arrangements have been made for the Society Annual Camellia Show. Reservation has been made for the Fannie E. Morrison Horticultural Building at Brookside Park, Pasadena, for February 18 and 19. Committees are being appointed and it is hoped that this show will equal or even excel the beautiful ones of the past.

This show will be held jointly with the Pacific Camellia Society. Many prizes will be awarded, so get your plants and flowers in shape.

EXTRA COPIES of the nomenclature book, "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature" are for sale by the Secretary at \$1.25 each. \$.75 each in lots of not less than 12. They make good gifts.

On account of his health and the weight of duties at the University of California, Claude Chidamian has been compelled to submit his resignation as Editor of the Bulletin, taking effect prior to the preparation of this issue. His duties will be carried on for the present by an Editorial Board.

THE SOCIETY'S OPENING MEETING OF THE SEASON was held in the auditorium of the fine new library of the Pasadena City College on East Colorado Street, Pasadena, on the evening of November 10 with about 200 in attendance. The cut flower exhibit was much larger than expected this early in the season, three ten-foot tables needing to be used for this display. The exhibitors' prize, a fine Camellia Ville de Nantes, was won by Lloyd Thompson.

President Hill opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests present and then introducing the Society's officers and committee chairmen. He then turned the meeting over to Program Chairman McLean.

Dr. McLean, after discussing some of the functions of the garden and the registration committees, both of which he is chairman, introduced Mr. Herbert V. Mitchell of Oakland. Mr. Mitchell demonstrated how close-up photos of blossoms are made, later showing an exceptionally interesting group of colored slides of the newer camellias. Included in his showing were close-ups of grafts, enlarged to show clearly the cambium layers, methods of tying, different stages of healing, etc.

Leslie Marshall next discussed the habits and characteristics of the plants that were being offered for the plant sale.

This was followed by an open forum during which C. D. Cothran, Robert Casamajor and Mr. Mitchell gave their views on various features of camellia feeding.

It is hoped that the high-lights of all of these talks may be published in our next issue as recordings were taken of the program.

In the plant drawing Clifton Johnson won a Bessie Morse Bellingrath, R. W. Ragland a Glen 40, Dr. McLean a Fred Sanders, L. W. Strohmeyer, a High Hat and Howard Jordan a set of red-wood tubs. The plants were all purchased for this sale and the tubs were donated by Plant Sales Chairman Widmann.

THE SOCIETY'S EXHIBIT at the Southern California Fall Flower Show at Brookside Park, Pasadena, on November 3, 4, 5 and 6 occupied a space 20 feet long along the front of the arrangement building. The only plants that could be found in bloom to be used for the exhibit were ADOLPHE ADUSSON, Red and Var., HIGH HAT, DEBUTANTE, and several kinds of SASANQUA. These plants were furnished by Chas. S. Jones, Nuccios Nursery, Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens, Pres. Harold C. Hill, Clifton W. Johnson and E. C. Tourje. Some member of the Society was always present at the exhibit to answer questions and to give information regarding the Society. They were generally surrounded by people seeking information.

THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY started its season in October and will hold meetings hereafter on the first Friday in December and the second Fridays in January, February, March and April. Meetings will be held at the John Muir school and will start at 8:00 p.m. Officers for the year are: Pres. Dr. Grant Williams, 751 Lancing Way; 1st Vice Pres. Mr. Hilliard Giffen, 4237 Wilson; 2nd Vice Pres., Mr. Sherman Forrester, 115 Harvard; Secy.-Treas., Mrs. Ruth M. Keane, 145 Terrace, all of Fresno, Calif.

THE POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY started its season on November 3. They are planning a show for some time in March. Their new officers are: President V. S. Aronovici, 1150 Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont, Calif.; Treas., Jack Rains, Hammond Lumber Co., Pomona, Calif.; Secy. H. E. Pearson, 357 E. Kingsley, Pomona, Calif.

LETTER FROM CHINA

The following letter from one of our members in China, where camellias are supposed to have originated, should be of interest to our readers. The prints mentioned are slips of paper on which are printed in both English and Chinese the address of Mr. Liu.

