HE Camellia Review

R. L. WHEELER

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

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Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

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

DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Central California Camellia Society.....Fresno, Calif.
Meeting place: Elementary School Auditorium, Fresno State College
Secretary: Frances F. Lennox, 4622 Wilson Ave., Fresno 4
Date of Meeting: 3rd Friday of the month

Camellia Society of Kern County.....Bakersfield, Calif.
Meeting Place: Fiesta Room, El Adobe Motel, Union Ave.
Secretary, Mrs. W. J. Haberfelde, 1800 2nd Street, Bakersfield
Date of meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru May

San Diego Camellia Society.....San Diego, Calif.
Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park
Secretary: Mrs. Donald V. (Mary) Scofield, 2621 32nd St., San Diego 4
Date of meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....Pomona, Calif.
Meeting Place: Ebell Club, Pomona
Secretary: J. M. Hartke, 874 Paige Drive, Pomona
Date of meeting: 1st Thursday of each month

Temple City Camellia Society.....Temple City, Calif.
Meeting Place: American Legion Hall, 127 N. Golden West, Temple City
Secretary: June Manson Schroth, 432 N. Alabama St., San Gabriel
Date of meeting: 1st Monday of each month

Camellia Society of Orange County.....Santa Ana, Calif.
Meeting Place: Community Center, West 8th Street, Santa Ana.
Secretary: Harold Larson, 212 S. Orange St., Orange
Date of meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month

CONTENTS

VOL. 14 **JULY, 1953** **NO. 8**

Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

With this last number of Volume 14, the Camellia Review changes editors and, inevitably changes some viewpoints as well for no feminine viewpoint is the same as the masculine, even on the subject of Camellias.

A thumb-nail (very short nail) sketch of your new Editor reveals that on the personal side she has had the same perfectly good husband for a long time, as well as three perfectly good children. That her main interests center around music, writing, cats, flowers in general and now, Camellias in particular. That she brings to the Review an editorial background that contains the editorship of two newspapers, technical and free lance writing. That at present she works daily as Secretary to Ronald Townsend, Director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens spending a great amount of time with Camellia records and having access to a tremendous Camellia library. That she wants you to feel that this is your magazine and that your criticisms, suggestions and manuscripts will be more than welcome. And, finally, that she is approaching this Editorship humbly and wondering how on earth she ever got it.

* * *

We are indebted to the former Editor of the Review for the contact that has brought us the fine article on Basic Soil Requirements for Camellias published in this issue. Mr. J. H. Tinga, the author, was practically "born and bred in a Camellia patch," as his father was a well known Camellia grower in North Carolina. Mr. Tinga is with the Department of Floriculture at Cornell University, and states that he writes from the angle of trying to understand the problems confronting "a root hair in six inches of soil." We call that, getting at the root of the matter.

* * *

Mr. Roy T. Thompson, who also appears in this issue for the first time, is by no means a stranger to the Camellia world. Mr. Thompson is a very active member of the Pacific Camellia Society of Glendale and was one of its first Presidents. We look forward to further contributions from his pen.

* * *

New to our pages also is B. W. Burtis whose interesting article is the result of his meeting Mr. Ronald Townsend. Dr. Burtis, a New Jersey dentist was much impressed by the Camellias in the Huntington Botanical Gardens on his Western visit. His experiences with camellia culture during cold weather offer helpful ideas to our readers who in spite of living in Southern California, often have to cope with "unusual" low temperatures.

* * *

It is with great pride that we are starting in this issue a dictionary of Japanese-named Camellias. Having for some time been bothered by the idea that there must be fascinating translations of the Japanese names, we asked Billie McCaskill if she could furnish us with a few for a starter. The result we think is quite delightful and we hope that eventually a fairly complete dictionary will materialize. If any of our readers wish to submit translations they may have, we shall be happy to receive them. The translations printed we feel must be quite authentic as both Mr. and Mrs. McCaskill did considerable research on them and for a last analysis had them approved by a Japanese student at U.S.C. Some of the translations have been changed slightly to agree with those which will appear in the new nomenclature book.

(Continued on Page 22)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Harold E. Dryden

The Southern California Camellia Society has established a record and a reputation for itself since its inception that your new Board of Directors guarantees to maintain during our year of service.

We shall do our best to provide programs that will please our members who live close enough to attend our meetings.

Our new Camellia Review Committee has plans for the Review which I am sure will please everyone. We recognize that this is one part of our Society's service to members that affects all members, both local and distant. We have high hopes that this year's issues of the Review will be high water marks in its history.

I send greetings to our affiliate societies. I shall hope to visit all these societies during the year. The Southern California Society is proud of the part it has played in promoting interest in camellias in Southern California. We need the other societies, however, and we hope they need us to carry on our joint program.

The last year has been a good year in our Society. Just as the world progresses, so can we improve our Society in the year ahead by all working together.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD E. DRYDEN

CAMELLIA DICTIONARY

Compiled by

VERN AND BILLIE MCCASKILL

Ed. Note: This is the first installment of the English translations of Japanese Camellia names. Starred names are Japonicas, all the others are Sasanquas. (See "Camellia Reviewer.")

