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# Camellia Review



*Camellia japonica* 'SUN-UP'

Courtesy Harvey F. Short of  
Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

Vol. 15

July, 1954

No. 8

# *Southern California Camellia Society Inc.*

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### **CAMELLIA REVIEW**

DR. JOHN H. CLAIRMONT  
Citrus 3-4611

### **INTER SOCIETY RELATIONS**

LAWRENCE R. BRYANT  
Cumberland 3-2794

### **HERTRICH AWARD**

DAN M. SULLIVAN  
RYan 1-8310

### **GROWERS RELATIONS**

HARVEY F. SHORT  
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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, November to April, inclusive. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

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

## DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

- Central California Camellia Society ..... Fresno, Calif.  
 Meeting Place: Elementary School Auditorium, Fresno State College  
 Secretary: Frances F. Lennox, 2040 Hunter Ave., Fresno 3  
 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: Louise J. Haberfelde, 1800 2nd St., 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. L. B. Goodall, 3036 Suncrest Dr., San Diego 16  
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- Pomona Valley Camellia Society ..... Pomona, Calif.  
 Meeting Place: Claremont Women's Club, 345 W. 12th, Claremont  
 Secretary-Treasurer: J. M. Hartke, 1372 Caswell, Pomona  
 Date of Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of each month
- Temple City Camellia Society ..... Temple City, Calif.  
 Meeting Place: Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kauffman, Temple City  
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 Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month, Nov. thru March
- Camellia Society of Orange County ..... Santa Ana, Calif.  
 Meeting Place: Community Center, West 8th St., Santa Ana  
 Secretary: Harold Larson, 212 S. Orange St., Orange  
 Date of Meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month
- Huntington Camellia Garden ..... San Marino, Calif.  
 Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Rd., San Marino

## CONTENTS

VOL. 15	JULY, 1954	NO. 8
Camellia Reviewer, <i>Elizabeth Beebe</i> . . . . .		2
Search for the Yellow Camellia, <i>Ralph Peer</i> . . . . .		3
Howard Asper Goes to Huntington . . . . .		5
Notes from Annual Report . . . . .		6
Herbert Swim Talks . . . . .		8
Leaky Containers?, <i>Dr. John H. Clairmont</i> . . . . .		10
Summer Madness, " <i>Chic</i> " <i>Mason</i> . . . . .		11
Versatility of the Camellia, <i>Elizabeth Councilman</i> . . . . .		12
To the Ladies, <i>Charlotte Hoak</i> . . . . .		13
Another Way to Summer Graft, <i>Dr. Herbert Shirley</i> . . . . .		14
Clearing House . . . . .		14
The Camellia Review, Your Magazine, <i>Dr. John H. Clairmont</i> . . . . .		15

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# Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

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## Each to His Own

We were watching some men wrecking old houses the other day. Clouds of dust and dirt surrounded them as they tugged and shoved and heaved in dirty confusion.

"Now just why do you suppose any man would take up that awfully hard work when he could just as well sit at a desk somewhere?" asked our long time companion.

"Probably for the same reason that you won't sit at a desk either, but continuously go out of your way to find hard problems to tackle," we retorted sweetly.

"What about your taking up most of your spare time editing—fussing and worrying over the Camellia Review?" he countered.

"But Camellias—they're different," we defended. "Who could dig too hard, work too much or spend too much time for Camellias—" we began but had to join in the amused laughter of our L. T. C. as we walked on.

Perhaps we were being ridiculous for there doesn't seem to be much parallel between house wrecking and raising Camellias but the principle is the same—an urge of some kind that is too strong to deny. We are glad we have it about Camellias instead of house wrecking, that's all.

## Members! Members!

Thrilled as we are to know that our Society membership is booming, we have discovered to our dismay that our type space has become mighty jammed on account of the many names. And as we are trying to finish up the current membership list in this issue we ask your indulgence if by some chance your name came in too late to be included or if you have had to perform mental gymnastics to find it in one of the alpa-

betical lists. The latter occurs because we are printing parts of left over lists and simply could not have so many names reset by the printer.

## We Present . . .

### *A Camellia of Sympathy to*

Julius Nuccio who underwent an operation in June but who is reported to be steadily improving.

Dan Sullivan who is taking it very easy in a rest home as he recovers from an accident.

### *A Camellia of Congratulations to*

Ronald Townsend who resigned his position as Superintendent of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery to become Superintendent of Parks of the City of Pasadena on June 1st. May we hint that we expect Camellias on every corner?

### *A Camellia of Welcome to*

Ralph Peer of our own Review Committee who has lately returned from a round-the-world tour—brimming with Camellia news from many foreign spots and with a lot of it to be imparted to us—some through the print of this magazine.

## High Style

We nominate the *reticulata* 'Shot Silk' as the most stylish Camellia of the year, some of our feminine members declaring that its petals are a true "shocking pink."

## Let's Be Superior

The next time you want to make a bit of an impression when discussing flower arrangements, speak about your "kenzons." In case at the moment you don't know what we are talking about, gather closely. Through Adele Clairmont and Dorothy Leitz we were informed that a kenzon is a metal frog of the type with a cluster of sharp points. Ceramic or plastic flower holders are merely "frogs." It has to be metal to be a "kenzon."  
(Continued on Page 28)

## CAMELLIAS BRING REWARD



President Harold Dryden congratulates Mr. L. H. Strohmyer on his winning the silver bowl for having the most points from Camellias he has shown at meetings during the past year.

## SEARCH FOR THE YELLOW CAMELLIA

*By* RALPH PEER

Somebody has suggested that I write a short summary of a trip around the world undertaken by Mrs. Peer and myself between January 10 and May 18. I find, however, that even a limited description of our trip will take up many pages, and instead will try to write separate articles about the most interesting events.

Since my last visit to Asia in 1949, I had been able to gather information about several species of yellow flowered camellias which grow in that part of French Indo-China known as "Tonkin." It exasperated me to find that the botanist who first noted these amazing plants, and who described them so accurately, brought back only dead, pressed specimens. Nobody apparently has ever brought these species into civilization so that they could be adapted to garden use. When, therefore, I planned this year's trip, I was careful to allocate ten days to French Indo-China.

Entering that country with a war raging in the north was fraught with great difficulties. Actually, we arrived in Saigon early in March without a

visa, but with the knowledge that the visa had been granted.

Once safely established in our hotel, we arranged to see various

persons familiar with the region we intended to invade. We finally reached Dr. Alfred Petelot, a noted botanist who has lived in this part of the world for many years. He, in fact, discovered several of the yellow flowered species and named them. When I asked his help to obtain live specimens, he looked at me as though I were crazy. He told me that the place where he had made his investigations was actually along the supply route being used by the Communist forces. He assured me that what I desired could not be obtained until the war in Tonkin had ended.

A former Minister of Education, a native Vietnamese, who had been educated in France, took great interest in helping solve my problem. He got in touch with a doctor who had lived for some time in Hanoi. He reported that the doctor thought that he had one or two of the yellow flowered camellias growing in the garden of his country home. Unfortunately, this place was five miles outside of Hanoi, and he had been prevented from visiting it for more than two years. I learned that actually it was unsafe at any time to go even to the outside limits of Hanoi.

