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Camellia Review



C. JAPONICA MARY CHARLOTTE

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Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

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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 regular precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

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

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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	

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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

It's Still Thanksgiving Hot or Cold

Warm weather Thanksgivings never have appealed to us as keenly as the Minnesota Thanksgivings of our youth, when we went ice skating before coming in to our warm home redolent with the holiday smells of turkey and mince pies. Still, as always, we are thankful for the opportunity to be either where it is warm or cold, and more than thankful now to live among camellia gardens rather than fields ravaged by war. It would not be far wrong to call this a Fifth Freedom.

* * *

Camellias, Take the Stand!

Were you ever brought up short? This we experienced not long ago in talking to our friend Janet Wright. "You know, Camellias are not my first love," she remarked casually. Then there was a dead silence such as might precede an atomic explosion. What heresy! How could such a thing be? We gathered our shattered nerves together long enough to suggest that she actually put down on paper her astounding and unorthodox feelings. And, having somewhat recovered from our initial shock and realizing that after all this is the land of free thinking, we are now pleased to include her article in this magazine and to invite readers to submit their reactions to its contents.

Our own might be summed up tritely as "Why gild the lily?" And, naturally, we cannot refrain from commenting lightly "O non-scents!"

* * *

Green Thumbs Not Needed

Rather disturbing to the orthodox camellia grower but comforting to an amateur is the unexpected way that Camellias can act. As for instance while we were discussing seed

culture with Evelyn Johnson, Mr. Johnson told us that last year she was worried because she had not had time to prepare flats properly to sow her seeds. Some one had told her "to throw them on the ground and stamp them in." Following these explicit instructions, Mrs. Johnson nonchalantly broadcast her seed and now, she has a dozen or more hardy little seedlings. It certainly takes a Camellia to adapt itself to circumstances that would definitely dash some other flower.

* * *

New Catalog

One of the loveliest (and we use the term advisedly) catalogues we have seen in many a day is the new Nuccio Nurseries catalog of Camellias for 1954. From the pastel-colored cover framing the exquisite Camellia Sasanqua Jean May through many vivid varieties to the gay C. Japonica Donckelaari on the back cover, the book is a delight.

A wide variety and selection of camellias is offered in the catalogue. The tried and true of many years are listed as well as the newest introductions. We advise you to treat yourself to one of these enchanting catalogues by sending a card to the Nuccio Nurseries.

* * *

Happy Error

The most apt typographical error we have come across in a gardening magazine was in a caption under a picture labeling the flower a "Glamellia." Sort of imparts a bit of unplanned glamor to our flower, don't you think?

* * *

Sow A Fine Seed

Who will be able to resist trying his hand at raising a few Camellias from seed after reading Mr. Tourje's article in this issue? There are seed aplenty now to be had as the crop was good from the Huntington Camellia Garden and Col. Gale, Secretary

(Continued on Page 28)

The Unknown Beauty



Courtesy Huntington Botanical Gardens

In February 1951, the Huntington Camellia Garden was presented with a *Camellia Sasanqua* which has grown now to a plant nearly five feet tall and last year produced the beautiful blossom shown in the photograph classified as Fluted White.

Prodigal with its riches, the plant has proved to be a prolific bloomer during November and December, producing masses of pure white flowers many of them four inches across.

But who was it that first bred this beautiful *Sasanqua*? Who was the grower first thrilled by the first lovely blooms? Who named it Fluted White?

Do any of our readers know any of the historical background of this outstanding *Sasanqua*?

GROWING SEEDLINGS THIS YEAR?

By E. C. TOURJE

The camellia crop is bountiful. The harvest is good and the seeds of seedling excellent quality. The price should be reasonable and if you have heretofore "tried your hand" at camellia seedling culture, this will be a year to start. If you have tried it before, well, you know it's like chain smoking or any other habit. It is difficult to break and why should we want to break it?

A Rewarding Hobby

I am sure that those of you who have grown seedlings will agree that this is one of the most interesting of all hobbies. We don't know what we are going to get or even when we are going to get it. I once heard an internationally famous commercial grower say that he had grown fifty thousand seedlings in order to get two dozen varieties worthy of introduction. And yet the famous successes of Harvey Short of Ramona, California (now residing in Pasadena), and Harper Wilkinson of Pensacola, Florida, came from what might be termed a mere handful of seeds. Moreover, to those who proclaim that good seedlings can come only from good parentage, I point out that the exquisite Margarete Hertrich was surrounded by nothing but wild plants. Interesting? Try it once and find out for yourself.

To me the most fascinating factor in seedling culture, however, is the excitement and interest and satisfaction in watching the little beggars develop. I realize that the seed germinating period comes at the average nurseryman's busiest time of the year and that he must pursue his own methods even though it does take a year or two longer. Then, too, more likely than not he wants to keep a record of the parentage of his seedlings. Therefore, the germinating and growth methods prevailing when the Dakotas were cultivated by hand plows, still prevail among some of the nurserymen.

Start Out Right

But to you amateurs who have a little extra time to devote to the pursuit and want to get a real thrill out of growing seedlings, I suggest that you turn back to the Research Book* and read again the methods there recommended. It's the difference between growing a puppy by hand or by foot. You limit the puppy in direct ratio to the amount of handling you give him and the interest you take in his development.

In the article to which I referred I fear that I did not sufficiently stress the importance of keeping the germinating media, especially peat, *moist*, not *wet*. If you can wring water from it, rest assured that it is much too wet.

Furthermore, when you have pinched the tap root and inserted the pinched portion in the flat of sand, be certain that you do not bury the seed but that you merely sprinkle enough sand around it to hold it firm. Then place the box in strong light. This is neither the time nor place for a detailed discussion of the reasons why, but if you wish to know, I refer the reader to the January 1953 issue of the Camellian, published by Frank Griffin & Son, Columbia, South Carolina. The article is entitled "About Light," and written by this author. Here is described in detail the performance of one of nature's miracles which is paralleled only by the miracle of the inception of life itself. These little seedlings manufacture their own food.

(Continued on Next Page)

CAMELLIA THANKSGIVING

A November message from AUGUST KAPP

As the flowering season approaches we give thanks to the successes we may have had and the kind forgiveness of Nature for the myriad assaults upon her to improve the perfection of our beloved flower.

Over for the moment are the worries of spring and summer. Ahead lies the unfolding of each new blossom to gladden the heart of the understanding and the uninitiated alike.

Thankful are we that each plant blooms in its ordained manner, yet ever hopeful to be blessed with a wonderful new variety.

Thank Thee, O Lord, for this brightness in our drab wintry gardens.

