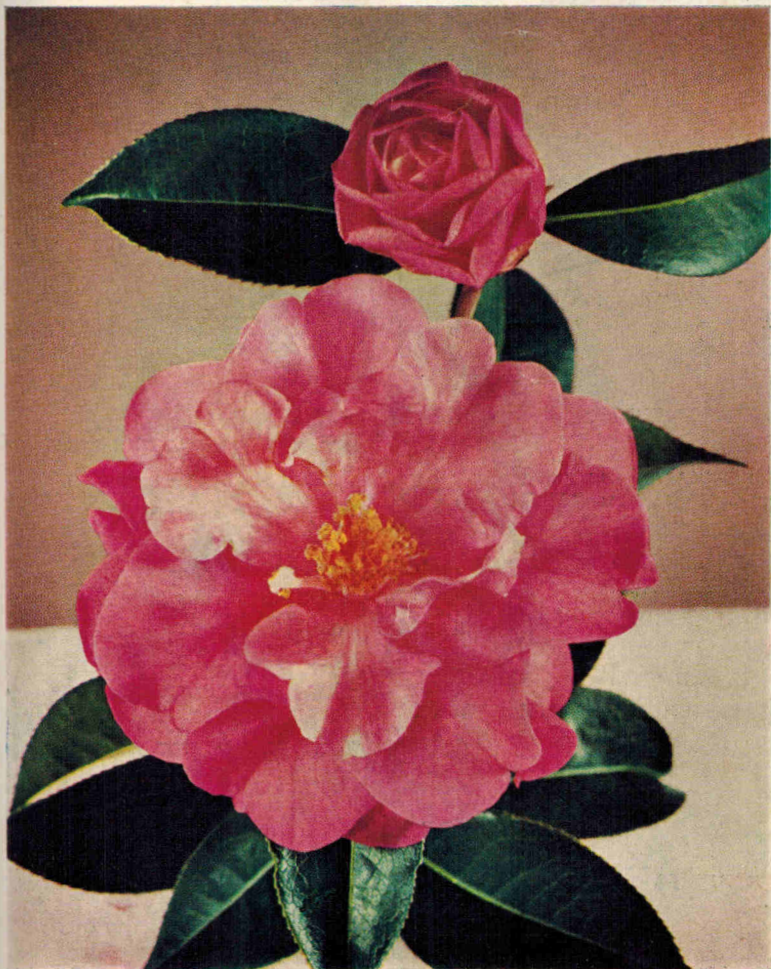


HE

Camellia Review



C. Reticulata 'Willow Wand'

(From "Camellias in the Huntington Gardens," Vol. II by William Hertrich)

Courtesy Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

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No. 5

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Southern California Camellia Society Inc

An organization devoted to the advancement of the Camellia for the benefit of mankind—physically, mentally, and inspirationally.

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, San Marino. 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.

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Secretary: Mrs. Maynard Munger, 5140 N. Fruit, Fresno	
Date of Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of each month through March. Exception—December meeting on 3rd Monday.	
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Secretary: Mrs. Alvin Reimer, 119 Jeffry St., Bakersfield	
Date of Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru May	
San Diego Camellia Society	San Diego, Calif.
Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park	
Secretary: Mrs. Russell H. Parker, 3927 Loma Alta Dr., San Diego 15	
Date of Meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.	
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Meeting Place: Claremont Women's Club, 345 W. 12th, Claremont	
Secretary: Mrs. George Bill, Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut	
Date of Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April	
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Meeting Place: Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kauffman, Temple City	
Secretary: Gertrude S. Rose, 6025 North Muscatel, San Gabriel	
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Camellia Society of Orange County	Santa Ana, Calif.
Meeting Place: YWCA Building, 1411 North Broadway, Santa Ana	
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4th Wednesday, Nov. to April	
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Date of Meetings: 1st Monday of month, October through April.	

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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

Here at Last

The long awaited month of February is here, and before its last day we are certain that one of the most outstanding gatherings of camellia-minded individuals ever to take place will have occurred. Southern California is already readying itself for the event through the preparations of hotel rooms, the lining up of interesting places, people and things for visitors to go and see and do—the extra activities as nurseries plan to put their best camellias forward, with committee people working like mad, and the camellias themselves, bless them, growing to show their beauty to an appreciative audience.

Welcome, welcome to the American Camellia Society members and a welcome to all others who will come to enjoy this wonderful Camellia Spectacular.

Did You Ever!

Camellias continually astonish their growers. First, consider the various emotions of Joe Kapp (valued SCCS member) who last year planted 100 SCCS camellia seeds in the ground. When only four timid shoots emerged, Joe was (emotions 1 & 2) very disturbed and disappointed. Digging around he discovered to his surprise (emotion #3) that the other seeds appeared as he had first planted them. They were ungerminated and quite intact.

Feeling that he could lose nothing by a little experimenting Joe covered the seeds over with damp peat. And now Joe is (emotion #4) delighted to see that he is to have a crop of seedlings. We really shall expect some truly blissful blossoms to result from under an emotional and unusual background.

Second — consider the embarrass-

ment of William Holden of our Potomac Valley affiliate who harbors some Mine-No-Yuki that have been trying to produce upside down blooms. Read all about it on page 9. If you have had any experience like this, write us.

The Moot Question of Color

One of the most fascinating features of a camellia is its color. You can count its petals and its petaloid and measure its diameter, as mathematics is an exact science, and place it into its exact classification of those factors. And, although these might vary slightly with blossoms of different localities, the results will be substantially true. But now as to color? This is where the camellia continues to confound its judges, for in spite of color charts, despite the most painstaking scrutiny of experts, the color is the subject of unceasing argument and disagreement.

Although the judge and experimenter might have an eye for true color, the blossom which he considers a true representative of a certain cultivar and which he uses for his analysis may vary widely in hue from a blossom in some other locality plucked by an equally expert judge also with a true-color eye. Consider, then, all the growers between whose blossoms of this one cultivar may fit either category.

Besides, the eyes of no two men are alike, they say, and a flower might be "Crimson Pink" to the experimenter, "Rose Pink" to the sentimental grower and "Shocking Pink" to the modern young sophisticate.

In a way the final color classification seems far off. But the subject of such fascinating possibilities that we expect to have some real literature on color in camellias in the pages of the Review before long. If you, dear camellia reader, have some views on the subject we shall welcome letters from

(Continued on Page 28)

SPECTACULAR CAMELLIA SHOW TO BE OUTSTANDING SPRING EVENT

The Combined Camellia Show will be held on February 25th and 26th, and will be the feature of the opening of the Camellia Festival at Descanso Gardens. The Festival will run through March 11th.

When a group decides to put on a show of greater proportions than is usually held, there are certain calculated risks that are encountered and must be worked out to overcome a burden on the workers as well as the exhibitors. It is the belief of all, that these problems have been worked out except for the last minute details. The wonderful cooperation the Los Angeles Camellia Council is receiving from the Descanso Gardens has been beyond expectations.

We wish to encourage the exhibitors to fill out their registration cards before they bring their blooms to the show and therefore help eliminate a lot of confusion at the registration desk. Registration cards are available through Mr. August Kapp, 4201 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, Calif., phone SYlvan 0-2636. Registration (by variety and not form) may be made Friday evening, February 24th from 5:30 to 8:00 and on Saturday, February 25th, from 7 A.M. to 10 A.M.

Mr. Joseph Kapp is receiving chairman and his committee will assist exhibitors in moving their entries from their cars to the registration area.

Chairmen for the Show are: Registration Chairman, Mr. August Kapp; Receiving Chairman, Mr. Joseph Kapp; Placement Chairman, Mrs. Robert L. Dohrmann; Properties Chairmen, Mr. George Kohl and Mr. Phil Kohl; Chairman of Judges, Mr. A. H. Dekker; Trophies and Awards Chairmen, Mr. E. C. Bengston and Mr. I. M. Krieghbaum; Arrangements Chairman, Mrs. Roy Lockhart.

Heretofore the commercial exhibitors have been pressed for time, in setting up and taking down their exhibits, not so for this show. They may come in any day of the week of the show and remain throughout the festival and remove their displays

the following week after the Festival.