The next day it was suggested that we might want to visit Delat, a mountainous region 125 miles northeast of Saigon. Tea grows in this area, and it was thought that there might be interesting camellias. When I inquired about renting a car for this purpose, the chauffeurs looked at one another in amazement. I soon learned that the road to Delat was open only two days per week—at 5:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays an armed convoy would start out and proceed to clear the road by using mine detectors.

Consulting one with the other, Mrs. Peer and I decided that we had better give up the Search for the Yellow Camellia at least for this year.

While we were in Sydney, Australia, and when it seemed quite un-

likely that we would be able to enter French Indo-China, I thought that I had better find an alternative trip just in case our plans were disrupted. For some time I have been corresponding with Dr. Yun Liang Ku of the National Taiwan University, Taipei, Formosa. Fortunately, I had correspondence with me and was able to persuade the Chinese Consul in Sydney to grant visas. No tourists are currently admitted, but our trip was classified as "scientific research."

When, therefore, we cut down our time in French Indo-China from ten to four days, I made the necessary changes of itinerary so we could stop in Formosa. This led to a long series of interesting events, foremost amongst which was the discovery of the first japonica actually having yellow petals.

#### And It Was Yellow

In the private garden of an eighty-four year old Chinese gentleman, we found a remarkable collection of camellia trees originally brought from the province of Fukien in China. The names were quite interesting. One tree had a great many different sports in blossom at the same time, and when the Chinese name was translated I found it meant "18 Scholars." After we had arranged with our host to have him send scions to Los Angeles by airmail, Mrs. Peer asked him which variety was his personal favorite. With a quiet chuckle, he brought from his house a large bowl containing six blossoms. The sun by this time was rather far down toward the horizon, and I thought it best to rub my eyes. I was looking at a complete double japonica, about 4½" in diameter. There were no stamens. There were many petals. The center of the flower within a circle having a circumference of about 2½" is canary yellow. The remainder of the flower is a concentric ring of white with an occasional pink fleck.

*(Continued on Page 25)*



## HOWARD ASPER GOES TO HUNTINGTON

An announcement of great importance to every reader of the *Camellia Review* and, in fact to every *Camellia* lover, is the appointment of Howard Asper as Superintendent of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery in San Marino, California. Mr. Asper assumed his duties there on July 1st, succeeding Ronald B. Townsend.

Mr. Asper brings to the famous Huntington Institution, 25 years of broad experience in Horticulture, horticultural displays and landscaping. Of particular interest to the *Camellia* world is his well known enthusiasm for *Camellias*.

After 12 years with the Armstrong Nurseries at Ontario, California, much of which time was spent in the planning and execution of displays at flower shows and other exhibitions, Mr. Asper was chosen by Mr. Manchester Boddy to supervise the care and planting of over 100,000 mature *Camellia* plants acquired in 1942. From this developed the world famous Descanso Gardens, designed and developed under Mr. Asper's supervision and direction. The magnitude of operations there can best be described by saying that in one season more than 50,000 *Camellia* grafts were made, and this in addition to all other propagation.

It was Mr. Asper who obtained from the University of California the services of the well known plant breeder, Dr. Walter E. Lammerts for Descanso. The result was that at Descanso were developed some of the world's most famous *Roses* and *Camellias*. It was Asper also who was the manager and director at Descanso at the time the now world acclaimed *Yunnan reticulatas* were imported just before the Red invasion of China. More credit is due Mr. Asper for this maneuver than these few lines can tell.

Perhaps Mr. Asper's greatest achievement, at least from his own viewpoint, was the winning of the 1953 sweepstakes award for Best Design at the International Flower Show at Hollywood Park in which he featured *Camellias* and kindred plantings. This was a richly deserved honor and well illustrates Mr. Asper's



**Howard Asper, Superintendent of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery.**

evaluation of *Camellias*.

Many of the *Review's* readers have been privileged to hear Mr. Asper's frequent and enlightening lectures on the various phases of *Camellias* and *Camellia* culture. Many more have read his interesting articles in *Camellia* journals and in the public press. These will rejoice that one whose heart lies so closely to *Camellias* should have been chosen to fill an assignment so important as director of the notable Huntington Botanical Gardens. We are certain that all their noble and inspiring traditions have been placed in capable hands.

# NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAMELLIA GARDEN COMMITTEE

Presented to the

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY BY E. C. TOURJE, SECRETARY

The past fiscal season of May 1, 1953 and ending April 30, 1954, has been one of both importance and interest, and the events occurring during this season will have a far reaching effect upon the future of the Southern California Camellia Garden located in the Botanical gardens of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery of San Marino.

### Change of Plans

One important fact is that the Committee has been compelled to revise the concepts upon which it was originally constituted in 1944. At that time the general intent was to provide space and maintenance for all the known varieties and species of Camellias that they might be grown and appraised in what would be known as a "Test Garden." The area selected for that purpose was a ravine on the Huntington estate which already abounded in large Camellia seedlings planted there in earlier years by Mr. William Hertrich, Curator. The intent was to graft the various varieties and species on the understock furnished by these seedlings.

In 1944 the responsibility of the Committee to furnish all these known varieties seemed difficult but not monumental. The Nomenclature Book of 1942 listed 198 names of Camellias. No one then envisioned the tremendous increase in Camellia interest, but the virtual impossibility of creating the test garden in the sense originally intended soon became evident to the management of the Botanical Gardens and to the Garden Committee. Therefore, they concluded that in this Garden should be planted and grown only the finest of the known Camellia varieties and species and that the Garden be eventually opened to the public as an integral part of the Huntington Botanical Gardens so that the Camellias might be

viewed, studied and enjoyed by all interested visitors.

### Tremendous Growth

Since the formation of the Committee in 1944 to the start of the 1953-54 Camellia season, the number of named variety plants in the garden including named seedlings has increased from 80 to approximately 3,000. At the start of the 1953-54 season there were in the Garden 880 varieties of *C. japonica*, 55 varieties of *sasanquas*, 18 varieties of *reticulatas* and 37 hybrids. This total of 990 different varieties is an impressive number when we consider the fact that the Committee seeks only the best and most desirable of Camellia varieties. In fact, many of the new varieties obtained in 1953-54 have not as yet been introduced. This has led to the adoption by the Huntington management, and recommended by the Garden Committee, of a new policy whereby donors of scions of new varieties are permitted to take scions from grafts made from scions so donated. It will be seen that this new policy will stimulate further donations by growers who are striving to build up stocks of plants available for sale to the public.

The staff of the Botanical Gardens is developing a large number of seedlings of known female parentage which are being planted and tested for worth. None of these are numbered among the plants and varieties above referred to unless and until



they are deemed worthy of introduction. One example is the sparkling 'Marjorie Townsend.' Any desirable seedlings thus developed will be made available to the public through commercial channels where there are sufficient scions.

### Committee Activities

During the past season the Garden Committee purchased and presented to the Huntington Gardens 39 specimen *Camellia* plants in suitable redwood containers. These are standard late blooming varieties to be used as specimen plants for exhibitions whenever and wherever the Huntington management desires, thus furthering interest in *Camellias*. During the past season the Committee also purchased and presented to the Huntington Gardens 50 *Camellia* plants for use as understocks in the future.