Seedlings from Page 4

The Patient

May I also urge that during the not development period the seedlings left in the sand box. The urge is to get them out and into your favorite potting mix. Resist this urge and wait until the plumule is up four or five inches. By this time the root system will consist of eight or ten, or perhaps a dozen lateral roots stemming from the point at which you pinched the tap. These roots will then be free to four or more inches long and covered with feeder fibers. Your plant will then be ready for a gallon can. You'll be ashamed to put it in a four inch pot. If you have any doubt about the time for removing your seedlings from the sand, take them out and examine them. These little fellows do not resent being handled. In fact, they seem to love it, as a puppy loves being handled.

Within reason, the longer you leave these seedlings in the sand the better. The root system is better prepared for the all too often heavy container and its frequently soggy condition.

If you are investigative and have the urge to observe and compare the varying results you might try feeding some of your seedlings while they

are still in the sand. Use differing quantities of mild solutions of your favorite liquid fertilizer. You will be interested in the results. So will the Editor of the Review. Keep her informed of the conclusions which you reach.

The chief deterrent factor in seedling culture for amateurs has been the long period of time between seed germination and blooming — usually from five to six or more years. This is no longer true. I have seen six-foot blooming plants 18 to 24 months from the time of seed germination. It is possible for you to duplicate this through modern and improved practices. Why not try it?

* Tourje, "Camellia Seedling Culture,"
Camellia Research, Southern California
Camellia Society.

ENGLISH AWARDS

According to the August 1953 issue of the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, Awards of Merit were won by the following Camellias: C. Japonicas Alba Simplex, Snow Goose, Apollo, Elegans, Hatsu-Sakura, Nagasaki and Prince Frederic William: Camellia Williamsii Francis Hanger.

It is noted that single flower forms are much preferred by the English.

TO THE LADIES

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK
Horticultural Editor of Golden Gardens

Every year when I go north to Sacramento, the Camellia City, I make a point to visit some of the old camellia plantations in that area. I call it a habit which has been confirmed, "Visiting Old Camellia Shrines."

This year I planned to visit three of these shrines: the Pioneer Camellia Grove on the State Capitol Grounds, the Preston Garden and Rosebud Farm.

I was particularly interested in the Pioneer Camellia Grove because on June 7th, 1953, the Sacramento Parlor of the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West placed a bronze tablet there and established it as a living memorial to the early builders of California in recognition of their courage, determination and contribution toward progress in the community and our golden state.

Many and many a pioneer bride cherished her "Japonicas" as they called camellias in those days. Alba Plena and Pink Perfection occupied places of honor in the newly established gardens. My Mother's favorite was the much loved Alba Plena whose immaculate beauty she greatly admired in the early camellia flower shows staged by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in Boston. In 1869, when she came west to live the remainder of her life in her Land of Promise, she saw her favorite in the flower shops of San Francisco, and learned that it grew in the open as freely as other evergreen shrubs. Immediately it was one of her "must haves," along with the silvery pink Hybrid Tea Rose, La France.

The Pioneer Grove is planted in a particularly beautiful section of the Capitol Park underneath the shade of venerable wide-spreading Eastern elms with here and there a stately Southern magnolia.

As I walked around I jotted down the names of some of the Camellias. Because of frequent transplanting, many of the oldest Camellias are not as large as you would expect them to be. Some of them are really old timers: Alba Plena, Purity, Belgium Red and Peoniflora (the parent plant). Uncle Sam, one of these old timers, is growing vigorously; Colonel Firey, which is really C. M. Hovey, named

for the old Boston Camellia grower. In this fine collection on the Capitol Grounds, here are a few of the names I copied from the labels: Purity, Chandler Elegans, Colonel Firey (C. M. Hovey), Clarke's Red (San Francisco), Grandiflora rosea (La France), Lady Campbell, Kumasa (Beni-Kirin), Panache, Prince of Bachinachi, Tricolor (Siebold), Belgium Red (Romany) and Enrico Bononi were in this assemblage. A complete list could be obtained from Jerry Olrich, the State Gardener.

On the Joseph Preston grounds at 917 G Street, there is a very old planting of Camellias made in 1869 at the time the two-story house was built. On first sight they look almost like citrus trees with their large, well-defined trunks. The original owner, Mr. and Mrs. Eglar, came from Germany and Austria. It is said that they imported their stock from abroad. Among these vigorous old camellia trees are Pink Perfection, Jordan Pride, Alba Plena, Alba Plena Fimbriata, a beautiful unnamed red, (S. Angra perhaps?) and John Lyon.

With great sorrow we record the passing of the much-loved owner of the famous Rosebud Farm, Mrs. E. E. Ingler, late this summer. We honor Rosebud Farm by using the picture of the old pioneer home with its Camellias as the cover of the Sacramento

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THE LOYAL OPPOSITION

By JANET WRIGHT

Editor of *Lasca Leaves*

Should one for whom camellias are not a first love write about them at all? Your editor thought so. Hence the risk is taken.

The study of camellias from a horticultural point of view should be one of the first qualifications for discussing them, but the author of this brief article cannot even claim that distinction for she only records such studies as others are engaged in—assisting in research on the camellia. Which brings to mind the humbling remark once made by a literary in a clownish mood—philosophic Shakespearean clown!: “when you take the ideas of one person and record them it’s called plagiarism; when you gather ideas from many persons and record them it’s called research.”

In any case, there are points *pro* and *con* for choice of camellias in the garden—or at the doorstep. 1) they are undeniably satisfactory ornamental evergreens; 2) few cultural problems; 3) simplest cultural technique; 4) in certain instances, breath-takingly lovely flowers—in the words of Verschaffelt speaking of Teutonia, “close to perfection”. This latter point is freely conceded with regard to *C. reticulata* Tali Queen, for example, or, more chastely, *japonica* Miya; or even Pink Perfection, in its profuseness and familiarity, has a certain engaging quality. Why then the reluctant admiration?

The appeal of Colonial Lady may give a partial answer: its crisp beauty catches the eye. My first impulse is to smell it. A fragrance? No. The Santa Barbara carnation which it roughly resembles, *speaks*. Its spicy fragrance enraptures it beyond all reason. A Sweet Bay—another splendid evergreen like the camellia—in garden or in tub; a Myrtle in the rain; a Lemon Verbena in the heat of mid-summer—all these yield balm to the soul. All these truly have souls, for did not Baudelaire say that fragrance is the soul of flowers? Plants are people, have personalities to me as well as to many another “dirt garden”—the hard-boiled realist protests (but as the saying goes, who wants to be hard-boiled? The egg, as such, will never fly.)

This is the point at which I am discovered. My best loves in the garden are among the aromatic and sweet smelling herbs. What can equal the instant refreshment a bed of mint can bring—Mint Julep mint—especially in the rain—or if it must be, after sprinkling; or the half-spicy tang of Sweet Basil on summer and autumn evenings? Or the pungent greeting of Rosemary foliage brushed passing? Or Lemon Verbena—*Lippia citriodora*, Cedron to Mediterranean and South American hearts who have grown up with the invigorating scent of it on the air from its abundant growth in the hills? Even bitter Rue has its charm, like a rugged, testy character one grows to love, not with tenderness perhaps, but with respect and genuine liking,—its curious metallic grey-green foliage catches and holds like jewels any moisture in the air from rain or dew and at the same time sends out its acrid scent to identify itself as one passes through the garden. I feel about Rue much as Henry Beston did when he wrote in his *Herbs and the Earth*: “were it to come to pass that I could have but two plants in the garden, Rue would always be the other one”. Its bright golden cruciform blossoms glow in the garden nine months of the year, and the other three the foliage is a joy to look at, to use in arrangements, or to smell!