*Are-Jishi.....Restive Lion
Asahi-No-Umi.....Sunrise Sea
Beni-Zuri.....Pink Crane
Cho-Cho-San.....Madam Butterfly
*Daikagura.....Great Sacred Dance
*Haku-Tsuru.....White Crane
Hana-Daijin.....Minister of Flower
Hana-Jiman.....Boastful Flower
Hiodoshi.....Scarlet-Threaded Suit
Hiryu.....Flying Dragon
*Iwane.....Solid Rock
Ko-Gyoku.....Ruby
Kuro-Tsubaki.....Black Camellia
*Matsukasa.....Pine Cone
Mine-No-Yuki.....Snow on Peak
*Miya.....A Shrine
Narumi-Gata.....Narumi Bay
Setsugekka.....Elegant Friends
*Shin-Akebono.....New Dawn
*Shira-Giku.....White Chrysanthemum (Purity)
*Shiro-Botan.....White Peony
*Shiro-Tama.....White Bead
Shishi-Gashira.....Lion's Head
Showa-No-Sakae..Glory or Glory of Showa
Taizan-Haku.....Mt. Tai
Usu-Otome.....Pale Pink Virgin (Pink Perfection
Yae-Arare.....Hailstone Double

YUNNAN RETICULATAS ARE A JOY TO GRAFT

By ELIZABETH COUNCILMAN

With the experience most of us have had with grafting the Captain Rawe variety of C. Reticulata, it is certainly a profound pleasure to work with th new Reticulatas from Yunnan, for they lend themselves to grafting as the pro verbial duck to water.

This year I made forty-two grafts of these new beauties and as it look now, early in May, I stand to lose one graft. Twenty-five grafts have alread been uncovered and are out in a cool, well-shaded lath house. Some have pu on over a foot of growth at this time.

Of the forty-two grafts, eight were grafted on understock in the groun which were bushes between ten and twelve feet high before they were cut of for grafting. Ground grafts here take longer under the bottles usually, than d the container grafts, and that stands to reason because the container graft are kept in a glass house prior to unbottling, and it is much warmer there Of the ones in the ground, I have already uncovered three which are doin beautifully. The other four look healthy, are showing signs of callusing, th leaves a good green. The leaf nodes show a degree of swelling and the pale green color they turn, as they begin to grow.

To give an idea of how hardy these Reticulatas seem to be, I will tell o my experience with two scions.

After one of the Camellia Shows this spring, a friend gave me two scion of the new Reticulatas, *Professor Tsai* and *Butterfly Wings*. They had bee picked Saturday morning and were given to me Sunday evening, having bee in water during this time. I put them in the Glass house that night and o Monday morning made the grafts on egg-can seedling understock. On Tues day I got four more varieties of Reticulatas from Descanso in Chino and i the afternoon made grafts of these on big understock in the ground. Whe this was done I realized that my *Professor Tsai* graft would probably b better off on larger understock in the ground, so I took the *Professor Tsa* scion out of the egg-can understock and put in the ground understock, tie it with a rubber grafting band, put a bottle over it and put one of our wir protectors around it. A burlap sack over the top made protection fro the sun.

About a week later I saw that something had knocked the wire protecto over and the bottle was off. Luckily the scion was not touched so I wet th inside of the bottle and replaced all of the equipment. After this experienc I watched it more closely. It continued to look healthy but about a week later the same thing happened again. Fortunately, the scion was not damage this time either, so I replaced all the equipment once more and since the everything has stayed in place. I just went out and looked and although th scion has not yet been unbottled, it has callused over and the leaf node ha begun to swell. I think this story proves that if one scion can go through al these adventures and still look healthy and show signs of growing, th Camellia Reticulata var. *Professor Tsai* has to be a hardy plant.

I uncovered the *Butterfly Wings* three days ago and it is also doing well

THE CAMELLIA JAPONICA

By J. H. TINGA

NUMBER I

THE SOIL AIR

Of all the factors that affect the growth and flowering of the *Camellia japonica,* light intensity is probably the most important—followed closely by temperature. Unfortunately, we can not do much about changing these factors; and of course the folks in Southern California don't want to do anything about the light and temperature, if those Chamber of Commerce bulletins that I have been reading are correct.

Another factor is *the soil,* and that is important because we *can* do something about it. In northern New York we try to keep the soil air, the soil water, and the soil nutrients as near the optimum for growth as possible so that the soil will hardly ever limit the growth, whereas light very often does.

The question that occurs to every Camellia lover is: How do you keep the soil air at optimum level for root growth? The soil air exists in the "pore Space" between the soil particles. *Soil structure,* sometimes called looseness, or crumbliness, or friableness, or tilth, is important in keeping these channels open to the air above the soil. You may have seen the mudholes in a country road. The soil structure has been destroyed by working the soil while it was wet (by cars running through it). Many times when such a road is blocked off, those barren areas become the most fertile, after *time* and *bacteria* have restored the structure. Structure is the result of the molecular attraction of the various soil minerals and the organic matter which makes the soil stick together in small crumbs. The air spaces between these crumbs is very important. Without this supply of oxygen, the Camellia roots can not take up enough water or minerals to supply their growth requirements.

All Camellia growers know that you just can not grow good camellias if they have "wet feet." Probably very few know that the primary cause of poor growth is the lack of oxygen rather than a surplus of water. This can be demonstrated with Camellia, but because it has thick leaves and thick cell walls, it can be demonstrated more easily on the common houseplant *Coleus.* Take a Coleus that has been growing in composted garden loam soil and place it in a pan of water so that the pot is covered with water. Place this in the sun and the plant will wilt. We have seen plants wilt completely in as little as 30 minutes in our greenhouse when in ordinary garden soil; and wilt in 15 minutes when the soil was enriched with manure. Why do plants wilt while standing in water?

When you understand the answer, you will be better able to build a camellia soil. The roots must have oxygen for their metabolism and growth. By raising the water table, you have driven off all the soil air (including the oxygen) so that the roots become inactive. And they can not take in water. With water being lost from the leaves by transpiration, and no water coming into the roots, the plant wilts. The secret is that water does not move into the roots by mass flow, but by root cells pulling it in with the energy of their metabolism. The roots are doing work and they need oxygen.

The oxygen deficiency is even more serious if the plants have been heavily fed with manure or cottonseed meal, or some other organic fertilizer. In this case, the bacteria are converting this organic food to

(Continued on Page 19)

CAMELLIAS CAN SURVIVE WINTER WITH CARE AND PROTECTION

By B. Warren Burtis

How much cold can camellias withstand? For the past four years I have been trying to learn the answer to that question, and have been conducting experiments with two of the more hardy species. To date these experiments lead me to believe that, given proper care and protction, the plants are able to withstand a Middle Atlantic States winter. If they suffer any damage at all it is more from the wind than from the cold.