Mr. Y. T. Liu

11 Hwa Kuo Hang, Hwa Shan Nan Road,
Kunming, Yunnan, China

Southern California Camellia Society

40 North San Rafael Ave.,

Pasadena 2, California, U. S. A.

Dear Sir:

I take pleasure in writing you. I am very interesting to plant the camellia. In my garden at Kunming, a city of southern China, is a original place to plant the camellia reticulata in the world. There are more than seven thousand plants of the camellia reticulata in twenty-five different variety in my garden.

I got many news from the magazine about your society. I would like to intend as a membership of the society.

May I ask you send me a copy of "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature" and the societies magazine for one year.

Enclosed is a check in the amounts of \$5.00 for the prices and a lot of Chinese prints, please put it on the surface of every parcel.

Any news and print from your society will be appreciate.

I am looking for your reply soon.

(signed) Y. T. Liu

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TEST GARDEN TOPICS

THIS IS THE LAST TIME the above title will appear. In Anne Galli's original concept of a camellia garden in the Huntington Botanic Gardens, scions were to be grafted on the many seedlings present in the camellia canyon for a more speedy clarification of varietal nomenclature. On such large understock the grafted varieties would soon bloom; their blossoms could be checked with others of the same or different names to test the veracity of the names they bore. It was as a "Test Garden" that our own Board of Directors and the Trustees of the Huntington Library and Art Gallery approved the jointly sponsored project.

The broader aspects, the larger implications of the project soon became apparent to the then Curator, William Hertrich, and to the original S.C.C.S. committee, consisting of Anne Gali, Robert Casamajor and David McLean. Early reports and accounts, both verbal and printed in the society's Bulletin, began to visualize the "Test Garden" as a repository for camellias from far and near, a collection which would become a mecca for camellia lovers the world over.

The collection now numbers about six hundred varieties. Under the joint guidance of Curator Ronald Townsend and your committee of last year and this year, growth has been especially rapid; varieties have been brought in from Australia and China. Our current adventures in China read like a "best seller" and we hope to tell you, in future issues, more about them.

The "Test Garden" phase of the work is still much to the fore; will be enhanced in future by closer cooperation between the garden committee and the Nomenclature Committee. Nevertheless, the project has outgrown its original name. Your Board of Directors has changed the name of the committee and of the garden project. In future it will be known as: **"THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA GARDEN, A Unit of the Huntington Botanic Gardens, Co-sponsored by the Huntington Library and Art Gallery and the Southern California Camellia Society."**

The new name is definitely a step forward. With stationery captioned as above, the committee occupies a more favorable position when making new contacts in China, Japan, the Pacific islands and Europe for the exchange or purchase of material for the garden.

In this connection, a brochure giving the history, present status, functions and objectives of the Camellia Garden is being prepared so that correspondents in far places may be quickly and fully informed regarding the project we write them about.

* * *

AT ITS INITIAL MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR, the current Camellia Garden Committee rededicated itself to a fourfold program:

1—To obtain scions and/or small plants of current and rare American varieties.

2—To obtain larger plants to landscape areas otherwise filled with small grafts, to give bloom and color when the garden is opened to the general public.

3—To bring in from far areas of the world rare varieties which would not otherwise reach this country.

4—To endeavor to promote closer cooperation between the Camellia Garden and the Nomenclature Committee so the garden may fulfill its function as an aid in clarifying the varietal nomenclature of camellias.

SEED TIME IS HERE AGAIN! Curator Townsend has donated to the committee eighteen packages two pounds each, of camellia Japonica seed; this for the furtherance of the committee's work. Two of the packages contain seed collected from one white parent; in all cases, the seed were pollinated by insects and the second parent is unknown.

The seed are now obtainable from Secretary Gale at a cost of \$2.50 per hundred to members and \$5.00 per hundred to non-members. Members have first priority in each batch of orders. Seeds from a white parent may be had upon request without additional cost.

TECHNIQUE FOR GERMINATING CAMELLIA SEED QUICKLY is simple and has been recounted in detail in previous issues of the Bulletin. (Do you have a complete file? Many back issues are still obtainable from Col. Gale.)

