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Camellia Review



C. japonica 'Masterpiece'
Courtesy Coolidge Gardens

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

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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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THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

It's Here

So now it is official. On motion of Los Angeles County Supervisor Warren M. Dorn, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors have designated the period between February 15 and March 15 as "Camellia Month" throughout Los Angeles County.

Inasmuch as publishing and distributing time of the Review doesn't always coincide with camellia celebrations hereabouts, we are forced to record some of them in the past tense, alas. As for instance, the shows of Temple City and San Diego which will have been gone before this is read. Even the BIG SHOW of cut blooms at Descanso will be over before this March Review reaches your hands. Over but yet too late for this issue to record results. You all should be living around here — but then perhaps there wouldn't be any use for the Review. Gracious — to what are we leading?

It's Wonderful, But—

We are among thousands who consider the National Horticulture Magazine tops in format, information and use for horticultural research. We are very proud that last year the S C C S became affiliated with the American Horticultural Society which publishes the Journal.

However, inasmuch as we are now associated with this society and the magazine it would be agreeable to see some camellia articles included. In running down the list of organizations with whom we now join in affiliation we see begonias, peonies, rhododendrons, hollies, herbs, roses, etc., etc., and in going over the Index for the year we find articles on all those plants. *But* the word camellia doesn't even appear in the index anywhere, that is, specifically, for in two articles,

one on the Descanso Gardens and one from ACS, camellias were undoubtedly discussed. But in the Index—no. Dozens of varieties of *Ceanothus americanus*, long lists of species and varieties of *pelargoniums* are there, even a whole article on *Zantedeschia aethiopica* is listed.

We'd like very much to see the camellia take its rightful place in the National Horticultural Magazine.

Camellia Amends

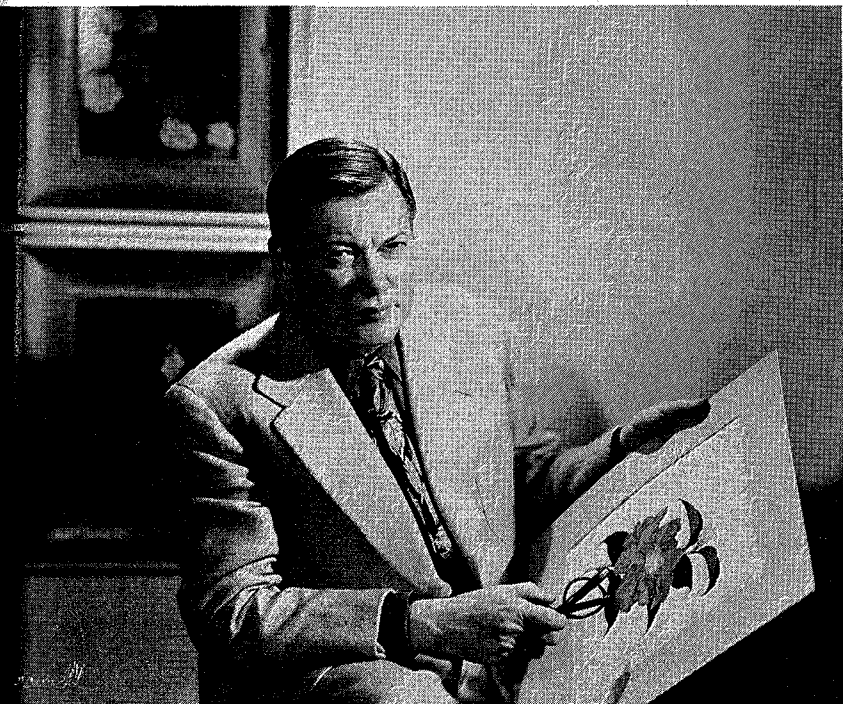
To a lot of people who pass a certain *C. sasanqua* 'Hugh Evans' at the L. A. County Arboretum, it will be just another beautiful camellia, but behind the bush, so to speak, lies a bit of human nature very appealing. One Mrs. McConnell who supervises the visit of her Cub Scout Pack 55 to the Arboretum seemed to feel that the little fellows could have acted a bit more like little gentlemen on the tour. (Although Mr. Pugh had no criticism.) So, there came this camellia donation from the Cub Scouts master-minded by Mrs. McConnell to serve as sort of a thank you to the Arboretum for their tolerance and understanding. We think it was a marvelous gesture and cogitating on the general idea of a camellia being presented every time a mischievous small boy gets out of hand, we see a mighty bloomin' world.

By the Way

Speaking of the Arboretum we wish to say that if you live anywhere in the vicinity of Southern California or come here for a visit you should make it a point to tour this beautiful state and county project. "Lucky" Baldwin would never sell this old ranch, falling under the charms of its location and verdure even in its primitive state. Now the place has been more than restored. The winsomeness of an old Victorian era has been heightened by the restoration of the Queen Anne residence, where gay parties were held and guests lolled on the wide

(Continued on Page 23)

RALPH PEER TO HEAD A C S



The Camellia Review as official publication of the Southern California Camellia Society is very pleased to announce the election of Ralph Peer as President of the American Camellia Society.

Mr. Peer's long interest in camellias, his personal knowledge of them in many parts of the world and his support and contributions to the ACS and SCS over many years combine to form an indisputable right to hold this new office.

The personal camellia garden of Mr. Peer at Park Hill, his Hollywood home, is noted for containing rare species of camellias and it was partly through his efforts and foreign connections that the original twenty Yunnan reticulatas were transferred to this country. As a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, Mr. Peer has received recognition for his achievements and last year was awarded the Veitch Memorial Gold Medal which the RHS bestows on one who has contributed to the advancement of the science and practice of horticulture. This was the first time the award had been made in connection with camellias.

The Camellia Review Committee is proud to claim Mr. Peer as a member and the magazine is indebted to him for his advice and contributions.

As President of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, Mr. Peer was largely responsible for the success of last year's joint Camellia Show and Annual Meeting of the ACS here and is again heading the Council in its sponsorship of the 1957 Camellia Show.

The Camellia Review offers its congratulations and best wishes for a successful term to Ralph Peer, President of the American Camellia Society.

PRELUDE TO THE BIG SHOW

The last meeting of the S C C S before it joins in the BIG SHOW of March was a truly smashing success with an auditorium full of camellia enthusiasts, tables brimming with outstanding blooms ranging from the big, noisy 'Re Ragland' to the softly blushing 'Magnoliaeflora'.