The autumn of the year brings another plant to bloom, not an herb but an evergreen shrub which should have a place in every garden, so sturdy, so

(Continued on Page 24)

Camelliana

Oregon News!

The September issue of the Bulletin of the Oregon Camellia Society contains an interesting account of the presentation of a special citation awarded to Barney Goletta who has a nursery at Milwaukie, Oregon. Mr. Goletta's picture shows him smiling broadly as he proudly holds his Citation. In part the Citation reads, quote, "Because of his outstanding achievements in the growing and developing of standard and new varieties of camellias and for his liberal contributions to the Oregon Camellia Society." New varieties developed by Mr. Goletta include *Sweet Bonair*, *Monte Carlo*, *Napoleon Bonaparte*, *Alba Queen*, *President Lincoln* and *Lilly White*.

* * *

George Forrest

In "George Forrest, Journeys and Plant Introductions," which was published in 1952 by the Oxford University Press for the Royal Horticultural Society, the Editor, Dr. J. Macqueen Cowan includes a short but meaty chapter on Camellias.

Dr. Cowan states that, quote, "one of Forrest's most important contributions to horticulture was the introduction of *Camellia saluenensis*." He goes on to say that the seed was originally sent home by Forrest under the name *Camellia speciosa* but when it was first flowered by Mr. J. C. Williams at Caerhays in Cornwall, it was recognized by Stapf. Forrest had collected his specimens from the stony hillside of the volcanic mountains northwest of Tengyueh at altitudes from 6-9,000 feet. The *Camellia saluenensis* grown from Forrest's seed at Exbury and Kew most nearly resembled the wild material.

Hybrids of this species have proved excellent decorative shrubs for they have proved very hardy in Camellia

SHOW COMING IN MARCH

The Southern California Camellia Society will hold its annual Camellia Show on March 13th and 14th.

Mr. Dan M. Sullivan is in charge of all arrangements.

areas and shed their dead flowers. They also produce an abundance of large single flowers over a long season. Lord Aberconway and Professor Sir William Wright Smith group these under the name *Camellia Williamsii* with outstanding varieties including J. C. Williams, Donatella, Mary Christian and St. Ewe.

Dr. Cowan also gives an account of the introduction of the true *reticulata* and the delightful but little known species *C. Tsaii*. The article is beautifully illustrated by photographs of *Camellia saluenensis*, *Camellia x Williamsii* and the exquisite *Camellia Reticulata Trewithen Pin*.

* * *

Sasanquas In the Sunset

Headed by a fine photograph of *C. Sasan*. Showa-no Sakae, the October number of the Sunset Magazine presents an interesting article on the New Sasanquas. The author states that two main reasons for the increasing popularity of *C. Sasanquas* are, quote, "the introduction and availability of new improved varieties and an increasing awareness of landscaping value."

A list of the varieties follows, classified according to colors. Also there is a description of ways in which to use Sasanquas which include groupings, covers, espaliers, standards and hanging baskets.

* * *

More On Camellia Seeds

In line with our article on seed culture this month is the feature "New Camellias from Seed," written

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Camelliana from Page 8

Mr. K. Sawada which appears in the September issue of the Camellian. Mr. Sawada emphasizes the importance of using seed from good flower parentage. He gives several methods which help to shorten the time of blooming. Like Mr. Tourje, Mr. Sawada obviously considers raising camellias from seed a rewarding and exciting hobby as he says, quote, "One can hardly realize the anticipation and the great pleasure that is in the camellia breeder's when new seedlings are about to bloom."

Golden Gardens

The cover of the September issue of the Golden Gardens Magazine has a special appeal for our readers as it features an old home near Sacramento almost buried in Camellia bushes many years old. A. C. Japonica Wakanoura is 25 feet tall, spreading over 37 feet with a trunk 37 inches in diameter, while a C. Japonica variety bush is nearly 30 feet high.

This property is known as the Rosebud Farm, a real Camellia shrine. In describing it and the wonderful Camellias there the magazine article states that when the American Camellia Society visited the Farm these trees

OUR COVER FLOWER

Camellia connoisseurs can not fail to be enchanted by the C. Japonica Mary Charlotte which was introduced by Descanso Distributors, Inc. in 1948.

A prolific mid-season bloomer the flower is medium-sized anemone-form and of a delicate pink somewhat resembling the C. M. Wilson. The shrub grows quite compactly and upright.

The Mary Charlotte has increased tremendously in popularity in the last few years and is regarded as a most desirable variety.

**IT WILL PAY
TO PATRONIZE
CAMELLIA
REVIEW
ADVERTISERS**

were pronounced the largest Camellia trees in the United States.

The Rosebud Farm is given a tribute by Charlotte Hoak who is one of our authors this month.

CAMELLIA DICTIONARY

Continued

Ed. Note: The following English translations of Japanese names of Camellia sanquas will be included in the new nomenclature book now in preparation.

Kobi-Goromo Beautiful Coat
Kana-No-Yuki Snow on Flower
Kazano-Nishiki Brocade of Garden
Kashidate A Place Noted for its View
Katsunishiki Brocade of Firstling
Katsun-Yuki First Snow of Season
Kasode-Guma Dawn Cloud
Kasode-No-Yuki
Snow in Sunrise; Snow in Dawn
Karyo Scarlet Bird
Karyo-Nishiki Scarlet Bird's Brocade
Kashi-Hiryu Star of Dragon
Kasuma Lightning
Kasoma-Gasa Double Ringed Umbrella

Kara-Koromo Chinese Coat
Kari-Goromo Hunting Suit
Keiun Suspicious Cloud
Kenkyo Astonishment
Kokyo-No-Nishiki Brocade of Home
Mado-No-Tsuki Moon at Window
Mai-No-Sode Dancing Sleeve
Maizuru Dancing Crane
Manyo-Zaki Antique Style
Matsu-No-Yuki Snow on Pine
Meigetsu Full Moon
Mochi-No-Shio High Tide
Momozono Peach Garden
Momozono-Nishiki Peach Garden Shaded

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CAMELLIA COMPETITION

April 14 and 15: The Royal Horticultural Society's Camellia Competition which was held in the New Hall, Westminster, in conjunction with the Society's fortnightly show, attracted many excellent exhibits and competition was very keen. The most successful competitor was C. Armytage Moore, Esq. (gr. Mr. T. Conway), Cranleigh, Surrey, who led in 13 classes, followed by Edmund L. De Rothschild, Esq. (gr. Mr. F. Wynnatt), Exbury, who led in nine classes and S. Barranger, Esq. (gr. Mr. A. Watmore), Weybridge, who led in seven classes. In Section One for single blooms, S. Barranger, Esq. won first prizes for single blooms of the following varieties of Camellia Japonica: Contessa Lavinia Maggi, Mathotiana alba, rubescens major, Mathotiana rosea and Gloire de Nantes. The winning blooms of C. Armytage Moore, Esq. included specimens of C. nobilissima, Adolphe Audusson, magnoliaeflora and Lady Clare. Edmund L. de Rothschild, Esq. led with the varieties Whimsy Swan, Lady de Saumarez, C. reticulata, wild form, C. saluenensis, J. C. Williams and Elizabeth de Rothschild.