Briefly, the seed are placed, a handful or so to a half pint jar, in damp peat moss, never so wet that you can squeeze water from it. The jars are placed in a warm spot, such as the top of your water heater; if yours is one of those heavily insulated electric ones, you'll have to hunt another warm spot. The seed will "throw" a tap root in weeks instead of months. When the tap root is an inch or more in length, pinch it back to about three quarters of an inch and plant in three inch pots filled with equal parts of sand and peat; cover so the seed look like turtle backs partly covered; plunge the pots in sand so you can keep them from drying out. Occasionally knock one out of the pot and when its roots have reached the surface of the ball, advance to a larger pot instead of dropping it back into the small one. If you want to speed nature up a bit, string lights over them (see reports by Bonner, Lammerts et al, in previous issues); give them about twenty hours a day of light, and a high nitrogen plant food; and watch them go to town! Enjoy the thrill of hoping for that one in ten thousand chance which produces a fine new variety. You can't lose anyway; those not outstanding will make good understock.

BUT—GET YOUR ORDER IN PRONTO! Last year Col. Gale was obliged to return a number of checks with the sad news: "Sorry. Sold out."

* * *

REGISTRATION OF NEW VARIETIES. Attention is called to the desirability of registering new varieties of either seedlings or sports. By doing this you are assured that the name you select has not been officially applied priorly to a camellia and, that the variety has not already been registered or marketed. A full description of the variety will be published in the Bulletin and a certificate of registration will be issued. Application blanks may be secured from the Secretary.

EARLY PAYMENT of 1950 dues of \$4.00 will be much appreciated by the Secretary-Treasurer as this will reduce congestion later.

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Horticultural Research Committee is happy to announce the addition of two important new members, Mr. Jerry Olrich, State Gardener, Sacramento, and Dr. Karl Hamner, professor of Plant Physiology, of the University of California, Los Angeles Campus. Mr. Olrich had been invited to join the committee and was present and participated in the committee meeting of October 5, 1949. He has arranged to conduct at the State Capital experiments in addition to those previously conducted by Drs. Bonner and Lammerts on the application of continuous light to camellia cuttings and seedlings. In this instance Mr. Olrich's experiments will be designed to determine what period of light duration is conducive to the maximum growth of camellia cuttings and the earliest blooming date of seedlings.

Although Dr. Hamner was not present at the meeting of October 5, Chairman Lammert's announced that he had previously arranged to conduct at the University glass houses a series of experiments on the revitalizing of plant materials exhausted through neglect, abuse or disease.

Dr. Hamner and Dr. Bonner are now in Australia as guests of the Australian government in attendance at the Commonwealth Agricultural Specialists Conference, and at various centers of scientific research throughout Australia for consultations with scientists of that country. The visit is under the auspices of the Australian Government and the National Research Council.

The Committee is looking forward with keen interest to the return of Drs. Bonner and Hamner about December 1st and to their reports on their observation on camellia culture and allied subjects in Australia.

Camellia Show

Brookside Park, Pasadena, California

February 18 and 19, 1950

EVERY GROWER OF CAMELLIAS within this area should have an exhibit in this show. There is no charge for exhibit space. Make your application for space with the show committee or with the Secretary. Space will be allotted in order of receipt of application so get your application in early or be prepared to see the show representative when he calls.

AMATEURS desiring to enter either plants or cut blossoms in the competitive exhibits should obtain entry blanks and make entries early. There will be several hundred classes for all varieties, types and colors of camellias.

A New Book for Camellia Growers . . .

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By G. B. TIROCCO



Translated by CLAUDE CHIDAMIAN

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THE CAMELLIA*

BY G. B. TIROCCO

Translated from the Italian by

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PART IV

Concluded

WHAT IS THE BEST EXPOSURE TO GIVE TO CAMELLIAS?