The Arrangements Section, under the supervision of Mrs. Roy Lockhart, will be in the Hospitality House, the former owner's residence. In this setting they will be in the atmosphere of a home. Every assistance possible will be given these exhibitors.

The trophies selected are attractive functional pieces.

Invitations have been sent to all the Camellia Societies in the Western States and we will have exhibits from the Oregon Camellia Society, Central California Camellia Society, Camellia Society of Orange County, San Diego Camellia Society and others.

This outside show will have all of the natural beauty of the Descanso Gardens to add to a Camellia Show of interest and variety.

TROPHIES AND AWARDS

SWEEPSTAKES

Southern California Camellia Society

SWEEPSTAKES RUNNER-UP

Pacific Camellia Society

BEST JAPONICA—AMATEUR

Los Angeles Camellia Society

BEST RETICULATA—AMATEUR

Temple City Camellia Society

BEST JAPONICA RUNNER-UP

Wm. E. Woodroof

BEST RETICULATA RUNNER-UP

Mrs. A. H. Dekker

BEST MINIATURE

Manfred Meyberg

BEST ARRANGEMENT

Southern California Floral Ass'n.

BEST ARRANGEMENT

RUNNER-UP

Dr. E. Clark Hubbs

BEST SEEDLING

Frank Williams Cup

BEST COLLECTOR'S EXHIBIT

Chas. S. Jones

BEST THREE (3) JAPONICAS

R. W. Ragland

BEST FIVE (5) JAPONICAS

Lloyd J. Taylor

BEST THREE (3) RETICULATAS

Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

Professional

BEST JAPONICA

BEST RETICULATA

BEST DISPLAY

BEST DISPLAY RUNNER-UP

Special appreciation to Richfield Oil Company for donation for all professional awards.

Our Cover Flower

'Willow Wand' is one of the twenty varieties of the fabulous reticulatas imported from Kunming, China in 1848. Our cover picture was taken of a bloom from one of the plants now growing in the Huntington Gardens.

'Willow Wand' is a slender, upright bush whose leaves are elliptic, dull green on top with a lighter green on their under sides. The foliage is quite heavy with a leathery texture inclined to stiffness.

The blooms which appear in mid-season are of a lovely phlox pink with lilac tones at their margins. They average eleven centimeters across and from four to five centimeters in height.

Altogether, 'Willow Wand' is distinctive in its own right;

NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

Temple City Camellia Society

The February 27th meeting, at 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff and Kauffman, Temple City, will feature a talk on CAMELLIAS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES. Speaker will be one of the delegates to the American Camellia Society Convention in Los Angeles.

Drawing prizes will be 9 Japonicas from Don and Blanche Miller's Nursery, 4 Japonicas from Campbell's Longden Nursery, 1 Reticulata, 1 Sasanqua, a redwood tub and a pair of shears.

Refreshments will be served and you are cordially invited to meet with us.

Pomona Valley

Featured at our meeting on February 12th will be Mrs. Rose Gish of Riverside who will demonstrate floral arrangements, using camellias, with special emphasis on arrangements suitable for entering in our Camellia Show, March 3 and 4.

She is a graduate of Otis Art Institute and Art Center in Los Angeles. For the past 3 years she has been studying floral arrangements under several instructors including Norman Edwards, who sets the trend in style. In the past two years she won four sweepstakes, among them the best arrangement award in our Show last year and the Rose Festival sweepstakes in Riverside. Mrs. Gish and her husband, Merle, are members of the American Camellia Society, Southern California Camellia Society and the Pomona Society. She became interested in floral arrangements while attending society meetings with her husband.

NEW SPECIES FROM HONG KONG

By RALPH PEER & H. C. TANG

Quite by accident, a camellia tree has been noted in a wooded valley near the Shing-Mun reservoir area on the mainland across from Hong Kong at an altitude of about 2000 feet. When visited in December, the flowering period was just over but fortunately a freshly dropped flower was found on the ground. This measured five and one-half inches in diameter and had eight white petals with a cluster of golden stamens in the center. The five pistils are united for three-fourths of their length and covered with silky hairs. The seed capsule is brown and rough with persistent gray hairy perules. The dark green leaves are remarkably lustrous with deeply impressed venations on the upper surface and pale green beneath.



There is an exciting possibility this is a new species.

Mr. Robert Sealy, the Botanist, at Kew Gardens in London, has so far not been able to identify this item and thinks that it might be a new species. At
(Continued on Page 13)

SOME REPRESENTATIVE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLECTIONS

By ROY T. THOMPSON, *Glendale, California*

There are as many private camellia collections in Southern California as there are members of camellia societies and the following list is, necessarily, only a small part of these. If a visitor from Mars were to ask where he could find some typical outstanding collections in this area, this list would, we hope, enable him to make a satisfactory beginning. Not all the collections listed here are big ones but each has, in its own way, some instructive feature to offer.

Some are noteworthy for their new, rare varieties, others for their scenic beauty, others for their modern equipment, and some as examples of what can be accomplished on a single residential lot. Each represents a phase of camellia collecting—as practiced in Southern California—at its best.

The following list is arranged, not in order of merit—which would involve too many imponderables—but alphabetically.

A. H. Dekker, 2524 East Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale. This is a "single residential lot" or "backyard" collection which is outstanding as an example of what can be done in a limited hillside area under live-oaks. The back end and part of one side of the lot have been shaped by nature into a small amphitheater, the surface of which Mr. Dekker has covered with bright green tear-drop grass (*helxine*). On this background he has planted camellias which are now five to eight feet tall and in luxurious foliage. At the height of the blooming season this set-up presents an unforgettably beautiful flower show.

Dr. Cecil H. Eshelman, 14287 Roblar Place, Sherman Oaks. This is the "residential lot lath-house" type of collection and it contains a fine assortment of standard and new varieties. They are in containers. Dr. Eshelman has developed the art of producing prize-winning blooms and his name appears on the list of award winners at most of the camellia shows. Some camellias are planted about the

grounds but the main collection is under lath.

J. O. Henry, Route 1, Ramona. Mr. Henry lives in the famed Ramona Valley about thirty miles north-east of San Diego. The almost unique formation of hills and rocks surrounding this valley give it a "Wild West" atmosphere and one almost expects to see cowboys and Indians. Mr. Henry has fitted his home and garden uniquely into the huge rocks, live oaks, hills, and stream-bed. Most of the camellias are planted in the ground, some of them (notably 'Masterpiece') against room-sized rocks, some overhanging a small drainage channel, and some in groups around the trunks of great oaks. This is the sort of locale artists dream about. The collection is still in its youth but is worth seeing because of its typically western atmosphere.

Edwards Metcalf, 745 Canterbury Road, San Marino. The Metcalf home is in the famed San Marino section of the Pasadena area, an area noted for its fine houses and estates. There is an old, established look about this place, reminding one of an English country estate. The house and grounds fit admirably together as a unit and the camellias are planted here and there among other shrubs and not ostentatiously grouped in any one place. However, there are several groups containing a dozen or so camellias which fit into the surrounding landscape. The emphasis here is on the total landscape effect rather than

in the camellias and this is, in itself, a noteworthy feature, for camellia enthusiasts often overlook it. Most of these camellias are of the older, standard varieties, and there is one group of sasanquas planted appropriately in front of a wall. Hidden among the trees is a lath-house, a green-house, and an area of containers where the newer varieties are being grown for later planting. Mr. Metcalf is interested in the many related camellia species and in the production of new varieties from seed.

The outstanding feature of this collection, however, is the group of large Yunnan reticulatas. These are planted in several locations about the place, skillfully landscaped into the surrounding shrubbery. Some of these are seven to eight feet in height and five to six feet in breadth, probably the largest in America. They are unusually healthy in appearance and more compact than the average for the species. Their vigor may be due to their being planted in the ground and to their having been, at one time, stock plants. One of the results of this healthy state was the production last year of several hundred reticulata seeds, all of which have been duly planted.

Ralph S. Peer, 8159 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles (Hollywood). The Peer home nestles on an intensively landscaped hillside at the western extremity of famed Hollywood Boulevard and has an elevation sufficient to give it a wide view over the city of Los Angeles. The steepness of the hill has been overcome by many terraces, large and small, and on these terraces which surround the house, and in the level area between the house and the hill, the camellias have been planted, mostly in beds, but some singly as landscape features. The name of this state, Park Hill, is particularly appropriate.

