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Camellia Review



Camellia japonica 'CAROLYN TUTTLE'

Courtesy Tuttle Bros. Nurseries

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive. 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. Wheaton, 3695 Van Ness Blvd., Fresno	
Date of Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of the month	
Camellia Society of Kern County	Bakersfield, Calif.
Meeting Place: Fiesta Room, El Adobe Motel, Union Ave.	
Secretary: Mrs. Yale Langworthy, 2029 Esther Drive, 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: C. D. Cothran, 1105 San Dimas Ave., San Dimas	
Date of Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month	
Temple City Camellia Society	Temple City, Calif.
Meeting Place: Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kauffman, Temple City	
Secretary: Gertrude S. Rose, 6025 North Muscatel, San Gabriel	
Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month, Nov. thru March	
Camellia Society of Orange County	Santa Ana, Calif.
Meeting Place: YWCA Building, 1411 North Broadway, Santa Ana	
Secretary: Mrs. Geo. T. Butler, 1121 Orange Ave., Santa Ana	
Date of Meeting: 3rd Tuesday, Nov. to April	
Huntington Camellia Garden	San Marino, Calif.
Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Rd., San Marino	

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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

Another Camellia Year

Now is the time for resolutions. We resolve therefore to turn over a new leaf. This is tradition, but a tradition so often broken that it is more or less of a joke. Not so *our* resolve—not if it is a *Camellia* leaf—for what is more fascinating than turning over a new *Camellia* leaf? We resolve to do that—and have no fear of breaking such a resolution any more than hundreds, probably thousands of *Camellia* lovers and growers would break such a resolution. Anyhow Old Man Time has no terrors for the genus *Camellia* which not only endures him without ravages but keeps its youth immortal. No worries about getting fat and wrinkled. If there is a reincarnation, what would be better than to come back on earth as—well perhaps as a dramatic new variety of *Camellia* to shake the foundations of *Camelliadom*—or even as a common little old Pink Perfection? We really wouldn't mind.

And More Camellias

And speaking of the ever increasing numbers of our favorite plant—seeds have been going out by the hundreds—even by as many as 2,000 to a single person. Of that great amount a report will appear in an early number of the *Review*. Through seed purchases it is plain to be seen that the so-called *Camellia* belt is ever widening. *Camellias* will grow, it seems, almost anywhere if growers intelligently recognize a few basic “musts” for the plant. However we are finding out that *Camellias* are encroaching on territories not supposed to grow them. See notes on that elsewhere in this issue.

Here's An Idea

It might be sort of an April Fool's

joke to play, but we wish some of our members in the Southern California area who have the urge to experiment with some of their plans would arbitrarily change seasons for them (as outlined in Dr. Bonner's article in this issue) and have some blooms coming into their height in May or June. Surely the *Camellias* wouldn't really mind for they love to do surprising things themselves. If someone will try it and does have some success, we'll promise a picture and feature story in the *Review*. Is that worth the effort? It appears to us more forcibly than ever since Dr. Bonner's talk at the January meeting and his above-mentioned article, that *Camellias* will respond to most any kind of experiment. That's one of their most interesting qualities as far as we are concerned.

A Fair & Rare Camellia

To our valued member E. Tourje whose days in the hospital are reported to be ending soon.

A Rare Camellia To S C C S

Many of the older members of the S C C S may recall that the Society furnished funds for the support of Shigeru Honda, an undergraduate student permitting him to attend the California Institute of Technology for two years. During that time he proved to be an able research student, a laboratory worker and collaborator with Dr. James Bonner in many experiments of plant nutrition and scientific analysis of plant growth. Articles that he wrote with Dr. Bonner appeared in the Society's publication “*Camellia Research*.”

Mr. Honda received his degree B.A. in 1950 and then attended the University of Wisconsin graduate school where he received his Ph.D. Selected by the State Department as a Fulbright scholar in the international interchange of students, Honda is now completing his second

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1955



Happy New Year

I extend New Year's Greetings to all our Southern California Camellia Society members, wherever they may be. Our membership now includes some 1400 camellia fanciers, scattered throughout the world where camellias grow. This distribution of membership is, in itself, a testimonial to the increasing pleasure that people are deriving from this beautiful flower. We pledge that the Society will do its part in 1955 to help and stimulate our members to greater pleasure from this hobby.

HAROLD E. DRYDEN

1955

The Camellia Review

Presents a Report of

THE TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The third in a series featuring our affiliated societies

History

Delving into the "Camelliana" of the San Gabriel Valley area, centering around Temple City, would produce such stories as the origin of the big California camellia tree at Pico and the Colonel Firey at Pomona or the early plantings of camellia varieties and seedlings in the Botanical Gardens of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery in San Marino. However, the first historical records of the Temple City Camellia Society tell of a small group of enthusiasts at an organization meeting held December 6, 1948. Dr. Gilbert E. Sefton was elected president of the new society and it was voted that they request affiliation with the Southern California Camellia Society. The organization was completed with some eighty-five charter members April 11, 1949 at a meeting where Mr. Claude Chidamian, then editor of the Camellia Review was speaker of the evening.

Several years prior to these meetings, the Temple City Woman's Club conducted a contest to select a slogan for Temple City. The winning slogan "Home of Camellias" was suggested by Mrs. Pearl Sanders. The Chamber of Commerce quickly adopted this slogan and in 1945, sponsored a Camellia Festival, the first of a series of festivals which have brought national recognition to Temple City.

By the year 1949 the annual Camellia Festival was already assuming sizable proportions and there was talk of holding a Camellia Flower Show under the auspices of the newly

formed Temple City Camellia Society in conjunction with the Festival. Unusual winter snow and cold caused fear of a seasonal shortage in camellia blooms, but Mr. R. H. Hortenstone, one of the local nurserymen, returning from a tour of the camellia nurseries and flower shows in the southern states persuaded everyone that a show was possible. "Herkie", as he is affectionately known to his many friends holds the only honorary membership in the Temple City Camellia Society.

With characteristic zeal and enthusiasm, just three short months following the first organization meeting the first Temple City Camellia Flower Show was staged March 11 and 12, 1949. A small group of local nurserymen underwrote the show expenses to \$1,000, the Chamber of Commerce ordered the tent and lights while society members, from the president down to the newest members, and they were all new, literally rolled up their sleeves and performed all the thousand and one necessary tasks. It sounds almost impossible, but the same people also secured and decorated the official float for the King and Queen in the Festival Parade. Needless to say, both the show and the float were successful.

Actually the enthusiastic zest and zeal displayed in putting on the first flower show is typical of the friendly spirit which activates and energizes the members of the Temple City Camellia Society. It is rather a small group as societies go, made

(Continued on Next Page)

of people who love their camellias, like to be with others who love camellias and get a "kick" out of letting the world know about it.