Empress was placed outside until the middle of January 1948. A warm spell came and I took it inside. In the Fall of 1950 *Empress* was placed outside in an exposed place, and took our weather very well until the middle of February 1951. As we were away for two months on a trip to California, it had no attention until April, and then it needed it no more as it had not been watered and was completely defoliated and the stems were as brittle as match sticks.

The species I have been using in my first tests are Japonica *Kumasaka* and Sasanqua *Setsugekka,* the latter believed to be the more hardy of the two. Both were planted against an outside foundation at my home at Morrisville, Penn., which is directly across the Delaware River from Trenton, N. J. The exposure is about 15 degrees east of north. This location was selected because the temperature is more constant with no great variation during the 24-hour cycle. A southern location could mean a wide temperature differential due to the direct rays of the sun.

The Fall of the year here is ideal for the hardening off of the plants. In September nights gradually get cooler. In October we get light frost for a week or two before a heavy frost or freeze. Seldom do we get what growers in the Camellia belt call a mild spell of 40-60 degrees and above during our winter season.

The Sasanqua *Setsugekka* was planted three years ago and had no protection whatever for the first two winters. It proved itself hardy by blooming October 1951. Encouraged by this blooming, I went to the Greenbriar Nurseries at Norfolk, Va., and purchased a *Rev. John Bennett* variety and also a *Berenice Boddy* to add to the bed. In addition to these, I also planted several other varieties of Sasanquas, including *Brilliancy, Dawn, Mine-No-Yuki,* and *Shishigashira.* The Japonica *Kumasaka* was presented to me by Gerbing's Camellia Garden at Fernandina, Fla. the Spring of 1951 with the stipulation that it was to be planted outdoors.

In preparing the outdoor beds, I conditioned the soil with a full bale of peat moss and three bags of oak leaf mold. The peat moss served to open the soil and make it light, while the oak leaf mold gave it the acidity that camellias like, and also provided plant food. The site on which the bed was established is on the side of a hill and so provided good drainage, another requisite for camellias. In order to provide plenty of moisture, I laid a canvas hose among the plants, then covered it with a six-inch mulch of peat moss. The only other protection given were two storm sash staked up in front of the plants to serve as a wind-break.

Just after freezing temperatures, I turned on the hose and allowed the water to soak the soil, and moisten the peat moss thoroughly for about two hours. This was done by opening the cock inside the cellar. The top layer

(Continued on Page 17)

Our Society's Kodachrome Library

By GULITA C. COOPER

The idea of a Kodachrome Library for the Southern California Camellia Society was born in 1951. Dr. John Clairmont, then president, presented the idea to the Board of Directors and immediately it was set in motion by Mr. Ronald Townsend of the Huntington Library who realized the possibilities of just such a department in helping our members of the Camellia Society to a better understanding of the plant itself.

It was hoped that we could have a film library whose function would be that of a reference library, such as many horticultural societies, botanical gardens and universities have. A library to be used by any member who might represent the Society at a meeting of another organization, presenting a program on Camellias.

Mrs. Janet Wright, a member of our Society at that time and also a member of the Huntington Library staff, started work on this project, but almost immediately left for Europe with her family. Dr. Clairmont then called me and asked if I would take over the work begun. This I gladly did, as my interest in Camellia culture actually began through the inspiration received from a lecture on the Verschaffelt Books, given by Dr. McLean in 1949 to the Camellia Society. He illustrated his lecture with the slides that he has now generously donated to the Kodachrome Library, and which we may now have the pleasure of using.

We hoped then as now to have not only slides of flower specimens but other classifications of camellia culture—methods of camellia hybridization—growing of camellias from seed—camellia grafting—flower arrangement and corsage making. In fact, as many aspects of camellia history, culture and growth as possible.

As of today your Library consists of:

Single Blossom Slides—64 slides
Flower Show Outdoor Garden Displays—9 slides
Camellias in Formal Table Setting—5 slides
Camellias Used in Bridal Ensemble—1 slide
Flower Arrangements—20 slides
Flower Show Display of Blooms—20 slides
The Verschaffelt Collection — 142 slides
The Samuel Curtis Book—9 slides.

As you can see, this is a fine beginning, and we hope that you, as members, will realize the potentialities of just such a library as this, and will send us your slides that can be used for further reference work or study of the Camellia. Let us endeavor to build our Kodachrome Library constructively and make it worthy of recognition for our Camellia Society of Southern California.

To Head Festival

Mrs. Milton (Laura) Dixon has been named Chairman of the 10th Annual Camellia Festival to be held by Temple City, California, February 27th and 28, 1954.

Mrs. Dixon has been active in Festival affairs for the past six years. She holds the office of Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, is Public Affairs Chairman of the Business and Professional Women's Club, Second Vice-President of the Quota Club and active in the Merchant's Committee, all in Temple City. Mrs. Dixon owns and operates the Lassie Shop there, a children's store.

THE SECOND PHASE OF GRAFTING

By ROY T. THOMPSON

Surprising as it may seem, it requires far more skill and science to bring a graft through the second phase of its existence than to start it off on the first. To "tie on" the scion in the first place, put on the jar, and set the can in its place is a process which soon is over. From that moment, however, there begins a long period of patient waiting for the scion and understock to form a functional union, and it is during this period that one's skill and science are frequently required. Ideally, of course, the process can be consummated in four to six weeks, the jar removed, and a new plant will have been brought into being. But there are a great many uncertain factors which frequently interfere with ideal unions and, as every amateur grafter knows, the process may stretch out into months, and there are cases on record in which the jar has been left on the graft for well over a year.