A notable event of the season was the presentation to Dr. John E. Pomfret, Director of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, a bronze plaque commemorating the first flowering of the world famous seedling, the 'Margarete Hertrich' and thus honoring its originator, William Hertrich, now Curator Emeritus of Huntington.

### Noteworthy Cooperation

This report would not be complete without comment on the cordiality of relations existing between the Directors, trustees and members of the staff of the Huntington Institution on the one hand, and the Garden Committee and the entire Society on the other. This is in large measure attributable to the interest and cooperative spirit of both William Hertrich, Curator Emeritus, and the former Superintendent, Ronald B. Townsend. To both of these gentlemen is due a debt of unbounded gratitude. Perhaps even of greater importance is the broad and sympathetic attitude of Director Pomfret who by his actions as well as word has recognized the continuing effort of the Garden Committee

## Our Cover Flower

The *Camellia japonica* 'Sun-up' is a new introduction of Harvey Short of the Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens in Pasadena. It is a Lotus seedling, irregular semi-peony form and coral or salmon pink. The petals are beautifully fluted and notched. The plant blooms from early November through March with flowers of from 4½ to 5 inches across. It has an upright, compact growth with heavily veined, dark green foliage, and in general appearance reminds one more of the *reticulata* grouping than the *japonica*.

It is, one might say, "A preview of good things to come."

in making and keeping the *Camellia* Garden one of the important units of the Huntington Institution.

### Finances

Prior to the 1948-49 fiscal year, the funds available to the Committee were derived from the sales of plants donated for that purpose. On March 18, 1948 the sum of \$1,000 was appropriated from the Show fund to the Garden fund for the exclusive use of the Garden. Since the 1948-49 season the *Camellia* seeds harvested at the Huntington Gardens have been turned over to the Society for sale and the proceeds made available to the Committee.

### The Wide Future

In concluding this report the Garden Committee wishes to point out that its chief function henceforth, except for acquiring desirable new varieties which annually present themselves, will be to acquaint the public with the fact that the Southern California *Camellia* Society has collaborated with the Huntington Botanical Gardens in the establishment of what the Committee states with no fear of contradiction to be the finest *Camellia* garden in the entire world.

# HERBERT C. SWIM TALKS ON HYBRIDIZING AND THE SUMMER CARE OF CAMELLIAS

Notes from Mr. Swim's speech at S.C.C.S. Meeting of April 8, 1954  
*Transcribed by Mrs. W. H. Bonner*

The main point to bring out is that Camellias are not hard to grow. I feel that if I can grow them they must be easy. I have had no trouble growing Camellias except under a few unusual circumstances.

During the summer I think perhaps the most critical operation is watering and it is a subject on which I do not think anyone can give you a very exact answer. The idea of course is to water them not too much, nor too little. Camellias like to stay a little more on the wet side than you need to keep a rose but they can be given too much water. During the summer time it is somewhat unlikely, if you have good drainage, that you will over water them. The best clue I think is to follow what was said last month by Mr. Asper. You will soon get the feel of this water question and can tell when you see the top of the ground just starting to dry that your Camellia needs water.

Nearly all growers have found it beneficial to syringe the plants. This is especially good for them when humidity is low, and when we get a north or northeast wind.

*Fertilizing*—There are a number of products that are satisfactory but the fertilizer I have used, and which I note is recommended in your year book, is a combination of equal parts of cottonseed meal and sand with about ten percent of soil sulphur added.

*How Much to Feed*—For a plant 12 inches to 18 inches, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  cupful, increasing in proportion to the size of the plant, up to 4 cupfuls for a plant 6 feet to 8 feet. Do not fertilize a plant which has recently been transplanted (until it has become established) and do not fertilize a sick looking plant.

*Mulch*—In a hot, dry area it is a very good practice to mulch in the summer. One of the best materials we have found is partly decomposed sawdust or shavings.

*Diseases*—I know of only one thing with which we are particularly concerned here and that is flower rot, and about all I can tell you to do is to keep the flowers picked up and to burn them. You should not have trouble with flower rot if you start with uninfected plants.

*Insects*—Aphis are probably the worst pest. They tend to distort the

leaves and injure the buds. I cannot recommend using liquid spray material because I know of none in which the solvent used may not cause some burn. I have had no injurious effects when using a dust.

*Bud Drop*—I see many people here whom I know are more familiar with this subject that I am. Bud drop is caused because of a varietal weakness more than anything else. 'Pink Perfection' is an example of such "bud droppers." We do not know exactly what causes this but I think it is because of a drying that occurs between the flower and the little stalk attached to the stem. Mr. Hertrich told me several years ago it was probably brought about by the sudden drying of the soil and plant during one of these dry periods we so often have after the buds are set. A drop in humidity results in the plant drying out fast and taking water out of the flower buds to supply the leaves.

*Breeding*—First it is necessary to have a systematic approach, to have something in mind that you want to get. We must know what is needed and where we can secure the traits we have in mind. After we have acquired a list of varieties containing

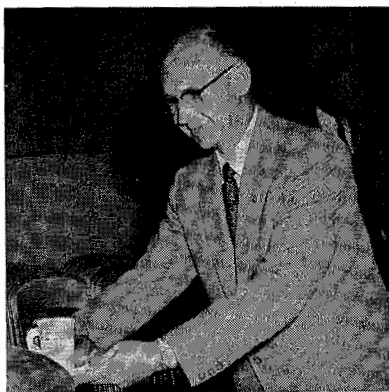
the traits that we need, then we need to know how those characteristics are transmitted. For example, take 'Crimson Robe.' If we self-pollinated and found that the large flower size was transmitted in a large proportion of the seedlings, we could see that that was a breeding characteristic. We might want to increase the flower size of a variety that flowers freely but which has a small flower. If we crossed such to 'Crimson Robe' we would want to know whether to expect flowers that had the blooming habit of 'Crimson Robe' and the small flower traits of the other parent or just the reverse.

### Pollination

Then we get to the mechanics of pollination. In the first place we are limited to a considerable degree as to the varieties we can use as seed parents. There are many here on the table tonight that are formal doubles which rarely set seed. On the other hand some varieties that have stamens showing, set seed readily. 'Blood of China' shows a lot of stamens and well developed pistils, but if you find one that has a little wing on the basal part of the pistil you will certainly do a lot of pollinating before getting that particular flower to seed. If you have both types of pistils on the same plant and select those flowers that have a nice, clean, green pistil, these latter should set seed more readily.

After selecting our varieties in order to get these smooth green pistils, then we must select the other variety for a pollen parent. We cannot use pollen from such varieties as reticulata 'Captain Rawes' which is sterile. Many of the newer, reticulata varieties are fertile and Dr. Lammer's, I know, has crosses involving them.

The next move is preparing the flower for pollination. With almost any variety we find it best if you select a flower before it opens, then none of the pollen is released. The



**A candid camera shot catches Herbert Swim relaxing with a cup of coffee at the April meeting of the Society.**

best way is to cut the flower petals off about two-thirds of the way down the petal and in that way we can expose the stamens, remove them, and leave the pistils ready for pollination. Many people wait three days after the flower has been emasculated and then pollinize; but we have found that we get as good results if we pollinize immediately. The chances of natural cross pollination are only four percent so we no longer enclose the pollination in a bag—just tag it to show what pollen parent was used.