One of the first, if not the first, of the camellia societies to provide refreshments at the regular meetings and at the flower shows, the Temple City Society also opens each camellia season with an outdoor breakfast in the fall and closes the year in April with a gala dinner meeting. The breakfast is held at one of the local camellia nurseries, the men folk don chef hats and cook the bacon and eggs while everyone has a good time. The dinners are furnished by a caterer and feature some outstanding speaker from the camellia world. Last year, it was Mr. William E. Woodruff who gave a very interesting talk on why he grows camellias instead of other flowers declaring as usual his interest in large blooms rather than what he calls "little stinkers". The year before Mr. J. Howard Asper

brought a beautiful display of Chinese Reticulata blooms and told the amazing story about their introduction into the United States.

Temple City cannot compete with the Camellia Test Garden at the Huntington Botanical Gardens or with the large plants of camellias on the Cal-Poly grounds at San Dimas, but they do have a public park centrally located at the corner of Las Tunas Drive and Golden West Ave., where a constantly increasing number of camellia plants are being grown under the supervision of the L. A. County Board of Parks and Recreation. Each year as part of the Camellia Festival there is held a "Plant a Camellia Week"; the opening event being the donation of a new group of camellias to be planted in Temple City Park. The camellia society and its members join other individuals and organizations in providing these camellia plants.

Temple City flower shows are well
(Continued on Next Page)



Photo by Edward P. Jones

Temple City Camellia Breakfast. Arthur Krumm, President on left with pancake turner; Kenneth Barley, Show Chairman in center about to sample a piece of bacon and Clarence Rose, at whose nursery the breakfast was held about to show his proficiency with an egg.

worth travelling miles to see and that is just what many people do. Some come on Saturday to see the Festival Parade and return on Sunday to see the show, thus avoiding the crowds. The Camellia Festival parade is usually over at noontime which means that the show people must have their flowers entered, registered, placed and judged by 12:00 noon. It's a neat trick and by careful planning and organization it is done every year. The only competition in this show is for camellia blooms. The two main divisions for single blooms and multiple blooms are for amateur growers



Ski Club Members working on prize-winning festival float.

only, while there are three smaller divisions which are open to both professionals and amateurs. They are Reticulatas, Miniatures and Boutonnieres and Seedlings. Flower arrangements are by invitation only and there is no competition for plants in containers.

Other features of these shows are the outstanding garden plots and the displays of the newest and best in camellia blooms contributed by the commercial growers (without whose cooperation and support no truly representative camellia show is possible), and the flower displays by individuals

like Frank Williams and organizations like the Huntington Camellia Gardens as well as other camellia societies. The blooms from the San Diego Society are always outstanding.

Unique to these shows may be (1) the use of paper ribbons, which are conveniently clipped to the registration cards to indicate the prize winning blooms, thus avoiding loss and water damage to the regular ribbons which are mailed to contestants following the show; (2) the printed list of camellia names provided to patrons for their convenience in checking blooms that strike their fancy, for future reference; (3) the use of a Scout Troop to guard exhibits and direct visitors and (4) the awarding of camellia plants as door prizes every hour during the show.

One thing the Temple City show is not: It is not a free show. Actually there is such a thing as a free show. Shows cost money and someone must pay the bills.

Temple City charges admission and works hard to make each show worth the price of admission. When the funds are kind and the income greatly exceeds the expense, the Society makes contributions to youth groups and youth activities in the local area.

Some of the original members are still active in the Temple City Camellia Society, but in recent years the interest has become so far reaching that some members travel from 20 to 30 miles to attend the meetings. President Arthur Krumm of Altadena, Vice Pres. and Treas. Frank Ramsey of Alhambra, Secretary Gertrude Rose of San Gabriel, Program Chairman Noble of Whittier, Show Chairman Kenneth Barley of Temple City together with Mrs. Marian Burcky and Franklin Murray of San Marino, Mrs. Vincent Vernaci of Temple City, Clarence Rose and Lawrence Bryant of San Gabriel constitute the Board of Directors.

A CAMELLIA-MINDED COMMUNITY

By ISABELL WILKERSON

Festivals, parades, and "Special Days" are typically Californian, and high on the list of yearly attractions is Temple City's Annual Camellia Festival and Show. Now in its eleventh year, this annual event is listed right at the Rose Parade itself in the hearts of many San Gabriel residents. To what does it owe its continued success? Perhaps it's that magic combination of children and flowers plus enthusiastic citizenry who go all out to make their community a better place in which to live.

It all began modestly enough seven years ago with a tiny one-year-old queen, riding in a camellia-bedecked car while her small subjects scattered flowers among the passers-by. This year, on February 26, six thousand children will decorate their miniature floats, march proudly to the music of their youth bands, and create a real Camellia Circus Parade. Plans for the Festival begin early in the fall. Under the auspices of the Temple City Chamber of Commerce, chosen representatives from various local civic and service organizations form committees to handle the now complex job of staging a big time festival. Manned completely by volunteer help and financed by the Chamber of Commerce, the Festival not only includes the parade itself, but also an outstanding Camellia Show, put on by the local Camellia Society, as well as a big barbeque following the parade.

However, for the small fry an even more important day occurs around the first of February. Following a series of Play Days for Temple City First Graders, the little King and Queen and her Royal Court are chosen. On February 18, this year, they will be crowned, according to the best tradition, at the annual Coronation Pageant, when the King of

Never-Never-Land presides for one magic evening.

February 26 will be the date of this year's Camellia Festival Parade. The theme is a Camellia Circus Parade, and all the small 4' x 6' (four by six foot) floats will depict the boys' and girls' ideas of just what such a parade should be like. An estimated 65,000 people will again hear Dick Lane of T.V. fame, whose appearance has become traditional in Temple City, describe the parade as it winds slowly up Las Tunas from Rosemead Blvd. to Baldwin Ave. When the parade ends at noon, everyone will gather at Temple City's Community park for a big barbeque lunch, the proceeds



King and Queen of the 1954 Camellia Festival at Temple City. Beth Ann Farry graciously extends her royal hand to her admiring King, Joey Whitehouse.

of which will go to Temple City's Youth Fund. Then it's just around the corner to the Women's Club House for a bigger-than-ever Camellia Show, to be held both Saturday and Sunday. And so will end another Camellia Festival for a community of flower lovers.

A. C. S. CONVENTION TO FEATURE CAMELLIA FESTIVAL

When the American Camellia Society Convention is held in the Los Angeles California area February 24, 25 and 26 in 1956, the Twelfth Annual Temple City Camellia Festival Parade will be the event featured on the program Saturday morning, February 25th. Convention delegates will find themselves part of some 33,000 people lining both sides of Las Tunas Drive, the main thoroughfare of Temple City. Local merchants whose store windows have been decorated with camellia blooms for many days prior, will close their doors for the duration of the parade. Participating in the parade will be over 5,000 children from Temple City and surrounding communities. There will be marching bands and drill teams, drum majorettes and baton wielders galore, colorful Indian dances to the beat of tomtoms, groups from many youth organizations (children must belong to some organization to be in the parade and no adults allowed unless necessary for the guidance and direction of the small fry) and of course the camellia floats.

These floats, scaled to fit the children, may be no larger than four by four feet and are towed down the street by the children themselves as no motorized vehicles or commercial entries are allowed in the parade. Led by the six year old King and Queen of the Camellias in a special float, these miniature works of art pass in seemingly endless review. Even the children in Temple City know how to handle camellias and arrange them to advantage and each year the floats become more colorful, intricate and imaginative as each entrant strives for supremacy.