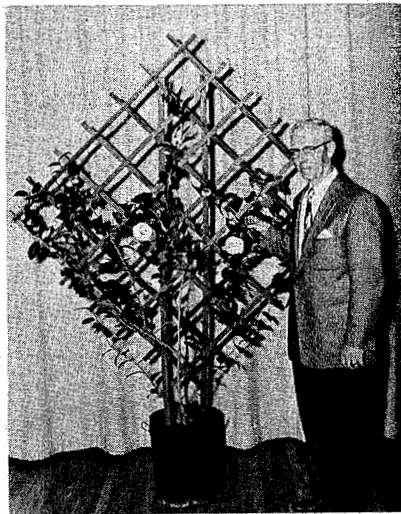
President Edwards Metcalf gave his usual gracious welcome and beside all the S C C S members present, noted visitors from many other societies.

The audience looked expectantly toward the stage which was quite massed with large camellia plants of varied shapes. These were the subject material for Leslie Marshall, introduced by the Program Chairman, William Cuzner, as speaker of the evening, as Mr. Marshall was to talk on camellia pruning.

The talk turned out to be very graphic and informative. Mr. Marshall referred to the average amateur as being afraid, really to cut into his camellia plants and allowing them to grow in all sorts of ungainly shapes. He took a very large bushy plant and

illustrated the way it should be pruned if transplanted. He spoke of the reluctance of an owner to cut off the beautiful foliage (as he snipped and cut off branch after branch). While the slashing went on he made telling remarks — "Take out all this fine stuff, there wouldn't be flowers on anyway." (slash, slash). "Decide on the shape you desire. Get light in the center" (as branches were flung this way and that, exposing the central stalk). "Always cut back to a small branch that has some leaves on it and remember you can prune down to half and save the whole plant if you

THE BEFORE AND AFTER OF A C. JAPONICA 'VARIABILIS'



An old and interesting plant which for years has lived up to its name of 'Variabilis' by producing blooms of different pink and white shadings, both plain and variegated, was allowed to grow its own sweet way which was in every direction. Leslie Marshall with the assistance of Marc Anthony showed the S C C S audience in the space of ten minutes how easily this sprangly plant could be espaliered. "Of course as it grows," Mr. Marshall commented, "It can be trimmed so that the espalier will be more symmetrical."

re transplanting. A wonderful boost for roots is Vitamin B1 and it is much harder for this to be applied if you have too much low growth."

Mr. Marshall worked on another plant from the basis of its future in a line with other camellias. He trimmed to a more compact shape stating that one should always cut to a live leaf. For a plant which was to occupy a corner, Mr. Marshall trimmed to a more narrow, upright shape to accent the center part of the plant (not caring how many blooms fell in the trimming). On a very bushy plant which he planned to use under a window, he took an opposite method - lopping off extra top shoots, shaping for width, symmetry and balance.

The most intriguing demonstration was that of the espalier which he made quickly and deftly with the assistance of Marc Anthony. The big lippy branches of an old 'Variabilis' were fastened to the frame work in espalier form. The improvement was tremendous though of course Mr. Marshall stated that the best espaliers are produced by working with them as the plant grows.

It was assumed that certain plants would lend themselves to espaliering more easily than others just as some camellias can be trained to grow horizontally better than others. Mr. Marshall would be glad to give advice on this. He mentioned that not much trimming can be done on a sick plant. The best thing to do is to take out the dead wood.

Plants for the evening's drawing were donated by Mr. Marshall and he described them for the audience. In the usual "run down" of the exhibition of blooms, William Woodroof concentrated on picking out the newer varieties mentioning 'Pearl Maranata,' 'Fluff,' 'Southern Charm,' 'Fire Falls,' 'J. J. Whitfield' and an especially fine bloom of 'Purple

Gala Meeting in Prospect

The evening of March 12th bids fair to be a gala meeting for the S C C S for a number of reasons.

First, the Society will welcome the new President of the American Camellia Society, its own Ralph Peer.

Second, one of England's foremost horticulturists and member of the Royal Horticultural Society, Sir Giles Loder will be present as Mr. Peer's guest. Sir Giles will give a talk and also show some of his outstanding pictures.

Third, but by no means least, the talk of the evening will be given by David Feathers, of Lafayette, California. Mr. Feathers is an extremely well versed camellia propagator whose work with hybrids has earned him much recognition. He will choose camellia hybrids for his subject, also showing film of some of the results he has obtained.

You are advised to come early and get a seat at this meeting.

Gown.' These were only part of the wonderful exhibit of truly specimen blooms.

The judges had a difficult time choosing winning blooms of the evening but finally awarded the following: In the Over 4-inch Class, H. W. Ropp's 'Sunset Glory' was 1st, the 'Ville de Nantes' of H. C. Hill was 2nd, and Harold Dryden's 'Coronation' was 3rd. In the Under 4-inch Class, the 'Audusson Special' of Rufus Frietag won 1st, Mrs. Bonner's 'Flame' won 2nd, and Harry Novick's 'Yours Truly' was 3rd. In the Novice Class, a 'Pink Clouds' of Col. Reed won 1st, a 'White Empress' of Arthur Krumm took 2nd, and Col. Reed won again with 'Julia's Favorite' for 3rd.

A FEW REMARKS ON SOIL VERSUS CAMELLIAS

By DOROTHY JONSON

No one, I think, denies that the soil is the most important factor in producing beautiful plants. If the soil is right, the plant is healthy, ninety-nine times out of a hundred.

I have observed Camellias growing in their own native environment through the Gulf Coast region of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama and whereas that section of the country has a soil slightly more acid than our Southern California region, still it is not a highly acid soil . . . tending more toward neutrality. Hence it became our objective to obtain a soil as nearly like that of the Deep South as possible.

The best time to reconstruct the soil in your Camellia beds is when they have finished blooming and you have given them their clean-up spray for the summer.

Yearly, we have used agricultural sulphur in the proportions of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to 100 square feet, scattering it in the root-growing area of the Camellias and then digging it in carefully with a long pronged fork, in order not to disturb the tender fiber root structure. It seems to be essential that the soil sulphur be embedded in the soil. If lying on top of the ground, it is ineffective and furthermore, a hot day following application, may produce sulphur fumes of sufficient intensity to burn the lower foliage.

Iron is one of the native elements in our soil in California but it is "locked up", as it were, due to our highly alkaline soil. The use of soil sulphur will tend to unlock it eventually but, while the plants are waiting for the sulphur to become effective, it's a very splendid idea to contribute a little iron artificially, scattering it over the soil in the root-growing area and letting it lie there and be gradually absorbed by the fiber roots through watering and irrigation. My preference is for iron copperous ferrous (snow form), because it works naturally and not too rapidly. How-

ever, the main thing is to give your plants about the right amount of iron and get them off to a summer start. I use $1\frac{1}{4}$ pounds of Irontone to 100 square feet and I leave it lying on top of the soil in the root-growing area so that the fiber roots can absorb it as slowly as they desire. I use it just one time a year (after blooming).