### Pollen in Capsule

We try to get the pollen just before the pollen sacks have burst. We then put this pollen (or rather the anther containing the pollen) in a small gelatin capsule (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long—about the size of a lead pencil). In a small jar we place about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of calcium hypochlorite, place some cotton over this, then put the capsules of pollen on top of the cotton and close the jar. In about 12 hours the capsules are filled with a yellow dust. The pollination should be made as soon as the pollen is ready; however, if you keep the pollen under refrigeration it has been found that you can keep it viable over a whole season of bloom.



## SUMMER MADNESS

By "CHIC" MASON

Summer Madness! Now there is a title to conjure with. It could mean any number of types of insanity, but to us camellia lovers, it means only one thing, the second or more advanced stages of the wonderful disease called "Camellia-itis."

In case you haven't noticed, just peek over the back fence of any Camellia fancier's growing grounds, and wait. You will find the owner browsing among his plants, inspecting each new shoot and leaf, so that it will become a part of his memory of the plant. A real Camellia fan can recognize any one of his plants in a high fog. And by the way, that is generally what he is in—a nice high pink fog of happiness. There is nothing so satisfactory as the healthy growth of a Camellia plant. True, the flowers are the climax of care and watchful waiting, but don't discount the thrill of seeing your favorite Camellia plant burst into a wealth of new growth.

It isn't an unusual thing to hear some one that is just new in the hobby of growing Camellias say, "You know, I get just as much pleasure out of seeing the new growth on my Camellias as I do when the plant starts to flower." It is pure pleasure to go out to the lath house each night, after work, and see whether or not the buds are swelling, and as they break, to watch the new leaves unfold.

The feeling of satisfaction comes, I think, from the subconscious thought that you are in part responsible for the beautiful new growth, which in truth you are. This new growth will tell you whether or not you have been using the right fertilizer, and if your watering has been enough and not too much. It will tell you if the plant is healthy, if you have given it enough shade and the right amount of filtered sun. It also tells you that now, by golly, you can call in the next door neighbor, who thinks he can grow Camellias, and show him some real growth.

This time of the year is the time for any number of things that are a pleasure to do. When the plants stop blooming and the season of shows and exhibitions are over, you can start to work with the plants. There are always some plants that need to be "stepped up." There are always the grafts to watch. Your rooted cuttings must have care, and above all, this is the time of year to watch the plant food and the water. There is no madness there, but just get two Camellia fans together and the unenlightened would be sure that they had misplaced a few of their "buttons." You will hear them discussing and cussing the different shows, and the people involved. They will talk of new varieties that were shown, for the first time, and what they think of them. You will hear discussions on the merits of different potting mixtures, and their pet theories about how many times a year and what, the plants should be fed.

Speaking of "madness," only last night I was surprised in my lath house by someone placing the business end of a shot gun against my nose. To say that I was startled would be the understatement of the year! It turned out to be my friend and neighbor next door. I couldn't understand why he should think there was anything wrong. I had just gone out to the lath house with my flashlight to see if any of the grafts had started to callus over yet. In the dark, a callus will show a shadow in a direct light, when it isn't visible in the daylight. My friend informed me that he thought I was a prowler and he meant to catch him. I went back into

*(Continued on Page 27)*

# VERSATILITY OF THE CAMELLIA

By ELIZABETH COUNCILMAN

## CHAPTER VIII

### "THE POTTED PLANT; INDOORS AND OUT"

One of the most valuable aspects of the versatility of the Camellia, is its ready adaptability to tub or pot culture. The fact that the Camellia is a sub-tropical plant would climatically limit its being grown in many places, where it is now enjoyed, if this were not so.

Apart from the fact that, due to tub culture, the Camellia can be successfully grown in localities where it would otherwise climately be an impossibility, there are a great many other reasons why this type of culture is advantageous. I will elaborate by first bringing to mind the word "convenience."

For many people, and for various reasons, it is more convenient for them to grow their Camellias in containers. For instance, a man or woman may live in an apartment where he would not have available garden space to plant Camellias in the ground, and yet this is no reason that he or she cannot love Camellias and want to have some plants of their own. This is possible because the Camellia performs so beautifully in a "tub garden."

Many people with lovely gardens consider a number of tubbed Camellias just as important as their front lawn, for as the different varieties come into bloom, they can be moved where they will be the focal point in entrance ways and patios. In this way the full beauty of each variety can be enjoyed and appreciated as it unfurls its delicate blossoms.

For the collector, tub culture saves many laborious hours in transplanting, for in this manner, he can acquire and make a study of the new varieties of Camellias as they come out. He then is familiar with their

growth habits, blooming season, hardness and dependability before he gives them a permanent place in his garden. This gives him the opportunity of having a more beautifully landscaped Camellia garden, and his own private test garden at the same time.

For the people who are interested in showing their blossoms at Camellia Shows, which of course we all are, tub culture has a tremendous advantage, for the weather is as unpredictable as a winsome lass, and in this way you can protect your plants from unfavorable elements, by moving them into protected areas, because in tubs, they are portable. To expand on this phase of tub culture, you can control the humidity, temperature, and light, and in turn control to a large extent the size and time of your blooms. These things are of great importance in producing fine show flowers.

Also, many people who love Camellias, live in regions where the soil is totally unsuitable for favorable Camellia culture, and yet with the ease and convenience of tub culture, they can have beautiful Camellias with very little effort, for today, a good Camellia soil mix may be purchased commercially which leaves no guess work to your planting or tubbing Camellias.

Another advantage of container culture of the Camellia, from both a grower's and a customer's point of view, which I think should also be mentioned here, are the commercially container grown plants. Due to the fact that this Camellia is grown in a container, it is a salable plant at any time during the twelve months of the

*(Continued on Page 21)*



## To The Ladies!

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

Now is the time for all of us to prepare for the regular annual Camellia Show. We hope to exceed the high water mark set by our last show and many of us are of the opinion that the Women's Club House in San Marino is the ideal show place.

Now that we have enough specialists in the field, you can shop around and get the "low-down" on how they are feeding their prize winners. However, you want to remember that the feminine members are the accepted dietitians and usually handle their formulas carefully.

I happened to see a beautiful display of Camellias at Dinuba this past spring. They were exhibited by a veteran grower who grew Camellias in early times. She showed 60 fine Camellia blooms which had been organically fed; one food being snow-line leaf mold and the other, thoroughly composted dairy manure. The blooms were beautiful at the Bakersfield Camellia Show also. On the edge of the desert there is something about the climate which favors the growth of fine Camellias. The winter cold combined with hot summer weather and a plentiful supply of water approximates the climate of the homeland of the Camellia.

Summertime is the ideal time to visit the different areas where Camellias are grown. Every year I spend a week visiting the Sacramento and Chico areas viewing not only the test gardens but also searching out the veteran specimens which are approaching the century mark. We have a good number of Camellias in the Southern California area which are over fifty years old. Have you seen the oldsters on Terrace and Green in Pasadena? This garden produced that wonderful 'Joshua Youtz' which was

rescued and put on the market by Julius Nuccio.