The uncertainties which a newly made graft has to face are many. In the first place, there is the compatibility of scion and understock. Not much is definitely known on this subject, but every grafter has observed that some successful unions are made in a few days; the callus forms quickly, the bud swells and starts to grow with surprising alacrity. In other cases the callus is slow, or never forms at all, and, most surprising of all, the callus forms beautifully, then dries up and fails. We don't know how many such cases may be due to incompatibility. One thing is pretty definitely known, however: sasanqua understock slows up the growth of japonicas and reticulatas grafted on it, and this is a phase of incompatibility. But there are plenty of cases, no doubt, when japonicas are grafted on japonicas, and we can never know in advance when they are going to occur. Some varieties graft more easily than others—perhaps they are more adaptable. The age and condition of the understock, the health of the scion, and the variety of the understock are all factors, but here we are obliged to guide ourselves mostly by dead reckoning and guesswork.

However, there are other difficulties which beset the newly made graft which are not so mysterious, and chief among these is mold. There are many varieties of mold—white, black, pink, and others—but all alike require two conditions for their growth: heat and moisture. This writer has no magic formula for the control of molds, but he has found the following three items helpful: (1) a relatively cool place for the grafts. He has tried a glasshouse, an upstairs room, a garage, a sheltered patio, and the bare ground on the north side of the house, and prefers the latter. His grafts are invariably months behind those of his friends who use various degrees of heat, but he has little or no mold, and after a year's time his grafts are as large as any; (2) a layer of peat-moss, say 3/8ths of an inch deep, placed in the top of the can at the time of grafting; (3) when mold does form, it is removed daily with a *dry* camel's hair brush. The 5% vinegar solution so often recommended is, after all, *wet*, and wetness is to be avoided. Another method, the exposure of the moldy graft to direct sunlight for fifteen or twenty minutes with the glass removed has not afforded the desired relief. Also, when black mold penetrates deep into an "eye" and the leaf-bud falls off, there isn't much that can be done about it.

As for wetness within the jar, the

(Continued on Page 15)

HERE IS THE WINNING LETTER

Dear Editor:

We smug camellia growers, even one-city-lot amateurs like me possess riches that are the envy of every passer-by, but like hoarders of nylons in war time we let them accumulate and waste. We bring camellias to outshine those of fellow members at the Society meetings, we place arrangements in our homes and we give a few to our friends. But we do not realize how flower hungry non-camellia growers are, apartment house dwellers and employed persons who have no time for gardening. Did you ever take a camellia to your hair dresser or at Easter time make corsages for the girls who wait on you in various stores? You men might even take one to your barber. Have you thought of leaving a corsage at your neighbor's door when you know she is stepping out that night? Watch his eyes shine when you pick a tray of camellias for the little boy who collects old papers and tell him they are for his mother. Send a few camellias to your gardener's wife or to your husband's secretary. I even have had the temerity to make corsages for the mother and grandmother of a bride. The possibilities for sharing your riches are endless. "You can't take them with you," not even those on your bier.

Cordially yours,
LILLIAN N. GALLY,
(Mrs. Thomas K. Gally)
219 S. Wilson Ave., Pasadena 5

Editor's Note: We feel that this letter makes a point often overlooked. Are *you* a Camellia giver as well as a Camellia grower?

Congratulations, Mrs. Gally. May the gorgeous *Camellia Japonica Masquerade* which is waiting for you at Nuccio's Nurseries bring much pleasure to you and your many friends.

SUMMER CAMELLIA CULTURE IN THE HOME GARDEN

By RONALD B. TOWNSEND

The following suggestions are signposts on the road to Camellia blossoms. The grower who is out for prize winning flowers and blue ribbons, will need more technical information than is found in this article. These words are slanted to the service of the average home gardener, warning him that just because his Camellia plants may look green and healthy during the summer, that does not necessarily mean that they are going to produce fine flowers.

Summer is the period of growth for Camellias and it is then that they should be cared for in a way that will assure a good blooming season. Suggestions as to some of the most important elements in this care are as follows:

Feeding: Nutrients must be available to the plant in order for it to produce good vegetative growth. It is far better to feed your plants once a month lightly than to feed heavily once or twice a season. The quantity of plant food depends on (a) analysis of fertilizer used; (b) type of soil and (c) whether the plant is in the

(Continued on Page 14)

HARVEY SHORT WINS MARGARETE HERTRICH AWARD

Harvey Short of Pasadena was very happy to be informed recently that his Camellia seedling *Pink Clouds* had been judged highest among many entrants in the annual competition for the Margarete Hertrich Award. This makes Mr. Short a winner for the second time.

Judged to have the highest number of points by a committee composed of Dr. Lloyd Taylor, Dr. John Clairmont and William Hertrich, the seedling was shown for the first time in public when it was entered as a prospective registrant at the Society's Camellia Show last February in Pasadena.

The seedling is about six years old now, claiming the Japonica Elegans (Chandler) Variegated as one parent. Its other parent is unknown.

The flower, a mid-season bloomer is large, semi-double almost to peony form, and averages five inches in diameter. Its petals at first open to reveal a creamy white base with slight variegation but about the 3rd day a soft lavender blush overlays the white so that the flower truly resembles a pink cloud. The dreamy coloring is further set off by the exceptionally dark green leaves of its foliage.

The Margarete Hertrich Award Plaque suitably inscribed will be presented to Mr. Short in a ceremony scheduled to be held at the first fall meeting of the Society in November.

Camelliana

Of interest to Camellia lovers everywhere is the "Camellian," a magazine published January, March, September and November of each year by Frank Griffin and Son, 30 Arcade Building, Columbus, South Carolina.

Not affiliated with any individual society, the magazine is "devoted exclusively to Camellias," and from the fine, eye-catching color print of a Camellia on its cover to the attractive illustrations and interesting articles, the Camellian commands attention from all Camellia-philes.