Temple City Camellia Society awards an engraved cup to the float that makes the most effective use of camellias in its decoration. In 1954, the judges were Mrs. Johnson of the Temple City Florist; Mrs. Reel of the Reel Flower Shop and Mr. K. E. Barley, Show Chairman. The award went to the Temple City Ski Club for a float depicting a skier sliding down the snowy slope of a mountain all done with camellia leaves, blossoms and petals.

Back of the parade is the Camellia Festival, sponsored by the Temple City Chamber of Commerce, and back of the Festival is a town that believes in its youngsters and likes to work with them. The Festival starts out with a Theater Contest; progresses with the selection of the King and Queen of the Camellias and the Coronation ceremonies in which these tiny six year olds are crowned. It includes a "Plant a Camellia Week" to encourage citizens to beautify their gardens and reaches a climax with the parade. Immediately following the parade a barbeque is held at Temple City Park to raise funds for youth activities and a Carnival is provided for the children's entertainment. Also at the conclusion of the parade the Temple City Camellia Society opens its two day Camellia Show.

The continued success of the Festival is due to united community effort and cooperation. Each service and civic organization in the town is assigned to a specific phase of the Festival and the whole community goes all out for the benefit of its children.

* * * * *

Camellia growing is one business where grafting is legitimate. If you want to learn to be a good grafter, visit one of our nursery advertisers.

CAMELLIAS — 1935-1955

By CLAUDE CHIDAMIAN

Someday when the horticultural record of the past twenty years is written, it may be remembered that these two decades saw a renaissance of interest in the camellia such as the world has never known. It is difficult perhaps for us to see just what has been accomplished, for we are still very much a part of this past. We are still too close to the people and the events to fully appreciate them. But it may be well on this twentieth anniversary of the camellia's birth in America to look back for a moment on the road we have just travelled.

Twenty years ago there were only two books on the camellia available: Hubel's *Growing Camellias Under Glass*, an interesting but eccentric advertising pamphlet; and Hume's *Azaleas and Camellias*, a sketchy little book chiefly on azaleas with just a scattering of camellia lore thrown in. Today camellia books fill a library shelf, and their authors read like a *Who's Who* of the camellia world; Kerbing, Hume, Woodroof, Hertrich, Waterhouse, and many, many more. Magazines and newspapers now feature articles on camellias with astonishing regularity, whereas before they were scarcely mentioned from one year to the next.

In 1935 the old Azalea and Camellia Society of America had struggled long for three years trying to spread the camellia story throughout the South and West with no great success. But ten years later the American Camellia Society was formed to coordinate the efforts of scores of camellia societies throughout the country. Once again there were men at work—Wilmot, McLean, Solomon, Huges, Katz and a thousand others like them.

Twenty years ago most nurseries carried only a half-dozen standard varieties like Alba Plena, Chandleri, Pink Perfection, and Professor Sarant. Today it is an easy thing to find a hundred, five hundred, even a thousand different varieties in a single nursery. This was the work of importers like McIlhenny and Domoto, hybridizers like Lammerts and Sawa-

da, collectors like Strother and Peer.

The seeds of camellia interest planted in the early 30's have grown prodigiously and are in full flower now. But let us not forget as we admire the myriad Japonica varieties in our gardens, the brilliant new Sasanquas, and the stunning Reticulates that all these wonders are in large measure a heritage from the countless men and women who have labored so long and patiently for camellias in the past twenty years.

The camellia collector in 1955 is indeed fortunate. He has books and articles to read, societies to join, hundreds of fine nurseries and gardens to visit, thousands of varieties to grow. And yet he has a great responsibility, too. A responsibility to those who have come before him to carry on their work and ideals, and a responsibility to those who will come after to pass on to them a heritage as fine.

CLEARING HOUSE

Will some member help out Dr. Wine? His letter follows:

"Thank you kindly for locating the camellias I wrote you about last summer. I have all but the 'Camille Bradford.' Could you supply the name of the nursery that propagates this camellia?"

We hope some reader can give this information. Address Mervin B. Wine, M.D., Professional Building, Gordon Ave., Thomasville, Ga.

Remember this column is for *you* and we shall try to locate sources of Camellias you are trying to find.

A LONG LOOK—BACKWARD AND FORWARD

By JOHN H. CLAIRMONT

The thought has frequently come to me and I am sure it has occurred to others that if we could have a fresh start in our Camellia hobby would we do it just the same way? I hardly think so. When I started in my hobby about ten years ago my knowledge of Camellias was zero. Somewhere I got the idea that I should acquire some large specimens which I did, and that to my present way of thinking was mistake number 1. In addition I had to have a year's grafts of the then new varieties and mind you I had to have them within the next couple of seasons. This was mistake number 2.

Some of the larger plants are now seldom spoken of and the young grafts soon become large plants, some mediocre in quality, and a few that even a cat wouldn't drag in, for the reason that they had not been tested in our area. Flowers were not too good and certainly not up to expected size.

A different approach would have been more sane and satisfactory from any angle you care to look at it. Large plants would definitely be out unless I planned an extensive program of landscaping where they might be in order. The one year grafts would be selected with meticulous care to avoid having another Camellia with a new name and I would certainly not go "name chasing." A Camellia having requirements you would expect, can always be had at a later date, so why be in a hurry? What if you don't get it ahead of your neighbor? Let's get the most out of our hobby by keeping both feet on the ground, acquiring the new varieties slowly and after they have proven themselves. Why burden ourselves with more plants than we can take proper care of, spending all of our time looking after them instead of taking time to enjoy the ones we have. This Camellia bug can become serious. A nibble is not bad but when he gets a good bite there is no telling where it hurts the most.

Our hobby is no longer a hobby when we spend all of our time with the mechanics of it. Stop name chasing, appreciate the plants you have, enter your blooms at the meetings

and at the shows and get some fun out of it. Even if you don't win a ribbon don't feel badly about it. They are only made of a sort of satin and after a few years most of us can find them anyway. Any of our nursery friends will be glad to give you the facts about any of the newer varieties. Buy some from him. That's his business and we certainly want him to be successful. He will help you because he wants you to come back again.

Each season brings along some new varieties better than previous ones but make up your mind that you can't have them all.

GOING PLACES

Be sure and mark January 11 on your new calendar for that date is the date of the next meeting of the Society.

Featured will be a talk by Ralph Peer on his travels over the world. His subject will be "Seeking New and Lost Camellias." Also on the program will be Leo W. Davis who will speak on the important subject of "Soil Management." Mr. Davis is a director of Swift and Company's "Growers Advisory Service." Also Lt. Col. C. M. Gale will give some interesting details on the Society itself.

And of course, save your loveliest blooms for the exhibit.

CAMELLIAS BEAUTIFY HOSPITAL GROUNDS

By W. F. NEUBERT

Camellia Planting Day at the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Portland has become an annual affair and the members of the Oregon Camellia Society take pride in this project.

A few years after the society was organized it was felt that a planting should be started that would be perpetuated and to which additional plants could be added each year. One of its members, Mr. Herman Bleasing, who is also one of the original members of the hospital board, suggested the ten-acre hospital grounds. The idea was so well received by both the hospital and the society that it quickly became a reality.