Mr. Peer has been indefatigable in searching out rare species and speci-

mens the world over and his collection includes japonicas, sasanquas, reticulatas, and practically all of the known related camellia species now obtainable. He has practically all of the English hybrids, dozens of little known Japanese varieties. An authority familiar with his garden said recently that Mr. Peer has, in terms of number of varieties, the largest amateur collection in the world. In enlarging his collection he has performed many services to the camellia world, such as the discovery of the "lost" yellow camellia in Portugal, the "lost" reticulata in England which has been named 'Robert Fortune,' and his discovery in Formosa of a white formal with a yellow center. His large collection reflects this breadth of camellia interest.

Caryll W. Pitkin, 2465 Sherwood Road, San Marino. This is a small collection of standard varieties which would not ordinarily attract much attention but it has one feature which is, perhaps, unique. It is a contained well regulated, precise planting along strict, conventional lines where every camellia has its own well outlined space and is kept well within bounds. The ground about the camellias is clean as a rug and the whole backyard area — which is small, — has a conventionalized pattern. This formalized pattern is the antithesis of the free and natural growth of camellias on the Taylor hillside and demonstrates a phase of camellia culture rarely seen. After all, there is something quite conventional and formal about camellia foliage, a feature which well suits Mr. Pitkin's use of it.

R. W. Ragland, 1440 E. Chapman Ave., Orange. "Reg" Ragland has one of the best camellia collections in the area and it is housed in three large up-to-date lath-houses. It consists chiefly of japonicas and a set of Yunnan reticulatas. All the specimens are in containers. The lath-houses are spacious and of greater height than the average. They are equipped with

many modern devices such as motor-driven sprayers, automatic heat controls, soil-mixers, and other devices. Everything that can be done for camellias is done here, making this an outstanding collection for its technological equipment.

Dr. Lloyd Taylor, 810 Highland Drive, Pasadena. The outstanding feature of this collection is its setting in the hills of the Flintridge area. The camellias are planted on sloping ground under live-oaks in much the same natural conditions they would have in their native habitat. The exposure is north-easterly, which protects them from the hot afternoon sun. This all but ideal locale for camellias has the added attraction of being situated at an elevation which affords views of the surrounding hills, estates, and the distant mountains — a setting where one gets the feeling of spaciousness and out-door beauty typical of the very best in the Southern California foothill area. The Taylors have all this and camellias too.

The collection is a large one, old enough to contain many plants which present their flowers at eye-level, and young enough to include many of the new varieties. Most of the Yunnan reticulatas are represented. All in all it is a collection which satisfies both the casual seeker after beauty and the camellia specialist and is undoubtedly, all things considered, the finest out-door planting of camellias in Southern California.

Dr. R. W. Tellam, Ramona. This is the largest and most complete collection of japonicas in the San Diego area. The small town of Ramona has retained its rural character through the years and makes city people homesick for the old-fashioned neighborliness they once knew. The climate of this valley — hot summers and cool winters — seems to be ideal for the production of camellia blooms of maximum size and Dr. Tellam has a consistent record of winning top

awards with them. The collection is housed, for the most part, in an extensive lath-house and the camellias are planted in the ground. There is a representative assortment of old and new varieties; many of the plants have reached the height of six feet or more. Of late, Dr. Tellam has developed a strong interest in seed planting and since he has large numbers of high-grade seed-bearing varieties, he has much to look forward to.

Frank D. Williams, 1387 Schuyler Road, Beverly Hills. Mr. Williams specializes in top-grade camellias, especially japonicas, and, considered from the point of view of high quality (including the newest varieties) he has the foremost collection on the Pacific Coast. He obtains many originations long before they are released and his courtesy table at the shows is always informative to those who are curious about new and rare varieties.

The main collection is planted in the ground in a large rectangular patio surrounded by house and wall. Hundreds of fine varieties are massed together in one huge planting. Year after year dozens of them are removed to the outer garden, some because they have become too big, others because they have not measured up to the high standard of quality required of varieties in this planting.

Outside this inclosed area there are still more japonicas, a complete set of reticulatas grafted on large understock in the ground, and a hillside of fine sasanquas which, in blooming season, present a spectacular show. Aware of the value of high grade varieties as parents, Mr. Williams has saved seed from the camellias in the inner patio and now has a sizable collection of seedlings.

William E. Woodroof, 4117 Davenport Road, Sherman Oaks. In addition to his many other camellia activities, "Bill" Woodroof has collected over

(Continued on Page 13)

A MINE-NO-YUKI GOES TOPSY-TURVY

An unusual botanical curiosity, the growth of inverted flower buds on one camellia plant, has been reported by a member of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley, Mr. Charles F. Holden of 100 West Rosemont Ave., Alexandria, Va.

For several years Mr. Holden has been observing in his garden two matched Mine-No-Yuki camellia sasquas, a white, late blooming, double variety. One has consistently been a good bloomer while the other has just as consistently dropped its buds on the point of blooming. There is no apparent explanation for this behavior since both plants had had identical treatment, were located with the same exposure, and had been obtained from the same nursery at the same time. The Coleman Nursery in Portsmouth, Va., which supplied the plants,

is believed to have obtained them from a West Coast grower.

It was not until this fall that Mr. Holden accidentally discovered the cause of the plant failing to bloom. A close examination one day of a flower bud which had fallen to the ground when about to bloom revealed that it was fully formed with stamens and petals but that the bud, in relation to the stem, was inverted 180 degrees (See Picture A.).

Upon looking closely at flower buds still on the plant Mr. Holden saw that the head of each still unopened bud was attached to the stem rather than the base of the bud. (See Picture B.) The result of this inversion, naturally, was that as the bud opened it also forced itself off its stem and fell to the ground still not completely open.

(Continued on Page 27)



Courtesy Scott Seegers

PICTURE A

Conventional growth

Picture A showing inverted stamens

HISTORY AND PERFORMANCE OF CAMELLIA RETICULATA

By J. HOWARD ASPER

The first part of Mr. Asper's story stated that the first known reticulata plant to reach the western world arrived in England in 1820. Then the second chapter in the story began in 1837 when Robert Fortune sent a reticulata plant to England from China where he had been sent as a plant explorer to the Royal Horticultural Society. This plant was housed in the conservatory of William Byam Martin, Esq., Bank Grove, Kingston, Surrey. Known as the *C. reticulata* 'Flore Pleno', it has now been given the name 'Robert Fortune' by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Mr. Asper concludes his story:

The third chapter of reticulata history begins in 1912 when George Forrest, another plant explorer, sent to England some reticulata seeds collected in Tengyueh, Western Yunnan, China. Plants grown from these seeds first flowered in 1932 and are referred to as the "garden form" of reticulata. The medium pink flowers are of medium size and are single. The plant grows very vigorously and sets seeds easily. It is being used extensively both as a seed and pollen parent by hybridizers here in California.

In 1924 six plants of the Captain Rawes variety were brought to California by Eric Walther of San Francisco. One of these plants found its way to the campus of the University of California where it soon attained considerable size. From this plant came scions for propagation of many of the plants now being grown.

The fourth and most exciting chapter of *C. Reticulata* history begins in 1948. This year marked the importation into California of twenty varieties from Kunming in Yunnan Province of western China. These lovely varieties had been grown there for centuries and some plants had attained considerable size. One in particular had attained a height of 30 feet and had a trunk 24 inches in diameter. Why they had been overlooked by plant explorers presents something of a mystery. It might be explained by the fact that they were grown only

in the temple gardens and in the walled gardens of the wealthy which early Caucasian visitors were not readily admitted. Another unexplained mystery is how the two varieties, Capt. Rawes and Robert Fortune had found their way to the coast early in the nineteenth century to be picked up by the sea captains and taken to England. The distance from Kunming to Shanghai is roughly fifteen hundred miles and while this does not seem far by modern transportation facilities, its travel may have posed many problems in 1800.