The Commissioners of Crown Lands, Windsor Great Park, won first prizes with blooms of alba grandiflora, Hatsu-Sakura, Devoniensis and Salutaria. Messrs. J. Waterer, Sons and Crisp, Ltd. led in three classes in this section (Mathotiana rosea, Preston rose and platypetala); Miss E. Goodman (gr. Mr. J. Collins), Horsham (Mathotiana and imbricata alba), The Hon. Lady Norman (Mr. G. Street), Chiddingfold, Surrey (Donkelaari and Gloire de Nantes), Sir Giles A. Loder, (gr. Mr. Lee), Leonardslee, Horsham, Sussex (Lady Clare and Lady Audrey Butler) and R. Try, Esq. Windsor (alba simplex) led in two classes each. Other first prize winners were D. F. Leney, Esq. (gr. Mr. C. Buller), Haslemere (Mathotiana) and Sir George Jessel, Br. (gr. Mr. R. J. Philpott), Goudhurst, Kent (Jupiter).

In Section Two, in which each species, variety or hybrid had to be represented by one spray C. Armytage Moore, Esq. led in four classes (Lady Clare, reticulata, magnoliaeflora, Chandleri elegans, Donkelaari and Devoniensis). Edmund L. de Rothschild, Esq. led in two classes (cuspidata and reticulata), as did Sir Giles Loder, Br. (alba simplex, Lady McCulloch and althaeaflorea). Dr. Frederick Waller, Ditchling, Sussex, led in one class (japonica elegans), as did S. Gallanger, Esq. (eximia, rubescens major and Donkelaari) and The Commissioners of Crown Lands, Windsor Great Park.

There were three classes in Section Three. Edmund L. de Rothschild led for a specimen plant in bloom (saluenensis hybrid); Messrs. J. Waterer, Sons and Crisp, Ltd. led for three plants in bloom; and Sir Giles Loder, Br. for a vase of Camellias (Lady McCulloch and althaeaflorea).

Permission for the reprinting of the above article which appeared in the issue of May 2, 1953, *Gardener's Chronicle*, was obtained by Mr. Ralph Peer.

NEWS, NOTES and NOTICES

TEMPLE CITY SOCIETY

ZETA MARKS REPORTS

Temple City Camellia Society held their annual kick-off Breakfast the week end in September. Each year it is held at a different nursery, this year the locale being the sign of the Big Red Camellia, Marshall's Camellia Nursery, 6747 N. Rosemead Blvd. Marshalls have a beautiful tree-covered patio.

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rear of the nursery, where breakfast was served, with the male members of the Society acting as chefs. The men cooked and served bacon and eggs, potatoes, lots of home-made biscuits and jam, orange juice, milk and coffee. They seemed to enjoy their role as chefs and served an excellent meal. Mr. Dryden, new President of Southern California Camellia Society, and Mrs. Dryden attended and enjoyed the fun. Mr. Carl Tourje won the grand prize—a large Adolphe Audusson Special. Other prizes, camellias, orchids, insecticides and books, donated by Mr. Marshall, were given away every half hour.

This is the third year that Temple City Camellia Society has held its breakfast prior to the first meeting of the season. The members and their friends from other Societies really have a gay and informal time. Most everyone showed up in garden attire. After breakfast the guests toured the nursery to see all the new and rare plants Mr. Marshall had on display. The purpose of the breakfast is to start the members off early being Camellia conscious, and also to get them better acquainted with the nurserymen members.

The Society's Bulletin Editor visits four nurseries each month, then reports in the Bulletin, telling the members about the new and rare camellias each nursery has on hand, any news he might have on the standard varieties, and anything else of interest at his nursery. If he has a new seedling coming on is described, and anyone interested knows where to go to see or buy it. It seems to stimulate interest and better acquaints the members with their nurserymen.

Temple City Camellia Society this year meets the second Monday evening of the month, at the Temple City Woman's Club, 5954 Kauffman Ave. Lawrence R. Bryant is President. The public is cordially invited. During the social hour at the close of the meeting doughnuts and coffee are served.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The San Diego Camellia Society will hold its first monthly meeting, Friday, November 13th, 7:30 P.M. in the Floral Building, Balboa Park, San Diego. Committee members are determined to make this one of the most interesting and exciting meetings in the history of the Society.

Mentioning a few high lights; we are happy to announce that Mr. Frank Williams of Beverly Hills, California, renowned photography expert and owner of the largest private, amateur, Camellia collection on the West Coast and probably in the U.S.A., (the last information we had, stated his collection

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CAMELLIAS

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1953 Camellia and Azalia Lists Upon Request

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WE FOUND CAMELLIAS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

By EVELYN JOHNSON

In the summer of 1952 our family spent three wonderful weeks traveling in the Pacific Northwest, our destination being Vancouver Island, Fraser River Gorge, and Lake Okanagan country. We kept ever alert eyes toward camellias, although camping and traveling with two active boys, whose basic needs are swimming and hamburgers, can be rather limiting as regards camellia exploration.

It was delightful, therefore, to find Camellias appearing in unexpected places. As for instance as we approached the Washington Park hill-top zoo in Portland, Oregon, we saw numerous well spaced plants of *C. Japonicas* in the wall leading to the zoo entrance. This is an inspiring example of foresight and discriminating plant selection by public spirited friends of Camellias in Portland.

We were able to photograph a nice small plant of *C. Japonica* in the grounds of the Parliament buildings at Victoria, Vancouver Island, B. C. Having made arrangements with a trusted life guard at the Crystal Palace swimming pool to care for our boys we drove northward through farms and gardens to Tod Inlet where the famous Butchart Gardens are located. These gardens cover some twenty acres of an 130-acre estate.

Almost 50 years ago Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pim Butchart resolved to beautify an abandoned limestone quarry on their estate. Tons of loam were brought to this quarry and in time trees, plants and shrubs from every part of the world were established there.