The first planting on April 19, 1947, was widely publicized as "Plant a Camellia Day" in a city-wide campaign to stimulate the planting of more camellias. It was attended by a large group which included the mayor of Portland, Honorable Earl Riley, who was also a member of the hospital board. A prominent place in front of the main entrance on the north side of a circular driveway was selected for the main planting. Although other camellias were planted the first year, the center of interest

was around the society's selection of the camellia of the year. At the beginning of each year the society members ballot for their flower choice and the selection is made from plants that have been established and grown successfully in this area.

By 1948 the camellias of the year—Kumasaka, Lady Clare, Mathotiana, Mikenjaku, Magnoliaeflora and Lotus had been planted along with plants of Margaret Jack, Victor Em-
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The C. japonica 'Bertha A. Harms' is planted on the grounds of the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Portland, Oregon. From left to right: Russell Gainer, President of the Oregon Camellia Society; Mr. Earl Riley, Ex-Mayor of Portland and member of the Hospital Board; Miss S. B. Andres, Director of the Hospital; Mrs. Bertha A. Harms and Mr. R. A. Krack, Chairman of the 1954 planting.

DECEMBER MEETING S C C S

Well over two hundred members of the SCCS and friends attended the December meeting of the Society. President Mullen of the Los Angeles Camellia Society was present as also were six or eight members of our affiliated Pomona Valley Society including its President Floyd Bunnelle and his charming wife.

With each meeting more and more Camellias are in evidence so the December meeting was extensively flowered with exquisite specimens—so many obviously Show flowers it seemed that all should have prizes.

A table of special interest at this time was arranged by Charlotte Hoak and devoted to types of containers to use in flower arrangements—a forewarning that the annual Show is just around the corner. Hazel Drummond presided over a bright tray of blooms with accessories for corsage making and gave attractive demonstrations with members turning away wearing camellias on wrists or in their hair or laden with the “makin’s” and information.

With the usual reluctance to end discussion and admiration of the exhibits President Dryden called the meeting to order. In his few preliminary remarks the President warned of the nearness of the Show and that many would be called on for their assistance. He spoke of plans going forward for the National Camellia Convention to be held in Southern California in 1956 on the last week in February. This will coincide with the Camellia Festival of Temple City and efforts of the Southern California Camellia Society will be united with those of the Pacific Society and the Los Angeles. It is in all anticipation a wonderful event of the future.

Program Chairman Edwards Metcalf then introduced Elizabeth Beebe who gave a short talk on how the

Camellia Review is produced. And then the main speaker of the evening Dr. James Bonner of the California Institute of Technology held a rap audience with his interesting “Science of the Camellia.”

After the usual social intermission and cups of coffee, there was a Camellia Panel, made up of Moderator Edwards Metcalf with experts B. Wylam, Mark Anthony, Al Dekker and Julius Nuccio. Questions of grafting of sasanquas and reticulatas and other problems were answered and interesting side-lines developed.

Ending the evening was the award of points for best blooms as usual. For ‘Alba Plena’ the bloom of the month, First was awarded to Charles Argue; Second to James Findley, and Third to Carl and Ruby Lennie.

For the best other blooms, Katherine Kuykendall won First with her ‘Chandleri,’ Mr. Gish, Second with his ‘Joshua Youtz,’ and Eleanor Howard, Third, with her bloom ‘Flame.’

CAMELLIAS BEAUTIFY

from Page 11

Manuel, Francine, Christine Lee, Daikagura, Oregon Donckelari, Hermine Elena Nobile, Monjisu and Emperor of Russia.

Succeeding plantings of each flower of the year have been Adolph Audusson, Anne Lindberg, Ville Nantes, Emperor Wilhelm, Finland and in 1954 Bertha A. Harms. Although the variety Bertha A. Harms was introduced several years ago and its beauty caught the fancy of our members, it wasn’t until this year that a plant of sufficient size was available to qualify for the selection. Mr. H. Harms, the originator of this variety and his wife Bertha A. Harms, who it was named after, shared honors in this October 1954 planting.

THE SCIENCE OF THE CAMELLIA

By JAMES BONNER

Professor of Biology, California Institute of Technology

We know quite a lot about the camellia, about the conditions which affect its growth, the circumstances which determine its flowering, and about the hybridization of the many varieties of the camellia. That we do have such a considerable backlog of scientific information about the camellia is due in a very considerable measure to the enterprise and enthusiasm of our own Southern California Camellia Society. Our Society is made up of people banded together not only by their common admiration for the camellia, but also by their interest in the study of the camellia. Our Society has been outstandingly successful, to my mind, on both fronts. We have long had the nomenclature committee, which has done an admirable job of bringing order to the naming of camellia varieties. The test garden committee, with William Kertrich's help, enthusiasm and experience, has provided us with an outstanding collection of camellia varieties, a living herbarium where we can see and compare a great number of different camellias, growing side by side. And, finally, we have had a research committee, charged by the board of Directors, with finding out anything which it could and which is deemed of interest about camellias. This committee, composed of Walter Hammerts, C. D. Cothran, G. R. Gordon, Jerry Olrich, E. C. Tourje, Clifford Johnson, and myself and for a time, including Norwood Simmons and Herbert Swim, met for an evening once a month over a period of years. The members of the committee talked about what would be good to know about the camellia. It plotted dark schemes to get others to work on camellia matters, and finally, any problem which the committee felt just had to be studied and which it couldn't get anyone else to work on, it undertook to do itself. In order to help the committee with its work the directors of our Society very wisely appropriated some money, which nearly always helps, and these funds were largely used to employ a competent person to make full use of the facilities of the California Institute of Technology specifically for camellia problems. Dr. Shigeru Honda was the servant of the com-

mittee in this work. A report on Dr. Honda's more recent activities appears elsewhere in this issue of the *Camellia Review*.

The work of the research committee was largely summarized in a volume, *Camellia Research*, which was distributed four years ago. It is out of print and it may be out of mind. I propose to go over some fundamentals about the growth and reproduction of the camellia, some fundamentals discussed in our out-of-print little book, and perhaps to embroider on these fundamentals.