The twenty varieties shipped to California in 1948 were carried by the Chinese National Airways from Kunming to Shanghai and were then transferred to Pan-American Airways and arrived in San Francisco on March 18th. They were growing in native red soil of China and planted in hand made Chinese clay pots. They had to be bare rooted and fumigated with methyl-bromide gas in order to pass inspection by the U.S.D.A. The effects of the fumigation were so severe that several of the plants died. Subsequent importations were made by different parties but to date only eighteen of the twenty varieties originally sent have been established here. These varieties were slow in becoming acclimated in California. They could well be likened to oriental visitors to an aristocracy, whose acquaintances

friendship had to be studiously motivated by acts of understanding and kindness. Unfortunately they were at once subjected to evaluation and criticism by camellia experts. However, immature and mis-leading some of these early criticisms have proved to be they are still being repeated. Time alone will establish their true worth and performance.

Grafts made of these varieties onto japonica understock result in fast growing, unbranching shoots. At once the critics declared the plants to be raggedly and ungainly. Given a few years to grow these same plants are coming out and give promise of equaling any japonica in body and form. They are also proving much more sun tolerant than the japonicas.

Flowers of several of the varieties are said to be of no consequence and not worth growing. However, as the plants became established they bore flowers and unquestionable merit and beauty. Age and cultural condition of the plants results in wide differences in flowers of the same varieties. Consequently they present a continual challenge

It has been observed that at least ten of the varieties set seed, and that as seed parents they are receptive to pollen from *C. japonica*, *C. sasanqua* and *C. saluenensis*. Both professional and amateur hybridizers are busily engaged crossing every combination imaginable. And the amount of seed obtained from these crosses is both amazing and gratifying. Several years will have to pass before results can be evaluated. In the meantime it is pleasant to anticipate the variations and improvements which seem certain to appear. Flowers of greater substance and finer quality borne in profusion on vigorous bushy plants are well within the realm of possibility.

Meanwhile camellia fanciers everywhere will increasingly accept the challenge to grow plants of Reticulata varieties. And every effort will be richly rewarded for no cultivated plant surpasses these jewels of the orient in romance and beauty. Soon may the day come when here, as in China, possession of a well grown and cared for collection of these plants will hold as a mark of distinction.

JUDGES

The following have been announced as added to the list of Accredited Judges for the Southern California Camellia Show:

Mrs. H. E. Milliken, 454 Palm Drive, Covina, California
Mrs. E. C. Burcky, 519 Alhambra Road, San Gabriel
Mrs. Byron F. Lindsley, 6138 Madrid Drive, San Diego 15
Don and Blanche Miller, 331 W. Duarte Road, Monrovia
Mr. A. W. Garner, 1106 Highland Ave., Glendale 2.
Mr. Perry W. Clark, 1951 N. Edgemont Street, Los Angeles

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FOR SPECIAL MENTION

Camellia gardens are more than flower gardens. The endearing habit now prevalent of naming beautiful new mutants and seedlings after persons admired and loved makes a collection of friends and personalities instead of inanimate plants, regardless of how beautiful they may be.

It is always a pleasure to add still another person to one's garden and in this case it seems certain that both person and flower are well worthy of continued consideration.

The story goes that back in 1949 Mr. R. L. Wheeler, owner of the Central Georgia Nurseries at Macon, Georgia noted a particularly beautiful seedling flower and carefully marked it for further observation. In 1950 the plant was almost killed by low temperature but in 1953 its bloom was again so outstanding that if he had had the required number of plants, Mr. Wheeler would have entered them in the All America Selections. However from being known as "W-145" it was at the suggestion of Frank Griffin, Editor of the Camellian that the plant received the name of "Sallie Meyes." This year, Mr. Wheeler has authorized its release and it will be available in the fall of 1956.

According to a newspaper clipping, the bloom is of an unusual shade of silvery salmon-pink and may measure anywhere from five to six inches across. It is usually semi-double in form but sometimes is an incomplete double to rose form having five rows of petals — twenty-five in number with five petaloids. Indications are

that the 'Sallie Mayes' will find a place among the very top varieties.

And as to the real Sallie Mayes herself? In a letter she says, quote—"I am greatly flattered." Mrs. Mayes was one of the two organizers of the Jackson, Mississippi Camellia Club and the first member in Jackson of the S C C S "which has been a source of great pleasure, interest and information to me," she adds. Her enduring love of camellias is revealed in her further statement — "It is hard to say yet what damage the cold weather has done but I believe camellia lovers are the most strong-hearted and courageous tribe living. On a gray morning when everything seems wrong finding one beautiful bloom makes us lift our heads and say reverently 'God's in His Heaven, and all is right in the world'."

And it just sounds as though with a 'Sallie Mayes' in it, every Camellia garden is going to be all right, too.

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COLLECTIONS from Page 8

He years a highly selected list of the finest varieties to be had. He keeps constantly in touch with growers all over the country and is always posted on new varieties before they are released to the public. His collection, therefore, represents the best and latest in camellias. It is housed in a hothouse in the rear of his residence and is planted in containers. Bill Woodroof does not compete in the shows but his courtesy table usually contains several varieties not seen before by the public.

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NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

Sacramento Camellia Show
Sacramento Municipal Auditorium
March 10-11, 1956
Pomona Valley Camellia Show
Holt Ave. Branch, California Bank
Pomona, California
March 3-4, 1956
Central Valley Camellia Show
Fresno County Fairgrounds in Cafeteria
March 4, 1956
Bakersfield Camellia Show
San Joaquin Tractor Show Rooms
99 Hwy. & California Ave.
Bakersfield, California
March 3-4, 1956

NEW SPECIES from Page 5

First sight, the flower seems to resemble that of *Tutcheria spectabilis*. *TUTCHERIA* is a species closely allied to *CAMELLIA*. The seeds are definitely those of a *CAMELLIA* and are not from a *TUTCHERIA*.

The photograph herewith has been supplied by the Gardens Division of the Hong Kong Urban Services Department.

THE IMPORTANT EARTHWORM

By CHARLOTTE HOAK

Years ago when I was an undergraduate in the University of California at Berkeley, I was assigned Darwin's epoch-making volume "The Formation of Vegetable Mold Through the Action of Earthworms." Not content to make a study of the text, I went out into my garden and collected a goodly number of earthworms and installed them in a box fitted with glass sides so that I could observe the worms without disturbing the soil. I was very careful to keep the soil moist and shaded from the direct light. I tabulated my observations, keeping accurate account of the earthworms' behavior; how they ate, how they grew day after day. I was keenly interested in their method of reproduction. I had read about capsules and eggs and did some microscopic and dissection work as I went along. Before I had finished the full term I had earthworms of all sizes from the mature ones to the tiny ones just emerging from the capsules. I did not know much about their diet but had read that they were fond of leaf mold, would take even bits of green leaves, and clover clipping. Somebody told me they were fond of fat so the rinsings of cream bottles went into the water which moistened the soil of their box; middlings and cornmeal found themselves in a light mulch on the top soil carefully mixed with a general mulch of good partially decayed leaf mold. The life history of my worm colony was most absorbing. I little dreamed at that time I was to find earthworms such an important factor in gardening, and that people would reap substantial profits from Earthworm Farms. At the present time we have a famous earthworm champion, Dr. Thomas J. Barrett, who has walked directly into Who's Who through the earthworm path. He lives at Sunland.

It would pay you to educate yourself on this important matter of earthworms. There are three books you should read instead of listening to the ravings of those who are "agin the worms." The first one is the one written in 1882 by the famous scientist,

Darwin; the second one is "Our Friend the Earthworm," by Dr. George Sheffield Oliver; the third one is "Harnessing the Earthworm," by Thomas J. Barrett.

Pure worm castings are very important, as compost from your own worm beds that have been worked over by the worms is practically solid worm castings and is without exaggeration a miracle plant food. It is very effective in potting and flattening plants. You can use it in solution for watering seed beds to stimulate growth. It is a fine organic food for camellias and azaleas, either mixed in the soil or combined with the mulch you apply. I always keep a box of worm castings near my potting table. A friend who is famous for her thrifty African violets makes constant use of worm castings in her potting mixtures.