The house "Benvenuto," is about 100 feet above the sea and the grounds slope gently from the Italian gardens through the lovely Japanese garden to the shore. It was within the Japanese Gardens near a lacquered bridge and summer house that we came upon a large old tree of *Camellia Japonica*. We were without a guide and as we had to leave, our inquiries concerning this delightful discovery had to wait upon correspondence. Through the courtesy of Mr.

Camellia Seeds for Sale

The Camellia Garden Committee, Southern California Camellia Society, with the purpose of broadening and stimulating interest in seed culture has concluded to forget profit and offer the current season harvest at a price which will enable everyone to participate in the exciting game of growing seedlings.

Harvest includes seeds from hundreds of the finest varieties. See Camellia Research book for approved germinating methods and general culture.

R. J. Ross, Curator of the Butchart Gardens, information has reached us which describes this 40-year old camellia plant.

The variety is *C. Japonica Mathotiana* with "typical camellia flower deep rose red, full double and good substance," according to Mr. Ross. It stands 20 feet high with a trunk diameter of six inches just about sea level. One of my questions about the plant concerned the minimum recorded temperature for its location in the garden. Mr. Ross replied that the camellia tree was somewhat damaged in the winter of 1950 by a low of 4° above zero, but when we saw it in 1952, it had recovered well.

Through the kindness of Mr. Ross, Secretary, we received a letter from Mr. A. J. Ingram of Victoria. Mr. Ingram's home is near the Astrophysical Observatory at Royal Oak, San Nicholas Peninsula. We had passed near Greentrees and wished so much that

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JUST TALKING THINGS OVER

By "CHIC" MASON

Troubles! I've had 'em. I believe I've had more than my share of trouble. Of course, that is the opinion of every one you see. When I speak of troubles, I refer to those I experience while indulging my hobby.

To begin with, I'd like to explain that I am what is called an amateur in growing camellias. A few years ago, I became interested in the flowers, and since then have tried to collect what I consider the finest and the most beautiful of the old and new varieties. Due to my limited financial status, I have not progressed as rapidly as I would like to. The one thing I have been successful in getting is into trouble.

The first year of my interest in this regal flower, I tried to read all the information available in books, and to talk to any one who would listen about camellias. I was very humble at first, and would listen with bated breath to any one who owned a camellia plant, or who professed to know anything about them. After a year had passed, I felt fully qualified to expound on the subject at great length. I was certain that by now I had learned all that there was to know about the plant. I believe this is a natural reaction in the novice. Later I noticed the same trend in other beginners.

By now I had gained some experience with grafting, and as is usual with most amateurs, I had terrific success with my first grafts. Out of the thirty odd plants I grafted, I lost only one, and that through my own clumsy actions. With this success, I was certain that I had arrived. I did not hesitate to speak up with a voice of experience and authority. It is wonderful how wise and important just a little knowledge will make a person feel.

I was well into my third year with my hobby when things began to happen. First, I came to the conclusion that I had placed the lath on my top sections too close together to get a good bud set. I could grow plants well, but did not get too many blooms. My friends and acquaintances helped this belief by agreeing with me. It was just recently that I found this to be untrue. I still have the same lath sections, and this year I have a very heavy set on all my plants.

Next I had trouble with a plant I purchased from the Nuccio Nurseries. This nursery, by the way, I consider the finest of its kind. The two brothers, Joe and Julius, are the finest men you will ever meet. They not only grow the finest plants, but as individuals, they will make your life richer for having known them. To continue, I took their plant home and stepped it up from the gallon container it was in, to an egg can. I used the prescribed amount of peat to the right quantity of sand and garden loam, and sat back to await results. By now I was certain I could grow better and bigger plants than the rest of them, but to my dismay, the plant refused to grow. The next growing season, it not only refused to grow, but it began to look very sick. To make matters worse, this was not the only plant to do this. I had about ten plants that were acting the same way.

Had I not been so smug and self satisfied, I would have discovered the trouble for myself. Some time previous, I had been given a plant that was in pure peat moss. I had not taken this into consideration in watering, and had given this plant the same treatment as my others. I didn't realize at the time that I was trying to teach the poor thing to swim. After a long struggle it finally died. The peat retained the moisture, and the roots rotted off. I didn't bother to look at the plants roots. I was sure it wasn't my fault. Hadn't every-

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one told me that you must keep the plants watered? The plant must have been sick when I got it.

I was still greatly impressed with my own importance, and when the plant I had purchased from Nuccios started to die, I called Julius and told him. He asked me if I could bring the plant to him so he could look at it. When my wife and I reached his place, he knocked the plant out of its container. I was not only surprised, but my pride suffered. I had all the sensations of a balloon that has just been stuck with a pin. Julius took a hand full of the mix the plant had been in and squeezed water out of it! The whole mess was mud pure and simple. It was pure mud, and I was simple. I'll always be grateful to him for not telling me just how stupid I had been. He explained very nicely that the water given a camellia is for coolness, to supply the leaves with moisture for transpiration, to carry nutrients, to leach, et cetera but not to drown them in.

After this experience, I literally started from scratch. It took me two years of experimenting and study to discover that due to the fact two major highways intersect at the corner of the block in which I live, fumes and smoke from autos, diesel busses, and trucks were depositing a scum of oil and acid on the leaves of my plants that water would not wash off. The plants were reacting much the same as a person's body would if all the pores of the skin were sealed off. You might live, but you would become very sick. The plant would remain alive, look fairly healthy, but would not put on growth or bloom well.

At first there seemed to be no solution. I could find no one who had experienced this, or if they had, they were not aware of it. I immediately cut down on my watering. The plants were not taking up the moisture, and evaporation and drainage were not accounting for as much moisture as I was giving them. They would attempt to establish new root systems, but the surplus water would rot them off. I gave them no water at all for four weeks and then only when the potting mixture showed the need. This I determined by digging down at the side of the container. This treatment along with the syringing I give the plants every night has helped greatly. I am now getting new growth, and the test plants I have bare-rooted, are showing healthy roots. When I become solvent again I intend to cover my lath house with cheese cloth, and install overhead foggers. I refer to the spray heads used in vegetable markets. I believe the cheese cloth will tend to collect the oils and acids before they settle on the plants, and what does filter in will be washed out of the air by the foggers.

There is no limit to the trouble you can get into if you continue in this hobby. I have come to the conclusion that no two situations can be covered by the same rule. This I have proved to my own satisfaction. A very good example of this is an experience my friend had with a variety called Woodville Red. This plant had been in a nursery for some time, and its blooms were of such poor quality that the owner decided to use it for grafting stock. I told my friend I didn't think I would care for it because of its poor blooming qualities. I will never live that remark down. My friend bought this plant at a very low price, took it to his home just fourteen miles distant, and proceeded to make a liar of me. When the plant bloomed, he called me over to see it. I didn't measure the flowers, but I'm sure a conservative estimate would be five inches in diameter. It was a perfect hemispherical, full peony flower of a beautiful rich red.