I believe in planting Camellias in a bed of fine natural soil mixed with leaf mold. And I believe wholeheartedly in a poultice of humus heavy enough to protect the roots from extreme heat or cold, moisture or drought, through the summer months. Camellias, more than almost any other plant, require a soil that is consistently and constantly cool and moist but never soggy wet. Leaf mold, steer manure, compost . . . all make good humus for Camellias.

The application of a good trace element product, at the time you are preparing the soil for the summer, is of tremendous advantage because it really gives back to the soil the elements that have been leached out through the previous growing season. Humus is highly necessary to good soil and where it exists, commercial fertilizers will not "spin" themselves nearly as fast as when used in soil that are deficient in humus.

The commercial fertilizers prepared for Camellias are excellent and the frequency of application can be adjusted to a certain degree to suit your convenience. We practiced feeding

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NEWS FROM THE L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM

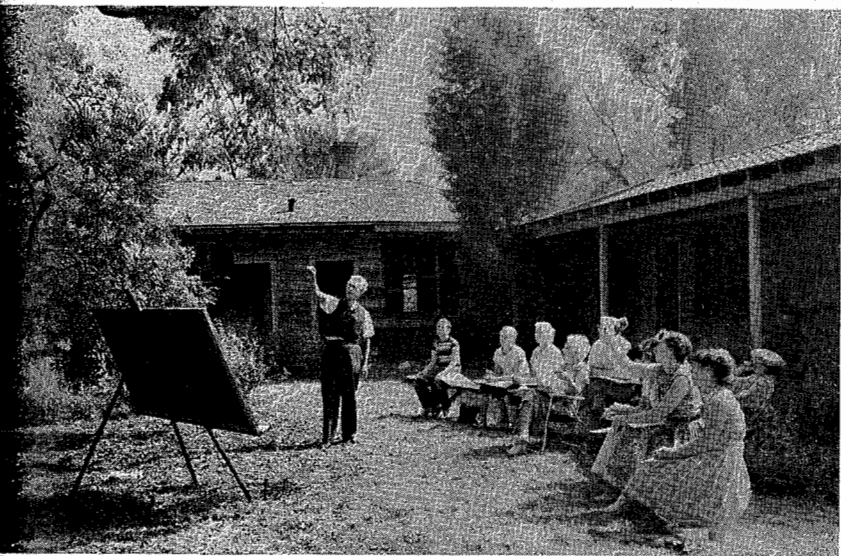
By EDWARD T. PUGH

A Big Green Sign hanging on the Arboretum Gatehouse Wall reads as follows: "Free Education Courses, Spring 1957, Tree Identification, Plants for Nature Study, Botanical Sketching, REGISTER EARLY!"

Flowers in Art

This Spring, Gerry V. Patten's Botanical Sketching Classes, who use live plant models, will include several Camellia varieties as subjects. Both double and single flowered camellias will be utilized; double flowering types for their symmetry, perfection of line, and the interesting shading problems posed by their overlapping petal arrangement; single flowered varieties for their careless arrangement.

Serious thought will be given to correct drawing habits (free arm movement), shape, contour, shadow, highlights, perspective (correct lining) and composition.



Gerry V. Patten advises methods of botanical sketching at an outdoor class session at the L.A. County Arboretum in Arcadia, California. The building behind the students is the Hugo Reid Adobe in which "Lucky" Baldwin died. It is to be restored in the near future.

Classes are held outdoors, students usually sitting around the subject. Free self expression is encouraged at all times, as the pre-requisite to originality.

Sketching classes for High School Students began Wednesday, February 6th, from 3:30 to 4:30 P.M. Classes for Adults followed Thursday, February 7th, from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. The Sketching Courses last for twelve weeks.

Tree and Plant Study

Can you differentiate between a California Fan Palm and a Mexican Fan Palm? A 6 (six) week course in Tree Identification for children from 10 to

14 years old, began Monday, February 4th; for High School Students, will begin on March 18th; and for Adults on April 29th. Here is a unique opportunity to become better acquainted with the more common ornamental trees of the west; to be able to recognize them and become aware of their value in landscaping.

Natural History Teachers and Adult Leaders of Youth Groups are being offered a course entitled "Plants for Nature Study." Valuable insights into various phases of botany and an orientation of the Arboretum grounds are included in this course. Take the course and you will be prepared to conduct your own nature study programs at the Arboretum.

Arboretum Expansion

The year of 1956 was a year of giant strides at your Arboretum. It was a year distinguished by such events as the formal dedication of the handsome new Administration Building and Gatehouse; a visitor tally of 68,964; construction of the first two of five proposed Orchid Houses; and acquisition of numerous camellia species and varieties. The Arboretum's Camellia collection received a valuable boost last September with Descanso Garden's kind gift of 13 *Camellia reticulata*s plus assorted species.

Camellias received included: *Camellia reticulata*, 'Noble Pearl,' 'Confucius' and 'Lion's Head'; *Camellia* 'Dawn' (Specie) and *Camellia saluenensis japonica*. These plants, now in the lath-house, are to be planted in the Camellia Azalea-Rhododendron Garden (Ericaceae section) located just south of the Display Garden; (a planting gracing the Oakwooded Slopes of 50 foot Tall Knoll.)

A goal has been set to have as complete a collection of species camellias as possible for those people who are doing serious hybridization work.

Camellia Presentation

Another pleasant surprise occurred in October of last year. Cub Scout Pack 554 of the Northwood School District in El Monte, donated and helped plant a *Camellia sasanqua* 'Hugh Evans'. Don Wooley, Arboretum Chief Horticulturist, presided at the planting and gave the boys helpful hints on correct planting procedure. "Keep the soil loose, dig the hole deep, add only superphosphate," directed Don. Then all present, including Mr. Frank Boler, former cubmaster and Mrs. McConnell, den mother of Den 4, took a turn with the spade.

Cub Pack 554 can be sure that with their gift, they have contributed to the enjoyment of thousands of future Arboretum visitors.

"Register Early"

Reads the Green Education Sign. Register by phoning Hillcrest 6-5247 or by writing the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California.

NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

Kern County Society

The Show

The 1957 Camellia Show will be held Saturday, March 16th (from 1:00 to 9:00 P.M.), and Sunday, March 17th (from 1:00 to 6:00 P.M.), in the San Joaquin Tractor Building which is located at California Avenue on Highway 99.

Entries will be accepted up till 10:30 on Saturday morning and one of the new features of the show will be a Collector's Class. In this any grower having at least 20 different varieties in bloom may have his own table. Prize winning blossoms may be selected from these tables as well as from all the other exhibits. Another feature which promises to be quite outstanding is a bridal party scene to be set in the patio in, of course, a bower of camellias, all specimen plants. These plants are to be given as door prizes.