Albert Howard, the famous English horticulturalist, says: "The casts are manufactured in the alimentary canal of the earthworm from dead vegetable matter, and particles of soil. In this passage the food of these creatures is neutralized by constant additions of carbonate of lime from the three pairs of calciferous glands near the gizzard, where it is finely ground prior to digestion. The casts which are left contain everything which the crop needs: nitrate, phosphates, potash in abundance, and also in just the condition in which plants can make use of them."

Further in his book, "Harnessing the Earthworm," Dr. Barrett writes "In the chemical and mechanical lab

laboratory of the earthworm's intestine are combined all the processes of topsoil building. The earthworm swallows great quantities of mineral earth with all it contains of vegetable and animal remains, bacteria and the minute and microscopic life of the soil. In the powerful muscular mill of his gizzard, using grains of sand for millstones, the ingested material is thoroughly ground and mixed, as the abundant digestive secretions are turned in to exert their solvent and neutralizing action. Slowly the semiliquid mass moves through the intestine, undergoing further mixing as it takes on vegetable animal hormones and substances. Finally, it is ejected on and on the surface of the earth as castings — earthworm manure — humus, a crumbly, finely conditioned topsoil, richly endowed with *all* the elements of plant nutrition in *water-soluble* form."

Before you spend your money on widely advertised chemical fertilizers which are bally-hooed over every radio or television program, try some of these magical earthworm castings on your cherished plants. You can create them in your own compost bins out of the waste material people usually pay the disposal man to cart away, by harnessing your earthworms. Don't take my word for it. Try it. It takes fully twenty years, often forty to get over a new idea — to turn us from the error of our ways.

You are going to hear considerable talk about these so-called "Hybrid" earthworms, the lively "soilution" ones which are for most part descended from George Sheffield Oliver's domesticated strain which he brought to the Pacific Coast in the post-depression days when World War II was in the offing. We found them much better than the sluggish orchard earthworm I experimented with in my college days. Neither were they the small red manure worms. Dr. Oliver gave us a series of talks in our

Nature Club illustrating it with living material and many of us were convinced by his clear cut logic. Some of his listeners of the experimental turn of mind took the earthworm trail. One of these was Mary Leisure who established one of the first commercial earthworm farms in an orange grove on Acacia Street in Pomona. I was deeply interested in her project and walked around her cans of "with" and "without" the aid of earthworms.

When the war really came on and we established Victory Gardens on every hand, I was called on to develop an old worn out dude ranch the organic way. Having the courage of my convictions and running the gauntlet of being classed a "faddist" I resolved to give earthworms a chance to compete with the easily applied sacked commercial foods which were being lavishly applied on every hand. Maybe I would not get results as soon (another case of the hare and tortoise). I put the matter before Mary Leisure enlisting her help and following her directions in every detail. As we were working on a large scale (169) acres) we built some large propagating bins for the worms and fed them generously all the prescribed food she suggested. We combined this with cover cropping, sheet composting and regular composting on a large scale. In the end we got lasting results. I cannot begin to tell you about the permanent results we got or all that we did on the project. It would make a small book.

We planted earthworms around the drop line of our orange trees, put castings in our planting rows, watered our seedbeds with liquid solutions made from the castings. Peppers, egg plants and tomatoes were set in generous holes enriched with organic compost. Squash, cucumbers and melons were given "boosters." Every

(Continued on Page 28)

TOURING THE ARBORETUM

By EDWARD J. PUGH

Every Sunday between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. people are passing through the main entrance gates of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum; passing from a hectic and fast paced existence into one of peace and beauty. To quote one of our very satisfied guests the Arboretum is indeed "an oasis in the desert of city living."

Let's take this tour through rare and unusual plants, important scientific projects and old intriguing buildings. On arriving at the main entrance located at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, you will board a quaint jeep-train. Two such trains are kept in operation by public contributions.

Soon you are underway and the Arboretum story begins to unfold. First your guide explains what an Arboretum is, a place where labelled woody living plants (trees and shrubs) are grown for scientific and educational purposes. The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum is this and much more. It is hoped that this Arboretum will become the Horticultural center of California, a center out of which will flow new plants and new ideas for making a more beautiful Southern California. Rather than following the usual pattern of most Botanic Gardens, in arranging plant materials by family groups, the Arboretum has been divided into geographical sections. Thus each section contains plants that are native to its equivalent country. Furthermore the Arboretum is a preserve of early California buildings and authentic historical gardens. And last but indeed not least the Arboretum is a sanctuary to many domestic and wild birds.

Under the definition given, one notices the very important mention of an educational program and its benefits. Education is being stressed both for young people and adults. In our week day tours (arranged by appointment) we are endeavoring to acquaint youngsters with the love of plant, insect, and bird life; the exciting world of nature. Such work is being enlarg-

ed in scope every month and new horizons are in sight. In time the adult in the gardening field will also benefit from gardening schools, an herbarium, a library, horticultural bulletins and research facilities.

The first planting you visit, on the Arboretum tour, is the *South African Section*, passing the bright multi-colored heads of *Watsonias* which crowd the side of the road. Your eye is caught by the arresting purple bronze color of *Dodonaea viscosa* var. *atropurpurea*. A back drop of the blue daisy of *Felicia* completes the picture.

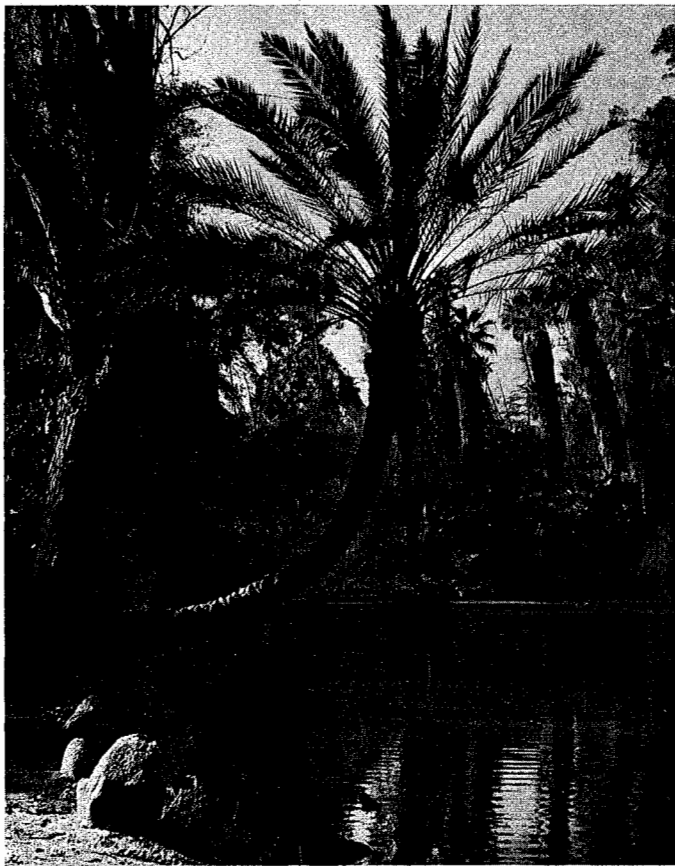
You pass next into the *Australian Section*, perhaps the most interesting of the sections because of the increased importance and use of Australian plant materials in California gardens. Your greeters in this section are the multitudinous branches and bright bottle-shaped flowers of *Callistemon* and *Melaleuca*, the ("Bottle Brushes"). You will be amazed at the attractive gray foliage and spectacular 3-inch flowers of *Euc. rodantha*. *Grevillia banksii* or the dwarf silk oak with its orange red flowers also is an appealing attraction in this area.

Just east of the Australian section is "The Heart of the Arboretum." This is the propagation area or the starting point of our plants. Here seed arrives from its foreign home usually as a result of seed exchange and is propagated and grown. Here the long process of recording begins.

records and labels follow the plant through its entire unfoldment from seed to maturity. Here are found the modern and functional hothouse and lathhouse, the lathhouse one of the first to be built of aluminum, is drip proof. A weather station is located nearby and a small greenhouse for

Resuming your tour you will pass some of the areas allotted to research problems. These include: home lawn turf grass studies, soil conditioner experiments, and fundamental studies in dew measurement.