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I have taken plants from a nursery not four blocks from my home and have compared these plants a year or two years later with plants from the same blocks of stock they were taken from, and there will be a vast difference, although I have used the same water, fertilizer, and potting mix. White Dykes bloom beautifully for me, and bullhead for my friend in La Habra. I have lovely big lotus blooms, and he can't open a bud. His Alba Plenas are out of this world, and mine look like miniatures. I took a Primavera to him that would do nothing for me, and I saw it last week with green buds larger than most of the flowers I had from it. I'm sure that there is more than one factor involved in each individual case. An amateur will receive so much advice, and misinformation that it is difficult to tell just what will work for the problem in question.

I'm sure that every grower has his own formula for fertilizers and how and when to use them. The only thing I will say on this subject is that I do agree with some growers who think that camellias should be fed the year around instead of once a month for three months just before the growing season starts. The plant does not go completely dormant, and anything that is alive should need food. Maybe not much, but some. I have a reason for this thought. I had a plant that had been fed liquid fertilizer, and as I acquired it after the season for feeding, I left it alone. After a time, it started to show signs of what seemed to be salts poison. At first I was sure this was the trouble. I consulted a nursery man who had taken a similar plant to a laboratory, and they discovered it lacked any nutrient in the soil. By experiment, it was discovered that liquid fertilizer could be leached out of a container in three or four waterings. The symptoms of malnutrition are very much like salts poisoning.

In the last year, I have gained a wealth of knowledge about my own particular situation, and about the reactions of various varieties to sun, water fertilizers, and other things. The one great fact I have learned is that there is no one person who knows all about camellias, and even if he did, I might have a situation in my back yard where all his knowledge would not be of use to me. With study and good common sense, the amateur is better off than he tries to follow every bit of advice he gets. In short, a sick camellia reminds me of the common cold. Every one has his pet remedy, but that one may not work for you.

All this talk may give the impression that I am unhappy with my hobby. I wish the thought! When I come home from work, and find a new problem, I forget all about the troubles of the job I do, and I'm in another world. I couldn't give it up for all the tea in China.

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THE VERSATILITY OF THE CAMELLIA

By ELIZABETH COUNCILMAN

CHAPTER II

GENERAL CULTURE

In considering the general culture of the Camellia, it is well to look into its ancestral home and natural habitat. As you know, the genus Camellia, with its many species are natives of the Orient; therefore, we will first look into the rainfall, weather conditions, soil conditions, and the general culture of the Camellia in its native land. This, because of the fact that there are so many species grown under different conditions, will pertain mainly to the three best-known species grown here—*C. japonica*, *C. sasanqua* and *C. reticulata*.

The Camellia, as a genus, is a sub-tropical plant and prefers sub-tropical weather conditions, which include moderate temperatures, high humidity and heavy rainfall which occurs in the Orient from January to July. They are found growing wild in hilly to mountainous terrains where the soil is coarse and shallow. In most cases they are protected from the sun and wind by trees, also growing in the areas, and these few facts give us our fundamental culture rules for growing healthy happy Camellias.

Fundamentally, there are seven important facts to keep in mind; (1) Good drainage, (2) Shallow planting, (3) Acid-type soil, (4) Mulch, (5) Water, (6) Fertilizing, (7) Partial protection from sun and wind.

(1). Good drainage: To begin with the Camellia must have good drainage. This is probably due to the fact that for centuries by nature, it has grown on the slopes of hills in coarse earth where the drainage was naturally good. Therefore when you plant a Camellia, make sure that you duplicate, as close as possible, nature's way, by putting rocks and gravel beneath the plant where the drainage isn't already good, and insure good drainage and good healthy plants. A Camellia will endure many adverse conditions if this one requirement is adequately and properly accomplished. Good drainage is your most important "must" in successful Camellia culture.

(2). Shallow planting: This cultural need of the genus Camellia also goes back to its natural habitat; for, where the soil is coarse and shallow, it is only natural for the plant to be shallow rooted and provide for its needs by producing surface feeder roots. Therefore, when you plant a Camellia, never plant it any deeper than the dirt level of the container; the plant can even be placed a little above the ground level, which will allow for it to settle and not have the surface feeder roots gradually smothered with additional soil washing in over them.

(3). Acid-type soil: Where the drainage is good and there is a natural mulching by the surrounding trees, the soil will be of an acid-type, therefore the Camellia has dwelt in acid type soil for centuries and so it prefers it. Therefore when planting a Camellia, make a soil mix that is acid type and put around the plant. This you can accomplish by mixing 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 soil (preferably sandy loam), 1/6 sharp sand, and 1/6 leaf mold.

(4). Mulch: This is important for more than one reason. First it does not smother the delicate surface feeder roots because air can go through it, but it does protect them from the elements and it keeps the soil from becoming too dry around them. Second, it is of acid content, because you use peat moss or garden leaves and needles to mulch with, and this furnishes the plant with protection and conditions that it desires to be happy.

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(5). Water: In its natural habitat the Camellia enjoys from sixty to seventy inches of rain a year and extremely high humidity, therefore, when we plant in our gardens, we should keep these facts in mind, and duplicate them as early as possible. It is hard to over-water a Camellia if your drainage and planting are good. It is well to irrigate the plant as well as to spray the foliage, irrigating leaches the soil, and spraying which should only be done when the sun is off the plant, keeps it clean and helps keep up the humidity. A certain amount of moisture is also taken in through the leaves. The soil around the base of a Camellia should never be allowed to completely dry out.

(6). Fertilizer: This phase of Camellia culture is much discussed and can become very controversial for there are many different kinds and methods of fertilizing. Undoubtedly all of these fertilizers are good if correctly applied. A WARNING note should be stressed on over-fertilizing Camellias because they can very easily be fatal, and it is well to keep in mind that far more plants have been exterminated by over-fertilizing than have been from lack of fertilizer. Here is a table recommended by Mr. Butterfield of the College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley on the "Rate of Applying Some Fertilizers". This table is set up on a yearly basis and should be divided by the number of applications per year for the amount to apply at one time.

Rate of Applying Some Fertilizers

FERTILIZER	No. of ounces per 100 Sq. ft. of soil
Sulfate of ammonia	18
Ammonium Nitrate	12
Urea	9
Triple super phosphate	6
Superphosphate	14
7-7-0	23
15-20 ammonium phosphate-sulfate	24
Complete mixed fertilizers (acid type)	
10 per cent nitrogen	36
8 per cent nitrogen	50
6 per cent nitrogen	64

An acid-type fertilizer mixture, recommended both by Mr. Butterfield and H. Harold Hume, contains the following:

	pounds
Acid phosphate	38
Cotton-seed meal	28
Potassium Sulfate	17
Ammonium Sulfate	10
Aluminum sulfate (used as acidifier)	10

There are many brands of acid-type fertilizer on the market today and any of these may be used successfully in a fertilizing program from March through September, either two or three times a year, or every six weeks, depending on the amount applied at each fertilizing and the condition of the soil and the plants at the appointed time. Cotton-seed meal is one of the safest fertilizers to use on Camellias. A yearly application of soil sulphur in the fall is also advisable to counteract any over alkaline condition which might arise from excessive artificial summer watering.