Dedication Ceremony

On March 10th at 2:00 P.M., there will be a formal dedication of the Aaron C. Adams Memorial Camellia Garden which is sponsored by the Society. This garden which is situated in Central Park in Bakersfield at 1930 "R" St., has grown to be a tremendous project and at the present time contains nearly 1,000 fine camellia plants all of which have been donated, each named for some loved person either living or dead. All are invited to attend this dedication and the reception which follows in the adjoining Art Gallery. The garden may be visited at any time. Also anyone may donate a camellia if he desires.

Pomona Valley Camellia Society Show

The Pomona Valley Camellia Society will stage its 10th Annual Camellia Show in the lobby of the California Bank, 321 East Holt Ave., Pomona, on Saturday and Sunday, March 9th and 10th. Admission is free and all amateur camellia fanciers are invited to enter their flowers for the ribbon awards.

Blossoms to be entered must be in place by 11:00 A.M., Saturday, March 9th. Containers will be furnished by the Society. The show will open to the public immediately following the action of the judges.

The Pomona Valley Camellia Society Show, this year, conflicts with the second week-end of the Descanso Gardens show but definitely serves a different geographic area, ranging its members from Azusa and Baldwin Park through the San Bernardino, Redlands and Riverside territory.

Those interested in placing blossoms may secure a copy of the "Rules" by addressing Mack W. Dinwiddie, Show Chairman, 786 Alturas Court, Pomona.

Temple City

One of Pomona Society's most ardent camellia enthusiasts and workers, Mr. E. D. Cothran, will appear as speaker for Temple City on the evening of Monday, March 25th. Mr. Cothran will describe some of his camellia adventures in South Africa where he and his wife visited last year. He will also add a discussion of the preserving of camellia blooms.

'CAPTAIN RAWES' and EARLY OBSERVATIONS OF THE YUNNAN RETICS

By RONNIE CARR

First Came 'Captain Rawes'

Time has certainly passed by. It seems like only a short time ago that E. H. Carter, of Carter's Camellia Garden, Monterey Park, California, was bursting with pride in having the honor of offering a limited supply of 'Captain Rawes' *reticulata*. The flowers are of good size with a lovely light lavender shade that is to be enjoyed among the twisting and fluting petals. To those that desired a change from the old, 'Captain Rawes' was a much appreciated novelty. At times it is amusing and yet discouraging to see such lovely flowers as 'Captain Rawes' on a plant that looks as if it had no desire to have more than two or three branches. The greatest fault of this variety is in a spindly growth habit and lack of ability to make a nice specimen.

It is always a pleasure to see 'Captain Rawes' in bloom at Nuccio's Nurseries of Altadena, California. Julius and Joe Nuccio must have a



Courtesy Henry E. Huntington
Library and Art Gallery

Fruit study of the *C. reticulata* 'Captain Rawes' from the Huntington Botanical Camellia Garden.

special powder they sprinkle in the air around 'Captain Rawes' during the season of forming buds. These two wonderful fellows can produce camellia flowers worthy of the Highest. Each season finds me "drooling" over the 'Captain Rawes' flowers, knowing very well how it will do for me, and yet wanting so much to be able to blossom them like everyone else. Up in Northern California at the Toichi Domoto Nursery of Hayward you can find hot-house grown 'Captain Rawes' blooms that are enough to make you want to buy a car load of them.

Then back at the farm, my farm to be exact, I too have 'Captain Rawes' *reticulata*. Each season for years it has produced for me late flowers that are usually forced out by the heat in a day and last but a short time. The blossoms are three inches across in a "on its last leg" faded pink. Opening flat with brown stamens. Now this was in the days when I got flowers. Now nothing. Four years straight have produced early buds, however, on the first day or two of frosty 25 degree weather and there go the buds of 'Captain Rawes' *reticulata*. Again this season the buds completely were destroyed by the cold mornings. If by some miracle in the future the frost will leave me some buds, it is always hoped that I too can observe some out

standing flowers of 'Captain Rawes'. But even if buds would survive winter they are headed for destruction by being too late in opening. For then their enemy is the heat. 'Captain Rawes' *reticulata* has proven for me to be a Camellia with little to offer in Tulare. At least I can still enjoy it elsewhere.

Twenty Yunnan Retics Enter My Collection

Then news of the importation of twenty or so varieties of *reticulatas* from China was made by Ralph Peer and Descanso Gardens. I was pleased to learn of this and thought that surely now we will see some great creations. Not being carried away to the point of parting with a thousand dollars, I waited until the collection could be obtained for what I could afford . . . practically nothing. What have I to report on these twenty new Retics? At present very little. Several months ago I was very pleased that a good bud set had been made on most of the varieties. The first to form buds were 'Crimson Robe' and 'Chang's Temple.' The last to do so being 'Osmanthus Leaf,' 'Prof. Tsai' and 'Willow Wand.' The first frost showed damage only to the 'Captain Rawes.' After three to six cold days of 25 degrees all the buds fell from 'Osmanthus Leaf.' As time passed each day took its toll. 'Prof. Tsai' lost several of the smaller buds along with 'Willow Wand' and 'Shot Silk.' Then the day of complete surprise. My large specimen plant of 'Confucius' was dropping twenty or so buds that were large and well matured. Only three buds now remain that are protected from leaves. Also one of my 'Pagoda' plants lost every bud. I have another plant of 'Pagoda' that produced its buds under Los Angeles conditions and I was sure no damage would come to it, however, it has dropped several good sized buds. This is the only Retic I have that formed buds under any



Courtesy Henry E. Huntington
Library and Art Gallery

A superb specimen of a *C. reticulata* 'Captain Rawes' as grown in the Camellia Gardens of the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California.

other condition other than here. 'Moutancha' was late in producing buds and they fell fast and early. A shame as I am told this is one of the better Retic varieties. 'Crimson Robe' and 'Chang's Temple' along with 'Butterfly Wings' show thus far to be very strong in growth and have the largest and strongest developed buds. Even then 'Crimson Robe' and 'Butterfly Wings' have joined the ranks of bud shedding. To date only 'Chang's Temple' remains stubborn to the cold, even though reports from some of my friends in Tulare have been that buds are falling from their 'Chang's Temple,' 'Crimson Robe' and 'Prof. Tsai.' My specimen plant of the Wild form of *reticulata* is taking the cold weather in perfect stride. It shows complete resistance to the frost as do several seedlings I have of other forms of the Wild *reticulata*. Perhaps the original *reticulatas* and seedlings from

them will prove to be more cold resistant than many of the varieties thus far named that could possibly be hybrids. In attempting to create better flowers the Chinese might have obtained a group of hybrids that, while attractive in flower, may not be as hardy as their parents. The most attractive growers are 'Confucius,' which makes a dense bushy shrub and 'Buddha' that grows tall and much like a Christmas tree. 'Crimson Robe' is also very fine. Their good growth habits are not going to mean much, however, if they are not cold and heat resistant.