You will travel past the *Latin American section*, which includes *South*



Like a jewel in the heart of a fabulous setting is the Lagoon of the Arboretum whose waters were once admired by guests of Lucky Baldwin's mansion—now charmingly restored. A graceful *Phoenix dactylifera* droops over the calm water.

studies on the effect of smog on plants is operated by the Air Pollution Control District. "Guinea-pig" blue grass plants are grown in pure air in this house and then transported to various parts of Los Angeles County for exposure to measure smog.

America, noting the fine form and stateliness of the Montezuma Cypress from Mexico. A treat is in store for you around the bend as a beautiful five-acre spring-fed lagoon becomes visible. This is an ethereal spot which rests like a pearl in the center of the

Arboretum. Next you look north across the upper lagoon and see the candelabra-like form of *Pinus Oocarpa*. Oriental section, phylogenetic garden (which will be planted to show the evolution of plants), and display areas are soon behind and you are passing Tallac Knoll. The sides of the knoll are being planted with species camellias, azaleas, and rhododendrons, a perfect spot under the oaks and what a splash of color this will make! Your guide reminds you of projects to be in this area, a huge glassed water lily pool, a mediaeval walled garden, and a garden for the blind are included. The herb garden is already in and it is not unusual to find ladies from the Southern California unit of the American Herb Society working among the formal paths and fragrant rosemary, thyme, and mint.

Winding up Tallac Knoll through native oaks you travel on to the top of the knoll and pause briefly for a look at the *Biblical Garden*. The Sycamore Fig, Crown of thorns and Salt bush are represented and their relation to biblical lore will interest you.

On returning from your hill trip you pass the palm and bamboo section, the old rose section, and arrive at the Coach Barn. Your walking tour begins now, taking you many years into the past. The path takes you through E. J. Baldwin's elaborate coach barn which still houses his handsome imported Tally-Ho, then

down through the park where many large trees stand as testimonies to the early owners of Rancho Santa Anita. Camellia varieties such as Debutante and Finlandia are found in the park artistically arranged beneath the large trees. At one end of the park we suddenly emerge upon a scene which many would picture as being in "Never, Never Land." This is the enchanting Queen Anne Cottage built in 1881 by "Lucky" Baldwin. It has been restored and refurbished by the Historical Committee of the California Arboretum Foundation; it was used as a guest house. The lavish furnishings and picturesque setting will enthrall you.

Leaving the cottage you walk through shaded lanes to the old 'Dobe' which was once the center of activity on the Santa Anita Ranch. This adobe which Hugo Reid built in 1839 stands quietly beside the lagoon. One section of the house is an addition made by Baldwin in 1879 and it was here that E. J. Baldwin at 81 said farewell to a long and zestful life.

From the ranch house you walk along the eastern shore of the lagoon stopping for an inspection of a thorn studded tree, *Chorisia speciosa*. In Spanish it is called "Polo Borracho" or "Drunken Tree." It makes a spectacular display when in full bloom.

The next part of your tour takes you deep into the Jungle. Walking single file you thread your way

(Continued on Page 28)

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VISITING NURSERIES IN CALIFORNIA

By JERRY OLRICH

State Gardener

Concluded from January Review

A few blocks south of McCaskill's are Shepp's Shade Gardens where quite a number of camellias are grown. Some of their introductions are "Arlene Lee Shepp," "Olive Lee Shepp," "Rosemary Kinzer," "Margaret McGown," "Ann Miller," and a few others.

Going still farther south we come to Marshall's Camellia Nursery. An interesting thing about this nursery's owner is that he worked for one of the pioneer nurserymen, E. G. Rust, whom a camellia was named after. During World War II, Mr. Marshall also took care of Mark Anthony's Nursery, which was another camellia nursery growing camellias, which a short time ago sold out. These two gentlemen introduced quite a number of new varieties such as "Huntington Pink," "Fimbriata Superba," "Royal Trumpeteer," "Arlene Marshall," and a few others.

A few miles east of this nursery you will come to Deigaard Nurseries in Monrovia. Although the late Mr. Deigaard did not introduce many camellias he has grown thousands which have found their way into the hands of the camellia enthusiasts. He did introduce "Kent Deigaard" and "Mrs. Deigaard."

After viewing this nursery we head directly south and after driving about a mile we come to Monrovia Nursery where many millions of plants are grown.

This nursery sells about one million camellias every year. Although this nursery has not introductions, it grows about twenty-five to forty of the most popular varieties that have

sales appeal. To see several million camellias growing at one place is worth seeing.

Leaving the city of Monrovia we wend our way eastward towards the city of Uplands until we get to the Kramer Bros. Nursery. This nursery has grown camellias for many years and do a very good job. They have introduced "Mt. Shasta," "General Dwight Eisenhower," and many others.

After leaving Kramer Bros., we proceed south to Ontario where we find the headquarters of Armstrong Nurseries. This is one of the oldest nurseries in California and it has been in business for sixty-six years. During this time many thousands of camellias were grown and sold to the public. Some of their introductions are, "Anita," "Purity," "Lila Lee," "J. C. Williams," and many others.

One of the interesting things that happened at this nursery is that the first discussion of forming an All-America Camellia Selections was held here.

Cross breeding and hybridizing have been done to quite a large extent and it looks like we may see some good things come from this.

Continuing south to the city of Chino we find the location of Descanso Distributors which were formerly located at Rancho Descanso in La Canada. Quite an extensive area is given over to growing camellias. Though this nursery is not old in years much has been done by them in cross breeding and hybridizing.

It was this nursery that imported

the Yunnan Reticulatas and introduced them to the trade. I think I would be amiss if I didn't mention each and every one of them by name: "Cornelian," "Crimson Robe," "Chang's Temple," "Butterfly Wings," "Lion's Head," "Pagoda," "Professor Tsai," "Purple Gown," "Noble Pearl," "Shot Silk," "Tali Queen," "Willow Wand," "Chrysanthemum Petal," "Osmanthus Leaf," "Large Osmanthus Leaf," and a few others.

Some of their Japonica introductions are: "Berenice Boddy," "Mrs. Howard Asper," "Pride of Descanso," "F. C. #2," and "Jenny Jones."

Heading west toward the city of Los Angeles we come to El Monte where we look up Councilman Camellia Acres and meet another Mr. and Mrs. team who though new as far as camellia years are concerned do a very excellent job of growing. Mrs. Councilman is not only a good camellia grower but is an authoress as well. Her book, "Two Cats and Forty Camellias" is a most interesting story which every camellia enthusiast should read. You may wonder what cats have to do with growing camellias—read the book and find out.

Some of their introductions: "Undaunted," "Dragon Lady," "Miss Betty," and "Nan Crowell."

Continuing on westward we arrive at Monterey Park the location of Carter's Camellia Gardens. Although this nursery is very small compared

to what it was a few years ago, I still think it should be talked about as many good varieties found their origin here. This grand old gentleman has imported and discovered many fine varieties. I don't know of anyone who knows so much about where many of the old plants were growing in the State of California, North or South. Many he has given a name and many he has propagated by the thousands. Some of his introductions are: "Strawberry Blonde," "Pink Lady," "Uncle Sam," and many others.

A few years ago this nursery was one of a group of three who first introduced "Captain Rawes" Reticulata to the general public.

I have mentioned previously about the All-America Camellia Selections. Many of these nurseries are cooperating in this project and I for one wish them success.

My apologies to some that I have overlooked or missed. I have only written of those that I know and have visited occasionally.

A visit to any of these nurseries will make it worth your while. You will see many fine plants and meet many fine people.

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CAMELLIAS IN SACRAMENTO

E. L. STEVENS, *Historian*

Camellias in Sacramento date back to well over one hundred years. Brought in by enterprising merchants the plants found the climate, soil and water to their liking and growing conditions much like their native habitat. And the early settlers with all the fervor of pioneers planted them through-out the area. With the rapid shifts and trends of the times many of the camellias were lost, left behind to perish in ghost towns. But a surprising number were saved, one hears reports of camellias still growing on farms that were planted in that period. In Sacramento it was a fashionable flower long after it had lost its vogue in Eastern States. Old timers tell us of the annual Camellia Ball back in the 1870's. But even after the camellia had gone out of favor the plants had become large and able to withstand neglect and dry summers, sometimes without irrigation.