One very good reason for the wide appeal is the extensive range of camellia information from authors of undisputed integrity contributing Camelliana from points as far flung as Texas, Louisiana, the Carolinas, England, and our own Southern California which furnishes many familiar names.

Yearly subscription to the Camellian costs the nominal sum of two dollars.

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American Camellia Catalog

The third volume of the "American Camellia Catalog," dated 1952 has recently been issued. A volume to be dated 1953 will complete this set of unique Camelliana if present plans are followed.

These Catalogs are being privately published in Savannah, Georgia, by Robert Parke Erdman, assisted in research by Albert Fendig, and in the art work by Atho's Menaboni.

The result of years of study and painstaking effort, full descriptions of the majority of the better known Camellias are graphically presented.

(Continued on Page 13)

LET'S SUMMER GRAFT

By Dr. Herbert Shirley

Most Camellias in Southern California are grafted in the winter and early spring but summer grafting can be done easily and successfully.

As soon as the spring growth has hardened off, summer grafts can be made—from June 15th to the end of July. I like summer grafting for several reasons:

They callus or heal faster.

It is easier to graft in the summer.

There is a greater percentage of "takes" as the whole of the cambium layer comes in contact with the root stock. Even if the graft does not put on as much initial growth as in the spring, it calluses over and is ready to put on growth at the next cycle.

Making the Graft

After selecting a healthy, fast growing understock, cut it off a few inches from the ground with a slanting, smooth cut.

On the high side, make a 1½" vertical cut, and loosen the bark on both sides.

Select a scion, a healthy one from the last cycle of growth with four leaves on it. Remove the two bottom leaves. Make a slanting cut on one side only about 1¼ to 1½" long.

Now insert the scion, cut side in, just inside the bark. Leave about ⅛" above the cut so that the callus will be heavier and a better union started.

Bind the graft with raffia string or a rubber band.

Cover the graft with a jar; do not let leaves touch the sides. If outdoors, cover over jar with burlap where sun might touch it, leave rest of jar uncovered, so graft can get light.

Leave jar over graft until callus has covered over edges, then let air in slowly as in a cleft graft.

In summer callus should form and cover over scion in four to five weeks.

Allow one to two weeks to uncover graft as warm weather may wilt new growth. If wilt does occur, replace jar for a few days.

After jar is taken off, cover over the graft with "Tree Seal" or some other such material. Remove binding material after callus is complete and before understock grows.

ENGLISH START NEW CAMELLIA PROJECT

Noted in the May issue of the Bulletin of the Oregon Camellia Society:

"What promises to be one of the most important developments in camellia cultures since the formation of the American Camellia Society, is the recent action of the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain, in setting up a separate section of their Society similar to the one they have for rhododendrons, for those interested in camellias and magnolias. . . The English people are surrounded by parks, castles and highly developed estates, the development of which was started a hundred years or more ago. Therefore the English people are more inclined to start new projects, the benefits of which will be enjoyed by future generations.

"If we are ever to catch up with or surpass the English in the pursuit of horticultural advancement, it will be necessary for us to interest our young people and encourage them to start some of these long-range projects, and start taking an active interest in them ourselves even though we feel we can never live long enough to see the results."

New Committee Head

Dr. John H. Clairmont

Dr. Clairmont, ex-President of the Southern California Camellia Society has been chosen to head the Camellia Review Committee which was recently formed.

Dr. Clairmont is assisted by Ralph Peer, active Society member and camellia expert; Lee Kiel, acting as Secretary, and Elizabeth Beebe, Editor of the Magazine.

The Committee forms the policy, establishes programs for the Review and acts as consultant for the Editor.

Camellia MAIL BAG

Dear Editor:

You may recall my husband was the happy recipient of the prize plant *Masterpiece* at the Society's Camellia Show. While it is still in the one-gallon container, I am happy to report the plant now has about 7″ new growth with one new 5″ side shoot and three others developing. We attribute the nice side shoots to following the advice of our good friends Don and Blanche Miller to pinch back the top.

Just for the record, may I tell you how nice I think it is the Society's meetings adhere to the programs with an eye to time! How much easier to get husbands or wives to the meetings when they know the program will not drag out while weary members think of the alarm clock ringing at six or earlier the next morning. How nice also to be able to invite guests with the assurance the meeting will move at an interesting pace. I hope this policy will be continued by our new President and Program Chairman.

While I always enjoy the Camellia Review, I shall look forward to it with special interest now that we have an editor with the feminine touch. Congratulations and best wishes.

Cordially yours,
MRS. CLIFFORD A. BROWN

* * *

Camellias Bring Cheer

Dear Editor:

I received my first issue of the Camellia Review in February of this year and at once made up my mind to write you about the miracle that Camellias have brought in my life.

Nine years ago after the passing of my husband I left the big home where we had reared our children, and moved to a smaller house on a lot 50′ by 120′ on the main street of a town of 6,000 plus population. It so happened that this lot was raised about two feet higher than the adjoining properties, and contained by cement curbs. The soil was pure unadulterated "blow sand," but I realized that the problem of drainage was solved by the elevation. So, with the addition of bales of peat moss and dozens of sacks of oak leaf mold, I soon had some fine spots for Camellias.

The first year I planted five Camellias on the southeast front of my house and have added more each year until I now have 56 fine healthy plants, some taller than I am. When I ran out of good partially shaded spots, I had sturdy frames made of 2 x 2's, five feet high, and covered them with split bamboo shades which protect a dozen plants from the hot noon day sun of our San Joaquin Valley.

(Continued on Page 16)

Recent Registrations

Pink Clouds. Hybrid of Elegans Chandler X not known. Registration application by Harvey F. Short, Pasadena, California. Anemone form, creamy, white with varied rosepink streakings. Second day pink with lavender cast. 4½ to 5½. Blooms February and April.