It would seem that the quicker buds are formed the better chance of saving them from the frost. 'Crimson Robe' has large early developed buds and shows the least damage during the cold times as does 'Chang's Temple.' 'Osmanthus Leaf' is last to set buds and is damaged first. Damage also is found on all late forming buds of any of the twenty varieties. In examining the buds they are to be found completely dehydrated.

It should be said at this point that the tests I am making on the Yunnan Retics are under weather conditions at Tulare. What is found to be true here is not necessarily the fact elsewhere. I have been able to judge 'Captain Rawes' *reticulata* as to how cold and heat resistant it is. So far I have made

some observations of the Yunnan Retics that lead me to believe some of them are not going to produce satisfactory results here at Tulare. They first must be strong enough to take our long periods of 25 degree cold. Then too they must open before our 110 degree heat waves.

As time goes on I shall be in a better position to tell which of the Yunnan Retics will come through with flying colors. At present I still want to know more about the size and color of flowers that they will offer. Most of all how early they flower and if they will be like the 'Captain Rawes' in regards to blooming habits. In any event there will be some of the Yunnan Retics make the "dependability test" and help me forget the disappointment that 'Captain Rawes' brings me each season. After we find which of the Yunnan Retics have all the desirable characteristics, we can then start to build from there. By using *reticulata* blood in hybridizing there is a good chance of breeding a camellia strain with nothing but top notch qualities in both flower and habit of growth.

The future holds a great deal for the camellia and you can be sure that *reticulata* blood will be in there at its very best to further advance the "QUEEN OF QUALITY."

Camellias — Camellias

at

BOORMAN'S CAMELLIA GARDENS

9328 E. Broadway • Temple City • AT. 6-3401

NEW AND STANDARD VARIETIES
NEW RETICULATAS AND SASANQUAS

ALL SPECIALLY PRICED

HIGO CAMELLIA

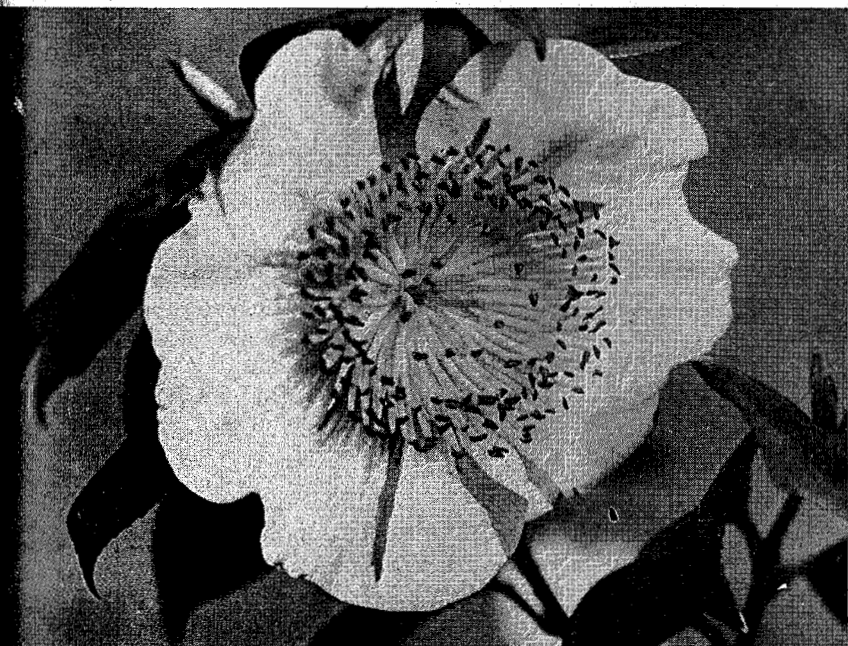
The following general description is reprinted exactly from the Japanese Nomenclature Book, "Camellia Varieties in Japan":

Higo Camellia is a general name for the special garden form of Camellia japonica which is cultivated and is improved in Kumamoto City of Japan. According to the report of Mr. Yaichi Shimada, the Curator of the Kanbutsu-ai Arboratum in Kumamoto, the culture and improvement of Higo Camellia have been begun in about 1800. The old trees of Higo Camellia which exist at present are found in the old private gardens in Kumamoto. Most of all them are supposed about 60 to 100 years old. The golden period of enthusiasm for this lovely Camellia was 40 to 60 years ago. And now it is coming back to the camellia fanciers in this country. Almost of the varieties blossom single flower, but a few of them occasionally appear slight semi-double. The petals are comparatively thick and round and broad. Each stamen apparted independently from the base like an apricot flower, and

opened in the center. Japanese called it as "Apricot-stamen Form." Color of the stamens are classified in White, Soft Pink, and Pale Yellow. There are various colors and patterns of the flower. Among them White, Soft Pink, Pure Pink and Red strains appear their own colors in every season, but the variegated strains have tendency to shoot the different sports.

The varieties listed here are reprinted from The Camellia Name Lists which were published in 1865 and

(Continued on Page 17)



'Yamato-Nishiki' a Higo Camellia. Note especially the stamen arrangement which is characteristic of all higos.

To The Ladies!

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

This is a very important month for Camellias and you should take all pains possible to see that they have proper culture.

First of all let us place that important matter of mulching. A new fresh mulch at this season of the year is most essential. Assemble your material carefully. Here is a good mixture recommended by one of the best authorities on camellias: Use equal parts of oak leaves and pine needles. Not very expensive if you live in a neighborhood which has both conifers and ever-green oaks. Don't be afraid of gathering pests by using this mixture for they usually vacate as soon as the chlorophyll is gone. Next, take out every bit of old mulch, removing it carefully so as not to disturb the near-the-surface roots. Then you are ready to put on your new mulch provided you have raised up the camellias which have sunk down by improper planting and have poor drainage. Water-logged camellias buried too deep in the soil never become thrifty, well-groomed plants.

With your pruning shears in hand (be sure they are sharp), prune out all dead or weakling branches. Shape up your plants as you cut flowers, remembering the points Mr. Marshall made in his excellent pruning demonstration at our last meeting. A good top pruning will benefit those plants which are outgrowing their containers. Have your gardener gently turn out some of the ones which indicate that they are having difficulties. They may need better drainage or they may have become sunken down in their containers.

While you are doing this, it is an excellent plan to take off some of the outside soil and put in some good mix.

I like 1 part Blue Whale Peat to four parts of *good* loamy soil or properly made compost. (None of this which has lain around and lost all of its virtue.) This peat has the trace minerals in it and other organic materials in most easily assimilated forms. Lifeless peat may be all right if you don't know any better. However, it is high time that we feed our camellias as well as our bodies with living food.

To get back to this matter of mulches. Be a neat house-keeper. Don't compost either faded blossoms or dead leaves. You call this waste, perhaps, but there are deadly diseases which lurk in old mulches.