A Few Fundamental Facts

When we grow a plant, we first want it to grow vegetatively, that is, to produce roots, stems and leaves and to grow to an appropriate size. Then, when we have grown the plant to a good, thrifty size, we want it to change its mind, to produce buds which will grow into flowers rather than into more stem and leaves; we want it to become reproductive. We then want these flower buds to open and to produce the flowers which are the product which we really have in mind when we start growing a camellia. Let's first take up the vegetative growth of our plant. The growth of the camellia, as of any plant, depends upon the carbon dioxide of the air, which is taken up by the plant

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SCIENCE from Page 13

and reduced to plant material by the process of photosynthesis. Camellia growth depends too upon the water which is taken up from the soil, and upon the absorption of a small number of mineral elements which, although they make up only a small part of the plant, are nevertheless essential to its welfare. The study of the uptake of minerals by plant roots and upon the effect of variations in mineral uptake on plant growth is perhaps the most studied aspect of plant science. The mineral nutrition of the camellia is something that we know a lot about. The general method of studying the mineral nutrition of the camellia, as of any plant, consists of growing the plant in some inert substratum, for example sand or gravel, which supplies only mechanical support. The plant is then watered with nutrient solution. Such nutrient solutions may be made up variously to supply varying concentrations of each mineral. By growing many plants with many different nutrient solutions, we can determine how well our plant grows in the presence or absence of each and can determine what constitutes an optimum nutrient mixture for the camellia. We have done experiments of this kind, in which we have systematically varied the levels and ratios of all of the principal mineral nutrients—nitrogen, phosphorus, sulfur, potassium, calcium, and magnesium, and have grown camellia plants with these varied solutions over a period of two years. It has been shown that the camellia grows well and is tolerant to a wide range of concentrations of these elements. Nitrogen, which is the mineral nutrient used in greatest amount by all plants, is most critical. The camellia needs to have continuously available to its roots of the order of ten parts per million of nitrogen in the soil solution. Nitrogen concentrations of ten times this level are, however, quite acceptable to our plant. Nitro-

gen deficiency is fortunately easy to detect, since characteristic yellowing of the lower leaves and restricted growth of the plant result from a deficit of this element. In our experiments too, it was shown that nitrate nitrogen, the usual form found in soil, is as good or better for supporting the growth of the camellia as ammonium nitrogen or urea nitrogen. It was shown too, that conditions which favor optimal vegetative growth, which favor rapid growth of stems and leaves, are also the conditions which favor abundant bud set and abundant flower production. The results of these experiments are therefore reassuring to us in that they suggest that we need not worry very much about feeding our camellia plants with any critically balanced nutrient diet. Provided only that we supply enough minerals to the soil in which our camellias are growing, they will not suffer nutritionally.

Importance of Soil Content

Perhaps the most important cultural factors influencing camellia growth and the one which has been least understood in the past are the two matters of soil acidity and soil salinity. Soil acidity refers to the concentration in a soil of a particular constituent—the hydrogen ion. When hydrogen ions are present, in relatively high concentration in the soil solution, the soil is said to be acid. When hydrogen ions are present in low concentration in the soil, the soil is said to be alkaline. This is most confusing and it would have been much more obvious to refer to a soil which is low in hydrogen ion concentration as nonacid or even as unacid rather than as alkaline. Most of our ordinary crop plants are not too demanding as to the exact hydrogen ion concentration of the soil in which they grow, and will grow well with hydrogen ion concentrations over a range of at least a hundred thousand

(Continued on Next Page)

old. Particular plants, as the pines and others, do however prefer an acid soil and it has been widely held that the same is true of the camellia. We have grown camellias in soils of a wide range of hydrogen ion concentrations and have found that they grow well even in soils which we would ordinarily consider alkaline. The camellia is not truly an acid-loving plant. What is true, however, is that the camellia grows well under damp, well-drained conditions. Soils which are damp and well-drained are ordinarily acid. So the camellia likes damp, well-drained places, but not on account of their acidity. The camellia likes damp, well-drained places rather because it is very sensitive to what is called salinity. The concept of salinity has to do with the saltiness of the soil solution. When a soil contains a high concentration of soluble mineral salt, it is said to be saline. A saline soil may be acid or may be non-acid and, therefore, alkaline. It so happens that saline soils are most frequently also alkaline. This is because a part of the salt which is ordinarily supplied to the soil in irrigation water is commonly in the form of calcium or sodium carbonates which react with acid in the soil and neutralize it. But alkalinity in itself does no harm; it is the salt which does the harm for plant growth. The research committee of our Camellia Society was fortunate in being able to enlist the assistance of Harold Pearson of the Metropolitan Water District to study the response of camellia plants to varied conditions of soil salinity. Mr. Pearson studied this matter most thoroughly with, of course, appropriate encouragement from the committee. He grew plants at different levels of added salt and with different kinds of salt. It was shown that camellia plants grown in the presence of 2700 parts per million of salt suffer from a tip burn of the leaves, a typical salt damage symptom. Plants grown in solu-

tions containing 4300 parts per million of salt produced no growth at all. It was concluded that probably not over 1500 parts per million of salt should be present in the nutrient or soil solution if all salt damage to the camellia is to be avoided. Now, our irrigation water in Southern California contains of the order of 800 parts per million of solids of which about 600 parts per million contribute to soil salinity. If we water a plant with such water, then, of course, we supply the plant with salt as well as with water. The water is taken up by the plant and evaporates through the leaves, especially during the day. The salts do not evaporate and are left behind in the soil and in the plant. Suppose that our plant evaporates two-thirds of the water which we have supplied so that one-third of the original water is left behind. The salts carried in with the original water are now concentrated three times as compared to the original water. If the original water had been metropolitan water district water, the concentration of salts in the soil solution in our hypothetical experiment would now be 1800 parts per million. This would be a salt solution high enough in concentration to yield some restriction of growth of the camellia and almost high enough to cause damage. In order to avoid concentration of salts in the soil solution, we must always supply enough water to the camellia or to any other plant, to leach these salts down out of the root zone. This is easily achieved with plants in tubs or pots where we can always supply enough water to cause visible leaching of water through the container. With plants growing in soil and not in tubs, we must irrigate heavily enough so that the salts accumulated from the previous irrigation are rinsed or leached down below the root zone.

To be concluded in the February Review.

NEWS NOTES AND NOTICES

Pacific Society

The Pacific Camellia Society will hold its annual Pacific Camellia Show **February 19th and 20th at the Glendale Armory, 220 E. Colorado Glendale.**

All camellia growers are urged to participate. The new classification system will be used and ribbons awarded for each variety. There will be trophies awarded for the Best Amateur Flower and the Best Professional Flower. There will be a Sweepstakes Cup, a trophy for the Best Plant, the Frank Williams Cup for the Best Seedling and the Gold and Silver Certificates of the American Camellia Society. There also will be classes and awards for arrangements and for groups of blooms.

Entries may be made from 8 a.m. on February 19th. Schedules may be obtained from Mrs. Sidney Harris, 3871 Franklin Ave., Los Angeles 2 California.

The week of February 14th through the 20th will be declared Camellia Week in Glendale. There will be a 50¢ admission charge to the show and the proceeds will be used for the extensive planting that the Society plans to do in Brand Park. The show will open to the public at 2 p.m. and will be open until 10 p.m. On Sunday morning it will open at 11 a.m. and will close at 6 p.m.

San Jose, California

Officers for the Camellia Society of Santa Clara County, Inc., are as follows: President, Gordon B. Simpson, 1415 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose. Vice President, Bernard F. Hoisholt, Box 175,—123 Paloma, Saratoga, and Secretary, Treasurer, Kenneth L. Boosey, 119 Cleaves Avenue, San Jose.

The annual Show of the Society will be held **March 6, 1955 at the Civic Auditorium, San Jose, California.**

This is a non-competitive show but there will be a review table on which will be displayed the best flowers of each variety. No admission charge to the show. All are cordially invited to attend.