Now that the Descanso Gardens of La Canada have come into the possession of the Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and are being operated for the benefit of all, we should show our appreciation of them. For years they have been famous both for the extent and the exotic beauty of the plantings of Camellia, grown in a primitive area of California live oaks.

The seasonal time table of Camellias begins with the *sasanquas* which are the first to bloom and are usually in full flower by the middle of October. The peak of *japonica* blooming season is reached in February, March and April. Following them are the beautiful companion plants: the azaleas, which are in full bloom during April, May and the early part of June. Other companion plants which add so much beauty to the floral displays and arrangements at Camellia Show time are the deciduous trees and shrubs which come to us from China such as the flowering plums, peaches, crabapples and peaches in great variety. Not to be overlooked are the magnificent Chinese magnolias, the early blooming *M. soulangeana* and the later *M. liliaflora*. This latter was brought to America by Lafayette and planted at Mt. Vernon in 1924 on the last visit he made to America. This is one of the parent plants of *M. soulangeana* which is a garden hybrid raised in France. It bloomed for the first time in 1826. The original *M. liliaflora* has survived all sorts of disasters and stump sprouted after the old conservatory burned. When I was at Mt. Vernon three years ago I hunted this plant up and had the

(Continued on Page 24)

# ANOTHER WAY TO SUMMER GRAFT

By DR. HERBERT SHIRLEY

For several years I have been trying out different ways to summer graft. I believe that if a graft calluses over in the summer and only makes a minimum amount of new growth it will have more chance of setting buds the following year than if the graft were made during the winter.

This kind of grafting can be called tip-grafting or top-grafting. It is best done in the summer because the sap is in the ends of the branches then, while in the winter or dormant season, the sap is in the roots and cannot supply food as far away as the ends of the branches.

The method is simple, the materials used the same as in winter grafting plus a cork and a pint size milk bottle.

## Technique

First get a cork large enough to fit into the milk bottle; bore a hole through it lengthwise, the size of the branch which you are grafting. Secondly, split the cork through the middle lengthwise.

With a clean sharp knife cut the branch to be grafted on a slant about 6 inches from the trunk. Split the branch and insert the scion so that the cambium layers match as you would do in regular cleft grafting. I like to use plastic tape over the graft so that it will fit the cork more snugly.

Next, fit the two halves of the cork together, over the graft, so that the end of the branch is flush with the end of the cork. Place the bottle over the cork *tightly*. Don't let the leaves touch the sides of the bottle.

Either paint the side of the bottle exposed to the sun, or tie a paper bag with a window cut in it on the side away from the sun. The graft needs a lot of humidity which it will get if the cork fits tightly. It also needs light but should not be exposed to the sun.

Best results are obtained after the first cycle of growth has hardened; that is in the middle of the summer, for the sap is already at the ends of the branches.

Summer grafts callus over much faster in the summer, 6 weeks usually. After callusing, I remove the bottle and put a paper bag with small holes cut in it over the graft, gradually making the holes larger to let in more air. I have removed the bottle without the bags, with no bad effects, but I prefer the bags.

This method is good for transforming some old Camellias that don't produce good blooms, into ones with some of the better blooming varieties.

## CLEARING HOUSE

Since our Nomenclature Book has been so busily thumbed by so many Camellia-philes, the Society's Secretary has received various inquiries as to where some of the varieties can be found.

It is very true, of course, that some varieties in the Nomenclature Book may no longer be propagated, or have already been found not to come up to standards hoped for them. The Review accepts only the responsibility of trying to find sources of varieties in which our readers are interested and are unable to find locally. We shall try, therefore, to be a sort of clearing house for this information. Where we fail, perhaps a reader will be able to supply the information. And anyone may send us names of varieties they would like to acquire.

The following list came from Dr. A. Scott Hamilton of Monroe, Louisiana, and we hope the data we have been able to assemble will be of help to him.

'Aristocrat,' Harvey Short, Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens, 889 N. Foothill

*(Continued on Page 15)*

# THE CAMELLIA REVIEW — YOUR MAGAZINE

By DR. JOHN A. CLAIMONT

*Chairman, Camellia Review Committee*

During the past year we have had many favorable comments on the improvement of the Review and much of the credit goes to Mrs. Elizabeth Beebe, our very capable editor.

Our magazine occupies a very enviable position in the Camellia world. Many of its members never can attend a meeting but nevertheless join so that they may get our literature.

We want members outside of California to submit articles that will be of interest to Camellia growers of many different areas. To maintain the high standard we have achieved and to keep moving ahead we must have new ideas and that is where you, the readers, come in. Mrs. Beebe will welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have that will make the Review the most outstanding publication of its kind.

This past year we have shown a great increase in membership and that in the southeastern part of the country is due in part to publicity given us by the "Camellian" and to such individuals as Dr. R. A. Womack who is associated with the very large and active Camellia Men's Club of Shreveport.

With the anticipated cooperation and interest of our members and readers, we look forward to a wonder-

ful season not only of Camellias but of the Camellia Review.

**CLEARING HOUSE** from Page 14  
Blvd., Pasadena, Calif. 'Kamo-Hon-Ami,' McIlhenny Nursery, Avery Island, La. 'Gigantea Alba,' Japanese source. 'Belden Page,' Roland J. Geimer, 222 Crescent Glen Dr., Glendora, Calif. 'Linda Barry,' McIlhenny. 'Gregorine,' Fruitland Nurseries, P.O. Box 910, Augusta, Georgia. 'George W. Towle,' China to San Francisco in 1890 through George Towle. 'Bonnie Prince Charles,' McIlhenny. 'Colvilii,' Australia. 'Duchess of Windsor,' Magnolia Gardens, Charleston, S.C. 'Dessa Thompson,' McCaskill Nursery, 25 So. Michillinda, Pasadena, Calif. 'Becky Sharp,' a 'Star Seedling' through William Husted. 'Alice Gaily,' Stanley Miller, San Diego, Calif. 'Betty Grandy,' care of Mrs. Charles R. Grandy, Norfolk, Virginia. 'White Hope,' Magnolia Gardens. 'White Princess,' probably a Japanese import. 'Brooklynia,' source is unknown. 'Brozzini Nove,' Australia. 'Paulson's White,' Tuttle Bros. Nursery, 729 W. Atlanta, Altadena, Calif. 'Comtesse Carini,' Verschaffelt thru McIlhenny. 'Biho,' source unknown. 'Maghutinin,' Guichard thru McIlhenny.

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## NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

### ORANGE COUNTY

Officers and Directors for the 1954 and 1955 year are as follows: President, Mr. Robert Powell, 109 Wright St., Santa Ana. Vice President, Mr. C. W. Adams, 18261 Serrano, Rt. 3, Orange. Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. George T. Butler, 1121 Orange Ave., Santa Ana. Directors, Mr. F. E. Kahen, 1233 W. Myrtle; Mrs. A. C. Honer, 615 W. Santa Clara St.; Mrs. Pearl Brigante, 321 Spurgeon Bldg., Mr. Deno Nelson, 1014 W. 20th St. and Mr. George T. Calhoun, 1111 N. Towner St., all of Santa Ana. Mr. Arthur E. Falk, 1124 Valencia Mesa Drive, Fullerton and Mr. W. H. Riffe, 1554 W. Washington St. of Santa Ana.