In the land where we always grew Camellias, and Rhododendrons and Azaleas are natives, the expert growers take a great deal of pains to make a compost in the fall of the year. They gather leaves in the woods; oak, hemlock, pine, fern, bracken, etc., and pile it up in a compost pile not more than four feet high and as long as they have space. More than four feet high will give you too much heat. After the winter season you can cut down through this superfine compost and feed all your acid loving plants.

Don't, I beg of you, let any profiteer in the redwood belt tell you that

SPEAKING OF BEAUTY

by FRANCES FRANZEL

True essence of beauty has dominance as a principle. Even the word "design" and "arrangement" are synonymous according to John Taylor Ames.

Two principles of design that seem to go hand in hand are dominance and contrast. We might define Dominance as "presenting one outstanding structural feature." Contrast is the unifying of the opposite element to emphasize a dominant feature."

Suppose we wanted to make a dynamic vertical arrangement, with papyrus as the dominant vertical plant material. The tall, first placement might be papyrus and it could be gradually worked down almost to the container. As contrast, glossy foliage might be added, but the amount would be less than the dominant material. Since the vertical line is to be dominant, the height would be

much greater than its width.

A shiny leaf appears to have more sheen when used with something dull in texture. Perhaps that is the reason an Oriental School believes the front of a leaf to be male and the back female. The magnolia leaf is an excellent example of contrast. Perhaps if we were using six magnolia leaves we would use four that would show the front and two that would show the reverse side.

Red appears more intense in the presence of the contrasting color green. However, we should not use them in equal quantities.

There is always fun in experimenting with dominance and contrast. No one knows all about anything; we can always experiment with new things as we continue to grow.

Reprinted from the December 1956 issue of Golden Gardens.

TO THE LADIES

By CHARLOTTE HOAK

The redwood bark they peel off by the ton is fit stuff to mulch your Camellias with. In our old-time gardens we used it on paths to keep down the weeds. A dear old lady called me up the other day and asked me if it was all right to use "desecrated" redwood bark for mulching her Camellias and azaleas. I had a chance to tell her that the word she was using was really the correct one even if it was not the one used by the dealer.

Then this matter of shavings of pine or redwood. They do not make the best kind of mulch. There is one nurseryman who used them properly;

the owner of the Evergreen Nursery at San Fernando. I watched how he operated and used his method to perfection in my school garden. I gathered the sawdust they threw away each year from the playground jumping pit and piled it up after watering it down. I found it an excellent mulch.

Maybe this is rank heresy, but I am suspicious of any mulch which has resins or acrid juices.

Fertilizers and ground covers? I have already covered more than my allotted space so next time we can take up those matters when we go into further summer care.

Camelleana

From Louisiana

The Shreveport Magazine of February 1957 comes out with a photographic cover showing unbelief and incredulity on the faces of viewers of a display of *Magnoliaeflora* camellias. Inside the magazine two pages and several exciting pictures are devoted to a camellia story of the Men's Camellia Club and the wonderful Camellia Shows it has sponsored. It boasts that last year more than 60,000 persons visited the show where 12,000 blooms were exhibited and that this year's show will be bigger and finer than ever. As a lead story in a real "slick" paper magazine it was interesting to see that camellias were featured ahead of the stories on banks and Shreveport business.

Temple City Show Program

The program of the Temple City Show and Festival is a colorful brochure that in addition to the schedule contains several worthwhile camellia articles and does much credit to its sponsors. Outstanding features are the camellia color plates.

Oregon

Several items published in the February Bulletin of the Oregon Camellia Society seem of wide spread interest. One is that the *C. japonica* 'Flame' was voted the Camellia of the Year. A second item was the discussion of the possibility of the 1959 annual meeting of the ACS meeting in Portland. A third is the program of the Oregon Society of Camellia study period. This program feature "How well do you know your Camellias?" is attracting much attention and could well be adopted by other societies. Varieties are chosen for examination in regard to the following points:

normal rate of growth, usual shape, relative compactness, relative texture, relative color of foliage and relative cold resistance. Questionnaires from members are answered.

Our Camelliaauthor

New as an author to the Reader's pages is **Dorothy Jonson** although far from new in camellia circles. Jonson is a recognized authority on soils, fertilization and fertilizer products. She heads the firm of Destruction in Pasadena, California, and has returned from a lecture tour around Bakersfield where she talked to different garden groups.

Milton H. Brown of Arlington, Virginia, is President of the Society of the Potomac Valley, newest affiliate of the SCCS and one of the newest camellia societies in the states. His rise in little over two years has been quite meteoric.

An expert on the subject of fertilizers, **Mrs. Helen Long** heads the firm of Coast Agricultural Fertilizer Company in Pasadena. Originally Mr. Long and her husband ran the F. Long Nursery, specializing in camellias. Widowed seven years ago, Mrs. Long closed out the nursery and has given all her attention to the present company and to bringing up her children. Her short article reflects a very practical nature.

Mr. **Edward Pugh** is the Arboretum's "Information Aid" and can be contacted for any questions at the Arboretum.

Dr. James Bonner of the California Institute of Technology and **Shigeru Honda**, who were engaged in research there, scarcely need introduction. They have devoted much time to the scientific study of camellias.

THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND LADY CLARE

By MILTON H. BROWN

Reflected in the second inauguration of President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon was the new-found popularity of camellias in the National Capital and the enthusiasm of The Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley. Banked on either side of the official seats of the Reviewing Stand on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House were one hundred matched blooming specimen plants of 'Lady Clare'. Probably no plants have been seen by so many millions of people as these 'Lady Clares' as they were colorfully described by television commentators to the world-wide audience of this great day in the lives of two great Americans — Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard M. Nixon.

The original idea of having camellia plants in bloom at the Reviewing Stand was that of Mr. Boris Timchenko, who had charge of decorating the Stand. Mr. Timchenko is an outstanding landscape architect in the Washington area, and he is the one responsible for drawing up the plans that each year make a fairyland of gardens out of the drab District of Columbia Armory during the annual National Capital Flower and Garden Show. Last year The Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley won a Special Award for their first effort of putting such a garden on display. The Society has plans for a larger and more attractive garden for this year's show which begins on March 8th.

Mr. Adolphe Gude, Jr., has donated one of the inaugural plants as a prize for one of the Honor Court blooms in the March 9th Under Glass Show of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley. Co-General Chairmen of the event are Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Carter.

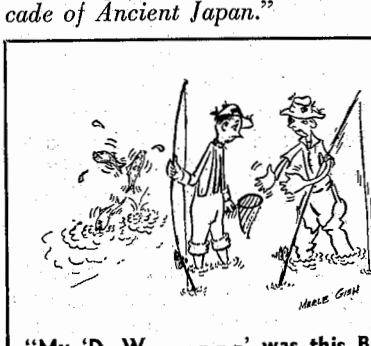
Camellias, which have been grown by hobbyists in greenhouses in Washington since at least 1827, are once again in the forefront as corsage flowers here in the Capital. Most all

the debutantes of the very last season just passed carried or wore camellias at their many social functions.