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(7). Partial Protection from Sun and Wind: The Camellia is fundamentally a semi-shade plant, and although it will endure direct sun as it will endure total shade, it prefers semi-shade and is a happier plant when given this condition. Because a semi-shade plant likes humidity and moisture, it does not like wind because winds are drying. Therefore to expect the best results from your Camellia, such as a healthy plant, deep green foliage, large blossoms of good color and texture, it is wise to plant the bush where it will enjoy the right conditions for its welfare, and in turn perform to the best of its ability for you.

You do not, at any time, cultivate around the base of a Camellia. Due to the fact that it is a shallow rooted plant its feeder roots are close to the surface and therefore would be injured with cultivation.

Disbudding is often a necessity to maintain good health in your Camellia for a good many varieties have a tendency to over-produce. When a Camellia sets more buds than necessary to produce a normal amount of flowers, the excess buds should be removed. Also, if you desire larger blossoms, you should remove excess buds, leaving one bud to every two to four inches of branch. On very young plants (one year to two year gallons) it is best to remove but one or two buds until the plant becomes established. In this way the small plant has a better chance to grow.

Due to the type growth of the Camellia, heavy pruning is not usually required, although pruning is not harmful or injurious to the plant. Any dead wood should be kept removed at all times and any limbs which might detract from the shape or beauty of the bush should also be removed. If a variety has a tendency to be rank or sparse, then pruning is recommended to shape it and to cause it to thicken up. Pruned Camellia bushes are usually more compact bushes than those which are not pruned. In many varieties this is not necessary because their growth habits are compact within themselves.

The Camellia genus is not susceptible to many diseases or pests and is considered a hardy plant family. D. D. T. is never applied to the Camellia but if you will spray them twice a year, preferably the first of April and the latter part of September, with a two per cent (2%) oil emulsion spray, (two and one-half ounces or six (6) level tablespoons to the gallon of water) and to this can be added one teaspoon of Black Leaf 40, this should furnish adequate control of most of the scales, plus aphids and spider mites which will attack the Camellia.

In some places, particularly in California, the Camellia is bothered with the measuring worm or omnivorous looper (*Sabulodes Caberata*) which will eat the leaves and flower buds of the plant. These worms can best be controlled by the use of any good stomach poison, such as lead arsenate, used at the rate of one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) ounce to the gallon of water.

Blossom or flower blight is a disease caused by the fungus, *Sclerotinia Camelliae*, which attacks the Camellia flower. This fungus lives in the soil and the soil is infected by the falling of diseased flowers. This infection can remain alive for several years in the soil, and is said to penetrate a depth of three inches. Cleanliness is probably the most efficient means of controlling this disease, by keeping all of the old and diseased flowers gathered before they fall to the ground and by making sure that they are properly destroyed. The oil emulsion spray in March or April also tends to help control blossom blight. The soil can also be chemically treated for this disease.

The third chapter "Camellia Blossoms" will appear in the December issue.

HOW TO HANDLE CAMELLIA BLOOMS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

By ERNA THURNHER

First Steps

The best time to pick our precious choice blooms is early in the morning. Do not be tempted to pick the most open and gorgeous blossoms and expect them to last. There is a very simple way to test a flower by gently tugging at the lower petals of a bloom. If they do not easily pull out, it is quite safe to pick the flower. Leave a tiny stem, one-half inch is enough to wire them for corsages or arrangements or even for packing for shipping. Then place in a cool spot or under refrigeration until you are ready for further steps. Never place a flower too close to a freezing compartment or into too cold a refrigerator.

Arrangements

If the flower is to be used in an arrangement and you do not wish to cut the flowering branches, you may cheat a little and wire the blooms to a similar foliage branch. This is done by first placing a piece of wet cotton around the little stems, then wiring the cotton securely on and taping it with green floral tape. Floral tape may be obtained at any flower shop. The flower is now ready to be wired onto branches for an arrangement. Of course the Camellias will not keep quite as long as flowering branches, but they are very nice to use for your special dinner arrangement or for that dramatic effect of color you just need somewhere in your room.

Nothing need be said for floating Camellias—just float them.

Corsages

In picking corsage flowers, remember that only the fleshy or more formal flower can be wired without showing that wire. Our beautiful singles are more difficult to use for corsages. If you picked your flower as suggested it will not fall apart in wiring; however, there are a few varieties which will pull out when the petals are tested, yet the whole center may come out after you have the flower wired. Watch for these.

For preparing corsages, you again need wire and tape. This time, gently pick up the flower in your hand without bruising it and run a number 24 gauge twist wire through the fleshy part of the flower on the underside. Take a second wire and place it crosswise through the same flesh part to secure the flower firmly. Twist both wires around the tiny stem which of course you have protected with a small wad of wet cotton. Tape the wire and cotton, leaving an artificial wire stem of any desired length. It is more attractive to use three to five camellia leaves individually, placing them around the flower artistically than to use the so-called paper collar and sewing or stapling the leaves on the collar. By wiring the leaves individually, you will have a pretty little grouping of green stems in place of just one stem. Do not be tempted to curl that one stem over a pencil. It does not look smart or natural. But it quite short so it does not show if you use a paper collar.

Shipping

If you wish to ship those lovely blooms of which you are so proud, pick them with the same care on the day on which you are mailing them. Line a sturdy box with waxed paper and cover bottom with a layer of web cotton

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or Kleenex. Twist wet cotton around the stem of the flower and sew each stem onto the bottom of the box by poking two holes on either side of the stem and looping a 24 gauge wire over the stem. Turn the box and pull the wire to lock. Then put a small piece of Scotch tape over the wire on the back of the box to keep from scratching or coming through packing paper. Take care not to crowd flowers as it is better to have a few choice flowers arrive in good condition than to have a box full of bruised flowers. Remember, it costs less in shipping charges. After all flowers are sewed down with wire securely, place several layers of wet Kleenex on the top of the flowers. Close waxed paper lining over it and finish wrapping. I suggest that you wrap the box with several layers of newspaper to keep it from freezing in winter.

' ' CAMELLIAN ' '

A magazine devoted exclusively to

— CAMELLIAS —

Published January, March, September & November

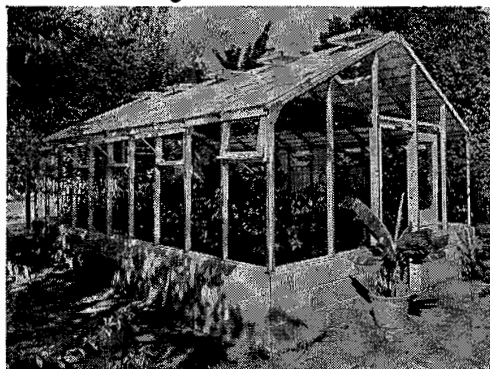
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CAMELLIAN

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sisted of approximately 2,000 varieties) is scheduled to be the guest speaker of the evening. His beautiful colored slides and his able description of the exciting new varieties, promises a most interesting portion of the program.