As I have said previously, camellias in the mild temperate climes on the pleasant shores of our lakes and along most of our Mediterranean Rivas can grow and thrive even if exposed to full sunlight. But they are not sure to give fine flowers, as desired, because solar rays can damage the buds as they are just beginning to open. It is therefore desirable and useful to keep camellias in places, or "exposures," of half shade. This is true particularly of those spending part of the year in greenhouses or orange-houses. Experience has shown that our plants thrive better in the shade, especially in localities little favored by the climate and relatively cold. Special note must be taken that young plants in particular do poorly in winter under the glass of a greenhouse or box with a northern or western exposure because of the dryness of the atmosphere, unless they are shaded by trees or trellises of branches or heather and a moist atmosphere maintained at a temperature of seven or eight degrees centigrade.

Camellias prefer to live in a room or box having a constant moist temperature and sufficient ventilation, rather than in any other place. They will certainly grow and flower better thus, although somewhat later; but it will be regularly and over a fairly long period of time.

Only when one has strong adult plants with sound, vigorous branches will it be possible to subject them during the winter to a dryer atmosphere and brighter, more intense light to favor their growth and increase their florescence.

It is always necessary when camellias are kept in greenhouses to take them outdoors from May to September and keep them in half shade. This is easily managed with arbors of heather branches. From September then until

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the first frosts it is well to expose them to the light, to assure the complete development of all parts, the formation of buds, and more intense coloration of the leaves. The older plants should be exposed to greater light, but in larger pots, because in small ones they would become too heated at their roots and would suffer. This disadvantage can be avoided, however, by covering the pots with rags. Father Martini, who had a splendid and rich collection of camellias of really extraordinary size had found, in our temperate climate of Taggia, a position and locality truly adapted to these plants. I say "truly adapted" because in it there grew camellias of extraordinary height and admirable bloom.

Behind the choir of the monastery church, there is—if I may call it such—a kind of corridor, rather spacious, sheltered on the south by the church itself, on the east by the monastery, on the west by a wall about four or five meters high covered with grapevines, and, a hundred paces away, olive trees along the slope of a steep, terraced hill, and on the north also by a wall three meters in height, buttressing a stairway covered with another trellis of vine. To this corridor, which has at the back a lavabo, one has access from a door of the monastery. As one sees, it was sheltered on all sides, though not overhead. It was moist because of the lavatorium; it was salubrious because the north wind prevailed slightly there. It was neither hot nor cold, because of the agreeable location of the monastery; the sun reached it only a few hours of the day in July and August, just barely touching the tops of the plants with its rays. In that glassless greenhouse one could indeed admire the beautiful camellias I mentioned above. Could these conditions not be reproduced?

SHELTERS FOR CAMELLIAS

Whenever I speak of shelter, greenhouses, hothouses or tepidaria, I allude only to those regions where the plants can not pass the winter in the open air, or, as it is usually termed, in open ground. In others, nothing similar is needed; the plants live, as we have seen, even during the winter season.

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To thrive and bloom well, camellias need a temperature not too warm for vigorous growth, and a somewhat moist atmosphere. However, it is necessary toward the end of the summer, when they have passed some months in bright light—which is very useful for perfect bud formation—to shelter them carefully from the autumn frosts, which are sometimes unexpected and fairly intense. This must be done toward the middle of the month of October, even earlier if necessary, that is, when a sudden drop in the temperature might be feared.

Where early cold spells and prolonged and heavy rainfall are to be feared as early as the end of September, it is best to shelter them and put them in a safe place some days previous, so as not to be caught unexpectedly, with resultant damage to the flowering.

As with every other plant, so also with camellias, there are varieties which are more or less delicate. This may sometimes be caused by diseases. These certainly must be sheltered, naturally, early and among the first.

If by chance an unexpected frost, a sudden temperature drop, should strike the plants while still in the open air, it is an excellent and advisable practice to throw water early the next morning on all parts of the plants themselves. By this very simple and economical means the unfortunate effects of the cold may be partially modified.

But just as a sudden cold snap is harmful to flowering, so is strong artificial heat. In this matter, too, "extremes meet."