San Diego Society

The Mimeographed December bulletin of the Society came out in bright green and red with many hand drawn Christmassy motifs scattered throughout its sheets. Their Camellia Show has been scheduled for **February 26th and 27th** with Lester Goodall as chairman. Show chairmen under him include the following: Decoration and Bloom display, Mrs. Althea Hebert. Special awards and Judges, Mrs. Evelyn Tellam. Schedule, Dr. Reuben Tellam. Ticket sales, Harry Hargreaves. Hospitality, Mrs. Dave Fenner, Education Exhibit, Lucien Atherton. Commercial Growers, Captain Vensel. Registration, Miss Frances Wills. Information, Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Melvin. Publicity, J. C. Henry.

Jacksonville, Florida

Annual Camellia Show is scheduled for **January 22nd and 23rd.**

Temple City

At the January 10th meeting, Gordon Baker Lloyd, popular Radio and TV Emcee, representing the Owens Simmons Co., will give a demonstration of Camellia Flower Arrangements with dry foliage. There will also be four grafting demonstration groups with some twenty choice Camellia plants being grafted. These new grafts will be added to the ten plants from COUNCILMAN CAMELLIA ACRES, the Reticulata, the Sasanqua, the 14" redwood tub and the curved blade snips for the plant sale drawings.

OUR COVER FLOWER

Sharply portrayed on the cover of this month's issue of the *Camellia Review* is the new *Camellia japonica* 'Carolyn Tuttle', a chance seedling discovered and developed by Tuttle Bros. Nurseries of Altadena, and introduced to the trade for the first time this fall.

It provides quantities of big rose-petal pink, full peony form flowers similar to Debutante but deeper in color and with many more petals. Flowers range from 3½ to 4½ inches in diameter and bloom profusely from December to March.

The shrub is particularly outstanding, growing rapidly upright and yet dense and compact, with distinctive deep green crinkled foliage, somewhat reminiscent of the Tricolor Siebold family. It roots easily and a November graft will grow to a relatively bushy plant 12-15 inches tall, with some buds, in one year.

Generally the plants bud heavily, and flowers have proven good keepers when shipped commercially. Considerable success has been experienced in growing this variety in sunny locations in Altadena. One of the ten original grafts from the mother plant has prospered beautifully in almost full afternoon sun, even with some reflected heat from a nearby asphalt badminton court.

This chance seedling, originally selected and planted from a group of seedlings because of the distinctive foliage, first bloomed in 1947. Successive years of analysis confirmed the outstanding qualities of bloom, foliage, growth habit, and flower size and color that were first noted. Propagation on a commercial basis began about three years ago assuring an ample supply of the variety upon introduction.

Named for the gracious wife of Harry E. Tuttle, co-owner with Leslie A. Tuttle of Tuttle Bros. Nurseries, who supervises one of the finest small

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home gardens in the area at 3093 Mt. Curve in Altadena. Needless to say Mrs. Tuttle has about eighteen plants of Carolyn Tuttle in her beautiful yard. She has resided in the South Pasadena and Pasadena area for many years, although born in Canada. She is particularly well-known for her work in the Westminster Presbyterian Church on North Lake Ave., with special distinction in floral decorating for church functions.

COMING! COMING!

THE SHOW'S THE THING, meaning the Annual Camellia Show of the SCCS. The date is

March 5th
March 6th

Plan now your entries—your ideas—your assistance. Chairman is Harold E. Dryden, Society President.

Camellia MAIL BAG

Columbia, South Carolina

The following letter, dated November 21, came to us through fire and brimstone from Frank Griffin, editor of The "Camellian." Quote:

Your note on page 24 of the November Camellia Review is for the "birds" and not for amateurs.

I have reference to the first paragraph. Someone has certainly misinformed you regarding the freezing of buds. Throughout the entire south and southeast the weather has been mild to moderate. All camellias were normally budded. The temperature dipped to only from 26 to 28 degrees one night in early November. Sixty-five per cent of all camellia buds were damaged or destroyed. All buds are STILL GREEN and few have fallen. I pulled more than 100 buds that are green and healthy looking from plants

in my garden this morning. I cut each one open with a knife. Eighty-three out of the hundred buds from ALL varieties are brown or black on the inside! A few buds that were showing color during the above mentioned drop are now blooming! Frankly none of us in this section have ever experienced anything like the bud damage this season—not even on November 25, 1950.

The information contained in the above mentioned paragraph may possibly be true in California but here we have hundreds of thousands of beautiful green and apparently undamaged buds that will never open. The calyx on buds has not been damaged. Perhaps some learned technical expert can tell us WHY.

Ed. Note:

We have discovered that to publish any unqualified or didactic statement whatever about Camellias is to star

(Continued on Page 24)

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"ABOVE THE TROPICS"

By PEGGY SULLIVAN

Although it seems odd, let us discuss something that should not occur! While on excursions about some tropical lands, it has been noticed that there is a complete absence of camellias at sea level. This would be normal, since the plant's native home in the Orient is cool and has a definite winter and summer. Whereas in the eternal summer of the tropics, the seasons just roll around through the year without any noticeable change in temperature. This constant heat is not a camellia's liking!

But all through the tropics it is possible to drive to nearby highlands and find a great difference between day and night temperatures. Frost will frequently visit above 8,000 feet.

Central American volcanoes go well above that elevation and one can tremble with cold in the middle of summer on top of Volcans Irazu in Costa Rica. The Jamaican Blue Mountains rise to one mile high, where camellias and azaleas grow luxuriantly under gigantic tree ferns. East African highlands and the mountains of India also rise above the heat to the beauty of rhododendrons and camellias. But below in Calcutta the poor plant languishes for about three years before taking permanent leave. Southern Florida and Honolulu have the same misfortune. So the camellia is grown in the tropics but only at high elevations. As a collector of camellias, you know now where you cannot live!

REACTION OF CAMELLIAS TO TEMPERATURE

By HARVEY F. SHORT

So much depends on the condition of plants at the time of a freeze that two such sequences are likely to give the same results. With frost periods occurring at different months, over a period of several years I have been able to screen these results and offer the following observations as I found them.

a. A group of rainy years which as a rule were accompanied with average or high humidity brought apparently no harmful results with temperature drops to 25° - 26°. The plants had gradually hardened from early Fall and seemed to withstand cold. Only the open flower would be affected and the remaining buds would open perfectly.

b. Then followed a series of dry winters which of course were accompanied with a lack of humidity. The

same drop in temperature, 25° - 26° would bite more severely and several of the seasons showed some bud drop on formal types, and usually a brown or immature center of the type did open.

c. A warm Fall to November 10th also proved disastrous and a sudden drop in temperature to 27° or 28° did as much harm to the foregoing plants as lower temperatures other seasons because the plants were still in active growth.

Most of the semi-doubles such as Magnoliaflora, the Audusson group, and Donckelaari could be depended on every season. Interesting also was the hardness of Mathotiana regardless of temperature fluctuations.

Temperature drops in the low 20°'s and under of course are very destructive.

COMMERCIALLY SPEAKING

By ED MCNEILL

Tuttle Bros. Nurseries

Growing camellias on a commercial scale requires an entirely different approach than that of the amateur or the hobbyist, for your nurseryman grower is concerned with, for the most part, Mr. Average Home Gardener.