There was an attempt some 50 years ago to revive interest in camellias, but though the Sacramento interest was short lived, the plants persisted. It was about that time that Prof. Edward J. Wickson, a famous name in California agriculture and horticulture wrote in his book, *California Garden Flowers*, "the camellia does not awaken very deep enthusiasm, probably because of its wax-like, set rosette form and the absence of fragrance; it seems stiff and cold, though its colors are varied and rich. Camellias have reached their greatest popularity in Sacramento, where one can see over fifty kinds in full bloom in February in the gardens, and there are several specimens over fifteen feet high and carrying over a thousand flowers". The "set rosette form" of which he wrote seems to be the thing that caused the camellia to lose face through-out the world, in fact it happened to most all flowers that had been developed into such symmetrical forms.

In the mid 20's the attention of Sacramentans was brought to a sharp focus when they learned that nurserymen from other localities had been quietly buying at bargain prices some

of the large specimen camellias, boxing them, and shipping them away by the carload. The interest generated caused several ladies to start a small show and it became an annual event increasing with the years. Later the Sacramento Garden Club took over the show, and its committees for that purpose functioned until the Camellia Society was organized.

The Camellia Society of Sacramento was started November 17th, 1943, by a committee appointed to start a planting drive and make plans for the 1944 show. The join-up indicated that such a society was wanted and it has been outstanding in the community. Besides the Shows there has been a series of planting drives to encourage the use of more camellias. Cultural practices have been taught, both in shows and in monthly meetings. The Shows have been an annual event, even though at times the weather seemed against it. But even when the committees seem to despair the blooms show up and it is realized then just how effective the planting drives must have been.

In early shows, over 25 years ago, the flowers were classed by color and the different forms of flower mixed together. Later they were entered by form. After the nomenclature had become established it was decided to enter the flowers by name, with each variety judged against others of its kind. This makes the judging easier and saves a lot of work in classifying them by form. Any one from any

locality is permitted to enter blossoms, except that only one group entry from one family (or address) is permitted for each variety.

With much donated assistance from both the City and County of Sacramento in putting on the shows it has never been necessary to make an admission charge. We have the help of the Chamber of Commerce and the many other Garden Societies affiliated with the Sacramento Garden Center. From the many specialists employed by the State of California we are most fortunate in having the advantage of their suggestions and counsel. Camellias are their hobby too.

1955 was the beginning of a Camellia Festival for Sacramento. This organization is separate from the Camellia Society, but its events are so arranged as to coincide with the dates of the Camellia Show, or thereabout. Included in its events were a Camellia Breakfast, Camellia Ball, a Children's Parade, and after the Camellia Show a continuing exhibit of camellias in store windows and in the stores. The flowers for these exhibits were usually provided by employees of the stores. These exhibits were profuse and it was with a feeling of pride that members of the Camellia Society had done their work so well in past planting drives, as to permit such an abundance of blooms.

With the greater leisure of modern living and interest in gardens, Sacramentans have grown more appreciative of the heritage they have in camellias. With such interest and with the efforts of two enthusiastic organizations working together we feel sure that we can truly be called THE CAMELLIA CITY.

As an added treat to your Southern California visit don't fail to be enchanted by the Arboretum described by its Information Aid, Edward Pugh.

FOR SALE

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

Our own book, "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature," a 1956 revision \$1.50 or \$.90 each in lots of not less than 12, will be ready in January.

"Camellias in the Huntington Gardens," by William Hertrich. Vol. I and II, \$10.00 each.

"The Yunnan Reticulatas," 50¢.

"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.

"Flower Arrangements of the Ohara School" the 1952 edition. Printed in English in Japan in folder form this book has six pages of descriptive matter and twenty-four colored prints in the Japanese manner. \$4.60, from \$10.00 to \$12.00 in bookstores.

"Camellias in America, 1955," by H. Harold Hume. \$25.50.

"The Camellia, What to Do," published by the Oregon Camellia Society 35¢ postpaid.

Sasanqua issue of the Camellia Review, 75c postpaid. 57c in order of 25 or more.

All prices mail and tax prepaid when payment is received with order otherwise these charges will be added.

INTEREST OF THE JANUARY S C C S MEETING FOCUSES ON COMPLEMENTARY PLANTINGS

With a glorious array of camellia plants to be won as his background and the long table of exhibition brilliant blooms on either side of him, Edwards Metcalf, President of the S C C S called the January meeting to order.

After brief announcements, Mrs. Vern McCaskill introduced the many visitors and then Caryll Pitkin, Program Chairman, brought up the speaker of the evening, Joe Littlefield, Garden Consultant for the Southern California area.

Approaching the serious business of Camellias in relation to complementary plantings lightly but authoritatively, Mr. Littlefield proceeded to amuse and inform his audience at one and the same time.

To the ever present problem of what to do with more and more Camellias acquired by camelliaphiles, many suggestions were made. One with considerable merit was that of bestowing extra camellia plants on our neighbors and friends. Mr. Littlefield stated however that the proper way of landscaping with your camellias is to plant them according to their estimated mature height — one plant behind another from low to tall, leaving at least four feet between plants.

In a general carrying out of this idea Mr. Littlefield then went into the discussion of complementary plants to use.

Your plants can be annuals, perennials or herbaceous shrubs, he said. Summer annuals might include *Torreyana*, *Coleus* (for foliage color), *Mimulus* or *Impatiens*. Among suitable perennials one might choose *Begonia*, *Digswilliana*, Bedding Begonias, *Campanula* *Grossekii*. Also other shrubbery that has colorful foliage or blooms.

Suitable annuals of late winter and spring include the Primroses, either *Malacoides* (English or Obconica). (Note: sow your malacoides seeds in the fall as you would grass seed.) The acid-loving Louisiana Iris is good to use in a shady place.

Herbaceous shrubs include the popular and beautiful Fuchsias, *Justicia* and, if kept out of a windy spot, *Eranthemum*.

Popularly and justly used are the many varieties of azaleas which can be chosen for color or types that are sun-loving; the interesting *Aucubas* and, for a good space filler at the back and between Camellias, the *Sarcococca*.

Always interesting is a list of Camellia varieties chosen for some particular reason. The following was given by Mr. Littlefield as the composite choice of japonicas by seven California Camellia Societies: Debutante, Alba Plena, Daikagura, Doncklaari, Glen 40, Adolph Audusson, Mathotiana, Ville de Nantes & Purity.

A pleasant ending to the informative talk was Mr. Littlefield's donation of various complementary plants and cultural aids to fortunate individuals in the audience.

The evening concluded with the awards of ribbons for winning blooms. OVER 4"

1st, H. Dryden—Adolph Audusson
Special

2nd, M. Gish—Adah Pearl

3rd, W. Foss—White Empress

UNDER 4"

1st, E. Hayward—Lallarook

2nd, Mrs. W. H. Bonner—Gigantea

3rd, E. Hayward—Daikagura

NOVICE

1st, Mrs. H. G. Busby—Var.
Daikagura

2nd, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Brown—
Salmon Queen

3rd, Mr. & Mrs. J. D. McCullough
Marguerite Calusaut

CAMELLIA SPECIES AT DESCANSO

By MARK J. ANTHONY, Assistant Superintendent, Descanso Gardens

Here at Descanso Gardens in La Canada, California, the County of Los Angeles has its fabulous collection of beautiful Camellias. In addition to the fifty thousand other camellias, we have a large area planted to all the Camellia Species and hybrids of species that we can find.

In a natural setting under a canopy of California Live Oak trees, the plants have been growing in the natural leaf mold soil for the last five or six years. Students of the Camellia can study all the different kinds at close quarters and have a source of pollen for hybridization work.

Be sure to visit this garden spot on your trip to the American Camellia Society Convention in Southern California on the 25th and 26th of February.

We will describe the Species that are growing in the garden at present.

As a representative of the Sasanqua family we have *Narumi-Gata*, or, as it is often called, *Oleifera*. It is a very rapid grower with large three and a quarter inch flowers generously tipped with pink. The flowers are sometimes cup-shaped and always very prolific.