HIGO (from Page 13)

1934 from both The Taniguchi Nursery and The Yoshimura Nursery in Kumamoto. It is supposed many of those varieties are lost, but now some camellia fanciers in Japan are trying to find the lost varieties for making their complete collection of Higo Camellia, it will be succeeded in near future.

Sixty varieties are listed with Japanese names whose translations are often most imaginative such as Red Mirror, Scarlet Skirt, Inside a Bamboo Blind, Smiling Old Man, Screen of Apricot Blossoms. The variety pictured here, 'Yamato-Nadeshiko' is described as a large bloom, streaked pink. Its name means "Cade of Ancient Japan."



"My 'D. W. - - - - -' was this B

Camellia MAIL BAG

From McComb, Mississippi

Mr. O. C. Cotten writes in part, quote: "The newest and finest seedling I have seen is as follows: A four year seedling of unknown parents, by Mr. R. B. Ching. It is semi-double with 9 very large petals, and with a large crown of Pink Stamens with yellow Anthers and a Red Pistil. The color is dark Velvet Red and the blooms are very large. It is a mid-season bloomer.

The plant is about 24 inches high and one bloom measured five inches, the other six inches across.

It has from one to three petaloids among the Stamens and the flower is among the finest that I have seen of the semi-double type.

It has been named 'O. C. Cotten' in my honor."

Congratulations Mr. Cotten. It sounds as though a lot more people will become familiar with your name soon.

FERTILIZING FACTS

Over-fertilization is a real good way to kill a camellia plant; it would be easier just to pull it up.

One of our camellia experts tells me that a good rule to use in measuring commercial fertilizer is that one large handful is approximately one-third of a pound.

According to our rule, this should be scattered thinly (broadcast is a good word) over a large area around a plant, bearing in mind that the feeder root systems are at the ends

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of the root systems and not close to the main stem. They are likely to extend several inches beyond the outside rim of the plant so the fertilizer should be scattered in a wide area. The soil should be moist before feeding and then thoroughly watered following each application. Our best advice as to the use of commercial fertilizer is, always use it sparingly.

Reprinted in part from "Around the Camellia Bush," newspaper column of the Men's Camellia Club of Shreveport, Louisiana.

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.

"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 U.S. and the British Museum, by I. I. Ellis. A 374 page, 9x11 book. Reprinted by permission by Mr. Ralph Peer. \$5.00.

"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, Kinds and Culture," by H. Harold Hume. \$6.00.

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

"The Camellia, What to Do," published by the Oregon Camellia Society. 5¢ postpaid.

Rare Species and Hybrids issue of the Camellia Review. 75¢ postpaid.

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

"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.

"Camellia Varieties in Japan," edited by Eikichi Satomi, 40¢.

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

VARIEGATION SPREADS

A squib in the January Review about variegation in seedling leaves brought a wide-spread response. The San Diego Bulletin reports two letters received by Ted Kohl. We quote:

"If Doc Miller was right and variegated stock from here becomes solid color up north, could it be possible that this is a virus, one which does not survive in the northern climate and dies out of the plant? Wouldn't it be fun to send a variegated plant north until it becomes solid and then return to this area to see if it reverts? And also to start cuttings here from old stock which had gone solid up there?"

Anybody want to make a trade of this sort?

Another letter to Mr. Kohl comments, quote: "The chances are probably 10,000 to 1 that any seedling of this type will have leaves variegated because of virus. It is rather easy to differentiate because the virus spots are irregular, whereas in a plant having naturally variegated leaves, the resulting plant will continue to have leaves bearing the same pattern. A couple of hundred years ago, variegated leaf *japonicas* became a fad in Japan. I recall there is at least one variety of *C. sinensis* having this peculiarity. Mr. David Feathers of Lafayette, California has a *japonica* seedling on which all leaves seem to be different in form from one another, but these leaves are not variegated. The Williams' 'Mary Christian' has beautifully variegated leaves."

A letter received from Mr. A. Rester of Bogalusa, Louisiana says, quote: "I have several thousand camellia seedlings and one of the *sasanquas* has a variegation on all the leaves. If it produces a poor flower the leaves will still make it a plant to attract attention. It is only one year old and I intend to make a graft on a large understock and watch it closely."

MODERN PLANT FOODS

By HELEN L. LONG

We live in a modern specialized world. We all like to save as much time and effort as we possibly can. It is not surprising that even in plant foods we have specialized highly concentrated products. With these carefully formulated materials very excellent results are possible but just as with any other concentrated materials, following instructions carefully is very important.

These plant foods save time, effort and also storage space. There would not be much sense in carrying home the carrot tops just to have your grocery bag look big when you know they will only fill up your garbage can or, worse still, put the garbage grinder out of order. Or, if you have a prescription filled at the druggist's, and the instructions say—"follow by a glass of water"—you would hardly buy the water from the druggist.

If your garden needs a mulch, then it is better to buy the kind of mulch you want, than to pay for a lot of bulky material in fertilizer that fills up your storage space unnecessarily.

Smaller applications of strong food take less time and labor and give better results.

DRAINAGE TIP

In planting camellias the usual vice is to place gravel or sand in bottom of the planting hole to assure good drainage but often this hinders instead of helping the drainage. This is because water will enter a layer of sand or gravel under the soil above it is saturated and the sand layer occurs in finer textured soil, there is an effect equivalent to having a temporary water table at the point where the sand layer exists.

If one is planting in heavy soil where it is necessary to meet a drainage problem and one has a slope or grade to allow some runoff, make a trench at the bottom of the hole to be planted, leading away from the area on grade. Fill this trench with gravel as well as the bottom of the hole with 3 to 4 inches of coarse gravel.

Flat areas with no grade present a pocket or pool problem which of course is not conducive to a successful growth so it is necessary to attain a grade by a buildup.

California Redwood Plant Tubs

There is more fun in gardening—better results, too, when you can control the soil, shade and water conditions. Doubling in duty and decoration.

Octagonal tubs from 12 to 24 inches — Square tubs from 8 to 18 inches. Designed and made especially for camellias and azaleas.

For Sale at your Neighborhood Nursery

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835 Commercial Street

San Gabriel, California

SOIL VERSUS CAMELLIAS

(from Page 6)

for Camellias right after they finished blooming; again about the middle of June, not later than the first part of July; and once more in late September or very early October. And direc-

tions as to the amount you should use are given on the package.

I will even go so far as to say that if the soil is right for growing Camellias, location in regard to exposure will be of secondary importance.