With this in mind your nurseryman studies a camellia variety and its ultimate worth, considering how well any particular sort will fit his customer's needs.

Naturally the many fine specialists among the commercial growers can supply the new, and or, add varieties on request by the collector, yet in the overall market picture, their percentage of the total grown is relatively small.

Your Mr. Average H. G. regards the camellia japonica primarily as an extremely satisfactory (and who can dispute this attitude) evergreen garden shrub, to be enjoyed not only for its exotic bloom, but how well it will blend into his shaded landscape picture.

The nurseryman by such analysis of his average customer, can appreciate the value of the camellia, perhaps, far better than the specialist. Thus we are looking for definite specifications or known and established requirements before a variety will meet with acceptance.

In the first place the plant should have compact upright growth. Mr. A. H. G. either does not care to take the trouble to prune straggly varieties or is a bit too timid to use the shears. There is some interest in espaliered plants, but not enough to justify the growing of too many spreading types for this purpose only.

Secondly, and perhaps closely allied with the first requirement, the ideal plant should be bushy, well-clothed with foliage at all times without the painful habit of leaf drop so common to some varieties. Dark green, glossy foliage is an important advantage. Any additional feature such as pointed and crinkled foliage is so much the better.

Color of the flower might be mentioned next. Red is the preferred color, pink is second, followed by white and lastly variegated. Your

A. H. G. does not regard a variegated flower, except possibly the early blooming Daikagura, as a plant that he cannot live without.

Finally, any flower form is generally acceptable as long as it is a formal double or a peony. Seemingly Mr. A. H. G. does not at this stage of the game, recognize the beauty of the semi-doubles or the singles.

Rather than a specimen, he regards the camellias as a companion shrub for other shade loving plants. It is with considerable pride that the nurseryman can point out another important attribute of the camellia—most will grow as rapidly if not more so than most of the other more commonly used shade evergreens. Certainly with the exception of *Fatsia japonica* or *Aralia sieboldii*, camellias will outgrow the hollies, rhododendrons, osmanthus and daphne to mention but a few of the taller growers. They are cleaner than most, require less training, are pest and disease resistant.

He prefers mixing his camellia plants among other ornamentals for his shaded spots to balance his landscape picture. It is a well known fact that there is no finer background subject than the camellia for low growing material such as azaleas, *Sarcococca ruscifolia*, *Osmanthus delavayi*, ferns, begonias, and primrose.

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OUR SEEDS TRAVEL FAR

Because orders for seeds have come from so many localities where Camellia growing is a bit out of the ordinary, it was suggested that we ask some of the purchasers to report on results. The report will be continued in further issues as some of them are quite lengthy. For instance, Texas, large as it is and boasts, doesn't have the Camellia population of many other states. However a newspaper clipping from a Beaumont, Texas newspaper gives a feature story of Ed Fox with a picture of him inspecting many pots of seedlings. The story is captioned, "Ed Fox Turns Seeds into Waxy Blossoms."

The Texas story states that Mr. Fox has about 165 plants up to eight inches tall that he started in September and expects them to be blooming in another 14 or 24 months. His method is given as follows, briefly: The seeds are put in the refrigerator for three days, then into hot water for 36 hours. The seeds that sink are considered will terminate. Mixing these with pulverized peat he puts them in glass jars and keeps them warm, dark and moist for three weeks. Then he dumps them out, cuts off the tap roots of those which have germinated, dips them in root tone and sets them in flats of sand with ten percent peat. Mr. Fox has a greenhouse of course and finds a fluorescent lamp helps the plants produce earlier than without this light.

Virginia

The following interesting letter was received from Dr. Thomas Wheeldon of Richmond, Virginia:

Then years ago I was told that Camellias would not grow in the Richmond area. After discovering

that this was not a true statement I started out with a few and I would say now that there are a fair number grown here. I have approximately 200 varieties, numbering about 1,000 plants. We have had great success with practically all the varieties except Alba Plena. It would be hard to say just which varieties we like the best or which has proven the most successful for the day after the Norfolk meeting of the American Camellia Society this spring we endeavored to see how large a collection of specimen blooms we could put together and on that particular day we were able to collect what we considered as specimen blooms from 39 varieties.

I have been a member of our society for the past several years and I have some very promising seedlings from growth appearance, resulting from the hand pollination of Imura with Debutante. These seedlings are three years old and have not bloomed. I am not so certain that I followed definite instructions given in the Ca-

(Continued on Next Page)

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FOR SALE

The Secretary of the Society has the following books for sale:

"Camellias and Common Sense," by Claude Chidamian, \$4.00.

"Old Camellia Varieties," a list with brief descriptions compiled at the request of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society of the R.H.S. and the British Museum, by A. I. Ellis. A 374 page, 9x11 book, reprinted by permission by Mr. Ralph Peer. \$5.00.

"Two Cats and Forty Camellias," a 136 page story form about the growing of Camellias mixed up with cats and cooking by our own member Elizabeth Councilman of Councilman Acres. \$3.00.

Our own book, "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature," a 1954 revision \$1.25 or \$.75 each in lots of not less than 12.

"Camellias in the Huntington Gardens," by William Hertrich. \$10.00.

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SEEDS from Page 21

mellia Review or the Research Book though I am sure I have gotten information from these publications. I have intensively studied the ericeaceous plants for the past ten years and am a member of the Plant Propagators Society.

I have approximately 1500 varieties of azaleas in my garden and am one of those who consider camellias and azaleas from the point of view of the plant as well as the blossom. I have a good many seedlings from the seeds purchased from your Society but can't say too much about them until we get some bloom.

I had lunch with Mr. Walter Allan of Summerville, South Carolina two days ago. He had addressed the Camellia Society in Suffolk, Virginia the night before. Mr. Allan said that the feeling there was that the camellia area of Virginia centered around the Portsmouth, Suffolk, Norfolk area. He has seen my garden and expressed himself as being amazed with the results. I am quite sure that the camellia belt extends well beyond Richmond and as a side discussion we frequently talk about this matter at the Middle Atlantic Chapter of American Rhododendron Society. Several of the rhododendron enthusiasts are getting interested in Camellias in the Washington, Maryland and West Virginia areas.

From **Washington, North Carolina** came the following from Joseph F. Bridgers, quote:

There are quite a number of Camellias in this locality, some 8 to 10 feet high and in recent years there has been considerable interest in them so that most home owners have at least one planted. Within a radius of 70 miles there are several nurseries specializing in camellias, azaleas, Sasanquas and other broadleaf evergreens. The nearest Camellia Show are at Norfolk, Virginia, which

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about 125 miles northwest, and at Wilmington, North Carolina, about the same distance southeast.

Dr. W. C. Piver, Jr., and his wife are members of the S C C S), own a plantation down the river from here and they have several hundred camellias planted. He has a greenhouse at his home here where they do experimenting, grow seedlings, root cuttings and grafting. They attend several shows each season and they have been very good about giving me information.