Thea Sinensis or the Tea Plant comes next. Yes, this is the true tea plant from whence comes the tea you drink. With its small glossy blue-green leaves and creamy white flowers, the plant is a welcome addition to any shrub border. The bush is quite compact, and ours are about seven feet tall. The thousands of flowers are in bloom during October, November and December.

We have two varieties of the species *Gordonia*. We think that *Gordonia* 'Chrysandra' is the best and the one most happy here. It is a native of Asia and likes filtered shade and high humidity. Our plants are planted in a fair amount of shade but still burned somewhat last summer. The plant is a large, fast rangy grower and will make a fair sized tree. It blooms in October, November and early December with two and a half-inch white

flowers that have lots of yellow stamens in the center. The leaves are large — almost like an English Laurel.

Gordonia 'Anomala,' another native of Asia, has large leaves, nine inches long by three inches wide. It is a low spreading grower that seems to like to lie on the ground. So far it has not yet bloomed here.

Franklinia 'Alatamaha,' a native of the Georgia swamps and one of two species related to the Camellia and native to North America, is represented here. It is a deciduous variety with long and narrow light green leaves. *Franklinia* likes a very acid soil to do well. So far we have had few buds but no flowers.

The species *Taliensis* makes a beautiful shrub for semi-shade use in the garden. The shrub is a fast, open grower with long thin leaves. The single white recurved flowers of two and one-half inches in width, bloom very heavily during November and December. Hundreds of deep yellow stamens help show off the flowers.

C. Pitardii, another species in our garden, blooms much later than the Sasanquas — about February and March. It is a very compact and upright grower. The flowers are single tubular rose pink and the leaves are about the size of Sasanqua, but thick and leathery.

Tutcheria 'Specabilis' has creamy white flowers that bloom in July and August. The leaves are large and pointed and look somewhat like a Reticulata leaf. It is a tall open grower.

We have no buds on our plants this year. It is a sparse bloomer.

Species *Saluenensis* has small tubular white flowers delicately tinted with pink. The foliage is small, having a bluish gray color. The plant is very compact and bushy, the bud set medium, and the season of bloom is February.

C. Cuspidata is an old favorite of mine. I have been growing it for twenty years and am still pleased with its fine pointed leaves, upright growth, and its many, many small white flowers in January.

The true species of *Oleifera* is also in its place in the Descanso Species Gardens. Its foliage is similar to 'Mine-No-Yuki' but a little large. The growth habit is quite drooping. I think it wants a good deal of sun as it does not set buds well in the shade where we have it. Flowers of pure white have five to seven petals with a very tight rosette of bright golden stamens in the center. The stamens stay clear for a long time and do not fade. This is the plant grown in the Orient by the hundreds of thousands for seed production. Oil is extracted from the seed for use in cooking and cosmetics.

Species *Oleosa* makes a small compact bush with leaves which look like that of a *sasanqua*. It does not seem very happy here. It is the only species not doing well in our oak forest.

Here in California we are very proud of the species *Maliflora* which is named 'Betty McCaskill.' We have grown it successfully for many years, and everyone in Camellia circles prizes it highly. The flower is double and a beautiful shade of pink. The plant, which is an upright grower, has small pointed deep green leaves. For best results, 'Betty McCaskill' should be grafted on a hardy understock.

The Reticulatas are represented by the variety 'Captain Rawes.' Our complete collection of YUNNAN Reticulatas are in a spot by themselves.

We also have two Wild Reticulatas in the Species Garden. The growth on one is about the same as 'Captain Rawes,' but the flowers are small, pinkish-white with red anthers. The leaves are somewhat smaller than Rawes. It blooms early in the spring and seeds freely. It has been available in Southern California for the last twenty years. The other Wild Form is a rank grower bearing large, single, four-inch, deep rose-colored flowers having a crepe paper texture.

In this same garden we also have a few Hybrids so you can see how they differ from their parents.

The *Cornish Snow* is a hybrid of *Saluenensis* x *Cuspidata*. The flowers are white with a pink cast. It is a tall upright grower. One cycle of growth that I measured today was two and a half feet long. The leaves are small and pointed, and the profusion of flowers is in the early spring.

'J. C. Williams' is a *saluenensis* crossed with *japonica*. The leaves are heavier and thicker than *C. japonica* variety 'Apple Blossom,' which it resembles. The flowers are light pink and a little larger than 'Apple Blossom.'

C. Oleifera 'Wiseley' is a lot like *Sasanqua Oleifera*, but has a richer fragrance and a little more color to the flower. The petals are curled and reticulated. It blooms in November and December.

Oleifera 'Hastie' is slightly smaller than 'Wiseley,' but again deeper in color and with a very fine fragrance. The bush is more open in growth than 'Wiseley.'

Two *Saluenensis* varieties on hand are the single rose-pink 'Judith' (Taro-Kaja) and 'Kuro-Tsubaki,' the black camellia.

As more species and varieties are found, we will add them to our garden. Camellia lovers can then see and compare them all in one natural setting.

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POPSY-TURVY from Page 9

All the flower buds on this plant were similarly inverted.

Query among knowledgeable plant experts has so far provided no answer to the question of why this particular Camellia plant has developed this curious form of growth. Mr. Holden would welcome possible explanations.



Courtesy Scott Seegers

PICTURE B—An “upside-downer” still in stem.

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EARTHWORMS *from Page 15*

thing we planted was thoroughly mulched, for we made mulch by the cartload. Anywhere you pulled the mulch back you would uncover happy, active earthworms. They were doing a good share of our cultivation and creating the soil at the same time. We used overhead sprinkling, often putting on two acre-inches of water, the equivalent of a good rain.

All our vegetables were of high quality, large and of excellent flavor. I refrain from giving sizes for it would sound much like an amateur fisherman's story. We tried the worm castings on our few ornamentas we managed to smuggle in, in a time when flowers were taboo and one planted cabbages instead of delphiniums. We happened to have some tubed camellias which shot ahead on the liquid food which we were giving our corn and beans. In our lath house we carried over some choice ornamentals which we could not bear to throw away while we were awaiting the time to arrive when the lights would go on again all over the world.

We did straight organic feeding for which I make no apologies for, either then or today.

ARBORETUM *from Page 18*

through narrow paths festooned with wild grape and honeysuckle vines. These paths may seem very familiar to you for many motion pictures and TV stories have been filmed here. Here "Ramar" has walked and "Tarzan" swung from the trees. Now the Jungle is acquiring a somewhat new face, and the tropical look is being extended with plantings of epiphytes, banana, coffee shrubs and orchids.

Remember that it is possible to tour the Arboretum during the week by appointment. Appointments for parties of ten or more may be made from Wednesdays through Saturday, by calling DOuglas 7-3444. Grounds permits may also be acquired for special interests during the week.

REVIEWER *from Page 2*

you. In the meanwhile, instead of looking at the world through rose colored glasses, we'll be content to survey our "rose" colored camellias.

A Camellia of Condolence

To our active Camellia grower Vera McCaskill, laid low (we hope only temporarily) by a painful rheumatoid ailment. We are hoping that spring days among his camellias will be of real therapeutic value.

This is Poetry?

We were interested to see by newspaper clipping that a Los Angeles girl, Miqa Takeuchi won one of the fifteen first places in Emperor Hirohito's annual poetry contest. This is a 1,000 year old poetry classic open to anyone who can write the Japanese 31-syllable "Tana."

The English translation of her poem is as follows:

"I looked at the camellia blossoms
in my garden
In early spring
With the wistful feelings of one about
to be naturalized."

Although to a western mind such a poem has a definite unpoetic brusqueness about the above, we presume that in the Japanese tongue it must achieve a lyrical cadence. Anyway, in any rate, it is just one more example of the camellia's power to link all types of emotions.

And speaking of poetry, the coming Convention and Joint Show activities have all but crowded out our dear old St. Valentine's Day. For us crude Americans, the proper poem for this month is:

"Roses are red and violets blue—
We'll just finish it by saying

"Winning camellias we're wishing
for you—"

says

Liz

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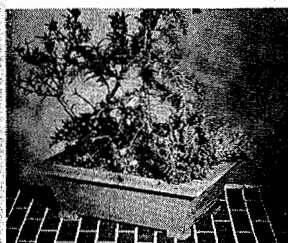
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