FOR EXTRA BEAUTY . . . THE DISTINCTIVE NEW

C. japonica 'Coral Pink Lotus'

Also many other fine varieties including

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Ann Miller
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

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City _____ Zone _____ State _____

Business _____

Sponsor _____
(signature)

APPLICATION MAY BE MADE BY LETTER IF PREFERRED

OUR COVER FLOWER

The beautiful *C. japonica* 'Masterpiece' is a Lotus seedling which first bloomed in 1950. Recognition of its outstanding qualities came quickly with an Award of Merit from the American Camellia Society and an award at its first showing at the San Diego Camellia Show.

Its unusually large, heavy foliage, its large 4" to 5" formal to rose form white blooms, and its unusual vigor place it in a class of its own.

Unlimited versatility in landscape design make this Harvey F. Short introduction one worthy of much interest and study.

Bamico Says

For the very best mellias shop at your one stop Center.

For the finest in Plants we suggest through our green



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Send for your money saving contract now. It pays to advertise in Camellia Review.

So. Calif. Camellia Society
40 No. San Rafael Ave.
Pasadena 2, Calif.

VIEWER (from Page 2)

Arboreta overlooking the beautiful landscape. But now the grounds are put to more than beauty: through horticulturalists, botanical research of a most practical nature is carried on and the results given freely to the general public.

The Arboretum, situated at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia, is open Saturday afternoon, and on Sundays from 10:30 to 4:00 P.M. without reservations. Guided tours are available by appointment on Tuesdays through Fridays. The Arboretum telephone is Hillcrest 6-5247. Admission and parking are free.

Bag Story

Turning up at the "jitney" dinner at the Temple City Society toting a huge shopping bag, we were in for continuous sallies of insinuations as to what we expected to take home. On second looks, however, our tormentors were vastly intrigued for the bag was one of 570,000 that the Camellia Festival Committee of Sacramento is spreading over the northern California area to publicize the big Camellia Festival there. Funny thing — we didn't even get the bag home as it was commandeered by Ernie Pieri who saw possibilities in it for Temple City. As a reward we'll expect something *and* the bag if we ever see it again.

Slides Go This-a-Way and That-a-Way

It's the same old thing. Do something right a dozen times and nobody comments. Make an error — wow — here comes right quick a friendly card from Milton Brown, Potomac Valley Society President, informing us that Frances Van Gilder was a member of ours through belonging to the Potomac tribe. I had suggested that Mrs. Van Gilder join the society (not finding her name in our rolls) after she had requested a loan of

slides from our Kodachrome Library to show at a meeting. We hope we have made amends, formally bowing our regrets at such a maligning. Also being very pleased to learn that the slides had gone to New Jersey to be featured at an organization meeting.

Speaking of slides, our Librarian, Guilta Cooper informs us that a set of slides was sent on request of Judge Sherrill Halbert, President of the Sacramento Camellia Society. Later the Judge wrote his sincere thanks with comment that the meeting was a real success and the slides occasioned much interest and admiration.

We all are very proud of our Kodachrome Library which is growing, perhaps rather slowly but this may be due to the fact that many members do not think about adding to it. We hope that you will send in Kodachromes when you can. Slides which have been donated during late 1955 and 1956 include the following *reticulatas*: Tali Queen, Noble Pearl, Cornelian, Shot Silk, Willow Wand, Captain Rawes, Professor Tsai, Chang's Temple, Butterfly Wings, Purple Gown, and Crimson Robe; *japonicas* Lady St. Clair (single blossom), Lady St. Clair, Winter Cheer, Anna M. Page, Spencer's Pink, Spencer's Pink (single blossom), The Czar, Mrs. Harry Boyce, Francois Wiot, Virginal, Alexander Hunter, Jean Lyne, Terlinga, Seedling g s cmg, Zambo, White Warratah, Mariana, Palmerstone and Irene Rester; *sasanquas*, Jaune and parent bush of Jaune.

All these as well as our older slides are available for loan without charge for any bonafide horticultural society meeting. Contact either the S C C S Secretary or the Kodachrome Library Chairman, Mrs. Guilta Cooper, 2345 Sherwood Road, San Marino 9, Calif.

Last Words—Maybe?

Women have the reputation of somehow getting in the last word. As an Editor we might say that the following may be our last words. Any-

how we simply cannot refrain from interpolating some comments in Mr. Hubert Schneider's article on "Growing Camellias Indoors" which appeared in the January Newsletter of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley.

We quickly pass over a number of statements on which we might comment, but stop suddenly under the heading "Time Required." Here we quote: "It seems that most camellia growers are men. Accordingly time becomes an important factor since no man wants to become a slave to his hobby. In this respect, growing camellias indoors presents no problem."

He may not have a problem but how about his better half? He (meaning all camellia-growing men who are in this class) will commandeer the most suitable place for his plants regardless of (a) present furniture arrangements, (b) housekeeping convenience and (c) harmony with the interior decorative scheme.

Quote: "I can truly say that the following is all the work time required to produce hours and hours of pleasure and satisfaction: Winter months with plants indoors, Two to three hours per week maximum, principally spent in watering once or twice a week."

Does he clean up all around after the watering? That's a chancy business indoors. And who records the time when She has to water because He has to rush to the office?

Quote: "And fertilizing once a month."

Question: Does He always do a good job cleaning up after the fertilizing? Especially fertilizing indoors.

Quote: "Moving plants — This is the hardest job and requires a full day in the fall."

We are willing to bet it is a full day for Her too.

Quote: "This is as good a time as any to develop a bad back. It is amazing how many plants your wife and

children can carry."

Here we are glad to see the (and the children) are given credit at last even if only as burden.

Quote: "Enjoyment — We invite a few friends in on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The collection of magnificent camellias, interesting friends and stimulating remarks is simply unbeatable."

Hmm-m. And who is responsible for those stimulating remarks? We don't need to ask. We don't need to chercher la femme. It's right there pervading the entire ground of His indoor growing of camellias as certainly as Pink Perfume are pink. And when He gets a ribbon on His camellias, Mrs. Schneider will applaud as loudly as a member of the feminine gender and we know. Yep, that's the way Life goes.

Rose's End

Some names ought to be changed. For instance, there's Rose Gilman. If you don't happen to know it, she's such a way with camellias in arrangements that she has won many awards and is now Chairman of Arrangements for our Big Show at Des Moines. "Rose," indeed. Tapping her on the shoulder with a "Willow we now dub her "Ca Mellia." May we call you "Mellia?"

A 21-Camellia Salute

To the new President of the A C S none other than Ralph Peer. Although of far flung camellia interest in the known world wide for his advancement of research and development of camellias, he has still had time on the Camellia Review Committee and make unusual and outstanding contributions to the magazine. We congratulate the A C S on persuading Mr. Peer to head their organization and prophecy that it will flourish to greater heights under his leadership.

says

Li

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