I got so interested I joined the S C C S and after reading the article on Seed Culture by E. C. Tourje, decided to try some of our seed and later got some from the Society. I now have over 50 one year old seedlings in gallon containers. They are from 8 to 12 inches high. During the summer they were placed in semi-

shade and now they are in a pit with a glass substitute cover that can be raised to give them air. I would like to know more about container culture.

We have about 50 blooming camellias and our neighbor has about the same number. Our winters get cold and we have snow and freezes. We don't cover our plants so the cold causes the blooms to turn brown and fall but they continue to bloom and we enjoy them during the season. When we started we bought the following because the blooms were so pretty: Duchess of Sutherland, Mary Bell Glennan, Pink Perfection, Rev. John Bennett, Christine Lee, Professor Sargent, Concordia, C. M. Hovey, Daikagura, Fanny Bolis, Kumasaka, Arejishi, Debutante, Jarvis Red, Gigante, Herme, Purity, Methotiana and September Morn.

(Continued on Page 26)

A Brand New Camellia Color In Our Te Deum Sport

JACK McCASKILL

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RUA de DON MANUEL II, 55

PORTO, PORTUGAL

MAIL BAG from Page 18

an argument somewhere. Perhaps this means that the subject of Camellias is very much alive. We should be happy to receive "the other side" of anything published in the Review. The above, coming from Frank Griffin is quite an expose of his side. Our big mistake was not to tag the article as applying mostly to Southern California. In defense of the offending paragraph which started, quote: "Freezing destroys buds which are showing color but does not affect buds which are green—" Mr. William Hertrich stated that in the most severe freezes which the camellias in the Huntington Gardens experienced—two different years when the temperature fell to about 20° F., no buds were affected, green or otherwise. He also stated that the much greater humidity of the Carolinas would tend to produce the effects Mr. Griffin mentioned.

Naturally, we do not wish to publish any misleading information but a bit of a slip up now and then does

wonders with our Mail Bag. Further correspondence elicited the information from Mr. Griffin that he liked fraki* now and then.

*Plural of "fracas."

Atlanta, Georgia

Clifford M. Clarke, Jr., Chairman of the Atlanta Camellia Show writes as follows:

"Early in November the first bad weather to hit our general area dropped the temperatures to sub-freezing, with the result that there has been heavy, penetrating damage to outside buds. We understand many Shows depending on outside bloom have been cancelled because of this damage. Atlanta is blessed by having several thousand prime camellia plants under glass, in many private collections. We are looking forward to our 10th consecutive Atlanta Camellia Show. We anticipate it will be the biggest and best ever held in Atlanta."

"Our Show combines two worth
(Continued on Page 25)

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MAIL BAG from Page 24

als—it affords an opportunity to display fine camellia blooms and at the same time it allows humanitarian-minded citizens to help the Eggleston Hospital for Children. Officially the show is sponsored by the Atlanta Camellia Society, and the North Georgia Camellia Society, in cooperation with the Buckhead Lions Club, to benefit Eggleston Hospital."

Oporto, Portugal

Snr. Moreira da Silva who operates a nursery in Oporto writes as follows: quote:

"In Portugal the *Camellia* 'Jaune' is not very much appreciated although there are some amateurs who love this variety. The greater number of persons love 'Mathotiana,' 'Alba Plena,' 'Il Tramont,' and others in
(Continued on Page 26)

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SEEDS from Page 23 Maryland

Arnold Burr of Rockville Maryland, sends a card to say, quote: "My stand of SEEDLINGS FROM YOUR SEED IS AMAZING. However, I feel that three years will be required for results, then I may have a whole crop of Oriental wood, or nothing, due to lack of hardiness. Our lowest temperatures in this area range from 6° up to 16°. My information came from combined data of E. C. Tourje, Toichi Domoto and K. Sawada." The card concludes with a wistful entry, "I wished that I lived closer to Mr. Peer."

MAIL BAG from Page 25

this form. Sasanquas are not widely appreciated, except for the 'Mine-No-Yuki.'

"The *Camellia* 'Jaune' is very rare in Portugal and I do not know of other plants but mine. This was planted by my father before 1870 at

Grijo, where my house has the nurseries. It is not a big plant because of the grafts which are taken every year. I think the original plant was imported from England about 1860 by an ancient establishment which was there in Oporto but all the other plants of this establishment were destroyed there about 40 years ago. This *Camellia* 'Jaune' was brought into Europe by Robert Fortune. I have only a few plants of it because the grafting is not easy."

Ed Note: Of course you realize that the word "Jaune" is Portuguese for "yellow" and that Senhor Silva is indeed talking about that much discussed yellow camellia. The flower itself is single with quite a rosette of yellow stamens centering petals that have a distinctly yellow tinge. There are some plants of it in Southern California, and with all the interest in this particular flower we feel quite indebted to Snr. Silva for his nice letter.

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Advertising rates in the Camellia Review are as follows: Inside back cover, \$30.00. Full page, \$25.00. Half page, \$15.00. Quarter page, \$8.00. Advertisements may be sent direct to the Editor, Elizabeth Beebe, 706 S. Fair Oaks, Pasadena, Calif.

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SECRETARY OF SCCS
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COMMERCIALLY from Page 20

Should he desire to use camellias with ornamentals of similar foliage, he can select English or Chinese holly or the new Burford or Wilson Holly types. Or perhaps Osmanthus fragrans, the delicate Sweet olive, Muraya paniculata, or Ternstroemia gymnanthera.

Camellias even have a place in the modern type of planting, for a few judiciously spotted among the bolder foliated ornamentals, will add a pleasing note as contrasting materials. The wide-spread use of Fatsia japonica, the new semi-hardy philodendrons, gingers, bamburantas, aucubas and acanthus is effectively enhanced by the camellia, particularly since most of large-leaved tropicals have no bloom.

Thus for the average garden use, good growth and foliage becomes the most important quality among camellia varieties.

CAMELLIA REVIEWER

from Page 2

year of research at the University of Australia at Sydney and is now recognized as an authority on the mineral nutrition of plants.

We can be proud that the Camellia world reaches so far and that its phases include the greatest diversity of functions we believe any horticultural item has yet achieved.

Voice From the South

A soft Southern accent came over our telephone the other evening and turned out to belong to Carl Weston of Charlotte, North Carolina, Southern California briefly with Mr. Weston. We enjoyed chatting with him and hearing about his three-acre plot that is a small peninsula jutting out into the bay. Although it is but a few miles from his home, it is in another state: i.e. South Carolina. When we told him that Frank Griffin had said 65% of his camellias were killed through frost, Mr. Weston said Mr. Griffin was lucky as many had lived up to 90% and that so many buds had dropped you couldn't see them ground under the plants. He explained that they had had a week of weather up to 95° and another almost as hot, then the temperature dropped to 20°. Of course growers are pretty heartsick about this in that area when I spoke about all the Camellia Shows announced, Mr. Weston proposed that he was afraid some of them would have to be canceled. He said that he and Mrs. Weston were out to see what their camellias looked like after the cold—and among the few untouched there was a lovely japonica Pope Pius without a single tinge of brown on its petals.

No Ads For Us

Who cares about "that Ivy look?" We'd much rather have the *Camellia* look for '55.

says

Liz.

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