### TEMPLE CITY

Following are the officers who have been elected to serve on the Temple City Camellia Society Board of Directors for the year 1954-55:

Mel Morris, President .....	2530 Sycamore Dr., San Marino
Frank Ramsey, Vice President and Treasurer.....	2025 S. 4th St., Alhambra
Richard Noble, Program Chairman .....	7640 S. Danby Ave., Whittier
K. E. Barley, Show Chairman .....	5453 N. McCulloch, Temple City
L. R. Bryant .....	409 Coolidge Dr., San Gabriel
Mrs. Marian Burcky .....	1375 Bellwood Rd., San Marino
Arthur E. Krumm .....	2081 Summit Ave., Altadena
Ernest Pieri, Plant Procurement Chairman .....	601 E. Elm Ave., San Gabriel
Clarence D. Rose .....	6025 N. Muscatel, San Gabriel
Mrs. Margaret Vernaci .....	5838 S. Goldenwest Ave., Temple City

Good meetings are planned for the coming season. Outstanding speakers are being secured. Good plants of unusual varieties which are popular and in demand are being obtained by Plant Procurement Chairman Ernest Pieri.

The Temple City Camellia Society Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, February 26 and 27, 1955 at the Masonic Temple in Temple City.

### HEAR YE!

According to custom, the Temple City Camellia Society will start off its season with a breakfast to be held Sunday, October 10th from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Clarence Rose Camellia Nursery, 6025 North Mustcatel in San Gabriel. Everyone is invited. This is a good time for Camellia friends to get together for the season's planning.

Let's all go.

### POMONA VALLEY

Eight directors have been elected to the Pomona Valley Camellia Society to serve for the coming year. They are C. D. Cothran, San Dimas; Max England, La Verne; Mrs. George Pugsley, Pomona; Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Hein, Riverside; J. A. Holland, Upland; Mrs. Soby Yamamoto, Pomona, and Floyd Bunnelle, La Verne.

Mr. Holland is introducing a new seedling, the 'Onetia Holland.' It is described as being paper white with very high petals, deep yellow stamens in double to peony form five inches in diameter. It has highly glossy foliage and an upright, vigorous and compact growth. Mr. Holland is at present preparing to send plants of his new hybrid orchid-type Camellia to the testing gardens of the All-America Camellia Selections.

The Pomona Society's Garden Committee with a group of members gathered at the joint project Camellia show garden at Cal Poly on an April Saturday  
(Continued on Page 27)

## **Camellia MAIL BAG**

### **Mrs. Reuben Tellam Writes:**

In the December Review, in the Camellia Mail Bag, there appeared a note from J. O. Henry, Ramona, California, and I quote: "Speaking of Herbs vs. Camellias, we found a little \*..... in our camellia garden today."

Inferring that Mr. Henry is speaking (although most disrespectfully) of his camellias; we believe that we have discovered a grower of camellias who is unique in the camellia world. Now, of course, many camellia growers admit having a few \*..... in their camellia gardens, but always in that tone of voice that positively invites a chorus of denials and protests. But Mr. Henry publicly acknowledges the presence of one and in the light of the following facts, it looks as though he is telling the absolute truth.

At the Pomona Camellia Show there was a display made by the San Diego Camellia Society. Among the blooms there was a perfectly gorgeous 'Mrs. Charles Cobb'. A certain very lovely and charming lady from Pasadena saw this exquisite blossom and thought it certainly should be entered in competition and forthwith took the beautiful 'Mrs. Cobb' and registered her. Well, 'Mrs. Charles Cobb' raised by no other than J. O. Henry of Ramona was judged the most outstanding flower in the show. Shades of camellia growers! Enter one flower and have it take that top honor. Then just read the list of winners at the Southern California Camellia Show published in the last issue of The Review. The name of J. O. Henry appears not once or twice—but often.

Lucky J. O. Henry. We congratulate you for having such wonderfully

Harvey F. Short's

### **"Camellias of Tomorrow"**

**"THE PARADE IS ON"**  
See

**"Sunset Glory"**

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\* Rhymes with "thinker." We thought this was a very interesting letter but had to delete *that word* as we had promised on our editorial word of honor not ever to print it again.

### **New Process for Our Cover Colors**

Special attention should be given to the color of our Cover Flower. This was done by a three color process instead of the usual four-color and the cost was about one fifth of what the four-color plates cost.

If interested, more information about the process can be obtained from the Pioneer Printing Company, Incorporated, 824 E. Broadway in Glendale, California, where this magazine is printed.

## They Say . . .

*President Harold Dryden says:*

The appointment of Howard Asper to the Huntington Gardens is a compliment to the Southern California Camellia Society. He qualifies in every respect as a representative of our Society, as a member of long standing, former program chairman, former member of Board of Directors and more recently, one of our most interesting speakers. He richly deserves the opportunity to use his talents in the broader fields of the Huntington Gardens. We salute him!

*Ralph Peer, member of the Camellia Review Committee, says:*

Yes, I have known Howard since 1949, shortly after returning from a trip around the world. He was then Program Chairman of the Society, which is a good omen indeed. He will have one of the finest Camellia collections in the world under his supervision at Huntington.

Aside from the fact that he is one of the most considerate men ever to graduate from the nerve-racking nursery business, I must call attention to a horticultural accomplishment which has already been recorded in Camellia history. The various importations of Camellias from Kunming, China, now referred to as "Kunming Reticulatas," were turned over to him

for propagation in 1949. His feat in making them available for distribution to the public three years later marks him as a real horticultural genius.

Huntington Gardens is certainly fortunate to find a man of such great ability to carry on the Hertrich tradition. Our Society is honored because one of our old members, and one who has long been inoculated with the Camellia virus, has been chosen to continue the development of the world famous Camellia Garden.

*John H. Clairmont, Chairman Camellia Review Committee, says:*

The selection of Howard Asper for the position of Superintendent of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery is noteworthy. Mr. Asper has been a member of our Society for a number of years and we can expect continued progress in Camellia interest and in the Southern California Camellia Garden. This Garden is fortunate in getting a man of Mr. Asper's capabilities and the Review as well as the Society will benefit from Mr. Asper's appointment.

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*(Continued on Next Page)*

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## RENEWALS from Page 20

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## VERSATILITY OF CAMELLIA from Page 12

year — also, it is a transplantable plant at any time during the twelve months of the year, which is a benefit both to the grower and to the customer.

To sum up this Chapter, I would say that container culture of Camellias has potent advantages whether you live in New York, Virginia or California.

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garden



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**CAMELLIANA** from Page 10  
ness and engaging personality that flashes between the lines on every page.

Camellias form the solid basis of the book with plenty of real information about them; their propagation; advice as to varieties; pollinating; producing seedlings; working with sports; Camellia Societies and Shows.

If you are of a one-track Camellia mind, you can concentrate on the pages devoted exclusively to Camellias. It will be the feminine readers, we feel who will be the most highly entertained by this book and along with gleaning some extra Camellia knowledge will sympathize with Mrs. Councilman through her rough times, laugh with her at the cats, rejoice with her over her triumphs and admire her boundless energy and resolution to spread the beauty and inspiration of the genus Camellia.