* * *

Dahliaflora. Seedling of Mathotiana. Registration application by T. H. Seavey, Alhambra, California. Semi-double to peony form, raspberry red with darker red veining. Blooms mid-season.

CATALOG *from page 10*

By means of an exceptionally well designed format, the Camellias are classified not only according to color and variety but also by form and blooming season. Since the books are bound in loose-leaf style, changes may be made in paging as individual preference dictates.

The page size illustrations are hand colored and though in some cases lacking the authenticity of color photographs, are lovely from an artistic standpoint. There will be a total of 120 of these illustrations with the publication of the fourth volume. A limited number of extra "framing" prints are available.

The four volumes whose attractive covers measure roughly nine by eleven inches, will constitute a handsome set of books for any Camellia library and provide ready reference for Camellia lovers. They are being sold on a subscription basis of $15.00 for each volume.

* * *

The following books are available through Col. C. M. Gale, 40 N. San Rafael Ave., Pasadena, Calif.:

"Camellias As A Hobby," 1952-53 edition by the Oregon Camellia Society. $1.00 (postpaid).

"Camellias And Common Sense," by Claude Chidamian, $4.00 (postpaid).

SUMMER CULTURE *from page 9*

ground or grown in a container. Generally speaking, a plant 3 to 4 feet in height in good condition and planted in open loam soil in the ground will take a good handful of well balanced acid Camellia fertilizer spread evenly about the ground over the root area.

Watering: Under our climatic conditions, it is during the summer that one must make certain that the soil particles in which the Camellia roots are situated, always contain as close to an optimum of moisture content as possible, not forgetting that the soil must be well drained.

Mulching: It is important whether Camellias are grown in the ground or in containers that there is a mulch around the plants. Camellias are surface-rooting plants and therefore many of these roots are exposed to the hot, dry air of summer. Unless a mulch is provided, these fine roots dry out and die. Mulch can consist of peat, leaf mold, shavings, or other natural products containing these same moisture-holding properties; or prepared materials such as Sponge-Rok, Vermiculite, glass wool, etc.

Spraying: Generally speaking Camellias are free from plant pests and diseases but in case these are present, use of a spray is indicated. For instance, if you have some camellia plants under oak trees, you may experience some trouble from oak moth larvae. The larvae get into young growth and feed on the leaves. This situation can be best controlled by using a spray which contains a stomach poison.

Among the newer sprays are some which, upon coming in contact with the pest, paralyze it, resulting in death. It is best to discuss these newer types of sprays with some one

(Continued on Page 22)

SECOND PHASE *from page 8*

union should be kept moist but not wet. When discovered in this state, the excess moisture should be removed with some such medium as blotting paper, or by natural evaporation. If the latter is used, the jar should be left off up to half an hour, depending on the prevailing temperature and humidity. A very convenient arrangement for jar ventilation and observation is to find a jar with a screw-on lid and cut off the bottom. When this is used on a graft, it can be inspected by simply removing the lid. This is also cleaner, for when an ordinary jar is lifted, there is usually a rain of soil on to the graft.

A sure sign of trouble is the dropping of leaves from the scion. If they drop off soon after grafting, before any callus has formed, there is no hope for the graft; however, if the leaves drop off after a good callus has formed, there is still a slight chance that an eye will expand and save the plant.

Sometimes a graft will apparently succeed, and grow six or eight inches, then die. This means that there has been root failure and that a very poor understock has been used.

The management of moisture in the soil is of extreme importance. To begin with, it should be moist, but not wet. If wet, it will remain wet, for the top of the plant has been cut off and moisture can no longer be drawn up out of the can and evaporated through the leaves. Best way to avoid such trouble is to avoid excessively wet cans and choose understock which is only moderately damp. On the other hand, there has been a tendency these last few years to overemphasize the danger of too-wet cans and to go to the other extreme of keeping the cans too dry. The top of the can is allowed to become dry; the bottom dries out through the

(Continued on Page 20)

MAIL BAG *from page 12*

This last year, having exhausted all such space, I began to use the redwood planters in three sizes according to the size of the plant, and have nine thus apparently happily located.

All of my plants are of the Japonica variety with one exception, a Reticulata (Captain Rawes) which I bought this year.

In 1951 my Camellias took the sweepstakes award at our local Flower Show; in 1952, took seven ribbons and this year again won the sweepstakes. I am very proud of them but I assure you I do not raise my Camellias for ribbon winners. The wonderful thing is that from a woman broken in health and heart, I have found contentment and real joy in the study of and work with these lovely flowers. They have been perfect therapy for body and mind.

My children are all married and in their homes and I am the proud Grandmother of 6 boys and 4 girls. I hope I shall be granted a few more years for there is so much I want to learn. I realize from reading on the subject that no one will ever know all about the Camellia in its many varieties but it is surely a worth while study.

Perhaps this letter is too long, but I hope that some woman or man who reads it who has reached the sunset road of life may be inspired by my experience to try this delightful hobby.

Ramona B. Brown
609 East Main Street
Turlock, California

of peat moss acted as an insulator and thus prevented the soil around the root system from drying out and freezing. Gerbing has pointed out in his book, "Gerbing's Camellias," that cold is not only a condition of temperature drop, but is also a drying procedure. Hence, the blanket of peat moss prevented this drying out from taking place. During the past winter the temperatures around the camellia beds registered as low as five degrees below zero, although most of the time they were in the high teens and low twenties. All of the varieties under experiment stood the winter well, and give evidence that they apparently do not mind a freeze.

The *Berenice Boddy* extended above all protection. While not having any buds in 1951 and 1952, it proved itself extremely hardy. There is no evidence of windburn by the browning of its leaves. This coming season it should set buds and bloom next year. It must be borne in mind, of course, that some varieties will not bloom for several years.

Other Sasanqua varieties were all below the windbreak level and have shown great promise.