A large blossom display is expected this November meeting. Flowers will be expertly judged and awards made to winners in all classes. Visitors and members are urged to bring their blossoms. Flower displays at these monthly meetings always constitute a miniature flower show and are both inspiring and beautiful.

Each member is requested to bring a flower arrangement. Monthly awards given on arrangements will be accumulative and winners of these awards will participate in the Grand Prize award for best arrangements at the end of the season.

Visitors are especially welcome to this opening meeting of the season and members are urged to bring guests.

Some sure enough surprises are in store for everyone. You'll be sorry if you miss them. Remember—Friday the 13th of this November will be your lucky date if you attend this gala meeting.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

The Camellia Society of Santa Clara County announces that it will hold its Camellia Show on March 7th from 10 to 5 PM in the Civic Auditorium of San Jose. The show is to be on a non-competitive basis and no admission charged. There will however be a large exhibit of the best flower of each variety displayed. The Secretary of the Society is K. L. Boosey whose address is 119 Cleaves Ave., San Jose, California.

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THE SOCIETY SPREADS TO FAR POINTS

A welcome is extended to the following new members of the South California Camellia Society:

- Dr. David S. Asbill, 1512 Marion St., Columbia, S.C.
 Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Asper, 1405 Flanders Road, La Canada, Calif.
 Mrs. H. W. Barmann, 885 E. 5th St., Chico, Calif.
 Eddie J. Barrow, 211 Stanley St., Andalusia, Alabama
 Mr. Paul W. Bell, 1611 Spruce St., S. Pasadena, Calif.
 Capt. and Mrs. Jack L. Bivine, 322 Sinclair Ave., Glendale 6, Calif.
 Mr. Allen H. Bond, 3154 Highland Dr., Carlsbad, Calif.
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(Continued on Next Page)

To the Ladies from Page 6
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 great lady who was its guardian so
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NEW MEMBERS from Page 22

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 Mr. and Mrs. J. David Wirth, 212 Filmore Ave., New Orleans, La.
 Mr. C. H. Womack, Box 230, Florence, S. C.

Ed. Note: A reminder comes from the Secretary that the new Nomen-
 clature Book to be published in January 1954 will be sent only to paid up
 members of the Society.

THE LOYAL OPPOSITION from Page 7

reliable, so pleasant a companion, *Osmanthus fragrans*, the Sweet Olive (edible fruits). At a distance of several hundred yards in the path of southwest winds, the Sweet Olive will greet you, surround you with love-scent, and indelibly stamp upon your consciousness its "personality", so when you meet it again—in any land of this wondrous green world—it will again "speak" to you and remind you on the instant of that first whiff, the peculiar surroundings at the time, and even a thought or two that you would have otherwise forgotten.

Can the camellia make magic this way? Not for me. Perhaps my senses are deaf in the necessary elements for discerning it. But so it is. And I feel I am not wholly alone in this muted salute to camellias. Among others (some of local note, but they shall speak for themselves), is a 19th century novelist, Francis Marion Crawford, born in Tuscany, Italy a full century ago—known best, perhaps, for his play *Francesca da Rimini* played in Paris by Sarah Bernhardt. In Crawford's book *Children of the King*, published in 1893 when camellias were enjoying plaudits, he dared to write: "What is charm? Is it what the violet has and the camellia has not." An echo of that well-known character, Maggie, in Barrie's "What Every Woman Knows": "If you have it (charm) you don't need to have anything else; and if you don't have it doesn't much matter what else you have."

If this be traitorous to such professional work as may come to hand, to be false in wholehearted admiration would be flattery, a more unseen sin. There is hope, though, that someday the camellia will merit a soul—their are whispers in that direction even now (note the advertisement in the October *Camellia Review*, p. 19), and then they will be more universally loved as are "the herbs of the earth," for

"Life's sweetest joys are hidden
In unsubstantial things;
An April rain, a fragrance,
A vision of blue wings."

Unexpected Places from Page 12
we had known that there is a beautiful camellia specimen there.

This 25-year old plant, variety "Cheerful," is over 12 feet in height and is covered in the blooming season from top to base with hundreds of rose red blossoms. Branching into several trunks just above soil level, the main trunk diameter is eight or nine inches. The minimum recorded temperature for this camellia's location was 18° above zero in 1949. Mr. Ingram stated in his letter that "the leaves curled up like cigars but thawed out with very little damage."

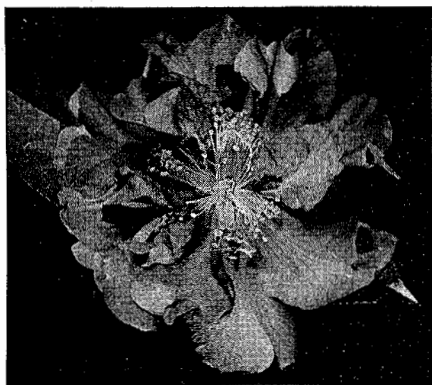
Since Mr. Ingram is a fancier of pedigreed rabbits, it is natural that he should use well rotted (two years)

rabbit manure for this fine camellia plant. This "Cheerful" has grown well above the first story on the north side of the house wall near the back exposure. Mr. Ingram sent us an interesting map of Vancouver Island upon which he marked "Camellia grown here." The indicated area is well toward the northern tip of Vancouver Island on the Pacific side and is called Uchucklesit Harbor.

We hope that some fortunate Camellia-philis will explore this area by boat and write to the Camellia Review about their findings. Could it be possible that there are Camellias even farther North? It seems so to us, as Camellias often pop up in unlikely places.

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SCCS TO HOLD FIRST MEETING

Opening its 1953-54 season the Southern California Camellia Society will hold its first meeting on the evening of November 12th in the Jefferson School Auditorium, 1500 Block East Villa Street in Pasadena.

A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 will precede the program.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the award of the Margarete Hertrich Plaque to Harvey Short for his winning camellia "Pink Clouds."

Camellia Reviewer from Page

of the Society is all ready to furnish ambitious green-thumbers with magic grains. What better Christmas present could you think of than a little packet of camellia seeds wrapped up in crisp cellophane and tied with a red ribbon. In that packet will be anticipation, unexpected results, possibly years of pleasure or perhaps a ribbon winning plant? What more could be found in one little bag?

Our Wish

And so, to all our readers who you drink tea brewed from Camellia leaves, shine up your hair with Camellia oil, make a cake with fat from Camellia seeds, write a poem about Camellias or just grow the plants and their lovely flowers, a happy Camellia Thanksgiving.

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