**From Journal of the Royal Hort. Society, March, 1954**

*Question.* In a cold greenhouse I have three very vigorous Camellias of very great age, probably 150 years old. As they are fast growing through the roof I would be grateful for your advice as to how they should be pruned, if indeed these plants can be pruned.

*Answer.* Camellias respond to pruning quite well and may be cut back fairly hard. Without seeing the house and the plants it is difficult to give definite instructions, other than to say that the best time to prune hard back is immediately after flowering. If after pruning the plants are given frequently daily syringings they will break and grow away strongly. Do not interpret hard pruning to mean that a branch must be cut right back to the trunk; it is preferable to leave approximately 2 feet of the side branch. On the other hand it may not be necessary for you to cut your plants quite so hard.

*Ed. note: Don't they know in England that Camellias are trees?*

# **' ' CAMELLIAN ' '**

*A magazine devoted exclusively to*

**— CAMELLIAS —**

*Published January, March, September & November*

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**TO THE LADIES** from Page 13  
garden superintendent take a picture  
of it which shows the stump sprouts.

Two other groups of very green  
flowering shrubs which bloom at the  
height of the Camellia season are,  
(one) the brilliantly colored hybrid

leptospermums which run from pure  
white to glowing scarlet crimson and  
(two) the hybrid pink flowering  
raphiolepis. A number of nurseries  
offer the various pink forms of the  
latter. The deepest colored one is  
Coat's Crimson.

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*E. C. Tourje, Secretary Garden Committee says:*

To those of us who know Howard Asper it would seem that his training has pointed him toward this new high office for which he is so well qualified. His appointment is especially gratifying to the Camellia Garden Committee. His affection for Camellias and his extensive work with them make certain an ever increasing effort to keep the Camellia Garden one of the important units of the beautiful Huntington Gardens.

## YELLOW CAMELLIA from p. 4

We learned that this was a mutation discovered ten years ago on the variety "18 Scholars." My venerable friend had cut off the branch, rooted it and now has a bush more than six feet high. He keeps this in a private, well fenced garden at the rear of his home. We saw the actual plant, which still contained three blossoms.

### Here — At Last

After making certain that my venerable friend would forward several scions, we departed with one blossom, just to make sure that we had not been hypnotized. At our hotel we made various photographs. Perhaps due to the excitement of the moment, I regret to report that the color slides from my Leica are all out of focus. The yellow spot in the center of the blurred flower is, however, distinctly yellow—so we were not seeing things. I have other photographs taken with a movie camera, and hope that there will be a better result. So far, I have not been able to see my movie films.

The scions arrived in good order, and I am pleased to report that there are now four plants, all of which seem to be doing very well.

It is unfortunate that this completely double variety probably cannot be crossed with other japonicas. It is, however, in itself a most beautiful novelty and will, I hope, become quite popular.



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# INDEX OF "CAMELLIA REVIEW"

Volume 15, October, 1953 - July, 1954

First Figure indicates No., second figure indicates page.

## Articles

A Young Lady .....	3:7
Achieving Prize Winners .....	1:10
After the Show is Over .....	7:4
Alabama Produces New Camellia .....	6:7
Another Way to Summer Graft .....	8:14
Camellia Characters .....	3:6
Camellia Minded Community .....	1:15
Camellia Report from the Nation .....	4:14, 5:17
Camellia Review, Your Magazine .....	3:8
Camellias as Tubbed Plants .....	5:10
Camellias in Australia .....	3:3
Conversation Piece .....	7:8
Descanso Gardens Reopened .....	6:8
Divine Herb .....	5:7
First All-America Camellia Selections .....	2:4
Growing Seedlings This Year? .....	8:8
Herbert Swim Talks .....	7:21
Herbs and Shrubs with Camellias .....	2:19
How to Handle Camellia Blooms .....	1:14
How to Plant Container-Grown Camellias .....	1:14
Howard Asper Goes to Huntington .....	7:11
Howard Asper Talks .....	7:9
In Memoriam, David McLain .....	5:4
International Code of Nomenclature .....	3:12
Jean May is a Real Girl .....	2:13
Just Talking Things Over .....	8:10
Leaky Containers? .....	6:13
Let's Support our Affiliate Societies .....	4:11
Long Range Problems .....	5:8
Los Angeles Camellia Society .....	2:7
Loyal Opposition .....	3:12
Memorial Camellia .....	4:3
New Hybrid Camellia .....	1:3
New Name for a Very Old Camellia .....	Notes from Annual Garden Committee
Report .....	8:6
Pomona Show Garden .....	1:6
Report on Summer Grafts .....	1:17
Rock Mulch .....	1:10
Room for One More Camellia .....	1:17
S C Camellia Garden Opens .....	4:10
S C Camellia Garden Opens Officially .....	5:3
Story of The Meredith Lakes .....	1:4
Story of One Tap Root .....	6:5
Some Experimenting in Crossing Pollinated Seedlings .....	6:6
Summer Madness .....	8:11
Temple City Does it Without Headaches .....	3:11
Ten Days Plus Determination .....	5:13
We Found Camellias in Unexpected Places .....	2:12

## Authors

Atherton, Lucien .....	4:7
Batcheller, O. A. ....	1:6
Betts, Kay .....	6:8
Bradford, Jane .....	1:10

Bryant, Lawrence R. ....	6:13
Chidamian, Claude .....	3:6
Clairmont, Adele .....	3:3
Clairmont, John F. ....	8:10; 8:15
Cook, David .....	5:7
Councilman, Elizabeth .....	1:8; 2:16; 3:10; 4:12; 5:14; 6:14; 7:18; 8:12
Griffiths, Austin Jr. ....	5:17
Hagen, Willard .....	7:21
Hahn, Jacques .....	3:8
Hastie, C. Norwood, Jr. ....	4:6
Hazlewood, Walter G. ....	5:10
Hertrich, William .....	3:7; 6:5
Hoak, Charlotte .....	2:6; 3:19; 5:6; 6:12; 7:20; 8:13
Johnson, Evelyn .....	2:2
Katz, Sigmund .....	4:8
Littlefield, A. J. ....	1:19
Marks, Zita .....	5:13
Mason, "Chic" .....	2:13; 8:11
Mathias, Mildred .....	5:4
Mueller, Elmer .....	1:14; 6:6
Olrich, Jerry .....	4:8
Peer, Ralph .....	1:13; 4:3; 8:3
Pieri, Ernest .....	3:11
Sawada, K. ....	4:4
Sears, Andrew F. ....	4:5
Shirley, Herbert .....	1:17; 8:14
Short, Harvey F. ....	1:11; 7:4
Thompson, Roy .....	4:11
Thurnher, Erna .....	2:19
Tinkham, Alicia C. ....	5:8
Tourje, E. C. ....	2:4
Wilkerson, Isabell .....	1:15
Wright, Janet .....	2:7

## News, Notes and Notices

Kern County .....	1:21; 5:18
N. Carolina Camellia Society .....	3:16
Orange County .....	1:21
Pacific Camellia Society .....	3:16; 4:17; 5:19; 8:1
Pomona .....	3:17; 4:17; 5:19; 7:16; 8:1
Sacramento .....	1:21
Santa Ana .....	5:18
Santa Clara County .....	1:21; 2:21
Temple City .....	2:10; 5:19