The *Kumasaka,* planted in April 1951, was in bloom in late April 1952. It opened its first flower on April 21st and had six perfect blooms at one time, each averaging three and a half inches across. Two of the flowers had dropped by April 28th, but eight more buds were opening. This was quite remarkable. Only one bud, which was above the windbreak, browned and the stem turned brittle.

The winter of 1952-1953 has been a mild one for this region. *Berenice Boddy* bloomed well, having exquisite, indescribable blooms of two tones of pink, with a very much alive character. *Rev. John Bennett,* 2½′ plant, was just one complete bouquet of blooms, having twenty-five perfectly formed flowers at one time. They fairly hid most of the foliage.

Kumasaka is still blooming in May. Sas. *Beni Kantsubaki,* planted the Fall of 1952, bloomed early in March, with not too good a flower as the plant was not up to par and was bare rooted (October) before placing in the bed. *Rosea* bloomed Dec. 26, 1952 after a snowstorm and freeze of a few days.

From the results of thes experiments, I am convinced that with proper care and protection the Sasanqua and Japonica Camellia varieties can withstand a fairly severe winter. Since the only browning that occurred was on plants that extended above the windbreak, it would appear that winter damage is caused more by windburn and dehydration than by cold.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL REGISTRATION OF NEW CAMELLIAS

By ROBERT CASAMAJOR

(Chairman Registration Committee)

After a full season of acting as your Registration Committee, we deem it advisable to suggest to our membership that if they will follow some basic rules it will simplify the operation of this important function of the Southern California Camellia Society.

Primarily, the purpose of registration is to record a new variety in such a way as to protect both the originator and the Society against the possibility of a dpulication of an already existing flower, or one that may appear in the future.

The present registration form is as nearly complete as it has been possible to devise, and if filled out by the applicant in its entirety, will give the Registration Committee the information it needs to enable it to consider and recommend registration. Therefore, the following procedure is suggested:

1. When you have determined over a blooming period of at least two seasons that you believe you have a meritorious new variety of Camellia, you should first write to the Secretary of the Society and request registration forms.
2. Carefully fill out the form in its entirety. If you are unable to do so, then consult some commercial grower and ask for help.
3. In selecting a name, first consult the Society's Nomenclature Book to be sure you do not duplicate an existing name, or choose one so nearly like it as to be confusing. Short names are to be preferred. Do not use such prefixes as "Mrs.," "Mr.," or "Miss."
4. Submit your completed and signed application with the registration fee to the Secretary of the Society who will transmit it to the Registration Committee.
5. It is desirable, but not compulsory, to submit a specimen of the flower and leaves, so the Registration Committee may examine them. If this is not possible, then a Kodachrome transparency is the best substitute.
6. Do not get discouraged, or impatient, if you do not hear promptly from your application as it is often necessary to do considerable checking before the applications are approved.

CAMELLIA JAPONICA *from p. 5*

their own bodies and are giving off carbon dioxide. The soil pore space soon becomes very high in carbon dioxide. If the carbon dioxide can diffuse out into the air in an open soil of good structure, it will not accumulate to the toxic level (about 5% of the soil atmosphere).

But if the soil is either packed or too wet, or has an airtight layer of wet leaves over it, the oxygen supply will be depleted and the carbon dioxide supply will build up. Both of these tendencies will cause the Camellia root to become more inactive.

Of course you realize that different plants have different oxygen requirements for their roots. Water lily naturally has an extremely low requirement. Bog plants have a low requirement. Most cultivated plants are in the medium range. Azaleas and camellias have a rather high requirement (above 15% oxygen). And the epiphytes (including many orchids) require between 19 and 20% oxygen in their root atmosphere. Atmospheric air has about 20.5% oxygen (except in some of the smog bound areas).

How can a camellia grower maintain a reasonable level of oxygen in the soil air? The most important factor is to start with a soil with good structure. This can be found in a garden loam which contains about 2 to 4% humus or peat moss (or other organic matter which is not readily decomposable by bacteria). Another way of keeping soil oxygen high is to avoid *packing* the soil. One of the common ways of packing is with a heavy stream of water from the hose directly on the root zone. Don't pound the ground with water!!

Another way of keeping the soil oxygen level up is to avoid using large amounts of organic fertilizer (especially if the soil is wet) because this will allow the bacteria to successfully compete with the camellia roots for the oxygen and in turn produce toxic carbon dioxide.

Some rather interesting experiments have been conducted in which air was forced through the soil in glass wicks and others in which the root area was confined to an atmosphere of an "oxygen-nitrogen mixture" of 20, 15, 10, 5 and zero percent oxygen. The conclusions were always consistent. The lower the oxygen, the lower the root growth. This is especially important in growing a plant like the camellia which has a high oxygen requirement.

Further discussions on camellia soils will follow in later articles.

OUR COVER FLOWER

The representation of the Camellia Japonica *R. L. Wheeler* on our cover this month has been made possible through the cooperation of the Wheeler Nurseries in Macon, Georgia, and Frank Griffin of the "Camellian."

This beautiful flower first bloomed in December 1948, a seedling of unknown parentage from seed collected in the garden of Dr. W. G. Lee of Macon. Of rose color, the flower averages 6 inches in diameter, is strong and vigorous and blooms from December through February. It has been awarded the American Camellia Society Award of Merit 7 times in the 3 years it has been exhibited.

Since the C. *R. L. Wheeler* is of such recent classification, its successful culture in Southern California is still in experimental stages.

SECOND PHASE *from page 15*

holes punched in the can, and presently the whole can is dried out, and the plant dies.

But there is a happy medium between these two extremes. By starting off with a properly moist can, putting damp peat in the top, and carefully checking from time to time by sticking a finger down into the soil, the container can be kept "just right."