To these splendid plants, designed to cheer the dismal, overcast winter days with their colorful blooms, to make spring for us when snow whitens the landscape and wind chills the bones—to them every possible care must be generously given, the choice positions and light airy spaces. Especially when one hasn't the luck, as on the enchanting Ligurian Riviera and elsewhere of seeing them in bloom continually from September to April outdoors, with roses, carnations, hyacinths, violets and other flowers.

Certainly the greater part of our habitations are not any too favorable for harboring camellias.

When, as it will happen, they have lost not only their buds but also their leaves, it is very unfortunate, since it is difficult for camellias to succeed in renewing them as other plants usually do.

In heating greenhouses one must use the greatest precautions and the utmost diligence. Even the sun's heat in the first months of winter may damage the plants, as it is impossible to increase it gradually afterwards in proportion as they need it to keep step with their growth.

When only young camellias are cultivated simply to obtain a luxuriant growth of well-formed, robust plants, the attentions required become easier, indeed very easy. The difficulties in camellia culture are encountered when it is desired to raise strong specimens intended for abundant, regular flowering, for decorating apartments and winter gardens.

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It is well known that sudden, unexpected changes in temperature are very harmful to camellia buds. A sudden drop in air temperature is enough, at times, to completely ruin the long-awaited flowering.

One cause for dropping of buds may also be a change of environment. If, for example, camellias are moved from the free pure air where they have lived for a long time into a closed place, almost deprived of air and light, one may be sure of hindering, and sometimes ruining, their flowering.

Of course this does not happen in regions of mild, gentle temperature, such as the shores of our lakes, the Mediterranean Rivas and the southern districts, where camellias may pass their lives in the open and there reach proportions scarcely attainable in pots.

Cultivators in northern regions should imitate, as much as possible, with artificial means the climatic conditions of the favored localities.

Since the expert and intelligent cultivator must coordinate the temperature with the growth, he must keep an eye on the thermometer essential to all greenhouses, whatever their size. A low temperature must be maintained at first and increased gradually as spring comes on. He must avoid excessive heat, whether natural or produced by the sun or artificially generated by heating apparatus.

Thus he can very easily regulate the heat, increasing it from six to nine degrees centigrade in the first winter months and raising it from ten to twelve in spring—the ordinary temperatures in temperate climates.

One of the best and most recommended heaters is without doubt the hot-air type, since it provides an even warmth and — still more important — a moister one, exactly as plants like it.

It is not necessary to keep the same temperature day and night. It suffices to be careful not to let it drop too much so as to permit freezing. Rather one must imitate what occurs in open air; that is, during the night the temperature drops at least a few degrees below its position during the day.

This system of temperature control favors notably the camellias' growth, normal sap movement, and—more important—the progressive swelling of the buds and consequent blossoming of the flowers, even the most double or imbricated ones.

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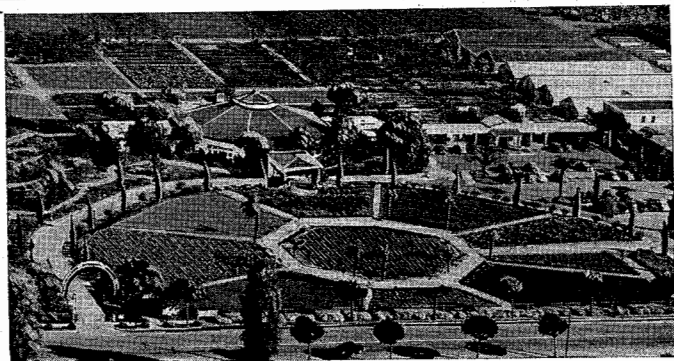
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It seems to me useless to repeat it: it is certain that in proportion as the plants enter upon their growth they feel a greater need of watering around the ground at their roots and sprinkling and wetting of the whole plant. This must be done in the early morning and also in the evening after sunset.

Since sprinkling when they are in bloom might damage the flowers, this may be temporarily discontinued. The same result may be obtained by sprinkling on the soil or inner walls of the greenhouse. Evaporation because of the warmth will make the surrounding air humid.

DISEASES AND HARMFUL INSECTS

As we have seen, camellias are relatively strong and robust plants which should not be afflicted with diseases or insects. Nevertheless, like any other member of the plant kingdom, they are unfortunately, in some pathological circumstances, attacked by vegetable and animal parasites. In other words, they get sick, fade and die if they are not well and promptly cared for.