## Features

Camellia Dictionary .....	1:7; 2:9; 3:8
Camellia Reviewer .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, page 2
Camelliana .....	1:21; 2:8; 3:9; 4:16; 5:15; 6:16; 8:10
Mail Bag .....	1:9; 3:13; 4:10; 5:17; 6:7; 7:13; 8:17
SCCS Meetings .....	3:4; 4:13; 5:8; 6:3; 7:10
To the Ladies .....	2:6; 3:19; 5:6; 6:12; 7:20; 8:13
Versatility of the Camellia .....	1:8; 2:16; 3:10; 4:12; 5:14; 6:14; 7:18; 8:12

## Illustrations

<i>C. japonica</i> 'Alabamian' .....	1:16
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Confederate' .....	1:3
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Margie Dee Fisher' .....	1:3
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Marjorie Townsend' .....	3:7
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Meredith Lake' .....	1:5
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Mitissa' .....	1:4
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Mrs. Eddinger' .....	4:9
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Pink Clouds' .....	3:26
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Sweet Bon Air' .....	4:6
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Walter D. Bellgrath' .....	6:7
<i>C. japonica</i> 'White Empress' .....	4:4
<i>C. reticulata</i> 'Robert Fortune' .....	1:13
<i>C. sasanqua</i> 'Fluted White' .....	2:3
<i>C. sasanqua</i> 'Jean May' .....	3:12
<i>C. Williamsii</i> 'Sir Francis Hanger' .....	3:3
Camellia Planting at Temple City .....	5:9
Camellia Seeds .....	1:9
Camellia Show Pictures .....	7:5
David W. McLain .....	7:9
Dr. Reuben Tellam and F. E. Vensel .....	6:15
Foretaste of the Show .....	6:3
Herbert Swim .....	8:9
Howard Asper .....	8:5
Marjorie Townsend .....	3:7
Meredith Lake .....	1:4
Mrs. Vernacci & Mr. Rogers .....	1:15
Mrs. W. H. Bonner and Eleanor Hayward .....	6:4
Official Camellia Garden Opening .....	5:3
Preview of Seedlings .....	6:9
San Diego Planters .....	7:15
Tap Root .....	6:5
Walter D. Bellgrath .....	6:7
William Hertrich Award .....	7:3
William Hertrich Honored .....	7:3
Year's Winner .....	8:3

## Covers

<i>C. japonica</i> 'Wildwood' .....	1
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Mary Charlotte' .....	2
<i>C. sasanqua</i> 'Jean May' .....	3
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Ruth Royer' .....	4
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Mathotiana Supreme' .....	5
<i>C. reticulata</i> 'Butterfly Wings' .....	6
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Lady Clare' .....	7
<i>C. japonica</i> 'Sun-up' .....	8

## SUMMER MADNESS

from Page 11

the house and on thinking it over decided he might have a point in his favor. You see, I couldn't sleep that night and about two o'clock in the morning I had decided it would be an ideal time to inspect my grafts. My friend and neighbor doesn't like flowers and couldn't understand my actions. If you were to ask him he would swear that I'm as "mad as a hatter."

I once heard psychiatrist say that madness was not as bad as some would have us believe. He said that a person who was "mad" lived in a world of his own and was happy there—that he retreated into this world to be free of the worries and troubles that were bedeviling him. Well, tell me honestly, fellow "worshippers at the shrine of the Camellia," isn't that what each of us do? When I come home at night, worried, despondent, or angry, I retire to the lath house and there I am in a little world of my own making, where everything unpleasant is shut out, and only the pleasure, peace, and satisfaction that comes from being with my Camellias is there for me. If this be "Summer Madness," then may I never return to sanity!

## NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES from Page 16

and hoed weeds, cleaned paths and planted 15 more Camellias.

Dee Cothran is using a special mix to neutralize the alkaline San Dimas water and is getting good growth results. This mixture, iron sulphate and sulphuric acid run through a proportioner making a pH6 result, slows washing the alkali out of the cans.

## PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Officers and Directors of 1954-55 are as follows: President, R. F. Dickson; Vice President, Alton B. Parker; Secretary, Mrs. Sidney Harris; Treasurer, A. W. Garner. Directors in addition to the above are Dr. E. Clark Hubbs, Lon Storey, John C. Robinson, Mrs. John H. Urabeck and Howard Asper.

**Show dates for 1955 have been set for February 19th and 20th.**

The Camellia plants donated by members of the Pacific Camellia Society were auctioned off by the League for Crippled Children for over \$400 last year and the Society is planning to outdo this figure during the coming year.

## CAMELLIA REVIEWER

from Page 2

Don't you love to feel superior with a bit of information like this. We hope you all start using the word. Its derivation is certainly a dark mystery.

### The Fates Are Kind

We noticed an extra perking-up among Huntington Garden Camellia plants the other day when Howard Asper assumed his newly appointed duties. Fortunate for us to have Mr. Asper as our new boss in the Huntington Botanical Office. Fortunate too is the Camellia Garden and also the Camellia Review, and—O yes, also to have Mrs. Howard Asper in the back-ground—as pretty as her Camellia. Fortunate all around.

A 21-Camellia salute is in order.

### To Close the Subject

There seems to be a dog house just our size that says "R. L. Wheeler" over the entrance. Not having proper information about the color plates of this beautiful *C. japonica* we were recently told in no uncertain terms by Frank Griffin of the Camellian that the plates we used were paid for by Mr. Wheeler himself who then gave permission to Mr. Griffin to loan them to us. Mr. Doak owns the original negatives of the picture taken in his greenhouse. Please all of you accept credit for every bit and allow this harassed editor to close the door of the "R. L. Wheeler."

### We Like This

"The real gardener with a love for plants, a knowledge of their habits and requirements, one who has acquired his art through years of study and observation . . . is almost always an interesting character from whose conversation one can derive both pleasure and profit." This is quoted from the latest "Grapevine"—the monthly publication of Evans and

Reeves Nurseries, and written by one of Southern California's patriarchs of horticulture, Hugh Evans. We think it would be equally true if the word "Camellias" was substituted for "plants."

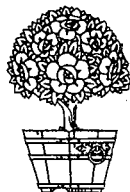
### What a Radionic Fancy!

From the March Bulletin of the Oregon Camellia Society, quote: "On one of his *Five Star Final* newscasts on KOIN at 10:00 p.m. Jim Wyatt used as his 'tag line' a story about Ralph Peer, Los Angeles Camellia fan who was going on an around-the-world trip and searching for the lost 'yellow' Camellia. He stated that this lost yellow Camellia is supposed to be located in the war zone of northern Indo-China and ended his story with 'Even Camellias are going to war now'. Wotta world!"

### It's Summer Time

This is all then until October when we shall pick up Camellia news like crazy — sniff out the unusual and watch for the unfolding of a million blooms — and words about them. Have fun — you all — on your vacations and take along a notebook so you can jot down any news of Camellias that comes your way from vacationing spots—and send it in so our readers can enjoy it too. We feel in our bones (and with some concrete evidence also) that this is to be a big year in the Camellia world — and especially right here in Southern California so take it easy while you can — there's a lot of activity ahead says

Liz



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