When a proper union is made between scion and understock and the leaf bud (or buds) begin to elongate and unfold, the question arises as to the best time to remove the jar. There is a good deal of leeway in this step; it is possible to remove the jar as soon as the callus has been completely formed, whether the new leaves have unfolded or not, and some grafters do this. Or one can leave on the jar until several leaves have unfolded.

Next question is: Can the jar be lifted off at once, or should it be taken off gradually? If the temperature is cool and the humidity high, the jar can be taken off at once. Most amateurs prefer to put blocks under the jar and raise it up gradually, so as to "harden off" the little plant gradually. Nurserymen, who haven't time to do this, simply tip the jar over on one side, allowing a little outside air to get into it, then after a few days, remove the jar completely. If, after the jar has been taken off, the plant wilts in the warmest part of the day, it will recover when night comes.

It is advisable to wax the cut portion of the stump as soon as the glass jar has been taken off. This will prevent air from coming in contact with any dead or dying wood which is the inevitable result of grafting, and thus minimize the possibility of decay.

Finally, when the new plant has had its first flush of growth and slows down a little, there will be a temptation to fertilize it. It looks healthy and vigorous, so why not push it up a little faster? If we could look at the root system at this time, we'd find that a good many roots have already died; this happens in any graft. But there are still more roots than top, relatively speaking; there's an overbalance in favor of the roots. In other words, there is a greater capacity to pick up and deliver plant food than there is capacity to use it. Hence fertilizer is not only unnecessary, but, at this stage, harmful because the few leaves on the plant do not have the capacity to use it, and "leaf burning" would be a likely result.

Grafting is usually thought of in terms of its first phase, but anyone who has tried it (or read thus far) will realize that its second phase is the most important of the two, and certainly the more difficult.

NOTES, NOTICES and NEWS

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Officers for the 1953-54 season of the Santa Clara County Camellia Society are as follows: President, G. Anthony De Lorenzo; Vice President and Show Chairman, Gordon V. Simpson; Secretary-Treasurer, K. L. Boosey.

* * *

ORANGE COUNTY

The following officers are announced for the 1953-54 season of the Camellia Society of Orange County: President, W. H. Riffle; Vice-President, Robert Powell; Secretary-Treasurer, Harold Larson.

* * *

SACRAMENTO

The Camellia Society of Sacramento has elected the following officers to serve until April, 1954: President, Roy W. Wiegand. Vice-Presidents, E. A. Combatalade and M. L. Stacy. Secretaries, Mesdames Ernest L. Stevens and Earl A. Roberts. Treasurer, Delbert Sprague. Historian, Ernest L. Stevens and Counselor, Dr. John D. Lawson.

* * *

TEMPLE CITY

At the April meeting of the Temple City Camellia Society, the following officers were elected for the forthcoming year.

President, Lawrence R. Bryant; Vice-President, C. E. Bengstrom; Secretary-Treasurer, June Manson Schroth; Publicity, Zita Marks.

The Society will open its season with its 3rd annual Camellia Breakfast in September. All arrangements and service will be taken over by the men of the Society. The affair will be held at Marshall's Nursery.

* * *

KERN COUNTY

The 5th annual Camellia Show sponsored by the Camellia Society of Kern County was held in Bakersfield on March 7th and 8th and attracted a crowd of over 10,000 enthusiastic Camellia lovers.

Exhibits were entered by 119 Camellia growers and trophies and ribbons worth more than $100 were given out. Mrs. William K. Lyons won the Sweepstakes prize, the Gold Award, while Mrs. Robert T. Johnson carried off the Silver Award for the best blossom of the show, a gorgeous Governor Warren.

Through the great success of the Show, the Society is planning to establish a Camellia Garden as part of the new Civic Center now under construction in Bakersfield.

Officers elected for the next season include Dr. C. F. Mundy as President; Mr. W. J. Haberfelde, Vice-President and Secretary; Mrs. Maude Eley, Treasurer; Mrs. Robert Johnson, Publicity and Programs, and Mrs. Ray Wallace, Plant Procurement Chairman.

CAMELLIA CULTURE *from p. 14*

of authority such as an entomologist, a competent nurseryman, horticulturist and so forth, before buying such material.

CAMELLIA REVIEWER *from p. 2*

As most of our readers know, all of the seeds collected from the Camellia Garden in the Botanical

(Continued on Page 24)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY,
c/o Secretary, 40 N. San Rafael Ave., Pasadena 2, California

I hereby make application for membership in your society and enclose $5.00 for the current year's dues.

Name .....
(please print or type) (Husband and wife combined same rate)

Street .....

City..... Zone..... State.....

Business .....

Sponsor .....
(signature)

APPLICATION MAY BE MADE BY LETTER IF PREFERRED

INDEX OF "CAMELLIA REVIEW"

Volume 14, October, 1952 - July, 1953

First Figure indicates No., second figure indicates page.

Articles

Columns

Authors

Covers

CAMELLIA REVIEWER

from page 22

Gardens of the Huntington Library are distributed by the S.C.C.S. which uses the money for the furtherance of Camellia research. We are interested to be informed by Col. C. M. Gale that sales of seeds this year amounted to nearly $500.00 and that seeds had found their way to far places including New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts; to the Carolinas; to the southern states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana; to the big state of Texas, north to Idaho and across the Pacific to the Hawaiian Islands. We shall be interested and know our readers will be too in reports of the propagation of these seeds and hope some of the various recipients will not be too busy to tell us of their experiences.

* * *

And now—we hope you will find both pleasure and profit in this July issue. Like the Camellias, we shall be inconspicuous until fall. Also, like the Camellias we shall be busy getting ready for a (we hope) banner blooming season starting with the October Camellia Review. And, again like the Camellias we shall need lots of help. Do send in your ideas, manuscripts, reports of society plans or any information you think our readers will enjoy. It will all be much appreciated. And so—till October—

Illustrations

News And Notes

Short items of temporary interest only have not been indexed.

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