As soon as the little plants begin to grow and put forth their first tiny leaves, there appear on them certain aphids, called *Aphis cameliae*. These attack the young branches with their stingers and absorb the juices from them, thus injuring and shriveling them. Although these enemies have a brief life, nevertheless if they are not killed promptly with tobacco smoke, powdered sulphur or other insecticide, like Rubina, the carbolated soap, they may, by their rapid multiplication, damage the young shoots. The acid sulphur sublimate Albani with three to five per cent of copper sulphate and copper sprays (Bordeaux mixture) of one or two per cent always give good results. These insects live especially on weak plants, on those plants which, for some reason, are affected by another infirmity, on those plants which live an abnormal life, due most often to sharp temperature changes: sudden jumps from warm to cold or vice versa.

Some worms of the genus *Bombyx*, avid, greedy for the ornamental leaves of this choice plant, frequently invade, disfigure and ruin them. If they are allowed to grow and multiply, the damage increases proportionately. Thus the wise and experienced gardener must destroy them without mercy at their first appearance, even before they have harmed the plants.

But, while these pests usually inflict great damage on camellias, that caused by diseases or by an abnormal condition of the plants will worry the floriculturist more, because they often prove more deadly and more difficult to treat.

The most terrible pest, although the smallest, is the so-called camellia mite (*Acarus cameliae*). Although this parasitic mite is almost microscopic, that is, scarcely visible to the naked eye, it is still the most deadly of all.

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Apparently whitish, though really blood-red, as it is only the upper part that is whitish, it clings strongly attached and in great numbers to the lower sides of the leaves and around the branches and trunk. It feeds on the nourishing sap of camellias, which it damages greatly. The damaged parts are easily perceived as yellowish spots.

The surest, most efficacious remedy for this terrible enemy of the camellia is to scrape the infested parts first with a spatula or very hard brush, then to wash the places so scraped with water, dark soap, and ashes. A 3 per cent solution of copper sulphate is also used for washing in such cases. A washing with 2 per cent Rubina always gives good results.

One of the best remedies, however, not only for camellias but for all other plants under forced cultivation in greenhouses, is that of putting the plants themselves in conditions opposite to those in which they became diseased or ailing.

The greater part of their ills originate either from the poor state into which plants are allowed to fall, or from too much humidity, or from the too deep penetration of their roots, whether in pots or open ground, or because of incomplete and inadequate nourishment, because they have been neglected too long, and especially if kept in an atmosphere too cold and injurious.

To the same causes must be attributed also the appearance, also harmful, of vegetable parasites which often invade the plant collars, and later climb up along the trunks and branches to the farthest leaves.

These parasites may be successfully combatted with Bordeaux mixture, just as it is recommended for peronospora of vines, or limewater with a thirtieth of coal oil, or a solution of Rubina, or the above-mentioned acid sulphur sublimate Albani, always with 3 to 5 per cent of copper sulphate.


Very helpful also is cleanliness of all parts of the plant and of the pots, healthfulness of the soil through changing of it, greater warmth, changing of pots, using smaller or larger ones according to need, and a rational drainage for the purpose of improving the lower roots.

Earthworms are, without doubt, the most harmful and deadly enemies of camellias, not only during the period in which the plants must live in the open air but also when they are brought into greenhouses or apartments. These worms are found inside the pots, into which they have penetrated through the drainage holes. Against these Father Martini used to advise the use of charcoal or charcoal dust in the pots, at the bottom and also in the soil.

Such enemies are easily destroyed by the exercise of a little patience on the part of the grower, who must examine the plants clod by clod during the autumn and remove the pests.

If, because of the size of the plants or of the pots, this task should prove too inconvenient, he can obtain practically the same result by beating the pots themselves with a wooden mallet. Not being able to endure such shocks, the worms will come out and should then be killed. But if one takes care of general cleanliness he is not likely to have his pots infested with worms.


Membership Application



To The Board of Directors,

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